



Meredith Rogers and **Hester Joyce** perform the everyday alongside the extravagant, sometimes fantastical, inner lives of two nonagenarian women and their 60+ plus daughters. With Melbourne theatre veteran Maude Davey as director and co-devisor, *Marvellous* inter-weaves the voices and psycho-physicalities of these women: their connectedness, their failing/falling bodies, their wayward imaginative memory worlds.

These fragmentary portraits of the performers' own mothers are animated in surprising, funny, touching, grotesque and poignant ways. The impact of the Covid pandemic has brought into glaring focus our need to think about how we care for the "oldest old," this most vulnerable cohort, in our families and communities. How do we remember what they mean to us? What they have given us? And how can we assist them in this last, possibly most difficult stage of their lives?

Marvellous gives back to audiences many of their own experiences and dilemmas in caring for their own elders.

Making theatre about relationships between mothers and daughters is not new to this team. In 1986 Feminist theatre Company **Home Cooking Theatre Co** premiered *Running Up a Dress* – a play about mothers and daughters and sewing at the **first Melbourne International Arts Festival**. Meredith played daughters from babyhood to young motherhood and mothers becoming grandmothers. A decade later Maude made *Never Let Me Go*, with Margaret Mills and Melissa Reeves, in which they played

themselves and their own mothers. When her mother turned 84, Hester began recording her stories. When she turned 90 there began another set of adventures discovering what being 90 meant for Mary and for her daughters.

In *Marvellous* this trio of artists, representing decades of significant Feminist practice, revisit these complex relationships as their mothers approach the end of their lives.

Written and Performed by
Meredith Rogers and **Hester Joyce**

Director/Dramaturg: **Maude Davey**
Composer/Sound Designer: **Madeleine Flynn**
Lighting Designer: **Gina Gascoigne**

SEASON	23 - 28 February 2021
TIMES	Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm
DURATION	Approx. 55 minutes
VENUE	La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St, Carlton
TICKETS	\$30 Adult \$20 Concession
BOOKINGS	03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au



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