

As part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival,
La Mama Theatre presents

FACING MEDEA

by François Cervantes

An Australian Premiere.

Translated by Marissa O'Reilly.

In 2019 could Medea's tale unfold again?

"François Cervantès' bias is to transpose the drama (of Medea) to the current period, described in real time by ... three women, witnesses struck by horror, in front of the public... (as) savagery regains its rights ... we get used to everything, the horror against Medea is the last bastion of civilization."

-Jean Barak on Facing Medea

Medea was first performed in 431 BC at the City Dionysia festival. FACING MEDEA by François Cervantes was first performed in France in 2017 AD. In 2019 AD as a part of the La Mama Winter & Spring Programme and Melbourne Fringe Festival, FACING MEDEA revisits the myth of Medea, through the eyes of three contemporary women.

We think of Medea as having killed her 2 children but she killed 3 others as well. What would drive a person to kill 5 people for love?

At a time when domestic violence is widespread and cultural displacement growing exponentially, the questions that the Medea myth raises are tragically pertinent. Why, what is it about Medea's story that remains relevant today? FACING MEDEA addresses these questions.

Her father has taken chase

He'd rather see his daughter dead than with a foreigner [...] as long as we don't understand why we have this urge (to kill) we'll never really understand who we are or how to live, in harmony.

-François Cervantes: Facing Medea.

There is no justice in people's perception: there are some who, before they know a person inside out, hate him (or her) on sight, even if they have never been wronged by him (or her).

-Euripides: Medea.



Image by Iris Gaillard and David Burrows

FACING MEDEA directed by **Jenny Kemp**.

Jenny is Writer and Artistic Director of BLACK SEQUIN PRODUCTIONS which is a collaborative company that has, over the past three decades, created a distinctive body of highly original works that investigate the human psyche and its ability to function creatively in a contemporary world. Jenny has also worked as a free-lance director for over 30 years.

THE WRITER: **François Cervantes**.

In 1986, François Cervantes created Compagnie l'Entreprise in search of a theatrical language that could speak to the world today. Since 1986 the company has created over thirty shows many of which have toured internationally. Compagnie l'Entreprise is based in Marseille.

CREATIVE TEAM FOR FACING MEDEA:

Direction: **Jenny Kemp**

Design: **Dann Barber**

Lighting Design: **Rachel Burke**

Sound/Composition: **Ian Moorhead**

CAST: **Iris Gaillard** from France, **Annie Thorold** from Sweden, **Carmelina Di Guglielmo** of Italian heritage.

DATE 25 September - 6 October 2019

TIME Wed 6.30pm

Thu - Sat 7.30pm

Matinee Fri 27th 1pm

Sun 4pm

DURATION Approximately 75 minutes

VENUE La Mama Courthouse

349 Drummond Street, Carlton

TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession

BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au

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