

DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKSY PRESENTS

WHALE

A new participatory theatre work

By Fleur Kilpatrick

and directed by Katrina Cornwell

1-11 May

Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

darebinarts.com.au

THE WHALE TEAM THANKS...

Alice Fitzgerald, Beach Patrol Port Melbourne, Bridget Mackey, Christopher Wenn, Claire Sonogo, Creative Spaces, Darius Kedros, David Finnegan, David Harris, Friends of Merri Creek, Karl Willebrant, Kieran Ruffles, Leila Enright, Lonely Company, Michael Taylor, Monash Centre for Theatre and Performance, Jason Lehane and Monash Uni Student Theatre, Morgan Rose, Musica Viva, Nick McInerney, Playwriting Australia, The Rabble, Roslyn Oades, Samantha Green, She Said Theatre, Kitty Malam and the cast and crew of Slaughterhouse Five, St Martin's Youth Theatre, Stella Webster, Steven Mitchell Wright, Tom Heath, Womens' Circus and Yvonne Virsik.

Everyone who gave up their time to be part of our test audiences, the amazing expert panelists for the PWA script development – Jacynta Fuamata, Rebecca Giggs and Celia McMichael.

All those who generously donated to our ACF Campaign – Ashleigh Basham, Auspicious Arts - Christian Taylor, Bali Padda, Clifton Hill / North Fitzroy Community Bank, Courtney Rothall, Daniel Lammin, Daniel Nieborski, Em and Phil Choy-Evans, Emma Hamilton, Essential Theatre, Felix Nobis, Fiona McArdle, Freelance/ AD MUST, Freya Magee, Giorgia Cahoon, Gretel Sharp, Harmony Nicholas, Individual, Karissa Taylor, Karmin Cooper, Kitty Malam, Kitty Robinson, Laura Webb, Mr London, Madeline Taylor, Mikey Hill, Miriam Slavin, Nancy Rogers, Nesceda Blake x 2, Nikki Kennedy Rinske Ginsberg Rosamund Palmer and Vince Cattenazzi.

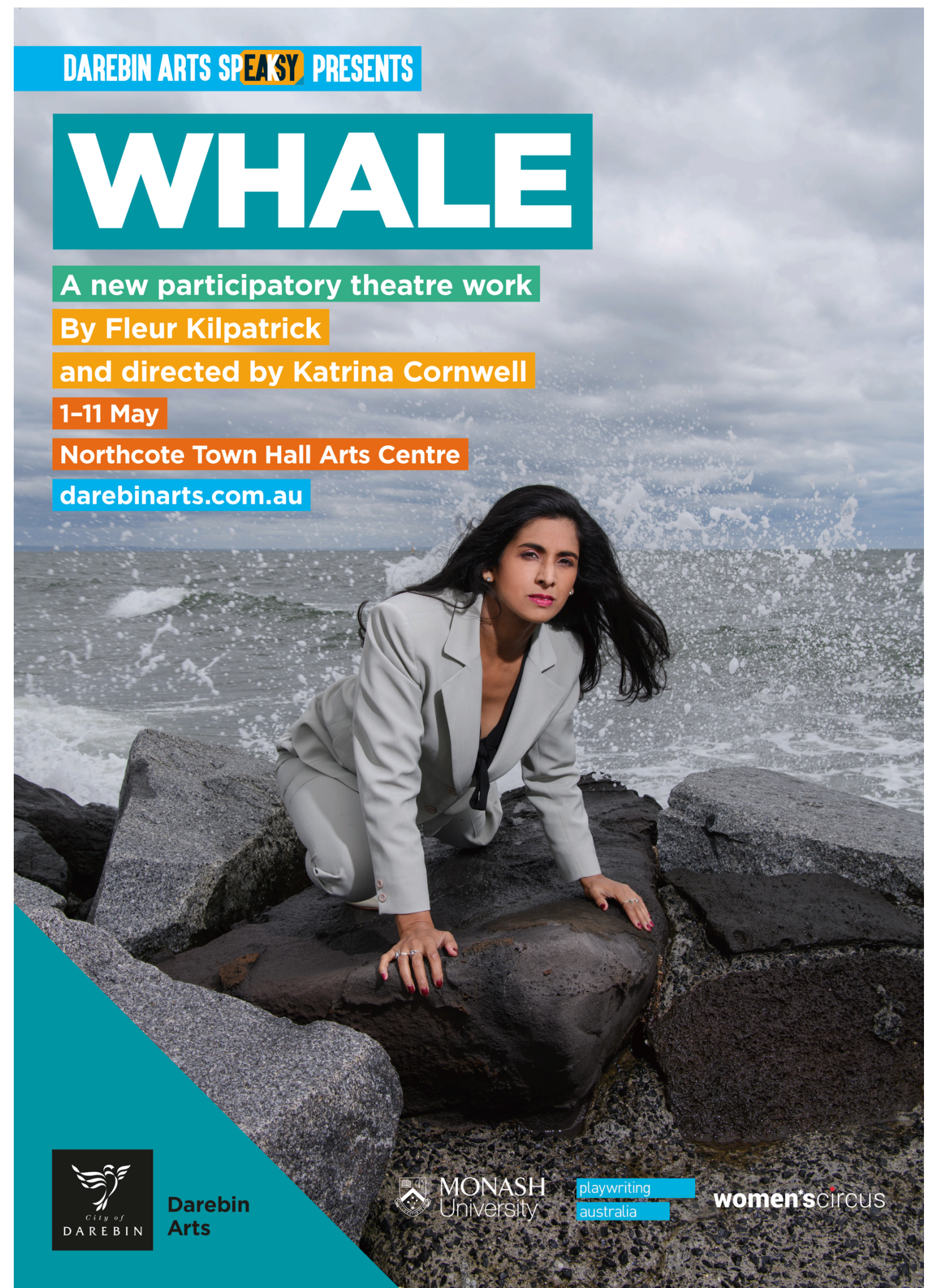
... and to the entire team at Darebin Arts Speakeasy and MLIVE for making this possible and working with us so graciously to make this show happen.

