**ODDLANDS by Back to Back Theatre and Back to Back Pictures - Audio Description Pre-show Notes**

Welcome to this introduction to 2023 “No Limits” programme, ODDLANDS. I am Kate Allert, the audio describer.

The programme will be screened at Laundry Steps, Tai Kwun on 4 Mar, 2023, at 12 noon, 2 and 4pm with free admission; and free screening on the “No Limits” website, from 15th Mar at 10am, to 10th May at 10pm. It is approximately 30 minutes, performed in English, with Cantonese and English Audio Description, Subtitles and Accessible Captions in Chinese and English, and bilingual Audio House Programme. The programme is classified as Category IIA and contains strong language.

Geelong-based Back to Back Theatre draws creative power from its ensemble of neurodiverse actors and has emerged as one of the leading voices in the Australian cultural scene. In 2022, the company received the International Ibsen Award, informally dubbed the “Nobel Prize for Theatre”, for the penetrating impact of its body of work on audiences.

ODDLANDS was filmed in the countryside of Victoria. It was written and directed by Bruce Gladwin, who is artistic director and Co-CEO of Back to Back Theatre.

ODDLANDS is set in a dystopian world, possibly in the near future, where all human beings are psychometrically and biometrically tested to determine their place in the social and job hierarchy. A powerful, though possibly misleading, system of incentives and promotion possibilities ensures that everyone complies. The drama explores the statement, “It’s not who you are, it’s who you become.” The two main characters, Des and Tam, are designated as Level 7 cleaners for the all-powerful Civix corporation, after their assessment in a high-tech laboratory. They are bussed out to a strange, bleak wasteland, where their brief is to clear out the toxic remnants of whatever the now-departed residents have left behind. Motivated by the promise of extra benefits to report any signs of life, they face a moral dilemma when they stumble across a man who may be the only remaining survivor.

The all-Caucasian cast consists of two women and seven men, with the voice of a third woman. Des and Tam are male and female, respectively. Des is a pale, slender man with medium-length, thinning dark hair, large round eyes and a long face. He is gangly and slow-moving. Tam is heftily-built, with a round face, big cheeks and close-cropped dark hair. Throughout their time in the wasteland, they and their fellow workers wear all white hazmat suits and matching rubber boots. Their suits are hooded, although Des and Tam rarely use the hoods. The bus driver and the security guard who admit them to the restricted area both wear heavy duty dark green protective suits with full head coverings and face masks. The other characters wear street clothes.

There is an original score, composed by Joff Bosch, of haunting eerie music contrasting with lively, energetic themes that complement the action. The colour palette of the film is notable for its dull, muted tones, alternating with the bright white of the lab. The sky is a heavy grey and the countryside consists flat scrubland stretching for miles with patches of dark grass, tan soil and pale grey rocks, with long stretches of dark water. The abandoned buildings that the duo enter are equally plain and appear dilapidated, whether residential, or warehouses. When flashes of colour do appear, they are shocking in contrast.

This is the end of the audio description pre-show notes of ODDLANDS. Please enjoy the performance!