

 **LA MAMA**

**WINTER 2013**



On Friday 14th June our beloved founder and mentor, Betty Burstall, left us. She was 87.

Artist, homemaker and teacher, Betty established La Mama Theatre in the elegant Victorian warehouse at 205 Faraday Street Carlton in 1967, where it is still located today 46 years later. Its survival is a tribute to the farsightedness of Betty's creative vision, as her artistic policy remains one of the most enlightened and creative initiatives in our theatre history.

In 1976 Betty relinquished the role of Artistic Director, but continued an active association with La Mama as inaugural Chair of the Committee of Management and as script advisor, a role she continued until 2004.

Friend, inspirational leader, wife, mother, grandmother, and cook par excellence, she will be missed by so many in our wider community inspired by her energy and vision.

On Saturday 27th July at 2pm we will remember Betty at an open gathering in the La Mama Forecourt to celebrate all that she so generously contributed to our lives.

RSVP via [rsvp@lamama.com.au](mailto:rsvp@lamama.com.au)



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

And on behalf of Pippa Bainbridge (Company Manager & Creative Producer), Laura Smith (Administration Coordinator), Nedd Jones (Communications Coordinator), Mary Helen Sassman (Marketing Coordinator), Lisa Höbartner, Rebecca Etchell & Amber Hart (House Managers), Maureen Hartley (La Mama Learning Producer), Caitlin Dullard (La Mama Community & Mobile 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, and Liz Jones.

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Cover image courtesy of  
**Wake Up Hate**  
 Image by Rodeo  
[www.hello-rodeo.com](http://www.hello-rodeo.com)





# SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

July 24 - August 4

The original title of this project was *The Artist*; my intention was to explore the process of a painter at work in his studio. Inspired somewhat by the well-documented studio floor of the painter Francis Bacon, especially the photos from *Phenomena of Materialisation* by Von Schrenck Notzing.

While working on an assemblage piece in my studio, titled *Dream with 3 Metal Things - Freud's Staircase...* ***Substitute For The Mechanics' Institute*** appeared as this play.

Written, designed, directed and produced by  
**James Clayden**

With  
**Helen Hopkins and Kevin Hopkins**

*Evidence* image by  
**Von Schrenck Notzing**

Wed - Sun 7.30pm  
Approx. 45 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**



# WAKE UP HATE

**July 31 - August 11**

A man returns from death to film with his eyes.  
The more he films the more he realizes he is also being observed.  
With a corrosive discourse and in a half-destroyed house he attacks humanity for their voyeurism.

He believes he is an untouchable Angel. He is the Angel of Death.  
He moves like an Angel to the repetition of music.  
The voyeurs encourage his revolt.

**Wake Up Hate** has been performed in over 8 countries, including Iceland, Germany, Portugal and France.

Text by  
**Jan Fabre**

Directed and performed by  
**Paulo Castro**

Image by  
**Rodeo | [www.hello-rodeo.com](http://www.hello-rodeo.com)**

A **Stone/Castro** production

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
Approx. 60 minutes  
**La Mama Courthouse**

# MEIN KAMPF

August 7 - August 25

Winter. Vienna 19~ (Frau) Death stalks the streets. A young Hitler arrives from Braunau seeking fame and fortune as an artist. Meanwhile in a flophouse on Blood Street, Shlomo Herzl, a Jew, struggles with his magnum opus, *Mein Kampf*. Chaos ensues.

La Mama proudly presents the Australian premiere of George Tabori's acclaimed farce, a dizzying and demented play that blends multiple comic genres and humour both high and low.

*"What resonates is its unambiguous wisdom, humour and chutzpah."*  
- The Economist

*"Not for the squeamish"* - LA Times

Written by **George Tabori**

Directed by **Beng Oh**

Performed by **Mark Samuel Bonanno, Uschi Felix, Samuel Macdonald, Stephania Pountney, Glenn van Oosterom and Mark Wilson**

