CA MAMA

SUMMER & AUTUMN 2020 21 JANUARY - 28 JUNE

WOMINJEKA

La Mama is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

ABOUT LA MAMA

With a rich history spanning over 50 years and a national profile. La Mama is Australia's home of independent theatre. It plays a critical role in the national arts landscape as a place for responsive. new, risk-taking work to occur. La Mama has a distinct artist focus and provides a unique audience experience. Treasured for its continued advocacy of those seeking to explore beyond the mainstream. La Mama champions artistic individuality and freedom, prioritises accessibility and celebrates a diverse community of artists and audiences alike. Providing the integral foundational resources and support for both new and experienced theatre makers. La Mama ensures artist renumeration, celebrates creative risk and vigorously advocates the development of new Australian work

Our model provides each production with the theatre venue at no cost, a modest cash budget, 80% of box office, and ticketing, front-of-house, marketing and technical support infrastructure to allow artists to focus on their art.

Synonymous with this cultural icon is the small, intensely intimate setting within which performance takes place. In La Mama, both artists and audiences are challenged and invigorated by the knowledge that there is nowhere to hide, no whisper that will not carry, no movement that won't be studied for meaning. The uniquely raw and immediate quality of La Mama is revered by both artists and audiences, and provides a powerful learning experience for actors, directors, writers, designers and choreographers, which will travel with them wherever they go.

Over half a century, La Mama has presented nearly 2,500 shows, and each year we become



La Mama in 1982. Image by Lloyd Jones

more jam-packed than the last. We now average approximately 50 primary seasons annually, as well as developments, monthly Musica and Poetica events, regular touring through our Mobile program, plus our Learning productions, play readings, and our accessible and special events (forums, launches, public celebrations, etcetera).

La Mama's core mission is to provide independent artists from across Australia with opportunities to develop practice and present work. We do this through providing extensive services, including: rehearsal space, administrative services, a free script appraisal service, casting advice, opportunities to volunteer, work experience, internships and mentor programs, industry advice, advocacy, and the space for professional and personal development.

Sadly our home in Faraday street burned down in May 2019. We are in the process of rebuilding and we reopen there in 2021. Until then, our home is at La Mama Courthouse on Drummond Street.

La Mama is an open, accessible space, actively breaking down barriers to the arts through programs, initiatives, affordable ticketing and a welcoming ethos that has developed over the past five decades. La Mama is home to many and open to all.

WELCOME

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER AND AUTUMN SEASONS 2020

The rebuild will commence very early in 2020. Caitlin Dullard will be Project Manager, Meg White architect (assisted by Cottee-Parker) and local firm Chroma will be our builders. We are all very excited by this prospect and relieved that we have raised the required capital to start.

Meanwhile back at the La Mama Courthouse it will be business as usual (but faster than usual!).

We begin the year with the MIDSUMMA Festival with two new play works and the wonderful Homophonic musical evenings that have been happening at La Mama for nearly a decadel This will be followed by the AsiaTOPA Festival with two new works and the International COMEDY Festival with four new works. In February Unsuckle and Rehearsal for Death come to us after successful Explorations seasons, we have two VCE seasons and in April Hedda GablerGablerGabler straight from its 2019 VCA Masters of Directing season.

We bring back works by La Mama doyens Lloyd Jones and Mammad Aidani plus a new work by Jim Daly. Michel Tuomy's *Little Brother, Big Sister*, Hayley Lawson-Smith's *The Tom* and Madeliane Nunn's *Cactus* are all plays that have come to us unsolicited through our script appraisal process and are now making their debut seasons. They are very strong works.

Max Subra is bringing us the contentious story of Dan Kelly's survival in *Kelly* and Elena Mazzon's study of the life of Clara Schumann comes to us acclaimed from the world! We will present two La Mama Poeticas and two La Mama Musicas in this programme and introduce you to the new La Mama Cabaretica curated by Susan Bamford-Caleo and Isobel Knight. We also have two shows on the road with our La Mama Mobile program, Jennifer Monk's *Ladies of the Bay*, and James Hazelden's *Mystery Radio Theatre*.

What a packed season. And all but the two VCE productions have ONE week seasons only so you must be on your veritable toes or you will miss the wonders presented. This has been necessitated by the need to limit ourselves to one venue while the rebuild is taking place. It also means our vital EXPLORATIONS SEASON will have to be postponed to 2021.

Thank you so much to everyone who made 2019 such a pleasure: artists, audience, donors large and small, regular workers, volunteers and those from the government and philanthropic sectors who have all contributed so much!

And particular thanks to Xanthe Beesley and Tim Stitz whose extra support in the challenging past year has been greatly appreciated.

We all look forward to greeting your at the La Mama Courthouse in the coming months.

Warm regards,

Liz Jones

CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LA MAMA STAFF



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and Liz Jones

CURATORS

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Members: Caroline Lee, David Levin, Helen Hopkins, Sue Broadway, Beng Oh

Amanda Anastasi Poetica Curator

Gemma Horbury Musica Curator

Chair: Richard Watts Deputy Chair: Dure' Dara

Treasurer: Ben Grant Secretary: Caitlin Dullard

Fiona Wiseman Preservation Coordinator fiona@lamama.com.au



Sollange Parraguez Social Media solange@lamama.com.au



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FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Amber Hart, Maureen Hartley, Caitlin Dullard, Elena Larkin, Solange Parraguez, Sophia Constantine, Laurence Strangio, Hayley Fox, Susan Bamford Caleo, Carmelina Di Guglielmo, Dennis Coard, Zac Kazepis, Phil Roberts, Dora Abraham, Isabel Knight.

