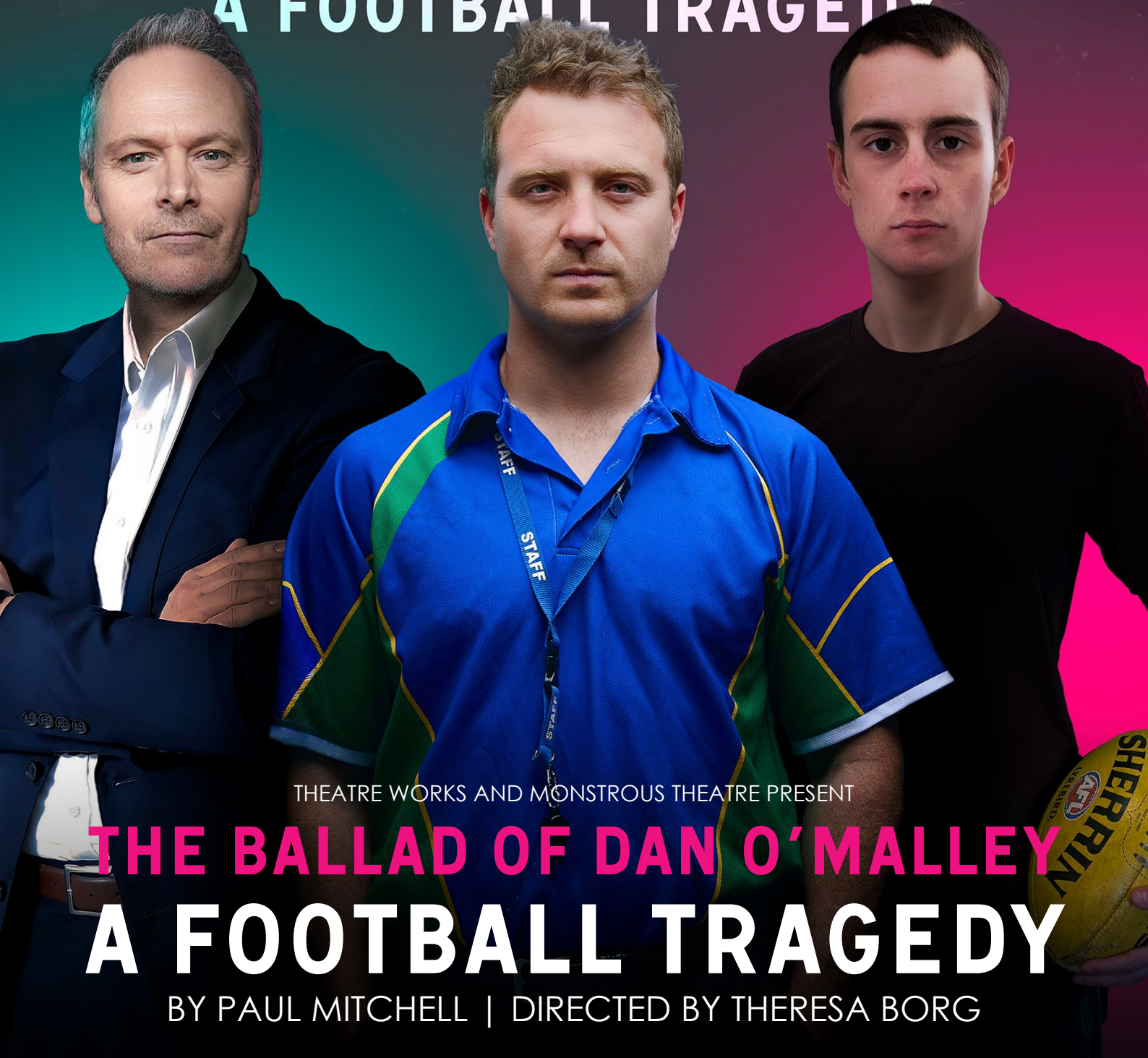


WITH THEATRE WORKS

THE BALLAD OF DAN O'MALLEY

A FOOTBALL TRAGEDY



THEATRE WORKS AND MONSTROUS THEATRE PRESENT

THE BALLAD OF DAN O'MALLEY

A FOOTBALL TRAGEDY

BY PAUL MITCHELL | DIRECTED BY THERESA BORG

12 - 22 AUGUST | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

explosives factory, rear laneway 67 inkerman street, st kilda

MONSTROUS THEATRE



CREATIVE VICTORIA



ABOUT THEATRE WORKS

Theatre Works is Australia's home of independent theatre: a creative precinct where artists take risks, new stories are born, and audiences discover the bold voices shaping contemporary culture. For more than 45 years, Theatre Works has supported artists to develop, make, and share ambitious new Australian work. Today, our precinct is stronger and more interconnected than ever.

