

WITH THEATRE WORKS

# SAINTING JOAN



THEATRE WORKS PRESENTS

# SAINTING JOAN

BY ABIGAIL BANISTER-JONES

**20 - 30 MAY | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY**

explosives factory, rear laneway 67 inkerman street, st kilda



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 Persona Collective 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

**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

# SAINTING JOAN

BY ABIGAIL BANISTER-JONES

---

**WRITER/DIRECTOR**

Abigail Banister-Jones

**MUSIC DIRECTOR / ARRANGER**

Lachlan Obst

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER**

Francesco Mandarinò

**COSTUME DESIGNER**

Hannah McGlinchey

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Stuti Ghosh

**STAGE MANAGER**

Lowana van Dorssen

**CO-PRODUCER**

Janvi Sikand

**DANCE CAPTAIN**

Bek Schilling

**SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR**

Gemma Caruana

**CAST**

**JOAN OF ARC**

Abigail Banister-Jones

**KING CHARLES**

Emerson Hansford

**ISABELLE**

Bek Schilling

**ARCHBISHOP**

Cassie Ogle

**DEVIL'S ADVOCATE**

James Colbourn-Keogh

**GENERAL DUNOIS**

Gemma Caruana

**PRINCE LOUIS**

Riley Street

**ROBERT DE BAUDRICORT**

Brittany Ng

**BAND**

**KEYS**

Lachlan Obst

**GUITAR**

Timothy Chivers

**BASS**

Lou Hogue

**DRUMS**

Victoria Mertonidis



---

SAINTING JOAN 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

## ABIGAIL BANISTER-JONES

The first time I saw Joan of Arc was in the 1989 film 'Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure'. "Who is that boy?" I asked my mother. A girl? No way. Short hair? Crazy. This resulted in me choosing to play the French heroine for a school assignment when I was twelve; and it's been true love ever since. I revelled in her tragedy, and her stoic righteousness. Paintings of her in armour see her stone faced, determined, serious.

There are elements of this in my portrayal, but take this image, where Joan is first being told of her mission. Her fear and her sadness. She is tasked with an enormous burden.

Sainting Joan is a work made of memories, adding even more layers to her, but through them all I aim to keep in my heart the spirit of a girl driven to make her world a better place.

That, and visions of Joan of Arc going absolutely wild at the mall Jazzercise in 1989.

So why is Joan not only a historical hero, but a hero of today? Injustice is the first word that comes to mind. It fills me with rage. It makes me need to dance to a solid drum and shredding guitar. Regardless

of your stance on Joan of Arc's divinity, sanity, or saintliness; it is easy to agree that her death sentence was entirely unjust. This show is full of disagreements. How did it happen? How can we know? We can't. But of this we can be sure: the injustices Joan faced are not extinct today.

In my interpretation I have heeded the alternative opinions about her from the ghosts of her past, while also presenting what I believe is the more important truth; that because (not despite) of her layered and human nature, she has the ability to empower and transform us from the past, and inspire us into the future.

Musically you may notice that I like to pay homage to ALW rock operas, and bands like The Last Dinner Party, The Ramones, King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard, Alanis Morisset, The Violent Femmes, and Nick Cave. By playing with existing expectations in music I find I can let the audience feel close and familiar with the work.

# ABIGAIL BANISTER-JONES (SHE/HER)

WRITER / DIRECTOR / PERFORMER - JOAN OF ARC



Abigail is an Australian actor, writer, composer and theatre maker. She specialises in queer theatre, environmentalism, feminism, comedy, music, and reinterpreting texts of antiquity. It is her mission to create and be a part of the telling of stories that champion justice and humanity. As of 2021 Abigail is a graduate of the Victorian Collage of the Arts with a BFA in Theatre Making. She developed her musical 'The Year Without A Summer' with Antipodes Winter Lab program in 2023, and was nominated for the 'Spirit of the Fringe' award for her sell-out one woman musical 'The Story of Cerberus: A Very Good Boy'.

