

The  
**BLUE  
ROOM**  
Theatre



Season  
One

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**2015**



CITY of PERTH

Proudly supported  
by the City of Perth

Chris Isaacs (cover)  
Lucy Clements (this page)

Images: Simon Pynt



# New artists, new work, new ways of making work

For over 25 years now, The Blue Room Theatre has been the home of independent theatre and performance in WA – consistently presenting what's next in contemporary performance.

This season you'll be treated to a range of new works from emerging and established artists, some fresh faces to The Blue Room Theatre stage and others return visitors.

We exist to support some of the boldest minds, championing the now, the next and the new.

We foster creative talent, giving independent theatre makers the tools to get their work seen and to build a sustainable career in the industry.

Our shows are super affordable (costing between \$15 and \$25), as are the drinks in our bar. Hang back after the show to chat to the artists and share ideas.

Discuss, debate and enjoy this eclectic program of shows crafted just for you, that's different to what you'll find anywhere else.

Secure your tickets now:

[blueroom.org.au](http://blueroom.org.au) / 08 9227 7005

Box office open Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm

and one hour before show time

All tickets \$15 – \$25

# The Complete Works

Want to see every show in this brochure at a discounted rate?

This is your chance to lock in your seats for every show in the season, with the flexibility to change nights or give your ticket to a friend if you can't make a show.

The Complete Works ticket gets you priority access to our Members' Nights, where you'll enjoy complimentary snacks and bar specials before and after the show.

Best yet, you'll save up to 40% on full price tickets as a member and 20% for non-members.

Members: \$120  
General: \$160

Buy online at  
[blueroom.org.au](http://blueroom.org.au)  
or call us on  
08 9227 7005  
to get The  
Complete Works.





**Warwick Doddrell**

Image: Simon Pynt





# Old Love

From Chris Isaacs, writer of *Flood* and *Fag/Stag*, comes a new work about new love.

Rob's pretty smitten with Florence, and it's easy to know why.

She's full of kindness and honesty, looks at him when he speaks, holds herself well in different crowds, dresses beautifully, can speak four languages, is well-read and well-travelled, cares for her friends, helps the disadvantaged, and even knows the difference between 'there', 'their' and 'they're'. She sings and dances and lives and loves and never through any of it loses herself. She is close to being the perfect woman...

And she's twice Rob's age.

Indie sensation The Last Great Hunt returns with a daring new show that will challenge your ideas about romance, love and the judgment of our peers.

**Writer:**

Chris Isaacs

**Director:**

Jeffrey Jay Fowler

**Dramaturg:**

Gita Bezard

**Featuring:**

Nicola Bartlett,  
Arielle Gray,  
Nick MacLaine  
& Tim Watts

**Marketing &**

**Publicity:**

Jamie Breen

*"Funny and beautiful... a remarkable first production" – ABC (Flood)*

*"[One] of our most adept young writers" – The West Australian (Fag/Stag)*

April														May							
7 PM	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		14	15	16	17	18			21	22	23	24	25			28	29	30	1	2	
		👁️	🎫							🌟											



# Armour

Can men really talk about their feelings?

Four participants in a men's group go on a weekend retreat deep in the bush. They try to use music to access their emotions, but nothing goes to plan.

Grievances and secrets emerge that only serve to fuel the tension in the group as the men confront the reality of their emotional and physical isolation. Not only are the men under siege from each other, but from their feelings...

Will the men remain divided and defeated or will they find a way out and a way forward?

This confronting and suspense-filled drama comes from Perth playwright Tom Jeffcote. It explores masculinity in modern-day Australia.

**Writer, Director &**

**Co-Producer:**

Tom Jeffcote

**Co-Producer:**

Electra Reissi

**Featuring:**

Danen Engelenberg,

Matthew Kiely,

Joel Sammels

& Ben Weirheim

**Stage Manager:**

Emily Stokoe

**Marketing &**

**Publicity:**

Kimberley Fulton



The development of *Armour* was supported by Stages WA

April

May

8.30PM

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	21	22	23	24	25			28	29	30	1	2			5	6	7	8	9	







# Once We Were Kings

A woman in a blue burka sits in a chair, smoking as she taps her red high heels. A boy descends from the stars in a birdcage. A girl sighs and dreams of a kiss on the cheek – from her mother, or her lover?

