

State Theatre Company South Australia

2022 Season Access Version

Access program supported by Richard Llewellyn Deaf and Disability Fund



Government of South Australia
Arts South Australia

Ngadlu tampinthe Kurna miyurna yaitya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku.

Parnaku yaitya, parnaku tapa purruna, parnaku yarta ngadlu tampinthe. Yalaka Kurna Miyurna itu yaitya, tapa purruna, yarta kuma puru martinthe, puru warri-apinthe, puru tangka martulayinthe. Ngadlu tampinthe purkarna pukinangku, yalaka, tarrkaritya.

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today and pay respects to Elders past, present and future.



Artistic Director Mitchell Butel and Executive Director Julian Hobba

Welcome to 2022

We saw this on a café blackboard the other day: “I’m not buying a 2022 calendar until I see the trailer”.

Making plans, and indeed making theatre, in a world where a possible lockdown lurks around the corner can be tricky.

But as Charles Darwin said, the species most likely to survive are the ones that are the most adaptable to change. In 2021, we had to cancel one production, we had to introduce some capacity restrictions at others. And we had to order a whole stack of masks.

But you know what - we still got to make and present an array of phenomenal, transformative and inclusive theatre that delighted and challenged and entertained thousands of people safely gathered together. Some of our biggest audiences ever. And we have been humbled and thrilled by so many of our audiences telling us how much that sense of community and connection has meant to them, especially in a year of sometimes enforced separation.

We’ve all learned to respond quickly and efficiently if we need to. We can adapt, we can refund, we can reschedule, we can continue. And we can plan.

We have planned one of the biggest and boldest seasons in the history

of our Company for you in 2022, the 50th anniversary of our legislated creation by the great Don Dunstan.

And you can plan to be part of that. Because to NOT plan is a real downer.

Another quote, this one from Gloria Steinem: “Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.”

And rather than drown in a sea of 70 million online streaming choices, you’ll be able to relax and enjoy that we’ve done the planning for you. We’ve scoured the planet and selected 8 brilliant theatre works that will hit the bullseye of what you need to see and hear in 2022. Three world premieres (two from South Australian playwrights), genius comedies and diverse dramas that will leave you breathless, classics born anew, examinations of zeitgeist issues and the world’s hottest new musical. And some of Australia’s greatest and most beloved actors including Catherine McClements, Justine Clarke, Juanita Navas-Nguyen, Nathan O’Keefe and Lisa McCune.

By subscribing to these shows, you’re investing in your “dreaming”, in your community, in yourself. And you’re also getting priority access to the best seats in the theatre, massive discounts on ticket prices, access to a whole new swag of benefits and other discounts across the city and special entry to exclusive events.

You’ve had to face a lot over the past two years so it’s time to treat yourself. Make a plan and together we’ll make some magic.

And to round off the quotations, let us paraphrase Leonardo da Vinci who said that lying on a feather mattress or quilt will not bring you renown or joy.

Plan for joy with us in 2022. Change is a constant in our world but so too is being changed by entering a theatre. Let’s make a date.

Artistic Director
Mitchell Butel

Executive Director
Julian Hobba



I'll never let you go.

State Theatre Company South Australia
in association with Adelaide Festival presents

Girls & Boys

By Dennis Kelly

25 February – 12 March
Odeon Theatre

She meets him in an airport queue and sparks fly. Their passionate love affair takes them to marriage, a mortgage, and children – an ordinary family life. Her natural working-class wit works to her advantage, and unexpectedly she starts rising above her allotted rung on the British social ladder. The power dynamic between them shifts - imperceptible cracks become yawning gulfs – but when the house they built begins to fall, nothing prepares her for what happens next.

The innocent sounding *Girls & Boys* is a searing one woman show by Dennis Kelly, the celebrated wordsmith of in-yer-face classics like *Osama the Hero* and *DNA*, as well as the masterful dialogue for Tim Minchin's *Matilda*. A high-wire act balancing comedy and drama which has stunned audiences in London and New York, its stellar solo role is brilliantly filled here by Justine Clarke, whose versatility has seen her adored by audiences for her work on *Play School* to ARIA Award-winning albums and darker, powerhouse turns in *Love My Way*, *Tangle* and *Look Both Ways*.

