

 **LA MAMA**

The logo for LA MAMA features a stylized pink circle with a white cross inside, positioned to the left of the brand name 'LA MAMA' in a bold, pink, sans-serif font.

Summer 2014



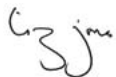
Happy New Year to you all!

We have a very diverse and stimulating year ahead, beginning with our Summer Program, brimming with two festivals, a VCE playlist production, new works premiered and others works re-examined. These along with finely curated music, poetry and children's programming are all contained in the pages to follow.

With 2013 still lingering for me - along with the joy I have reflecting on our own creative developments; EXPLORATIONS, La Mama tours and major productions - I was also most pleased to see the opportunities for artists and ensembles expanding with initiatives like the MTC's Neon, the Malthouse's Helium and exciting contribution to the Melbourne Festival. It was wonderful to see some of our beloved offspring triumph and attain some of the public recognition they so richly deserve (including Daniel Schlusser Ensemble, The Rabble and Nicola Gunn). I was also delighted to be part of the opening night audience at the all black version of the Ilbjerri/Belvoir season of CORANDERRK: WE WILL SHOW THE COUNTRY, after our long association with the creative development of this work.

I would also like to welcome Caitlin Dullard as La Mama's new Company Manager. Many will know Caitlin as our much loved Community and Mobile Producer of many years.

I look forward to meeting you in the Summer months in our leafy garden at La Mama and in the courtyard at La Mama Courthouse.



Liz Jones, C.E.O. & Artistic Director

And on behalf of Caitlin Dullard (Company Manager, Community, Mobile and Creative Producer), Mary Helen Sassman (Marketing Coordinator), Nedd Jones (Communications Coordinator), Rebecca Etchell & Amber Hart (House Managers), Maureen Hartley (La Mama Learning Producer), Fiona Wiseman (Preservation Coordinator), Ella Holmes (La Mama for Kids Curator), Annabel Warmington (La Mama Musica Curator), Amanda Anastasi (La Mama Poetica Curator), Graham Downey (Script Appraiser), and the Committee of Management: Sue Broadway, Caroline Lee, Dur-é Dara, Mark Rubbo, Kerry Noonan, Adam Cass, Richard Watts and Liz Jones.

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Cover image courtesy of [DROPPED](#)



# EVERYTHING I KNOW I LEARNT FROM MADONNA

JANUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 2

"Just like a prayer, your voice can take me there."

After last year's *Midsumma* sell out, *FAG BOY & THE MARRIED GUY*, acclaimed dramatist and actor Wayne Tunks is returning with his most personal story to date...his own.

Detailing his life-long love affair with Madonna, *EVERYTHING I KNOW I LEARNT FROM MADONNA* examines Wayne's theory that he can relate every important life moment to a Madonna lyric.

Written and performed by  
Wayne Tunks

Directed by  
Fiona Hallenan-Barker



Part of the 2014 MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL

Wed, Fri, Sun 7pm | Thu, Sat 9pm  
La Mama Theatre



# NO ONE LIKES ME

JANUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 2

A story of being liked and not being liked... by friends, colleagues, family and society, NO ONE LIKES ME explores the impact of bullying from childhood, the way a son sees his father, HIV and learning to accept things that happen.

This is a snapshot autobiographical work of trying to find where one fits in and belongs. Fascinating, in your face, honest, out there... all sprinkled with wry humour and intriguing choreography

Devised and performed by  
Darren Vizer

Written by  
Darren Vizer and Amy Malsem

Directed by  
Maurie Johns



Part of the 2014 MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL

Wed, Fri, Sun 9pm | Thu, Sat 7pm  
La Mama Theatre



# HOMOPHONIC

JANUARY 24 & 25

A night of new music by queer composers.

Classical music has a long and proud history of LGBT composers, from Tchaikovsky to Cage. To celebrate their legacy, we're bringing the disco ball to the concert hall! Come along to hear some of Melbourne's most in demand classical musicians play some outlandishly fabulous music, and experience the sound world of the LGBT composers of today.