Whale was developed with Playwriting Australia through the Max Afford Playwrights' Award, by Perpetual as Trustee.

If you would also like to make a contribution to *Whale's* Australian Cultural Fund (ACF) campaign for the premiere seasons, please visit:

TINY.CC/WHALETHEPLAY

All funds raised will help with the cost of artist fees, equipment hire and technical and design elements of this world premiere season. Any donation, big or small, will make a difference.



Darebin
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playwriting
australia

women's circus

WRITER'S NOTE

Here are some things I know:

1. I know we are scared and tired and we feel helpless.
2. And I know we are one of the worst polluters per capita in the world and that last year we withdrew from the Global Climate Fund, which was created to help developing nations cope with the impacts of climate change that nations like ours have saddled them with.
3. Those nations must be scared and tired too.
4. I saw Anote Tong talk last year. I know Kat and I fangirled about him in the pub afterwards.
5. He looked tired but patient. He hopes his people won't be climate refugees. He wants to prepare them to migrate with dignity. What a shit thing to have to prepare for.
6. Anote said "If Scott Morrison could keep his emissions in his home, that's alright but he sends them my way... I want to ask your politicians: 'Do you not understand or do you not care?' It is one of those. But I don't fight your politicians. You put them in office. You deal with them."
7. I know I really heard the word 'your' and it cut.

8. I know Anote Tong and other leaders have been pleading for a long time.
9. I know that in 2014 Maina Talia from Tuvalu told Julie Bishop and Greg Hunt "When it comes to high tide you can see the tide everywhere. It seeps through the whole island... It is difficult to determine who is listening and who is not listening. I believe they have heard our message so many times but we keep on pushing and advocating for Tuvalu and Kiribati and low lying atolls so that leaders of Australia and other industrialised countries will continue to hear our voice."

Things I think I know:

1. Maybe it is our turn to plead.
2. Maybe our politicians only listen to the people who vote for and against them.
3. Maybe it is okay to ask too much of you for an evening. We've asked a lot from people like Anote and Maina: that they come back year after year and ask to be heard.
4. Maybe we are powerful.
5. Maybe we are fucking powerful.

