



BROOKE SIMMONDS is a Melbourne based Stage Manager who recently graduated the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Design & Production). At VCA, Brooke has worked as both a Stage Manager and Sound Technician on multiple productions, including Stage Manager for 'The World That Was', Deputy Stage Manager for 'Wunderschon Stark', Audio Programmer and Operator for 'Our House' and 'F***ing A', as well as Assistant Stage Manager for both 'Mad Forest' and 'The Skin of Our Teeth'. Externally her credits include Stage Manager for 'The Hitmen' (Baker's Dozen Theatre Company), Assistant Stage Manager for both 'The Great Australian Play' (Montague Basement Theatre Company) and 'Punk Rock' (Patalog Theatre Company). In 2020 she also completed a Stage Management Secondment with Melbourne Theatre Company on 'Torch the Place'. Brooke is currently the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Frenetic Theatre.

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La Mama Theatre 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.

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!

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**LA MAMA
 PRESENTS**

As a Part of Love Fest 2021
JOFUS AND THE WHALE



February 9 - 21, 2021



Image by Theresa Harrison

JOFUS AND THE WHALE

BY FISH AND TWINER'S BAIT SHOP

Devised by **Lily Fish, Ell Sachs and Kimberley Twiner**

Directed by **Kimberley Twiner**

Performed by **Lily Fish**

Lighting design by **Lisa Mibus**

Stage manager **Brooke Simmonds**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A clown walks onto the stage. They are alone, but not lonely. Many people are drawn to performing in the style of clown. WHY? The answer can only be: Because. There's no point spending time asking psychology or intellectualism why people want to practice clown. They just DO. It just IS. The clown is THERE. And always will be. Dancing around in the fringes of the theatre world.

Learning to be with and play with one's aloneness is a thrilling process. As we play in the aloneness, we begin to see what is bursting to be played. We find one's own unique stupidity. There is no reason for stupidity - again - why? Because. It is just there. Those great fears of being human 'Am I being too much? Or am I not enough?' We can't win, but we can play. Underneath our masks of perfectionisms, heroisms, personality-isms there is one immense fool. A stupendous, remarkable, mind-boggling idiot.

But, beware, the stupidest thing a clown could ever think is that their stupidity is private. No, no, no, no, no. Gifts are much more fun to share. When we are gifted such an idiot persona it is to be shared. It itches to be shared. It will scratch at the back of our knees until it can step into the light! Ahh, the initiation - adorning the end of the nose with a sphere of red plastic!

When the idiot is truly initiated they have become brave, brave enough to do something very scary, to stand there, alone, to look people in the eye, and to simply be one big-huge-absolute-unforgettable-unmistakable dingus.

Enjoy the show.

Kimberley Twiner

LILY FISH is a theatre maker and performer. She's a founding member of award-winning queer comedy ensemble PO PO MO CO and co-director of contemporary clown company Fish and Twiner's Bait Shop. Her previous show 'Jofus and the Plank' won Best Solo at New Zealand Fringe and Best Physical Theatre at FATE in 2020. Her play Yarn is published through PlayLab.

KIMBERLEY TWINER is a Melbourne based physical comedian, director, producer and teacher. She specializes in devised physical comedy, ensemble work and clowning. She is founder of award-winning queer comedy troupe PO PO MO CO. She is co-director of a contemporary clowning company called Fish and Twiner's Bait Shop who have also won awards nationally and internationally. Kimberley is founder of the Melbourne Physical Theatre School, a place for physical theatre training grounded in the Lecoq pedagogy. She has studied theatre at QUT Brisbane, Ecole Philippe Gaulier (France), John Bolton Theatre School (Melbourne) and Helikos (Italy).

ELL SACHS is a Melbourne based physical comedian, actor and musician. Sachs graduated from The University of Southern Queensland with a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Theatre). She has studied theatre at Ecolé Philippe Gaulier (France), Ecolé Jacques Lecoq (France) and has trained extensively in Clown, Bouffon and Devising with Giovanni Fusetti (Melbourne & Finland). Sachs is a founding member of award winning comedy trio The Travelling Sisters. Their work focuses on character driven comedy that subverts stereotypical notions of masculinity, domestic suburbia and gender in an identifiably Australian context. The Travelling Sisters have been creating and touring work internationally and across Australia since 2013. Their most recent show Thy Thus 'Twas was nominated for Best Comedy at Melbourne Fringe in 2019.

LISA MIBUS is a Melbourne based Lighting Designer with a strong interest in the creation of new work. She co-devised My Lovers Bones (Brown Cabs Productions/Melbourne Festival) for which her lighting design received a Green Room Association Award. Lisa has designed for many varied independent, as well as mainstage productions, with credits including *Control*, *Pomona*, *Sweet Phoebe* (Red Stitch), *Oil Babies*, *Whale* (Darebin Speakeasy), *The Curtain* (45 Downstairs), *Redemption*, *Member* (La Mama), *Colour Correction* (Dancehouse), *Virgins & Cowboys* (Griffin Independent), *Boxman* (If Theatre), *Heart is a Wasteland*, *The Orchid and the Crow* (Malthouse Theatre), *Straight White Men*, *The Distance*, *Boy at the Edge of Everything*, *Music* (Melbourne Theatre Company).