

BY THEATRE WORKS

A POWERFUL AND POETIC STORY ABOUT FAMILY, SILENCE, AND  
FINDING HOPE IN THE EVERYDAY

# RED SKY MORNING



THEATRE WORKS PRESENTS

# RED SKY MORNING

BY TOM HOLLOWAY | DIRECTED BY LYALL BROOKS

6 - 16 MAY | THEATRE WORKS

📍 theatre works, 14 acland street, st kilda



# 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 respectfully acknowledges 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

**DIANNE TOULSON** (she/her) Executive Director / Creative Producer

**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

**NATALIE EDGE** (she/her) Front of House Co-Ordinator

**JOSHUA FERNANDEZ** (he/him) Venue Operations Assistant

**ANNE HENDERSON** (she/her) Finance Administrator

# RED SKY MORNING

BY TOM HOLLOWAY

**DIRECTED BY**

Lyall Brooks

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Seon Williams

**CAST**

Alpha Kargbo

Izabella Day

Emma Choy

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Sidney Younger

**SOUND DESIGNER / COMPOSER**

Jack Burmeister

**SET DESIGNER**

Harry Gill

**STAGE MANAGER / OPERATOR**

Jade Hibbert

**PUBLICITY**

Eleanor Howlett, Sassy Red PR

*Red Sky Morning was developed through Red Stitch's INK program.  
The play premiered at Red Stitch Actors' Theatre in 2008.*

**RED SKY MORNING IS A BY THEATRE WORKS PRODUCTION**

Shows in the **BY THEATRE WORKS** stream are produced and presented by Theatre Works in-house, lead by artists who are either on staff and/or alumni of our professional development programs.





# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

## LYALL BROOKS

Some stories are told directly. Others arrive sideways – in fragments, hesitations, and the things left unsaid. At its heart, *Red Sky Morning* is a play about people reaching for connection and missing – sometimes by inches, sometimes by miles.

It's in the emotional pressure sitting just beneath the surface – the things these characters can't quite articulate – that the story emerges. The audience is asked to listen not just to the words, but to the gaps between them – and the echoes that gather in their repetition. I often feel it as a kind of chilly draft, moving through the cracks of the text.

This is a play shaped by place. By regional life, where resilience is worn as a badge of honour – the “little Aussie battler” pushing on, holding steady. But we rarely stop to ask what this celebrated resilience costs. What gets swallowed, deferred, or passed down. As a country boy myself, this production is both a recognition and a love letter: to the strength of those communities, and to the quieter, darker, more complicated inheritances they carry.

Our approach has been to place deeply naturalistic performances inside a more abstract physicality and a sculptural, shifting world – something closer to memory than reality. A landscape shaped by water, distance, and time. Not a literal home, but an emotional one.

My deep gratitude to Di Toulson for trusting me with this work that forms part of her extraordinary legacy. The entire Theatre Works team, and especially our practically perfect show leader Jade, thank you. To Seon for keeping me and the cast in line, and offering more creative input I could hope for, thank you.

Finally, it has been an unequivocal privilege to work with three extraordinary actors in Alpha, Emma and Izabella, and our design team Harry, Sidney and Jack, who have built a world that holds – and unsettles – us.

We hope you find yourself somewhere in it.

