



Office Phone: (03) 9347 6948
Office Hours: Mon – Fri | 10:30am – 5:30pm
349 Drummond, Carlton VIC 3053
www.lamama.com.au | info@lamama.com.au

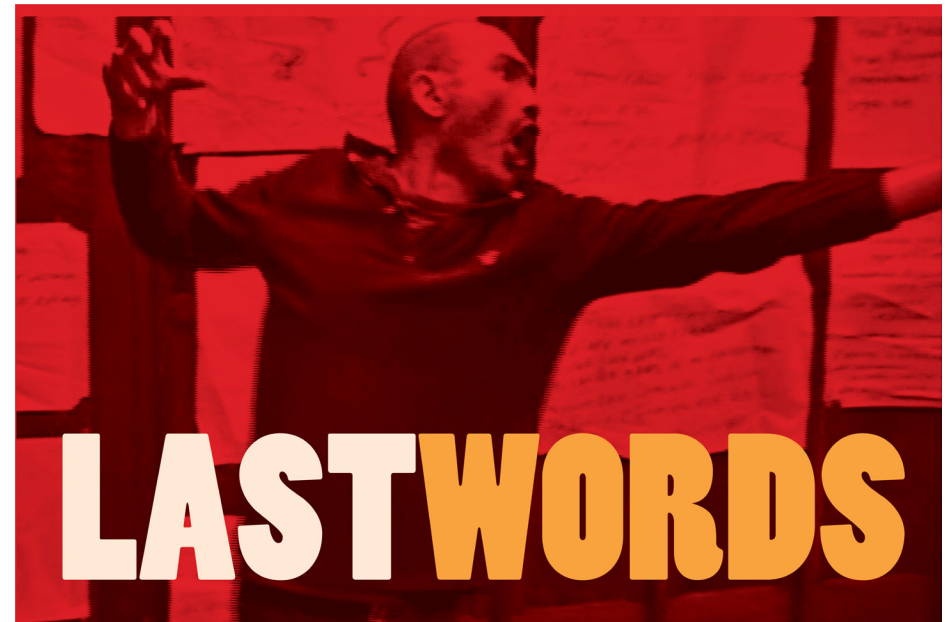
La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of this country and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

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.



 **LA MAMA** presents



24 JULY - 4 AUGUST 2019



LAST WORDS

Written and Devised by **Joseph Sherman**

Directed and Devised by **John Bolton**

Performed by **Joseph Sherman** and **Christopher Bolton**

Music Composition by **Christopher Bolton**

Set design by **Brian Lipson**

Lighting design by **Shane Grant**

Stage manager/Operator by **Emmie Turner**

Photography credit - **Danny Blay** and **Paul Dunn**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Last words

Odessa has become less foreign to me over the past four years, the Soviet regime of the seventies and Joseph's extended family have become more familiar.

I now own a couple of Osip Mandelstam's poetry books and a copy of Nadezhda Mandelstam's great work *Hope Abandoned*.

I was lucky enough to meet Michael Sherman, Joseph's father, in the home where he died and sit with him and Rebecca, Joseph's mother, in her upstairs bedroom, he laying on the bed, she unsure of who exactly he was.

Mining this history and crafting this show with Joseph, being led by his passion through the political, artistic and cultural labyrinth that is his life has deeply enriched mine.

I hope that we have served the story well so that you can appreciate Joseph's generosity and skill, the complexity and ambiguity of his relationship to Russia and the love he holds for his parents.

I have worked with Christopher Bolton on several occasions. His musical virtuosity and sensitivity to subject matter are impeccable, his respect for his collaborators, an inspiration.

John Bolton

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For Project Support:

Natasha Rabbidge, Grisha Ulfan and Inotrope Productions, Netta Sherman, Rosa Sherman, David Elodean, Danny Blay, Leonid Verzub, David Burrows, Luke Featherston. Robert Selzer and Gabi Stanger. Erin Carrigy of Greater Melbourne Piano Rentals and La Mama and her amazing team!

For Project Content:

David Shenk- The Forgetting, Margaret Lock- The Alzheimer Connundrum, Charles King- Odessa, Anna Akhmatova, Osip and Nadezhda Mandelstam, Isaac Babel, Leonid Utesov, Dante Alighieri, Clive James, Primo Levi, William Shakespeare.

This show is dedicated to my parents Rebecca and Michael Sherman.