CONTENTS

FULL SEASON

6	THE CIRCLE
8	THE TOP SECRET VIOLIN CASE
10	HOMOPHONIC!
12	REHEARSAL FOR DEATH
14	UNSUCKLE
16	CLARA
18	HADES FADING (HADES MEMUR)
20	THE WINTER'S TALE
22	RUNNING WITH EMUS
24	WE TOO US TOO ME TOO TOO TOO
26	INCOGNITO
28	THE BUSINESS OF GOD
30	MRS ROBINSON: A SOAP CABARET
32	KELLY
34	HEDDA GABLERGABLERGABLER
36	THE MERMAID

- LITTLE BROTHER, BIG SISTER
- 38 40 THE TOM
- 42 THE SUBLIME VERSION TWO
- 44 IN THE MIRROR
- 46 KATYŃ
- 48 CACTUS



- 50 POFTICA 52 MUSICA
- 54 CABARETICA
- 56 LADIES OF THE BAY
- 58 MYSTERY RADIO THEATRE
- 59 PLANT HUNTING IN JAPAN
- 60 PLAYREADINGS

* For the most up to date content warnings please see show pages on the La Mama website. If you have questions or concerns about content, please call the La Mama office or email info@lamama.com.au for more information

La Mama Theatre is on traditional land. We pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, past and present. and we recoanise their continuing spiritual and cultural connection to the land.

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.

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 will be rebuilding across 2020. For up to date information please visit: https://lamama.com.au/rebuild-la-mama/







Susan Bamford Caleo & Isabel Knight Cabaretica Curators





THE CIRCLE

Elder Gods, murder and true love – a feel-good romance.

A queer story combining a love of H.P Lovecraft horror, pulp magazines of the 1930s, Teenage Love and a rip-roaring soundtrack of yesteryear.

Lancelot and Hugo are two cultists, sacrificing innocent people to bring about the Eldritch Horror known only as Shaguaraka, who will end the world on its return.

And what better time than apocalypse to tell someone how you really feel?

Will there be another day for these star-crossed lovers? Will they abandon their beliefs in the sight of true love? Will Shaguraka rise? Has someone reported the murders they committed in a public diner to the police?

Written by Jack O'Brien Performed by Jack O'Brien & Luke Peverelle

Date

21 - 26 January

Time

Tue, Thu, Sat 6.30pm Wed & Fri 8.30pm Sun 6pm

Duration

Approx. 60 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Images by Darren Gill







THE TOP SECRET VIOLIN CASE

An absurdist dark comedy set in the Romanian communist era featuring the band Vardos live (drag) onstage.

Romania, 1970 something, in the grip of Ceausescu's

oppressive regime. Enter Brad, hoping to escape his American closet and learn Romanian folk music, whilst

dodging the secret police, until he encounters an ambitious

Writer Sofia Chapman and partner Alana Hunt have made

7 trips to Eastern Europe to study music, and Sofia's 4th

Midsumma play draws on their experiences as queer people in a conservative and highly religious society, here

Performed by Vardos ie Alana Hunt, Sofia Chapman, Kirri

violinist who will stop at nothing to get to the top ...

encapsulated in the gay American character Brad.

Written by **Sofia Chapman** Outside eye, **Görkem Acaroglu**

Büchler, and Sasha Čuha Lighting by Teri Steer

Date

21 - 26 January

Time

Tue, Thu, Sat 8.30pm Wed & Fri 6.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 60 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images by Darren Gill

The second second





The Burning Deck Theatre Company





HOMOPHONIC!

Back for it's 9th fabulous year, Homophonic! is bringing the disco ball to the concert hall, celebrating the amazing sounds of todays LGBTIQ+ composers.

Date

Duration

Venue

Images by

Miranda Hill &

Agatha Yim

Approx. 2 hours

La Mama Courthouse

30 January - 1 February

Time

Presenting the winner of the inaugural "Homophonic! Pride Prize" Stephen De Filippos blistering new work "Star Pic" for amplified piccolo, bass drum, and electronics, performed by flautist Laila Engle; alongside works by Christina Green, Naima Fine, Wally Gunn, Laura Kaminsky, and Sean Shepherd. Performed by Melbourne's most in demand classical musicians, and The Consort of Melbourne.

All tickets \$20!

Come and experience Melbourne's only classical music concert with a cult following.

Artistic Director: Miranda Hill Ensemble: 3 Shades Black The Consort of Melbourne, directed by Steven Hodgson





midsumma festival

11





REHEARSAL FOR DEATH

In this physical theatre piece, Rebekah Stuart and Sophie Thompson dance through mortality, decay, and grief.

Taking inspiration from storytelling and ritual, the dancers revel in our shared impermanence, and measure the weight of mortality on the livina.

With a blend of improvisation and choreography, Rehearsal for Death carries the audience through a passage bearing many portraits of death: the pain of loss, the beauty of decay, the exhilaration of temporariness, and the chaos of grief.

Originally inspired by the photographic works of Francesca Woodman and the notion of self-portraiture as life preserving, this incarnation of the piece goes further by delving into the countless ways we experience death, and asking how can we embrace death in our living bodies?

Created, produced, directed and performed by Rebekah Stuart and Sophie Thompson Stage Manager: Jordan Carter

Date

6 - 9 February

Time

Thu - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 45 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images by Peter Baka & **Rebekah Stuart**





UNSUCKLE

I think about my mum, and her mum, and then think about me being a mum, and then think about when and if to be a mum, and then mother earth, and I'm like... fuck.

I just want to tell you this one thing about my mum Then I'll tell you

How Echidna, the Greek Goddess who mothered all monsters

inhabits my bones Then

I'll take a deep breath and realise What if it all ends here With me.

Through physical theatre and a little bit of acting, Unsuckle will take a good hard look at the concept of the mother. Our own mums, the mums who came before us, and whether, in an age of uncertainty, there will ever be a 'right time' for us to be mothers ourselves.

