

La Mama's Explorations Season. He will be performing this piece again, for a two week season, later in 2017. As a composer and sound designer, Zac has worked on a number of different productions at La Mama, including *No One Likes Me* by Darren Vizer, and *Three Short Works* by Lloyd Jones. Zac has also composed music for performances *Igneous* staged at the VCA and at the Adelaide Feast Festival. Zac recently worked with Darren Vizer in the role of sound designer and composer for Darren's latest work *Stigma*, which was presented as part of the Midsumma Festival earlier this year.

Neddwellyn Jones creates music for slow-dancing insomniacs from outer space. His devotional lo-fi meanderings have navigated their way around the globe via MTV, New York Fashion Week, short & feature films, theatrical productions and radio waves in the US, EU, AU & NZ. A tune about his friend's shoe collection was awarded Australian Single of the Year by Beat Magazine; he was commissioned by the City of Melbourne to compose for The Great Organ (Melbourne Town Hall) for Melbourne Music Week, and his piano-works have been performed live at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

Bronwyn Pringle is a Melbourne based lighting designer who's work with companies including Polyglot, SoulArt, Chambermade Opera, ArtPlay and Jolt Arts, has been seen in venues ranging from a derelict Kensington flat, a woodshed in Glencoe, Belvoir St, a warehouse in Buenos Aries, the Segerstrom Centre in California and many more conventional and unconventional performance spaces. She has won Green Room awards for *Letters from Animals* (SRWT/Here Theatre 2007) and *alias Grace* (Malthouse 2005) plus multiple nominations. Design highlights at La Mama include *Songbirds and Angels*, *The Flood*, *Two Mortals*, *My Life in the Nude*, *Aviary*, *Yarn*, and *Lloyd Beckmann: Beekeeper*.

Jason Crick stumbled into theatre while someone was looking for him and isn't leaving until he's sure they're gone. He has designed for theatre, dance and musicals, with highlights like *LadyCake* (Three Birds Theatre), *Fallen O'er* (Slow, Smallened and Son) and the Green Room nominated *tick, tick... BOOM!* (Pursued By Bear). He also once piloted an anglerfish, and wants you to ask him about it over drinks. Jason is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, and can usually be found causing mischief in or around Melbourne. He hopes to create art that reaches people emotionally and creatively, but he'll settle for your thunderous applause.



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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.



LA MAMA presents

MELBOURNE GREEN

S _ T _ I _ G _ M _ A

A DEVIZE CO Production



27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2017
 OPEN STAGE THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

S_T_I_G_M_A

The world premiere season of **S_T_I_G_M_A**, a confronting theatrical and movement based performance examining the prejudices, discrimination and stigma experienced by people living with HIV, has been dedicated to Ita Buttrose an early pioneer against HIV and AIDS related stigma.



My very best wishes for the successful debut of **S_T_I_G_M_A** which reminds us not just of the past but the present where too many people living with HIV still experience discrimination. We need to raise our voices and confront stigma in order to eradicate it. Darren Vizer's new dance work **S_T_I_G_M_A** sends a powerful message. I am honoured to have the premiere season dedicated to me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ita Buttrose". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ita Buttrose AO, OBE

Performers seamlessly blend dance and acting in their expressive portrayal of the often voiceless community. **S_T_I_G_M_A** confronts self-hatred imposed by mass culture and the ignorance of the ill-informed and commercial media. Stigma relates to a strong feeling of disapproval that people unfairly have in response to a particular issue. The performers play multiple characters in different scenes. This work contains full frontal nudity and sex scenes.

Director's Notes

Who likes to be stigmatized? I know I don't, and I am sure I speak for everyone who has. **S_T_I_G_M_A** had a first development in June 2016, with male two actors titled *Gay Poz Sex*, a very bad title I must admit, had a second development presented at La Mama Courthouse as a part of Midsumma this year with three actors, Sam Duncan, Rory Godbold and Tascha Flowers. My company Devize Co is very excited to share an often voiceless community particularly women and heterosexual males who live with HIV.

A huge thank you to the HIV community who have participated in this process, shared their lived experiences, Christabel Millar, Anthony McCarthy, Mandy Jones, Sarah Jane, Catheryn Smith, Peter Snell, Joel Murray, Daniel Brace and Kim Davis. Big thank you to Kissa for your time in the studio to help shape the storytelling, especially the female voice.

To the three performers Alex Duncan, Laura Jane Turner, Daniel Last, a huge thank you for your craft, bravery, collaboration and dedication to this work, without you it would be an empty space.

Enormous thank you to Science Gallery, University of Melbourne, Victorian AIDS Council, Positive Living Centre, Living Positive Victoria, Positive Women Victoria, Melbourne Fringe, The Space Dance Centre for their space sponsorship and HiVart a platform of all artist living with HIV to present their artwork.

