

La Mama Presents

THE SWALLOWS

Written and Directed by **Sandra Fiona Long**

*Clues beckon. Constant yearning.
And lately my shoulder blades
have been hurting.
Almost like they want to sprout wings...*



We would like to invite you to **The Swallows**, a genre-morphing vocal theatre work, by **Sandra Fiona Long** with a powerful team of collaborators.

From an intricate sound universe constructed of voice, strings and objects created live by renowned actor **Helen Morse**, sublime vocalist/performer **Ria Soemardjo** and cellist **Helen Mountfort** (My Friend the Chocolate Cake, Not Drowning Waving), the poetic story of Aunty emerges. Empowered by connection with nature through her daily walks, she is ready to fly from the pressures of her built up environment, childhood memories and old patterns. But the landscape, altered and damaged by her ancestors, demands attention. And the calling of forgotten creeks running deep below in pipes is loud. Eventually it will take over.

Designed by contemporary artist **Joanne Mott**, lighting designer **Shane Grant** and implemented by **Cole McKenna**, this poetic work dives deep into the impact of colonisation on the landscape, the effect that the loss of our waterways has on our humanity, and the potential we all have to fly free, while the landscape gets its own back.

The Swallows is the latest performance by Sandra Fiona Long with collaborators across forms, where poetic text, sound, vocals and visual design create an immersive sensorial world. Longstanding collaborators Sandra and Ria have made many vocal, sound and text based works together in Australia and Indonesia including Of Frogs at Darebin Speakeasy and Hades Fading in Bandung and Asia TOPA with Mainteater and Kath Papas Productions. Sandra and Jo have created theatre, installation and run art workshops together since high school. Helen Morse first worked with Sandra on her work Duets for Lovers and Dreamers in 2010 and they have had an informal mentoring and new work development relationship since then. The Swallows takes these collaborations in a new direction, with a fresh poetic text, voice, sound, light and space to create a poignant immersive work.

JUNE 6-16, 2024 AT LA MAMA HQ

Running Time approx 60 mins. For all dates, times, bookings
& details 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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THE SWALLOWS

★★★★★ *'breathtakingly beautiful and incredibly haunting as it speaks to forgetting the past and losing the lessons of old'*
– What Did She Think? (on **Hades Fading**)

'A chamber piece composed in an elusive key, it bends every instrument of the theatre into ephemeral harmonies' – Sydney Morning Herald
(on **Duets for Lovers and Dreamers**)

★★★★ *'Beautifully condensed, and full of poignant human detail'*
– The Age (on **Surat-Suratnya**)

Writer/Director: Sandra Fiona Long

Performer/Co-Creators: Ria Soemardjo, Helen Morse, Helen Mountfort

Designer: Joanne Mott

Lighting designer: Shane Grant

Production manager/creative logistics: Cole McKenna

Assistant stage manager/Operator: Aaron Carey-Long

Produced by Kath Papas Productions, with Kath Papas and Taka Takiguchi

Image by Darren Gill

SEASON JUNE 6 - 16, 2024 AT LA MAMA HQ, 205 FARADAY STREET CARLTON

Times (running time 60 mins)

Wednesdays 6.30pm | Thursdays - Saturdays 7.30pm | Sundays 4pm

Bookings: <https://lamama.com.au/whats-on/autumn-2024/the-swallows/>

Phone: 03 9347 6948



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For media enquiries contact **Taka Takiguchi**
tt@kathpapas.net or 0478 634 052



Kath Papas
PRODUCTIONS