Created by: Harriet Wallace-Mead, Isabella Vadiveloo, and Josiah Lulham Directed by: Isabella Vadiveloo Performed by: Harriet Wallace-Mead and Josiah Lulham Sound Design: Geoffrey Watson Mentor: Lara Stevens

Date

11 - 16 February

Time

Tue (preview) 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 70 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Images by Darren Gill





CLARA: SEX, LOVE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

Discover the secrets of Clara Schumann.

Clara is the story of a feminist icon and ground-breaking classical composer, Clara Schumann. No, not Robert Schumann - Clara Schumann!

A date. Three classical composers. Romantic mayhem.

Writer, Producer & Performer: Elena Mazzon Director: Catriona Kerridge Musical Director: Stefania Passamonte Voice & Movement: Peter Warnock

'A stunning performance and unapologetic but respectful writing.

Remarkable and elegant through and through. A complete artistic endeavour'.

- **** Live London Post

Date

18 - 23 February

Time

Tue (preview) 6.30pm Wed - Fri 7.30pm Sat 2pm & 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration 60 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images by XL Films – Justin "Juice Black"



HADES FADING (HADES MEMUDAR)

BY MAINTEATER, IN ASSOCIATION WITH KATH PAPAS PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTED AS A PART OF ASIA TOPA 2020

Fresh from its premiere in Bandung **Hades Fading (Hades Memudar)** is a vocal and visual performance re-imagining the Ancient Greek realm of Hades fading away in postapocalyptic times with no humans left to believe in it or imagine it. **Hades Memudar** reflects on memory, media, belief, and the potential catastrophe awaiting humans if we don't care for our world.

Melbourne and Bandung. This is the latest work in this

interweaving of languages, stunning projection and an original score performed live, the work is accessible in

'This collaboration between two countries was able to embrace

two cultures into one beautiful dish of a show'- Kompasiana. 2019

Performers Heliana Sinaga, Wawan Sofwan, Godi Suwarna,

Besen Family

Rinrin Candraresmi, Ria Soemardio, Sisca Guzheng Harp

Bahasa Indonesia and English.

Writer and Director Sandra Fiona Long

Multi-lingual theatre consultant Jodee Mundy Producers Kath Papas, Sahlan Mujtaba,

Composer Ria Soemardjo Set and video design Deden Bulqini Costume and set design Emily Barrie

Lighting designer Aji Sangiaji

Osi Presepti & Mainteater

Date

27 February - 1 March

Time

 don't care for our world.
 Thu 7.30pm

 Fri 2pm & 7.30pm
 Fri 2pm & 7.30pm

 For 22 years the Indonesian company Mainteater has created vocal and multilingual performances between
 Sat 8pm

fascinating company's history. With a sophisticated Duration

Approx. 80 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

lmage by **Muhammad Sa'iq**

Content warning: Contains references to sexual violence.





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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S THE WINTER'S TALE

PRESENTED AS A PART OF ASIA TOPA 2020

Students from Hong Kong and Australia take on Shakespeare's play of love and jealousy by setting it in both countries.

'A sad tale's best for winter...'

In a fit of wild jealousy, Leontes, a civic leader of 1920s Hong Kong, is convinced his wife, Hermione, is carrying the child of his best friend, the Australian politician Polixenes. Once born, the child is exiled and seeks refuge in a rural community in modern day Australia. Things go well for the child until she falls for the son of the bigoted politician.

Date

4 - 8 March

Time Wed 6.30pm Thu - Sat 7.30pm

Sun 4pm

Duration

Venue

Image by

Approx. 2 hours

La Mama Courthouse

Leaping from Hong Kong to Australia and from the 1920s to modern day, this version of The Winter's Tale sheds light on the current political climate of both countries

Directors: Rosalind Wong & Bob Pavlich Assistant Director: Sharma Ujjwal Producer: Kat Carrington Project Liaison: Helen Mayers Costumes/Support Crew: Vision Wong Performers: Wang Karen Jiawei, Wat Tsz Yan Monica, Capiendo Wincel Sagana, Cole McKenna, De Guzman Kevin Lorenzo Erodias, Cheung Wing See, Sharma Rohit, Evangeline Oster, Paul Doogood, Lakshmi Ganapathy, Jayde Hopkins & William Foley



Australian Government



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG





Sharma Ujjwal





RUNNING WITH EMUS

Running with Emus is a new play by award-winning regional playwright Merrilee Moss about refugees, identity and belonging.

2020	VCE		
THEAT	RE ST	UD	F.

Wed & Thu 1pm & 6.30pm Fri 11am & 7.30pm

Date 11 - 22 March

Sat 7.30pm

Duration Approx. 90 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Darren Gill

Sun 4pm

Time

Seventy-six year old Pat has dropped out of life. She is living on her verandah, watching birds, when her granddaughter arrives to stir up the town.

Throw into the mix an Italian ghost from the past, a bigoted Mayor and a chorus of laconic locals and you have a tragi-comic story about what it is to be Australian in a multicultural world.

Writer: Merrilee Moss

Director: Kim Durban

Designer: Adam (Gus) Powers Performers: Julie Nihill, Sam Baxter, Elizabeth Sly, Kevin Dee, Gregory J Fryer

> Australia Council for the Arts









1000





4000





WE TOO US TOO ME TOO TOO TOO

A dark, satirical and extremely physical comedy about rape and murder.

The fiery eyes of this Bouffon troupe have been watching tragedy unfold in Melbourne. They come with outrage, wild wisdom and dare to play the terrible games of humans.

23 - 29 March

We Too Us Too Me Too Too Too is a dark, satirical and extremely physical comedy about rape and murder.

This ensemble of skilled physical comedians play within the vast and sticky web of a difficult theme. They will find the unsaid, the unseen and the unspeakable problems lurking in the shadows. They will bring them to light.