Designed by **Peter Mumford**

Lighting Design by **Stelios Karagiannis**

Costume Design by **Amaya Vecellio**

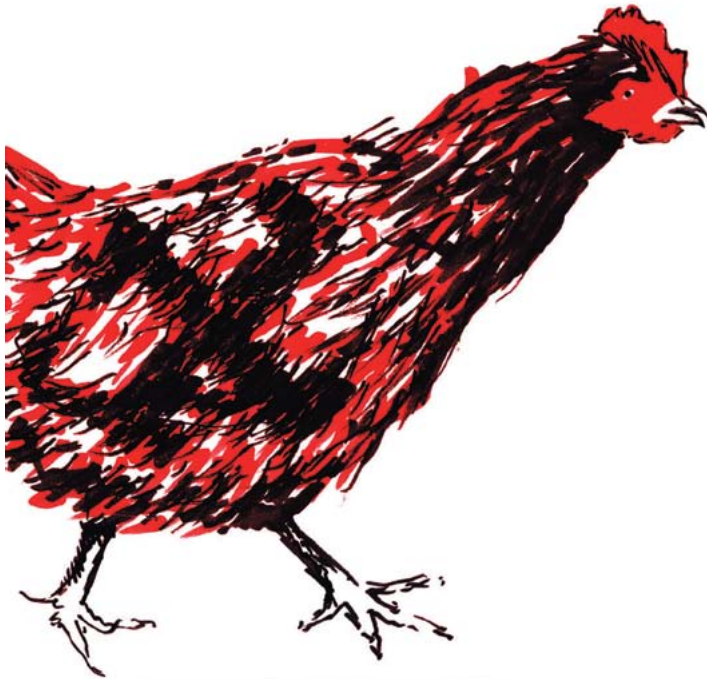
Sound Design by **Natasha Mozenin**

Image by **Tom Miatke**

Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat 8.30pm | Sun 6.30pm

Approx. 110 minutes

**La Mama Theatre**



# THE TWO EXECUTIONERS

**August 14 - August 25**

A play about paradoxes and the incomprehensibility of human nature.

In *The Two Executioners*, the rebel son who objects to the tortures that his mother has subjected his father to, is faced with the dilemma of several contradictory moral and ethical laws: obedience to one's father, the human goodness that prompts one to save the suffering victim from these torturers and the need to honour and obey one's mother.

These laws are here in obvious conflicts, as it is the mother who has the father tortured.

Written by  
**Fernando Arrabal**

Directed by  
**Mammad Aidani**

Performed by  
**Wahibe Moussa, Shahin Shafaei, Osamah Sami and Majid Shokor**

Image by  
**Shahin Shafaei**

Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat 6:30pm | Sun 4:30pm  
Approx. 60 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**



# TEHRAN

**August 28 - September 1**

Demonised in recent times by the West, we typically hear of Iran in a negative context. Yet, Persian culture is rich and varied, spanning thousands of years.

The play, *Tehran*, came into being as a result of a wish to communicate the recent political history of Iran through theatre.

*Tehran* tells its story using shadow puppets, a form of political expression with a very long history. This show wins the audience's heart with lingering Persian-influenced music, lively performance and a primitive style of puppetry.

Directed by  
**Lloyd Jones**

Performed by  
**Elnaz Sheshgelani, Ali Shamsahmadi,  
Pippa Bainbridge and Scott Welsh**

Designed by  
**Elnaz Sheshgelani**

Wed, Thu, Fri 7pm | Sat 4pm & 6pm | Sun 6pm  
Approx. 45 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**





# IT'S ALRIGHT, SID IT'S ALRIGHT

September 4 - September 15

*It's Alright, Sid it's Alright* is a drama that depicts different moments between the lifespan of love, capturing it in all of its darkest, deceitful and most aching moments.

At times dark-humoured, very often melancholic, and almost always tense and uneasy, relief is never quite offered to these characters, or indeed the audience. Their relationships range from couples, to family, to friends, to strangers, and all of the places in between.

Written by  
**Jessica Stanley**

Directed by  
**Robert Reid**

Image by  
**Nathan Boadle**

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7pm  
Approx. 100 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**



# LOST IN RINGWOOD

September 5 - September 22

Two extremely solitary women, powered by mist and rude thought, appear to be performers in a farce straight from The West End...or Geelong.

Rose Viper hates her daughter Cynthia, who reciprocates. Each minute is divided into real life pathos and all too-real potential tragedy. They refuse help but welcome torture.

