

ECHO

A show about the un-instagrammed reality of motherhood

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Our most sincere thanks to the many volunteers who generously give their time in support of La Mama.

La Mama's Committee of Management, staff and its wider theatrical community acknowledge that our theatre is on traditional Wurundjeri land.

The La Mama community acknowledges the considerable support it has received in the past decade from Jeanne Pratt and The Pratt Foundation.

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the City of Melbourne through the Arts and Culture triennial funding program.

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Buckle up! Let's take a trip down unplanned-pregnancy lane and journey through the perilous and often thankless terrain of motherhood. We'll be tearing down some outdated ideologies and social stigmas along the way as we deal with relationship breakups and personal breakdowns. Then we'll tackle misogyny and the not so subtle pressure for women to procreate. Moving on to infertility and abortion – to be or not to be? You know, the fun stuff! According to our Facebook feeds, motherhood should be a blissful vacation of babycinos and infinite wonder...But what is really happening just out of frame?

#soblessed #grateful #precioumoments

**Written & performed by Amber Hart and Christie Rohr
Lighting design by Julian Adams**



The seeds of **Echo** were first sown 6 years ago – when Amber found herself unexpectedly pregnant with her first child.

Three months after Amber's surprise discovery, her dear friend Christie found herself faced with the same circumstances. This show has been devised out of the emotional upheaval and existential crises their unexpected pregnancy's created.

Amber and Christie have always found solace and healing through writing. As they began to share the details of their experiences with each other, they realised how connected and common their experiences were. The end of isolation, that moment of connection, was the vital starting point for **Echo**.

It is our privilege to share our story with you. **Echo** is as real and as honest as storytelling can get. We have dug, waded through and drawn from our own experiences and the stories of many other women, it doesn't get more personal. **Echo** is ultimately about the journey from isolation to connection – one of the most fundamental of human needs. We are so grateful to you for joining us and for listening, we believe being heard is a such vital part of healing and moving forward.

Christie Rohr has over 25 years experience in performing arts including acting, dancing and writing for both the stage and the screen. She has been a part of several productions at La Mama, Melbourne Fringe festival and Melbourne International Comedy Festival. She has a Diploma of Arts for Writing – including playwriting and screenwriting. Christie met Amber through a production of *The Trial of God* that they were both involved in, in 2009. They formed a close and solid friendship immediately that has endured to this day. This is their first co-written and co-performed production.

Amber Hart has been involved in theatre, film, dance and performance for 28 years now. She moved to Melbourne in 2009 after completing a Bachelor of Theatre at UWS in Sydney. Freelancing around Melbourne she eventually found her way into the warm loving embrace of La Mama where she is FOH manager by day, and gets to see loads of amazing shows and even create some herself at night! **Echo** is the first show Amber has co-written, co-directed and performed herself and it's an honour and a joy to be doing it with Christie.



Julian Adams is a student of Latrobe University's Bachelor of Arts, having also completed a diploma of Live Theatre Services with Melbourne Polytechnic. His recent successes include lighting design for *Under The Milkyway: A Cabaret* (2017, LTU), *Bipolar Bear* (Fringe, 2016), stage management for *Fragments* (La Mama, 2017) and acting as Gloucester in *King Lear* (2017, LTU). He thanks you for your patronage and hopes you enjoy the show.

Nadie Kammallweera is an accomplished actress, featuring in *The Young Pope* (2016), *The Strange Familiar* (2014), *Mother Teresa* (2003) and *This Is My Moon* (2000). Unfortunately due to an overseas commitment Nadie is unable to join us in **Echo** this time but we greatly look forward to working with her in the future!

Thank you to my inspiration and number 1 supporter – Alex. It is a privilege to be your mumma – you're a wonderful human being and I love you dearly. Thank you to Mum – there are no words capable of expressing my gratitude, but I would be lost without all your support. Thank you to my wonderful sisters – Alex's incredible Aunties – for being second mums to him and such wonderful advocates for us. Thank you to Amber for including me in **Echo** – I look forward to nurturing and developing this further with you. Thank you to my wonderful friends and family and to all the people who came to support our show and offer us feedback.

- Christie

Linds my love, I can't imagine any one I'd rather be on this crazy delightful parenting journey with. Thank you for your endless support & encouragement so I can make, create, and be out in the theatre world. My beautiful mothers' group, I love the hell out of you guys. I feel so lucky that we scored such a great group and we take care of each other. Thank you to my incredible friends in Melbourne for all your love and friendship, it means everything, it really takes a village to raise children, and in the absence of a village, you guys have been inherent to my happiness and ability to thrive. Thank you to all the amazing people who gave their personal stories so freely to **Echo** - Nanna, Rikki, Leone, Bec, Iris, Sally and Jenna. Thank you to La Mama for supporting us, having us and believing in us once again, you are a National treasure! And lastly, to my own mother Gail. For being such a selfless, fun and imaginative mum. When I see you with my children I understand why I still believe in magic.

- Amber