Made in loving memory of Eurydice, Aiia, Natalia, Courtney, Jill and all the women we (the world) have lost in violent aggressions.

Devised and performed by Kimberley Twiner, Fabio Motta, Ell Sachs, Lucy Kingsley, Nicholas O'Regan Co-Devised and Directed by Giovanni Fusetti Produced by Kimberley Twiner

Special thanks to St Andrews Uniting Church.

Date

Time

Mon (preview) 6.30pm Tue - Sat 6.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 60 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images by Nayt Housman







INCOGNITO!

A dazzling new comedy murder mystery farce from the makers of Denouement! and Mystery Radio Theatre.

Date

Six strangers attend a health spa, high in the Swiss Alps. Soon they become involved in murder, betraval and some very questionable dieting advice. The quests are dying for a martini as the staff start dying for real. How can you find a killer when no one is who they claim to be ...?

"a delightful cross between an episode from an old detective series, a Monty Python sketch, and a game of Cluedo." -Weekend Notes

"a deliciously satisfying whodunnit..." - The Dialog

Performed by: Kathryn Tohill, Chris Saxton, Emily Carr, Kimberley Duband, Mark Woodward and Chris Tomkins

Image design by Chris Tomkins Lighting and sound design by Allan Hirons Written and produced by James Hazelden and Nicholas Rasche Directed by James Hazelden

31 March - 5 April

Time

Tue - Fri 7.30pm Sat 4pm & 7.30pm Sun 1pm & 4pm

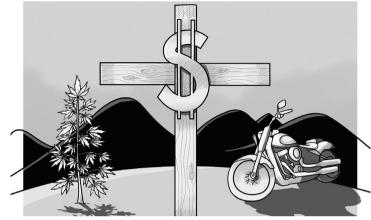
Duration Approx. 50 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Photo by Andrew J Morley







THE BUSINESS OF GOD

'You don't get to where I am through love' - (God, The Business of God, 2019)

Set in a version of Heaven that we rarely see, *The Business of God* explores the issues of religion, mortality and being the best possible version of yourself - even after death - in a place that is far from a paradise.

Michelle, a passionate atheist, arrives in Heaven, quite disappointed. She meets St Peta, who is unhappy about being misrepresented in the Bible, Jesus, a depressed stoner, and Satan, who wants everyone to know he's actually a nice guy. Together, they decide to challenge the business of God.

Written & Directed by Brendan Black and Martin Chellew

Date 7 - 12 April

Time

Tue (preview) 6.30pm Wed 6.30pm Thu - Fri 7.30pm Sat 4pm & 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 80 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Image by Ruby Culley







MRS ROBINSON: A SOAP CABARET

Despite the drought it was a very fluid summer.

Date 14 - 19 April

After a stint with the KGB. Mrs.Robinson swaps her Kalashnikov for a Camera Obscura. Feeling the heat she lifts her skirt, zooms her fisheye lens onto her own dysfunctional family and..... Warning: contains absurdity, audacity and climax change.

ELLA FILAR'S KROWS BAR KABARET in Vintage Underwear will have you dying for love and gasping for lust while the all-star cacophonous collection of vulgar, grotesque, sexy and sublime singers and musicians rock your jocks off with preposterously witty, madcap ideas and songs of the Weimar variety.

Performed by: Casey Nicholls-Bull, Ruth Katerelos, Chris Molynaux, Alex Woolfe, Bruce Langdon, Ella Filar (keyboard), Martin Zakharovor / David Laity (sax), Sally Banks (violin)

Time Tue (preview) 6.30pm Wed 6.30pm Thu - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 60 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images by Darren Gill







KELLY

"I think its important. Remembering ... would you agree ... "

Final night before the drop. A despondent Ned Kelly receives a unexpected visitor, his supposedly killed brother, Dan disguised as a priest.

Dan's wants to let bygones be bygones and start afresh.

Ned wants Dan accountable for trying to shoot him dead. What ensues is an inevitable clash between the two icons of Australia, engaging in the most gripping dialogue on masculinity, brotherhood and posterity.

It's raw. Funky. Supernatural.

With bold casting and even bolder artistic direction, this play takes on an immediacy and contemporary relevance exploring the issues and power dynamics between the sexes, race, religion and sexuality confronting us today.

Written by Matthew Ryan Directed by Subra.V and Kylie Gral

Performed by Subra. V and other artists Multimedia and lighting design by Kylie Gral Set, props and music score by Subra.V

Date 22 - 26 April

Time

Wed 6.30pm Thu - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 72 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images by Subra.V





HEDDA GABLERGABLERGABLER

A Competitive Deconstruction of Ibsen's Greatest Heroine.

Hedda Gabler was a Feminist battle-cry in 1891, but 129 years later, do we need more stories about bourgeois angst and pretty-dead-women?

Each night, three women will compete against each other to decide who will play Hedda in each scene. The roles will not be predetermined. The competitions will be real.

Blurring the worlds of fiction and reality, *Hedda GablerGablerGabler* interrogates the actors' personal dedication to this iconic part. Why are we so obsessed with Hedda? What does it mean to play her? And how should we interact with a literary canon that prioritises the experiences of the privileged?

Conceived and directed by Mary Angley

Co-created and performed by Caithlin O'Loghlen, Emma Jevons,

and Sarah-Jayde Tracey Dramaturg: Meta Cohen Lighting Designer: Merissa Tang Sound Designer: Olivia McKenna Stage Manager: Brooke Simmonds Production Manager: Max Woods Date

27 April - 3 May

Time

Mon (preview) 7.30pm Tue - Wed 6.30pm Thu - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 70 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images by Darren Gill







THE MERMAID

...she joined the chorus of the sea-doomed, thrashing her tail and howling for herself.