A ticking time bomb, *Girls & Boys* is an engrossing, edge-of-your-seat play that shifts gears from *Fleabag*-like wit and mischief to harrowing shock in a matter of seconds, and it will leave you breathless.

“The energy and the vividness of the writing never lets up.” - The Independent

“Blazing intensity... It's a piece that nags away at you after you have left the theatre.” - Financial Times

“Be prepared to be rocked to the core.” - New York Daily News

“Justine Clarke is one of the kindest, loveliest and most charming people in the business. And one of Australia's most prolific and skilled actresses. I'm thrilled that I get to direct her in her debut for State

Theatre Company South Australia in this incredible, disturbing and surprising work that is guaranteed to shake you.” -Mitchell

Director

Mitchell Butel

Set & Costume Designer

Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer

Nigel Levings

Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

With

Justine Clarke

Creative Partner

Adelaide Festival

Content

Coarse language and adult themes



I don't care how rough the road is,
show me where it starts.

GWB Entertainment, Damien Hewitt and State Theatre Company South Australia by arrangement with Tristan Baker and Charlie Parsons for Runaway Entertainment in association with Sydney Festival, Auckland Live and Venues Wellington present

The Girl From The North Country

Music and Lyrics by Bob Dylan
Written and Directed by Conor McPherson

25 March - 10 April
Her Majesty's Theatre

Since opening at the Old Vic Theatre in London, *Girl From The North Country* has taken the theatrical world by storm, selling out seasons in the West End, Toronto and on Broadway, and is now one of the most critically acclaimed new productions of the 21st Century. It stars one of the finest casts ever to be assembled - Australian stage and screen icon Lisa McCune, Zahra Newman (*The Book of Mormon*, *Wentworth*), James Smith (*Euphoria*, *Hibernation*), Elizabeth Hay (*Hibernation*), Terry Crawford (*1984*) and legendary Helpmann Award winner Peter Carroll.

Written and directed by Olivier Award winner Conor McPherson (*The Weir*, *The Seafarer*), this spiritually soaring show takes the legendary songs of Bob Dylan and reimagines them as the profoundly beautiful anthems of a plaintive America. Set in 1934 Minnesota, a group of wanderers cross paths at a guesthouse. Standing at a turning point in their lives, they realise nothing is what it seems, but as they search for a future, and hide from the past, they find themselves facing unspoken truths about the present.

The Times called it “an instant classic” and the *New York Times* praised it as “a ravishing and singular musical ... with voices that light up the night with a divine grace.”

Experience this modern masterpiece during its strictly limited Australian premiere season. Fresh from its run at the Sydney Festival, the Adelaide season of *Girl From The North Country* at the newly restored Her Majesty's Theatre will encourage your heart to “always be joyful” and your song to “always be sung”.

“Audiences across the world have been transported by this beautiful “play with music” - and what phenomenal music it is. Add to that the beloved and supreme talents of Lisa McCune, a cast of 24 performers and Conor McPherson’s aching and haunting tale of redemption. We’re thrilled to be part of this epic new production.” Mitchell

Writer & Director

Conor McPherson

Set & Costume Designer

Rae Smith

Orchestrator, Arranger & Musical Supervisor

Simon Hale

Lighting Designer

Mark Henderson

Sound Designer

Simon Baker

Movement Director

Lucy Hind

Musical Director

Andrew Ross

Resident Director

Corey McMahon

With

Peter Carroll

Terence Crawford

Elizabeth Hay

Lisa McCune

Zahra Newman

James Smith

Creative Partners

GWB Entertainment

Damien Hewitt

Runaway Entertainment

Content

Adult themes



I've come to bring you home.

State Theatre Company South Australia and Country Arts SA
in association with Flinders University present

Cathedral

By Caleb Lewis

6 May - 21 May
Space Theatre (and touring throughout SA)

A man kneels by his dive gear. It's late afternoon on the Limestone Coast. He has a story to tell. It starts in the water.

A powerful, visceral and form-busting new work by award-winning South Australian born playwright Caleb Lewis, *Cathedral* is a thriller, a family drama and an epic journey of self-discovery.

From Mount Gambier to Thailand to the North Sea, from soaring first love to shattering loss to ultimate hope, this powerful story ponders a diver's life shaped by the ocean, and its power to both upend and heal.

