

**SUMMER & AUTUMN 2021** 

9 FEBRUARY - 4 JULY

#### **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 more jam-packed than the last. We now average approximately 50 primary seasons annually, as well as developments, seasonal La Mamica



A detail of a painting of La Mama by Betty Burstall

events (Musica, Poetica, Cabaretica and Cinematica), 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. For rebuild details see https://lamama.com.au/rebuild-la-mama/

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 TO OUR SUMMER AND AUTUMN SEASONS 2021...

I am not going to spend time lamenting the horrors of 2020! Rather I am going to rejoice with the news that we returned to theatre life with Elnaz Sheshgalani's beautiful play *Iranian Bauhaus* and two excellent playreadings last December and that we have a full and truly exciting 2021 programmed, predominately with all the wonderful work you missed out on last year!

All the favourites are back: The Comedy Festival straight from 2020, The Midsumma Festival now in autumn, Yirramboi First Nations Festival and the new Lovefest in February.

We have one VCE production, *Three Sisters*, and *Little Sister*, *Big Brother* will be presented in Schizophrenia Awareness Week.

We have an off-site production *The Gang of Five* and two of that newfound form, the online production. And many many other brilliant works whose details you will find celebrated in this brochure.

Poetica, Musica, Cabaretica and Cinematica. All the La Mamicas are back. How exciting, comforting and stimulating this all is!

And with the magnificent support of Creative Victoria and RISE federal funding, extraordinary support from some treasured philanthropists and the re-build proceeding apace we have much cause for celebration

And I would like to welcome new staff member Tessa Spooner and babies Rothko and Leon to the La Mama family since last we met!

So come. Celebrate with us. Rejoice with us at The Lama Courthouse in the coming months. we so look forward to seeing you!

Warm regards,

C3 jm

Liz Jones CO-CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PS: But it would be remiss of me not to mention our great concern at what is being done to our valued university theatre departments across the country: Monash, La Trobe, Flinders...... barbarian travesties all



#### LA MAMA STAFF

Front Row (Left to Right)
Liz Jones, Caitlin Dullard (with Rothko), Maureen Hartley

Middle Row (Left to Right)
Sophia Constantine, Isabel Knight, Tessa Spooner, Elena Larkin

**Back Row** (Left to Right)
Solange Parreguez, Hayley Fox, Amber Hart

#### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

**Chair:** Richard Watts **Deputy Chair:** Dure' Dara **Treasurer:** Ben Grant **Secretary:** Caitlin Dullard

Members: David Geoffrey Hall, David Levin, Helen Hopkins, Sue Broadway, Beng Oh and Liz Jones.

#### **CURATORS**

Amanda Anastasi Poetica Curator Gemma Horbury Musica Curator Susan Bamford Caleo & Isabel Knight Cabaretica Curators Tessa Spooner Cinematica Curator

#### FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Amber Hart, Caitlin Dullard, Maureen Hartley, Solange Parraguez, Sophia Constantine, Tessa Spooner, Susan Bamford-Caleo, Laurence Strangio, Dennis Coard, Zac Kazepis, Phil Roberts, Dora Abraham, Hayley Fox, Daniel Hayek, Andreas Petropoulous

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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land. We pay our respect to all First Nations people, past and present, and we recognise 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, 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!















#### GRAND GESTURE || JOFUS AND THE WHALE

#### A MINI FESTIVAL OF LOVE/UNLOVE. 2 SHOWS IN 1 WEIRD NIGHT OUT.

Are you lonely? Unloved? In a long term relationship with your laptop? Watching too much TV? Do you prefer fantasy? Has that fantasy let you down? Do you miss real people? Do you hate real people? Do you feel subpar and ugly?

Us too.

Let us fill that void. Come and stare at us silently in the dark while we perform for you. Love us. Please love us. Please please please please love us... Please.

Two shows exploring deep true deep deep love and pop culture come together in an anti-celebration just for you. We'll be your date for Valentine's 2021.

## SHOW DATES: TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY TO SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2021

**Grand Gesture**: Tues, Thu, Sat 6.30 pm | Wed & Fri 8.30 pm | Sun 4 pm **Jofus and the Whale**: Tue, Thurs, Sat 8.30 pm | Wed & Fri 6.30 pm | Sun 2 pm

NO PERFORMANCES OF EITHER SHOW Monday 15th or Tuesday 16th of February

Ticket prices: Single show: \$30 Full | \$20 Concession, \$25 Groups 5+ people
Double bill: \$50 Full | \$30 Concession



# GRAND GESTURE BY THE PEOPLE

I love you. I love New Year's Eve. I love Romeo. I love the house you built me. I love Paris. I love the top of the Empire State Building. I love summer. I love my brother. I love dogs. I love Frida Kahlo. I love Ryan Gosling. I love mid-century architecture. I love Adidas. I love banana bread. I love my Macbook Pro. I love you.

Using verbatim romcom texts as a starting point and everything in the universe as an ending point, **Grand Gesture** is a take down of the one-true-love bullshit we have all been eating since birth. A verbatim pop Frankenstein monster from the team that brought you the sell-out season of *The Bachelor s17e05* and the award nominated *A Disorganised Zoom Reading of the Script from Contagion*.