Drawn from stories of struggle and disillusion and woven together with fantasy, *Once We Were Kings* explores what it means to be young, queer and Muslim – a crescent-shaped peg in a Southern Cross-shaped hole.

Feisty and intensely lyrical, but with moments of pure comedy, *Once We Were Kings* sheds light on the myriad of Muslim identities that are often sidelined, silenced and closeted, and is accompanied by an international visual art exhibition.

**Writer:**

Dure Rey Khan

**Director &  
Producer:**

Mustafa Al Mahdi

**Co-Director:**

Alex Kannis

**Featuring:**

Mona Afshar,  
Jake Dennis &  
Dure Rey Khan

**Stage Manager:**

Claire Mouchemore

**Marketing &  
Publicity:**

Tanya Dharmapala

May

7 PM	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		12	13	14	15	16			19	20	21	22	23			26	27	28	29	30	
		👁	🎫							★											





# Under This Sun

Within the red desert sits a lonely yellow umbrella. It offers no shelter.

Cooper wakes to find himself abandoned in the bush. Grace retraces her brother's letters into the desert. Jeremy follows in the footsteps of Jack Kerouac and travels to the heart of Australia in search of enlightenment.

Three twenty-somethings renounce modern life and escape to the outback in a bid to find themselves. Instead, they're confronted by the harsh reality they find waiting for them, and their romantic notions of adventure are annihilated beneath the harsh Australian sun.

These three interweaving tales of discovery and isolation combine physical theatre, poetry and storytelling. Featuring the original poetry and prose of Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson and accompanied by an indie folk soundtrack, *Under This Sun* is a visceral new work by exciting young theatre-makers.

**Director & Producer:**  
Warwick Doddrell

**Featuring:**  
Maja Liwszyc,  
Tristan McInnes  
& Peter Lane  
Townsend

**Designer:**  
Tessa Darcey

**Lighting Designer:**  
Emily Crane

**Marketing & Publicity:**  
Jamie Breen

	May							June													
8.30PM	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		19	20	21	22	23			26	27	28	29	30			2	3	4	5	6	
		👁️	🎫						★											⌚	





# The Epic

Dash back to the beginning as we retell and unpick myths, epic texts and really good stories from around the globe.

Your hosts Finn O'Branagáin and Scott Sandwich are part-time performance poets, full-time story enthusiasts, double-time friends.

Born out of their shared joy of myths and legends, *The Epic* is part of an ancient tradition of retelling these stories, and discussion about how they and we have changed over time. Our world may be different, and maybe we think we're too modern, bitter, and cynical... But anyone can be a hero if you tell it right. Even two poets.

From the cradle of civilisation to the one about the wooden horse, with heroes ranging from Gilgamesh to Vin Diesel, *The Epic* lovingly takes the stories you think you know and asks them to tell us another.

**Writers:**

Finn O'Branagáin  
& Scott Sandwich

**Producer:**

Finn O'Branagáin

**Featuring:**

Finn O'Branagáin  
& Scott Sandwich

**Lighting Designer:**

Joe Lui

**Marketing & Publicity:**

Jamie Breen

June

7 PM

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
8	9	10	11	12	13	





# Jesus: No Ordinary Life

Around 2020 years ago, the Church... was struggling. Attendance numbers were down and merchandise sales were at an all-time low. Christianity needed a figurehead, someone attractive but also a man of the people. A man who could perform ridiculous, astounding things... Miracles almost. A man called Jesus.

Auditions were held. Although the *actual* Jesus auditioned for the role, he just didn't quite have the right look for the part and didn't book the gig...

*Jesus: No Ordinary Life* follows the tale of possibly the greatest propaganda campaign in the history of humanity to its stunning and still unresolved end. Fast and funny, it is a play to do unto others as will be done unto you.

**Writer & Director:**  
Damon Lockwood

**Producer:**  
Talei Howell-Price

**Featuring:**  
Shane Adamczak,  
Andrea Gibbs,  
Brendan Hanson,  
Talei Howell-Price,  
Nick Pages-Oliver  
& Sean Walsh

**Stage Manager:**  
Michael Maclean

**Sound Designer:**  
Robert Woods

**Set & Costume Designer:**  
Cherie Hewson

June														July													
8.30PM	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S						
		16	17	18	19	20			23	24	25	26	27		30	1	2	3	4								
		👁	🎫							★																⌚	







# Fracture

A story of grief, loss and coping – and what happens when coping fails.

