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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!

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund - an Australian Government initiative, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne through the *Arts and Creative Partnerships Program*.



LA MAMA & ANTIPODES THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT

S A M M I A M

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S A M I A M

An Antipodes Theatre Company Production

Written and Performed by **Sam Martin**

Directed by **Dan Graham**

Dramaturgy by **Ana Maria Belo**

Set Design by **Helen Rofe** and **Brandon Pape**

Costume Design by **Helen Rofe** and **Pearl Junor**

Lighting Design by **Lachlan McLean**

Sound Design by **Olivia McKenna**

Projection Design by **Gabriel Bethune**

Deaf Consultant: **Danni Wright**

Stage Manager: **Pearl Junor**

Performance Interpreters: **Mac Gordon** and **Danni Wright**

Production Manager: **Brandon Pape**

Producers: **Antipodes Theatre Company** and **Andrew Lee**

Photography credit: **Brandon Pape**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I am often asked what attracted me to Theatre in the first place. In Theatre, I saw a venue for all people to tell their stories. In enabling other voices, I found my own.

I suggested that Sam might tell his story as a theatre piece and the skeleton of Sam I Am emerged. We had a development showing at Brand X / The Flying Nun in Sydney and are forever grateful to James, Aesha and

BRANDON PAPE SET DESIGN AND PRODUCTION MANAGER
Brandon is the Artistic Director for Antipodes Theatre Company. He directed and designed ATC's inaugural production, the Australian premiere of Dave Malloy's *Ghost Quartet* (two Green Room Award nominations), and will soon direct the Victorian premiere of Stephen Karam's *The Humans*. During the pandemic, he oversaw ATC's transition to online programming as part of their 2020 Virtual Season, including the inaugural Winter Lab in June which supported eight projects and over 50 artists.

A N D R E W L E E P R O D U C E R

Also known as "undi", Andrew is an award winning Korean-Australian screen writer, director, designer and producer. With a strong background in design and literature, Andrew's work is known for his intimate story telling, emotional sensitivity and strong visual aesthetics. He is also a champion of narratives from the Korean diaspora and queer identities that live on the margins.

Thank you...

The staff at La Mama Theatre, David Butler, Andrew Chapman, Kirri Dangerfield, Melissa David, Marc Ethan, Carly Findlay, Aubrey Flood, Kristy Griffin, Sapidah Kian, Mama Alto, Amy McGill, Lillian Nejad, Alex Notsis, Conor O'Malley, Neil Phipps, Allison Robison, Tommy Ryan, Chloe Towan, Marni Van Vliet, Rhys Velasquez, Don Winsor, Kathy Wright.

GABRIEL BETHUNE PROJECTION DESIGN

Gabriel is a Sound and Lighting Designer, Composer, and digital artist for the stage. His work spans all disciplines from Comedy to Surrealism. Gabe works hard dissecting dramaturgy and opening clear dialogues between directors, choreographers, technicians, and writers. His practice has taken him to venues all around Melbourne, and fostering relationships with local independent companies. When he is not in the theatre Gabe is often found at home recording music, or outside taking in the sunshine.

DANNI WRIGHT DEAF CONSULTANT & INTERPRETER

Danni works within the film, television and theatre industry as a director, actor and language, cultural and accessibility consultant across diverse projects. She has studied internationally enriching her skills as a versatile theatre practitioner and performer. Danni is passionate about creativity and accessibility being entwined from the work's inception rather than as an add-on or afterthought. Incorporating accessibility as part of performances normalises the experience for everyone.

M A C G O R D O N I N T E R P R E T E R

Mac is an Auslan interpreter who interprets in diverse contexts including Deafblind, work meetings, welfare appointments and medical appointments. They very occasionally interpret in theatre and cabaret settings; most recently for A_tistic Theatre's *Helping Hands* (2019) and *Gender Euphoria* (Melbourne Festival, 2019).

(Director's note continued...)

Paul. We found that Sam's story resonated with a wide audience, even though Sam himself is not a trained actor. It was important he told his truth, and has worked really hard to achieve that.