The Mermaid is a reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid, created by an award-winning intergenerational team of teenage and adult theatre makers. Their re-telling traces the journey of a fifteen year old mermaid and her transformation, obsession, sacrifice, self-destruction and self-actualisation. A tragicomedy with a teenage chorus that has a screaming vision for a hopeful tomorrow.

Created by: Cassandra Fumi and Tennessee Mynott-Rudland Devised with and performed by: Allegra Di Lallo, Harriet Lawson-Acar, An Dang, Theo Boltman, Casper Plum, Margaret Mills and Emily Goddard Director: Cassandra Fumi Stage Manager: Tennessee Mynott-Rudland Composer: Chrisopher Bolton Set and Costume Designer: Dann Barber Lighting Designer: Rachel Burke Dramaturgy: Vidya Rajan Assistant Director: Tove Due

2020 VCE DRAMA

Date 6 - 17 May

Time

Wed & Thu 1pm & 6.30pm Fri 11am & 7.30pm Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 60 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Images Casper Plum



IF MELBOURNE





LITTLE BROTHER, BIG SISTER

On the brink of artistic discovery, Michel's plans for the future are interrupted by a diagnosis of schizophrenia. He must rely on his sister - yet Karen has dreams of her own. How long can she push them aside to care for him?

Date

19 - 24 May

Time

Drawn from the writer's lived experience of schizophrenia, this powerful play explores the relationship between siblings who grapple with managing this condition, which interrupts their focus on transforming the world through art.

Michel is writing his first novel, *Hipflask*, his older sister Karen is in Europe turning the world into paintings. Michel's letters take a strange turn. He believes Joan Miro and Franz Kafka are his companions and he can speak with them. His sister Karen rushes home. Diagnosed with schizophrenia, he is unable to accept it. Karen becomes her brother's carer, which tests but cannot destroy their strong bond.

Writer: Michel Tuomy Director: Cathy Hunt Performed by: Jane Barry & Adam Cass Dramaturg: Peter Matheson NDIS Arts Mentor: Tania Smith Sound designer & composer: Jess Keeffe Lighting designer: Shane Grant

Tue 6.30pm (preview) Wed 6.30pm Thu 7.30pm Fri 7.30pm (auslan interp.) Sat 2pm (relaxed perf.) Sat 7.30pm Sun 5pm

Duration

Approx. 75 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Images by Darren Gill







THE TOM

An Australian Gothic, Kafkaesque tale about a young writer's investigation into Australia's Phantom Cat.

Sally's busy life as a city-living student does not fulfil her. Her boyfriend James won't please her. Her mother won't help her. Maybe a road-trip to research the urban legend of Australia's Phantom Cat will bring a little interest into Sally's life.

In the bush of Gippsland, The Tom waits. This big cat has feasted on cattle, taken domestic pets and created excitement in the day-to-day lives of Gippsland's residents. Were its ancestors panthers, abandoned by the circus? Or is it the reincarnation of a long-dead bush-ranger?

Sally tries to find the answers, and slowly loses herself.

Written & Directed by Hayley Lawson-Smith

Date

26 - 31 May

Time

Tue (preview) 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 90 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Image by Elena Vizerskaya





"...the Sublime... Version 2... a further examination"

This new work is a follow-up to the production performed in June 2019. There was amazing audience feedback to the extent that a further development was submitted. In the 2020 version, The SUBLIME – as a concept – will shrivel away as we seek to dessicate its current (mostly popular) usage. We will also include some key excerpts from the earlier piece.

Having worked consistently at La Mama since 1973. Llovd Jones

is known for his advocacy for non-scripted, non-rehearsed, theatre

non-theatre!! The Ensemble is a diverse group of people who willingly put their hands up to be party to the 'known unknowns'.

The work is highly 'conceptual', and does not pretend to provide

explanations, leaving open the window for the audience to be free of the conventional theatrical expectations mostly driven by narrative.

Date

2 - 7 June

Time

Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 70 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

There are 20 performers involved : 'veterans' who have been with the group for 30-plus years, and at the other extreme, those making their debut. The title is to 'kick start', pre-production, the creative thinking - both individually, as well as within the group.

43





IN THE MIRROR

In the Mirror tells the story of Shaun, Virginia, and a newly settled and lonely refugee who is plagued by nightmares. Shaun and Virginia, despite divergent backgrounds, are united in their desperate search for proper jobs. Shaun is a white Australian who comes from a broken working-class family. Virginia has just fled her own war-torn and repressive country whose government restricts her freedom, democratic rights, and peace. Detached narcissists Paula and Paul abuse their power towards them in interviews, aided by their junior colleague Hendro, a secondgeneration migrant who aspires to become like his seniors.

"In the Mirror explores otherness through the stressful episode of a job interview. Mammad Aidani employs mirrors in his play as a symbolic representation of his theme.'..."This play represents a voice from newcomers to our society who write from its margins with powerful representations of both the other and ourselves." - Helen Thomson, The Age, August 5, 2002

Written & Directed by Mammad Aidani

Date

9 - 14 June

Time

Tue (preview) 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 90 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Images Omid Movafagh by Darren Gill





KATYŃ

The 80th Anniversary Tour (1940-2020) to Katyń Forest with Uncle Joe & Friends.

Welcome to Katvní! A little son et lumière? Join Stalina and

her friends Hyby and Exy where the meaninglessnessless

becomes meaningful. Jim Daly, Green Room-awarded actor

and Helpmann nominee, brings together a superb team of theatre-makers to visit the most infamously-ignored crime of

the Twentieth Century. Call yourself Aussie? Didn't know

the Japanese bombed Darwin 64 times? Ma-a...te! For

sure you won't know how many times Uncle Joe dropped

it, individually, on the Poles in 1940 and made Mummies. Gesture and vocality get mashed. Get invaded, see the force!