Located in the heart of St Kilda, the Theatre Works Precinct brings together four purpose-built venues: the Main Theatre, the Explosives Factory, the TWiSK Rehearsal Space, and the Black Box Café & Outdoor Stage. Each space plays a distinct role in the creative lifecycle, providing artists with everything they need to move from idea, to development, to premiere, to tour; all within a single, supportive ecosystem.

Our model is simple but rare: we share investment and risk with independent artists. Through co-producing, commissioning, and tailored producing support, we ensure artists are backed by real resources: free development space, professional equipment, rehearsal infrastructure, marketing, ticketing, and technical support. This gives artists the freedom to take creative risks while removing the financial and logistical pressures that so often limit independent work.

Every year, more than 600 artists pass through our precinct, developing and presenting work across 50+ productions.

Many go on to regional and national touring, VCE Playlist recognition, and major awards. Our audiences are equally diverse: from loyal locals to school groups, visiting families, and new theatre-goers who discover us through the café, bar, or festival partnerships.

The precinct allows us to operate at a scale unique in Victoria's independent sector. The Main Theatre offers a fully equipped black box for bold, ambitious work; the Explosives Factory provides a home for experimentation, residencies, and intimate performance; the TWiSK Rehearsal Space offers year-round free development space; and the Black Box Café & Outdoor Stage connect the precinct to the daily life of St Kilda, welcoming more than 20,000 visitors each year.

Together, these venues form a pipeline that supports artists at every stage of their practice while building community, diversifying income, and embedding independent theatre deeply into the cultural fabric of St Kilda. This integrated precinct model - development to presentation, bar to black box, artist to audience - is what makes Theatre Works unique.

This is the heart of Theatre Works: a place where artists are held, supported, and challenged; where audiences encounter work that surprises and moves them; and where community grows, one story at a time.

Theatre Works and Monstrous Theatre respectfully acknowledge First People's sovereignty and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and storytelling by Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We pay our respects to the many clans and language groups in Victoria, to their elders past and present, and acknowledge the strength and resilience of all Aboriginal peoples.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

TEAM THEATRE WORKS

KRYSTALLA PEARCE (she/her) Artistic Director and CEO

ADAM GARDNER (he/him) Marketing / Graphic Design / Box Office Manager

JADE HIBBERT (she/her) Company Producer

CHRIS PATRICK HANSEN (he/him) Marketing and Producing Associate

BEK SCHILLING (they/them) Front of House Co-Ordinator

ANNE HENDERSON (she/her) Finance Administrator

THE BALLAD OF DAN O'MALLEY

A FOOTBALL TRAGEDY

WRITER / CO-PRODUCER

Paul Mitchell

PRODUCER

Anton Berezin

DIRECTOR

Therèsa Borg

COSTUME & SET DESIGN

Dylan Lumsden

LIGHTING DESIGN

Jason Bovaird

COMPOSER

Simon Mason

CAST

Justin Bell
Miles Paras
Julian Weeks
Adam Balales
Nick Mitchell
Gregory Caine
Lyndall Grant

STAGE MANAGER

Jess List

CONTENT WARNINGS

COARSE LANGUAGE; ADULT THEMES

THE BALLAD OF DAN O'MALLEY IS A WITH THEATRE WORKS PRODUCTION

Shows in the **WITH THEATRE WORKS** stream align strongly our values and missions - these works we co-produce and co-present with independent artists and/or companies. Projects within this stream receive significant producing, marketing, PR and production support in addition to free use of the venue and a generous box office split.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

THÈRESA BORG

Chatting to Paul Mitchell this am, I thanked him for inviting me into the world of footy, the world of this play, a world I had limited access to growing up as a kid from a migrant family of five sisters. I've loved the daredevil, the physicality, the grace the play demands in the moments dedicated to putting the game onstage. I've loved thinking about honour and the compromises passionate people make with power in order to maintain or promote their personal ambitions, and the example this sets for the young people they love and mentor. I've loved hanging with this committed bunch of Melbourne makers, who all love their footy, and most of all I've loved messing around in my own mother tongue, Aussie dialect from the 'burbs and the humour that goes with it, dry as a Salada. I hope you can all feel the love that went into making this story: love from all of us at Monstrous to all of you. Always.



