BELL Shakespeare is returning to Alice Springs to bring the compelling poetry of William Shakespeare to life in its new production of the classic play Hamlet.

Off the back of directing the critically acclaimed, award-winning Henry V for Bell Shakespeare in 2014, Damien Ryan will deliver a new production of Hamlet, one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies.

The play is a detailed family portrait in the political landscape of a “rotten” Denmark, a country furiously preparing for war, not realising the enemy lies within.

Hamlet is a young man cast in an unfamiliar role in a story he never expected to tell.

He is at once vulgar, misogynist and cruel while being overwhelmed by insecurities and indecision.

Hamlet stands before us and speaks the truth, confronting us with just how fragile our ideals of family, love, community, loyalty, faithfulness and the courage to “act” can be.

“Hamlet is one of the most complete experiences theatre can provide – extraordinary poetry, intense passion, dazzling intelligence, terror, carnal slaughter, friendship, humanity, great humour and great grief,” Ryan said.

“Shakespeare casts his spell through the sheer scope and grandeur of this story – beginning with a dead man walking and ending with a stage littered with bodies.”

The production offers a giant window to the inner machinations of Elsinore – a place where nothing and no one is ever really safe from the prying and eavesdropping.

It’s an environment under insidious surveillance and secret tyranny.

Hamlet stars Josh McConville, Matilda Ridgway, Sean O’Shea, Doris Younane, Ivan Donato, Michael Wahr, Philip Dodd, Robin Goldsworthy, Julia O’hanessian and Catherine Terraccini.

Alice Springs is one of 28 centres around Australia on the tour list for Bell Shakespeare's special performance of Hamlet.

It will be on stage at the Araluen Arts Centre on Thursday, September 17, at 8pm.

Tickets are selling fast and are available from the Araluen Box Office on 8951 1122.

For more information, see alice springs cinema.com.au.

When it comes to music, news and interviews, tourist information, competitions and prizes, it’s all on Sun969 - 8HA & Tourist Gold.

Local radio for the locals and helping local business talk to their customers.

**Tickets selling fast for classic Hamlet**

**Novelist walks into the Eye of the Storm**

GERMAN graphic novelist Jan Bauer is wandering into Alice Springs with his book The Salty River, about his experiences trekking through Central Australia as part of an upcoming writer’s festival, Eye of the Storm.

The debut novel is a tender and unexpected love story set in a spectacular environment.

After a difficult breakup in his native Germany, Bauer sets off for the Australian desert in search of himself.

His 450km journey takes him into the scorching hot heart of Australia.

There he meets a fellow wanderer, the young French woman, Morgane.

Another key event of the festival will be a guided 4km walk along the Todd River from the CBD to the historic Alice Springs Telegraph Station, led by local journalist and author Glenn Morrison.

Morrison has recently completed a PhD about walking and ideas of frontier and home in the literature of Central Australia.

He is joined on the walk by four other local writers who will give their own perspectives on writing and landscape.

Bauer will be hosting a workshop at Olive Pink Botanic Garden on Saturday, September 19, 12.30-2.30pm.

The walk led by Morrison will take place on Sunday, September 20, from 8-11am.

More information on the program and tickets can be found at ntwriters.com.au.

Follow the link to the Eye of the Storm site.