Co-created and Directed by:

Katrina Cornwell and Morgan Rose (The People)

Co-created and Performed by:

Joel Beasley, Eamon Dunphy, Matilda Gibbs, Joe Kenny, Michelle McCowage, Finn McGrath, Ruby Rawlings & Katie Rowe



image by Sarah Walker

Co-produced by: Natasha Phillips

Lighting Design by: Lisa Mibus

Sound Design by: **Byron Scullin** 

Stage Manager: Brooke Simmonds

## JOFUS AND THE WHALE

BY FISH AND TWINER'S BAIT SHOP



Moby Dick. It's a love story right? Between a person and whale. Battling the elements and each other. Grappling skin to blubbery skin. Wet, hot and sweaty.

Clown extraordinaire Jofus recounts Melville's epic tale of obsession as you've never seen it before.

**Jofus and the Whale** is a new physical comedy by award winning theatre company Fish and Twiner's Bait Shop (winner 'Best Solo' New Zealand Fringe, winner 'Best Physical Theatre' Fringe at the Edge).



Created and Performed by: Lily Fish

Lily Fish is a phenomenon. She is astonishing. She is a comedienne, a mime, an acrobat and a chameleon.

Stage Whispers

Physical theatre at its best.

**Australian Stage** 

Basking in the joyous and ludicrous has never felt so good.

**Gutter Culture** 

image by Theresa Harrison





**Marvellous** is a play about the everyday lives and extravagant, sometimes fantastical inner lives of two nonagenarian women and their 60+ plus daughters.

Marvellous inter-weaves the voices and psychophysicalities of elderly mothers and their daughters: their connectedness, their failing/falling bodies, their wayward memories and inventions.

There is loss here – of control of faculties, of mental capacity, of bodily functions, of beauty – and a dark physical comedy is discovered in the changing shape of relationships between mother and daughter. There is also tenderness, and compassion for the ordinary pain of our lives together and in the cherished and lovingly curated archives of our human bodies in decline.

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

Director/Dramaturg Maude Davey Composer Madeleine Flynn Lighting Designer Gina Gascoigne Stage Manager Tegan Hutchison

> I imagine a movement, a change, a rise in her chest...

#### Dates

23 - 28 February

#### Time

Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

#### Duration

Approx. 55 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Ponch Hawkes









The 81st Anniversary Tour (1940-2021) to Katyń Forest with Uncle Joe & Friends

Welcome to *Katyń!* 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.

Written & Directed by **Jim Daly**Performed by **Carolyn Bock** & **Jim Daly** 

Direction Consultant: Iain Sinclair
Set Design: Peter Mumford
Lighting Design: Jim Daly & Greg Carroll

Sound Design: Jim Daly Music: Scott Griffiths

#### Dates

2 - 7 March

#### Time

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

#### Duration

Approx. 70 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

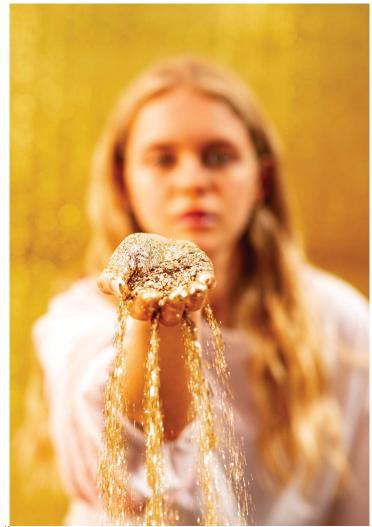
Photography by **Darren Gill** 

Videography by

Tatiana Doroshenko

MONASH ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS







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B

Y

God put you here to embody all that's vile in the hearts of men.

**Dates** 9 - 14 March

Time

Toby is a social outcast living in a dark and disturbing land. Robbed by his best friend, hounded by the authorities and branded a *gypsy*, Toby traverses a difficult path, unearthing more about virtue and honesty than he anticipated.

Tue 6.30 pm (preview) Wed 6.30 pm Thurs & Fri 7.30 pm Sat 8 pm Sun 1 pm & 5 pm

This classic tale, by award-winning writer Abe Pogos, refocuses and sharpens our thoughts about what it is to be 'the other' in a heartless world.

**Duration**Approx. 90 minutes

Written by **Abe Pogos**Directed by **Louise Howlett** 

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by

Darren Gill

Performed by Alex Tomisich, Sam Stopforth, Pat McAuliffe, Meg McKibbin, Iris Gaillard and Adam May Set design: Jacob Sandom

Lighting design: Shane Grant Sound design: Sidney Millar Costume design: Jeremy Pryles ReAction

Produced by ReAction Theatre





## BREEDERS

**Breeders** is a darkly funny play about our world, where autistic children are considered problematic nightmares, and dodgy anti-vaccine 'doctors' become God-like saviours.

Jumping between naturalism, satire and surrealism, this is today's Melbourne through the acerbic eyes of Anna, a young autistic woman and budding journalist.

Between domestic disputes, Anna's family is confronted by media coverage about their lives in which they have no say. That is, until the media is hijacked by "problematic nightmare children."

Written by a neurodivergent artist and performed by predominantly neurodivergent actors, *Breeders* takes aim at the violent myths hurled at parents of autistic children which are much scarier than having a disabled child.