Written by  
**Barry Dickins**

Directed by  
**Greg Carroll**

Performed by  
**Carolyn Bock and Helen Hopkins**

Designed by  
**Peter Corrigan**

Music by  
**Faye Bendrups**

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
Approx. 90 minutes  
**La Mama Courthouse**





Ella Filar's Kabaret

# NEWS FLASHERS

Expose: ELECTION SYNDROME

September 5 - September 15

With searing reportage, razor sharp humour and smartarse intelligence, **News Flashers** slice through the sexist underbelly of media hype, all the way to the Ballot Box and expose ELECTION!

POLICY SHMOLICY / IT'S ALL ABOUT MEGA ME!

Mega Rich, Mega Famous or just plain Oh / Mega in the grip of ELECTION SYNDROME...

Is that an election in your budgie-smugglers, or are you just pleased to see us?

Watch out Tony: A BOAT!!!!

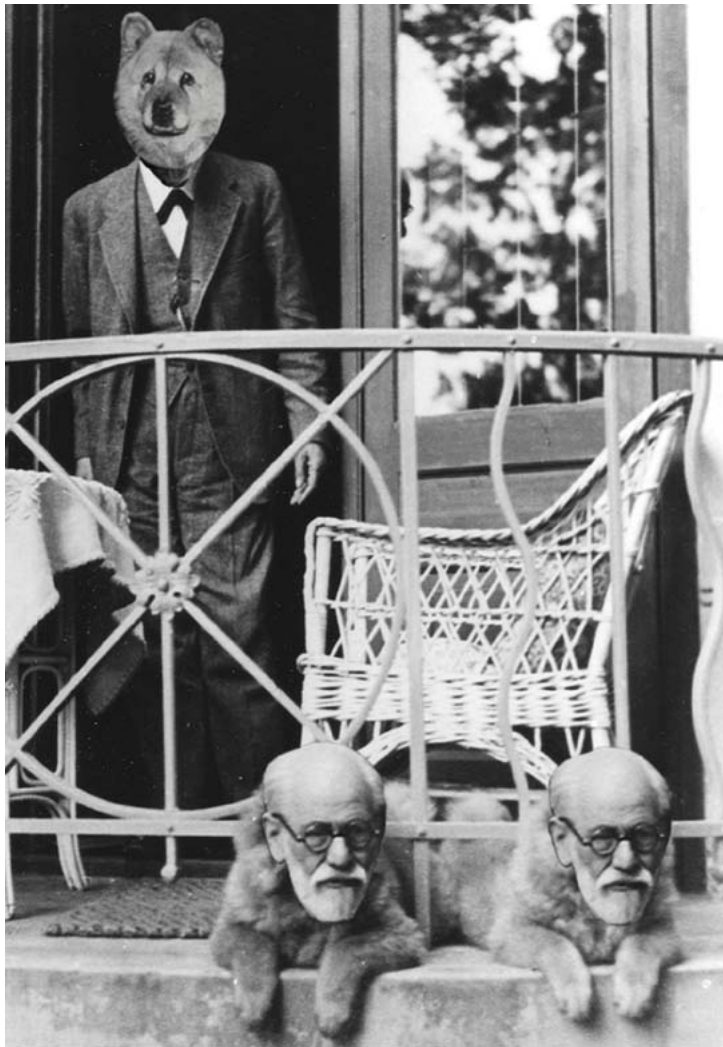
Inspired by Eastern European, post-war musical noir, Ella Filar's Kabaret is political, vulgar, artistic, grotesque, sexy and sublime.

*"A bold satirical effort leaves little breathing space"* - Myron My

Performed by

**Olivia Laskowski, Maurice Mammoliti, Fletcher Dyson, Maurial Spearim, Seren Oroshvary, Sarah Berry, Sue Ingleton...**  
Surprise Star Candidates

Wed - Sun 10pm  
Approx. 60 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**



# JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN

September 18 - September 29

Twin sisters replay an ancient feud over a man, a miner's son, who paces incessantly in his room above them. He is the husband of one and the former lover of the other. He has been disgraced following a fraud and has served time in prison. He is now destitute. A young girl plays the piano to him. The former lover comes upstairs to torment herself and him. The wife appears to claim ownership of her son. Downstairs, the three wrangle over the love of that son whose own lover comes to take him and the girl away.

