

WITH THEATRE WORKS

ONE SMALL SPACE. THREE VERY DIFFERENT WOMEN.
THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY...

ARE YOU THERE?

by irene korsten

presented by
wild boar theatre



3 - 13 SEP | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

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



CREATIVE VICTORIA



Theatre Works and Wild Boar 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.

ABOUT THEATRE WORKS

Theatre Works is an artist-first organisation and we exist to support emerging, established, local and national artists as they achieve their vision on stage with as little compromise as possible. We encourage risk-taking and live for new ideas.

MISSION

Theatre Works fills a vital niche in the Australian cultural landscape as an artistic home and destination for the ambitious, the new and the eminent.

VISION

To be the Australian epicentre of independent theatre and independent theatre makers by investing in, empowering and supporting artists of all experience, identity, background and aspiration to make ambitious works that reflect, redefine or reimagine contemporary Australia and contemporary Australian theatrical practice.

VALUES

ARTIST OVER ART

We believe in creating safe opportunities and environments for artistic and professional development in pursuit of individual artists and companies' own definitions of success.

EMPOWERING RISK

We believe that the future is defined by those who challenge the status quo. As such we partner with companies and artists that push the boundaries of content, form or scale.

CREATIVE FREEDOM

We get out of the artists' way.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE

We value the longevity of our organisation, partnering artists and their careers, our planet and our art form. We prioritise the mental and fiscal health of our organisation and partnering artists.

DIVERSITY AND ANTIRACISM

We believe in a theatre and a theatre sector that is a true representation of the diverse world in which we live. We actively seek to create opportunities and pathways for marginalised communities.

THE TEAM

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

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

JADE HIBBERT (she/her) Company Producer

RIVER STEVENS (he/him) Front of House Co-Ordinator

JOSHUA FERNANDEZ Venue Operations Assistant

CHRIS PATRICK HANSEN Marketing and Producing Assistant

ANNE HENDERSON (she/her) Finance Administrator

ARE YOU THERE?

by irene korsten | presented by wild boar theatre

DIRECTOR

Rachel Baring

WRITER

Irene Korsten

CAST

Colleen... Jane Clifton
Pia... Melanie Madrigali
Lauren... Rosemary Johns

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Tomas Gerasimidis

SET DESIGNER

Josh McNeill

COSTUME DESIGNER

Dylan Lumsden

STAGE MANAGER

Lauren Kemp

PUBLICITY

Eleanor Howlett - Sassy Red PR





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

RACHEL BARING

Whenever I am given a script I have to ask myself "is this my story to tell?"

I was concerned to begin with because A: I am in my 40's and that would make me the youngest person in the rehearsal room. B: Motherhood is a major connective tissue, and I don't have a child (don't tell my dog I said that).

What I neglect to think of initially is that there is a future in which I am older, and the process of becoming older and what that looks like is an essential element of life. Also that motherhood can look very different; I am called Mum in rehearsal rooms, at my day job, just because I don't have a living spawn doesn't stop me from being a carer. I have connected with this text in a multitude of ways- women are a multitude. I also believe that the way Irene has written this piece makes it relatable and humorous (I can name a couple of Colleens from my own life), but also gives space for conversation. It has been a joy to tell this story that know.



RACHEL BARING

DIRECTOR



Rachel Baring is a theatre director with over 15 years of experience, having staged productions across the UK, the US, and Australia. A NIDA graduate (Directing, 2011), she was selected for the MTC Women Directors' Program in 2015.

Her directing credits include *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter (2025), *Slut* (2020 & 2024), *Hildegard/Knef*, *Too Ready Mirror*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Brustwarze – The Wart on My Breast*, *Murder Ballads*, and *The Goat; or Who is Sylvia?*. She also served as Festival Director for Short+Sweet Theatre Festival, curating over 50 productions per season, and directed two pieces for the national tour of *Shorter and Sweeter*.

With a strong background in new writing, devised theatre, and feminist storytelling, Rachel continues to create bold, thought-provoking work

IRENE KORSTEN

WRITER



Winner of a Green Room award for writing for *Ordinary Misery*, and Highly Commended at the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. Irene has written plays, one-person shows and written and performed stand-up comedy. Irene is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (drama) as well as being a graduate of RMIT's Professional Writing and Editing Diploma.