Written by Vanessa Di Natale Directed by Emma Mary Hall Performed by Benjamin Oakes, Cecilia Low, Artemis Munoz, Michael Chan, Rosalind Silver, Summer Metcalf

Producer and Access Coordinator: Sarah Houbolt Dramaturgy: Mari Lourey Lighting Designer: Oliver Ross Sound Designer: Olivia McKenna Set Designer: Arielle Vlahiotis

#### Dates

16 - 21 March

#### Time

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

#### Duration

Approx. 90 minutes plus interval

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by
Josie Di Natale

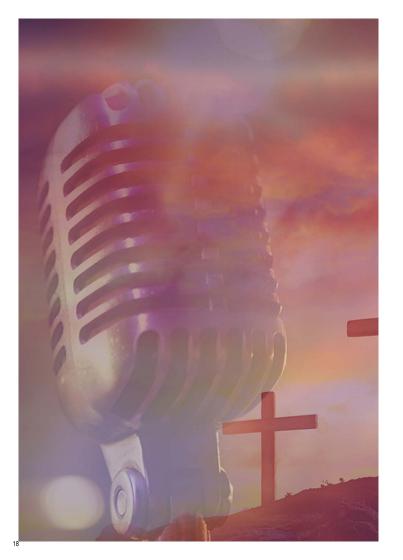






For access sessions please contact La Mama or see the website for details.







In a pandemic world, only laughter can save us all. **Mistero Fo(nic)** is a chameleonic romp through reimagined Bible tales.

The Pandemic, the performers' hardship and the need for good storytelling bring forth this adaptation from Dario Fo's Comic Mysteries. *Mistero Fo(nic)* is a live Melbournian radio program in the middle of Pandemic times. It recaptures Jesus Christ's Mysteries (told from Fo's genius perspective) and transforms them into an experience driven by voices and soundscapes as used in the glorious times of Radio Theatre.

#### Directed by Jaime Wilson-Ramirez

Producer: Samantha Urquijo-Garcia
Producer & Stage Manager: Luis Gaitan
Performed by Camilo Cortissoz, Samantha Urquijo-Garcia, Jaime Wilson-Ramirez, Pilar Aguilera, Abe Dunovits

Original music by Abe Dunovits

Dramaturgy by The Bridge Theatre Company

Based on Dario Fo's Comic Mysteries

Dates

23 - 28 March

#### Time

Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 80 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Shutterstock licenced image by Romolo Tavani & Vectorfusionart







## **INCOGNITO!**

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

Six strangers attend a health spa, high in the Swiss Alps. Soon they become involved in murder, betrayal, hypnotism and disguise. Vera Brady is dying for a martini, but other people are dying for real. How will she find the killer when no one is who they appear to be?

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

"entertainingly and wittily subverts the genre of 'whodunnit... a surreal journey that only builds in ludicrousness. The script is witty and fresh, keeping the audience guessing..." - **Theatre Travels** 

Written and Produced by James Hazelden and Nicholas Rasche Directed by James Hazelden

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

Lighting and Sound Design: Allan Hirons

Dates

30 March - 4 April

Time

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

Duration

Approx. 50 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by

Andrew J Morley

Image design by

**Chris Tomkins** 





Michelle, a passionate atheist, arrives in Heaven after death, quite disappointed. She chats with Saint Peta, who informs her that she will be assigned work for eternity, and she becomes increasingly unhappy. Peta, becoming aware of her own dissatisfaction at being misrepresented in the Bible, is convinced by Michelle to confront God, who Peta hasn't actually met yet.

Michelle then meets Jesus, who is still depressed 2,000 years later about his crucifixion, being forsaken by his parent and his lack of direction. She is introduced to Satan, a drug dealer, with whom Jesus is very good friends, and Satan reveals his wish to be seen as the nice guy he is, rather than simply a flayer of bottoms. After much discussion and psyching up, they decide to perform a hostile takeover.

Michelle meets God, who happens to be female, and they argue about life, death, belief and non-belief. Michelle voices her displeasure about God's exploitative organisation, and one by one, Jesus, Saint Peta and Satan join with her, challenging God's authority, with devastating results...

Written & Directed by

Brendan Black and Martin Chellew

'You don't get to where I am through love'
- (God, The Business of God, 2021)

#### Dates

6 - 11 April

#### Time

Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

#### Duration

Approx. 80 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Ruby Culley





# MRS ROBINSON: A SOAP OPERA COMEDY

Despite the drought it was a very fluid summer...

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.

Created by Ella Filar

Performed by Casey Nicholls-Bull, Ruth Katerelos, Chris Molyneux, Alex Woolfe, Bruce Langdon, Ella Filar (keyboard), Martin Zakharov (Sax), Sally Banks (Violin), Roni Linser (Jembe)

"...all the songs and the music are world class with that smoky, jagged, disturbing Weimar feel....politically and socially charged "Kabaret with a 'K' "- Stagewhispers Dates

13 - 18 April

Time

Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 60 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by **Darren Gill** 



## midsumma festival

## THE WILL TO BE

A University Office, 1962: homosexuality is illegal. Junior lecturer, William O'Halloran, has been dismissed from his probationary position. His secret is out.

**Dates** 19 - 23 April

As he packs up his beloved belongings, William recalls the defining events that led him to this moment. Time is ticking away. His wife Lola is due to arrive any minute. And the curtain will soon rise on the student union production of Romeo and Juliet.

Time

Mon & Tue 6.30pm Wed 8.30pm Thu 6.30pm Fri 8.30pm

But Shakespeare's tale of star-crossed lovers isn't the only forbidden love story on campus. And the leading man knows this all too well...

Duration

Approx. 55 minutes

The Will To Be is an exploration of Australia's queer history, societal shame, and a defiant cry to speak truth to power.