THANK YOUS

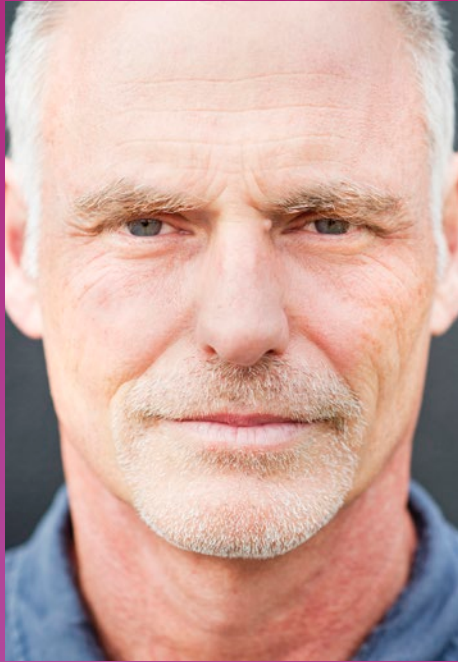
PAUL MITCHELL

This play couldn't have got onto the ground without two silver service onballers: Paul Wiegard and Andrew Carter – big thanks for helping us tackle the cash issue, and also to Helen Garner and Kevin Brophy for your financial handballs. Thanks to Todd Bailey and Ross Garner for your generous pre-game chats when I was drafting the play, and to two authors: Michael Warner for The Boys' Club (who was also generous with his time in the first half) and Paddy Steinfort for Breakfast with Bails. I had some expert guidance from the boundary line on this script, so thank you to Theresa Borg, Phillip Hayden, Emma Choy, Miles Paras, Jo Bowers, Justin Bell and Ryland Mitchell. To the dedicated and talented cast and crew – thank you so much for putting the boots on and getting your hands dirty: Justin Bell, Lyndall Grant, Julian Weeks, Miles Paras, Adam Balales, Gregory Caine, Nick Mitchell, Simon Mason, Kara Floyd, Jason Bovaird and Dylan Lumsden. Thank you Michael Wilkie for your PR work and to the dynamic forward line that is producer Anton Berezin and director Theresa Borg – it's awesome to tackle powerful projects with you and wrestle them to the ground. And thank you to the late Dean Bailey for grace and toughness under pressure and for showing that seeking others' success is the true win in life.



PAUL MITCHELL

PLAYWRIGHT



Paul Mitchell has written many works for page, screen, and stage, including *The Ballad of Dan O'Malley*. His fiction and poetry have received national awards, and his seven books include a novel, *We. Are. Family.* (Midnight Sun Publishing), a short story collection, *Dodging the Bull* (Wakefield Press), and his latest, a poetry collection, *High Spirits* (Puncher and Wattmann). Paul has written and performed in – several stage shows, including a three-character comedy show, *Being a Wheel Family*, about a family of working-class poets. Paul's previous play, *You're the Man*, was premiered at La Mama in 2024. For the AFL, he co-wrote the documentary *Actions to Live By* about the 2001-04 Brisbane Lions dynasty and he's currently a hired co-writer on a feature film script for Third Man Films. Paul has a PhD English. His thesis included a study of masculinity in Australian short story cycles.

DYLAN LUMSDEN

COSTUME & SET DESIGN



Dylan Lumsden is a Melbourne-based Set & Costume Designer who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production) from the Victorian College of the Arts. Dylan is inspired to create imaginative and impactful scenographic work that visually captivates audiences through meaningful creative collaborations. While at VCA Dylan also specialised in Costume Management and Construction.

Dylan's recent credits include Head of Wardrobe / Costume Design Associate for JRP's Melbourne & Gold Coast tour of *In The Heights*, Assistant Set & Costume Designer for *Super* at Red Stitch Actors Theatre and Costume Designer for *A Very Expensive Poison*. In 2025 she was selected to join Red Stitch Actors' Theatre Ensemble as a Hansen Graduate Designer.

THERÈSA BORG

DIRECTOR



Thérèse Borg is a director, writer and performer. She is a graduate of University of Melbourne (B.Ed. Sec (Music)) and twice of The Victorian College of the Arts (Opera Studio, Masters: Writing for Performance).