# TOM HOLLOWAY

PLAYWRIGHT



TOM HOLLOWAY is 4-time AWGIE and multi award-winning Tasmanian-born playwright and librettist. His work has been staged extensively both in Australia and internationally. His plays include: MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE (2024 AWGIE winner for Best Adapted Stage Play); STORM BOY (2013 Premiere Barking Gecko/Sydney Theatre Company and 2015 return season and national tour, 2014 Winner AWGIE Award, Theatre for Young Audiences, 2014 Helpmann Award Nomination, Best Presentation for Children), AND NO MORE SHALL WE PART (produced in the UK by Hampstead Theatre for the Edinburgh Fringe and in American for Williamstown Festival starring Alfred Molina, 2010 Winner AWGIE Award for Best Stage Play, 2010 Winner Victorian Premier's Award) FORGET MENOT (2014 AWGIE Award Nomination, Best Stage Play); DOUBLE INDEMNITY (Melbourne Theatre Company); SUNSHINE (Red Stitch Theatre); AS WE FORGIVE (Performing Lines/Griffin Theatre Company); BEYOND THE NECK (2008 Winner AWGIE Award for Best Stage Play); DON'T SAY THE WORD (shortlisted for the 2009 NSW Premier's Play Award, the 2009 Young Vic/Theatre 503 Season Award); RED SKY MORNING (2007 winner of the R. E. Ross Trust Development Award, 2008 Green Room Award for Best New Writing for the Australian Stage); LOVE ME TENDER (2010 Premiere Perth International Festival/Belvoir/Thin Ice and nominated for 2011 AWGIE Award); Fatherland (2011 Premiere at The Gate Theatre London and touring to Volkstheater, Munich) and FACES LOOK UGLY (2011 Premiere at the Århus Teater Denmark, Winner of the 2010 Max Afford Fellowship). Tom's new play ELIZA, starring Dan Spielman, will premiere at Melbourne Theatre Company in September 2026 directed by Paige Rattray. The play was commissioned by Sydney Theatre Company.

# SEON WILLIAMS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Seon is a Melbourne based actor, writer and director with over 20 years of experience in the industry. She wrote and directed her first show at age 15, and has since written, produced and directed six other projects. Seon's main focus is acting, having worked on over 50 theatre productions, including Rootless Cosmopolitans with Monstrous Productions at Chapel Off Chapel, Queer Kingdom by Tom Ballard at Gasworks for Midsumma Festival and Control by Flatpack. She has also appeared in ABC's White Fever as Alistair and award-winning short film Autocarrot and award-winning web series The Happiness Curve. Seon has always loved directing and is excited to be part of the team bringing Red Sky Morning to the Theatre Works stage.

# LYALL BROOKS

DIRECTOR



Lyall Brooks is an award-winning actor and theatre director, playwright, musical theatre performer and voiceover artist, and is the founding Artistic Director of new Australian writing theatre company, Lab Kelpie. He has worked all around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada, and across much of Asia. He has received four Green Room nominations across mainstage, independent and music theatre.

As an actor, his professional theatre credits include Midnight: The Cinderella Musical (Aspect Entertainment); North by Northwest (Arts Centre Melbourne); Savages (fortyfivedownstairs); Penelope and The Pride (Red Stitch); The Heretic (Melbourne Theatre Company); Sunday in the Park with George (Victorian Opera); Merrily We Roll Along (Watch This); Every Lovely Terrible Thing (Theatre Works); and Broken, Spencer, A Prudent Man and SuperGirly: Return of the Pop Princess (Lab Kelpie)

He is currently developing his play There Arose A Great Tempest with director George Lazaris, and researching and developing SELF/LESS, a coveted Monash University's Progress Links commission and 2026 Gasworks Queer Playwriting Award finalist. Lyall is currently completing his MFA in Cultural Leadership at NIDA, and is the Education Coordinator at Malthouse Theatre.

# ALPHA KARGBO

PERFORMER



Alpha hails from Sierra Leone, where he received his formative education. His first experience of performing came while delivering a speech at an annual prize-giving ceremony. Despite intense nerves and almost falling on the way to the podium, he discovered a surprising calm and sense of liberation while speaking.

Curious about great acting performances and the craft behind them, he later attended a workshop led by Bristol-based actor and director Dave Lovatt, exploring techniques influenced by Uta Hagen, Stanislavski, Rudolf Laban and Grotowski. Reconnecting with that same calm, Alpha fell in love with storytelling and decided to pursue acting seriously. He went on to study at Bristol Acting Academy, working with teachers from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, before being encouraged to apply for conservatory training. In 2018, he was accepted into the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

Since graduating, Alpha has built a range of credits, including Mandela in the European tour of Free Mandela and Bezu Fache in the UK tour of The Da Vinci Code, where he also understudied Robert Langdon. Screen work includes The Undeclared War and the stage production NHS Yarns.

