

DAREBIN ARTS

SPEAKSY

and **Bloomshed** proudly present



Animal Farm



**Darebin
Arts**

Darebin Arts Speakeasy: Celebrating 10 years of supporting local art

Darebin is thrilled to celebrate 10 years of supporting local artists through the Darebin Arts Speakeasy program. Since 2013, the program has been an influential hub for performing artists to develop and present innovative new work across contemporary dance, circus, theatre and multi-disciplinary work that speaks to issues that matter to the community and celebrates cultural diversity.

As we celebrate 10 years of the Darebin Arts Speakeasy program, it is with great pride and joy that I reflect on its impact and success. Over the past decade, Darebin Arts Speakeasy has supported over **1,500 artists** to create over **150 original works** presented to over **75,000 patrons**, receiving **40 creative industry awards** and a further **116 nominations**. It has been a highlight of our cultural calendar and has brought people together in a way that has enriched our city and our lives.

The Darebin Arts Speakeasy is not just a program, but a reflection of the vibrant arts precinct that exists across our suburbs. It showcases the rich talent and creative energy that we are so lucky to have in our community.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the artists, partners and patrons who have made this program a resounding success!



Cr Julie Williams
Mayor

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung people who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Darebin stands. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging

About Bloomshed

Bloomshed have been creating award-winning theatre since 2014. We make live events that push the boundaries of what live performance is and can be. From immersive installations to radical re-imaginings of classic texts, we mix big political ideas with entertaining and accessible storytelling. Our work is a high-octane mess of delicious diatribe, dance breaks, and confetti. Our most recent productions, *Paradise Lost* won four Green Room Awards, while our digital production of *Bad News* received two Green Room Award nominations in 2021. Our digital production of *Animal Farm* was shown as part of the VCE Playlist 2021.

Bloomshed began in a backyard shed when a group of dedicated performers and creatives started experimenting with live performance. Since then, we have created eleven new devised works, presenting at Common Rooms x Melbourne Fringe, Theatre Works, Blue Room Theatre, Old 505 Theatre, Platform Arts, The Butterfly Club, The Wedge, and La Mama. Our work examines the major political issues that attend our era: climate change, class inequity, and corporate greed. We are a close-knit group continually in a dialogue about new ways to reach our audience and empower communities to enact positive change.

Creative Team

Original Script: Elizabeth Brennan and James Jackson

Written, Created & Performed by Bloomshed: Anna Louey, Edan Goodall, Elizabeth Brennan, James Malcher, Laura Aldous, Lauren Swain, Sam Nix and Syd Brisbane.

Dramaturg, Sound Design & Production Manager: Justin Gardam

Set & Costume Design: Nathan Burmeister & Samantha Hastings

Lighting Designer: John Collopy

Stage Manager: Jacinta Anderson

Bloomshed Artistic Director: James Jackson

Image by: Gregory Lorenzutti



Artist Bios



Elizabeth Brennan (Performer) (she/her) is a Monash Bachelor of Performing Arts graduate, now working as a Melbourne based actor, writer and theatre maker. She has worked extensively with Bloomshed over the last five years, adapting and performing in *Ernest*, *The Nose*, *The Market is a Wind-Up Toy*, *Paradise Lost* and *Bad News*. She has also toured with the Centenary Roadshow, and delivers Shakespeare to the bats and possums with the Australian Shakespeare Company. Having recently performed and written her debut solo show *Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Ham* for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Elizabeth has decided that collaboration is preferable.



James Malcher (Performer) (he/him) has been working extensively for the last five years in the Melbourne theatre scene on a wide variety of projects. In 2017 he graduated from Monash University's theatre program with a strong academic base and experience in an eclectic range of performance styles. Since graduating, James has received critical praise for his work, in particular for Daniel Lammin's *Awakening* and Bloomshed's *The Market is a Wind-Up Toy* and *Paradise Lost*.



