

Women on the edge



TOUGH roles . . . Aleisha Hall, centre, as the dangerous Mr Blue, with the all-female cast of *Reservoir Dogs*, from left, Elizabeth Best, Liza Callincos, Jennifer Corren, Angela Newman, Louise Toohey, Vivienne Abitia, Crystal Arons, Lesa Bell and Lara Kappler. They play male characters, but they still look like women on stage and wear make-up and jewellery. Picture: Adam Smith

There's an all-female cast in a twisted stage version of a violent cult movie, writes **Natalie Gregg**

TEN women are creating violent mayhem in a twisted stage version of Quentin Tarantino's cult film *Reservoir Dogs*.

Instead of the 10 male characters, Nash Theatre has chosen women to act out the violent and often darkly funny story of a diamond heist gone awry.

Inspired by the tough female characters in Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* movies, directors Christopher Doolan and Daniel James, decided to have an all-female cast.

James says audiences will get a kick out of seeing women in such tough roles.

"There is something shocking about getting a group of women talking like men and acting out male roles," he says.

James and Doolan were approached by Nash Theatre's artistic director to direct a play version of the film, after a similar performance was shown at the The University of Queensland's Cement Box Theatre last year.

"The idea of doing it again was interesting because Tarantino is back in vogue because of *Kill Bill*," James says.

"But we didn't want to be two guys doing a carbon-copy of the film, so we decided to do an all-female cast."

James and Doolan, who adapted the film for the stage,

stuck closely to the script, which is set in a large warehouse.

The play even presents scenes out of sequence, true to the film and Tarantino's editing style.

The women play male characters, but they still look like women on stage and wear make-up and jewellery.

Reservoir Dogs is playing at the Alliance Hotel, which James says suited the play more than a traditional theatre setting.

"We wanted something a little bit like a warehouse and a little bit on the edge," he says.

Actor Jennifer Corren says she had to find some dark place inside her to play the character Mr Blond.

Mr Blond coldly tortures a police officer and slices off his ear in the most violent and shocking scene in the film.

"I wanted to do this play because it is not an opportunity female actors get every day and thought it would be a challenge," Corren says.

"It is violent but there is a lot of humour in Tarantino's writing which helps distract away from violence and language."

Reservoir Dogs, upstairs at The Alliance Tavern at Spring Hill plays Wednesday and Thursdays until November 25 at 8pm. Also on November 12 and 13. Ticket \$12/\$15. Bookings: 3257 411