SHANE GRANT

Lighting Designer, Theatre maker, Writer

Shane is an accomplished lighting designer having worked extensively with companies like Ranters Theatre, The Torch Project, NYID and many others. Shane has a BA Dramatic Arts (Production) VCA from 1994. Shane sat on the Green Room Awards Association Theatre Companies panel 2014 - 2017. Shane is currently an artistic director of Metanoia Theatre. Shane is also a writer and theatre maker he recently enjoyed success with an adaptation of George Arnaud's novel "The wages of fear." and "Hard boiled bush noir" three tales of ice crime in the outback. Shane has written and performed monologues at Gasworks theatre, La Mama Theatre and the Mechanics Institute Brunswick. Shane is currently the venues manager at St Martins Youth

arts center. He continues to write and light in venues around Melbourne.

CHRISTOPHER MARLOW BOLTON

Music Composition

Christopher is a Melbourne composer, songwriter, and musician. Bolton has performed music for independent theatre since childhood. Bolton has composed for productions such as *Three Sisters*, *Uncle Vanya* (Metanoia Productions), *Last Words*, *What a Joy to be Alive* (Sticky Fingers Theatre) and *The Tempest*. Bolton is also the chief songwriter of Melbourne band *Seagull*, releasing five albums to local and international acclaim, and building a dedicated fanbase over the past decade.

JOHN BOLTON

Director

John has been acting, teaching and directing since 1974. He co-directed *Artworks* and *Theatre Workshop* in Edinburgh, and acted with *Welfare State* in England and Canada. In 1991 he founded his own school in Melbourne, and was later Head of Acting at the Victorian College of the Arts where he received the 2005 Teaching Excellence Award. A Fellow of The Australia Council, recipient of the 2002 Kenneth Myer Medallion for Services to Theatre in Victoria, he has received numerous awards for direction including two Green Room awards for best direction and best Production at La Mama (*My Brother the Fish*). His shows have been invited to theatre festivals throughout the world including the main stages of Melbourne, Adelaide, Hong Kong, Dublin International Festivals and The Barbican International Theatre Event, London. He has been Director of movement for shows at S.T.C. and M.T.C. as well as running workshops for many of Australia's leading theatre companies.

BRIAN LIPSON

Set Design

Brian has worked in theatre for fifty years. Studied Theatre Design at London's Central School of Art; resident designer Watford Palace; head of design Cockpit Theatre; also designed for Lindsey Kemp, Ballet Rambert, etc. In 1970s and 80s was key member of three experimental companies: *Lumiere and Son*, *Rational Theatre* and *Hidden Grin* - working as performer, actor,

designer and writer. Later acted regularly at National Theatre, Old Vic, Royal Court, etc.

Moved to Melbourne in 1997 and acts often with MTC, Malthouse, STC, Belvoir, Bell Shakespeare etc, plus many independent companies. Brian designed and performed in all 4 Inotrope collaborations with St Kilda Drop in Centre. He wrote, designed and performed: *A Large Attendance in the Antechamber* (worldwide tour); *Berggasse 19 – The Apartments of Sigmund Freud* (Melbourne Festival); directed and designed *Harry Harlow Project* (Victorian Arts Centre and national tour); *Song of the Bleeding Throat* (Eleventh Hour), and many productions for VCA. Co-directed *Apocalypse Bear Trilogy* (MTC). Directed, co-wrote and designed *Love, Death, Music and Plants* (Melbourne Botanic Gardens).

Nominated for 8 Green Room Awards and won 4. Received Australia Council Fellowship 2011. Currently touring *EDMUND. THE BEGINNING* and *Two Jews walk into a theatre...* (with Gideon Obarzanek).

EMMIE TURNER

Stage Manager/Operator

Emmie is the lighting technician of *Last Words*. Emmie completed a Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services in 2017 after moving away from her home in Darwin.

Emmie has worked as lighting designer for original Australian screenplay's *Echo* (2018), *Bully Virus* (2018), *Flash Donahs* (2018), *XI Visions* (2017), and *Playhouse Passions* (2017). She was the director and audiovisual designer for the immersive set piece production *After Dark: Dreams* (2017), and theatre technician for the cabaret *Club Provocaré* (2018). Throughout 2017 Emmie volunteered with Impro Melbourne, lighting productions such as *Maestro* and *Theatre Sports*. Emmie's first lead lighting role was for her middle school production of *Grease the Musical* (2013).

JOSEPH SHERMAN

Writer

After graduating from John Bolton Theatre School in the late 90s he has been fortunate to collaborate on many independent theatre projects with friends - *Russian Soup*, *Lower Depths*, *The Tempest*, *Our Chalk Circle*, *Dante's Workshop*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Three Sisters* and many more.. He hopes this will continue forever.