She has worked with The Australian Screenwriters Guild as a copy editor and playwriting judge, Adelaide Fringe, The Melbourne Comedy Festival, Castlemaine Arts Festival and La Mama Theatre.

JANE CLIFTON

PERFORMER - COLLEEN



Jane Clifton is an actress, singer, writer and celebrant whose career spans more than five decades. From her early days in Melbourne's alternative theatre and music scene to hit singles, best-selling stage shows, published novels and poetry, she has built a diverse and enduring presence in Australian arts and entertainment.

While she will always be fondly remembered as Margo in *Prisoner/Cell Block H*, Jane continues to perform, write, and paint – from her long-running singing residency at Claypots Evening Star to touring her poetry-based solo show and exhibiting her artwork.

For Jane's full bio and credits, visit www.janeclifton.com.au

MELANIE MADRIGALI

PERFORMER - PIA



Melanie studied Acting and Music Theatre at the Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts and grew up in a family of actors. Since then, she has built a wide-ranging career as an actor, voice artist, director, teacher, and producer, with television credits including *Anzacs*, *Stingers*, *Neighbours*, and *Offspring*.

On stage, she has performed extensively across Melbourne, from La Mama to the Athenaeum, with highlights including *The Three Musketeers* for the Australian Shakespeare Company, numerous Shakespearean roles, and original works such as *Half of Me*, *Our Haunting Ghosts*, and *The Op Shop*. Recent performances include *Essendon Champions* at Chapel Off Chapel and *Car Crash*, directed by Cassandra Magrath.

ROSEMARY JOHNS

PERFORMER - LAUREN



Rosemary trained in drama at Manchester University and later earned an MFA at the University of California, Riverside, before performing in the USA and Europe. After moving to Australia, she became a playwright-performer with MRPG and has built a career spanning theatre, television, and writing, with acting credits including *Changing Horses*, *The Mary Project*, and *Quilting the Armour*, as well as guest roles in *Blue Heelers*, *Janus*, *Phoenix*, *State Coroner* and *Offspring*.

She recently appeared in *Three Sisters* at Theatre Works and *Same But Different* for La Mama's touring program, and will feature in *Tipping Point 2029* at MC Showroom later this year. A passionate creator of new Australian work, Rosemary is a proud member of MEAA and AWG, and has had six plays published by Currency Press.

TOMAS GERASIMIDIS

LIGHTING DESIGNER



Tomas is an independent lighting designer with over a decade of experience in Naarm's arts precinct, including work with VCA, Resolution X, and as a theatre consultant. He has completed secondments with Opera Australia (*Cendrillon*) and *Shake & Stir* (1984), and has designed lighting for productions with Tall & Short Theatre Co., flatpack art, and Fearless Theatre Co.

His work includes *Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Grease*, *Chicago*, *Dry Land*, *Close to Home*, and *NOW*, earning him Victorian Lyrebird Youth Awards for both lighting and projection design. He is delighted to return to Theatre Works for *Are You There?*

Tomas acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and their connection to the land, sea, and sky. The ongoing traditions of storytelling, song, and dance have been practiced here for thousands of generations.

JOSH MCNEILL

SET DESIGNER



Josh is an emerging production designer with a portfolio spanning theatre, movement-based works, and interdisciplinary art. Josh is passionate about crafting innovative designs that combine striking visuals with original storytelling. A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), his credits include *Carrie: The Musical* (dir. Tyler Jacob Jones), *Head Over Heels* (dir. Melanie Hillman), and *The Belly* (dir. Jeffrey Jay Fowler). In 2025, he seconded on *Dark Mofo*, working alongside designer Bruce McKinven.

DYLAN LUMSDEN

COSTUME DESIGNER



Dylan Lumsden is a Melbourne-based Set and Costume Designer and recent Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production) graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts. Passionate about creating imaginative and impactful scenography, Dylan also specialises in costume management and construction.

Her recent credits include Associate Costume Designer and Head of Wardrobe for JRP's *In The Heights* tour, Assistant Set & Costume Designer for *Super* at Red Stitch, Costume Designer for *A Very Expensive Poison*, and Senior Costumier on *Spring Awakening*. In 2025, Dylan was selected to join Red Stitch Actors' Theatre Ensemble as a Hansen Graduate Designer.





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