# IZABELLA DAY

PERFORMER



Izabella is an emerging theatre maker, performer, creative producer and director based in Naarm/ Melbourne who is committed to storytelling, uplifting female voices and collaborative artistic practices. She completed her Bachelor of Performing Arts in Performance making and Diploma of Acting at WAAPA. Since arriving in Melbourne, Izabella has become a member of the Youth Advisory Board for the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP), assistant stage managed on 'POTUS' at fortyfive downstairs, worked with Brimbank Youth Arts centre as a Creative Producer and recently performed in the award-winning 'REFINED' presented by Lab Kelpie at Melbourne Fringe Festival. She is the co-founder of Vixen Theatre Company which has produced the successful feminist, verbatim theatre work titled 'FEMOID.' 'FEMOID' garnered her great directorial praise for its innovative performance style and raw storytelling at both The Blue Room Theatre and LA MAMA Theatre, and has debuted at Theatre Works and The Old Fitz Theatre in 2026.

# SIDNEY YOUNGER

LIGHTING DESIGNER



Sidney is a Green Room award winning Lighting Designer, and a 2021 graduate of the BFA (Design and Production) degree at the Victorian College of the Arts.

His design credits include 'American Psycho' (See You Sunday), 'Werewolf' & 'A Case for the Existence of God' (Gary Abrahams), 'Superheroes' (Queensland Theatre) 'Meet Your Maker' (Brisbane Festival), 'Ghost Quartet' & 'Head Over Heels' (Hayes Theatre), 'Parade', 'Songs for a New World', 'Spring Awakening' & 'Into the Woods Jr' (Soundworks Productions), 'Every Lovely Terrible Thing' (Lab Kelpie), 'Redhealer' (Back to Back), 'Three Sisters' (Greg Carroll), 'Insert Self' (Chunky Move), 'Addams Family' & 'Shrek' (Stars & the Moon), 'Bach's Universe' (Brandenburg Orchestra), 'Shrapnel' (Stephen Nicolazzo), 'Niusia & 'Still Buried' (Kathryn Yates), 'The Hello Girls (Jason Langley), 'Piper', 'Love & Information' & 'Motherload ^e' (Belle Hansen), 'Songs of the Flesh' (Danger Ensemble). His work on 'Parade' and 'Songs for a New World' (Soundworks Productions) earned him a 2023 Green Room BODY OF WORK award for Independent Musical Theatre. 'Parade' also earned a 2025 'Emerging Designer' award nomination from the Australian Production Design Guild.

His works have been seen by audiences across Australia, praised by reviews as "one of the best lighting designers Melbourne has to offer".

His website portfolio can be found at <https://sidneyyounger.com/>  
Sidney is proudly represented by Ian White Management.

# EMMA CHOY

PERFORMER



Emma Choy is an actor whose work has taken her to England, Ireland, Jordan, China, and the Netherlands.

Her stage credits include the Green Room Award-winning (six-time nominated) sell-out production Mr Burns – a Post-Electric Play, cult West End hit Saucy Jack & the Space Vixens, Essential Theatre's As You Like It, and Lab Kelpie's Every Lovely Terrible Thing. Screen highlights include the AACTA Award-nominated comedy series 'Til You Make It, which she co-created and in which she plays the lead role of Mei, as well as Darklands (Stan), Speed Dating (Buena Vista Films), The Vanguard (Lionsgate), and her role as Mayor of Erinsborough on Australia's iconic TV series Neighbours.

Emma has co-founded two theatre companies and was also a Festival Director for Melbourne's Poppy Seed Theatre Festival. Her training began after winning a scholarship to St Martin's Youth Theatre. She went on to study Musical Theatre at WAAPA and continues to train under the guidance of Howard Fine and his faculty.

