



MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA MAMA PRESENTS CACTUS BY MADELAINE NUNN

Winner of the ATYP Rebel Wilson Theatre Maker Scholarship, Shortlisted for the Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award Nominated for an Australian Writer's Guild Award, *Cactus* is a brutally funny, heartbreakingly honest award-winning play for anyone who is or ever has been a teenager.

"Everyone knows that friendships made in bathrooms are ones that last for life."



Cactus follows Abbie and her best friend PB as they navigate their last year of high school. It's going well. I mean, they're still virgins, but it's going well. Milestones are being met. Exams are drawing near. Freedom is on the horizon. Then Abbie gets some news that suddenly and unceremoniously plunges her into a world she wasn't ready for. In good news for year twelve students, *Cactus* has been selected for the 2023 VCE Theatre Studies Unit 4 Playlist. It's refreshing that students will be given the opportunity to see a work set in a contemporary Australian context, empowering them to relate and reflect on the experiences of characters like themselves on stage.

"(*Cactus*) A vivid and touching and effortlessly funny portrayal puts the intimate textures of female companionship centre stage." – The Age

"*Cactus* is an opportunity to see a great combination of both writing and performing talent that are clearly working in complete harmony." – Stage Whispers

Cactus was inspired by the beauty and ferocity of female friendship alongside the taboos and shame that start in adolescence and continue to confront women throughout their lives. "I'm constantly in awe of the unwavering strength and resilience young women possess", says Nunn. "I wanted to authentically capture the comedy and the chaos in the fraught transition from girlhood to whatever is meant to come after that." Nunn has quickly gained a reputation for creating quietly clever original work that isn't afraid to take risks. With nuanced direction from Katie Cawthorne (*Pillow Fight, Hell's Canyon, The Three Graces*) and a cracking creative team including Georgia Heath and Fran Sweeney-Nash *Cactus* is a new Australian work full of insight and humour.

CACTUS opens on 16th August and runs until the 27th August at the La Mama Courthouse. Don't miss out! Bookings and information www.lamama.com.au

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Directed by Katie Cawthorne Performed by Georgia Heath and Fran Sweeney-Nash Lighting Design Kris Chainey Sound Design Rachel Stone Associate Set Designer & Costume Designer Angelica Rush Produced by Madelaine Nunn Production Manager Sian Halloran Image Darren Gill



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