

As part of the 2020 Midsumma Festival,  
La Mama Theatre presents

# THE TOP SECRET VIOLIN CASE

A new play  
by  
Sofia Chapman

Inspired by the true story of an ambitious Romanian violinist who catches a western spy, and as a reward from dictator Ceausescu's communist regime, asks to record an album with the best musicians in Romania.

The Secret Police are gaining a toehold in the domestic sphere, examining every action of civilians and interrogating them to test their loyalties to the communist cause. Brad, an American who is escaping his over-inquisitive and matchmaking mother, arrives in Romania at a time when penalties for homosexuality are being exponentially toughened.

This absurdist and darkly comic show **features the all female band Vardos live on stage**, playing the roles of the male Romanian musicians in drag. Writer/Producer Sofia Chapman and partner Alana Hunt have made 7 trips together to Eastern Europe to study folk music, and **this play draws on their experiences as queer people in a conservative and highly religious society**, here encapsulated in the gay American character Brad.

This is award winning writer **Sofia Chapman's 4th Midsumma play**, following on from Todd in Venice, 2017; UNTITLED, or The Seat of Narcissa; 2016 and The Anorexic Chef, 2011. Vardos has also had successful performances in Midsumma as their drag alter egos, the Transylvanian Gypsy Kings.



Image by Darren Gill

Outside Eye **Görkem Acaroglu**  
Performed by **Kirri Büchler, Sofia Chapman, Sasha Čuha and Alana Hunt**  
Set & Costume design by **Sofia Chapman and Alana Hunt**  
Music by Vardos [www.vardos.com.au](http://www.vardos.com.au)  
Technical operator **Teri Steer**

**SEASON** 21 - 26 January 2020  
**TIME** Tue, Thu & Sat 8.30pm |  
Wed & Fri 6.30pm | Sun 4.00pm  
**VENUE** La Mama Courthouse  
349 Drummond Street, Carlton  
**TICKETS** \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession  
**BOOKINGS** 03 9347 6948 or [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au)

For all media enquiries, please contact:

**Sophia Constantine**  
Marketing & Communications, La Mama Theatre  
P: 03 9347 6948 E: [sophia@lamama.com.au](mailto:sophia@lamama.com.au)



La Mama Theatre, 349 Drummond Street Carlton VIC 3053 Australia  
[info@lamama.com.au](mailto:info@lamama.com.au) | +613 9347 6948 | [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au)