



DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY & LAB KELPIE PRESENT

# OIL BABIES

Written & Directed by  
**PETRA KALIVE**

**8 August - 18 August 2018**  
Main Hall, Northcote Town Hall



Darebin  
Arts



An Australian New Writing Theatre Company.

DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY & LAB KELPIE  
PRESENT

# OIL BABIES

BY PETRA KALIVE

Director **PETRA KALIVE**  
Set Design **ANDREW BAILEY**  
Sound Design & Compositions **DARIUS KEDROS**  
Lighting Design **LISA MIBUS**  
Costume Design **HARRIET OXLEY**  
Movement Director **XANTHE BEESLEY**  
Assistant Director **LYALL BROOKS**  
Producer **ADAM FAWCETT**

With  
**KALI HULME**  
**JODIE LE VESCONTE**  
**FIONA MACLEOD**



#OilBabies  
labkelpie.com

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*darebinarts.com.au/oilbabies*

*Cover image: Petra Kalive by Sarah Walker*

**Environmental message:** The plastic used to create the world of Oil Babies is designed to create a visual “tension” in the work. Please be assured that the material comes from a recycled source, and will be recycled again following the season.

*Lab Kelpie acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and perform on. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.*

# FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

## Petra Kalive

The idea of children – having them, not having them – had been rolling around my head for years. I never had that deep urge – that sense that my life would be incomplete without them. Then, I got pregnant quite unexpectedly and it threw my world into a spin. Unfortunately that pregnancy was unsuccessful – but what it did was get me thinking in a whole different way about the world in which we live, our legacy, how the choices we make every day impact our internal and external worlds.

At that time everywhere I looked – on social media, podcasts, radio and newspapers – the same message was being reported: the world was ending (or the world as we knew it was ending). Science was being interrogated in a public arena, it was contributing to government policy, it was helping win and lose elections – all because humans were having a catastrophic impact on the planet. Everyone was talking about how perilous our situation was, but nobody seemed to be doing anything. Babies were everywhere. We were in the midst of another baby boom. These two things seemed weirdly incongruous.

Changing our behaviour is difficult, especially when the impact of what we do is not immediate. Behaviour change is made even harder when the structures around us support the comfortable and easy lifestyle we have created for ourselves. We do not need to walk 10km for water every morning. We do not need to stoke a fire in the winter for warmth.

When it gets hot we turn on our air conditioning, we go to a movie – we leave the discomfort, which is usually an agitator for change. So in the developed world, is change of the scale required even possible?

Then, I unexpectedly got pregnant again. Now I was another one of the billions creating thousands of extra tonnes of waste and CO2. Logically, rationally, it was a no-brainer – but that idea was not even entered in to. This human was wanted. This human wanted to be in the world, and I felt helpless and small in the wake of being so informed – and at the same time so beholden to my biology. So, I listened to a lot of Radiolab. In the dreaming space that happens when I listen to the stories around science, I was inspired to let these thoughts and feelings about babies, our extinction, birth, betrayal, women's bodies and legacy take form.

So, it is no accident that women power this play, literally and figuratively – they are driven forward by external events, they continue to cycle because of internal events. And all the while these women are under pressure – this pressure is self-inflicted, societal and environmental – it is written on their bodies; bodies that generate the energy for the play and bear the promise of the next generation.

**Oil Babies** is about legacy. It is an attempt at agency in the face of an impossible situation.

# PERFORMERS



**Kali Hulme**  
P



**Jodie Le Vesconte**  
X



**Fiona Macleod**  
C

# CREATIVE TEAM



**Petra Kalive**  
Writer/Director



**Andrew Bailey**  
Set Design



**Darius Kedros**  
Sound Design & Compsitions



**Lisa Mibus**  
Lighting Design



**Harriet Oxley**  
Costume Design



**Xanthe Beesley**  
Movement Director



**Lyall Brooks**  
Assistant Director



**Adam Fawcett**  
Producer



## LOVE THE SHOW? BUY THE SCRIPT!

Help us celebrate the world premiere of **Oil Babies** and **Lab Kelpie Press** by purchasing the script for just \$10 at the Box Office - includes full show program.