– Fleur Kilpatrick

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The climate emergency is the greatest moral challenge of our time. Its existence is no longer debatable and yet Australian politicians responded to the recent IPCC report by endorsing 'clean coal' (a misleading term to describe technology that marginally reduces carbon emissions of coal-fired power plants). Climate change is not an event in the far-off future, its effects are being felt by our neighbouring island and atoll nations whose homes and lives are under threat by rising sea levels.

It's hard to imagine what it would be like to lose your home to the water, but that's what we are going to do tonight.

Fleur has written a beautiful gift for me as a director and for you as an audience. It's not a simple, easy or comforting gift, but one that requires great attention, patience, sacrifice and action.

It is difficult to make a work about climate change because it is big and overwhelming and the whole world seems to be drowning in the noise of it. *Whale* offers us a chance to wrestle with the truth and fiction of our climate emergency. It lets us gather around this thing together for eighty minutes and that is a great gift.

It will take everyone, together, to turn the tide. In the end, some things will have to be sacrificed.

– Katrina Cornwell

THE TEAM

Playwright	Fleur Kilpatrick	Producer	Claire Portek
Director	Katrina Cornwell	Stage Manager	Liberty Gilbert
Dramaturge	Roslyn Oades		
		AV Programming and Installation	Justin Gardam
Set and Costume Design	Emily Collett	AV Custom Coding	Robert Stewart
Lighting Design	Lisa Mibus	Operator	Celine Khong
Composer and Sound Design	Raya Slavin	Set and Costume Design Intern	Adele Cattenazzi
AV Design	Sarah Walker	Assistant Stage Managers	Amelia Newman Elizabeth Everett
Performers	Chanella Macri Sonya Suares Sarah Walker	Whale sounds in the work are from <i>Songlines - Songs of the East Australian Humpback Whales</i> by The Oceania Project - http://songlinesofthewhales.org	

Emily Collett is a set and costume designer whose practice comprises theatre, dance, film, television and costume research. A PhD candidate and tutor at The University of Melbourne, her research focuses on the topic of costume as a cultural marker, specifically in relation to Australian identity. Emily was nominated for a Green Room Award for *Dream Home*, Northcote Town Hall 2015, and has received grants from the Ian Potter Cultural Trust and ArtStart. Recent design credits include *A Little Night Music*, Watch This, 2018; *Niche*, Elbow Room Productions, 2017; and *The Yellow Wave*, 15 Minutes From Anywhere, toured 2015 – 17.

Katrina Cornwell is a director, actor and performance maker with a passion for challenging the theatre form. She has a Bachelor of Creative Industries from QUT and a Graduate Diploma in Arts and Community Practice from the Victorian College of Arts. Katrina has trained and performed extensively in physical-visual theatre, collaborating and touring with companies such as Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre, The Danger Ensemble, Red Moon Rising and Motherboard Productions. She has worked throughout Australia (Brisbane, regional Queensland, Melbourne and Adelaide) and has toured internationally (Europe, America, Korea and Hong Kong.) In 2018, Katrina directed *Lovely Mess* for Melbourne Fringe (nom. for Best Live Art) and FOLA, directed *The Bachelor S17E5* for La Mama and was the Artistic Associate on The Rabble & St Martins' co-production of *Lone* at Artshouse.

Fleur Kilpatrick's plays have won the 2018 Max Afford Playwrights Award (*Whale*), 2016 Jill Blewett Award (*Blessed*) and 2015 Melbourne Fringe's Emerging Playwright Award (*The City They Burned*). In 2018, her play *Terrestrial* toured with the State Theatre Company of South Australia. In 2019, *Daphne* will premiere at Co Opera, South Australia. She is a lecturer at Monash University's Centre for Theatre and Performance where she was the Artistic Director of Monash Academy of Performing Arts from 2014-2018. In 2019 she is artist in residence at Southern Cross University School of Law and Justice, exploring climate crisis, decision making and ethical responsibility through theatre.

