



"The music is alive with heart and wit."
— *Sydney Morning Herald* on Camille O'Sullivan

"...Kelly's a unique, very Australian voice. No performer in this country quite expresses yearning like he does. There's an ache in his voice, and in the best of his songs – a story." —
The Guardian on Paul Kelly

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE
PLAYHOUSE
WED 12 – SUN 15 OCTOBER

Wed-Sat 7.30pm

1 hr 15 mins, no interval
A Reserve \$79 / \$69
B Reserve \$69 / \$59
Students \$25

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Australia /Ireland // Music

World Premiere

ANCIENT RAIN

Paul Kelly & Camille O'Sullivan
with Feargal Murray

Director Chris Drummond

Iconic Australian singer-songwriter **Paul Kelly** and magnetic Irish-French Chanteuse **Camille O'Sullivan** pay tribute to the words of W.B Yeats and other great Irish poets of the past century with the world premiere of *Ancient Rain*.

Combining the spoken word with a song-cycle of new compositions, this is an extraordinary opportunity to see these two inimitable artists perform in the intimacy of a theatrical setting with stories of love, loss and redemption.

Original compositions by these contemporary masters have been shaped around the poetry of more than a century of Irish writing, and as Kelly and O'Sullivan incarnate a succession of diverse characters a conduit across oceans and time is opened.

Paul Kelly's ingeniously understated yet evocative lyricism and O'Sullivan's majestic vocal command unite here in this evocative new music theatre work. They are joined by O'Sullivan's long-time collaborator, songwriter and pianist, Feargal Murray, with Chris Drummond directing.

With a career spanning more than thirty years, **Paul Kelly** is truly one of Australia's pre-eminent singer-songwriters and musicians of our time. His career output includes more than twenty studio albums and multiple film soundtracks and in 1997 he was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame. He has created some of Australia's, and more specifically Melbourne anthems; from *Leaps and Bounds* which immortalised the iconic MCG to *From St Kilda to Kings Cross*, Kelly's songs are lodged deep in the Australian psyche. A world class wordsmith, Kelly's latest album *Seven Sonnets and a Sonnet* is an ode to Shakespeare, *Ancient Rain* sees him continue this exploration and recognition of the writers who have inspired him throughout his career.

Rock meets theatre star, with a touch of cabaret, **Camille O'Sullivan** is one of Ireland's fiercest, most amusing and wholly mesmerising performers. As much a storyteller as she is singer, she was last seen on Australian shores in 2015 with her show *Changeling* which featured her

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interpretations of songs by Radiohead, Arcade Fire, Tom Waits and Nick Cave to name just a few. She has performed sold out solo shows worldwide, she guest starred in Olivier Award-winning *La Clique*, of which she was an original cast member in London's West End and as an actress she's appeared in films such as Oscar-nominated *Mrs Henderson* alongside Judi Dench. It's no surprise that her love of narrative and storytelling has led to this perfect partnership with Paul Kelly where they can demonstrate their appreciation of some of poetry's greats.

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