

# LA BOITE ENCORES

## HOLDING THE MAN

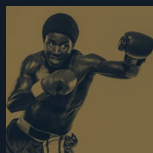
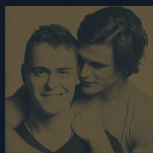
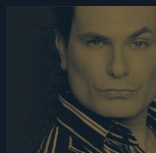
BY TOMMY MURPHY  
FROM THE BOOK BY TIMOTHY CONIGRAVE



MONDAY 16 JUNE



by  
"Bridgman"  
"Repertory  
Theatre  
Society"  
"The  
Bridgman"  
"It is finished"



Welcome to the reading of another Epic Play from the Archive

# HOLDING THE MAN

Written by Tommy Murphy  
From the book by Timothy Conigrave  
Directed by David Berthold

## CAST

Courtney Cavallaro  
Billy Fogarty  
Jerome Meyer  
Hugh Parker  
Francesca Savige  
Alec Snow

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Set in 1970s Australia, Tim and John, a Jesuit schoolboy and the footy captain, fall in love. As society changes, so do they, until an HIV diagnosis shatters their world. But their bond endures.

*Holding the Man* is based on the 1995 memoir by Australian writer, actor and activist Timothy Conigrave. It tells the story of his 15-year love affair with John Caleo, beginning when they met at Xavier College in Melbourne and continuing through the 1990s, when both were diagnosed with AIDS.

The memoir, which won the Human Rights Award for Non-Fiction, has been adapted as a play, a docudrama, and a 2015 feature film directed by Neil Armfield and featuring Ryan Corr, Craig Stott, Sarah Snook, Guy Pearce and Anthony La Paglia.

Deeply moving and laugh-out-loud touching, this stage adaptation first came to La Boite in 2013 under the direction of David Berthold, with newly graduated QUT Drama alumni Alec Snow and Jerome Meyer in the lead roles.

LA BOITE ENCORES  
PRESENTED BY

**EPIC HAIR**  
DESIGNS

*Holding the Man* remains one of the great privileges of my life. When I first read Timothy Conigrave's memoir in 1995 – on the day it was released – I devoured it in a single sitting, sobbing through the final chapters on a plane somewhere over the Indian Ocean. Years later, when I commissioned a then 25-year-old Tommy Murphy to adapt it for the stage at Griffin Theatre Company, I couldn't have predicted just how profoundly it would shape our lives.

That premiere season at Griffin in 2006 became the most successful in the company's history. It played four seasons in Sydney over the next two years – a second at Griffin, then the Sydney Opera House, then a transfer to Belvoir. In 2008, the production travelled to Melbourne Theatre Company and to the big space at Brisbane Powerhouse for sell out seasons. In 2010, it played a 12-week season in London's West End.

For many, the play touched a deep well. For some, the theatre became a place of remembrance and reclaiming; for others, a space of wide-eyed discovery; and for others still, a place to hold a loved one in a quiet act of repair.

When I was planning La Boite's 2013 season, the idea of a revival emerged. I hesitated – I thought I'd said goodbye to it. But the team at the time, including then General Manager Terese Casu, persuaded me otherwise. By that time, the West End producers owned the show, but they were generous in handing it over. We set about remodelling it for the Roundhouse and building a new Brisbane cast. The entire experience was a joy.

Tonight's reading gives us a chance to return to this extraordinary story. To sit with it once more. To listen, to remember, and to hold it again – gently, gratefully.

**DAVID BERTHOLD**

**DIRECTOR**

**LA BOITE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2008 - 2014**



**100 YEARS OF  
OPENING HEARTS AND  
OPENING MINDS**

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## **UP NEXT**

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## **PRIZE FIGHTER**

**BY FUTURE D. FIDEL**

**MONDAY 23 JUNE**

**LABOITE.COM.AU**



LaBoiteTheatre