Anna Louey (Performer) (she/her) is an actor and theatre maker from Naarm/Melbourne. Having been a member of Bloomshed since 2021, Anna has performed in the Green Room Awards winning production of *Paradise Lost* (2022) and *Animal Farm* (2021). She has worked with Frenzy Theatre Co since 2022 has performed in *The World According to Dinosaurs* (2023), which is featured on this year's VCE Drama playlist, and *Motherlode_ ^e* (2023).

Anna previously performed with Riot Stage in *Everyone is Famous* (2021) and *Lovely Mess* (2018). Outside of acting, Anna works closely with multicultural communities in the advocacy and education sector.



Eden Goodall (Performer) (he/him) is an actor, deviser and an ongoing contributor to the Melbourne and Australian theatre scenes, having performed in the Melbourne Fringe & International Comedy Festivals, at Malthouse Theatre, and other staples of Melbourne and Sydney independent theatre. A proud member of the innovative, Green Room Award winning theatre company Bloomshed, Edan is dedicated to creating evocative, class-conscious political theatre with a strong comedic bite. Edan performed in Bloomshed's *The Market is a Wind Up Toy* in both Sydney and Melbourne in 2018 and 2019, and *Paradise Lost* as part of the 2019 & 2020 Melbourne Fringe Festivals, and continues to

develop new, exciting projects with Bloomshed team and other Melbourne-based theatre companies, alongside work in film and television. With a tertiary background in criminology, Edan is committed to delivering works that challenge the intersectional nature of systemic injustice in the community.



Sam Nix (Performer) (he/him) is ecstatic to be back on home soil and returning to the Melbourne theatre after a solid stint working and performing overseas in London. After being heavily involved with Bloomshed's previous show *The Market is a Wind-Up Toy* he is honoured and enthused to get the chance to bring *Animal Farm* to life through his physical and comedic prowess.



Lauren Swain (Performer) (she/they) is a proud Dabee Wiradjuri person based in Naarm (Melbourne). She grew up in a rural town in the Mountains of Ngarigo Country (Cooma, NSW), an upbringing that underpins an artistic practice grounded in: community consciousness, care and working with what you've got. Lauren is a Victorian Collage of the Arts (BFA Theatre) graduate and emerging multidisciplinary theatre maker that weaves between performer, collaborator and facilitator. She is interested in non-traditional theatre that is responsive to unconventional spaces, movement led, immersive and holds interpersonal connection and process at the core.

Lauren can be found building worlds alongside the magic of children (*Paper Planets*, 2023), buzzing around (*Bees*, 2023) and cooking up a storm (*Feast*, 2023) as an artist with Polyglot Theatre Company. She is also an emerging program producer at Theatre Network Australia (Australian First Nations CaPT Circle) and now teaches in the BFA Theater course at the Victorian College of the Arts.



Laura Aldous (Performer) (she/her) is an actor, theatre maker, director and facilitator working across creative disciplines in Naarm (Melbourne). Laura holds a Bachelor of Arts from Monash University's Centre for Theatre and Performance. For the past five years she has been a core member of Bloomshed with credits including *Paradise Lost*, *Animal Farm* and *The Nose*. Since 2017 Laura has collaborated with Barking Spider Creative, devising and delivering multidisciplinary performance works including the Green Room Award nominated immersive theatre work *Wood Wide Web* and *In a Heartbeat*. Other stage credits include *After Hero* (Monash/ Malthouse), *Pink Matter* (Melbourne Fringe Festival) and *Any Sugar* (Melbourne International Comedy Festival). Later this

year Laura will appear in The Bloomshed's next work, *A Dodgeball Named Desire* at Fortyfive Downstairs Theatre.



