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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations 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!

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# LA MAMA PRESENTS GUERRILLA SABBATH

as part of midsumma 2021



April 27 - May 2, 2021



# GUERRILLA SABBATH

Written by **William Hinz**

Directed by **George Lazaris**

Dramaturgy by **Meta Cohen**

Intimacy Coordinator and Cultural safety Consultant:

**Isabella Vadiveloo**

Performed by **Domenica Garrett, Milo Hartill, Henry Kelly, Erin Pattison, Michelle Perera, Nikki Viveca**

Set and Costume design by **Thomas Bevans**

Lighting design by **Aedan Gale**

Sound design by **Daniella A. Esposito**

Stage management by **Brooke Simmonds**

Lighting technician: **Ikshvak Sobti**

Produced by **Ryan Stewart**

Photography credit: **Phoebe Taylor**

## Director's Note

Witches throughout history have been killed for being different, for existing in some way that opposes the patriarchal norms of the society at the time – not being white or straight or cis or male or able-bodied or deciding not to marry or even just having peculiar interests. People have been killed for just existing. People are still killed for just existing. This script deals with queerness and witches, collecting the names of those who are queer to honour them in their deaths, the deaths caused by others.

I see Guerilla Sabbath as a living elegy for those witches. Queer histories are filled with those whose memories have been erased, who had fear of living freely or who have left behind very little trace of their queerness. In honouring these people, we begin to run into issues of self-identification, of attempting to read queerness into the letters and objects left behind and attempting to decipher the euphemisms required to exist in times before our own. Guerilla Sabbath works to honour those who, through history, haven't been able to share their own stories.

In the creation of this play, we have worked to dismantle the assumption that work should only contain characters who are approachably queer, and push beyond it. This meant leaning into differing forms and appearances of queerness and ensuring that more than the first two letters of the LGBTQIA+ spectrum appear on-stage. Particularly for a piece in a queer festival, we wanted to put characters comfortable in their bisexuality, asexuality and trans and non-binary identities onstage without making the play about those identities. In a play which directly deals with death and trauma, one of the messages I want to convey is a hopeful one – that there is power in just existing as yourself.



### **Nikki Viveca - V**

Nikki is a Melbourne based actor, poet, and comedienne. Her solo story-telling shows include *Wasp Movie*, *The Lazy and Asexual Healing*, and she was a co-creator of *ACEtravaganza*, *Amy and Nikki's Sparkle-licious Sleepover* and *Three Dollar Bill*. Nikki featured in the Green Room nominated *Gender Euphoria*, and as an ensemble member, she's been seen in *Cybec Electric* at

MTC, and PO PO MO CO's *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (2020). Nikki is also a cast member of the new verbatim theatre piece *Thrive* (Black Apple Theatre), and has extensive experience as an improviser, performing with *The Improv Conspiracy*, *Completely Improvised Potter*, and *Soothplayers' Completely Improvised Shakespeare*.



### **Michelle Perera - Sy**

A former radio journalist and broadcaster, Michelle has been involved in theatre for over 25 years. Working in the structured world of financial services by day, she keeps her sanity reasonably in check, by producing and presenting a weekly arts and issues centred radio show, 'Community' on 3MDR 97.1fm, and pursuing her passion for the stage. Some of her

recent credits include Antipodes Theatre Company's play reading of *And She Would Stand Like This*, Mordialloc Theatre Company's production of *Out of Order*, Illumination Theatre's production of *Hostage*, *The Last Journalist on Earth* by Cassandra Yiannacou, which premiered at the Melbourne Fringe Festival, and Oxagen Productions' *Twelve Angry Jurors*.



### **Milo Hartill - Arson**

Milo is a Perth born and bred actor, who trained at WAAPA (2018) and the Victorian College of the Arts (2019-present) in Musical Theatre. Recently Milo was featured in the viral *I Need You to See Me* video, by Vidya Makan, and was a finalist for the inaugural AOC Initiative, a competition set up by Tarik Frimpong. Milo has performed in many queer and

burlesque events, including Fem Fantasy and on the mainstage for Midusmma festival, *Oddball: 2020 Vision*, Decolonise Pride 2020 (performing and hosting), and also 2020 Rave Relief. In Gorean Films' *A Few Less Men*, Milo was a featured extra in 2017.