The three go out into the storm... Or is that the mine...?

Written by  
**Henrik Ibsen**

Translation by  
**William Archer**

Directed by  
**Peter King**

Performed by  
**Cory Corbett, Will Freeman, Merfyn Owen,  
Tony Rive and Russel Walsh**

Designed by  
**Peter Corrigan**

Production manager  
**Hayley Ricketson**

Image credit: **Peter Corrigan**



Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 8.30pm  
Approx. 100 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**

# SPOILT

1 ACTOR, 60 MINUTES, 6 SPOILT WOMEN

September 19 - September 29

Dripping in satire, *Spoilt* holds a mirror up to contemporary society to display some shattering results.

*Indulge*: Nourish your inner-self  
*Stimulate*: Dream, believe, achieve  
*Purifying Mask*: Block out reality

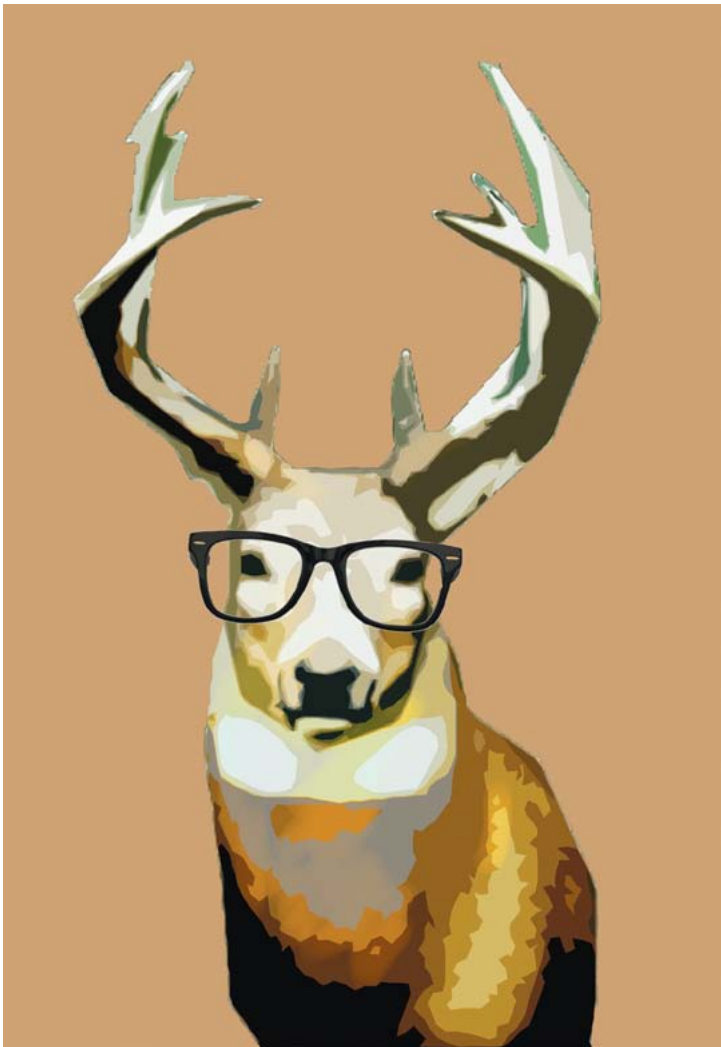
*"Skitch is a natural storyteller. She's confident, zany and really sweet, and even when she's being meowwww catty you still want to take her home and introduce her to your mum"*  
- Aussie Theatre

Written, performed and produced by  
**Liz Skitch**

Image by  
**Ange Leggas at 3 Fates Media**

Wed, Sun 8.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 6.30pm  
Approx. 60 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**





# HOW IT IS OR AS YOU LIKE IT

**September 25 - October 13**

A wonder-boy director, an all-male cast of hipsters, a feminist literary manager in a rage and a stage manager with PTSD are staging a radical reinterpretation of *As You Like It* with rape scenes and no Rosalind.

From acclaimed playwright Van Badham, a play that's either an hilarious tragedy or a farce with serious gender problems.