To the La Mama Team: Liz Jones & Caitlin Dullard thank-you for your continued support of my practice and belief in my work without you I would not be making theatre. Jen Tran, Sophia Constantine, Elena Larkin, Amber Hart, Hayley Fox, Zac Kazepis

Rose Hiscock, Ryan Jeffries, Lee Casey, Lizzie Crouch Science Gallery for your wonderful support and picking this work up.

Richard Keane, Suzy Malhotra, Brenton Geyer, Randelle Anderson LPV for your unwavering support of my work in the HIV sector.

Special thank you to Simon Ruth, John Hall & Alex Nikolovski Victorian AIDS Council for ongoing support of this community project.

The Q and A panel Sharon Lewin Director Doherty Institute, Rose Hiscock Director Science Gallery, Sarah Feagan President Positive Women Victoria, Christabel Millar Living Positive Victoria Board of Director & Positive Women Victoria, Jared Stern Doherty Institute, Alex Nikolovski Victorian Aids Council.

Thank you Daniel Brace for support in getting this project off the ground and your continued work on this project. The faculty of VCA and MCM Jacob Shears on internship from the Faculty of VCA and Music, Production Course.

S_T_I_G_M_A

A DEVIZE CO Production

Darren Vizer: Writer/Director/Choreographer

Alex Duncan: Performer

Dan Last: Performer

Laura Jane Turner: Performer

Christabel Millar: Creative Consultant

Zac Kazepis & Neddwellyn Jones: Sound Composition & Design

Bronwyn Pringle: Original Lighting Design

Jason Crick: Lighting Realization & Stage Manager

Darren Vizer holds a masters degree in Choreography and was the University of Melbourne's 2015 Professional Pathways Scholarship and Artist in Residence at La Mama Theatre. He was awarded a 2013 Creative Scholarship for his Master's studies at VCA. Vizer's uses acting techniques, dance and movement to make his theatre performances. Vizer is the founder of Devize Co. which blends acting and dance for performance. He is also the Co-founder of HiVart, a platform for all artists living with HIV. His work *Plunge* at La Mama Theatre in 2014, had a critically acclaimed second stage for Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2015 & Directed *Star of Track and Field* La Mama Theatre. Vizer has produced, written and performed in his show *No One Likes Me* developed from La Mama Explorations in 2012, had a full season at La Mama Theatre for Midsumma 2014 and returned a sell-out season in 2016. He choreographed *Igneous* for the VCA as part of the 360° Program in 2015. **S_T_I_G_M_A** was first developed in 2016, then again earlier this year.

Alex Duncan moved from Hobart to study acting at the VCA from '09 to '11, and since then has worked with Theatreworks, Red Stitch, and others. He was nominated for a Sydney theatre award for his role as Angel in *The Legend of King O'Malley* and a short film he starred in, *Gorilla*, won the International Iris Prize in Cardiff in 2014. Last year, he toured Australia in *The 52 Storey Treehouse* and in February, he performed in Loud Mouth's production of *The Effect* in Hobart.

Dan Last graduated from the VCA in 2013 and has performed in several theatre shows and short films. Being a part of the Melbourne Festival for MKA's production of *The Trouble with Harry* in his first year out was a particularly high note. Outside of the theatre world, Daniel has a passion for Rock Climbing and Martial arts as well as tabletop games. Daniel is honored to be a part of the show **S_T_I_G_M_A** in the hope of changing the public's view of HIV and breaking the perception associated.

A 2013 graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts, **Laura Jane Turner** made her main stage debut with Red Stitch Actors' Theatre in 2014, has travelled regionally with Complete Works Theatre Company and internationally with Chunky Move. Her Academy Award qualifying short film *Curve* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2016 and has gone on to screen at over 50 festivals worldwide, collecting 15 award wins along the way. Laura Jane was most recently nominated for her solo performance in the film at the 2017 St Kilda Festival.

Christabel Millar is a multidisciplinary artist whose personal lived experience investigates the intersections of community, politics, art, and activism. Millar is in her third year as a Board Director of Living Positive Victoria, a not-for-profit organisation that represents all people living with HIV. She has received scholarships for good governance, and recently, to do advocacy work in South Africa. She received a BA Fine Art from RMIT. Millar is an artist living with HIV, born and raised in London. Her work incorporates performance, installation, video, photography, and painting. Millar connects Women Living with HIV. Her work explores the dichotomy between women's real and imagined lives, picking apart and sending up the societal constructs that females are supposed to adhere to at all costs. Millar fostered an essential understanding of women's journey and voice for **S_T_I_G_M_A**.

Zachary Kazepis has been performing on stage since the age of 10, and has worked consistently in shows of ranging styles and themes. Earlier in 2016, Zac had the opportunity to perform as part of an ensemble in The Rabble's curated show *In the Bleak Midwinter*, which played at the Malthouse Theatre. Zac staged his first written piece *Last Year's Eve*, which he also performed in and scored, at La Mama in 2016 as part of