

LA MAMA PRESENTS

STRAIGHT WHITE MALE: NORM AND AHMED BY ALEX BUZO
FOLLOWED BY RADHA AND RYAN BY NICK PARSONS

In a compelling juxtaposition of past and present, the two plays of Straight White Male transcend time yet resonate with contemporary relevance.

The echoes of 1968 reverberate into 2024 as both plays explore a single familiar premise: an empty street, late at night, where a white man confronts an Asian student. Different eras, different people, yet the same gnawing fear pulsates through their encounter. As Ryan says, "Men are seriously confused and angry – but when men get angry they want to hurt someone ... And mostly the first person they hurt is themselves."

With "Norm and Ahmed" by Alex Buzo, a seminal work from 1968, serving as a historical anchor, audiences are propelled into the present with "Radha and Ryan," a new play penned by three-time AWGIE winner Nick Parsons, delving deeper into the complexities of male identity and societal expectations.

APRIL 23 - MAY 5, 2024 AT LA MAMA HQ

**For full dates, times & details see the next page
or check La Mama's [website](#)**

La Mama Theatre, 205 Faraday Street Carlton VIC 3053 Australia
info@lamama.com.au | +613 9347 6948 | www.lamama.com.au

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STRAIGHT WHITE MALE

A DOUBLE BILL PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY NICK PARSONS

Praise for Nick Parsons:

Dead Heart

'A gripping contempo drama set in the middle of the Australian wilderness, "Dead Heart" provides thought-provoking intrigue and suspense in a spectacular outdoor setting. It also is a notable showcase for co-producer Bryan Brown, in one of his best performances to date as a cop caught up in tribal Aboriginal conflicts. Intelligent and timely, pic should find appreciative audiences around the world and fest exposure should drum up word of mouth for this classy item.' - David Stratten, Variety

The Straits

'...the 10-episode series has a solid story, plenty of forward momentum and, for the American viewer, an unfamiliar setting that supplies guilt-free exoticism ... "The Straits" mixes gangster film and culture clash formulas in interesting ways and occasionally provides some slyly humorous dialogue.' - Mike Hale, New York Times

This double bill explores themes of violence, discussions of rape and sexual violence, mentions of suicide and miscarriage and includes the use of homophobic and racist slurs. Viewer discretion is advised.

Cast: Danny McGinlay, Gursimar Kaur, Isaac Rajakariar, Sam Eade

Stage Management: Mikaela Innes **Lighting Design:** Max Bowyer

Set/Costume Design: Jo Arrowsmith (with assistance from Adelash Parsons)

Music by: T.Morimoto **Image by:** Danielle Evans

SEASON APRIL 23 - MAY 5, 2024 AT THE LA MAMA HQ, 205 FARADAY STREET CARLTON

Times (running time 120 mins including 20 minute interval)

Tuesday April 23 6.30pm (Preview) | Wednesdays 6.30pm

Thursdays - Saturdays 7.30pm | Sundays 4pm

Bookings: <https://lamama.com.au/whats-on/autumn-2024/straight-white-male-norm-and-ahmed-followed-by-radha-and-ryan/> **Phone:** 03 9347 6948

For all media enquiries contact Mikaela Innes
innes.mikaela@outlook.com

About Nick Parsons:

Nick is a writer and director in film, television, theatre and radio. He has a BA (hons) in Philosophy from Sydney University and is a graduate of both the Australian Film, Television and Radio School and the National Institute of Dramatic Art, completing the directing and writing courses concurrently in both institutions. His stage plays include *The Pest House*, *Dead Heart*, *Hollow Ground* and the musical *A Nasty Piece of Work*. He wrote and directed the feature film *Dead Heart* (1996), based on his play, as well as 'The Saviour' (2006), a half-hour episode of the TV series *two Twisted*, and *Tipping Point* (2007) a 16-part mini-doc series for The Weather Channel. He has directed numerous plays and also written episodes of the TV series *My Place* (2010, 2011), *The Straits* (2012), and *Wolf Creek 2* (2017). In development in 2024 are the feature film *Narcisse* and a number of TV projects.

About Alex Buzo:

ALEX BUZO was born in Sydney. He was educated at the Armidale School, the International School in Geneva and the University of New South Wales, from which he graduated with a BA in 1965. In 1968 Buzo's first play *Norm and Ahmed* gained national attention primarily through a prosecution for obscenity, but together with his other early plays, *The Front Room Boys* (1968), *Rooted* (1969) and *Coralie Lansdowne Says No* (1974), it pioneered a revival of Australian theatre. The exploration of alienation in the play remained a common theme in Buzo's work, often delivered with clever and stylish use of the Australian idiom and a tireless commitment to reflecting the true nature of Australian society. *Macquarie* (1972) and other historical plays like *Big River* (1980) and *Pacific Union* (1995) have helped to popularise the themes of individual and national maturity. Other plays include *Martello Towers*, *Makassar Reef*, *The Marginal Farm* and *Shellcove Road*. Alex Buzo's books, *Tautology*, *The Longest Game*, *The Young Person's Guide to the Theatre* and *A Dictionary of the Almost Obvious*, confirm his reputation as a recorder of modern idiom. In 1972 Buzo was awarded the Australian Literature Society's Gold Medal for *Macquarie*. His work has been produced around the world including the USA, the UK and South East Asia. He was also writer-in-residence at many theatre companies, schools and universities. In 2005 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of New South Wales for his contribution to Australian literature. Following Buzo's death in 2006, his daughter Emma founded the Alex Buzo Company in 2007.