

# Whale

By Fleur Kilpatrick and directed by Katrina Cornwell

## Relaxed Performance Guide

Prepared by Darebin Arts and A\_tistic



*Image by Sarah Walker*

**VENUE:**

Main Hall, Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre  
189 High St, Northcote VIC 3070

[Map Available Here](#)

**DATE:**

Saturday 11 May at 2pm

**RUN TIME:**

80 Minutes, No Interval

## **In This Guide:**

[What's a Relaxed Performance?](#)

[Getting to the Venue](#)

[Venue Information](#)

[Venue Images](#)

[Show Description](#)

[Creative Team](#)

[Performer Images](#)

[Images of the Set](#)

[Stage Plan and pacing space](#)

[Content Warnings](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## **Relaxed Performance Guide**

### **What is a relaxed performance?**

A relaxed performance is intended specifically to be sensitive to and accepting of audience members who may benefit from a more relaxed environment at the theatre, including (but not limited to) those with autistic spectrum conditions, anyone with sensory and communication disorders, learning disabilities or babes in arms or prams.

A relaxed performance aims to break down barriers of a theatre show to allow for a diverse range of people to engage. Loud noises, bright lights, unclear rules and protocols, and not being confident in going to the theatre can all be detractors to those who would like to come along.

A 'relaxed' performance works to meet that audience halfway, giving reasonable permission for people to be comfortable as themselves, and relaxing the rules of theatre to allow for this.

### **What does this mean for you?**

Practically, the performance on the night will have its tech augmented to make the theatre space more relaxed for those who have sensory requirements and comfort behaviors, including stimming, pacing, rocking, humming, and other noise making.

The lighting and sounds will be altered to become softer, while still evoking the same emotional response from an audience.

The house lights will remain on through the show, so there is never any moment of complete darkness.

The door to the front of house area will remain open, so that people may come and go at any time.

Should an audience member need to leave the performance and take a moment to relax or to attend to a child, there will be a designated the relaxed room provided. Darebin or A\_tistic staff will be on hand to take you there and monitor the room.

## **Getting There**

The show will take place in the Main Hall at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, at 189 High St, Northcote VIC 3070. Main entrance of the venue is wheelchair and pram accessible.

### **Public Transport**

There are several ways to get here via public transport.

Train Line: Mernda Line

Stop: Northcote Station (10 minute walk)

Tram Route: 86

Stop: 31 Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre/ High Street, stop number 31 this is an accessible tram stop and is right outside the front of the venue.

Bus

552 Stop: Northcote Plaza

508 Stop: Separation Street (Crn High St)

567 Stop: Mitchell Street (Crn High St)

The buses 250 and 251 drop people off at the bottom of the hill and you can walk up.

