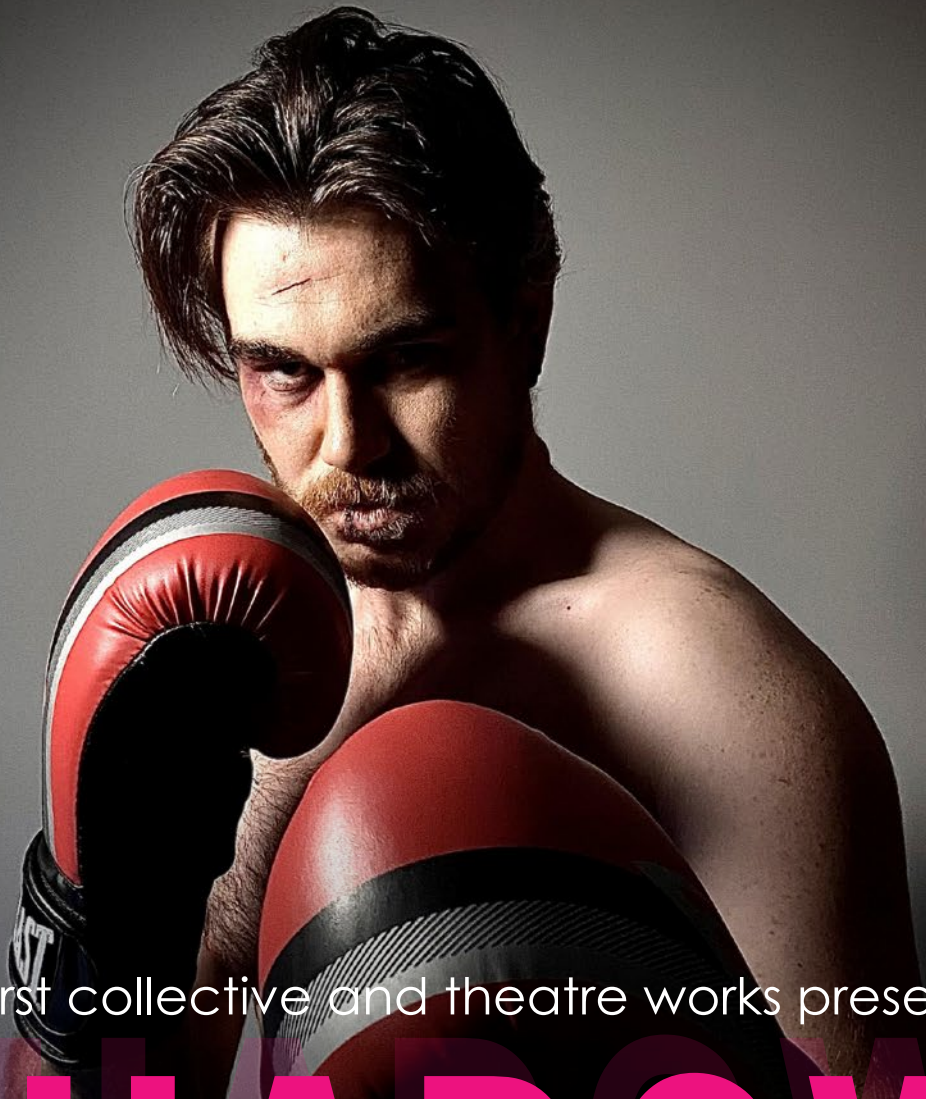


with theatre works

FREEDOM COULD BE ONE PUNCH AWAY...



feet first collective and theatre works presents

# SHADOW BOXING

by james gaddas

14 - 24 MAY | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

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



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries

CREATIVE VICTORIA



**Theatre Works and Feet First 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.**

# 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

**TOM RAY** (he/him) Venue Operations Manager

**STEVEN MITCHELL WRIGHT** (he/him) Front of House Co-Ordinator

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

**ALANAH GUIRY** (she/her) Access and Inclusion Coordinator

**ANITA MEI LA TERRA** Marketing and Producing Assistant

**JOSHUA FERNANDEZ** Venue Operations Assistant



# SHADOW BOXING

BY JAMES GADDAS | FEATURING SAMUEL ADDISON

## CREDITS

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**PRODUCER / DIRECTOR /  
MOVEMENT COACH**

