

WITH THEATRE WORKS

THE DEPLORABLES



THEATRE WORKS AND SKIN OF OUR TEETH PRESENT

THE DEPLORABLES

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CHRISTINE DAVEY

19 - 29 AUGUST | 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 and Skin of our Teeth Productions 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 DEPLORABLES

WRITER / DIRECTOR

Christine Davey

COMPOSER / CHOREOGRAPHER

Tess Parker

LIGHTING / SOUND

Ella Thompson

CAST

Tess Parker
Mary Steuten
Marita Williams Seaton
Madeleine Potter
Danae Reid
Graci Lynch
Marie-Claire Tchernomoroff
Liana Emmerson
Chanda Anderson Prior
Lauren Atkin
Aeonie Ostik Smith

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who has come to see us over the last year and a half, and to the 22 women who started it all. Thanks to Di Toulson for having faith in us, and for Theatre Works for the fabulous assistance. Thanks to Australian Plays Transform nurturing the play from its inception. Thanks to Creative Australia and Regional Arts Victoria for supporting our development. Yay.

THE DEPLORABLES 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

CHRISTINE DAVEY

For me this journey began two years ago when I was gifted a copy of the wonderful *Bowl the Maidens Over* by Louise Zedda-Sampson. What a story! What an amazing group of women! What a shame they have been lost to history in this most sports mad of nations. For the cast, the journey began last year when they auditioned for an unfinished new work about cricket, with songs – talk about a leap of faith. For audiences it continues – a theatrical adventure full of love, laughter and tears. For the 22 women in the original match, however, the journey began 152 years ago in a cricket fiend in Bendigo. We hope we have done their story justice from the scant information available, and have brought them back to centre stage where they belong. I hope your hearts ache and sing with these women and what they accomplished. The cast has worked so hard and with such energy and enthusiasm, and I can state, categorically, that my words now live beyond the page and it's just wonderful. Here's to the 22 women who were the first.

COMPOSER'S NOTE

TESS PARKER

Composing for The Deplorables was an absolute joy. It is a story asking to have songs written for it – songs you can belt out in the car. The songs themselves came readily in the writing process, and I enjoyed deciding on the ensemble of instruments that embodied an 'Australian sound' to fit with the period of the story. Someone once said – 'silence is an instrument that should be considered when writing', and I think in writing for actors this is especially true, giving them time to explore the moment and the music. The songs are all very different and I loved writing a menagerie of themes, genres and sounds. Huge thanks to Christine for entrusting me with the music and for her contribution in lyrics, to Simon Parker on guitar and to the cast for singing these songs. It's been an honour and a privilege, and I hope you enjoy! As to movement – I believe theatre is for all bodies and abilities; both onstage and off and having such a diverse cast that was so willing to explore was exciting from day one. Non-naturalistic theatre is always twice as much fun for movement, and this piece is big, bold and more than a little silly at times! We obviously spent a lot of time talking cricket and perhaps the most challenging aspect of this show physically, is having the women believably learn to play over the course of an hour – watching them go from bumbling novices to prodigies with the bat and ball.



CHRISTINE DAVEY

WRITER/DIRECTOR



Christine loves writing about those who history decided weren't worth it. So yay. She lives in regional Victoria, has six sassy rescue sheep, a PhD, teaches at the University of Melbourne, and has won awards such as the Wal Cherry, Wheeler Centre Residency and Bundanon Trust Residency. Her plays (including the Deplorables) are published through APT and Currency Press.

MARIE-CLAIRE TCHERNOMOROFF

ACTOR - BARBARA RAE



Marie-Claire is thrilled to be back with SOOT for The Deplorables. She grew up in Bendigo and attended school on the very hill on which this important match was held. She's proud to tell Barbara's story and has thoroughly enjoyed this theatre-making process with these wonderful women.

