

La Mama's **EXPLORATIONS** season has been supporting works in development since 1980.

Creative exploration is at the core of all works produced and presented at La Mama, however the Explorations' annual season of works in development is a special time of year where productions are given three nights in the space to explore their practice and develop their theatrical pursuits.

October, November and December at La Mama are filled with artists and audiences engaging in the process of development – of ideas, form, content, words, processes, whatever is useful to the particular production.

Check out the full program for 2015 here:

www.lamama.com.au/2015-explorations



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Our sincerest thanks to the many volunteers who generously give their time in support of La Mama.

La Mama's Committee of Management, staff and its wider theatrical community acknowledge that our theatre is on traditional Wurundjeri land.

The La Mama community acknowledges the considerable support it has received in the past decade from Jeannie Pratt and The Pratt Foundation.

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the City of Melbourne through the Arts and Culture triennial funding program.



GOBLINS

December 7, 8 & 9

Part of La Mama's 2015 EXPLORATIONS

Written by Jeni Bezuidenhout & Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou

Directed by Sebastian Bertoli

Performed by Jeni Bezuidenhout, Eva Justine Torkkola, Isabelle Bertoli, Kellie Tori, Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou, and Luke Lennox

Assistant Director - Jon Walpole

Stage Manager - Georgia Whyte

Set Design by Marcus Verdi

Lighting Design by Jaidan Leeworthy

A Panopticon Collective Production

Image by Underground Media

COMPANY STATEMENT

Panopticon Collective is a Melbourne-based theatre and film production company with a focus on creating new Australian work, exploring themes of national identity and social responsibility. Panopticon Collective is committed to working toward paying artists.

WRITERS' STATEMENT

Cassandra: "When we first started writing this we knew very little about how it was going to turn out, we just knew that we wanted a piece providing strong voices to those who are happily stamped out by society. Writing this provided a nice chance to play with complex emotions; such as anger and hopelessness, while still wanting to discuss real issues that have affected and are still affecting women."

Jeni: "The process of writing happened so quickly. We chose which stories spoke to us and then we went on a roller coaster with our 3 characters. A lot of the people I wrote about were far more developed within their way of thinking, feeling and were risk takers. But then the masses killed them - society. It was like seeing the same cycle repeat itself over and over again and I found myself asking 'will we ever learn?'"

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Goblins has been an exciting and nerve-racking experience. Discovering and immersing ourselves in the stories of these six women has been tremendously inspiring. And while many of the stories don't have happy endings, what these women do in their (albeit sometimes short) lives effects the world around them. By healing others, by provoking the conscience of the society they live in and by finding the strength to exist honestly, these women stand up for the injustices in our world. My hope is that as a species we can keep evolving. As the late Bill Hicks said, "Evolution did not end with us growing opposable thumbs."

I am super proud of the brave and talented artists that came together to create this new work. Making new work is one of more terrifying things that I've done. A huge thank you to La Mama Theatre for their support and encouragement through the entire process.

Anthea's Story (2000 BC)

Written Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou

Performed by Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou

Margaret's Story (1448)

Written by Jeni Bezuidenhout

Performed by Kellie Tori

Edith's Story (1909)

Written by Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou

Performed by Eva Justine Torkkola

Eliza's Story (1941)

Written by Jeni Bezuidenhout

Performed by Jeni Bezuidenhout

Bronte's Story (1986)

Written by Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou

Performed by Isabelle Bertoli

Danielle's Story (2015)

Written by Jeni Bezuidenhout

Performed by Luke Lennox



A still from *Many Happy Returns* (2015)

Last month, we made a short film with Underground Media as part of the 48 Hour Film Project Melbourne. Visit our website in the next month where you will be able to watch *Many Happy Returns* online .

Stay up to date with Panopticon Collective by liking our Facebook page, follow us on Instagram, Twitter and visit us online at www.panopticoncollective.com

If you are interested in working with Panopticon Collective, or want to submit proposals of new work, please don't hesitate to contact us directly via panopticoncollective@gmail.com

Thank you for being an audience to new work - theatre does not exist in a void, without you, it's not complete.

CASSANDRA-ELLI YIANNACOU – ANTHEA

Cassandra is a writer/director and actor, she graduated with a B.A from the University of Melbourne in 2014. Her most recent original works include; *Limerence*, *Like Breathing* and *There's Something About Leo*. She has worked as part of Platform Youth Theatre for their 2015 season at La Mama where she wrote, directed, and acted in multiple pieces.

KELLIE TORI - MARGARET

Kellie is an Actor and Director recently returned to Melbourne from London. She is a graduate of Federation University's Arts Academy (2006) and also attended the Stella Adler Studio – New York's summer school in 2013. She has performed in many independent productions throughout Melbourne, including *Three Sisters*, *Arcadia*, *Blood and Ice* (PMD Productions), *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It* (Ozact) and *Of Dysentery and Madness* (Tiprat). She recently directed Wil Greenway's *For the Ground that Grew Me*, Richard Purnell's *Bathtime* and Paula Varjack's *How I Became Myself* for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2015.

EVA JUSTINE – EDITH

Eva was seen in Explorations last month in *Charles Manson and the Art of Radicalisation* (Cicero's Circle), and works full time as an actor for the Commonwealth Bank traveling around Australia educating and entertaining the youth of today with a series of scripts about financial literacy and Justin Bieber. Earlier this year she also went to Sydney with Feat in Space performing in comedy double bill *Receivers* and *The Piano Thief*. Her upcoming projects for 2016 are *Wagner in Paris* (Opera Australia), *Strange Shoes* (BackYardTheatreEnsemble) and *Is There a Happy Ending* which will be playing at Gluttony at the Adelaide Fringe.

