

LA MAMA PRESENTS EMPATHY TRAINING

FOR THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL 2022



A group of high-profile and completely self-centred people must undertake empathy training in order to resurrect their careers and restore their public images.

The participants include: Tucker, an AFL player charged with defamation and committing a lewd act in public, who wants everyone to know what a great player he is; Maddysyn, an influencer accused of negligence and defrauding her followers, whose opinions cannot be dented by facts or reason; Cynthia, a businesswoman involved in the exploitation of workers, who cares not for anyone making under \$500,000 a year; and Winston, a politician accused of nepotism and spending public money for his own purposes, whose immense wit is matched by his oversized ego.

Guiding them through the course is Sarah, a psychologist, who must also overcome her own issues with anger and jumping to conclusions. As the training progresses, Sarah discovers that each participant exists in their own little bubble of self-importance, and she will have her work cut out to burst them, thus getting the participants to own up to their mistakes and to learn from them. As expected, the training and Sarah's plans do not go to plan...

'Empathy Training' explores issues of fame and taking responsibility for one's actions when in the public eye, as well as the impact of social media and judging others without all the facts.

Written and Directed by Brendan Black & Martin Chellew

Performed by Davita van der Velde, Peter Hatherley, Julie Arnold, Emma Snow, Alex Thomson

Image by Brendan Black

Brendan Black and Martin Chellew have been making short films together since 2009, on topics such as politics, clerical child abuse and asexuality. After Brendan had success with 'Trosky and Friends' at the 2016 and 2017 Melbourne International Comedy Festivals, the theatre bug had well and truly bitten, and Martin joined him to adapt their unproduced short film 'The Business of God', which finally premiered (thanks, COVID!) in 2021.

SEASON 12 - 17 April

TIMES Tue & Wed 6.30pm

Thu - Sat 7.30pm

Sun 4pm

VENUE La Mama Courthouse

349 Drummond Street, Carlton

LENGTH Approx. 90 minutes

TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession

BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au



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