Use the PTV journey planner for the best route

<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/journey>

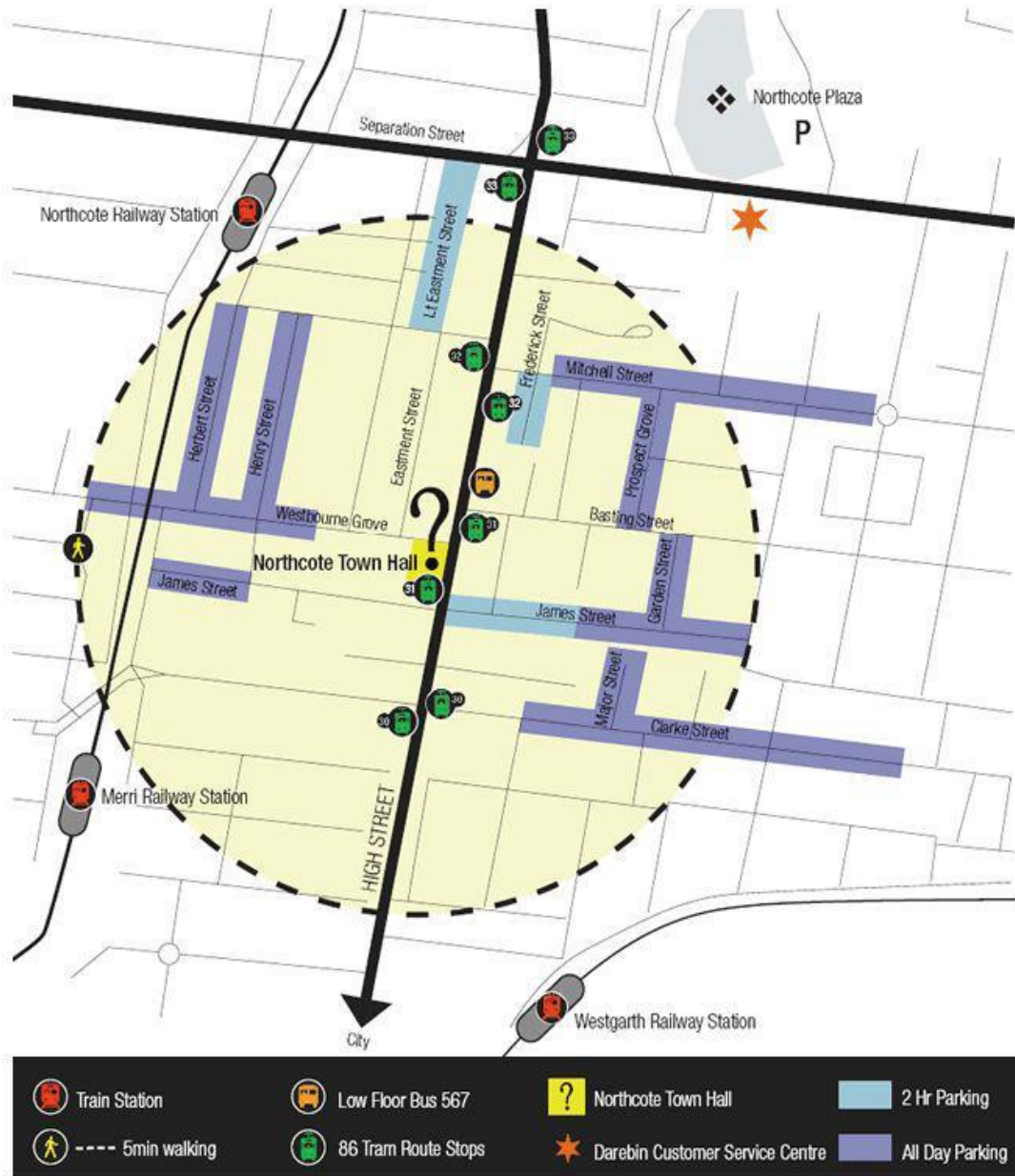
### **Driving**

There is limited parking in Northcote, please see our parking map below.

### **Accessibility Car Spaces**

There are two sets of accessible car spaces around the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre- one on James Street near the corner of High Street, and one on Westbourne Grove, near the corner of High Street.

Address: Northcote Town Hall  
 189 High Street  
 Northcote VIC 3072



## **Venue Information**

### **Access**

#### Wheelchair, Walkers and Prams Access in the Building

A permanent accessibility ramp is located at the front of the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre for easy access into the building and there is also a lift that provides access to the other floors.

### **Accessible Toilets**

Accessible toilets are available on the Ground Floor of Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre (opposite Main Reception through the glass doors and Studio 1 located in the West Wing).

### **Public Toilets**

Public toilets within Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre are available within the West Wing just down the hallway from Studio 1, as well as opposite the Main Reception through the glass doors.

### **Baby Change Room**

Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre provides a baby change room, located on the Ground Floor through the glass doors, (past the Main Reception and next to the lift).

## **Venue Images**



When you arrive, the entrance doors to the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre are located up the stairs or via the ramp on the left side of the building, if coming facing the building from High Street.





Head in through the glass entrance doors into the main foyer. Public toilets and accessible toilets are located here.



Continue through the foyer and on the right (next to display case) is **Ground Floor Room 1** – this is the **designated relaxed space**.

If you need a quieter space at any point before, after or during the show, you can retreat to this space to relax. There will be an usher on hand to make sure everything is ok!



In the foyer you will see the main staircase. The door past the staircase is the entry to the Main Theatre. Doors open 10 minutes before the show start time. In the meantime, continue through the foyer on Ground floor the bar and box office.



Travel past the staircase into the next and continue through the corridor you will find the open box office and bar in the room on the next left.



## **Whale Descriptor**

### **WORLD PREMIERE**

Here's what you need to know: The ocean is rising. We caused it. We're going to fix it but someone has to die.

Can you imagine a world where political inaction and climate change has brought the earth to the point of catastrophe? How did we let it get this bad? Could anything have been done about it? Or was it inevitable? Whale is a participatory new work where the personal must become the political. The scientists and politicians can't save us but don't worry: we are the ones we've been waiting for. We can save the world, provided we are ready to make the sacrifice.

Winner of the 2018 Max Afford Playwright's Award. *"It's rare to find a piece of theatre that explores climate change with such a compelling mix of playfulness and authority... it is brimming with imagination and ingenuity."*



## **Creative Team**

**Playwright** – Fleur Kilpatrick

**Director** – Katrina Cornwell

**Producer** – Claire Portek

**Dramaturge** – Roslyn Oades

**Composer and Sound Design** – Raya Slavin

**Set and Costume Design** – Emily Collett

**Lighting Design** – Lisa Mibus

**AV Design** – Sarah Walker

**Performers** – Chanella Macri, Sonya Soares and Sarah Walker

## **Performer Images**



Sonya Soares – Playing the 'Host'



