



# TALKING TO THE FUTURE

JUNE 22 - JULY 3, 2022



Written and Directed by Darryl Emmerson

Performed by

Marco Lawrence, Christina McLachlan, Ezra Bix,  
Annie Ryall, Alex Thomson

Composer: Brett Wake

Musician: Joe Bourke

Movement: Janice Florence

Costumes and Set: Madeline Nibali

Lighting and Sound: Shane Grant

Stage Manager: Katie Williams

Image by Stuart Sullivan

**Author's Note:** A few years ago, in 2016, I became interested in the figure of Alfred Deakin, sometimes regarded as Australia's greatest Prime Minister. This was the time of the Trump election in the US, Brexit in the UK and what seemed to me an increasing cynicism and apathy in Australian politics, a partial loss of faith in our democracy.

So my mind began to play around the Federation era, what its principal figures were trying to do, what sort of people they were, what were their words, dreams, fears and visions. What I found surprised me, and became the play.

After several years' very interesting research, I wrote a script, La Mama gave it a reading in 2019, and now this production. Their support has been invaluable at every point.

### **Alex Thomson - Herbert Payne, Walter Murdoch**

An actor, writer and director, Alex enjoys a mix of screen and stage work. Recent acting credits include 'Empathy Training' at La Mama, and independent films 'Dan & Jan Make Plans for Japan' and 'High Country Quiet'. As director, his short 'The Quirky Best Friend' screened at Flickerfest in Sydney and Melbourne, and a new short 'They Will Know' has recently been completed.

### **Annie Ryall - Elizabeth Armstrong**

Annie's theatrical career was born in the fertile milieu of 70s Melbourne while neglecting her Arts degree. She has written and performed in theatre from Beckett to Hibberd, at La Mama, Playbox and the Flying Trapeze. Her most recent original work was 'Uploading the Goddess'. Find her at: [www.writingbackwards.net](http://www.writingbackwards.net)

### **Brett Wake - Composer**

Along with degrees in BAMus (Sydney) and Contemporary Music Technology (Latrobe), Brett has many years' experience as pianist, composer, band leader, teacher, accompanist and arranger. Credits include playing in Bop Til You Drop (R&B revival), jazz ensembles, backing bands such as the Reels, children's theatre and scores for independent theatre and film productions. Recently he has been working to help homeless people and develop affordable housing solutions across Australia, including some very remote locations. Hear Brett's music on Sound Cloud and other (non-exploitative) streaming platforms.

### **Christina McLachlan - Ivy Deakin**

A graduate of The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre, New York, Christina's film and TV credits include 'Neighbours', 'The Proposal' (dir. Ben Whimpey) and 'Under the Surface' (dir. Becky Bouchier). Theatre credits include 'In the Mens' (La Mama), 'Appropriate Kissing for All Occasions' (Melbourne Fringe) and a continuing regional tour of 'The Truth Is Longer Than a Lie' (Kieran Carroll).

### **Darryl Emmerson - Writer/ Director**

Darryl's plays have been staged and broadcast throughout Australia, and both The Pathfinder and Martin and Gina were Green Room-nominated. Associate Editor of [www.pendulumpapers.com](http://www.pendulumpapers.com), he has also taught playwriting at RMIT and performed widely as a singer on stage, record and television. Directing credits include Ibsen's 'Ghosts' (Open Stage), 'A Hero of the People' (La Mama), and his play 'I Write What I See', about Christina Stead. He has a particular interest in Australian biography.

### **Ezra Bix - George Reid**

A graduate of NIDA, Ezra has performed in Australia, England, the US, Canada, and throughout Asia. He has toured in 'Yes, Prime Minister' with Philip Quast, 'The Club' with John Wood, and 'The Last Confession' with David Suchet. Recently featured in 'Clickbait' for Netflix, his other recent theatre roles include Sir John Monash in 'Monash in Love & War', and Dr Faustus in 'Wittenburg'.