# FRANCESCO MANDARINO (THEY/HE)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER



Francesco is an artist based in Naarm (Melbourne). They have written and choreographed the dance play "Ballet for Boys", a development of which is being presented as part of La Mama's Explorations this year. This is subsequent to Francesco's residency with La Mama, and the staged reading of "Ballet for Boys" presented at MUSE Festival in 2025. They have also choreographed dance comedies such as "That's What I Want", and have co-choreographed cabarets such as "Swift".

Currently, Francesco is studying a Bachelor of Arts at Deakin University, majoring in Creative Writing and minoring in Literature. They have also trained at Showfit, completing its two-year full-time musical theatre course.

# LACHLAN OBST (HE/HIM)

MUSIC DIRECTOR / ARRANGER



Lachlan is a multi-faceted actor/musician hailing from a country town north of Perth, and is excited to make his Music Director debut in Melbourne. Having written his own shows and participated in the development of various new works, he is excited to contribute to a fellow Western Australian's musical. Lachlan studied a Diploma and Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre at WAAPA, graduating in 2021.

# HANNAH MCGLINCHEY (SHE/HER/THEY)

COSTUME DESIGNER



Hannah is an emerging creative, originally from Sydney, currently studying a BFA in theatre making at the VCA. Hannah is passionate about theatre and costuming, with previous costuming credits including; the La Mama residency of Ballet For Boys (2025), costume assisting for UMMTA's production of Shrek the musical (2026) and co costume designer for Pelvic Girdle, VCA Muse Festival, (2025). Performing credits include two years of musical theatre training at Showfit Studios, the Australian premiere of Only Child, Chapel off Chapel (2024) and Headspace Education program (2023) Hannah is very excited to share Sainiting Joan and hopes you enjoy the show!

# STUTI GHOSH

LIGHTING DESIGNER



Stuti is a theatre maker passionate about live performance and every individual aspect of it from backstage to performance. In 2026 she is exploring the technical side of theatre, and Sointing Joan is her first solo gig as a lighting designer. In her free time when she isn't watching the same show over and over again as an usher, she likes photography, sketching and visiting streams and rivers nearby.

# JANVI SIKAND (SHE/HER)

PRODUCER



Janvi is a Naarm-based theatre maker and reproductive research scientist, specializing in mammalian penile morphology (in the lab, not on stage). After years of performing in musical theatre, she found a calling in production management and wrote, directed, and produced her debut one-act play Meet Me At The Monument in 2019.

During her undergraduate studies, Janvi discovered a passion for performing stand-up comedy, and acted as president and programs manager of MUDCRABS, the Melbourne University Comedy Revue Board. She has gone on to perform independently, as an opener for headlining acts, and as part of lineups including at Melbourne Fringe Festival (2024).

Recent screen credits include upcoming SBS Digital Original series Miss Sultanah, and Wilderness (2026). Production team credits include Fever Dream by Rao Morusupalli, The Titwichez School of Titcraft and Boobery by The Titwichez, and Portals SS26 by Chantelle Lucyl. Janvi is incredibly proud of the amazing work put in by the cast and crew of Sointing Joan, and is excited to bring you the musical of an after-lifetime!

# LOWANA VAN DORSSSEN (SHE/THEY)

STAGE MANAGER



Lowana is a stage manager based in Naarm (Melbourne). Their recent works include stage managing Soft Tread's The Platypus; Melbourne Opera's The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny, Die Walküre, and The Marriage of Figaro; Red Stitch Actors' Ensemble's Prayer Machine and The Amateurs; and School of Rock: The Inclusical for inclusive theatre company Stars and the Moon.

At the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, Lowana has stage managed the Opera department's productions of Suor Angelica, the Mahagonny Songspiel, and The Magic Flute, as well as providing stage management support to acting, theatre-making, dance and directing students across a range of productions. Additionally, Lowana stage manages concerts at the Ian Potter Southbank Centre for both student musicians and visiting professional guests to the university. Lowana is a proud member of the MEAA.