Written, performed and co-produced by Mark Salvestro

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by
Sare Clarke

Co-produced by BCauseArts Sound design: Steve Carnell Set Design: Carmody Nicol Costume Design: Oliver Ross

BA ARTS

Winner of a Best Theatre Weekly Award at the 2020 Adelaide Fringe, and hailed as 'a masterful performance' (Stage Whispers) and 'compelling and must-see theatre' (Melbourne Observer).



## midsumma festival

## SAM I AM

Sam is your typical deaf gay millennial...

Written and performed by Sam Martin, Sam IAm explores the experiences, memories, and unknowns that a 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.

Written and Performed by Sam Martin

Directed by **Dan Graham**Dramaturgy by **Ana Maria Belo**Produced by **Andrew Lee** 

An Antipodes Theatre Company Production

All performances AUSLAN interpreted and feature live captioning.

#### Dates

20 - 22 April

#### Time

Tue 8.30pm Wed 6.30pm Thu 8.30pm

#### Duration

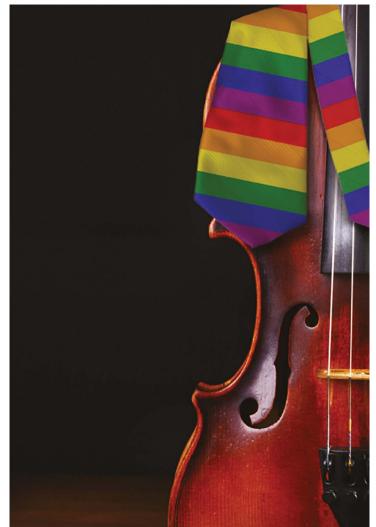
Approx. 60 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by **Brandon Pape** 







## HOMOPHONIC!

Homophonic! celebrates 10 years of mind bending queer classical music. Featuring Homosexual Harmonies, Sapphic Symphonists, a double belled bass trombone, and a harpsichord. Come and experience the soundworld of LGBTIQ+ composers as we bring the disco ball to the concert hall!

Homophonic! The queerest classical music concert with a cult following. Featuring the winner of the Homophonic! Pride Prize: Shoeb Ahmad's work for double belled bass trombone and electronics performed by Ben Anderson; a new work by the creative dream team of Wally Gunn, Maria Zajkowski, and the Consort of Melbourne; and we're making the old new again with a quartet for baroque instruments by Louisa Trewartha.

Directed and Presented by Miranda Hill

Performed by

3 shades black and the Consort of Melbourne

'Homophonic! is a magically unique experience which produces nothing less than musical utopia'
- Stage Whispers, 2020

Dates

24 - 25 April

Time

Sat 2pm "relaxed" performance, 1 hour only

Sat 7.30pm Sun 2pm & 7.30pm

Duration

Approx. 2 hours

Venue
La Mama Courthouse

Image by **K Leighton** 





#### THIS GENUINE MOMENT

Following a SOLD OUT SEASON from The Old 505 Theatre in Sydney, **This Genuine Moment** comes to La Mama

Dates 28 April - 2 May

The story follows 'R' as he wakes up on Christmas eve next to 'L' - a man he doesn't know the name of. R has never done this before, and L has done this one too many times. As they piece together their apparent one night stand, R reveals his plan to 'come out' to his family at Christmas, and for the next hour, the conversation turns through topics of family, social media, sexuality, and a touch of chlamydia. It all begins to be unravel as both R and L confront the need for the truth, not just from each other, but also from themselves.

Time

Wed & Fri 7.30pm (no show Thu) Sat 2pm & 5pm Sun 7pm

**Duration**Approx. 75 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Clare Hawley



A new queer play that asks how much easier is it to be honest with someone we don't know, than ourselves?

Written by Jacob Parker
Directed by Hayden Tonazzi
Produced by Rock Bottom Productions
Set & Costume Design by Kate Beere
Video Design by Aron Murray
Vocal Coaching by Laura Farrell
Performed by Tom Dawson & TBC

'This was one of the most human moments I've ever experienced in a theatre, and will very likely have a spot in my top 5 for the year.' - **Abbie Gallagher, Theatre Travels** 





## **GUERILLA SABBATH**

A coven of transcendent, tea-drinking, time-travelling witches wage war to restore forgotten queer histories.

Dates 27 April - 2 May

Time

Existing outside of time and space, the coven trade the memories of their own lives on earth for power, immortality, and safety. Their role is to archive the lives and deaths of all 'witches' across time; to remember their names and their stories. This role, archivist, is their anchor, and they are explicitly forbidden from actively interfering with the timeline. But as the coven desperately seeks to maintain balance within their ranks and focus on the larger task at hand, tempers flare, threatening to destroy the delicate fabric of their existence and mission.

Tue 6.30pm Thu 7.30pm (no show Wed or Fri) Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

An epic lyrical and theatrical exploration of these forgotten histories, *Guerilla Sabbath* is a fantastical reimagining of what they might have looked and sounded like. It is both a reclamation of the narrative that's been lost, and an aggressive exposé on the fallacy of the one we've been given.

#### Duration

Approx. 115 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Phoebe Taylor

#### by William Hinz

'[his words] break like a wave over the audience, leaving them sitting in reflective, grieving, silence'- **TheatreHaus** 



### YIRRAMBOI NGARNGK FESTIVAL GIVER OF LIFE

Against all odds. The Tannin women take the risk of a lifetime in a fight for their connection to country, culture and kin.