Beloved Adelaide actor Nathan O'Keefe (*Gaslight*, *Macbeth*, *The Comedy of Errors*) returns to State Theatre Company South Australia to become the man at the centre of this riveting and suspenseful one-person show directed by rising South Australian star Shannon Rush (*Limit*). Like Complicite's *The Encounter*, *Cathedral* uses technology and soundscape to provide the theatrical pool in which this compelling story will swim.

An ultimately life-affirming piece of storytelling, *Cathedral* asks the question: do we turn away from our pain, or dive right in?

"Nathan is that rare beast who can transform in front of your eyes into shapes and people you've never seen before and I know Caleb's tender and heartfelt play will provide another platform for Nathan's genius. We're so thrilled to be partnering once more with Country Arts SA on this production after our combined success on *Euphoria*. Audiences are in for a similar treat." Mitchell

Director

Shannon Rush

Set & Costume Designer

Kathryn Sproul

Lighting/Video Designer

Mark Oakley

Sound Designer/Composer

Andrew Howard

With

Nathan O'Keefe

Creative Partners

Country Arts SA

Education Giving Circle

Presenting Partner

Flinders University

Content

Coarse language and adult themes



I'll show you what a girl can do.

State Theatre Company South Australia presents

Antigone

By Elena Carapetis (After Sophocles)

27 May – 11 June
Odeon Theatre

This is angry.

This is personal.

This is not what you think.

Playwright Elena Carapetis (*The Gods Of Strangers*, *Gorgon*) brings the first heroine of western drama raging into the 21st century in this cheeky, anarchic and subverted take on one of the world's most revered classic plays.

Carapetis takes us from Ancient Greece to the modern-day in a kaleidoscopic collection of vignettes that will make your head spin and leave your jaw on the floor. This is a rejection of the patriarchy, a love letter to girls and pop princesses, and a tribute to every Antigone reincarnated, from Malala to Emma to AOC to Greta.

Directed by State Theatre Company South Australia Resident Director Anthony Nicola (*Decameron 2.0*, *Forgiveness*) and starring Adelaide powerhouse Kidaan Zelleke, *Antigone* is a rebel yell echoing throughout history. It's an unapologetic, audacious explosion that dares to shake the very foundations of theatre - and to have a whole lotta fun while doing it.

“Sophocles said “Fortune is not on the side of the faint-hearted”. Fortune is therefore definitely on the side of this fearless and fabulous artistic team. I have been knocked out by the shows directed by our Resident “Enfant Terrible”, Anthony Nicola. In this shake up of one of the greatest works in the theatrical canon, playwright Elena Carapetis is tearing down the house of convention with a knowing wink. Strap yourself in. You're in for quite a ride.” Mitchell

Director

Anthony Nicola

Set & Costume Designer

Meg Wilson

Lighting Designer

Gavin Norris

Composer

Jason Sweeney

Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

With

Kathryn Adams

Chiara Gabrielli

Mark Saturno

Kidaan Zelleke

Presenting Partner

Commissioning Collective

Content

Coarse language and adult themes



I'm not stupid. I'm a teacher.

State Theatre Company South Australia and Sydney Theatre Company
in association with Adina Apartment Hotels present

Chalkface

Angela Betzein

5 August - 20 August
Dunstan Playhouse

Bullying behaviour, tantrums and tough lessons are all part of a typical day at public-school St Jude's - and that's just in the staffroom!

Creatures of habit, the tired teachers of St Jude's find themselves jolted awake by the arrival of a young and enthusiastic new teacher, Anna Park, a recent graduate known as "the child whisperer".

Pat Novitsky, the school's brilliant but bitter and longest-serving teacher, thinks Anna's Masters of Neuroplasticity and new-age thinking has nothing on her 35 years of experience. Anna thinks Pat is stuck in the past. When the principal assigns school terror Hurricane Little to Anna's class, the two teachers come head-to-head in a brutal smackdown of old versus new guard, exposing everyone's darkest secrets.

A farcical new black comedy from multi-award winning Australian writer Angela Betzien (*Total Control*, *Mortido*) and starring acclaimed actor Catherine McClements (*Water Rats*, *Tangle*, *Wentworth*) as Pat, *Chalkface* shows us it's never too late to change, and you're never too old to learn, or laugh.