Teresa Izzard

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER /  
DESIGNER / GRAPHIC DESIGN &  
EDITING**

Samuel Addison

**DRAMATURG / VOCAL  
PERFORMANCE COACH /  
LGBTQIA+ ADVISOR**

Donald Woodburn

**COMPOSITION / SOUND DESIGN**

Bec Price

**LIGHTING DESIGN / OPERATOR**

Christian Lovelady

**PUBLICIST**

Tracy Routledge

**SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER**

Amber Kitney

**PRODUCING MENTOR**

Neil Gooding

**PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY  
(PERTH SEASON)**

James Dove

**VIDEOGRAPHY (PERTH SEASON)**

Kyle Bartlett

**PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY  
and VIDEOGRAPHY  
(MELBOURNE SEASON)**

Hannah Jennings

## CONTENT WARNINGS

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(15+) Strong language, sexual references, adult themes, simulated images / depictions of violence and sexual acts. This performance contains flashing lights / strobe and the use of haze.





# WRITER'S NOTE

## JAMES GADDAS

In 1989, I was in Sydney for a few months – enjoying the culture, spending time with friends, and revelling in the discovery of what makes Australia such a vibrant, positive environment.

Then, out of the blue, during a conversation with the actor David Field, I found myself agreeing to write him a one man show. Why – I have no idea. As an actor, my experience was with other people's words. But we discussed subject matter, and at one point I told him how I'd always wanted to explore my father's experiences as a professional boxer, David shook his head and said, "I'm always cast as hard men, as villains, I want to break that mould."

In that moment – *Shadow Boxing* was born.

I had no idea it would become as successful as it has been. Multiple productions around the world, from New York to Johannesburg. From London to Toronto. And now – back in Australia.

Watching that first performance at the Stables – I was of the firm belief that we were on the cusp of a breakthrough in the acceptance of people as people. Not defined by gender or sexuality, not expected to conform to social norms, not excluded from any and all avenues of experience. Just...people.

I never imagined that 40 years on, I'd be living in a world where politicians across the globe, are giving permission to society to once again ostracise, marginalise and even erase, the very essence of what makes us who we are.

Where titans of the internet can spread falsehoods, where anyone with a podcast can stir up hatred and bile, and where

the simple act of being who we are, can become an invitation to discrimination and violence.

In *Shadow Boxing*, Flynn makes a choice. A stand. A moment that defines him.

In what is becoming a regressive world, we can all make that same stand. I'm thrilled that Feet First Collective is bringing the production to life once more, and hope you get your liniment, towels and gum shields ready to stand in Flynn's corner!

Seconds...OUT!

James Gaddas



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

TERESA IZZARD

I think James Gaddas's eloquent note pretty much says it all with regards to how this play takes on the world, its genesis and how it speaks increasingly to the now. So, I'll focus a little more on our artistic journey. I don't take on a project unless it scares me a little, and offers me an opportunity to grow as an artist. *Shadow Boxing* is no exception to this rule. But a solo show is a unique challenge, especially for the actor and director at the heart of the work and *Shadow Boxing* has pushed us both to develop our craft as theatre makers.

Building on our two previous seasons, we set out over a year ago to attract opportunities, investment and funding in order to have the resources to create the reimaging of the show you will see tonight.

Staging it in the round and evoking the boxing ring visually sharpens the image of being alone and shadow boxing your demons, but it is also one of the most demanding things you can ask of an actor. Flynn uses the metaphor of a jigsaw throughout the piece. We've found so many new pieces and made so many new connections this time around and are excited to share the work with audiences afresh. It has been particularly special to have James Gaddas engage with us during this season and his daughter is coming to see the show!