Three young adults find themselves entangled in each other's lives... Not just as a result of their complicated living arrangements, but because one year ago a child died, and all three have found themselves unable to move on.

When a past lover enters their home, the household is forced to let the outside world in for the first time – and face the larger issue that all three have been ignoring.

Written by first-time West Australian playwright Lucy Clements and directed by critically acclaimed theatre maker Joe Lui (*Giving Up the Ghosts*, *Letters Home*), the world premiere of *Fracture* thrills as it takes you into a world of personal isolation, and the dangers that lurk within.

**Writer,  
Co-Producer &  
Assistant Director:**  
Lucy Clements

**Director, Lighting  
& Sound Designer:**  
Joe Lui

**Co-Producer,  
Marketing &  
Publicity:**  
Harriet Roberts

**Designer:**  
Patrick Howe

**Featuring:**  
Sal Briggs,  
Paul Grabovac,  
James Marzec &  
Mikala Westall

**Stage Manager:**  
Daley King

June

7 PM

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
22	23	24	25	26	27	



Preview Members' Night Meet the Artists 5PM Matinee

Recommended for ages 15+





# Songbird

Michael, Brooke and Leon grew up together and have been best friends their entire lives. They were inseparable, until Michael's untimely death drove Brooke and Leon apart.

Five years later, Leon meets Brooke in the pub of their old country town in an effort to discover why Michael died... But does he really want to uncover the truth?

From the creators of *Confessions of a Pyromaniac* comes a play about music, tragedy and love. Featuring live music and songs, *Songbird* is a naturalistic drama of shared memories and a battle between forgiveness and sorrow.

**Writer & Producer:**  
Shakara Walley

**Director:**  
Ian Wilkes

**Set Designer:**  
Patrick Howe

**Marketing & Publicity:**  
Jamie Breen

An Imprint Production in association with  
Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company

July

7 PM

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	7	8	9	10	11			14	15	16	17	18	



ENGAGE CHALLENGE EXCITE  
SURPRISE REFLECT

**WE HELP IT HAPPEN**



CITY of PERTH

Proud partner of **THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE**

*Letters Home by Renegade Productions. Image by Simon Pynt.*

# INDEPENDENT THEATRE FESTIVAL

- ★ 3 - 6 JUN / HORSEHEAD ★ 10 - 13 JUN / THE FINAL CHASE ★  
★ 17 - 20 JUN / THE NIGHT GUARDIAN ★  
★ 24 - 27 JUN / HOW WE RUINED MACARTHUR'S MARKERS ★  
★ 1 - 4 JUL / THE BOAT GOES OVER THE MOUNTAIN ★

**SUBIACO ARTS CENTRE** 180 HAMERSLEY RD. SUBIACO

**TICKETS \$25\*** OR **3 SHOW TICKET \$60\*** ★ **TICKETEK.COM.AU**

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PERTH  
THEATRE  
TRUST

**@PERTHTHEATRETRUST #ITF2015**

\* SERVICE/DELIVERY FEES MAY APPLY. A CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PROCESSING FEE WILL APPLY.





*Are you a new,  
emerging or  
established  
playwright?*

Apply to Stages WA's  
script development  
funding rounds in 2015,  
closing 7 July and  
10 November.

**For more information:**

T (08) 9228 0401

E [stages@stageswa.com](mailto:stages@stageswa.com)

W [stageswa.com](http://stageswa.com)



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CNR WILLIAM & NEWCASTLE STREETS, NORTHBRIDGE





# Membership

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We exist to support our members.  
Blue Room Theatre Members get:

- Cheaper tickets and drinks at The Blue Room Theatre bar
- Access to free or reduced price workshops
- Relevant industry news and opportunities
- Alerts about applications for funding and our Seasons
- Discounted rehearsal space
- Support
- Advocacy
- Exclusive discounts at our Members' Nights
- Concession price tickets at a number of other cultural institutions around town

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Head to [blueroom.org.au](http://blueroom.org.au) to find out more about becoming a Blue Room Theatre Member.

Don't need member services but want to support us?  
Join our Giving Program (see over page) and support independent artists.

# Giving Program

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Since 1989, we've been at the forefront of contemporary performance in WA and that's where we remain.

We give independent artists the opportunities and skills to succeed. Unique in Australia, we support the advancement of careers and provide an unparalleled resource to emerging artists with big ideas and established artists who want to take new risks.