"I have long been a fan of Angela Betzien's writing - tough, wise, but also spit-your-drink-out funny. Just as her TV writing career takes off as a co-creator of the magnificent *Total Control* with Deborah Mailman, I'm delighted that we and Sydney Theatre Company could lure her back into the theatre to share her hilarious twist on schoolteacher tales. And what a thrill to welcome Catherine McClements back to the Company after her dazzling turn in *The Events*." -Mitchell

Director

Jessica Arthur

With

Catherine McClements

Creative Partner

Sydney Theatre Company

Presenting Partner

Adina Apartment Hotels

Content

Coarse language, adult themes and smoking



I'll make you proud of me.

State Theatre Company South Australia presents
The Performing Lines production of

Sunshine Super Girl

By Andrea James

2 September - 17 September
Dunstan Playhouse

Before Ash Barty lifted the trophy at Wimbledon, there was Evonne Goolagong.

A young girl hits a ball against the tin wall of her family's home. This is where it all began for Evonne. Hers is a quintessentially Blak Australian story about a girl from the bush who dared to dream. With the support of an outback farming town, Evonne rose to become the number one tennis player in the world and a household name by the age of 19.

This heartwarming story is a celebration of spirit and passion over adversity, and a tribute to a woman whose sporting prowess continues to inspire a nation, giving hope to thousands of young girls across the country. With its distinctively Australian sensibility and humour, *Sunshine Super Girl* asks us to consider our nation's future and the part we can play for the 'next Goolagong' waiting in the wings.

This landmark new Australian work is written and directed by Yorta Yorta / Gunaikurnai theatremaker Andrea James (*Yanagai! Yanagai!*).

"Sunshine Super Girl is destined to become a legacy piece, one that celebrates our history, reflects on our struggle for equality, and shows how the spirit can overcome in spectacular ways." – The Conversation

"This is a play that educates and uplifts." – Sydney Morning Herald

"I cried when I saw this production at the 2021 Sydney Festival. It's a very fun night in the theatre as we gather around a literal tennis court and watch Evonne volleying towards victory. It's charming. It's inventively performed (you ain't seen a tennis match like this before!). But I was unprepared for how moved I'd be by its depiction of a community that gets behind a girl's dream, by that girl's grit and determination, and by the love she finds for a husband, for herself and for her homeland. Bring a tissue." -Mitchell

Limited onstage, full view “courtside seats” are available. Please select these seats under the ‘Preferred Seating’ section on the booking form to be close to the action.

Writer & Director

Andrea James

Set & Costume Designer

Romanie Harper

Lighting Designer

Karen Norris

Composition & Sound Design

Gail Priest

Movement Director & Additional Choreography

Katina Olsen

Original Choreographic Concept & Initial Movement Direction

Vicki Van Hout

Video Media Designer

Mic Gruchy

Dramaturg

Louise Gough

Mentor

Paige Rattray

Creative Partner

Performing Lines

Content

Mild coarse language and adult themes



I know something's wrong.

State Theatre Company South Australia presents

The Normal Heart

By Larry Kramer

30 September - 15 October
Dunstan Playhouse

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the AIDS epidemic. To date, 78 million people have been infected by HIV and 39 million have died from AIDS-related illnesses. To date, there have been 4.5 million deaths from COVID-19.

Across the world, government health responses to the coronavirus have been swift. Yet it took US President Reagan and many like him four years to mention publicly the actual medical term for the “gay plague”.

Writer and activist Larry Kramer’s uncompromising autobiographical play about the AIDS epidemic in New York broke new ground when it premiered in 1985 at the Public Theater, going on to become a multi-Tony Award-winner on Broadway and to inspire the HBO film.

Set during the first years of the crisis in 1980s New York, a furious Ned Weeks (Kramer’s fictional alter-ego) co-assembles a group to help expose the truth about the mystery illness killing their friends, lovers and other men across the city. Ignored by politicians, the media and many of his colleagues and family, Ned’s anger turns to rage as he tries to unite his community in the fight for their recognition and survival.

In its Adelaide premiere, *The Normal Heart* embraces a new generation with Artistic Director Mitchell Butel in the pivotal role of Ned.

Documenting Kramer’s years on the frontline of a health crisis that would change the world, fuelled by passion and empathy, this gripping drama from the man described by Susan Sontag as “one of America’s most valuable troublemakers” is must-see theatre. An electrifying story about a pandemic many tried to ignore and the people who refused to let them do so.