Dates 9 - 14 May

Ngarngk; Giver of life is the story of Missy, her mum Sally, and Nan Cherie, as they navigate a world that has underestimated them for far too long. Will the authorities interrupt another generation of the Tannin family? Will these women find healing through the birth of a new

generation?

Written, Directed and Produced by Naz Aree Dickerson (Creative Dawn Productions)

Producer: Candice Lorrae

Language Consultant: Denice Kickett

Performed by Kristel Kickett, Carissa Lee & Sandy

Greenwood

Stage Manager: Lowana van Dorsen

Designer: Bianca Pardo Dramaturge: Bridget Boyle

Naz Aree (she/her) is a Noongar Actor/Director/Producer and now Playwright. Stepping into a new era of her creative practice the Melbourne based artist brings us 'NGARNGK; Giver of life' her debut work as a playwright and one of two productions she has written for Yirramboi 2021

#### Time

Sun 9 - Fri 14 May all at 7pm

Tue 11 May additional matinee performance at 1pm

#### Duration

Approx. 75 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

**Image Credits** Photographer -Candice Lorrae

Model/Actor -Kristel Kickett





This is a song for Garcia Lorca Who; like many who looked For a future but were Murdered by the past

On Tuesday night 18th August 1936 Frederico del Sagrado Corazon Jesus Garcia Lorca better known as Garcia Lorca was taken by a Francoist death squad from the house of a friend in Granada; driven to a field near the farm called Cortijo de Gazpacho and shot dead. His remains are still await exhumation; like 114,266 other Republicans dead. *Gazpacho* takes up an oral history story from later in the Civil War of four Republican prisoners awaiting their last dawn.

Written by **Peter Green**Director/Composer **Faye Bendrups** 

#### Dates

18 - 23 May

#### Time

Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

#### Duration

Approx. 60 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

#### Image:

Spanish woman fighting for the Republic in the 1930s Spanish Civil War.





## LITTLE BROTHER, BIG SISTER

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*, while 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, Michel is unable to accept it. Karen becomes her brother's carer, which tests but cannot destroy their strong bond.

Writer: Michel Paul Tuomy

NDIS Arts Mentor: Tania Smith Dramaturg: Peter Matheson Mad Comrade: Sandy Jeffs

Performed by Adam Cass and Jane Barry

Director: Cathy Hunt

Directing Attachment (Emerging Director Award, Union

House): Vaishnavi Ravikrishna Set & costume designer: Eloise Kent Sound designer & composer: Jess Keeffe Lighting designer: Shane Grant

Production & Stage manager: Hayley Fox

#### Dates

25 - 30 May

#### Time

Tue 6.30pm (preview)
Wed - Thu 7.30pm
Fri 7.30pm (Auslan
interpreted show)
Sat 2pm (relaxed
performance)
R
Sat 7.30pm
Sun 5pm

Duration

Approx. 85 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by **Darren Gill** 









"Life is a raspberry – one bite and it's gone!"

Olga, Masha and Irina dream of returning to Moscow...

But life goes on – soldiers come and go, babies are born, there's a fire, and a duel, and local girl Natasha invades the household. It's time to act...

A bold and absurd new version of **Anton Chekhov**'s tragicomic classic by **Laurence Strangio** (from a literal translation by **Adam Pierzchalski** and **Laurence Strangio**).

Direction and Dramaturgy by Laurence Strangio

Performers include John Marc Desengano, Dave Evans, Tatiana Kotsimbos, Annie Lumsden, Brenda Palmer, Gabriel Partington, Adam Pierzchalski, Sophia Riozzi, Annie Thorold and Dom Westcott

Music: Dave Evans
Design: Mattea Davies

Visual dramaturgy: **Bronwyn Pringle** Production manager: **Alicia Benn** 

PART OF THE VCE
THEATRE STUDIES UNIT
3 PLAY LIST

#### **Dates**

2 - 13 June

#### Time

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

#### Duration

Approx. 140 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Darren Gill

To Moscow!





In the Mirror is about Shaun, a white Australian who comes from a broken, poor working-class family and Virginia who fled her war torn, repressive and despotic government that controls her country to live in a free, democratic and peaceful society. They are both desperately looking for proper jobs.

It is also about indifferent, detached and narcissistic Paula and Paul and how they abuse their power toward Shaun and Virginia in the job interviews they conduct with them. As well as their junior colleague Hendro, a second-generation migrant who dreams and aspires to become like Paula and Paul.

Written and Directed by Mammad Aidani

Performed by Helen Doig, Scott Welsh, Sahra Davoodi, Mark Tregonning, Zachary Kazepis and Omid Movafagh

Stage Manager: Cami Bortz

"...This play represents a voice from newcomers to our society who write from its margins with powerful representations of both the other and ourselves."

- The Age

#### Dates

15 - 20 June

#### Time

Tue 6.30pm Wed - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

#### Duration

Approx. 90 minutes

#### Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by

Darren Gill





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 have.

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.

Written by Madelaine Nunn

Directed by **Katie Cawthorne** Stage Manager **Claudia Howarth** Produced by **Madelaine Nunn** 

"Is sharp as a razor, very witty, very funny and beautifully directed with much visual humour. Madelaine Nunn— is a natural comedienne."