Chanella Macri is a Melbourne based actor and theatre-maker from the Blue Mountains, Sydney. Graduating in 2017, from the Victorian College of the Arts –the recipient of the Patricia Kennedy Award and Valedictorian of the University of Melbourne VCA and MCM. Theatre credits; Stage Moms' *Truly Madly Britney* (Theatreworks), *Moral Panic*, *Suddenly Last Summer* (Red Stitch), *Crazy Brave* and *Woman with a Tomahawk* (both La Mama), VCA's *Mother Courage* (dir. Chris Kohn), VCA's *The Boys* (dir. Alister Smith) and work with ATYP's Fresh Ink program and MKA: Theatre of New Writing. Chanella is a creator, writer and performer of *Speak of the Devil* for Melbourne Fringe 2017 and Adelaide Fringe 2018. In 2018 she worked for the University of Melbourne facilitating *Acting It Out*, their inaugural outreach program for secondary school students.

Lisa Mibus is a Melbourne based lighting designer with a strong interest in the creation of new work. She co-devised *My Lovers Bones* (Brown Cabs Productions/Melbourne Festival) and her lighting design received a Green Room Award. Lisa has designed for many independent and mainstage productions, credits including *Sweet Phoebe* (Red Stitch), *Oil Babies* (Lab Kelpie), *Colour Correction* (Dancehouse), *Virgins & Cowboys* (Griffin Independent), *Heart is a Wasteland*, *The Orchid and the Crow*, *Normal Suburban Planetary Meltdown* (Malthouse Theatre), *Straight White Men*, *The Distance*, *Boy at the Edge of Everything*, *Yellow Moon*, *Beached*, *Music*, *The Heretic*, *Return to Earth* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Sweet Phoebe* (Red Stitch), *Genius* (St Martin's), *Grief and the Lullaby*, *Love Me Tender* (Theatreworks), *The Nest* (The Hayloft Project), *Member*, *Closed for Maintenance*, and *Colour of Glass* (La Mama).

Raya Slavin is a Melbourne-based composer and sound designer working in multi disciplinary art forms. A Victorian College of the Arts graduate, Raya incorporates a responsive understanding of sound dramaturgy and an interest in electronic music into her practice. She has collaborated on a number of award winning productions that have toured nationally and internationally, to venues and festivals such as Soho Theatre London, Edinburgh Fringe and Sydney Festival. Recent credits include *Lovely Mess* (FOLA), *Strangers in Between* (fortyfivedownstairs/Seymour Centre) *Birdcage Thursdays* (La Mama Mobile, fortyfivedownstairs, Big West Festival), *Wild Bore* (Malthouse Theatre), *Fallen* (Seymour Centre), *F.* (Poppy Seed Theatre Festival) and *Hart* (The Blue Room Theatre/Melbourne Fringe Festival). Raya received a Green Room nomination in 2015 for her sound design in *Ryan* (La Mama Courthouse).

Sonya Suares has worked in film, television and theatre since her screen debut at 16. Her credits run the gamut from Pinter to Puccini, with a healthy dose of touring Shakespeare and Aussie film. She's served as General Manager at Red Stitch, Artistic Director at Monash University's Academy of Performing Arts and co-Founding Director of Poppy Seed Festival. For the past seven years, she's also helmed Watch This, producing and occasionally performing in shows that earned a total of 15 Green Room Award nominations /2 wins. Her recent work includes acclaimed seasons of *We Get It* (Elbow Room/ MTC Neon), *Cerita Anak* (Polyglot & Papermoon Puppet Theatre), *Melbourne Talam* (MTC) and *Contest* (Darebin Speakeasy).

Sarah Walker is a photographer, writer and fine artist. She has been documenting the Melbourne theatre industry for over ten years. She won the Best Portrait Prize at the CCP Salon, and has been a finalist in the MTV RE:DEFINE Award and the National Photographic Portrait Prize, a two-time finalist in the Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women and a semi-finalist in the Moran Photographic Portrait Prize. In 2017 she won the Sydney Road Writer's Cup and was a runner-up in the Darebin Mayor's Writing Award. She is also an award-winning theatre designer and director and co-host of podcast 'Contact Mic.'