# EMERSON HANSFORD (THEY/THEM)

PERFORMER - KING CHARLES IV



Emerson is a queer and disabled artist primarily passionate about the storytelling and uplifting of the vulnerable. They graduated Pianoforte Music College in 2013 (Classical & Contemporary Voice), then continued their studies at The Victorian College of the Arts in 2015 (Music Theatre, Foundation). With 16 years of competition dance, Emerson also earned both Lyrebird & Greenroom Awards spanning across years in the amateur musical theatre circuit. Their most recent independent onstage credits include 'Ulrike/Numa Understudy' in Numa & Karl: Extraordinary Man That He Was (Sevenfold Theatre, 2025), 'Myrtle Warren' in Voldemort and the Teenage Hogwarts Musical Parody (Salty Theatre, in the 2021 and 2022 Melbourne seasons and the 2023 Adelaide Fringe Festival season), 'Stepmother/Witch' in Hansel and Gretel (Playhouse Pantomimes, 2024). Emerson is also a proud producer and former director with 'Out Of The Wings Theatre.' As a genderqueer artist and fierce feminist, experiencing 'Sointing Joan' has been both a theatrical and personal highlight for Emerson.

# BEK SCHILLING (THEY/THEM)

DANCE CAPTAIN / PERFORMER - **ISABELLE D'ARC**



Bek Schilling (they/them) is a Naarm based queer multidisciplinary artist. Their passion for new Australian theatre was fostered while completing a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Arts Academy, Federation University. Recently they appeared in the Australian premiere of BEARDED with a sold out season at Theatre Works, originating the leading role of Bet Rawler. In 2024 they starred as Bronwyn in *The Roof is Caving in* for the VCE Playlist with Frenzy Theatre Co. Bek is frequently seen on stage at Chapel Off Chapel as a part of *HOME GROWN*, showcasing new Australian musicals. Other credits include *Voyagers* (La Mama), *Nihilistic Optimism on Trampolines* (Theatre Works), *PIPER* (Theatre Works), and *Spark* (Midsummer). In 2025 they were an Associate Artist with Theatre Works, lending their hand to both the directorial and choreographic team for *Love and Information* by renowned playwright Caryl Churchill. Bek is represented by Triple Talent Management.

# GEMMA CARUANA (SHE/HER)

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR / PERFORMER - **GENERAL DUNOIS**



Hailing from Tarntanya/Adelaide, Gemma Caruana is a Queer creative artist of Maltese heritage. As a teen Gemma completed the celebrated Class of Cabaret program through the Adelaide Cabaret Festival where she was under the mentorship of esteemed cabaret artists from around the globe. She earned her BA in Music Theatre from the Ballarat Arts Academy (Fed Uni) in 2020 where she performed in 'Shane Warne the Musical' (Donna Wright), 'Working: A Musical' (Maggie Holmes) and 'A Chorus Line' (Diana Morales).

Her debut one-woman Cabaret 'Underwire', was performed at the Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2022 to rave reviews. Gemma has since created and toured three solo cabarets, and made her international debut in the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

An award winning writer and performer, Gemma has earned back-to-back weekly awards at the Adelaide Fringe Festival; Emerging Artist in 2024 with 'Galah Galah' and Best Cabaret in 2025 with 'Underwire'.

# CASSIE OGLE (THEY/THEM/SHE)

PERFORMER - **ARCHBISHOP REGNAULT DE CHARTRES**



Cassie Ogle (they/them/she) is a musical theatre performer originally from nipaluna/Tasmania, and a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (BFA Music Theatre, 2022) and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (Diploma of Musical Theatre, 2019).