TESS PARKER

COMPOSER/CHOREOGRAPHER/ACTOR - BARBARA RAE



Tess is a mover, shaker and music-maker who is lucky enough to have been a part of this production since its inception! Having graduated from Federation University with a Bachelor of Acting for Stage and Screen, Tess is a singing teacher and theatre-maker on Wadawarrung land. She composed, recorded and directed the songs and music in this production and is now thrilled to now be stepping into the role of Barbara alongside this fabulous cast.

MARITA WILLIAMS SEATON

ACTOR - EMILY RAE



Marita Williams Seaton brings experience across musicals, comedy, and drama. This is her second SOOT production, following her debut in On The Beach in 2021. As a member of the original cast of The Deplorables in 2025, Marita is delighted to return to the stage with SOOT and looks forward to bringing this remarkable story to new audiences.

LAUREN ATKIN

ACTOR - MISS GERBER



Lauren is a Geelong based actress and has worked with SOOT for nearly 10 years. She has loved working with this group of amazing ladies and to share this inspiring story.

MADELEINE POTTER

ACTOR - KATIE PETRIE



Originally from New Zealand, Madeleine began performing at a young age in school and professional pantomime stage shows. She graduated from Federation University in 2024 with Distinction. She is thrilled to be performing with Skin of Our Teeth Productions and has had a wonderful time developing the show.

DANAE REID

ACTOR - MISS GERBER



Danae is a passionate, queer maker and shaker who lives and plays on Wadawarrung land (Geelong). She graduated from The Victorian College of the Arts in 2016 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production). Since then she has toured backstage with various shows including Matilda, Aladdin, Billy Elliot, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and most recently, Hamilton. Whilst Danae loves making the magic happen behind the scenes, she is very excited to now be stepping in to the light. This is her second show with SOOT and she loves telling stories of powerful women, especially when history forgets them...

CHANDA ANDERSON PRIOR

ACTOR - MURDOCH



Chanda Anderson Prior is a performer who graduated from Federation University with a BA in Music Theatre. She has been working in independent theatre since. Recent credits include Birdy in Sweet Pea, Quinn in Fresno the Musical, and Miss Prism in The Importance of Being Earnest. Chanda is currently touring with Alpha Shows, playing Rapunzel.

AEONIE OSTIK-SMITH

ACTOR - KATIE PETRIE



Aeonie Ostik-Smith (She/Her) is a Melbourne-based actor with stage and screen experience, including Cul de Sac, the 2016 Waitrose Christmas Ad, Shrek the Musical and The Wind in the Willows. Outside performing, Aeonie studies Psychology at the University of Melbourne, writes songs, and enjoys social netball.

LIANA EMMERSON

ACTOR - NELLIE RAE



Liana studied at 16th Street Actors Studio and is known internationally for her work on free Jane Austen audiobooks through Ballarat National Theatre. She's just finished performing as Sven in Frozen with BLOC Music Theatre and will next perform as The Creature in Frankenstein with The Wanderer's Theatre.

MARY STEUTEN

ACTOR - NELLIE RAE



Mary has been involved with SOOT since its inception and is so proud to play Nellie Rae and share this remarkable story. Mary has been performing since 1985 and was last seen as O'Brien in SOOT's 198(4) and Moley in SOOT's Wind in the Willows in 2025.

ELLA THOMPSON

LIGHTS/SOUND/PROJECTION



Ella is a Naarm based stage manager and WAAPA Performing Arts graduate, majoring in Stage Management. She has worked across festivals including Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Sydney Festival and St Kilda Festival. Credits in stage management include work with Theatre Works, Victorian Opera, Red Stitch, Western Australian Opera, Explosives Factory, Australian Players, Bloomsday In Melbourne and Watch this Inc.

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

BY THEATRE WORKS

FOUR FRIENDS. ONE HOLIDAY. GLOBAL OUTRAGE.

SAVAGES

BY PATRICIA CORNELIUS | DIRECTED BY KITAN PETKOVSKI



2 - 12 SEPTEMBER | THEATRE WORKS

theatre works 14 acland street, st kilda



THEATRE WORKS

ST KILDA

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