

LA MAMA PRESENTS SAM I AM

as a part of midsumma 2021



When I began to understand the different identities of the Deaf community, I asked myself, who am I? I was drawn to the Deaf community. I wanted to be in that world, I wanted an identity that reflected that. But, I couldn't find one. I'm still unsure if I will find one.

Sam I Am explores the experiences, memories, and unknowns that a gay deaf boy from the inner Western suburbs of Sydney must learn to embrace as he accepts and defines his identity. Set on the eve of his big move to Melbourne, this deeply personal story recounts other pivotal events of Sam's life, including his journey with hearing aids and speech pathology, learning Auslan, and choosing to come out following the 2017 marriage equality plebiscite. Are we truly in control of the person we become, or can we ever outrun the events and choices of our past?

Sam I Am originally played to sold-out houses at Brand X / The Flying Nun in Sydney, and now comes to Melbourne in a new production from Antipodes Theatre Company. Identifying as Queer and Hard of Hearing/Deaf, Sam Martin's art practice explores the intersectionality of identity, including his own, hoping to create discussion and encourage others to do the same. Directed by Dan Graham, this autobiographical journey will incorporate two Auslan interpreters and live captioning at every performance, creating a fully accessible experience.

Sam I Am is produced by Antipodes Theatre Company and Andrew Lee, and features dramaturgy by Ana Maria Belo, scenic and costume design by Helen Rofe, lighting design by Lachlan McLean, audio design by Olivia McKenna, and stage management by Pearl Junor.



An Antipodes Theatre Company Production

Written and Performed by: **Sam Martin**

Directed by: **Dan Graham**

Scenic and Costume Design by: **Helen Rofe**

Lighting Design by: **Lachlan McLean**

Audio Design by: **Olivia McKenna**

Stage Manager: **Pearl Junor**

Dramaturge: **Ana Maria Belo**

Deaf Consultant: **Danni Wright**

Producer: **Andrew Lee**

Image Credit: **Brandon Pape**

SEASON 20 - 22 April, 2021

TIMES Tues 8.30pm
Wed 6.30pm
Thu 8.30pm

LENGTH Approx. 60 minutes

VENUE La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St, Carlton

TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession

BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au



All performances AUSLAN interpreted and feature live captioning.



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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*. 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!