Recent credits include *Avenue Q* (Lucy/Mrs T/Cover Puppeteer, AG Theatre), *Seussical: The Musical* (The Cat in the Hat, OCPAC), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia, John X Presents). They also worked as Inclusion Coordinator and swing on *Shrek the "Inclusical"* (Stars and the Moon). Cassie has originated roles in new Australian works including *The Water Guardians* (Kira, Tasmanian Tour – National Theatre for Children/Echelon Productions), *Arrgonauts* (Acastus, Melbourne Fringe Festival), *For a Mother's Love* (Kylie Creighton, New Story TAS), and *Lullaby of the Earth* (God Child/DC), and appeared in a development for *Death to a Butterfly* (Antipodes).

In 2025, they were a featured artist at the Australian Musical Theatre Festival, performing with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra in *Some Enchanted Evening* and presenting their debut one-person show, *Made in Tasmania*.

# RILEY STREET (THEY/THEM)

PERFORMER - **SUITOR / PRINCE LOUIS**



Riley is your gender-bender-bestie from the north! A passionate and exuberant actor, singer, cabaret artist, musician/singer-songwriter and part-time Drag King based in Naarm.

Some notable projects they have had the pleasure of performing in include; "Bearded the Musical" (Swing/ Ensemble) with TheatreWorks, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Lysander) with Sevenfold Theatre Company, "The Wacky Wombat!" (Grandma, Seal-Catcher & Puppeteer) with Melbourne Shakespeare Company, "Mediocre the Cabaret" (writer, producer, lead) with The Motley Bauhaus, and "The Hoedown Throwdown" (Drag King/Pole Dancer) with Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Riley is incredibly excited to be joining the cast of *Sainting Joan* in conjunction with TheatreWorks, to bring to life the campified story of the baddie with a bowl-cut, Joan of Arc.

# BRITTANY NG (SHE/HER)

PERFORMER - ROBERT DE BAUDRICOURT



Brittany (she/her) is a performer based in Melbourne (Naarm). Brittany is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting), The Australian Institute of Music with a Diploma of Music (Musical Theatre) and the National Institute of Dramatic Art's Actors Studio. Her stage credits include 'Promiscuous/Cities' (dir. Alyson Campbell). Her VCA credits include Betty/Edward in Cloud 9 (dir. Maude Davey), Kate in 'Fill, Fill, Fill, Fill, Fill, Fill, Fill' (dir. John Kachoyan) and Feste in 'Twelfth Night', (dir. Sarah Cathcart). Brittany is a playful, diligent and sensitive performer who hopes to tell stories to inspire and diversify the world we live in. Outside of performing, Brittany works as a Speech Pathologist and is passionate about supporting the next generation to communicate their stories.

# JAMES COLBORNE-KEOGH (THEY/THEM)

PERFORMER - THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE



A 2020 graduate of Music Theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts with several years of playing Basil Faulty under their belt (The Faulty Towers Dining Experience) James is well acquainted with playing grumpy Englishmen, and singing about it too. Their other experience includes: Our House (Dir. Tyran Park), 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood' (Dir. Jason Langly), and Morning Melodies at Arts Centre Melbourne. They have also featured in both 'Jester's Privilege' and 'Hello Mr Radio' presented by Handful of Bugs Theatre at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. They're excited to work with the most wonderful team in all of France to deliver a high octane Joan of Arc Musical that will leave you with heartburn.



IT'S DIONYSUS MEETS THE HOUSING CRISIS!