# JACK BURMEISTER

SOUND DESIGNER / COMPOSER



Jack Burmeister is a Melbourne based Sound Designer and Composer whose work sits at the intersection of theatre, film, and audio storytelling. His practice centres sound and music as dramaturgical forces; shaping narrative, emotional architecture, and audience experience rather than merely supporting it.

Jack's work has been recognised nationally and internationally. He received a Green Room Award nomination for Outstanding Sound Design for The Roof is Caving In, and Best Score at the Geelong Independent Film Festival for With Everything I Am, which also won Best Student Film at the New York International Film Awards. His selected theatre credits include Othello (Melbourne Shakespeare Company), ILARUN: The Cutting Comb (dir. Effie Nkrumah), and Boys in the Band (dir. Alister Smith).

# HARRY GILL

SET DESIGNER



Harry is a graduate of the VCA and an Award Nominated Set and Costume Designer based in Naarm. Harry has a keen eye for design and aesthetics and through his designs seeks to make theatre relevant and meaningful to contemporary audiences.

Harry's recent design credits include Set & Costume Design for: Ned Kelly the Musical (Victorian Opera, 2026), Mature Skin (Northcote Town Hall, 2026)Waltzing The Wilarra (HIT Productions, 2025), The Boys In The Band, (James Terry Collective, 2025) Bunyi Bunyi Bumi (AsiaTopa, 2025), Ilarun (Forty-Five Downstairs, 2024), Werewolf (Arts Centre Melbourne, 2024), Parade (Seymour Centre, 2024).

Set Design for: Footloose (Athenaeum Theatre, 2025), Love and Information (Theatreworks, 2025), Addams Family (Stars and the Moon, 2024), The Whale (Melbourne Shakespeare Company, 2024), Every Lovely Terrible Thing (Lab Kelpie, 2024), Songs for a New World (Soundworks Productions, 2023).

Harry was recently awarded the John Truscott Prize in association with the VCA and Victorian Opera.

You can see Harry's work at [harrygilldesigns.com](http://harrygilldesigns.com).

# JADE HIBBERT

STAGE MANAGER / OPERATOR



Jade is a South African Theatre Maker, Writer, Stage Manager, and award-winning Violinist.. Having been in the performing arts for most of her life, she came to Melbourne in April of 2023 to further her career.

Since coming to Australia, she has embraced more work as a Stage Manager and lighting and sound operator. Recent works include: 'La Belle Epoque' (Dir. Budi Miller,2024), 'DREDGE' (Dir.Brandon Armstrong,2024), 'ILARUN: The Cutting Comb' (Dir. Effie Nkrumah,2024), 'THREE SISTERS' (Dir. Greg Carroll,2025), 'STORKED' (Dir. Maud Davey,2025), 'LOVE & INFORMATION' (Dir. Belle Hansen2025), and 'OTHELLO' (Dir. Tanya Gerstle,2025).

Jade is driven by the quiet choreography behind the scenes, shaping the moments that make live theatre feel electric.



BY THEATRE WORKS

A POWERFUL CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, RESILIENCE, AND THE UNBREAKABLE TIES BETWEEN MOTHER AND CHILD, COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