Obsession & grot. Feel... the It.

Direction Consultant: lain Sinclair

Writer & Director: **Jim Daly** Performers Include **Jim Daly**

Set Design: Peter Mumford

Date 17 - 21 June

Time

Wed 6.30pm Thu - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration Approx. 60 minutes

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Photography by Darren Gill



MONASH ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS





CACTUS

Everyone knows that friendships made in bathrooms are ones that last for life.

Winner of the ATYP Rebel Wilson Theatre maker Scholarship

and shortlisted for the Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award,

Cactus is a fast paced coming of age comedy exploding with

the confidence, conviction and confusion only a teenage girl can

Abbie and Pb are in their last year of high school. It's going well.

I mean, they're still virgins, but it's going well. And then Abbie

finds out that she can't have kids. It doesn't mean much to her at first - who wants a kid at seventeen? But as things and people

start to change around her, she is suddenly and unceremoniously

confronted with a world she wasn't ready for.

Costume/ Set Design by Ellen Stanistreet

Written by Madelaine Nunn Directed by Katie Cawthorne

Stage Manager Claudia Howarth

Produced by Madelaine Nunn

have.

Date 23 - 28 June

Time

Tue (preview) 6.30pm Wed - Fri 7.30pm Sat 4pm & 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 75 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Darren Gill



Australian Theatr for Young People

LA MAMA POETICA

Tickets \$15 Full \$10 Conc

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Time 7.30pm for 8pm start

Duration Approx. 90mins

Tue 17th MARCH

Featuring DAVID STAVANGER, ANNE ELVEY, ANISA NANDAULA. AND JOCELYN DEANE

DAVID STAVANGER is a Queensland poet, performer, cultural producer, editor and lapsed psychologist. His new collection is Case Notes (UWAP) and his first poetry collection The Special (UQP. 2014) was awarded the Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize and the Wesley Michel Wright Poetry Prize.

ANNE ELVEY is the author of 'On Arrivals of Breath' (2019), 'White on White' (2018) and 'Kin' (2014). She is the Managing Editor of the eco-poetry journal 'Plumwood Mountain' and curated the ebook 'hope for the whole: Poets Speak up to Adani' (2018).

ANISA NANDAULA is a spoken word artist, playwright, educator, published author and the co-founder of the arts collective Voices of Colour She was the 2016 Queensland Poetry Slam Champion and winner of the 2017 XYZ Innovation in Spoken Word Prize.

JOCELYN DEANE

Hachette Prize in Poetry.











NADIA RHOOK is an historian poet and educator. interested in the geographies of colonisation and history, love and language. She is a history lecturer at UWA on Whadjuk Noongar boodia and she curated the heritage exhibition 'Moving Tongues: Language and Migration in 1890s Melbourne'. Her first poetry collection is 'boots' with UWA Publishina.

ANNE M CARSON is a poet and essayist who is published internationally and widely in Australia. Two Green Parrots and Massaging Himmler: A Poetic Biography of Dr Felix Kersten were both published this year. She is a post-graduate research student in Creative Writing at RMIT and performs with Muse Poetica.

BRIAN WALTERS is a

barrister who appeared in the Carlton Courthouse before it was La Mama Courthouse, and also a poet. In 1972, he won the Monash University Poetry Prize and he has written for several newspapers and journals. Brian's collection 'Angels, like laundry' was published as an interactive Apple book this year and he is the author of TREASON: Claus von Stauffenberg and the Plot to Kill Hitler.

SCOTT WINGS is a performance poet, physical theatre practitioner and event curator based in Melbourne. Abstract physicality and metatext are the ship Scott sails to storytelling land. He has appeared at Fringe Festivals in Edinburgh, Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne, as well as the Undercover Arts Festival and the Melbourne Comedy Festival.

Tue 12nd MAY

Featuring NADIA RHOOK. ANNE M CARSON. BRIAN WALTERS. AND SCOTT WINGS

ABOUT POETICA

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. La Mama Poetica is curated and hosted by Amanda Anastasi.

For more details please contact:

Amanda Anastasi amanda@lamama.com.au

LA MAMA MUSICA

Music, sound, and ideas for curious minds.

In 2020, we lift the veil and invite you behind the scenes, dissolving the boundaries between artist and audience.

Experience unusual collaborations, eye-opening conversations, new ways to listen, and opportunities for participation.

La Mama Musica is one of Melbourne's longest-running music nights: a curated concert series showcasing boundary-pushing artists, and amplifying voices that deserve to be heard.

It's always on a Monday ..

Curated by **Gemma Horbury** gemma@lamama.com.au



HAIL MUSIC VS THE ALGORITHM

The digital revolution has transformed our personal and working lives. We're more mobile, more connected... and yet infinite opportunity is shadowed by increased surveillance and creeping isolation. We continue trying to be *someone*, be *special*, be *original*, be *individual*, be apart from the crowd. Can we be a PART of something instead? Two artists seek to short-circuit the society of the spectacle: to focus our battered attention, place it in our bodies, in the space we are in, and if we choose to play – in each other.

Featuring:

Zulya Kamalova – composer, performer Las Mar (Nick Martyn) – synth, drum kit

Image Zulya Kamalova by Darren Gill



CALL & RESPONSE

WE'RE CALLING. WHO'S LISTENING?

What do we accidentally assume about musicians? Performer, composer, improvisor, or interpreter? Which voices get amplified? And who is silenced? Perception, reception, representation... Dissolve the boundaries and smash the stereotypes in a night of unexpected meetings, departures, crossovers and collaborations. Does genre matter on a dead planet?

This is a call to arms. Join the reimagining.

Featuring: Music for People K. Travers Eira – composer

Image K. Travers Eira by Darren Gill

Tickets \$15 Full | \$10 Conc.