- Stage Whispers

Dates

23 June - 4 July

Time

Wed 6.30pm Thu - Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration

Approx. 75 minutes

Venue

La Mama Courthouse

Image by Darren Gill





# LAMAMICA

A SISTERHOOD OF EVENTS THAT FOCUS ON FOUR UNIQUE ARTFORMS.

A SERIES OF CURATED, SPECIALIST PERFORMANCE NIGHTS, RUNNING QUARTERLY IN LA MAMA'S SEASONAL PROGRAM.

#### LA MAMA POETICA

In 1967 La Mama presented poetry for the first time. This was the birth of La Mama Poetica. Now curated by **Amanda Anastasi**, *La Mama Poetica* remains a night of some of the best and most inspiring spoken word and poetry that Melbourne has to offer, with a diverse selection of both emerging and established poets.

#### LA MAMA MUSICA

One of Melbourne's longest-running music nights: a curated concert series showcasing boundary-pushing artists, and amplifying voices that deserve to be heard. Experience unusual collaborations, eye-opening conversations, new ways to listen, and opportunities for participation. It's always on a Monday... Curated by **Gemma Horbury**.

#### LA MAMA CABARETICA

Cabaretica celebrates the vibrant and eclectic cabaret scene in Melbourne. Premiering as part of the La Mamica program in February 2020, Cabaretica brings the dazzling tradition of cabaret at La Mama to a late-night Friday performance hotspot. Co-curated by Susan Bamford Caleo and Isabel Knight, Cabaretica keeps the lights on and the mic humming.

#### LA MAMA CINEMATICA

La Mama Cinematica is a fun and diverse night of film for filmmakers and cinephiles alike. With a rich history of film at La Mama, Cinematica was founded to support and promote independent short films by emerging and established Australian voices. Curated by **Tessa Spooner**, Cinematica celebrates short and experimental film, obscure music videos, the moving-image and avant-garde cinema.

TICKETS FOR ALL LA MAMICA EVENTS \$20 Full | \$10 Concession



## CINEMATICA



#### SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Cinematica: Love will present experimental film, avant-garde cinema and the moving image that explore the notion of love in all it's glorious forms.

The feature of this series is *Phantom Islands*, a pictorial film by Iranian filmmaker, **Rouzbeh Rashidi** and produced by the Experimental Film Society. *Phantom Islands* is an experimental film that exists at the boundary of documentary and fiction. It follows a couple adrift and disoriented in the stunning landscape of Ireland's islands.

S U N D A Y 6 J U N E Cinematica's #3 edition aims to explore emerging and established artists working in short film, obscure and experimental film, the moving image and avant garde cinema.



Join us for artist talks, performances and reflections by filmmakers.

Venue La Mama Courthouse Time Sun 14 Feb & Sun 6 June 7.30pm Duration Approx. 90 minutes



#### POETICA 16 FEBRUARY 7.30PM, FEATURING...

**Ouyang Yu** has published 128 books in both English and Chinese encompassing poetry, fiction, non-fiction, literary translation and criticism. His 2nd book of poetry 'Songs of the Last Chinese Poet' was shortlisted in the 1999 NSW Premier's Literary Awards and his 3rd novel 'The English Class' won the 2011 NSW Premier's Award.

**Alice Allan** is a Melbourne poet. Her books include 'The Empty Show' (Rabbit Poets Series, 2019), which was commended in the 2019 Anne Elder Award, and the chapbook 'Blanks' (Slow Loris, 2019). She is the host of the podcast 'Poetry Says' and is the co-convener of 'Impossible Machine', combining poetry and improvised performance.

**Maxime Banks** is a transdisciplinary artist, poet and filmmaker and is a time traveller of the Black American diaspora, with Chicago, Louisiana and Mississippi roots. She is creating an Afrogalactic archive and exploring non-linear counternarratives. Maxime featured in the Melbourne Fringe Festival Show 'Black to the Future' and is a 2020 Artsbox Artist in Residence.

**Brian Walters** Brian Walters is a poet and barrister and a recipient of the Monash University Poetry Prize. His latest collection is 'Brink' (2020). He is also the author of the interactive ebook 'Angels, like laundry' 'Treason: Claus von Stauffenberg' and 'The Plot to Kill Hitler'.

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Duration 90 minutes

Curated by Amanda Anastasi

## POETICA

#### POETICA 8 JUNE 7.30PM, FEATURING...

**Michael Farrell** has published several books of poetry, most recently 'Family Trees' (2020 Giramondo) and 'I Love Poetry' (2017). His previous title, 'Cocky's Joy', was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Award for Poetry in 2016. He also co-edited 'Out of the Box' (Puncher & Wattman) with Jill Jones, an anthology of Australian gay and lesbian poetry.

**Emilie Collyer** writes across and between poetry, performance and prose and is a recipient of the 2020 Varuna Publisher Fellowship with Giramondo Publishing. She has written several award-winning plays, including The Good Girl with multiple international productions. Emilie is currently a PhD candidate at RMIT researching feminist creative practice.

**Thabani Tshuma** is a Zimbabwean writer and performance poet, influenced by the myriad identity challenges of the diaspora, expatriats and immigrants. He was a 2019 Wheeler Centre Hot Desk Fellowship recipient and the 2019 Slamalamadingdong Grand Slam Champion. In 2019, he won the Melbourne Spoken Word Prize, People's Choice Award and Convener's Choice Award.

Angela Costi is the author of five poetry collections and eight produced plays. In 1995, she was the recipient of a travel award from the Australian National Languages and Literacy Board to study Ancient Greek Drama in Greece. In 2020, Angela was funded by the City of Melbourne to produce four video poems during COVID-19 lockdown.





