

Project Connect Ensemble

a/lone

A dynamic physical theatre work



New Australian Theatre Work Shines Spotlight on Loneliness, Aloneness, and Social Disconnection

Inspired by the profound experiences of disconnection shared by many in our community, the groundbreaking theatrical production, *a/lone*, delves into the depths of loneliness while uncovering the transformative power of embracing solitude and connecting with community.

Developed by the Project Connect Ensemble and written and directed by the accomplished Janine McKenzie, *a/lone* is a dynamic original production that explores the human condition with a unique blend of humour and pathos. Combining physical, absurd, and verbatim theatre techniques, accompanied by an evocative live original score by Sheshtin Honey, the production promises an unforgettable journey of insight and connection.

Featuring performances by Xavier McGettigan, Stacey Carmichael, and Emily Jacker-Lawrence, and designed by the talented Alard Pett, *a/lone* made its debut with a sell-out Australian premiere performance at the Geelong Arts Centre in 2023. Its success continued as it captivated audiences at the 2023 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, earning international acclaim.

Director Janine McKenzie expressed her enthusiasm for sharing this important conversation on the international stage, stating, "Audiences will see themselves and people they love in the stories we tell. This performance resonates deeply and continues to stay with you long after you leave the theatre."

Originally developed through Geelong Arts Centre's Creative Engine, after Producer and Performer, Stacey Carmichael, was awarded one of the two 2023 Ignition Grants, *a/lone* reflects the commitment of Geelong Arts Centre to showcase extraordinary stories and champion connections through art.

a/lone is a timely exploration of an important topic, raising awareness about loneliness in Australia where 1 in 3 Australians feel lonely, 1 in 6 report severe levels of loneliness, and 1 in 2 Australians are embarrassed to talk about it. The production aims to open up the conversation and encourage greater engagement with oneself, others and organisations as a means of combatting loneliness.

Josephine Balfour-Oatts of The Scotsman praised *a/lone*, stating, "The work is realized with warmth and generosity as it considers whether a greater engagement with the self might be a worthwhile and effective means of combating loneliness, asking: if you are attending to and investing in your own company, are you ever really alone?"

a/lone is part of the VCAA VCE Drama Playlist and will tour Victoria Feb-June, 2024. Kicking off in Geelong this month and finishing at the iconic La Mama Theatre, Melbourne.

a/lone will be showing at La Mama, Carlton June 18-23

For Tickets Contact: <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/potatoshed/calendar> or 03 5251 1998 For more information visit: www.projectconnectensemble.com or www.lamama.com.au

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