A special thank you to La Mama and to Mama Alto at Midsumma for their support with this. Our rehearsals have been held partially over Zoom (our stage manager, Pearl, and I are based in Sydney) and partially in person here in Melbourne. Thanks must go to Pearl who has worked tirelessly throughout. Finally, we would not have this production if it were not for Brandon Pape, who has such faith and understood the importance of telling this story.

I find a touching synchronicity in this production at La Mama. An early Mentor, sadly now deceased, first encouraged my potential as a Director. When I knew him, he had moved onto Film Directing but revealed to me that he had his start at La Mama. These performances are dedicated to him. Thank You Jonthan Dawson for believing in me.

This is only one chapter in Sam's story. I myself recognise how changed I am from my 20-year-old self. I look forward to seeing what his following chapters will bring. Thank You Sam for sharing this portion of your life.

Dan Graham

SAM MARTIN WRITER AND PERFORMER

Sam is an alumni of the Australian Film TV and Radio School with an aspiring passion for creating and supporting diversity within arts, media and performance spaces. Identifying as Queer and Hard of Hearing/Deaf, Sam's art practice explores the contradicting and intersectionality of identity, including his own, hoping to create discussion and encourage others to do the same. Last year his show *Sam I Am* was his debut work as a writer/performer for the stage.

DAN GRAHAM DIRECTOR

Dan attended Directors Labs in Chicago and LA, as well as a Directing Residency at Atlantic Theater Company in NYC. He is involved in the Darlinghurst Theatre Artists Program and The Directors Program at The National Theatre of Parramatta. In 2018, Daniel was invited to the Future Leaders Program (The Australia Council for the Arts) and was granted a Create NSW Fellowship. Daniel advocates for Artists with Neuro-Diverse Disabilities and was Co-Chair of MEAA's Artists With A Disability Committee.

ANA MARIA BELO DRAMATURGE

Ana Maria graduated from NIDA and has been nominated for Green Room and Sydney Theatre Critics awards. Ana won a Glug award for *Tribes* and a Tropfest award for *Things to Do*. Theatre credits: *The Listmaker* (Bell Shakespeare), *Noises Off*, *Tribes* (Ensemble Theatre), *Dr Akars Women* (Griffin Theatre), *Snugglepote & Cuddlepote* (Company B). Short film credits: *Things to do*, *Magic Words* and *The Kid's Table*. Ana Maria is an ambassador for the Shepherd Centre teaching deaf children to listen and speak.

PEARL JUNOR COSTUME DESIGN & STAGE MANAGER

Pearl is a graduate of Charles Sturt University in Bathurst with a Bachelor of Communication (Theatre/Media). Her studies developed her stage and production management and scenic and costume design skills. In 2020, her major work *Pirates!* was a recipient of the Blair Milan Touring Scholarship. The scholarship awarded the production \$7,000 to assist with touring. Pearl works at Majors Creek Folk as the Assistant Stalls Coordinator and Festival Design Coordinator.

LACHLAN MCLEAN LIGHTING DESIGN

Lachlan is a Victorian College of the Arts alumni, with a degree in production design. Lachlan's lighting design credits include *Philtrum*, *Strata Inc.* (North of Eight), *The Trial of Dorian Gray* (Bitten by Productions), *The Will to Be* (Melbourne Fringe), *Ross & Rachel*, *You are the blood* (Spinning Plates Co.), *Body* by Sue Healy, *On the Town*, *Disclosure* (VCA), *Lobby Hero* (Around the Moon Productions), 2019 Green Room Award nominated *Ghost Quartet* (Antipodes Theatre Company), and *Single Ladies* (Red Stitch).

OLIVIA MCKENNA SOUND DESIGN

Olivia is an audio designer and artist who recently completed a BFA (Design and Production), majoring in Audio Design at VCA. Olivia is interested in the adaptation of traditional theatre techniques and the psychological impact of sound in performance by manipulating everyday sounds. She has recently worked as an audio designer for VCA productions of *pool* (no water) and *Earthquakes* in London. Her other professional credits include audio designer for *Hedda Gabler**GablerGabler* and *The Campaign*.