

Anywhere). Among his other credits are John Proctor in *The Crucible* (Eagles Nest Productions) and Oberon in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Essential Theatre). Matt has also appeared in *Neighbours*, *Round the Twist*, *Secret Life Of Us* and in the feature film *Rats & Cats*. As part of LPT's core company he performed in *Roberto Zucco*, *The Ruffian on the Stair*, and *The Doctor (in spite of himself)*.

GREG PARKER *Epifanio Pennetta, Chief Superintendent of the judiciary arm of the Italian Police* graduated from WAAPA in 1989, and has appeared in most TV shows produced in Melbourne, notably for three years in *The Man From Snowy River*. Greg has worked with Alice on a number of projects since the 1990s including *Macbeth*, *Tartuffe*, *The Elephant Man*, and two works which he penned *Prisoner of Love* and *Windows to the Soul*. In 2008 he left Australia to live and work in SE Asia. Ten years later, he is pleased to make his return to the Melbourne stage in *I Shot Mussolini*.

LE POULET TERRIBLE (LPT) is a company of professional actors and theatre makers. Our name translates clumsily from the French as the terrible chicken. It was chosen many years ago when we were preparing a production of *Tartuffe* by French playwright and satirist Molière. We were looking for a name that we thought he might approve of. We'll never know whether he approves or not. We're OK with that.

le poulet terrible consists of three co-creative producers, Alice Bishop, Elizabeth Thomson and Matthew Molony, as well as core associate artists. For *I Shot Mussolini*, we are joined by associate producers Heather Lythe and Isobel Ferns.

Find our full story at lepouletterrible.com



Office Phone: (03) 9347 6948
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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of this country and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community as we work towards the La Mama rebuild. Thank you!

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



I SHOT MUSSOLINI

27 NOV - 8 DEC 2019



I SHOT MUSSOLINI

Director / Writer / Designer – Alice Bishop

Sound Designer / Composer - Nat Grant

Lighting Designer - Stelios Karagiannis

Projection Designer - Salvador Castro

Stage Manager - Hayley Fox

Co Producer - Isobel Ferns

Performers - Bridgette Burton, Michael F. Cahill, Anthea Davis, Sophie Lampel,

Marco Lawrence, Heather Lythe, Matthew Molony, Greg Parker

DIRECTOR / WRITER'S NOTE:

'The world is full of dictators who grow old in their tyranny and corruption because we are not as brave, or as mad, as Violet Gibson was.'
- Collin

Six or so years ago Heather told me a story over coffee about a woman so furious with the state of world that she tried to assassinate Mussolini. She asked whether I would write the story for performance. I said I was busy. She asked again. I said I was busy again. She asked me a third time three years ago. I had been thinking about the state of the world and I was furious. Furious about how history repeats, furious about American politics. Not furious enough to go and get a gun, but furious enough to write a play.

Heather had contacted Richard Oliver Collin, an academic who had tried to publish his manuscript *The Irish Baron's Daughter and Mussolini's Nose*. Though published in Italy no publisher would take his English translation. Lucky for us. His manuscript became the jumping off point for the story. There is also a fine book *The Woman Who Shot Mussolini* by Frances Stonor Saunders, and also a very fine librarian and friend Jane Miller who unearthed lots of obscure bits for me. Grateful doesn't even begin to cover it. Especially when it comes to my cast and crew of old friends.

Oh, and I should say there is quite a bit of creative license taken. But I'm sure you already know how making theatre works.

- Alice, November 2019

BRIDGETTE BURTON *St Dymphna, an 8th century Irish saint / Sister Riccarda, a young English nun / Mary McGrath, Violet's companion* began acting in the late 80s with youth and amateur companies before studying theatre at university and moving into professional theatre. She formed *Baggage Productions*, with Christina Costigan in 1999 – a company dedicated to encouraging women in the arts. (baggageproductions.com) Bridgette has appeared in numerous TV shows and has worked with many Melbourne theatre companies. She is an award winning playwright and works as a director and producer.

MICHAEL F. CAHILL *Dr Samuele Ottolenghi, a specialist in forensic medicine / Enrico Ferri – Violet's Defence Counsel* first took to the stage at the age of 12 playing Henry VIII. At 16 he started his professional career in the BBC TV Series *Empire Road*. Since then he has worked as an actor, technical director, and lighting designer throughout the UK, USA, SE Asia and Australia. Stage credits include *The Doctor (in spite of himself)*, and *The Ruffian on the Stair* for LPT, *The Real Thring*, *How to Disappear Completely* and *Never Be Found*, and *The Seafarer* for Hoy Polloy, and *The Butterfly Catcher* for ITCH Productions. He played Des in the feature film *The Ballad of Des & Mo*, voted audience top 10, 2010 at MIFF. TV credits include the HBO series *The Leftovers* and ABC's *Newton's Law*.

ANTHEA DAVIS *St Teresa of Avila, a 16th century Spanish saint / Mother Superior Hesselblad / Regina, a prisoner* studied acting at VCA and also holds a Masters in Writing for Performance (VCA). Most recently she performed in *A Room Of One's Own*, an adaptation of Virginia Woolf's novelette, and *Mud and Blood*, a WW1 play. She has also appeared in *Little Acorns*, an award winning web series and has toured extensively with Arena Theatre Company and with Mick Thomas' musical, *The Tank*. Last year she was commissioned to write *The Imaginarium*, an immersive audio tour for Moreland City Council.