We wouldn't have had the time and support to make these discoveries without the opportunity to be part of the 2025 With Theatre Works strand. Theatre Works is unique as an organisation in what they offer independent artists and we are so grateful for their investment in *Shadow Boxing*. Thanks to a grant from the Western Australian Government, we also had the funding to bring together a creative team to support the performance with fully

realised production values. The support of Lumos Creatives and APK Productions has also been key in making this project viable.

On a personal note, I want to thank Donald, who brought the play to me and has been an invaluable source of wisdom as the production has grown. I want to thank Bec and Christian for teaming up again as veritable powerhouses of technical and artistic brilliance. I want to thank Amber and Tracy for helping us find a bridge to the audience for the show. Amber's inspired social media has given this season a unique flair! And, finally, I want to thank Sam for trusting me once again, for diving into the complex character of Flynn, embodying the hypermasculine world of boxing and for his courage on our journey to the performance you will see tonight.

Teresa Izzard





# THANK YOUS + ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Dianne, Adam and the entire team at Theatre Works.

Thanks to Jack Becker; James Blair and the team at Endorphin Boxing; Jeremy Udovich and the St Kilda Boxing Club for boxing coaching and training along the way.

Thank you to the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries for backing this project.

Thanks to APK Productions and Lumos Creatives for their support and to our sponsor Orbit Fitness for the most well-travelled boxing bag in Australia!

Finally, and there are too many to mention individually, but thanks to everyone who has come to see the show or supported the show in the past two years, especially the FFC advisory panel (Ross Mackenzie and Donald Woodburn) and James Dove for his input and the amazing production photography of our Perth show!

## ABOUT FEET FIRST COLLECTIVE

**Feet First Collective: We make theatre from the ground up!**

Feet First Collective specifically makes uncompromising high quality independent theatre. Our goal is to tell beautiful and brutal stories that engage our audiences with provocative form and content.







## TERESA IZZARD

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER /  
MOVEMENT COACH

Teresa Izzard is a Laban/Bartenieff Certified Movement Analyst, a Dynamic Embodiment Practitioner and holds a PhD in Theatre Direction and Dramaturgy which won the Phillip Parsons Prize in 2013. She has a wealth of experience as a director, movement coach, producer, dramaturg and theatre educator. She was Head of Movement at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2014 and a Theatre Arts lecturer and resident director at Curtin University until 2020. She is the Artistic Director and Creative Producer of Feet First Collective (FFC), an independent theatre company making critically acclaimed work in Perth, Western Australia. She combines running FFC with teaching into the Music Theatre course at WAAPA. Teresa brings her background in Somatics to her directorial practice and creates clear visual and physical dramaturgy for challenging, provocative texts and devised works. *Shadow Boxing* is the first solo performance she has directed. It premiered at Sydney Fringe 2023 and was remounted at Perth's FRINGE WORLD 2024 winning a Weekly Prize in the Theatre and Performance category. She recently travelled to Italy thanks to a DLGSC SNAP grant to work with Anne Bogart at the La MaMa International Directors' Symposium and enjoyed applying her learning whilst remounting *Shadow Boxing* for the Theatre Works 2025 season.



## SAMUEL ADDISON

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER / PERFORMER /  
DESIGNER

Samuel Addison holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Curtin University, where a highlight was bringing the physically demanding role of Gregor Samsa to life in Berkoff's *Metamorphosis*. Samuel received the Best Performance award for Therese Roberts' *Playing with Shadows* at South West Shorts in 2020. He was an FFC Core Artist from 2019-2024 and was involved with all productions taking on a range of roles including; performing, assistant directing, producing and designing. He is the performer for *Shadow Boxing*, a challenging solo work, that premiered at Sydney Fringe 2023 and won a Weekly Prize in Theatre and Performance at Perth's FRINGE WORLD in 2024. He is also the associate producer for *Shadow Boxing* and FFC's Associate Artist. He is currently living in Sydney and is excited that the show is touring to Melbourne and Sydney in 2025.