Performed by  
Anna-Louise Cole, Aviva Endean, Laila Engle, Phoebe Green,  
Miranda Hill, Matthew Horsley, Zachary Johnston,  
Jen Morrish, Jennifer Mills and Dan Richardson

Directed by  
Miranda Hill

Featuring music by  
David Chisholm, Naima Fine, Wally Gunn, Joelle Leandre,  
Luke Paulding, Ethel Smyth, Sally Whitwell and Charles Wuorinen



Part of the 2014 MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL

Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
La Mama Courthouse





# THE GREAT GAME

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 16

Charles Darwin meets the Pussy Cat Dolls and together they set out for the battle of Khartoum.

Written by  
Katherine Connolly with Charlie Laidlaw and Bernard Caleo

Directed by  
Rosina Gannon

Performed by  
Bernard Caleo, Charlie Laidlaw and Katherine Connolly

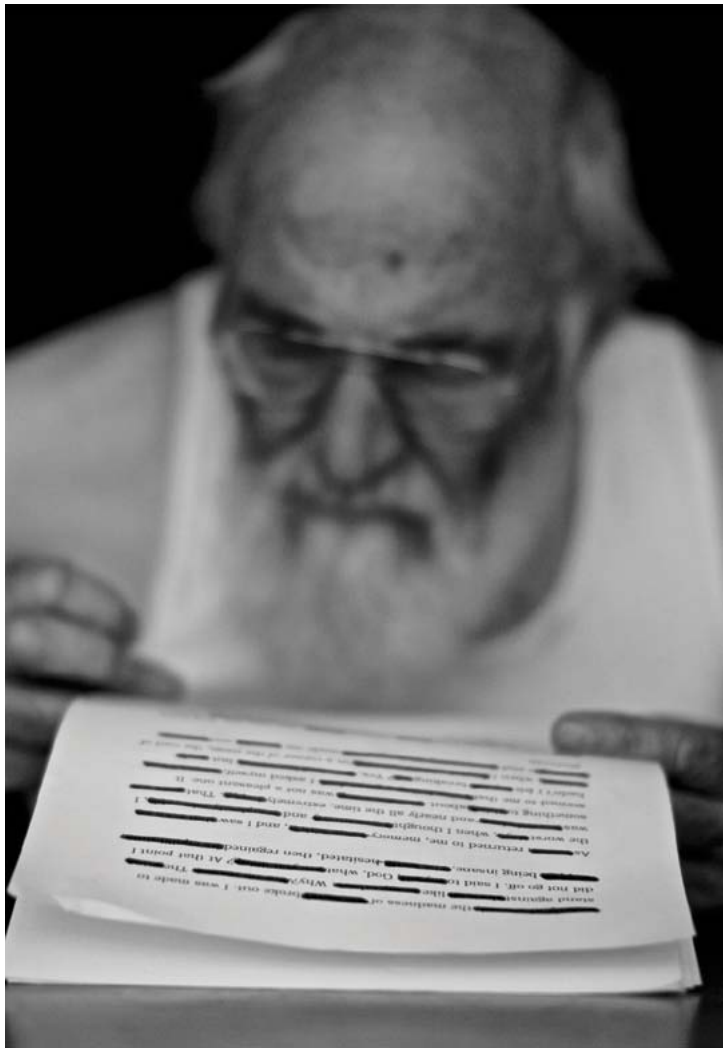
Lighting by  
John Ford

Sound by  
Christopher Bolton

Artwork by  
Michael Camilleri

Image by  
Daisy Noyes

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
La Mama Courthouse



# THE MADNESS OF THE DAY

FEBRUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 16

"A story? I began: I am not learned; I am not ignorant.  
I have known joys. That is saying too little ..."

An aged man alone in an almost empty room,  
unable to remember his past.