“A landmark play from the past that speaks very much to our present and future, featuring one of our largest ensemble casts ever. Helpmann Award-winning former Associate Director of Melbourne Theatre Company Dean Bryant brings a grand new vision for the play - you will not want to miss this.” -Mitchell

Director

Dean Bryant

Set & Costume Designer

Jeremy Allen

Sound Designer

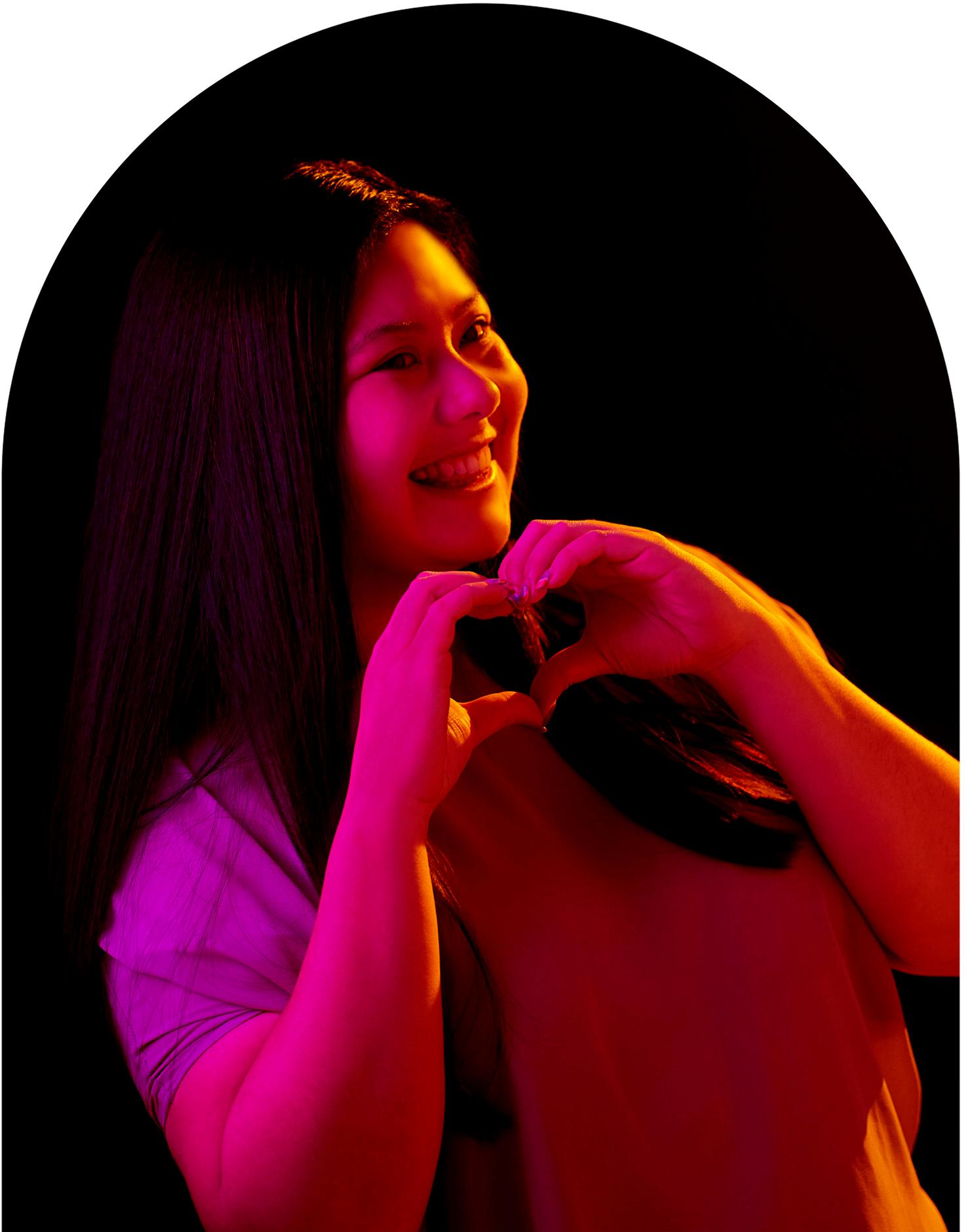
Andrew Howard

With

Mitchell Butel

Content

Coarse language and adult themes



I will survive.