Syd Brisbane (Performer) (he/him) has been working in the industry for 40 years and graduated from Flinders University Drama Centre. Recent credits include *Masterpiece part 2* of Glenn Shea's *An Indigenous Trilogy* (La Mama), *Coranderrk* (Illbjerri/La Mama), Manuel in *Fawlty Towers Live Australian Tour*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth*, *A MidSummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Hamlet*, *Henry IV part One*, *Twelfth Night*, *Alice In Wonderland* and *Pygmalion* (Australian Shakespeare Company), *Victory* directed by Judy Davis (Sydney Theatre Company), *He Stumbled* (UK tour), *Because The Night* and *K Box* (Malthouse Theatre), *Closer* (State Theatre Company of SA), *Dealer's Choice*, *Unidentified Human Remains*, *Capricornia*, *Marat*

Sade, *The Club*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Decameron*, and *Restoration*. Syd was a founding member of The Rabble directing *Osama The Hero* and performing in their productions *Orlando* and *Salome*.



James Jackson (Bloomshed Artistic Director) (he/him) is an award winning director, writer and producer. He is the creative director of Bloomshed. Recent works include *Animal Farm*, *Bad News* (Nominated Best Writing and Best Design, Green Rooms 2021), *Paradise Lost* (winner Best Production and Light and Costume & Set Design, Green Rooms 2023), *The Market* (Critic's Pick 2018 Sydney Fringe) and *The Nose* (Festival Director's Award, Sydney Fringe and Nominated for Direction and Production, Green Rooms 2019). Outside of Bloomshed James has production managed the national tour of *Stardust & The Mission*, worked as a dramaturg with Back to Back's Theatre of Speed and at the

National Theatre of Croatia (Rijeka) on *Gilulio Cesare in Egitto* and *Our Violence, Your Violence* at the Wiener Festwochen. James holds a Masters of Dramaturgy from the Victorian College of the Arts.



Justin Gardam (Dramaturg, Sound Designer & Production Manager) (he/him) is a dramaturg, writer, and award-winning designer and director. He is a graduate of Monash University's Bachelor of Performing Arts and completed a Master of Dramaturgy at the Victorian College of the Arts. He has won a Green Room Award for his work with Bloomshed, and has been nominated for multiple awards in 2023. His wider credits include *Everyone is Famous* and *F.* (Riot Stage); *Lamb, Control*, and *Wakey Wakey* (Red Stitch); *Paradise Lost*, *Bad News*, *The Market is a Wind-Up Toy* and *The Nose* (Bloomshed); and *I'm Not a Mime*, *The New Nine* and *Mime Consultant* (Patrick Collins). As associate:

Considerable Sexual License (Joel Bray Dance); *Suddenly Last Summer* and *The Moors* (Red Stitch); *Merciless Gods* (Little Ones Theatre); and *Abigail's Party* (Melbourne Theatre Company).



John Callopy (Lighting Designer) (he/him) is an award-winning lighting and visual designer, whose work for the stage has been seen in Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. His recent lighting design credits include *Otello* (Melbourne Opera; directed by Bruce Beresford); *Paradise Lost* (Bloomshed/Darebin Arts Speakeasy 2022); *The Nose* (Bloomshed; Green Room Awards 2019 nominee for Best Production, Best Direction); *The Market is a Wind Up Toy* (Bloomshed, Critics' Pick of Sydney Fringe 2018); *Sensory Decadence and Kilter* (One Fell Swoop Circus); *Slaughterhouse Five* (Theatre Works/Monash Uni Student Theatre); *Helping Hands* (A_tistic/La Mama); *Too Ready Mirror* (Darebin Arts Speakeasy);

Ironbound; *Hurlyburly*; and *Shining City* (Q44 Theatre). He is an associate artist with A_tistic.



Nathan Burmeister (Set & Costume Designer) (he/him) is an award-winning Melbourne based set and costume designer and theatre maker for live performance. He works closely with new styles, forms, and stories, exploring contemporary dramaturgies, audience experiences, and aesthetics. Nathan's recent works include *Loaded* (Malthouse Theatre, 2023), *Paradise Lost* (Bloomshed/Darebin Arts Speakeasy, 2022), *Animal Farm* (Bloomshed, 2021), *Considerable Sexual License* (Joel Bray Dance/Darebin Arts Speakeasy, 2021), *End Of* (Griffin Theatre Company, 2022; Darebin Arts Speakeasy, 2020), *Love/Chamberlain* (Moral

Panic/Theatre Works, 2019), *Fly* (Lyric Opera, 2019), *Q* (La Mama, 2019), *Sneakyville* (Before Shot Productions, 2018).