Her directing credits include *Titanic* starring Anthony Warlow at Melbourne Town Hall, *Sweeney Todd*, starring Anthony Warlow and Gina Riley at Her Majesty's Melbourne, *The Light in the Piazza* at Arts Centre Melbourne, *Disney Under the Stars* at SOH/ Myer Music Bowl, *Paw Patrol Live!* at Wembley Arena, *The Happiest Man on Earth* at Sydney Opera House and twice voice-directing the *Muppeteers* in New York City. Her operatic directing credits include productions of *The Consul* and *La Cenerentola* to outstanding reviews. Thérèse is currently Associate Director to Neil Armfield on *Death of a Salesman* starring Anthony La Paglia.

JASON BOVAIRD

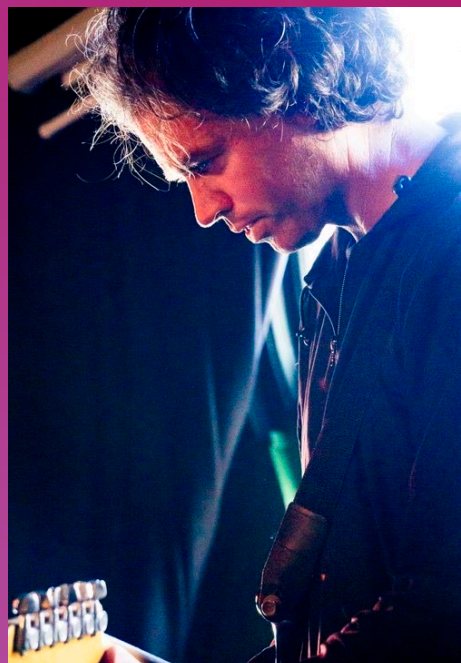
LIGHTING DESIGN



JASON BOVAIRD is a multi-award winning lighting designer graduating from Melbourne University in 1995 and also graduating from New York University's Broadway Masterclass in Lighting Design gaining an internship in 2011 with legendary Broadway lighting designer Ken Billington (*Chicago*, *Crazy For You*, *New York New York* (2023 Tony Nomination)). National and International touring productions of *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG* (Resident Lighting Designer, NZ / Australia), *PETER PAN GOES WRONG* (Associate Lighting Designer, NZ / Australia / Broadway), *SHAOLIN WARRIORS* (Asian Tour), *THE 39 STEPS* (HIT Productions), *THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG* (HIT Productions), *MOTHERHOOD THE MUSICAL* (HIT Productions), *AUSTRALIA DAY* (HIT Productions), *LOVE LETTERS* (HIT Productions), *ONE DAY OF THE YEAR*, *AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS* (Vass / Ellis Productions), *PEPPA PIG* (Kenny Wax Productions), *GIGGLE AND HOOT* (Andrew Kay Productions), *MISTER MAKER* (Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia), *BUSTING OUT* (New York, Los Angeles, Asia, London, Australia), *BUBBLE SHOW FOR ADULTS ONLY* (Old Trafford Theatre, London).

SIMON MASON

COMPOSER



Simon Mason is a Melbourne-based multi-instrumentalist and producer. A member of noughties band Tetris Nightmare, Simon's atmospheric solo albums include Signs Under Surveillance and A Month Without Medication.

Simon's collaboration with poet and vocalist Paul Mitchell produced the album My Coffin Lid, My Shield, which the duo have performed at Denmark Festival of Voice (WA), Sonic Poetry Festival (Melbourne) and Paul's play You're the Man.

Simon composed the music for Ron Elisha's acclaimed play, Anne Being Frank, which has toured the USA and been performed at the Sydney Opera House.

MILES PARAS

PERFORMER - CHARVI



Miles is a veteran actor, a 1995 WAAPA Theatre alumna. She has expansive work in all platforms; TV series, TVCs, web-series, film and theatre. Notable TV guest roles in Jack Irish, Wentworth, WildSide, Blue Heelers, Water Rats, Beech is Back (The Bill spin-off series). However, it is Stage work that excites her most for its immediacy with fellow creatives, inspired visions, courage and a passion to storytelling. In this era of heightened digital implementation, there is a greater need to uphold authentic creative work and to delivering the traditional, rich form of the theatre. Miles is very excited to be working with Monstrous Theatre and Paul Mitchell again.

JUSTIN BELL

PERFORMER - DAN O'MALLEY



Justin is a Tradie, Footballer, Kick Boxer turned actor. In 2017 he began his Actor Training at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Growing up in regional Victoria, he spent a majority of his spare time playing sport, fighting in the ring, riding motorbikes and performing in community theatre. Since graduating, Justin has played Touchstone in OZACTs "As You Like It", Mark in Paul Mitchell's, "You're the Man" and Shane Kennedy in "Granite" currently airing on Apple TV.