Traces in the room: words labeled on objects,  
some photos perhaps, a manuscript on a table.  
He begins to read ...

Devised by Laurence Strangio with John Flaus and Meg White

Inspired by Maurice Blanchot's text *La Folie du Jour*

Directed by Laurence Strangio

Performed by John Flaus

Designed by Meg White

Lighting by Paul Jackson and Julia Knibbs

Design assistance by Martelle Hunt

Image by Oscar Strangio

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
La Mama Theatre



# THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 2

Eliza is close to her sister, has good friends, a wonderful boyfriend who loves her and she has just left work to pursue her dreams. Life is good. Eliza is the loneliest woman in the world.

Written by  
Lauren Bailey and Adam J A Cass

Directed by  
Adam J A Cass

Design by  
Jennifer Tran

Lighting design by  
Meika Clark

Performed by  
Lauren Bailey, Sophie Cole, Cat Commander,  
Jessica Hackett, Kasia Kaczmarek and Dallas Palmer

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 8.30pm  
La Mama Theatre



# THE PLAY'S THE THING

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 2

"Speak the speech I pray you  
As I pronounce it to you  
Trippingly on the Tongue"  
- Shakespeare

An affectionate, truthful romp into the world of actors, writers and directors.

Rehearsals have begun, but coffee, parking fines, egos and re-writes disturb the process, until someone has a brilliant idea: And Shakespeare is born once again.

Directed and written by  
Brenda Palmer

Performed by  
Maureen Hartley, Louise O'Dwyer and Peppa Sindar

Stage Manager: Meika Clark

Image by Roger Palmer

Wed, Sun 8.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 6.30pm  
La Mama Theatre





# TWO MORTALS

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 2

Following a sell-out season at La Mama in 2013, TWO MORTALS returns with cheekiness, wit and wisdom for a fresh look at mortality.

TWO MORTALS was created from interviews with people who work and live with mortality everyday; an undertaker, a minister, a wills & estates lawyer, a cryogenicist, a carer, a palliative care nurse, a counsellor, Michael Jackson. This multi-character performance uses headphone verbatim technique, including pre-show interviews from the audience, unique to every performance. Come early and be part of the script.

"a serious subject treated with such playfulness, energy, delicacy, fun and imagination"

"slick and funny and moving and familiar and heartfelt and confronting and delightful"

Devised and performed by  
Rachael Dyson-McGregor and Mike McEvoy

Directed by  
Geoff Pinfield

Sound design by  
Beatrice Lewis

Lighting design by  
Bronwyn Pringle

Wed 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm | Sun (Feb 23) 6.30pm | Sun (Mar 2) 2pm  
La Mama Courthouse

# THE FAMILY TREE

MARCH 5 - MARCH 16

What is normal anyway?

Most people feel they had an unusual upbringing. Alicia is certain she did.

Born 'dropped out' in a 70's commune that rejected societal norms, she had to guess at normal in her engagement with the real world throughout her teens and twenties.

Join Alicia as she recounts her odyssey to 'functional' adult life with pathos and acerbic wit.

Written and performed by  
Alicia Eastal



Wed, Fri, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Sat 8.30pm  
La Mama Theatre



# LA MEDEA

MARCH 5 - MARCH 9

"And beyond here all the people will shout:  
Monster! Bitch! Murderess! Wicked unnatural mother! Filth!"

Euripides' tale of love, betrayal, revenge and exaltation as  
reinterpreted by Italian writer/performer Franca Rame.

LA MEDEA is a powerful solo reworking of the classic Greek myth –  
an uncompromising critique of exploitation, vengeance and liberation.

