

since 2012, including several projects with Little Ones Theatre Company, multiple lighting designs with various companies and working as an associate to many Australian designers. In recent months they relit Circus Oz's tour of Rock Bang featuring Die Roten Punkte; worked on Broadway transfers Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and Come From Away, the Australian tour of War Horse, several pieces for White Night Reimagined (Melbourne); lit two productions for the Federation University Acting program, and is soon to transfer the 2020 Australian tour of Billy Elliot to Melbourne.

**BEN ROY KEENE** is a composer, recordist and sound designer. He graduated with distinction from the RMIT Digital Media Course in 2016 and was awarded the RMIT Higher Education Award. He is currently a casual academic and completing his Honours degree at RMIT. His theatre sound design credits include the Melbourne Theatre Company, Expressions Dance Company, TheatreWorks, Hoy Polloy, Big West Festival, and the impossible project. He works closely with

Darrin Verhagen as a research assistant at AKE Lab and collaborator on many projects. He is a member of FINUCANE SMITH, collaborating on productions including INTIMATE 8 at the NGV and THE FLOOD at XiXi international theatre festival in Shanghai. In 2019 he contributed to the PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL as part of Australia's contribution.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Isabella Hunt for her infinite patience and artistic talent. James Peverelle for crafting our jukebox. All the actors who dropped out so I could learn what producing is, i.e: hiding your ulcer and trudging on.

HP Lovecraft for creating the major inspiration for this show from your weird little tales.

Little Richard, for being the most beautiful sounding renegade in the universe.

And, Shaguraka. If you're real.



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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of this country and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community as we work towards the La Mama rebuild. Thank you!

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



# THE CIRCLE

21 - 26 JAN 2020



Image by Darren Gill

# THE CIRCLE

Written by **Jack O'Brien**  
Directed by **Jack O'Brien**  
Performed by  
**Luke Peverelle, Jack O'Brien,**  
**Stephanie Mehegan & Bridget-Grace Driver**

Set design by **Isabella Hunt**  
Lighting design by **Marty Shlansky**  
Sound design by **Ben Roy Keene**  
Stage manager **Teri Steer**

## WRITER/DIRECTOR'S NOTES | JACK O'BRIEN

*The Circle was born of my love for roleplaying games, taking willing participants or "players" through a world, and challenging them with adventure. Or, in some cases, giving them awful, awful choices, all in the safe space of collective fiction. Choices no human should be able to make. Like, do I bomb this city to stop a war? Do I let this house burn to grab the treasure? Do I let the love of my life end the world?*

*The Circle is my child, and like most children, it has been a snot nosed, arrogant and aggravating little punk. My true hope is that when you're done, you'll agree that we told a good story. Not a good queer story, not a good horror story, but a good story period. I hope it starts conversations, I hope it provokes thought, and, ultimately, that you have a good time.*

*As I always say to my players: If you had fun, I had fun.*

**JACK O'BRIEN** is an actor, voice actor, dungeon master and writer based in Melbourne, Victoria. With a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Theatre under his belt as well as a Distinction and Best in State (QLD) award for Trinity College- Jack proceeded to wow audiences across Australia. His most recent exploits have have sent him to China performing Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing with the Australian International Opera Company, performing Modern Norman Bates for White Pages, letting his geek flag fly as a resident Dungeon Master at PAX Aus, and playing the kooky wizard Merlin in Alpha Shows Children's Theatre Tour of King Arthur. Jack is a masochist who thought writing, directing, acting and producing at the same time was a good idea.

**BRIGID CHARIS** has been performing for 18 years. After playing Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing (2011) ze was eager to work on something other than Shakespeare. In 2012, ze began working for Felt Tip theatre company, playing roles such as the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland (2015), and Chutney in Legally Blonde the Musical (2016). After graduating high school and obtaining zir CDPA, Brigid moved to Melbourne to attend university. Ze has since performed in Kiss Sigh Shout (2017), The Company of Wolves as Interruption (2018), The Lower Depths as Natasha (2018), and Cosi as Zac (2019). Ze is influenced by Restoration theatre, Commedia dell Arte, and absurdism. Ze is excited for you to see our shared work!

**STEPHANIE KELLY** was born and raised in Melbourne, Australia. In 2013, she was accepted into the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Having the opportunity to star in plays Lady House Blues as Eylie and The Last Night of Ballyhoo as Sunny. Since graduating she's starred in an ensemble play for the Melbourne Fringe Festival in Extremities. Her career has also been behind camera starring in short films "Vervain", which was hand selected to be screened at BAM Film Festival in Brooklyn. Stephanie is excited to be back on the stage working with a great cast for

this season of Midsumma Festival.

**LUKE PEVERELLE** is a Melbourne-born actor who has always had a penchant for storytelling. He began acting in earnest after leaving high school in 2011, including plays, musicals, short films, cabarets, online content, TVCs and more. After majoring in Drama at Deakin University, Luke now studies full time at the Melbourne Actors Lab. This is his third foray into Midsumma, after acting in Kissing Booth Productions BOYS HAVE SKIN in 2018 and the original musical 'Ace of Hearts' in 2019. Luke is very proud of the hard work that has gone into creating The Circle and wishes you all a good night.

**TERI STEER** is a freelance stage manager who trained and worked in Brisbane and Toowoomba before making the move to Melbourne. During her time at university, Teri began to study scenography and stage management in addition to music and drama. Teri has spent time touring for both music and theatre – most recently touring with When The Light Leaves. Over three years working with Brisbane Arts Theatre, she appeared on stage in several shows, and became part of the Technical Ensemble at the theatre. Over the last year, Teri has been working with 15 Minutes From Anywhere and Citizen Theatre, as well as a number of La Mama productions. Over the years, she has worked as a mechanist and stage manager as well as in performance, design, production and site management, costume and set construction for theatre. Teri currently works for Red Stitch Actors' Theatre and Arts Access Victoria in addition to her freelance work.

**MARTY SHLANSKY** is a Melbourne-based lighting designer and production electrician. Born and raised in the USA, Marty has lived in Melbourne since 2010. Marty has worked on mainstage musicals and dramas for several years. They have also worked extensively in music, dance, television and major events. Marty has extensive design and production experience within the independent theatre sector