JULIAN WEEKS

PERFORMER - CHAD



Julian just wrapped KICK ON (Dir. Nick Kozakis), opposite MARKELLA KAVENAGH & NIKOLAI NIKILAEFF.

Julian has just been seen in DEAR LIFE (Stan), GOOD COP BAD COP (Stan/CW Network), THE SURVIVORS (Netflix), APPLE CIDER VINEGAR (Netflix) & MORTAL KOMBAT 2 (Warner Bros). Other credits include PROSPER (Stan) opposite RICHARD ROXBURGH & REBECCA GIBNEY, and he was a part of the main cast of SAVAGE RIVER (ABC), which starred KATHERINE LANGFORD. Julian has also performed with the MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY in THE HEARTBREAK CHOIR.

ADAM BALALES

PERFORMER - TYSON



Adam graduated with a Bachelor of Performance (Acting) from Flinders University. He came to prominence in the hit comedy online series, Rostered On which premiered on YouTube and was later picked up by Netflix. A second series was commissioned by the Seven Network. Adam is known also for the feature films, How to Time Travel and Blue Grace. Most recently he appeared in the short film, The Red Lights of Town and can now be seen on YouTube in the comedy pilot New Lease which he also wrote. Stage credits include The Pearlfishers for Opera Australia, Outside the Box and UnAustralia.

GREGORY CAINE

PERFORMER - SIMON



Gregory Caine is a highly experienced actor with more than 25 years in the industry, working extensively across theatre, film, and television. He is best known for his recurring role in Utopia and has appeared in Apple Cider Vinegar, Neighbours, and the acclaimed feature film Marriage. Gregory's recent theatre credits include Love is the First Revolution, I See You, Marooned, and Hunters. Renowned for his versatility, professionalism, and strong screen presence, he continues to work across a diverse range of productions, from award-winning independent films to major television and streaming projects. Gregory is represented by Anne Will Management

NICK MITCHELL

PERFORMER - BARCLAY



Nick Mitchell is an accomplished stage and screen actor based in Melbourne, Australia. Nick studied theatre at Kensington & Chelsea College, London from 2000-2003 and has appeared in a number of Australian television classics such as Round The Twist, The Slap, Underbelly, Offspring, Blue Heelers, Neighbours & Home and Away. His most recent screen credits include Apple Cider Vinegar, The Clearing and the soon to be released feature film The Mongoose, starring Liam Neeson and Marisa Tomei. Nick is proudly represented by Ian White Management.

LYNDALL GRANT

PERFORMER - SUZE



Lyndall Grant is a Melbourne-based actor, aerialist, and movement performer proudly represented by Ian White Management. She trained at ArtsEd London School of Acting (UK). After several years working across theatre, film, and motion capture in London, she returned to Melbourne in 2016. Her performance credits include Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Michael Cassel Group); Don Quixote (The Australian Ballet); The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet (Melbourne Shakespeare Company); Henry IV Part 1, In the Thrice Ninth Kingdom (Thrice Ninth Productions). Alongside performance, Lyndall works internationally as a fight director, movement director, and motion capture specialist.

JESS LIST

STAGE MANAGER



Jess is a Melbourne based Stage Manager and Theatre Technician, recently graduated with a Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services. She was the Assistant Stage Manager for Alice in Wonderland (Broadway Haus), Love Actually: The Musical Parody and Cruel Intentions. Other stage management and technical credits include One Man Two Guvnors, Cosi, Mamma Mia, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, CLOC Musical Theatre, and Moving Light Productions.



WITH THEATRE WORKS

IF THEY'RE PLAYING CRICKET, WHO IS MAKING THE SANDWICHES?

THE DEPLORABLES



THEATRE WORKS AND SKIN OF OUR TEETH PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

THE DEPLORABLES

BY CHRISTINE DAVEY

19 - 29 AUGUST | THEATRE WORKS

📍 theatre works, 14 acland street, st kilda

FRESH WORKS

SCHOOL IS HELL AND THEN YOU DIE. ALTERNATIVELY, AN ANGEL CRASH LANDS ON EARTH AND ANNUNCIATES YOU WITH THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. EITHER OPTION IS FINE.



THEATRE WORKS AND FRUITCAKE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

BIG RELIGION

BY MADDI FORMOSA

26 AUGUST - 5 SEPTEMBER | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

📍 explosives factory, rear laneway 67 inkerman street, st kilda



THEATRE WORKS
ST KILDA

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