Written by  
**Van Badham**

Directed by  
**Daniel Lammin**

Designed by  
**Chloe Greaves**

Lighting design by  
**Brendan Jellie**

Produced by  
**Anastasia Ryan**

A production by  
**The Faculty of Economics**

Image by  
**Van Badham**



Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
Approx. 90 minutes  
**La Mama Courthouse**



La Mama for Kids

# SQUID STAMP

## THE TECHNOLOGY SHOW

September 28 - October 6

Fresh, fast-paced, futuristic fun for the whole family! Join the attendees of a Technology Anonymous meeting on a buzzing ride through their lives as they delve into their technological addictions.

Google and iPhones and Facebook, oh my! Could you be addicted?

*Squid Stamp* delivers theatre-in-education for kids and adults alike through entertaining performances, memorable characters and wonderfully silly sketches!

Written and presented by  
**Squid Stamp**

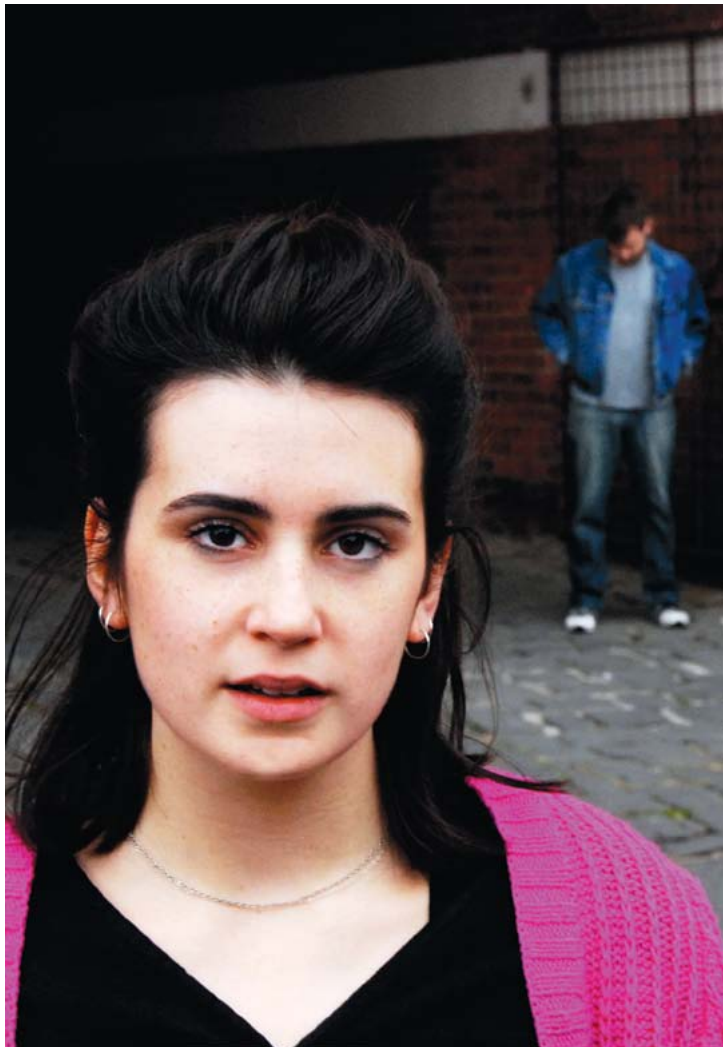
Performed by  
**Isabelle Clara Mason**  
**Samantha Wojcik**

Directed by  
**Mark Samuel Bonanno**

Graphic design by  
**Danielle Wojcik**

Tue - Sun 2pm  
Approx. 45 minutes  
(with a 15 minute de-brief)  
**La Mama Courthouse**





# THE WOOLGATHERER

**October 2 - October 6**

*I'm afraid to talk. Everything I say hurts you.*

Acclaimed actress Laura Wheelwright (*Animal Kingdom*, Best Actress, Tropfest 2013), teams up with Lee Beckhurst (Revolt Theatre's *The Boys*) in this haunting play directed by Kerry Armstrong.

At times wildly humorous, capable of penetrating your heart and dreams, *The Woolgatherer* is William Mastrosimone's compassionate and beautiful tale about two strangers.

