



DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY PRESENTS

Contest

Come to play, come to win or don't come at all

25 July – 4 August

Main Hall, Northcote Town Hall

Written by Emilie Collyer

Directed by Prue Clark

FROM THE WRITER

Contest began as a glimmer and a phrase. The phrase was: wing attack apocalypse. The glimmer was a desire to make a work that featured women being highly physical on stage. The frame of netball was partly inspired by my own memories of playing as a child, and by more recent experiences of attending my step-daughter's netball games when she was a child. It struck me as such a rich space to delve into questions around being a woman and being with other women.

For a while the show was going to be about an elite team but the more it developed, the more it seemed to fit in a world of amateur sports, of suburban dreaming and within older bodies.

It has been an epic work to create and produce. So many people have contributed along the way, with their skills and time. The development of the work crossed over with my own experience of a cancer diagnosis and treatment. So the themes of bodies, endurance, vulnerability and aging have been sharply resonant.

Thank you to our team of incredibly hard working actors, creatives and crew – all of whom have taken a risk on making a work with an untested form. *Contest* sits somewhere between a play and a poem, it's an argument, an elegy and a dream. Which is all well and good for me to say but I know has not been easy to make!

And so my final, wholesome, heartfelt thanks to our fearless and fabulous director Prue Clark who has shepherded this beast into existence.

We hope you enjoy.

Emilie Collyer x

FROM THE DIRECTOR

There are so many reasons I was drawn to *Contest*; the potential of the physical score to support and be at odds with the text; the potency of netball as metaphor; Emilie's ability to mix the mythic with the mundane and make gods of us all.

But, mostly, I was drawn to the idea that there is a way through these crazy times. At the end, the women are on a precipice, surrounded by the ruins of what's come before. What's next is uncertain. But at least this time they will have a role in creating it and it will probably be a hell of a lot kinder, gentler and more inclusive.

Thank you so much to Emilie for her epic vision and being such a lovely friend, person and ally. *Contest* demanded a lot from us and I am extremely grateful to our incredible cast, creative team and crew who have been committed, resilient, and there for each other.

Prue Clark

CREDITS

Written & Co-Produced by Emilie Collyer

Directed by Prue Clark

Movement Direction: Nat Cursio and Alice Dixon

Set and Costume Design: Romanie Harper

Lighting Design: Amelia Lever-Davidson

Sound Design: Emah Fox

Script Dramaturg: Mark Pritchard

Producer: Erin Milne (Bureau of Works)

Cast: Alice Ansara, Natasha Herbert, Kate Hood, Sonya Soares and Emily Tomlins

Production and Stage Manager: Adelaide Harney

Assistant Stage Manager: Harriet Wallace-Mead

Stage Hand: Alaina Bodley

Buddy for Kate Hood: Bryony Wilson

Promotional and Production Images: Sarah Walker

Rehearsal Images: Yunis Tmeizeh

Videography: Cobie Orger

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**Darebin
Arts**



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