

Testimonies of Courage and Excellence In Support of Ben Pfeiffer

"When I was first approached with the project, *Afterlight* (then *The Returned*), I was utterly struck by the rare quality of the script—something that happens all too infrequently despite my years in the industry. I joined the project not for financial gain, but because I believed deeply in its artistic merit. After the shoot, I viewed a rough cut of the film that totally exceeded my expectations—so much so that I personally contributed funds to support further editing. The finished film is a tender, beautifully acted, and emotionally resonant feature directorial debut. Ben's achievement—writing, directing, and starring in this feature—is truly remarkable. A inimitable talent absolutely worth supporting."

— **Richard Mansell, Film/Executive Producer | Oscar Winner**

"In a fractured world, Ben is one of Art's true believers. His craft unites people. His creations amplify sidelined voices. Ben brings deep wells of empathy and celebration to every endeavour. His output is always an offering — never selfish, always generous — shared openly with his collaborators and his audiences. Anyone who knows Ben's work wants him to keep gracing us with his creations for years to come."

— **Benedict Hardie, Actor & Playwright**

"Ben Pfeiffer embodies the very essence of a true Artist. He moulds deep pain into light — not to offload it, but to hold and transform it. He sculpts experiences that allow others to sink into rare belonging. His work is courageous in its emotional clarity, and exquisite in its craft. Love pulses through every project he touches — rigorous, generous, and true."

— **Dushan Philips, Actor & Writer**

"Ben is an exceptional writer, director, and artist whose work radiates both courageous vulnerability and artistic excellence. On his feature directorial debut, *Afterlight*, Ben led with calm strength and emotional openness, creating one of the most creatively alive sets I've ever experienced. With eight feature screenplays under his belt, he brings a fearless and poetic approach to storytelling, illuminating the complexities of the human condition with grace, insight, and integrity."

— **Rebecca Lee Reeves, Actor, Writer & Collaborator**

"Ben Pfeiffer is a rare artist — and a truly special one. He creates deep, nuanced worlds that explore the human experience with rare intimacy. His scripts are fearless journeys, his direction quiet and ego-free. In a world obsessed with speed and spectacle, Ben's courage lies in his restraint — an ability to lead us to quieter, more profound truths. A recipient of 13 international film festival awards for Best Screenwriter, his excellence is globally recognised — and deeply deserved."

— **Edwina Wren, Actor & Collaborator**

DIRECTORIAL REVIEWS: Ben Pfeiffer

"Director Ben Pfeiffer's vision is impeccable. His philosophy compliments Edson's writing and celebrates life, death, and mortality." – **Theatre People**

"Artisan collective's production of *Wit*, directed by Ben Pfeiffer, is outstanding theatre informed by something approaching the visionary" – **Artshub**

"Ben Pfeiffer lets nothing gets in the way of the text and the performers." – **The Age**

"Pfeiffer creates a startling *mise en scene*. The precision of the direction can suggest homosexuality close to the surface among drunken Nazi's, or it can accentuate the vulnerability inherent in a tender moment. The piece bristles with ideas and is absolutely gripping to look at." – **Stage Whispers**

"This theatrical adaptation of *The Collector* quietly and expertly highlights violence against women and casts the audience as unwilling potential victims and aggressors, forcing hypervigilance. This is powerful theatre that made a definite impact on its audience. It's wonderfully acted, the sound design and space will terrify you and the result is uncompromising in its message and intent."

– **The Pesky Feminist**

"Directed by Ben Pfeiffer, this new production is imbued with both an empathy and a certain romanticism, albeit a dark one. *The Collector* will live on in the imaginations of all who see it – niggling at the back of your mind for years to come."

– **The Melbourne Observer**

"Sleek and Ibsen like in its realisation, Ben Pfeiffer yet again proves his versatility as a director."

– **The Australian**

"Pfeiffer's production gets the guts of the play. The Artisan Collective is a talented and ambitious company." – **The Age**

"It is directed so well, with such accuracy, skill and commitment. It's a brilliant exercise in style, for the possibilities it opens. Keep an eye out for this company." – **Theatre Notes**

"Every detail of Ben Pfeiffer's production is thought out, exact and cleanly delivered. Five stars!"

– **Chris Boyd**

WRITING FEEDBACK: Ben Pfeiffer

"The core concept behind *Chantou* is so strong – precisely what a film needs to carry it through the many phases to get it made and seen. A beautiful, modern and powerful premise. The characters are specific, detailed, genuine and unique. Pfeiffer has an innate handle on story, structure and craft, but manages to weave an incredibly human and authentic experience that is realised in surprising ways."

– **Benedict Hardie**

"*Mercy* is an absolutely compelling read and a very emotionally engaging exploration of being true to one's authentic self. From page one, the feisty female lead is someone we want to follow and get to know. Conflict and suspense are also expertly introduced in the opening pages, pulling the reader into the story. The script encompasses diversity on many levels, with subject matter that is timely and totally on point."

– **Script Assessor**

"The premise of *Mercy* is unique and enthralling. The poetry within, also written by Pfeiffer, allows the audience to see into the character's psyche – it is extremely powerful and provides such a lyrical insight to these women. The poetry is an innovative way to bond two female characters, and when well done, as is the case here, provides unprecedented depth to the story. The two female protagonists could not be more unlike each other, more complex and more complementing of each other. Their relationship is beautifully crafted. It is very refreshing to see a story about two female characters, their relationship and their power of decision. Furthermore, the dialogue in the script feels so painfully real for each different character and the different cultures this story explores, which is a testament to Pfeiffer's ability in writing dialogue."

– **The Black List USA**

"Ben is an all-round artist of utter integrity and dedication. He has a unique capacity to draw upon his heart and intellect in equal measure. In his most recent endeavour he has written a one-man-play called *The Keeper*. This is a beautifully crafted work. It is an inspiring story, both tragic and uplifting, exploring a life devoted to the love and care of a circus animal that has been culturally and environmentally displaced, kept in captivity. This work goes beyond the spoken word. Ben has encapsulated a dynamic of universal communication with exceptional agility – using pathos and humour to examine 19th century animal husbandry. His rigour and sensitivity to language is evident through his word craft and is underpinned by exquisite philosophical insight that reflects the depth of Ben's very own heart. I commend him to you as an outstanding candidate for a fellowship. His courage, insight, artistic skill and vision would absolutely honour your program."

– **Kirsten Von Bibra**