

DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY AND DOUBLE WATER SIGN PRESENT

MORAL PANIC

Two's company, three's a coven.

Wednesday 14 - Saturday 24 November
Northcote Town Hall Arts

Written by Rachel Perks
Directed by Bridget Balodis

darebinarts.com.au/moralpanic

Armed with a cup of menstrual blood and a digital ouija board, Andy and Evie meet in the forest to hex Evie's uncle. They've been talking to a dead witch online, she's given them a spell but asked for a pretty big favour in return. What could possibly go wrong? ~_("▽)_/~

The arrival of Evie's weird aunt, and Sue-Anne, the Mayor's daughter, forges an unlikely coven and propels the story down into the nauseating dream-logic of the underworld. They must learn to speak the mother tongue. They must listen to the crone and the crow.

Calling on the almighty spectre of the Witch, MORAL PANIC unleashes all that is terrifying and unknowable about queerness and womanhood. It is an unsettling hallucination, an occult thriller and a very dark comedy. This savage new performance work from the award-winning team behind GROUND CONTROL(Next Wave 2016) and ANGRY SEXX (Melbourne Fringe 2014), asks how do we tear down the monument of masculinity, and what tools can we find in the dirt?



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We want to acknowledge that this performance will be taking place on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. This play has been written, developed and rehearsed on Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung land. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and future and any indigenous people present today. We acknowledge that stories have been told on this land for tens of thousands of years and that sovereignty has never been ceded.

Dedication

We would like to dedicate this season to our beloved friend **Tonie-Rayne Steele**. She was an incredibly enthusiastic and skilled stage manager, a dream collaborator, excellent feminist and queer witchy wonder. We miss her fiercely.

From the Writer

I've been thinking a lot about what to say but I put all my words into the script, so here are some other people's words:

From Rebecca Solnit:

"The revolt against brutality begins with a revolt against the language that hides that brutality."

From Virginia Woolf, received via Rebecca Solnit:

"The future is dark, which is the best thing the future can be, I think."

From Walt Whitman, received via Eileen Myles via Instagram:

"I am large, I contain multitudes."

And, of course, Audre Lorde:

"Your silence will not protect you."

From the Director

At school I learnt about the internal workings of John Donne, T.S Elliot, Samuel Beckett, and JD Salinger. I learnt about a way of storytelling that is clean and very linear, where symbols stand for one thing, where tidiness reigns. I learnt to speak the language of these men, but I found it to be an unsatisfactory reflection of my own inner self - It isn't what's inside me. And so it seems unfair that my artmaking should have to adhere to a code that doesn't actually feel like it was built for me.

I want a storytelling that is deeply intuitive, political, and about the body. It's about the subversion of symbols and language, it's about silence, the unspoken and swallowed, it's about secrets and shame, about the small things (that are actually the big things). It's about prioritising emotion over action and about unearthing the mess and contradiction. It does not want to explain but just to be; to live and die without the scaffolding of an ancient system. That is what we've intended with this play.

Q&A Performance facilitated by Morgan Rose: Friday 16 November

Auslan Interpreted Performance: 8pm, Thursday 22 November

Relaxed Performance: 2pm, Saturday 24 November

Duration: 80min

Creators

Writer Rachel Perks (She/Her/They/Them)

Director Bridget Balodis (She/Her)

Team

Assistant Director Mick Roe (She/Her/He/Him/They/Them)

Set & Costume Designer Romanie Harper (She/Her)

Lighting Designer Amelia Lever-Davidson (She/Her)

Sound Designer Meri Leeworthy (They/Them)

Dramaturg Emma Valente (She/Her)

Creative Producer Natasha Phillips (She/Her)

Design Assistant Bethany J Fellows (Bethany)

Associate Lighting Designer & Production Manager Rachel Lee (She/Her)

Stage Manager Steph Young (She/Her)

Assistant Stage Managers Kelly Wilson (She/Her) and Diane Pereira (She/Her)

Cast

Kai Bradley (They/Them)

Chanella Macri (She/Her)

Eva Seymour (She/Her)

Jennifer Vuletic (She/Her)

Special Thanks

Sam, Beau, Anthony and everyone at Darebin Arts Speakeasy and Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, Siteworks, Megan and Lena at Auspicious Arts, Alice, Susannah, and everyone at Next Wave, Michaela and Prue from Prue Bassett Publicity, Sarah Walker, Morgan Rose, Damien McLean, Justin Gardam, James Paul, Cobie Orger, Claire at Creatrix, Hares & Hyenas, Ygender and Queerspace, Everyone who has assisted with the script development: Malthouse Theatre, Creative Spaces, City of Melbourne, Lonely Company, Zahra Newman, Piper Huynh, Tenielle Thompson, Izabella Yena and Anna McGrath, Onion Fellows, David Miller, Fiona and Zak, Gabriel and Ranima, Cat Scobie, Yunis Tmeizeh, Blair Hart at Arts House, Emilie Collyer, All of the folks who have supported our fundraising efforts, And all of our Feminist Heroes and Queeroes.

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