

Musical satire of social concerns



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AS building height limits in some inner city Brisbane suburbs are set to increase dramatically, a new play dealing with development is particularly timely.

Fiveways opens tonight in West End as one of the home-grown events of the Brisbane Festival.

In late May, Brisbane city councillors voted overwhelmingly in favour of overturning existing restrictions on height limits in such suburbs as Fortitude Valley, South Brisbane, Kurilpa, West End and Woolloongabba. It's just the latest in a dizzying array of recent changes that prompted writer, composer, director and performer Eugene Gilfedder to create his new work *Fiveways*.

"Brisbane is constantly changing," he said. "Older parts are being erased, newer parts coming up. I'm not going to say everything has to

stop — that would be impossible landmarks are being erased . . . produces a feeling of alienation.

Named after Brisbane's "five-way" junctions, the play is a strange, surreal, cartoon-like satire with music," said Gilfedder.

"It centres on a real estate agent who comes to the *Fiveways* area and thinks he can make a lot of money, but strange characters get in his way.

One of them is a beautiful Chinese girl, played by Alana Scott, who also sings soprano in the role. Other characters include a jockey, pulled from the TAB and a woman from the Chinese takeaway.

"For it to be shown in the heart of the West End is highly relevant," Gilfedder said. "It's at the edge of a new (inner city) development. I hope we don't lose the sense of the spirit of place we live in."

Fiveways is free and is staged nightly at 7pm from tonight until Saturday at the carpark at Wilson St, West End.

HIGH-RISE in the spotlight . . . *Fiveways* creator Eugene Gilfedder, top, and Alana Scott as the Goldfish Girl, left.

Picture: Marc Robertson