Presented with Franca Rame's autobiographical monologue Lo Stupro  
(I don't move, I don't scream ... my voice is gone)

In memoriam Franca Rame (1929-2013)

Text by Franca Rame and Dario Fo

Adapted and directed by Laurence Strangio

Solo performance by Margherita Peluso

Both performances in English incorporating original Italian & dialect

Image by Hoda Afshar

Five performances only  
Wed - Sun 7.30pm  
La Mama Courthouse





# ORPHANAGE OF THE ANIMALS

MARCH 6 - MARCH 16

'In hunger, grief and terror we are all animals'

A chorus of Mothers sings the apparitions of five childhoods into being. From the desolation of a mythical landfill these childhoods transform into their animal selves.

A black comedy, ORPHANAGE OF THE ANIMALS delivers the testimony of ghosts.

Awarded the Medal of Ulm, Germany 2012

With  
Jasper Bagg, Susan Bracewell, Karen Corbett,  
Russell Walsh and Francesca Waters

Directed by  
Catherine Samsury and Karen Corbett

Wed, Fri, Sun 8.30pm | Thu, Sat 6.30pm  
La Mama Theatre





# STRAY

MARCH 12 - MARCH 23

Raw performance and an epic text combine to create an extraordinary journey. Set in a brutal world, a lost dog's adventures expose him to the best and worst of humanity.

A heightened work of physical theatre and contemporary spoken word in a bold, moving tale, a profound eulogy to the innocent.

Written by  
R. Johns

Image by Peter Mumford

Selected for VCAA Drama Playlist 2014

First performed at the 2013 Big West Festival at The Substation  
and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
Matinees: Wed 1pm (except March 12) | Thu 11am  
La Mama Courthouse



# WHO YOU ARE

MARCH 19 - MARCH 30

An incredible true story

A man disappears at sea. Twelve years he returns. Or at least, he says he's him. His mother says it's him - who are you to disagree?

With drama, comedy and music, a cast of five tell the almost forgotten story of the Tichborne Claimant that was once the talk of four continents.

Written by  
Nick Backstrom

Performed by  
Liza Dennis, Felicity Steele, Richard Aspel and Nick Backstrom

A Word of Mouth Theatre production

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
La Mama Theatre



# DROPPED

MARCH 26 – APRIL 6

Two nameless women soldiers, left behind to protect the base, wait in a room that is filling with snow. They have been there for longer than they can remember, or since yesterday... it could have been yesterday.

They desperately try to cling to a sense of who they are but now the vodka has run out, the radio is broken and the baby won't stop crying.

"Dropped provides a theatre experience that is not to be missed... ★★★★★" – Arts Hub

Highly Commended – Best Emerging Writer Award 2014 Melbourne Fringe Festival

Written by Katy Warner

Directed by Prue Clark

Performed by Matilda Reed

Lighting design by Amelia Lever-Davidson

Set and costume design by Lucy Thornett

Sound design by Kahra Scott-James

Producers: Jemima Hogg & Katy Warner

Image by Jessie Prince

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
La Mama Courthouse





# PUBLIC TOILETS PRIVATE WORDS

APRIL 2 - APRIL 13

An absurd comedic cabaret that makes privacy public; performing only the words found from toilet walls. This show publicises the private and gives faces to faceless words. Cabaret, puppetry and drama intertwine in this righteously dark comedy.

Three performers from Queensland's Cradle Productions will premier this show after a development at This is Not Art Festival. PUBLIC TOILETS, PRIVATE WORDS will take you to places you've been, but would rather forget.

Set in a nightclub toilet, three performers change characters, burst into song, break up, make up and more. Joyous, brazen and just a little bit naughty, PUBLIC TOILETS, PRIVATE WORDS is an unforgettable experience for more reasons than one!

Devised and performed by  
Eloise Maree, Julia Forsberg, Joey Lai

Part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Wed, Fri 6pm | Thu, Sat 9pm | Sun 4pm  
La Mama Theatre





# THE TRAVELLING MEDICINE SHOW

APRIL 2 - APRIL 13

Rejoice as you partake in the phenomenon of Porcelain Punch Miracle Cure, the extraordinary elixir of Immortality. Curer of incurable conditions, bestower of beauty and extender of the under endowed. Experience amazing acts, fantastic feats, exquisite oddities and old fashioned integrity.