# LAZARUS



THEATRE WORKS PRESENTS

## LAZARUS

BY JOHN HARDING | DIRECTED BY KAMARRA BELL WYKES



21 MAY - 6 JUNE | THEATRE WORKS

theatre works, 14 acland street, st kilda



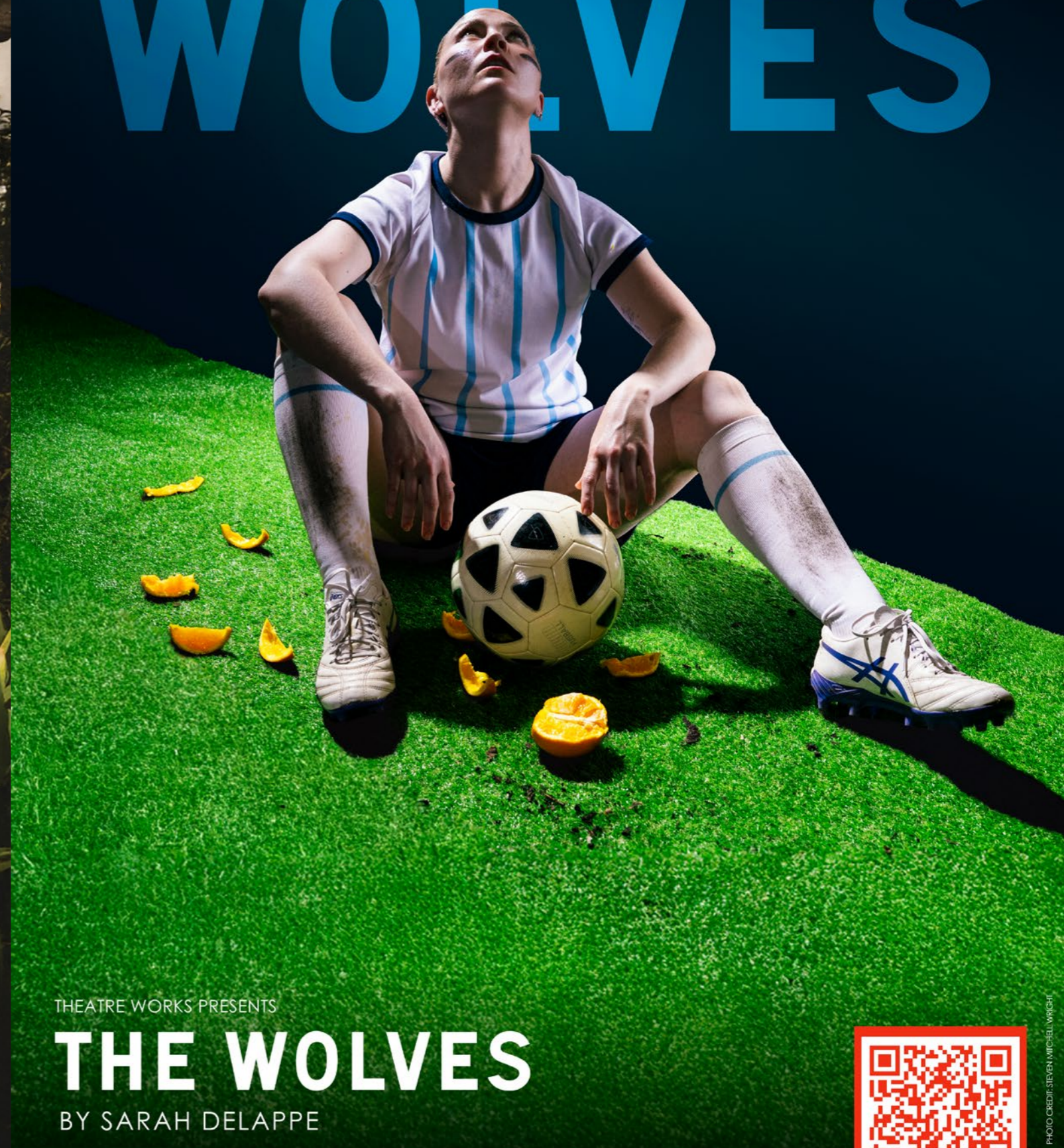
CREATIVE VICTORIA



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BY THEATRE WORKS

# THE WOLVES



THEATRE WORKS PRESENTS

## THE WOLVES

BY SARAH DELAPPE



10 - 20 JUNE | THEATRE WORKS

14 acland street, st kilda



CREATIVE VICTORIA



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ST KILDA

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