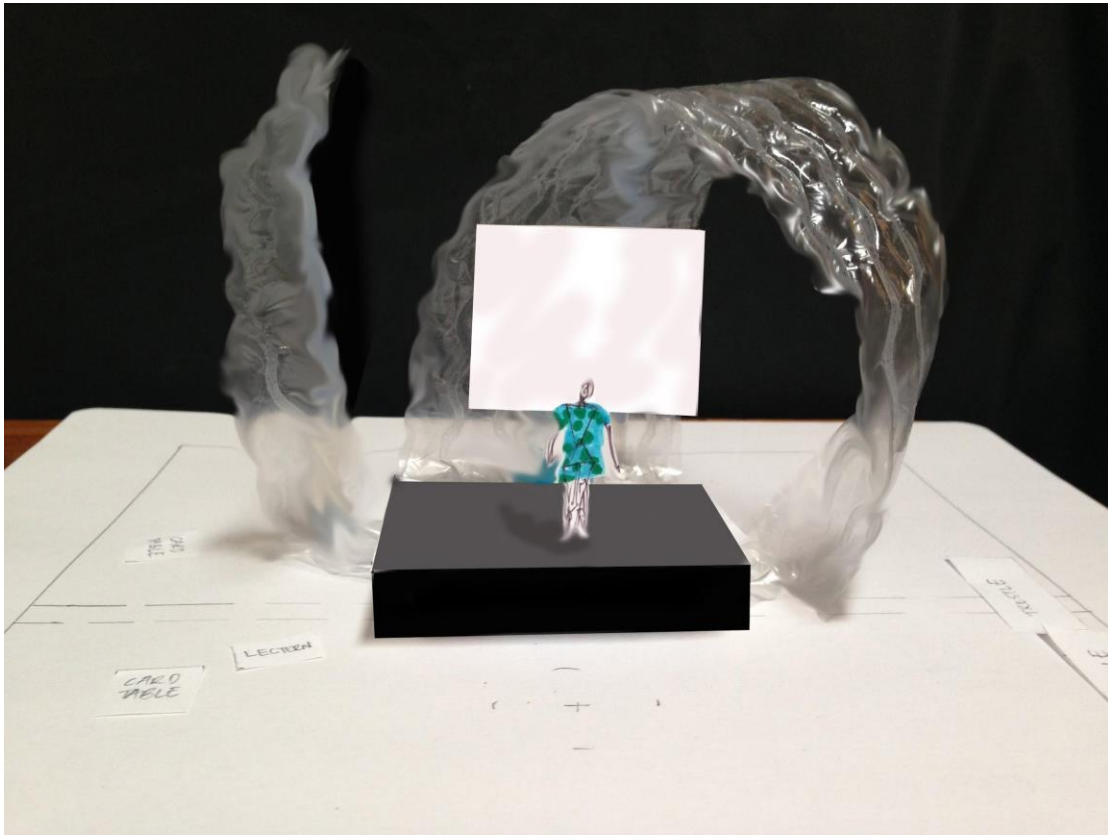
Chanella Macri – Playing the 'Whale'



Sarah Walker - Performer

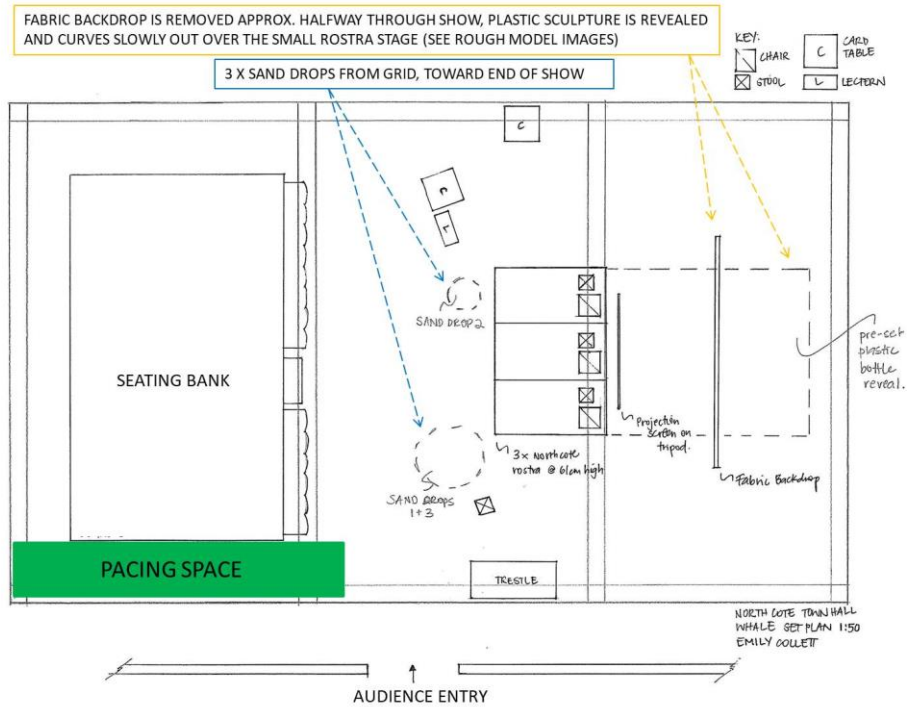






## Stage Plan

Please see the places for pacing below





## Content Warnings

### Warnings

Haze, Mild Language and loud sound effects,

This is participatory theatre. You may be asked to come onto stage, say text or perform actions.