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Time 7.30pm

Duration Approx. 90 mins

LA MAMA CABARETICA

Tickets \$15 Full \$10 Conc.

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Time 10pm

Duration Approx. 90mins

Fri 7th

Photography by Stano Murin (top), Jillian Price (middle), an Alexis D. Lea Photography (bottom) MC: Tina Del Twist (Wes Snelling) With a voice as smooth as honey, a comedic wit that could shred brie. Tina is Australia's much-loved nightingale. This gin-soaked velvet draped madame has featured on ABCTV's Comedy Up Late, performed sell-out seasons with Melbourne International Comedy Festival Melhourne Cabaret Festival, Darwin Festival, Perth FringeWORLD and accepted invitations to perform in Adelaide. Svdnev. Copenhagen. Berlin. Edinburgh, and New York.

Act One: Chi Chi Ana Nina/

Nic (Sophia Constantine)

Sophia Constantine is an award-

winning performance maker with

a background in physical theatre

and community arts. Sophia's

practice in more recent years has

manifested in drag, cabaret and

spoken word, and has evolved

to encompass characteristics of

performance art. Her beloved

Italian storvteller Chi Chi Ana Nina

is thrilled to present her brand-

new boi drag character Nic to the inaugural Cabaretica.





Davey is a Performer, Director, Writer and Cabaret Artiste who has worked at the forefront of contemporary performance in Melbourne for the last thirty years. In the nineties she toured the world with *Crying In Public Places*, in the noughties, with Finucane & Smith's *The Burlesque Hour*. Recently she directed the triumphant *Gender Eurohoria* for Melbourne Festival.

MC: Maude Davev Maude

Act One: Po Po Mo Co

PO PO MO CO are an awardwinning queer comedy troupe unique in Melbourne's theatre scene. They are known for their extreme physical comedy, in which they carve up classics, camp-ify clown and skewer heteronormativity. Late night debauchery is their thing, expect ferocious stupidity and endless mischief.

Act Two: Mama Alto

Mama Alto is a gender transcendent diva, cabaret artiste, jazz singer & community activist. She is a non-binary trans femme person of colour who works with the radical potential of storytelling, strength in softness & power in vulnerability. Fierce, femme & fabulous, she has been lauded as "divine" (*Havana Tribune*, Cuba) and "near flawless" (*The Age*).

Fri 15th

ABOUT CABARETICA

As the latest addition to the sisterhood of La Mama's monthly or seasonal events, La Mama Cabaretica provides a vivid celebration of the cabaret scene in Melbourne.

Cabaretica is co-curated by Susan Bamford Caleo and Isabel Knight and is a quarterly, late-night performance, offering an opportunity for established and emerging cabaret performers, and fans of cabaret, to come together to expand, explore and explode this bold and dynamic artform.

For more details, and to discuss proposals to perform, please contact Susan and Isabel at: cabaretica@ lamama.com.au

Photography by Paul Dunn (top), Theresa Harrison (middle), and Alexis D. Lea Photography (bottom)

Act Two: George Munro Mx Munro, one of Melbourne's emerging trans and gender diverse cabaret artists, recipient of the 2018/19 Midsumma Futures Mentoring Arts Program, receiving formal mentoring from Maude Davey and Mama Alto. They made their Main Stage debut in Gender Euphoria (2019), a show exploring why it is great to be trans and gender diverse! A sell out in the Melbourne International Arts Festival it's heading to Marty Gras 2020.







LA MAMA MOBILE PRESENTS LADIES OF THE BAY

A funny, vivacious, new show inspired by real stories from Aussie summer days when friends reminisce about the simpler times.

At Brunswick Neiahbourhood House

Ladies of the Bay returns after a sold out season in 2019.

Nat, Tracy, Fiona and Naomi have grown up together in the Bay. They have gone through many life changes, but their enduring friendship carries on with their summer tradition - camping at the caravan park. Here, they gossip, tell it like it is and reveal secrets all over a cheeky glass at happy hour. But when tragedy strikes their town will these childhood friends be there for one another?

Ladies of the Bay will take you laughing and crying back to your own summers. Sometimes all we have are the memories.

"The performances are so excellent as to make the naturalistic style of presentation seem so easy, familiar and very real" - Peter Green (Melbourne Observer)

Created by Jennifer Monk in association with Girls Act Good Performers Lisa Dallinger, Kelley Kerr Young, Lee McClenaghan, Jennifer Monk Director and producer: Jennifer Monk



Date Friday 27 March

Time 6.30pm

All Tickets \$15

Duration Approx. 60 minutes

Venue Brunswick Neighbourhood House, 43A De Carle Street. Brunswick

Images by Darren Gill





LADIES OF THE BAY REGIONAL TOUR ...

Dean's Marsh	Warrnambool	Portarlington	Camperdown
Date Fri 20 March 7pm	Date Sat 21 March 8pm Sun 22 March 6pm	Date Sat 28 March 7pm	Date Sun 29 March 3pm
All Tickets \$20	Tickets \$30 & \$20	Tickets \$30 & \$20	All Tickets \$20
Venue	Venue	Venue	Venue
Deans Marsh	Mozart Hall	Portarlington	The Theatre Royal
Community Cottage	2 Gilles Street,	Neighbourhood House	2 Bath St,
10 Pennyroyal	Warrnambool	Parks Hall,	Camperdown
Valley Road,		Newcombe St, Portarlington	
Deans Marsh		, 0	

Girls Act Good is an all female collective of actors, writers, directors, producers, theatre makers and filmmakers based in Melbourne.











LA MAMA MOBILE PRESENTS MYSTERY RADIO THEATRE

A comedy murder mystery, performed in the style of an old-timey radio play.

Mystery Radio Theatre presents Fanny Wadsworth and the Adventure of Smuggler's Cove - a simply ripping comedy, in the style of Enid Blighton, about a plucky young girl investigator who seeks to bring bad men to justice using nothing but irritating levels of optimism.

