

L A M A M A P R E S E N T S

# DEAR IDA

*Dance can give us hope, community and healing in a chaotic world.*



Dear Ida is a performance that gives contemporary audiences a unique insight into the pivotal role that WWII dancehalls played in maintaining cohesion and healing on the Australian home-front. For many, the dances were everything. The dances were euphoric, a lifeline, a place of beauty and excitement in a world of constant turbulence. At the dances you could lose yourself in sensual pleasures and escape the tensions and grief brought by war. Weaving stories of service people and civilians together, Dear Ida provides an opportunity to understand the profound healing impact of dance in a time of trauma. This story has new found relevance in modern society.

**Director Lisa Petty says:**

*"While the stories of the dancehalls are set in the landscape of WWII the themes within Dear Ida are universal and especially relevant today. As the world heals from two years of turbulence, the importance of places where the community could regularly meet and share fun, laughter, physical and sensual connection has never been clearer."*

Throughout the creative development of this work, Lisa Petty interviewed many men and women throughout Australia who lived on the WWII home-front. For these people the dancehall experiences remained a constant luminous memory. The memory was often one of euphoria, unity, and...fun! It is these stories that formed the basis of Dear Ida.

**Past production:**

Dear Ida was previously performed as part of a master's thesis production and performed at Glen Eira Town Hall - a major WWII dance venue.

The stories and images within Dear Ida resonated not only with those who lived on the Australian WWII home-front but also with their children. Many audience members spoke of their parents meeting at dances or remembered their mother or father dancing in the kitchen. For others, Dear Ida provided insight into the lives of elders who had previously remained silent about their wartime experience.

**Media quotes:**

*"Dear Ida crosses borders of time and generations. It forges a connection from decades past to present times by exploring the universality of human grief and hope."* - Dr Guillermo Anad

*"The stories of elders are largely absent from our stages, making this a particularly compelling and important work."* - Dr William Peterson

Produced by Kelpie Cross Productions

Directed by Lisa Petty

Assistant Director Tom Halls

Stage Manager: Olivia Walker

Music / Sound Design by Faye Bendrups

Lighting Design by Greg Carroll

Performed by Faye Bendrups, Tom Halls, Sally Grage-Moore, Georgia Malaxos, Chanelle Sheehan, Justin Tan, Oliver Tapp

Image by Helen Madden

**SEASON** 5 - 10 April  
**TIMES** Tues & Wed 6.30pm  
 Thurs, Fri & Sat 7.30pm  
 Sun 4pm

**VENUE** La Mama Courthouse  
 349 Drummond St, Carlton

**LENGTH** Approx. 60 minutes

**TICKETS** \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession

**BOOKINGS** 03 9347 6948 or [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au)

For production shots and media kit please visit [lamama.com.au/media](http://lamama.com.au/media)