State Theatre Company South Australia in association with
Ozasia Festival and ECH presents

Single Asian Female

By Michelle Law

4 November - 19 November
Dunstan Playhouse

Inside the Golden Phoenix, a humble Chinese restaurant on the Sunshine Coast, two generations of Wong women stand at a crossroads. Mei is a teenager grappling with her identity and getting ready for her school formal; older sister Zoe is eternally single and having a quarter-life crisis after some seriously terrible dates. At the centre of it all is Pearl, the whip-smart, brutally honest matriarch of the family. But Pearl is harbouring a secret that could change their lives forever.

A smash hit across the country, Michelle Law's (*Homecoming Queens*, *Rosehaven*) riotous family comedy bursts onto the Adelaide stage in this new production starring Juanita Navas-Nguyen (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Eureka Day*) under the direction of Nescha Jelk (*Euphoria*, *Jasper Jones*). Brilliantly funny and incisive, *Single Asian Female* is a heartwarming story about love, family and karaoke from one of Australia's most exciting writers.

"This brilliant, thigh-slappingly hilarious yet surprisingly affecting play was a COVID casualty in our 2020 season so I'm delighted that it's back. This time around, the production will be in the hands of some of our greatest local theatre artists. Nescha Jelk's wry and wonderful production of *Euphoria* in 2021 was a huge hit with our audiences and I know she'll work similar magic here, especially with Juanita in one of the key roles. A great family comedy (with spice and sizzle) to round out the year." -Mitchell

Director

Nescha Jelk

Set & Costume Designer

Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer

Chris Petridis

Sound Designer/Composer

Andrew Howard

With

Juanita Navas-Nguyen

Creative Partner

OzAsia Festival

Presenting Partners

ECH

Dramatic Women

Content

Coarse language and adult themes

Stateside

State Theatre Company South Australia is thrilled to support and showcase other great local theatre companies as part of our Stateside program. As a Subscriber, you get priority and discounted access to these magnificent projects, simply make your selection on the booking form.



Kinetik Collective Presents

Kill Climate Deniers

By David Finnigan

8 - 17 September 2022

Slingsby's Hall of Possibilities
96 Glen Osmond Rd, Parkside

Part action-movie spoof, part political satire, part rave party wrapped up in a piece of documentary theatre, *Kill Climate Deniers* follows a group of environmental activists as they take Parliament House hostage, demanding the government stop all fossil fuel industries, effective immediately. For floundering Environment Minister Gwen Malkin, will this be her chance to become the gun toting national hero Australia never knew it needed? OR will the lentil eating activists force our leaders to bend to their demands?

Join Kinetik Collective for a night of treason, live techno and theatrical terrorism featuring digital designs by Dave Court.

Director and Kinetik Co-founder

Clara Solly-Slade

Designer and Kinetik Co-founder

Bianka Kennedy

Multimedia Artist

Dave Court

Lighting Designer

Chris Petridis

Composer and Live Musician

Mat Morison

Cast

Anna Steen

Kate Cheel

Katherine Sortini

Eddie Morrison

Ren Williams

Supported By

Slingsby



THE RABBLE and Vitalstatistix present

YES

THE RABBLE

21 – 26 June 2022

Waterside, 11 Nile St,
Port Adelaide, Kaurna Yerta

YES is an investigation into the dynamics of power, consent, knowledge, truth and the complexities of one seemingly simple word. From acclaimed feminist theatre makers THE RABBLE, *YES* is set within an ever-changing physical space, occasionally erupting with manufactured weather events, in which an audience watches two performers answer hundreds of questions.

Shifting between rite of passage, public debate and personal memoir, *YES* is an unpredictable onslaught that blurs the line between instruction, permission, philosophy and confession.

In this stunning new work, co-commissioned by Vitalstatistix, THE RABBLE remind us of the relentless pursuit of answers, understanding and justice, even in a world where solid ground is increasingly hard to find.

Co-Creators & Co-Directors

Emma Valente and Kate Davis

Set & Costume Design

Kate Davis

Lighting & Sound Design/Composition

Emma Valente

Performers

Dana Miltins and Mary Helen Sassman

Production Manager

Rebecca Etchell

Stage Manager

Cassandra Fumi

Produced by

Performing Lines

Associate Designer

Emma Lockhart-Wilson

Supported By

Vitalstatistix