### **Erin Pattison - Flicker**

Pattison is a Melbourne based, Actor, Writer and Theatre Maker. For *Baby Bi Bi Bi*, Pattison is a Green Room Award winner, Melbourne Fringe People's Choice Award winner, Melbourne Fringe Best Cabaret nominee, and Melbourne Fringe Queer Development and Mentorship Award, which culminated in a intensive workshop and mentorship with Yve Blake. Some

of Pattison's recent acting credits include; *The Other Place* by Christopher Bryant, dir. Jessica Dick (Theatre Works), *Unicorn D\*ck* by Fiona Spitzkowsky, dir. Shaun Wykes, and part of the development cast of *Alice is Drowning* created by the Your Mouth Collective supported by Queensland Theatre Company (2017).





### **Henry Kelly** - *Lawrence*

Henry is an actor and theatre maker, and is passionate about making his work accessible to regional communities, with his work being closely tied to his queer, transgender identity. His theatre credits include *The Illuminating Lower Body Stratum Tragedy* (dir. Draf Draffin), *Children of Saturn* (dir. John Bolton), *Garden Plot*, *Die Berlin*, *Feast* (Winner of UMSU Mudfest's Innovation

Ward), and *Swim Between the Flags* (devised and performed by Pony Cam), *We're Probably Really Really Happy Right Now* (dir. Sarah Vickery). This year Henry was part of a docoseries produced by Pedestrian TV and Absolut Vodka, as part of their *Show Us Your Colours* Tour for Sydney Mardi Gras.



### **Domenica Garrett** - *Elizabeth*

Domenica Garrett is an actor and musician based in Melbourne/Naarm and Sydney/Eora. She is an acting graduate from both the Victorian College of the Arts and Sydney Theatre School. Her credits at the VCA include *pool (no water)* (dir. Leticia Cáceres), Carter/Maryna in *Earthquakes in London* (dir. Sarah Goodes), Mia in *Snore* (dir. John Kachoyan), Cate in

*Blasted* (dir. Budi Miller), Pompey/Juliet in *Measure for Measure* (dir. Tony Smith), and Lyubov in *The Cherry Orchard* (dir. Budi Miller). Domenica has been performing as a singer/songwriter for over 10 years, playing at major music venues across Australia, and has won numerous awards for her songwriting.



### **William Hinz**

William Hinz is a playwright, lyricist, and performer, with a Masters of Writing for Performance from the Victorian College of the Arts. Their body of lyrical work includes *Allentown* and *Sincerely, Us*, the latter of which was invited to NMA's First Look program at the Hayes theatre in Sydney. Short plays include *F\*^% Off Geraldine!*, *R I N N A*, *Remote*, *Dullahan* and

*The Curators*. Longer form works include *Guerilla Sabbath*, and *Genesis*. In 2018 they founded the *Scratch Night* program with *A Very Theatre Company*, a collaborative platform dedicated to developing and raising the profile of new works in Australia's independent theatre sector.



### **George Lazaris**

George Lazaris is a theatre director and dramaturg with experience across over 60 productions. George's credits include *Hamlet* at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Caryl Churchill's *Seven Jewish Children*, *Genesis*, *Spring Awakening*, *Misery Loves Cabaret* starring Shannen Sarstedt as part of Bondi Feast, as well as world premiere productions of *Somewhere Between*

*the Sky and Sea* at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and Ella Arendelle's *Wellness*. George recently directed the development showing of the new musical *Girls Are Hot* by Green Room Award winning company *Flesh Coloured Panties*, and will be Assistant Director of *Cyrano* (dir. Sarah Goodes) at MTC later this year.



## **M e t a   C o h e n**

Meta Cohen is a queer composer, sound designer and dramaturg. She is currently based on Wurundjeri land. In her theatre work, she specialises in sonic dramaturgy and musical thinking in theatre making. Recent credits include *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights* (composer/sound designer/dramaturg, dir. Alyson Campbell), *Hedda Gabler* (dramaturg,

dir. Mary Angley) and *A Slippery Thing* (dramaturg, dir. Rinske Ginsberg). Meta is an associate artist at Alyson Campbell and Lachlan Philpott's queer performance collective *wreckedAllprods*, a resident sound designer in the New Ghosts Theatre Company's IGNITE Collective and a resident dramaturg in the Theatre Works She Writes Collective.