Written by  
**William Mastrosimone**

Directed by  
**Kerry Armstrong**

Performed by  
**Laura Wheelwright and Lee Beckhurst**

Production & Lighting design by  
**Gina Gascoigne**

Image by  
**Chris Beck**



Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
Matinee Sun 4.30pm  
Approx. 90 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**



# TWO MORTALS

**October 8 - October 13**

Created from interviews with an undertaker, a minister, a wills and estates lawyer, a cryogenicist, a carer, a palliative care nurse, a counsellor, a collector, Michael Jackson and a mother.

*'What if I got hit by a bus tomorrow, yeah I don't want to think about that'*

*'Yeah, you could step out, like at lunchtime, and, and that's it, and what was I worried about?'*

Life is short. So is this season. Don't let it pass you by.

Devised and performed by  
**Rachael Dyson-McGregor and Mike McEvoy**

Creative collaborators:  
**Dan Giovannoni, Roslyn Oades, Geoff Pinfield,  
Kate Sulan and Chris Wenn**

Sound design by  
**Beatrice Lewis**

Image by  
**Jamie Boys**

Tue, Wed 7.30pm | Thu 7.30pm & 9.30pm | Sat, Sun 2pm  
Approx. 60 minutes  
**La Mama Theatre**



# LA MAMA FOR KIDS

## A Very Wordy Music Show

By Mr. Palindrome

August 25 at La Mama Theatre

11am & 2pm

Approx. 40 minutes

Recommended for ages 3 - 7

\$12 – Single ticket

\$40 – Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 kids)

\$50 – Family Ticket + Album



Teaching VERY big words to VERY small kids with VERY silly songs. For the very first time in Melbourne, Mr. Palindrome is presenting his *Very Wordy Music Show*, bursting at the seams with big words, silly stories, catchy melodies and, of course, smiley face stickers. Join Mr. P in singing songs that make so much nonsense!

# LA MAMA AESOTERICA

August 19 at La Mama Theatre

*La Mama Aesoterica* is a series of explorations in hybrid, electronic and new media performance works.

Aesoterica Box Office & Bar 7pm

Performance 7.30pm

\$15 Full | \$10 Concession



# LA MAMA MUSICA

August 5 at La Mama Courthouse  
AD HOC STRING COLLECTIVE -

Andrea Keeble (violin),  
Heather Stewart (violin), Jason  
Bunn (viola), Anita Hustas (bass)

September 9 at La Mama Theatre

To be advised

Musica Box Office & Bar 7pm

Concert 7.30pm

\$15 Full | \$10 Concession

(includes free hot drinks  
and nibbly treats)



# LA MAMA POETICA

September 16  
at La Mama Courthouse

Featuring Nathan Curnow,  
Kevin Brophy, Lia Incognita  
& Maxine Beneba Clarke

*La Mama Poetica* is a night of some of the best spoken word and poetry that Melbourne has to offer, with a diverse selection of both emerging and established poets.

Poetica Box Office & Bar 7.30pm

Performance 8pm

\$12 Full | \$8 Concession



Melbourne Playback Theatre Company presents

# THE LITTLE THINGS

Those little things caught in your memory, make you catch your breath, cause your heart to warm or keep you smiling even after you've walked away. The things perhaps too small even for an anecdote but are the essence of your personal story. This is a celebration of those little things. They make a big difference after all.

6pm, October 12 & 13 at La Mama Theatre



# ORIEL *a professional play reading*

A complex interweaving of the lives of two Australian playwrights who face some of the same problems despite being separated by half a century.

Written by **Merrilee Moss**  
Directed by **Kim Durban**

7.30pm, September 17 at La Mama Courthouse



Melbourne Writers' Theatre presents

# HOW TO SURVIVE AN EARTHQUAKE

The story of two sisters who need to make a seismic shift to repair their relationship.

Written by **Christine Croyden**  
Directed by **Glenda Linscott**

August 14 - September 1  
at La Mama Courthouse



## INFORMATION

Phone: 03 9347 6948

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

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10.30am - 5.30pm | Weekends 2pm - 4pm

## TICKETS

Full \$25 | Concession \$15 | [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 2013:



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.



*Vale*

# Betty Burstall

Our Beloved Founder

1926 - 2013

*"You had the dream and all we could do was send it a loving signal  
And watch the audiences come in like birds or possibly children  
And say thanks to your soul and your spirit for getting it ready  
a long time ago"*

- from *Poem For Betty Burstall* by Barry Dickins

