



MAYA DRIVE

JULY 27 - AUGUST 7, 2022



Office Phone: (03) 9347 6948

Office Hours: Mon – Fri | 11am – 4pm

Box Office opens 4pm on performance nights, 12pm
for Playreadings and 2pm Sundays

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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.

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!



Emma Jo McKay (Shelley - Taurus - she/her) trained at Ward Acting Studio in New York. Her theatre credits include: 'Jacuzzi' performed in both Melbourne and North Carolina; 'Beyond Priscilla' (Mid-Summa Festival); 'Merry Christmas Bitches', an original comedy written by Samantha Hill; 'Prayers to Broken Stone' (Melbourne Fringe Festival); 'The Mound Builders' performed in the USA; and 'A Christmas Tale'. Emma's screen credits include the 'Last Breath' YouTube Series Episode 3 'Ugly Monster', written and produced by Girls Act Good in Melbourne.

Lily Thomson (the Mayan - Taurus - she/her) is a performer and writer based in Melbourne/ Naarm. She recently completed her Advanced Diploma in Acting at The National Theatre Drama School in St Kilda (2019-2021), receiving The Cybec Scholarship. In 2020 she performed / co-wrote the audio play 'A Recorded Companion' (Melbourne Fringe Festival) which went on to win the award for Inclusion and Accessibility. Lily is a current proud member of the She Writes Collective with Theatreworks.

Maya Lee Cooper (Helen - Aries - she/her) studied Michael Chekov acting technique and Speech formation with Dawn Langman, in Melbourne. She also trained in clowning, storytelling and improvisational dance. Some of Maya's theatrical highlights include a mad bitch, 'Trojan Women' (South Australian Theatre Company); an existential tramp, Waiting for Godot, Anja (The Cherry Orchard); and a man eating bear in Shakespeare 'Winter's Tale'.

Stella Economou (Cori - Aries - she/hers) recently performed the role of 'Paulina' in Shakespeare's 'The Winter's Tale' and 'Hercules' in Shelley's 'Prometheus Unbound' (The Michael Drama Group). Stella received her Bachelors in History of Arts and Masters in Teaching, in Australia & studied theatre in Athens, Greece.

Matthew Richard Walsh (he/she - Ray - Sagittarius) is an actor, director, and producer, as well as the Artistic Director and founder of Cracked Actors Theatre (CAT). Since 2015 Matthew has played roles in rAPT's 'The Darkside of Midnight', 'Forget Me Not' (Theatre 451), 'Geli-Hitler's Niece' for Globe Players, 'Chronic', 'The Shadows & the Hues', 'The Privatisation of Ward 9B', and numerous play readings at La Mama. Matthew directed Cracked Actors, 'The Actor Crack'd' at La Mama in 2018. Most recently he directed 'Rain Falling On the Abattoir' at the CAT.

J Shaw (director - he / him - Sagittarius) maya-drive is J's directorial debut.

Cassiel Garward (Leo - Ben - he/him) is an actor and poet. Most recently, he played three parts in 'Softly Softly'—Three Short Australian Plays, produced by Quiet Roar (Collection Bar). He studied acting with The National Theatre, The Liminal Space, and The Impulse Company and Creative Writing at Deakin University. Highlights include 'The Winter's Tale' and 'Pericles' (The Michael Drama Group); 'Life's A Dream (Pedro Calderón de la Barca, The Liminal Space), and National Theatre productions of 'Betrayal' (Harold Pinter) and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' (Tennessee Williams). Cassiel's poem 'Winter' is published in Wordly Magazine.

Tom Pickering (Scorpio - Cameron - he/him) graduated from the Ballarat Arts Academy with a Bachelors of Acting for Stage and Screen at the end of 2020, & with 'Maya Drive' undertakes his first role outside University. Tom is further developing his creative training to become a professional wrestler with the Melbourne City Wrestling Academy (MCWA).

Jane Hyland (costumes) has had a lengthy career as a Costume Designer for films, theatre, opera, dance, television, and commercials. Most recently, she worked on the short film 'Nest' & the drama documentary 'Lawless the Real Bushrangers.' Career highlights include working for The London Contemporary Dance Theatre, Barry Kosky's production of Nabucco for Opera Australia, and for TV series including 'The Secret Life of Us', 'Ocean Girl', 'Nancy Wake', 'Anzacs' and 'The Last Outlaw', as well as feature films, 'Squizzy Taylor', 'Slim Dusty', 'Buddies' & 'Backstage'. Jane is also owner of Jane Hyland Costumes.

Chuck Martin (lighting) is a Lighting Designer, Theatre Technician and Stage Manager. He studied at Box Hill Institute (formally TAFE). After spending lockdown honing the craft of hand roasted coffee he is now back working under the lights at La Mama for the second time this year after designing and running the play "Right Words on the Day" by Kevin Summers.

Katherine Ellis (Aquarius - she/her - Assistant Director) is a trained Bothmer gymnast, circus acrobat & juggler, beginning her career w Circus Monoxide & Circus Oz in the late-90s. Katherine practises Feldenkrais & has been a member of the Michael Drama Group since 2019.

Milton (script) 'Maya-Drive' is the second Milton to be performed at La Mama. Chronic (2018) explored the fine line between conspiracy theory and cricket which apparently has gotten finer.