## DONALD WOODBURN

VOCAL COACH / DRAMATURG /  
LGBTQIA+ ADVISOR

Donald Woodburn runs Woodburn Voice and is an internationally accomplished voice coach with 30 years' experience who works with professional communicators from an array of backgrounds. He studied at NIDA before heading up the voice departments at the South African School of Film and Drama and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. He is the originator of 'Vocal Targeting' work. Donald is a founding member of Feet First Collective and he is also on the advisory panel. Recently Donald was the vocal coach for FFC's critically acclaimed Perth and Melbourne Fringe seasons of *This Is Where We Live* by Vivienne Walshe as well as for *The Flower that Fell from the Sky* by Heloise Wilson and *MEDUSA*. Currently based in Sydney, Donald teaches for Excelsia College and at Sydney Acting Studio where he recently directed *Alive*. He has loved working on *Shadow Boxing* and is excited for audiences to see the 2025 remount.



## BEC PRICE

COMPOSER / SOUND DESIGN

Bec Price is an electronic producer, instrumentalist, vocalist and DJ creating original work under the name PROJECT BEXX. She was awarded WAM'S Best Live Electronic Act 2021, WA Electronic Song of the Year Award in 2022, and is a finalist for the 2024 AMWA Special Impact Award. Graduating with a BA in Performance Making from WAAPA in 2017, Bec is also heavily involved in theatre productions. More recently she has combined her passions of music and theatre in sound design and tech production for live performance. She has a repertoire of sound design for shows at WAAPA and FRINGE WORLD as well as working with companies like Pinpoint Theatre, Blank Space Productions, Abyss Co, Crash Theatre, Just Friends Theatre and more. Bec is a creative multidisciplinary powerhouse, with a passion for sharing stories and creating memorable and moving experiences for all types of audiences and productions. *Shadow Boxing* is her second collaboration with Feet First Collective, having composed and sound designed for *MEDUSA*, to rave reviews!





## CHRISTIAN LOVELADY

LIGHTING DESIGNER AND OPERATOR

Christian Lovelady has been a freelance lighting programmer and designer for ten years. He is specifically based in Perth but also works in Hobart and Sydney. After refining a lighting specialisation at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Christian graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Lighting Design which assisted in securing work as a programmer and designer with many companies including The Regal Theatre 2016 - 2020, Fringe World 2015 - 2019, His Majesty's Theatre 2017 - Present, MONA (MOFO & Dark MOFO) 2017 - Present, Strut n' Fret 2016 - 2018 and VIVID Sydney 2022 just to name a few. This is his second project with Feet First Collective, building on his sensational design for MEDUSA in 2023.



## AMBER KITNEY

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Amber Kitney (she/they) is a Filipino-Australian performing artist, producer, and arts manager. In 2019, Amber founded APK Productions: an inclusive independent theatre company formed on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar supporting intercultural collaborations and the creation of new theatrical works, such as Salted Pretzels by Cezera Critti-Schnaars (2023), and PASSING: An Asian Australian Musical by Michele Gould (2021). They've held roles with several reputable arts organisations including Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP), Arts and Culture Trust (ACT), The Blue Room Theatre (TBRT), The Last Great Hunt and WA Youth Theatre Company (WAYTCO). She was an advisor for TBRT's Equity and Justice Group (2023), and WAYTCO's Youth Advisory Board (2020-21) and a public speaker at Youth Focus' Annual Staff forum promoting the importance of mental health services for young people. This is their first collaboration with Feet First Collective.



## TRACY ROUTLEDGE

PUBLICIST

Tracy Routledge runs her Public Relations Consultancy TR PR. She specialises in arts publicity, securing widespread coverage nationally in broadcast, print and online media. Current clients include Feet First Collective, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, 'I'm With Her' – The Play, WA Youth Jazz Orchestra, MEMO Music Hall St Kilda (VIC), The Swan Hill Performing Arts Centre (VIC), the Margaret River Reader & Writers Festival and UWA Publishing. Tracy has also worked for Barking Gecko Theatre, Co3 Contemporary Dance, Steamworks Arts, the Fenians, Fremantle & Freedom Festival, and Kidogo Arthouse. Tracy has a BA in Communications from Curtin University and has been the publicist on all Feet First Collective's productions







**THEATRE WORKS**  
ST KILDA