#### MUSICA 15 FEBRUARY 7.30PM

Sounds Like Us, Like Love draws loosely on the performance-lecture by mining Anna Liebzeit's 20-year strong sound and teaching archives to present a suite of audio vignettes, emblematic of her curious and eclectic nature. Utilising live voice, electric guitar, electronic production and audio spatialisation Liebzeit's storying aims to weave in the broader theme of Aboriginal people as 'the perfect stranger', a term coined by Canadian Aboriginal scholar Susan Dion. Anna's passion with audio as an expressive medium is part of a larger survival story that is inextricably entwined in the transformative potential of working with the immaterial including art, education... and love

Written and performed by Anna Liebzeit
Audio spatialisation by Steve Stelios Adam
Haunted by Blak Metal
Brutha Ngurran: protector

Venue La Mama Courthouse

Duration Feb 70 mins / June 80 mins

Curated by Gemma Horbury

## MUSICA

(dis)locations is an immersive musical journey that explores place and displacement, in/stability and ways of seeing, as represented by the powerful metaphor of maps.

Maps: selective interpretations that reinforce particular ways of seeing.

Maps: illusions of reality.

Maps: tools, records and metaphors – of measurement, of travel, of change, of exploration, immigration, aggression and loss...

Maps: notation, instruments, starting point and framework...

(dis)locations explores metaphors of boundary, fluidity and instability, the tangible and the illusory, place and displacement, views of the past and pathways to futures... Unfolding structures, visual imagery, and the movement of musical components, performers and audience, narrate various possible stories without endpoints. Where are you (dis)located?

Composer/director: K. Travers Eira







#### CABARETICA 5 MARCH 10 P M

MC: Maude Davey

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

Image:

Sarah Walker

#### Po Po Mo Co

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

Theresa Harrison

Image:

Venue La Mama Courthouse **Duration** 90 mins Curated by Susan Bamford Caleo and Isabel Knight

#### Mama Alto

Mama Alto is a jazz singer, cabaret artiste & gender transcendent diva. She is a transgender & queer person of colour who works with the radical potential of storytelling, strength in softness and power in vulnerability.

Image:

Alexis D. Lea **Photography** 

## CABARETICA

In June Cabaretica we shout-out against the closures of theatre departments and cuts to student theatre organisations by numerous Australian universities - NO!

#### MC: Fiona Scott-Norman

Scott-Norman Fiona writer, satirist, а cabaret director. DJ. and performer. Known for her acerbic wit and hyphenated surname. has a comedy column in the Big Issue, a debating queen, her latest book This Chicken Life: stories of chickens and Australians who love them. She teaches Creative Nonfiction Writing **RMIT** at University.

Image: James Penlides

#### **Picked Last For Sport**

University Trobe group Picked alumni Last For Sport was born in 2018 as a means of not losing contact with uni friends. Since then cofounders Ryan Smith and Sarah Wall have devised various cabarets with help from the team with all original music and scripts. With a focus on sustainable theatre they aim to use recycled. upcycled and borrowed costumes and props.

Design: Cat Sanzaro Image: Matthew Howat and Melissa Viola

#### **Patrick Collins**

Patrick Collins comedian. magician, mime and the host of Melbourne's alternative comedv night Shrub Comedv. Thev were nominated for Best Comedy at Melbourne Fringe and the Golden Gibbo (Best independent show) at MICF in 2019 and won Best Comedy at Melbourne Fringe in 2020. They are alumni of Monash University.

Image: Samara Clifford

#### CABARETICA JUNE 10 P M



# THE GANG OF FIVE



#### Date

10 - 14 February

#### Time

Wed - Sun 7.30pm Sun 2pm

#### Duration

Approx. 100 minutes

#### Venue

Studio 1, 34 Little Turner St, Abbotsford

Chen Ting lives in a wealthy Melbourne suburb with her uncle Chen Fu, a dealer in priceless Chinese antiques. From Hong Kong, she is fulfilling her father's ambition by studying Commerce at Melbourne University. But is she? Or is she pursuing a hidden passion? Another house guest Xiao Jun had been a child prodigy famed for his piano recitals in the prestigious concert halls of Europe and New York, but is now a shadow of his former self for reasons he keeps secret. He is recovering through the generosity and care of Chen Fu's household. Chen Fu's wife Song Mie-Lien, tormented by a past sordid and unhappy life keeps it a secret from her husband for fear of losing him. Huang Chung, a civil engineer, is a serious art collector and regularly visits Chen Fu befriending all members of that household. But he too is plagued with guilt and secrets.

Events converge where all members of the house are forced to reveal their secrets, which by chance or circumstances are mysteriously interwoven. A bitter sweet comedy dispersed with *lied*, the play describes the plots to resolve all their problems.

Written and Directed by **Noel Fidge**Performers **Raymond Khong, Maurice Wan, Po Goh, Cindy Liu** and **Yu Lin**Lighting by **Hayley Fox** Production Liaison: **Liz Jones** 

# INCOGNITO!



**Date** Friday 9 April

#### Time

6.30pm (Bar opens 5.30pm)

#### Duration

Approx. 50 minutes

### Ticket Prices All tix \$15

#### Venue

Brunswick Neighbourhood House, 43A De Carle Street, Brunswick

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

Six strangers attend a health spa, high in the Swiss Alps. Soon they become involved in murder, betrayal, hypnotism and disguise. Vera Brady is dying for a martini, but other people are dying for real. How will she find the killer when no one is who they appear to be?