Below is a detailed list of the content warnings for the show.

If you wish to avoid any potential spoilers for the show, we suggest you do not read this section. Otherwise, please see below detailed descriptors for content warnings.

Content	In the performance? (+ details where appropriate)
Audience Participation.	<p>Whale is a participatory performance. Audience members are asked to perform tasks and roles throughout the play. An audience member may be asked to read lines of text, or pass out an item to other audience members or come onto the stage space and become a character in the performance.</p> <p>In the foyer before the show we will give each audience member a lanyard. You may indicate the level of audience participation that you are open to through a colour system:</p> <p>Green: "Good to go - happy for all participation" Yellow: "I could do somethings like answer a question, but don't get me out onstage." Red: "I wish to only watch. I do not wish to participate".</p>
Swearing	Mild language use. 'S***' and 'F***' are said a once each.
Made up language / words	None.
Black outs	There are two blackouts in this performance that occur suddenly. These blackouts are necessary to cover the changing of set pieces and the disappearing of characters.

Blood	None.
Sound effects	There are loud sound effects at times. Volumes will have been lowered for this performance.
Lighting effects	There is one moment in the show where bright light is shined in the audience's eyes. There will be a verbal warning before this moment.
Props and set	The performance is set in a town hall. As we are in an actual town hall there is minimal set. Then, halfway through the performance a new set item is added to suggest a whale belly.
Genre	Whale is participatory theatre. Which means that the audience is invited to participate in the performance by doing various tasks. Audience members may be asked to come onstage, to perform an action, to say a line of text or to read something out loud.
Logic	Whale depicts a town hall meeting that has been called to perform a drastic act: a sacrifice that will end climate change. During the meeting 3 audience members are asked to come onstage and deliver pre-prepared speeches defending their islands' right to stay above water. Then, after the speeches, the rest of the audience votes to sacrifice one of the islands. The island is sacrificed, but as they sink beneath the waves, a whale swallows them and saves them. Through theatre magic, we can see into the belly of the whale and see the sacrifice and the whale talk to each other.
Dysphoria	In this world, society has failed to take significant action to stop climate change and so it is proposed that a 'biblical' sacrifice will solve all of our problems. There is a general sense of unease about what will happen to the world if we do not end climate change.
Abuse (physical, mental, emotional, verbal, sexual)	None.

Self-injurious behavior (self-harm, eating disorders, etc.)	None.
Talk of drug use (legal, illegal or psychiatric)	None.
Suicide	None.
Descriptions/pictures of medical procedures (even if they don't contain blood or gore)	None.
Descriptions/pictures of violence or warfare (including instruments of violence, such as knives or guns)	None.
Corpses, skulls or skeletons	None.
Discussions of -isms, shaming, or hatred of any kind (racism, classism, hatred of cultures/ethnicities that differ from your own, sexism, hatred of sexualities or genders that differ from your own, anti-multiple, non-vanilla shaming, sex positive shaming, fat shaming/body image shaming, neuroatypical shaming)	None.

Slurs used (this includes words like “stupid” or “dumb”, which are still widely considered to be socially acceptable)	None.
Dismissal of lived oppressions, marginalization, illness or differences	In this play the seriousness of the experiences of island nations who are affected by climate change is deliberately glossed over at times in an attempt to convince the audience that sacrificing an island is the only way to solve climate change. However we hope that through the play more attention is brought to the current plight of our neighboring island nations.
Discussions of sex (even consensual)	None.
Death or dying	In this play the audience is asked to sacrifice an island in order to solve climate change. The impact of climate change on our world is also discussed.  The character of Whale describes what it feels like to beach themselves.
Spiders, Insects, Snakes, Scorpions, other potentially alarming animals	None.
Vomit/Defecation	None.
Pregnancy/childbirth	None.
Serious injury	None.
Depictions of Violence, realistic or comic	There is a symbolic sacrifice of an island. The sacrifice is symbolised with loud sound effects and bright lights. No violence is simulated.

Mental illness	None.

### **Contact Us**

If you would like any further information please contact the Producer of the program, Samantha Butterworth on **Samantha.Butterworth@darebin.vic.gov.au** or **03 8470 8907**

Looking forward to seeing you there!