

the **exploding** breakfast

Written and Performed by **Ingle Knight**
Presented in association with **Perth Theatre Company**

direct from the
toronto fringe
2008



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Synopsis

Welcome to Africa's Big Apple - The poets, artists, small arms dealers and live chicken sellers are all brought to life on stage by Ingle Knight in his hilarious and captivating South African survival tale...

Ingle Knight went to South Africa as part of the inaugural Western Australia /South Africa Playwright's Exchange. As the first participant in this cultural experiment no guidelines had been established for him to follow. And when he agreed to take part he had no idea what he was letting himself in for...

In ***The Exploding Breakfast*** Ingle tells the hilarious and occasionally terrifying story of how he survived his three months in Johannesburg. As he tries to write his next play some of the distractions include an assassination, William Burroughs, a Zimbabwean drug scam, a beautiful woman called Crystal Cleer and a washing machine called Aretha.

Applying his unique prize-winning skills as both writer and performer Ingle takes his audience with him on this fascinating and sometimes excruciating journey of survival and discovery!

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Tech Spec

Running Time	65 minutes		
Technical specifications			
No of lamps			15
No of Dimmers			10
Small sound System / PA Sound System with 1 x CD			
Stage area			4m x 4m
Technical rating	C		
Crewing			
Staff	Bump-in	Performances	Bump-out
Lighting	none	1 (shared)	none
Mechanist	none	none	none
Sound	none	1 (shared)	none
Wardrobe	none	none	none
Special requirements			Nil

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Biography



About - INGLE KNIGHT

Ingle has about 50 professional theatre roles under his belt including most recently as the Emperor in **Amadeus** (Perth Theatre Company), Waffles in **Uncle Vanya** and Frank in **Educating Rita**, (both for Black Swan Theatre Company). He has had more than thirty of his plays, musicals and films, produced for theatre, radio and television.

His one man show, **The Getaway Bus** won the best drama award in the W.A. fringe, toured to the Edinburgh Festival and nationwide in 2003 and was nominated for a Melbourne "Greenroom" award for best performance in the fringe. His play **Milk and Honey** (adapted from the novel by Elisabeth Jolley) won in the 1999 Premiers Award for best script.

Ingle has appeared in some of Australia's best loved TV series including **Sons and Daughters**, **Prisoner** and **Neighbours**. His most recent appearance on film was as the murderous Dr Parker in the German tele-movie **Rapture of the Deep** and as Prof Griffin in the Network 10 TV series **Wormwood**.

Ingle has taught script writing at a number of universities and works regularly as a professional dramaturg and editor.

Most recently he was the script-editor on the short-animation series Medusa for SBS television.

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About The Getaway Bus 2001 - 2004

"Excellent.... A mad little universe worth catching"

"Thought provoking and thoroughly engaging"

"Charming and ingenious"

Canberra Times

The Stage, UK

The Sun-Herald

About The Exploding Breakfast

6 THE WEST AUSTRALIAN TODAY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15 2000



Power of one

THEATRE

The Exploding Breakfast
Written and performed by
Ingle Knight
Effie Crump Theatre
Review: Geoff Gibbs

THE one-man show is undoubtedly the toughest challenge an actor has to conquer in his professional career. It is all the more daunting if he also writes the text.

The "auteur" in cinema is applauded, in theatre he is frequently ridiculed for his ego and temerity in developing and staging his own work.

Ingle Knight does not resile from confronting his critics in this fascinating and genuinely amusing journey into his dislocated psyche in *The Exploding Breakfast*.

This is a courageous work which has the resonance of Chekhov's *Swan Song* where a solo actor laments his personal and professional failures at the end of a lacklustre career.

Knight is midway through his career as an actor and a writer but is brave enough to sensitively reveal what he considers to be the milestones and failures in his life in the arts.

He writes with disarming honesty, displaying an affection not only for graphic language but for colourful speech. His performance is energetic and animated through skilful verbal dynamics, accurately detailing accents as he peoples his stage with a kaleidoscope of disturbing and fascinating characters.

He is at his best when he departs from the text. Indeed, the performance is a curious mixture of drama and prose — part play and part a chat

with the audience. When Knight leaves the lecture, the effect on his audience is arresting and engagingly dramatic. When he returns to his reading, he is less successful.

The Exploding Breakfast covers his tenure as an exchange playwright in Johannesburg but also has some timely swipes at ArtsWA and "grants rats" who make a career of winning support from funding bodies.

In Africa he survives a drug heist, interrogation about his sexuality, several seedy characters in bars, hefty competition from Janet Jackson and a heady colony of South African arts intellectuals who still revere William Burroughs.

His experience of theatre in South Africa is bleak and disturbing and makes the arts scene in Australia seem stellar in comparison.

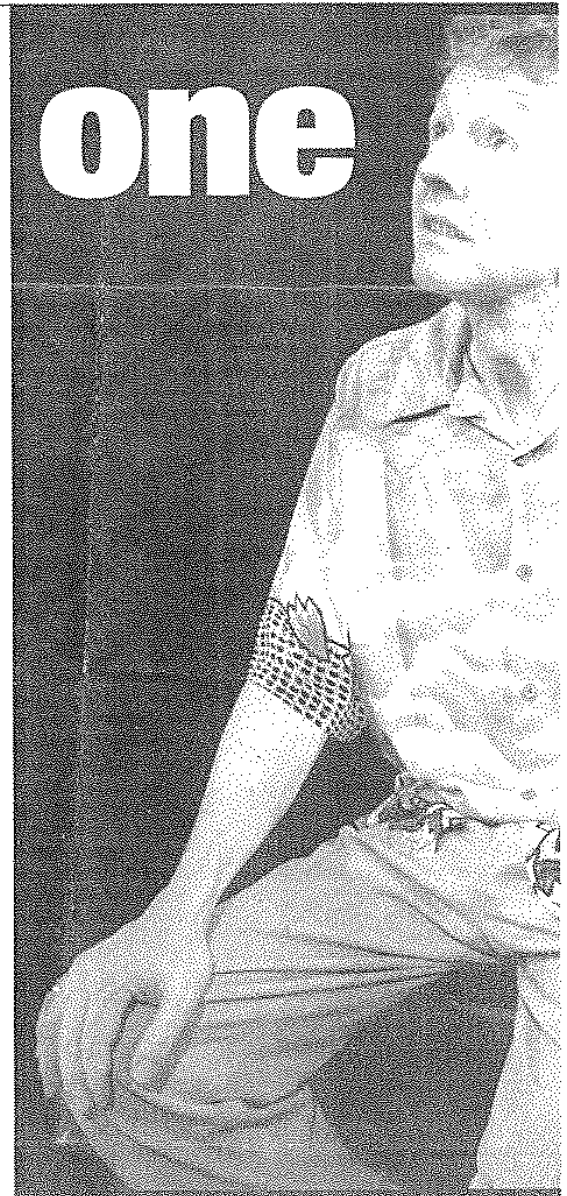
However, this is a balanced documentary view and there is much to admire and respect in the generously shared experiences and his ultimate optimism for a precarious profession.

The monologue is enhanced by some very effective soundscapes and opens with a very funny segment from one of Knight's abandoned scripts. He and director Alan Becher should revisit this work as it was the comic highlight of the evening.

How to end a program such as this is always a problem.

It comes to an unexpected and sudden halt with Knight intoning as the stage fades to black, "Only what's vital will survive".

This statement certainly seems to reverberate his experience in South Africa, but may also voice his vision of the future for the local arts industry.



Ingle Knight . . . a genuinely amusing journey into his