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

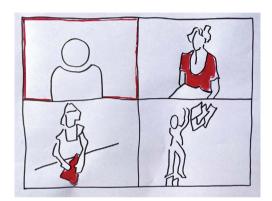
Written and Produced by

James Hazelden and Nicholas Rasche



(See page 21 for full credits)

## LA MAMA ONLINE PRESENTS: THE PLAY'S THE THING



A truthful romp into the world of virtual rehearsal...

Originally written for a La Mama production. Then came C....D! Rehearsals are thrilling, terrifying and exhausting... then add in Zoom!

But this is an affectionate tribute to all the wonderful people of theatre. Any similarity to any writer/actor/ director may be intentional.

Written and Directed by Brenda Palmer Performed by Maureen Hartley, Clare Larman and Louise O'Dwyer

#### Dates

10 - 14 March

#### Time

6:30pm launch with live Q&A Wednesday, available online until Sunday 14th March

Duration Approx. 50minutes

Online event visit lamama.com.au

Tickets by donation

Image by Sarah & Roger Palmer

Speak the speech I pray you As I pronounced it to you Trippingly on the tongue. - Shakespeare

#### LA MAMA FOR KIDS ONLINE PRESENTS:

## SUPER JENNY!



#### Dates

Tue 6 April Sat 10 April Tue 13 April Sat 17 April

#### Time

Tuesdays 3.30pm Saturdays 11am

#### **Duration**

4 x 10 minute episodes

Free online event visit lamama.com.au

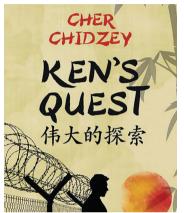
Image by Abigail Wilson at BeScene Videography

Jenny loves mermaids, eating cake, dancing, learning new things from her best friend Ned and her favourite colour is blue. Jenny has a secret... she is really Super Jenny! Jenny's Nanny told her that a super hero is someone who helps others, and Jenny helps her friends and family all the time, which makes her **Super Jenny**. But sometimes even super heroes need help.

This series of pre school children's entertainment is engaging, fun and educational. Each episode incorporates fine and gross motor skills, Auslan sign language, shape recognition, singing, dancing and musical terms. Super Jenny encourages creativity, imaginative play and cognitive learning that goes hand in hand to enhance all children's physical and intellectual development.

Created and performed by Jennifer Monk Music by Natalie Jeffreys

# LA MAMA PLAY READINGS PRESENTS:



#### KEN'S QUEST BY ADAM J A CASS

An adaptation of Cher Chidzey's novel about Ken, a middle-aged Chinese engineer who arrives in Australia with a fake identity on a holiday working visa.

Ken has big dreams of wealth to be made for the benefit of his family, but his imminent visa expiry forces him to enrol in a communication course at TAFE. Meeting Julia, his communication teacher shifts his quest to embracing life... Ken's Quest gives insight into migrants' frustrations over work place dynamics, under employment, discrimination and alienation.

Date Sat Feb 20 2pm Venue La Mama Courthouse Duration 90 mins

All Tickets \$10

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#### ADA BY DORA ABRAHAM

The Advanced Domestic Assistant, for all your home and lifestyle needs.

In the modern home, every family needs an Ada. Adas are friendly, helpful, and a little bit sassy. She caters for your every need, while becoming your best friend, caretaker and confidante. But what does Ada want? This new work asks questions of our future and our present, in a world where technology and human connection are in constant conversation with each other.

Directed by **Keegan Bragg** Image by **Chiew-Jin Khut** 

Date Sat Mar 20 2pm Venue La Mama Courthouse Duration 75 mins

All Tickets \$10

# DEBATE ON DEMOCRACY: IS WESTERN DEMOCRACY SAFE?

A Symposium discussing the current state of democratic politics, hosted by The W B Yeats Society of Victoria Inc.

In recent times some of the top-ranking world media political journalist mention 'neo-fascism' more and more. Is this a warning or a wake-up call to western democracy?

The recent behaviour of President Trump in the U.S.A and UK PM Boris Johnson has created much angst.

Date Saturday 27 February Time 2pm Duration 3 hours Tickets \$15 full | \$15 conc.

Panel to be annnounced in January, check website for details.

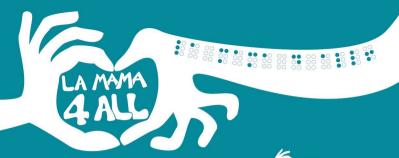




Vale Vic Saunders, beloved 'ostler' at La Mama over many years.

Rest in peace.

Pencil drawing of Vic by Lloyd Jones.







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

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



#### **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.

# AUSLAN INTERPRETING,

#### 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.

# BOOKING TICKETS

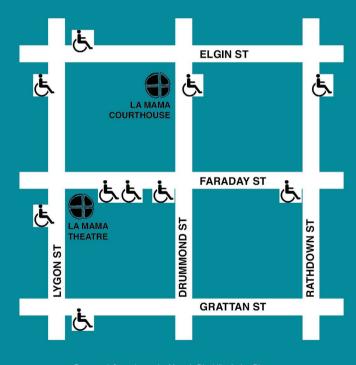
Tickets can be booked either through the La Mama website or by phoning 03 9347 6948.

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.



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.



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

