



SHE WROTE THE LETTER

JUNE 22 - JULY 3, 2022



Playwright - Kieran Carroll

Director & Dramaturg - Cathy Hunt

Performers - Tania McNaughton & Maria Nordenberg

Associate Producer - Rachel Kamath

Lighting Design - Harrie Hogan

Sound Design - Jess Keeffe

Set & Costume Design - Grace Mallinson

Operator - Natalya Shield

Image - Darren Gill

Poster design Stephen Banham - Letterbox

Publicity - Cherry Hands Media

Thank you:

Adam and Alice Richards, Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman, Ellie Kent, Hayley Fox, Heather Carroll, Jentah Sobott, Jo Briscoe, Julie Blyth & St Martins Youth Arts Centre, Kit Cunneen, Liz Jones & everyone at La Mama, Richard Murphet, Shannon Loughnane, Siteworks Brunswick 'These are the Projects We Do Together', Stephen Banham & Letterbox, Steph Robinson & Richmond Uniting Church, Thom Schmocker, Victorian Actors' Benevolent Trust, Warwick and Leda Bray & Wendy Hunt

ODE TO 'SHE WROTE THE LETTER'

Written as part of 'Death Knell', a project by Lily Fish
(2021)

By Tania McNaughton

'She Wrote the Letter' has been a dream of mine forever

Beginning with a letter and ending with a friend was even better.

A writer transformed the letter into a play and

Suddenly we were about to hit the stage.

Along came Covid and the play was delayed, delayed and
delayed.

For us we continued with hope and prayed

that the play would continue with us ending on the stage.

St Martin's Theatre helped all the way and thankfully next year we
will visit the stage.

But for now you will have to wait, wait, wait for that day.

To my best friend Ute Dahlke. Thank you for your ongoing
support throughout our journey with 'She Wrote The
Letter'. Without your wonderful friendship over the past
43 years, this play would never have been possible.
Looking forward to performing our play in Berlin!

-Tania McNaughton

Kieran Carroll is a Melbourne playwright who has
had numerous productions in Australia, America and
England. Recent productions include NEWK - The John
Newcombe Story - (Glen Street Theatre, Sydney, 2020)
and The Youthful Adventures of Damon Dukirk (SaraSolo
Festival, Florida, 2022). Since April 2022, a stage musical
adaptation of Rick Springfield's autobiography Late, Late
At Night has been touring Victorian venues.

Cathy Hunt is a director and dramaturg who trained at
the VCA. Her work includes: Phantasmagoria at Theatre
Works, (I'm Going to Die in This Bracket), nominated for
Best Theatre, Melbourne Fringe. What Every Girl Should
Know at Brunswick Mechanics, Love/Chamberlain by
Bridget Mackey, Theatre Works, All the Locks are Solid
& Tight (adapted / directed), La Mama Explorations,
The Superqueer Murderess Show (adapted/co-created),
Arts House: Melbourne Fringe, Her Father's Daughter
by Keziah Warner, a new Hedda Gabler, Prahran Council
Chambers, Tiny Remarkable Bramble, KXT and Steppe
by Grace Pundyk, a site specific work, Newport Rail
Yards. Cathy dramaturged LuNa by Keziah Warner, which
won the Patrick White Playwright's Award. Les Mamelles
de Tiresias, which Cathy directed, won a Green Room
Award for 'Contribution to the Development of Opera
in Victoria'. Upcoming works include Little Brother, Big
Sister at La Mama, drawn from lived experience.

Tania McNaughton discovered her passion for acting later in life. She has studied with US master teacher, Howard Fine, and completed his Melbourne full-time course in 2017. She has also trained with Damien Walsh-Howling at Brave Studio in Melbourne, Darlo Drama in Sydney and recently completed a course at the Improv Conspiracy Theatre, also in Melbourne. She has also appeared in a number of short films and travelled to regional Victoria with the play *The Truth is Longer than a Lie*, written and directed by Kieran Carroll. Tania is now starring in her own play *She Wrote The Letter*, which is about her long-term friendship with Ute from former East Germany.

Maria Nordenberg hails from Sweden and is a Melbourne based actress. She is a graduate of Howard Fine Acting Studio in Australia. Before relocating to Melbourne, she performed with Hobart Repertory Theatre Society and Short & Sweet Theatre Hobart. On screen she has appeared in several short films, playing the lead role in *Living with Greg* and more recently *Ostrich*. She also appeared in the feature film *Sisters of War*. Maria is delighted to share *She Wrote The Letter* with you.

Jess Keffe, theatre-maker, multi-instrumentalist and composer, enjoys a variety of musical and theatrical pursuits. Recent work includes *Poona* (Next Wave), *The Human Voice* (Periscope), *What Every Girl Should Know* (Brunswick Mechanics Institute), *Unsuckle* (La Mama), *Disparate Scenes for Millennial Dreams* (Periscope), *All The Locks are Solid & Tight* (La Mama Explorations), *Nomnomnom* at Testing Grounds (Roshelle Fong), *RUR2020* (Playreactive), *Her Father's Daughter* (Hotel Now), *Renae Shadler RESTORE* (Winner: RAV Market Ready, nominated for Best Performance, Melbourne Fringe), *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* (Theatreworks), *The Seagull* (Black Apple Theatre), *In the Dark* (Metanoia), and *In The Bleak Midwinter* (as cellist, Malthouse, The Rabble). In 2016 she was selected for the MTC's inaugural Women in Theatre Program, and seconded to John with Russell Goldsmith. She performs around Australia as a cellist and electronic artist under the name Tarsier.

Harrie Hogan is a lighting designer who began her training at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts before completing a bachelor's degree at the Victorian College of the Arts. Her recent design credits include *Kerosene* (dir. Benjamin Nichol, 2021), *Analog* (Three Fates Theatre, 2021), *Grace* (Red Stitch Actors' Theatre, 2022) and *Nothing* (A Ry Presentation, 2022). She also works as the production manager for Na Djinang Circus, helping bring their repertoire of shows to audiences across Australia. Harrie is a keen collaborator and proud to be counted amongst the growing number of women in her field.

Rachel Kamath is an actor with extensive experience in theatre and screen work. A graduate of 'Stella Adler Academy of Acting' in Los Angeles, her recent theatre credits include Reigen (Periscope Productions) and What Every Girl Should Know (Brunswick Mechanics Institute). She featured in a lead role in independent feature film The Taverna (SBS on Demand) and had a supporting role in Jack Irish S2 (ABC). She has recently completed filming as a series regular for an upcoming TV series for Apple TV+. She Wrote The Letter is her first producing credit.

Grace Mallinson is a production designer who has recently completed her training at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). Her previous work includes set and costume design for the opera Little Women (2021, Melbourne Conservatorium of Music). Throughout 2021, she completed an internship at Form Imagination, contributing to the construction of sets for the Asia Pacific tour of Broadway's Hometown and the Australian premiere production of Moulin Rouge. Grace was also the recipient of the VCA Director's Design Award in 2019 for excellence in set and costume design.



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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.

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