

THE JOB INTERVIEW

Corporations are in the red, but comedy is in the black.

La Mama presents, *The Job Interview* - a funny, biting, surreal takedown of the madness of the current white collar workplace.

Emma attends a job interview with Alex for a low-level office position. What follows is a 50-minute meeting that slowly spirals out of control, and into a battle for sanity and survival. Alex, the initially friendly manager, slowly manipulates Emma into a series of weird tests and strange situations until her very life may be in danger. And all for a low-paying white collar job that she doesn't even really want.

The play is written and directed by James Hazelden. Before Hazelden cowrote and directed murder mystery comedies with Mystery Radio Theatre, he worked corporate jobs and has sat on both sides of the job interview desk. His play is a tense, humourous and savage attack on gaslighting, bureaucracy and corporate greed.

"As a playwright, when the COVID lockdowns happened, I was told I had to write *King Lear*," says Hazelden. "But I Googled it and discovered it had already been written so I started writing this instead." While the play was started during lockdown, it was really our return to workplaces that highlighted the antiquated and unnecessary processes companies put their hapless employees through. "Once we took a step away from the modern workplace, we were able to see how mad it was," says Hazelden. "Systems built on systems with no one knowing how to use them and managers who had no people skills having to deal with people. It was carnage but no one in charge wanted to change it. That's pretty funny and is at the core of the play. Alex, the manipulative, threatened manager is one of the most deliciously evil characters I have ever written. I think audiences will really enjoy how truly horrible she is".

The *Job Interview* opens at La Mama HQ on 11 April for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

For information and interviews, please contact James Hazelden
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Written and Directed by
James Hazelden

Starring
Kathryn Tohill and Esther Myles

Lighting and Sound Design by
Allan Hirons

Marketing and Images by
Chris Tomkins

SEASON	11th - 16th April, 2023
TIMES	Tue - Fri: 7.30 PM Sat: 4pm & 7.30 PM Sun: 1pm & 4pm
VENUE	La Mama HQ 205 Faraday St, Carlton VIC 3053
LENGTH	Approx. 55 minutes
TICKETS	\$30 Adult \$20 Concession Preview \$20.00 Mob \$8.00
BOOKINGS	03 9347 6948 www.lamama.com.au