JENI BEZUIDENHOUT - ELIZA

Originally from South Africa, Jeni is an Australian actor, writer and director. She graduated from Arts Academy (Ballarat) in 2012. Jeni is the co-founder of Panopticon Collective and also co-wrote *Goblins*. Other recent works include; shorts *The Happiest Day of My Life* (Panopticon Collective/Underground Media), *Flora* (Sine Qua Non and Fallow Production), *Many Happy Returns* (Panopticon Collective/Underground Media), feature film *Cat Sick Blues* (Phantasme) which just won Best Australian Feature at Monster Fest. Stage works: *Jenny*, *Meet Me for Meaning* and *Tip Toe* (La Mama Theatre) and *Love, Sarah* (Panopticon Collective). www.jenibez.com

ISABELLE BERTOLI – BRONTE

Isabelle graduated from the University of Ballarat's Arts Academy, with a Bachelor of Arts (Acting) in 2009. She completed a Masters of Teaching, specialising in Teaching Shakespeare, at the University of Melbourne in 2012. Isabelle performed as a vocalist in Panopticon Collective's *Love, Sarah* in 2015. She was production manager and front of house for Ladymullet Productions' *Love Triangle* 1919 for Melbourne Fringe Festival 2014. Film credits include: Sally in Lamberg & Bennett Production's *Candy Cravings* - a finalist for the 48 Hour Film Festival Melbourne 2013, Panopticon Collective & Underground Media's *Many Happy Returns* in 2015 and Pam/Mum in Tip Rat Theatre & Underground Media's webseries *Something Nautical* in 2015.

LUKE LENNOX – DAN/DANIELLE

Luke has been working as an actor in Australia and the UK for over 18 years, working in TV, film and theatre. He has worked on some of the seminal Australian TV series such as *Blue Heelers*, *Neighbours* and *Kath and Kim*. Theatre credits highlights include *The Bald Soprano* (ThresholdTC), *Of Dysentery and Madness: A Trapper's Tale* (Tiprat Theatre), *Arcadia* (PMD) and he relished playing Lord Byron in the Australian premiere of Liz Lochhead's re-write of *Blood and Ice* (PMD). He has recently wrapped up a nine-month tour of the UK in *Octonauts and the Deep Sea Volcano Adventure*.

SEBASTIAN BERTOLI – DIRECTOR

Sebastian directs for both stage and screen. He graduated from Arts Academy (Ballarat) with a BA (Acting) in 2006 and has worked in Australia and internationally as an actor and director. He has directed new works *Love Sarah* (2014), *tiny. big. world.* (2014) and *Smashed* (2013) and the Australian premiere of *Intertidal* (2013). He is also the co-founder of Panopticon Collective. Sebastian screen credits include: shorts *Many Happy Returns* (2015), *The Happiest Day Of My Life* (2015) and *Candy Cravings* (2013), the latter which has screened in over a dozen festivals internationally. He directed and produced episodes of web series *Something Nautical* (2015).

www.sebastianbertoli.com

JON WALPOLE – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/SOUND OPERATOR

Jon is an actor, comedian and musician from Melbourne, most recently having been a part of the *Platform at La Mama Collaboration* in August this year. He is currently studying Commerce (Marketing) at Monash University, and co-hosts a comedy radio show at SYNfm (facebook.com/jonandseb). He plans on throwing himself further into the Melbourne theatre, comedy and music scenes in the near future.

GEORGIA WHYTE – PANOPTICON COLLECTIVE CREATIVE/ STAGE MANAGER/LIGHTING OPERATOR

Georgia is a graduate of Public Relations and Arts Management (RMIT). She is the current Production Manager with festival group Brunswickfolks and trains with Melbourne improv group, The Improv Conspiracy. In 2014 she wrote and directed *Girl Pit* at La Mama Courthouse and was Stage Manager for Tammy Weller's *Single Admissions* (Milkbar Theatre). Her recent theatre credits include *Glam* (Village Festival 2015), *Y?* by Renae Shadler and *Collaborations* (Melbourne Fringe 2014) and *Aria* by Black Hole Theatre Company (2014). Georgia assistant directed Panopticon Collective's last play, *Love Sarah* and is thrilled to be back working with this wonderful group of people.

MARCUS VERDI – SET DESIGNER

Hey my name is Marcus, I am on the edge of being 21 and I am currently studying Interior design at RMIT. My place of Zen is by the beach, with mangoes and friends (mangoes come first.) I love devouring films in the genre of thriller or horror, and the occasional documentary. Ever since I was young I have been fascinated with films, theatre and TV shows, anything that captivated me visually. This is my first set design gig, and it has really given me an insight to where I want to go in the performing arts/ film and television industry. Peace.

JAIDAN LEEWORTHY – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jaidan Leeworthy is a Melbourne-based theatre director and designer. He has recently designed lights with Melbourne University Shakespeare Company, ...Until Monstrous and Platform Youth Theatre.

LIAM BELLMAN-SHARPE - COMPOSER

Liam is composer who has worked in a variety of media, ranging from traditional orchestration to synthesised and sample based music, and has worked as a performer, director, and designer in fields ranging from opera to physical theatre. He currently studies at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.