## **I s a b e l l a   V a d i v e l o o**

Isabella is a Melbourne based theatre director and maker. With both settler Australian and Tamil Sri Lankan heritage, Isabella prioritises centring underrepresented stories, often working with physical and body focused practices. Having trained in and studied cultural safety in theatre spaces, she centres her practice around emotional safety and respect, cultivating a

work space carefully primed for risk taking. This has led her to move her skill set into Intimacy Coordination, utilising both her physical theatre and cultural safety practices. Comfortable with both scripted and devised work, Isabella has experience making conventional, fourth wall type theatre, immersive and interactive theatre, physical theatre and live art.



## **B r o o k e   S i m m o n d s**

Brooke is a Melbourne based Stage Manager. Recently graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts, Brooke worked on *The World That Was*, *Wunderschon Stark*, *Our House*, *F\*\*\*ing A*, *Mad Forest* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. Externally, her credits include Stage Manager for *The Hitmen* (Baker's Dozen Theatre Company), *Grand Gesture* (The People) and *Jofus*

and *The Whale* (Fish and Twiner's Bait Shop), and Assistant Stage Manager for *The Great Australian Play* (Montague Basement Theatre Company) and *Punk Rock* (Patalog Theatre Company). She also completed a Stage Management Secondment with MTC on *Torch the Place*, and is currently the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Frenetic Theatre.



## **T h o m a s   B e v a n s**

Thomas Bevans is an emerging set, lighting and costume designer. They are currently undertaking a Masters of Design for Live Performance at the Victorian College of The Arts. Thomas is passionate about queer theatre and approaches design as a mode of visual dramaturgy. Their credits include set design for *Twelve Angry Men* produced by Camberwell Grammar School in

2019, *Birdoir* as part of the Theatreworks 2020 Midsumma season and costume design on the short film "*Method*". They were nominated for Best Set Design at the 2019 Lyrebird Youth Awards for their work on *Twelve Angry Men*.



### **Daniella A. Esposito**

Daniella is a female-identifying, sound designer and composer based in Melbourne/Narrm, with a BFA (Production) from the Victorian College of the Arts. She is known for her sound designs and compositions for theatre, dance, and immersive works, and creates aural landscapes that ignite a transformative world from hearing to experiencing. Professionally, her credits

include sound design and composition at The Malthouse 2020 Season Launch, Patalog Theatre's critically acclaimed production *Punk Rock, Slut* by Patricia Cornelius at The Burrow, Three Fates Theatre Company's inaugural production of *Land*, and Never Said Motel's immersive theatre experience debut at The Writer's Festival and OK Motels Festival.



### **A e d a n   G a l e**

Aedan Gale (he/him) is an emerging lighting designer currently based in Melbourne, Australia. He is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts: Design & Production. Aedan's design work at the VCA include Acting Company 2020 productions of *pool (no water)* (dir. Leticia Cáceres) and *Earthquakes in London* (dir. Sarah

Goodes), as well as several short contemporary dance works by renowned choreographers such as Anouk van Dijk, Stephanie Lake, and Larissa McGowan.



### **I k s h v a k   S o b t i**

Ikshvak Sobti (he/him) is a lighting technician and emerging lighting designer based in Naarm (Melbourne). Currently in his final year of study at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), Sobti is eager to combine his vast technical knowledge with his passion for lighting design for dance and theatre. Previous credits include working as the Lighting Designer for

*Return to Normal* (chor. Antony Hamilton) and *Sight Unseen* (chor. Linda Sastradipradja) as part of VCA's Graduate Dance Season and as the Associate Lighting Designer and Programmer for *pool (no water)* directed by Leticia Cáceres; another VCA graduate production in 2020.



### **R y a n   S t e w a r t**

Ryan is a Naarm/Melbourne-based producer and actor. Their recent producing credits include the first staged development of the upcoming musical *Girls Are Hot* (Flesh Coloured Panties Productions), a critically acclaimed Australian festival tour of *Party Snake* (U Mad? Productions) for which they received the Brighton Fringe Tour Ready Award (Sydney

Fringe Festival) and the Brighton Fringe International Pebble Trust Bursary, *This Wide Night* (Green Light Theatre), and *THIS-THAT* and *The Cocoon* (U Mad? Productions). On screen, Ryan recently produced a shoot with drag performer Art Simone at the Spiegeltent as part of an upcoming series that looks into the Melbourne drag scene.