



**MEDIA RELEASE
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Laughing Through the Housing Crisis: *The Agent* Premieres This May

[DATE] — With housing affordability reaching crisis point across Australia, a bold new comedy is turning the spotlight on the people at the centre of it all: real estate agents.

Blending satire with sharp social commentary, *The Agent* dives headfirst into the absurdities of Australia's property market. It's a fast-paced, unapologetically wacky spy spoof that asks: what if your real estate agent thought they were James Bond?

"The Agent was born out of my own frustrations with the housing market, first as a tenant and then as a first-home buyer," Playwright Meryn Cooper said.

"It can be humiliating and dehumanising to the point where, if you don't laugh, you'll cry. So, I decided to channel those frustrations into a farce for stage."

Behind the comedy lies a biting truth. With rising house prices, increasing mortgage stress, and rental costs outpacing incomes, Australians are feeling the squeeze — and those on the frontlines of the property market are often caught in the middle. *The Agent* explores this tension with humour, heart, and just the right amount of chaos.

A former journalist, Cooper undertook extensive research while developing the work.

"I pored over news articles, listened to industry experts, and fell down a rabbit hole of data comparisons and affordability reports. But the real gold was in the anecdotes. Nine times out of ten, when I mentioned I was writing about home buying and real estate agents, people had a story to tell."

"Securing a home is an emotional experience. We're still attached to the great Australian dream of a quarter-acre block, but the reality is a high-stakes investment that can lead to mortgage stress rather than stability."

"Yes it's a look at the housing crisis through the eyes of the real estate agents, but at its core, *The Agent* is designed to entertain. It's big, bold, and packed with laughs — offering audiences a chance to escape, even briefly, from the pressures of real life" she said.

At the centre is Michelle Schrödinger — ambitious, self-obsessed, and determined to be crowned Real Estate Agent of the Year. With her loyal, and slightly clueless assistant Brad, and tech-savvy Joan by her side, Michelle sets out to dominate the market. But between a rival agent, a problematic property, and the smooth voice of radio announcer Jock Lovegrove, her mission quickly spirals out of control.

The play also flips traditional gender dynamics, placing a powerful, unapologetic female character at the centre of a genre typically dominated by men. In doing so, *The Agent* playfully interrogates representation, power, and perspective, without ever losing its sense of fun.

A huge shout out to venue partner *Warehouse 25*, and sponsors *Eureka Furniture* - 40 years of turning houses into homes and *Acru Wealth* - Live your best life today and build a better tomorrow. Brisbane Anywhere Festival is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Brisbane City Council.

The Agent premieres on 20 May at *Warehouse 25* as part of the *Anywhere Theatre Festival*. The venue's restaurant and bar will be open, with food and drinks available for purchase. Doors open two hours prior to each performance.

SHOW DETAILS

 *The Agent* — a new comedy, part of *Anywhere Theatre Festival*

 Warehouse 25, 25 Finchley Street, Milton

 20, 22, 23, 27, 28 & 30 May 2026 (6 performances)

 60 mins

 [Ticket link to be inserted]

CAST & CREW

Michelle Schrödinger
Jane Bond
Brad
Joan
Jock
Postie
Bambini

Meryn Cooper
Phoebe Maher
Jamie Delmonte
Sarah McNally
Sam Herbertson
Damien Smith
Vivien Rose

Director
Producer
Choreography
Combat Coach
Stage & Props Manager

Mel Poole
Zebramez Creative
Jamie Delmonte
Sam Herbertson
Isabel Folland

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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