Within this unique vaudevillian show, individual and group acts - testimonies and living proof of Porcelain Punch and its 'healing properties' - are interspersed with comedic pitches and audience participation by frontman, Professor Leonard Grad accompanied by illuminating songstress Miss Ellie May Rose.

A show by Porcelain Punch

With  
Emilie Johnston, Madeline Hudson,  
Luke O'Connor, Alex Gellman and Christy Flaws

Part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Wed - Sun 7.30pm  
La Mama Courtyard







# DEATH IN BOWENGABBIE

APRIL 3 – APRIL 13

A big, black, tender-hearted comedy written by one of Australia's hottest writing talents, award winner Caleb Lewis.

Oscar has made a great life in the city after escaping the burden of his small town family history. He has a fiancé, a new job on the horizon and seems to have moved on from his tragic past. But a series of mysterious deaths in the family bring him back to his home town of Bowengabbie, time and again, for the understandably sad yet strangely festive funerals. Is it love that is bringing him back? A tragic twist of fate? Or is something more sinister at play...?

A gripping tale that will make you laugh, gasp and possibly get strange hankering for popcorn or sausage rolls.

"This one-man show is one of the best that I have ever seen... the whole show oozes talent." - Theatre Australia

"Faultless...a fabulous package truly satisfying on all sorts of levels." - The Post

"A superb example of the potential of the single-actor monologue... it felt like I was clapping for a larger cast than just one man at the conclusion of the show.  
4 out of 5 stars." - Arts Hub

2010 Winner of Black Swan Theatre's Richard Burton Award for Best New Play

Written by  
Caleb Lewis

Directed by  
Matt Edgerton

Performed by  
Bryce Youngman

Part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Wed, Fri 9pm | Thu, Sat, Sun 6pm  
La Mama Theatre





# THE LEGEND OF KING O'MALLEY

APRIL 9 - APRIL 20

King sold his soul to the devil, lost his beloved, ended up shipwrecked and stranded... in Australia. Then he made history!

(Kind of) Based on a (mostly) true story, THE LEGEND OF KING O'MALLEY is a wild romp of epic storytelling.

Directed by  
Phil Rouse

Produced by  
Amber Heart

Designed by  
Phil Rouse

Musical Director: Tom Pitts

Lighting Designer: Sian James-Holland

Part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
La Mama Courthouse





# THE RETURN OF THE ERIC

APRIL 16 – APRIL 20

After 4 years in the wilderness Scott Gooding returns with a renewed vigour and a bunch of new writers to bring this one man sketch comedy show.

Once again enlisting the support and writing skills of some of Melbourne's most prolific playwrights. Sketches by Emilie Collyer, Van Badham, Dave Hoskin, Karin Muiznieks, Rob Reid, Morgan Rose, Neil Triffet, & Nick Vellissaris. Returning to the directors seat is long-performing comedian of stage and television, Scott Brennan.

Performed by  
Scott Gooding

Directed by  
Scott Brennan

A Vicious Fish Theatre Production

Part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Wed, 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 6.30pm & 8.30pm  
La Mama Theatre





# LA MAMA FOR KIDS A POCKET FULL OF JOY

APRIL 5 - APRIL 13

A high energy, laugh-out-loud, toe-tapping musical for children. Join Holly, our ukulele-playing adventurer on her quest to find the Mayor of Joyville! With a host of outrageously quirky characters, physical theatre, puppetry, live music and dancing, the whole family will have a riot of fun! Suitable for all ages, especially 5 - 10!