SOPHIE LAMPEL *St Joan of Arc, a 15th century French saint / Constance, Violet's sister / Ida, a prisoner* is a graduate of the University of Ballarat (Performing Arts) and an International Fellow of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London. She works as an actor, theatre producer and pilates instructor. Her main producing work is the creation, development and management of Essential Theatre. The company recently collaborated with Three

Birds Theatre on *Enter Ophelia* which had a sell out season at La Mama in 2018 and toured in 2019. Performance highlights with Essential Theatre include *Bottom* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Antony in *Julius Caesar* and Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

MARCO LAWRENCE *St Catherine of Siena, a 14th century Italian saint / Radoani, a businessman / Marinangeli, a Lead Crown Prosecutor / Dr Rambaut, Director of St Andrew's Hospital* first appeared on stage at La Mama in 1990 as part of MUD (Melbourne University Drama) Festival. La Mama has been an essential part of his theatrical journey ever since, with several forays into film and television along the way. Most recently he appeared in *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* at the Old Melbourne Gaol with his company Devil's Own Theatre.

HEATHER LYTHE *The Honourable Violet Gibson an Irishwoman who shot Mussolini* trained at East 15 Drama School in London. While abroad she worked in repertory theatre, touring theatre companies, outdoor festivals, fringe theatre and London's West End. She has performed leading roles in plays by Euripides, Shakespeare, Genet and Molière. In Australia, her credits include: Ron Elisha's *Wrongful Life*, Joanna Murray Smith's *Rapture*, Peter Quilter's *Mrs Vincent Price*, and Gary Mitchell's *Loyal Women*. TV roles include: *Jack Irish*, *Wentworth*, *Miss Fisher's Mystery Murders* and this year, *Miss Fisher's Modern*. As a voice over artist and presenter Heather has worked on radio, travel documentaries and talking books.

MATTHEW MOLONY *Rosario Marciano, an investigating magistrate / Buonaiuti, an excommunicated socialist priest / Benito Mussolini, a fascist dictator* performed in Daniel Keene's *The Cove* (IF Productions) and Jane Miller's *Cuckoo* (15 Minutes from

ALICE BISHOP has worked as an actor, director, writer, comedian, producer and costume and production designer for television, film and theatre. Recent productions for LPT include *Roberto Zucco*, *The Doctor (in spite of himself)*, *The Ruffian on the Stair*, *Nil, Cat & Buried*, and with ITCH Productions – *Vieux Carré*, *The Butterfly Catcher*, and *Catalpa* (Greenroom nomination for Best Direction). Alice has freelanced with many of Melbourne's theatre companies and arts organisations including *Love Lies Bleeding* – Redstitch, *A Stranger in Town* and *Much Ado About Nothing* – Essential Theatre, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* – Devil's Own, *Cuckoo* – 15 Minutes From Anywhere, as well as *Mrs Vincent Price* and most recently *Mud and Blood*.

DR. NAT GRANT is a multi-skilled artist and researcher: performer, sound artist and composer working on unceded Wurundjeri country in Melbourne, Australia. Nat has created original music for theatre, dance, film, and live art, holds a PhD in composition from VCA, and in 2018 received the Age Music Victoria award for best Experimental/Avant-Garde Act. A podcaster and programmer for 3CR community radio, Nat is interested in the power of sound and music as storytelling tools. A co-curator for the weekly experimental performance series the Make it Up Club, Nat is invested in creating community around sound making.

STELIOS KARAGIANNIS has been involved in lighting design since the early 90s and has worked in many of Melbourne's venues including MTC's Lawler Studio, La Mama, The Athenaeum, 45 Downstairs, and Chapel Off Chapel. Stelios was resident lighting designer from 2005 to 2012 with Red Stitch where he collaborated with Alice on *Love Lies Bleeding*. Recent credits include design for *The Empty Say*, *Op Shop*, *Boston*

Marriage (Hoy Polloy), and *The Real Thing* by Barry Dickins.

SALVADOR CASTRO is the producer and director of Turtle Films. He has worked in film and television for over ten years earning many awards for editing and sound design. As a projection artist, his recent work includes NORPA's acclaimed theatre show *Railway Wonderland*.

HAYLEY FOX completed a Diploma of Live Production and a Master of Arts in 2012. Since graduating, Hayley has stage and production managed throughout Melbourne, regional Victoria and interstate. Hayley now spends her days as Venue Manager for La Mama theatre and moonlights as a technician at Chapel off Chapel, operating for shows such as *Dolly Diamond's Blankety Blanks* and *Britney Spears the Cabaret*.

ISOBEL FERNS has been working in the professional arts sector for 13 years. After completing a Diploma at Swinburne, she became the first technical graduate of Red Stitch in 2007 and went onto become the resident stage manager for the company. Isobel then toured the UK and Europe with The Famous Speigletent as Company Manager of the award winning show *La Clique*. Isobel works as a production manager at Melbourne's Hamer Hall.

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