Samantha Hastings (Set & Costume Designer) (she/her) is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts Bachelor of Fine Arts (Design & Production). Sam found her passion for Design and Production through her experiences of theatre, visual arts & design. During her time at VCA, Sam furthered her love for Costume Design, tailoring her learning to focus on this area of Theatrical Design. Recent works include costume design Tyran Parke’s musical *Our House, Venus in Fur* (Adelaide Fringe), *Paradise Lost* (Bloomshed 2022) and *Neighbours*.



Jacinta Anderson (Stage Manager) (she/her) is a Stage Manager, Producer and Technical Manager and has worked professionally in the theatre industry for the past five years. Stage Management credits include *Us* (Saint Martins Youth Theatre, 2021), *The Ball Room* (Chapel off Chapel, 2021), *Everyone is Famous* (Riot Stage, 2021), *Virtual Intimacy* (Asia TOPA, 2020), *Gender Euphoria* (Sydney Mardi Gras, 2020), *Paradise Lost*, (Bloomshed 2019), *The Market is a Wind Up Toy* (Bloomshed 2019, 2018, Sydney and Melbourne), The 2018 tour of *Always... Patsy Cline* (Hit Productions), *The Nightingale and the Rose* (Little Ones Theatre, 2018), *Anti-Hamlet* (New Working Group, 2018), *The Moors*, (Little Ones Theatre and Red Stitch, 2017) and *The Happy Prince* (Little Ones Theatre, 2017). As a Technical Manager, she has worked with Yummy Productions since 2019 on shows such as *Yummy Deluxe* (Speigeltent Barwon Heads, Sydney Mardi Gras, HOTA Gold Coast, 2020), *Yummy Unleashed* (Castlemaine Festival, 2021), and the filmed project, *Yummy: How to Make a Western*.

About Darebin Arts Speakeasy

Darebin Arts Speakeasy is Darebin City Council’s award-winning year-round independent performance and development program. For 10 years, the program has curated and invested in contemporary dance, circus, theatre and multi-disciplinary artists whose works offer audiences a dynamic and diverse mix of stories that matter to the community, celebrate cultural diversity and reflect the times we’re living in.

Since 2013 Darebin Arts Speakeasy has supported over **1,500 artists** to create **over 150 original works** presented to **over 75,000 patrons**, receiving **40 creative industry awards** and a further **116 nominations**. Darebin Arts has backed many of the groundbreaking artists and companies that make Melbourne’s art sector so iconic: RAWCUS, Ilbijerri Theatre Company, The Hayloft Project, Little Ones Theatre, Stephanie Lake Company, Elbow Room, MKA, Double Water Sign, and lead artists like Joel Bray, Michele Lee, Emilie Collyer, Anna Seymour, Stella Young and Sammy J.

Coming up at Darebin Arts Speakeasy



The Fence by Fleur Murphy

What do you do when you can't look away?

In the quiet streets of an ordinary suburb, the fence between two neighbouring houses comes down. Where once there was a clear separation between you and the couple next door, now there's only a dirt line and human decency keeping prying eyes out of each other's backyards. Except you've noticed they have a new baby and that she keeps locking herself out. And then there are the sounds late at night that have become impossible not to hear. Should you say something, do something? But is it what you think it is? And is it really your place to get involved?

Shortlisted for the 2022 Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award, *The Fence* is a scintillating solo work about privacy, bravery, and testimony by acclaimed playwright Fleur Murphy (*Nothing, Hearth*). Performed by Louisa Mignone (*Anna K, Wentworth, The Twelve*), this gripping new play will lead you through the streets we know, shining a light on the violence found in our own backyards.

9 - 20 August

Wed - Sat 7.30pm | Sun 5pm

Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

\$38 Full | \$30 Conc. | \$33 Darebin Residents | \$20 Preview | \$10 Blak Tix

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