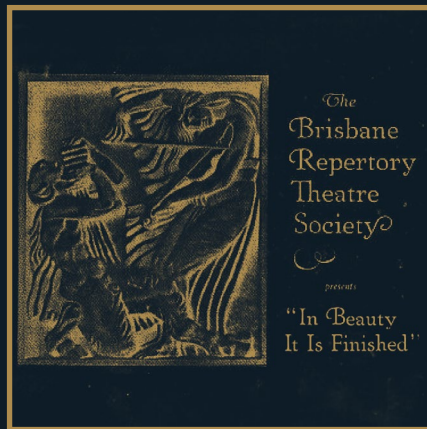


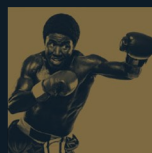
U LA BOITE ENCORES

IN BEAUTY IT IS FINISHED

BY GEORGE LANDEN DANN



MONDAY 28 APRIL



Welcome to the reading of another Epic Play from the Archive

IN BEAUTY IT IS FINISHED

Written by George Landen Dann

Directed by Aidan Rowlingson

Cultural Consultants Aunty Colleen Wall & Bain Stewart

CAST

Jazleen Latrise
Roxanne McDonald
Alinta McGrady
Thea Raveneau
Colin Smith
Tibian Wyles

In Beauty It Is Finished by **George Landen Dann**, sparked controversy long before its 1931 premiere due to its candid language and groundbreaking portrayal of a relationship between a young white woman and an Aboriginal man.

Long before opening night in 1931, the play's blunt language and realistic portrayal of a young white prostitute and an Aboriginal man sparked media outrage, with the publication *Smith's Weekly* labeling it a "Sordid Drama of Miscegenation."

The article even suggested the judging committee should have disposed of it "with a pair of tongs" and that "... it is a matter for action by the police".

The play, directed by Barbara Sisley (La Boite's co-founder), enjoyed bumper houses for its three-night season at Brisbane's His Majesty's Theatre.

The presence of the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr. Gerald Sharp, in the front row on opening night and the Chief Justice, Sir James Blair and Lady Blair, prominent as special guests on the final night of the season, would have done much to mollify any audience anxiety about the suitability of the play for public consumption.

Returning to our stage in 1977 both previous productions were controversially performed in blackface.

In 2025, this powerful reading will be directed by proud Butchulla man **Aidan Rowlingson** and for the first time read by a full First Nations cast.

LA BOITE ENCORES PRESENTED BY

EPIC HAIR
DESIGNS

Controversy is weird. It was controversial at the time for Landon Dann to write a play that, for the first time, saw Aboriginal people as having complex stories and emotions, a forward-thinking idea.

At the time of La Boite staging this play it wasn't widely considered controversial for white people to portray Aboriginal people on stage. Which of course is shocking today because we know better.

We know representation matters. And today *In Beauty It Is Finished* is controversial because of how dated the depictions of Aboriginal people are.

That progression from daring to dated is weird. And now, to continue this progression, we are staging a reading of this work with an all First Nations cast. Even the white characters will be played by Mob.

Is that controversial? I hope so.

AIDAN ROWLINGSON
DIRECTOR



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OPENING MINDS**

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SCAN TO BE IN THE DRAW



UP NEXT

THE MATILDA WOMEN

BY SUE RIDER

TUESDAY 6 MAY

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