### **Janice Florence - Choreographer**

Janice has been involved for over 35 years in theatre, dance and human movement. The Artistic Director of Weave Movement Theatre, comprising disabled and non-disabled performers for 25 years, she was the inaugural recipient of the Australia Council Award for Disability Arts-Established Artist in 2019.

### **Joe Bourke - Piano**

An Honours graduate of the Conservatorium of Music at the University of Melbourne, Joe has performed throughout Australia and abroad. When he is not performing, Joe enjoys collaborating with other musicians as a composer, arranger and accompanist.

### **Madeline Nibali - Costumes and Set**

Madeline has always sewn, built, painted, or learnt whatever skills were required to realise her creative visions. Credits include La Mama's 2021 'Voyagers', Salty Theatre's 'Voldemort and the Teenage Hogwarts Musical Parody', costume making for Australian Contemporary Opera Company's 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', and more. She has a Masters of Design for Performance from VCA, making her a qualified master of disguise.

### **Marco Lawrence - Alfred Deakin**

Since 1990's 'Legend of the Self-Sufficient Child' Marco has appeared in many plays and readings at La Mama, including 'Jobs R Us' and 'The Good Person of Szechuan'. Film credits include 'Some Happy Day', 'The Knowing', 'The Tender Hook', on television 'City Homicide', 'Tangle', 'Rush', 'Satisfaction', 'Blue Heelers', 'Stingers', 'Neighbours', and 'Miss Fisher', and for the Melbourne Fringe in '3XY Or I Die'. He is looking forward to all things Deakin as he prepares to talk to the future.

### **Shane Grant - Lighting Designer**

A VCA graduate, Shane has designed more than 500 shows. An artistic director with Metanoia theatre, he has also toured the world; operated venues; written, performed, produced, and sold tickets to shows; sold drinks in the foyer at shows; built sets and theatres; and given the St Crispin's Day speeches that get everyone over the line on opening night.

### **Katelyn Williams - Stage Manager**

Katie is an early career technical arts professional. They have experience at wide variety of roles in the live production industry; most recently directing 'Bright Star' (Theatre of the Damned). At the conclusion of 'Talking to the Future's' season they will stage manage and operate for 'Jane Eyre' (La Mama).

## Alfred Deakin

- 1856 Born Fitzroy
- 1877 Graduates in law at University of Melbourne
- 1878 Journalist at The Age
- 1879 Wins seat of West Bourke in Victorian Parliament
- 1882 Marries Elizabeth (Pattie) Browne. Three daughters Ivy, Stella and Vera.
- 1885 Introduces Factories and Shops Act, which provides for inspection of factories, limits working hours of women and young people (some of them worked fifteen hours a day), and compensates workers for injury
- 1886 Introduces first legislation in Australia to promote irrigation
- 1887 Attends Colonial Conference in London
- 1887-1900 Works to bring about Federation with Edmund Barton, Richard O'Connor, and others
- 1901 Elected MP for Ballarat in Federal Parliament

### Prime minister 1903–1904, 1905–1908, 1909–1910

- 1902 Advocates for High Court of Australia
- 1903 Conciliation and Arbitration Act, Immigration Restriction Act
- 1906 Establishes Bureau of Census and Statistics, passes Australian Industries Protection Act
- 1908 Establishes Bureau of Meteorology, Commonwealth Literary Fund, passes Quarantine Act, introduces Invalid and Old Age Pensions
- 1909 Authorises creation of separate Australian coinage
- 1913 Leaves Parliament
- 1919 Dies South Yarra
- 1944 His book 'A Federal Story' published



Office Phone: (03) 9347 6948

Office Hours: Mon – Fri | 10:30am – 5:30pm

205 Faraday Street, Carlton VIC 3053

[www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au) | [info@lamama.com.au](mailto:info@lamama.com.au)

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.

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the 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 for helping us rebuild La Mama. Thank you!