# KATZENMUSIK



THEATRE WORKS AND PARACOSM PRESENT

# KATZENMUSIK

BY TOM FOWLER

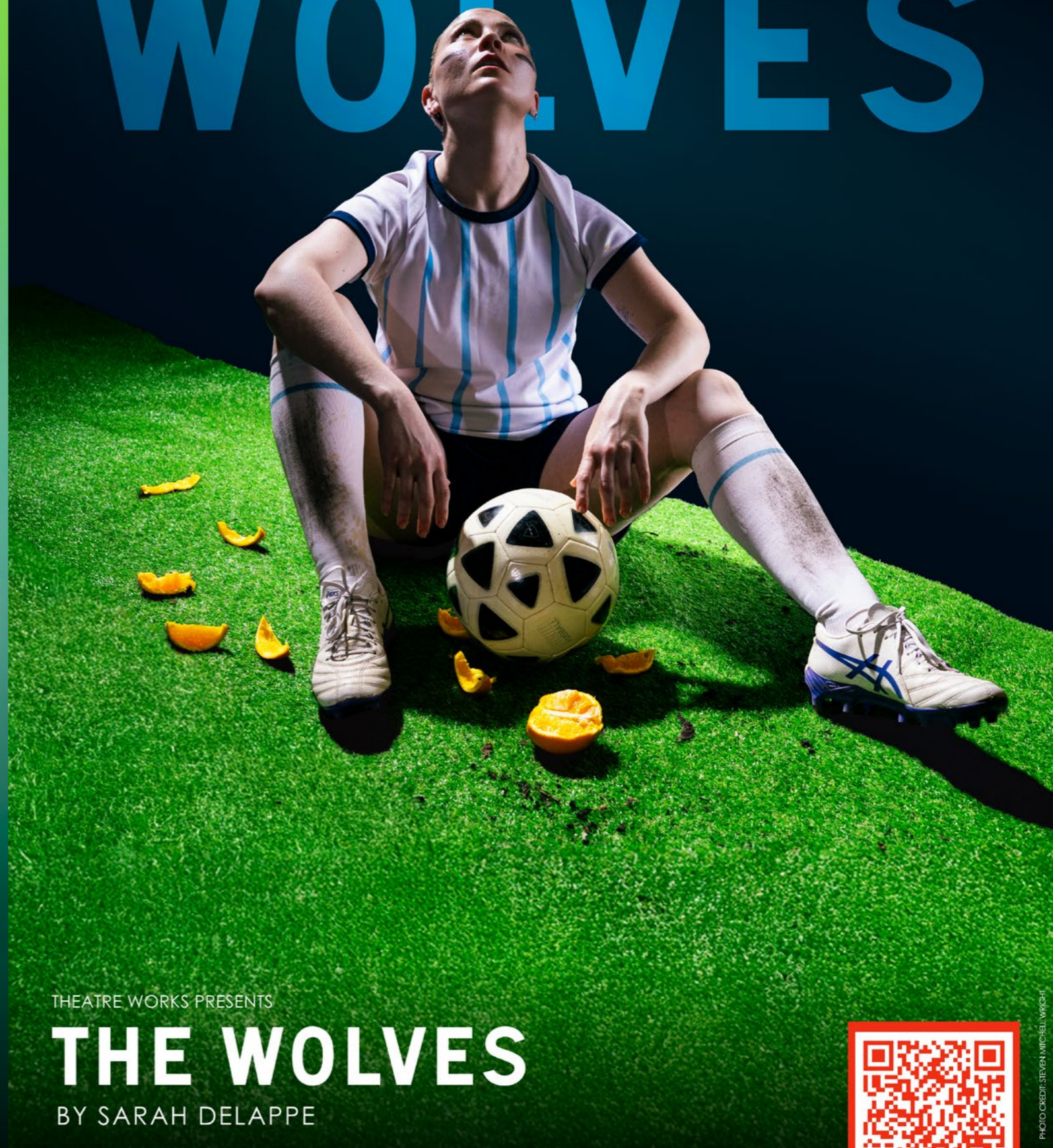


3 - 13 JUNE | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY  
rear laneway, 67 inkerman street, st kilda



THEATREWORKS.ORG.AU

# THE WOLVES



THEATRE WORKS PRESENTS

# THE WOLVES

BY SARAH DELAPPE



10 - 20 JUNE | THEATRE WORKS  
14 acland street, st kilda



THEATREWORKS.ORG.AU

PHOTO CREDIT: DAN BASH

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVEN MITCHELL WRIGHT



**THEATRE WORKS**

ST KILDA

[THEATREWORKS.ORG.AU](http://THEATREWORKS.ORG.AU)