A Sausage Dog Production

Part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival

auspicious  
arts  
projects



All tickets \$15  
Sat, Sun | Fri, Sat, Sun 2pm  
La Mama Courthouse



# TIME OUT

APRIL 16 - APRIL 20

Dani, Jules and Jamie are running away from home. But wait! They've left their hi-tech gizmos behind! Find out what adventures ensue with a bag of recycling, a bit of imagination and no grown-ups! A heartwarming contemporary circus show for children aged 5-10, families and everybody young at heart. Afterwards, stay and play! Circus workshop for the whole family!

An ABC Circus Education production

Part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival



All tickets \$15 (\$25 for performance and workshop)  
Wed - Sun 2pm  
La Mama Courthouse





## LA MAMA FOR KIDS

THE STORY OF THE NOT-QUITE-BEAUTIFUL-ENOUGH-PRINCESS  
AND THE NOT-QUITE-BRAVE-OR-CHARMING-ENOUGH-PRINCE

JANUARY 16 – JANUARY 19

Travel to Fairy Tale Land and meet all your favourite fairy tale characters!

A fun-filled play featuring a lot of well-known fairy tale characters and some very wicked witches, children will be delighted by the characters, song and bright imaginative props featured in this play, as well as learn about confidence, self-belief and determination.

A Two Friends Production

All tickets \$15  
Suitable for ages 10 and under

Thu – Sun 2pm  
La Mama Courthouse



## LA MAMA LEARNING EMBODYING STORIES

MARCH 27 & MARCH 29

Explore skills in both contemporary & traditional oral storytelling.

For teachers, take away activities and resources you can apply in your classroom for all levels of Aus VELS & for VCE students. Also suitable for actors and those with a story to tell. Niki na Meadhra has taught performing arts for over 25 years in schools and Universities. Her storytelling practice, HEARTH TALES, is based at Abbotsford Convent, where she hosts regular storytelling events.

All tickets \$95 (includes light refreshments)

10am – 1pm  
La Mama Courthouse

Bookings and enquiries via Maureen Hartley: [maureen@lamama.com.au](mailto:maureen@lamama.com.au)





# LOVE TAPS

FEBRUARY 15

"A love tap is the bit of a nudge you give your opposite number behind play that makes him fall down stunned but not damaged, just to show him who's the man - and you hope like hell the umpire isn't looking."

AFL hero Jesse Cosgrave is about to deal his coach and two best mates one heck of a love tap: he is coming out as a gay role model on 60 Minutes.

Written by Anna Lall

All tickets \$5

Sat 2pm  
La Mama Theatre

# LA MAMA MUSICA



FEBRUARY 10

Peter Neville: percussion with special guest collaborator

MARCH 10

Nat Grant: solo percussion, electronics

Graeme Croft: laptop processing

Belinda Woods: flute

Jeremy Dullard: gangsa

APRIL 7

Elissa Goodrich: vibraphone and percussion

Caerwen Martin: cello

Tickets \$15 Full | \$10 Concession | Box office 7pm | Performance 7.30pm

La Mama Theatre

# LA MAMA POETICA



FEBRUARY 10

Featuring  
Matt Hetherington, Jacinta Le Plastrier,  
Anthony WP O'Sullivan and Kerry Loughrey

Tickets \$12 Full | \$8 Concession

Box office 7.30pm | Performance 8pm

La Mama Courthouse

## INFORMATION

Phone: 03 9347 6948

Email: [info@lamama.com.au](mailto:info@lamama.com.au)

Office Hours: Weekdays 10.30am – 5.30pm | Weekends 2pm – 4pm

## TICKETS

Tickets are \$25 Full or \$15 Concession unless otherwise listed

Available via [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au) or 03 9347 6142

Bookings close at 4pm on the day of the performance

## VENUES

La Mama Theatre, 205 Faraday Street, Carlton

La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton

La Mama is on Wurundjeri land, part of the Kulin nation, and the Committee of Management, staff and wider theatrical community acknowledge its traditional custodians.

La Mama would like to thank the following for their support in 2014:



La Mama Theatre is registered by the Heritage Council Victoria and has received National Trust status.



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.