Mystery Radio Theatre, and its rather eccentric host, will transport the audience to the bygone world of classic radio comedy/mysteries. Elegantly attired actors will perform these shows huddled around shared microphones, behind an old-fashioned sound-effects table. There will be live ad reads for fictional products, and a musical guest. Be transported back to the golden days of radio.

Lighting and sound design by Allan Hirons Written and produced by James Hazelden and Nicholas Rasche Directed by James Hazelden Date Friday 29 May

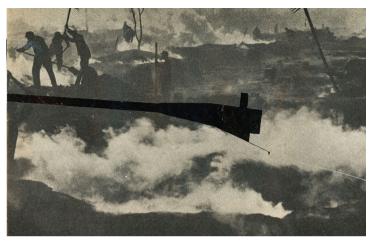
Time 6.30pm

Duration Approx. 50 minutes

Venue Brunswick Neighbourhood House, 43A De Carle Street, Brunswick

Image by Mark Woodward





LAUNCHING THE NEW VINYL LP PLANT HUNTING IN JAPAN

A Launch of 'Plant Hunting In Japan', an LP by **David Brown** (acoustic parlour guitar, semi-acoustic tenor guitar, voice and percussion) and **James Clayden** (Libretto, voice and percussion) featuring songs from the operettas 'The Otherside' and 'Aphanisis', originally performed at La Mama Theatre Melbourne in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The LP artwork focuses on the collages: 'Extinguish', 'Repitition, 'Hands' and 'Remain' crafted by artist **Brett Colguhoun**.

Date

Sunday 15 March

Time

7.30pm

Duration Approx. 90 mins

Venue La Mama Courthouse

PLAYREADINGS

Our regular playreading program, conducted on selected weekends throughout the year, is a way for our prolific community of writers to test their ideas in front of a friendly audience, and to hear their words voiced by actors, often for the first time.

We are always on the lookout for vibrant voices with something exciting to say and an innovative way of saying it.

If you think that's you, then get in touch with Liz Jones and Caitlin Dullard via their emails, liz@ lamama.com.au & caitlin@lamama. com au

Readings commence at 2pm All tickets \$10



MDRN LOVE

Hannah, Celia and Alex left themselves and their country town behind them as soon as they could. Returning home for a local festival that celebrates anything from love to communism Hannah stages a housework protest. Alex makes a new friend and Celia finds an old crush as the carnage of a #MeToo article hangs over the town.

MDRN LVE is a play that's in conversation with Much Ado about Nothing and uses Elizabethan staging.

Written by Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou

Sat 7 March KEN AND BRENDA MAKE A BABY

Ken and Brenda make a Baby is a two act satire on the relationship between religion and science

It centres on the efforts of Brenda, a young crippled girl, and her blind computer genius boyfriend Ken, who steal a secret cloning formula from the CIA. Using online technology and dna from a dead rock star. they hope to create a new Messiah because the old one is fed up and Earth needs a saviour



KEN'S QUEST

Shanghainese Ken bribed his way to a holiday work visa. Ethnocentric Ken clashes with xenophobic Red, his Ocker assistant. Further souring of relationship avoided when Ken saves Red's dog. Friendship soothes Red's fear of displacement, dilutes Ken's cultural superiority.

Imminent visa expiry forces Ken to look for marriage of convenience but he fails. He meets Julia, his Aussie teacher who loves him but peels off his arrogance, lies and clothes

Ken's quest shifted. Both transformed.

Adapted by Adam Cass from the novel by Cher Chidzey

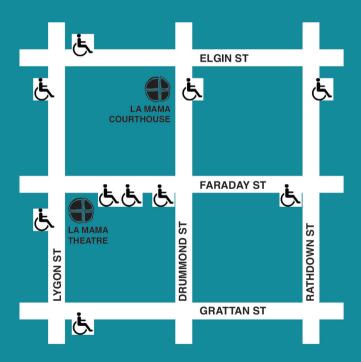
Written and Produced by Leo Taylor



Guide dogs and assistance animals are welcome at the La Mama Courthouse.

Please see the map below for the closest accessible parking spots.

CAR PARKING



For more information on La Mama's Disability Action Plan see our website or ask the office for a copy.



VENUE ACCESS

We are delighted to share the news that from 2021, La Mama on Faraday street will be a universally accessible space including two lifts, accessible bathrooms and an accessible shower.

The La Mama Courthouse is now fully accessible for all patrons.



Tickets can be booked either through the La Mama website or by phoning 03 9347 6948.

If you need to, you can also contact La Mama through the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 and request 03 9347 6948.

You are also welcome to book in person at our Courthouse Theatre during office hours.

AUSLAN INTERPRETING, AUDIO DESCRIPTION AND RELAXED PERFORMANCES

Please check our website for the the most up to date information about accessible performances at La Mama, such as Auslan interpreted shows, audio described events and relaxed performances.

La Mama encourages all our artists to make shows here as accessible as possible. If you have some suggestions for performances that could be Auslan interpreted, audio described or captioned (for example), please get in touch. Please also be in touch if you have additional access requirements or suggestions so that we can assist.



La Mama accepts Companion Cards and Carer Cards - you can either book online via our website or by getting in touch with the office so we can process your tickets for you.

CA MAMA

Office (03) 9347 6948 Email info@lamama.com.au Web www.lamama.com.au

Office Hours: Weekdays 10.30am - 5.30pm

Weekends 1pm - 3pm

Tickets

\$30 Full | \$20 Concession Online bookings close 4pm Mondays to Saturdays and 2pm on Sundays

Venue

La Mama Courthouse 349 Drummond Street Carlton VIC 3053



lamama.theatre

LaMamaTheatre

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