

MEDIA RELEASE - for immediate use

What: Not Like Beckett
(DTC/Red Dust theatre co-production)

When: 9th & 10th May 8.00pm (Wed & Thurs)
Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs

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RUN, RABBIT, RUN - ALL THE WAY TO ALICE

As the first dragonflies of the dry season buzz their way across the dreamy Darwin sky, not all is slow and sleepy in the Territory's Top End. Damien A Pree, one of Darwin's best-known and loved actors, is busy with director, Nicola Fearn, creating the character of Walter Walloon Beckett, rabbit extraordinaire, for Michael Watts' nationally acclaimed play **Not Like Beckett**. And this bunny is about to hotfoot it to Alice Springs

"No time to stop," says Damien, sounding suspiciously like another famous white rabbit. "With the opening of the show later this month, we're grabbing every minute we can find."

For Damien, this is the latest in many shows he has done for Darwin Theatre Company. Coming from Melbourne several years ago, Damien has now made Darwin his permanent base and knows the importance of having a professional theatre company in town.

"That's how we keep the skills in this region - otherwise people just drift away and we lose all that talent and experience."

Damien does a great deal to increase Darwin's stock of available talent. When he's not performing, he gives workshops for young people at Corrugated Iron Youth Arts and every week he also conducts the open 'drop-in' workshops for DTC. Comedy is a favorite focus for Damien so the amazing showbiz rabbit, Beckett, is a great part to play.

"He's a rabbit with a great deal to say for himself," Damian says. "And it's especially rewarding when you know it's an NT writer who's given him the words."

Not Like Beckett opens on May 8th at Araluen Arts Centre.