We're a resource organisation for artists, boasting cheap rehearsal rooms, a place for artists to gather and exchange ideas, computer facilities and some of the most affordable tickets and bar prices in town.

We exist to be accessible to all and keep our prices reasonable so that a greater range of audiences can enjoy our shows.

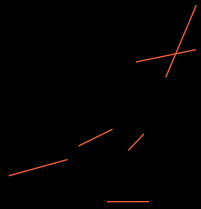
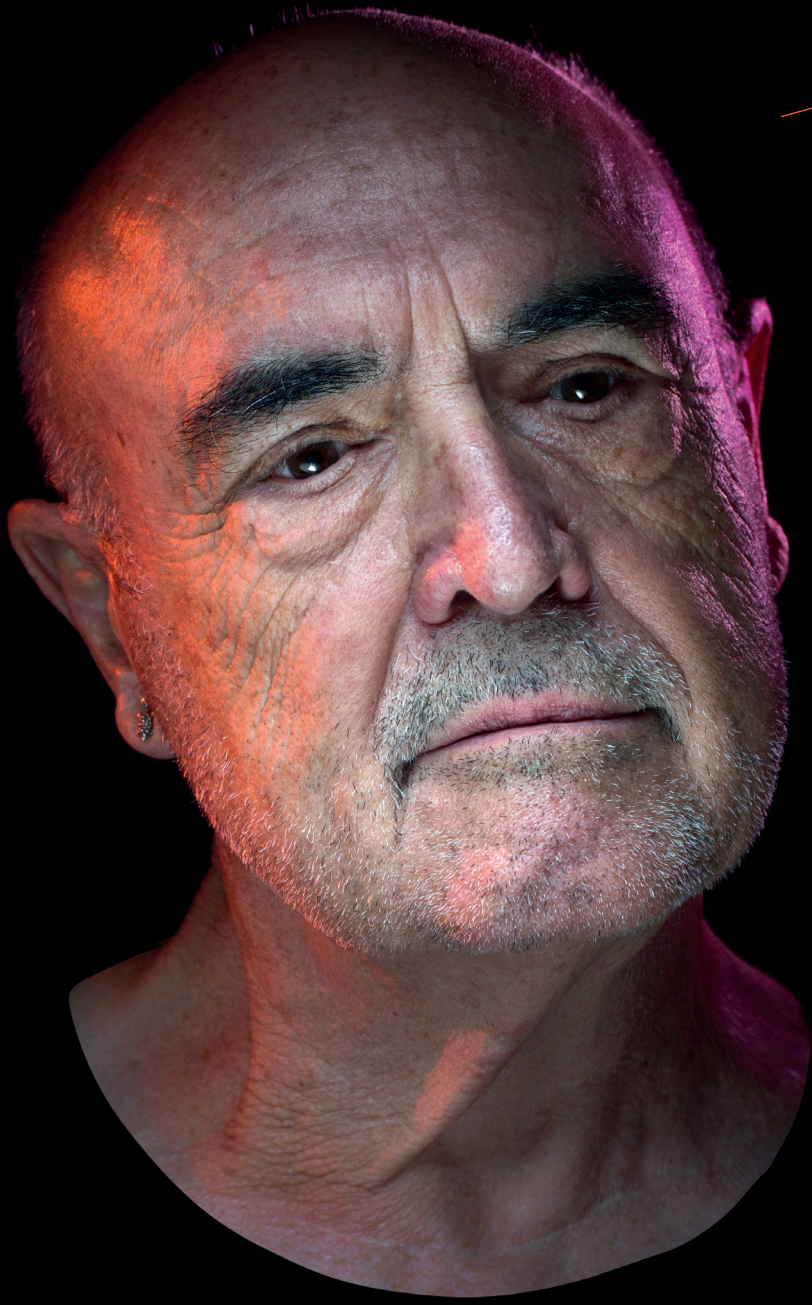
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Donate online at [blueroom.org.au](https://blueroom.org.au) and play your part in making all this happen.

**“Independent theatres in WA need our support. They are where people experiment and learn. Without The Blue Room Theatre, there is no *Matilda*”**

**Tim Minchin**

**Tom Jeffcote**  
Image: Simon Pynt



# Sustainability



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We are committed to decreasing our environmental impact and carbon output because we want to become WA's first Carbon Neutral independent performance venue.

We're switching to solar power to cut down on our energy consumption and we've replaced our foyer lights with low-wattage LEDs to reduce our power in public areas.

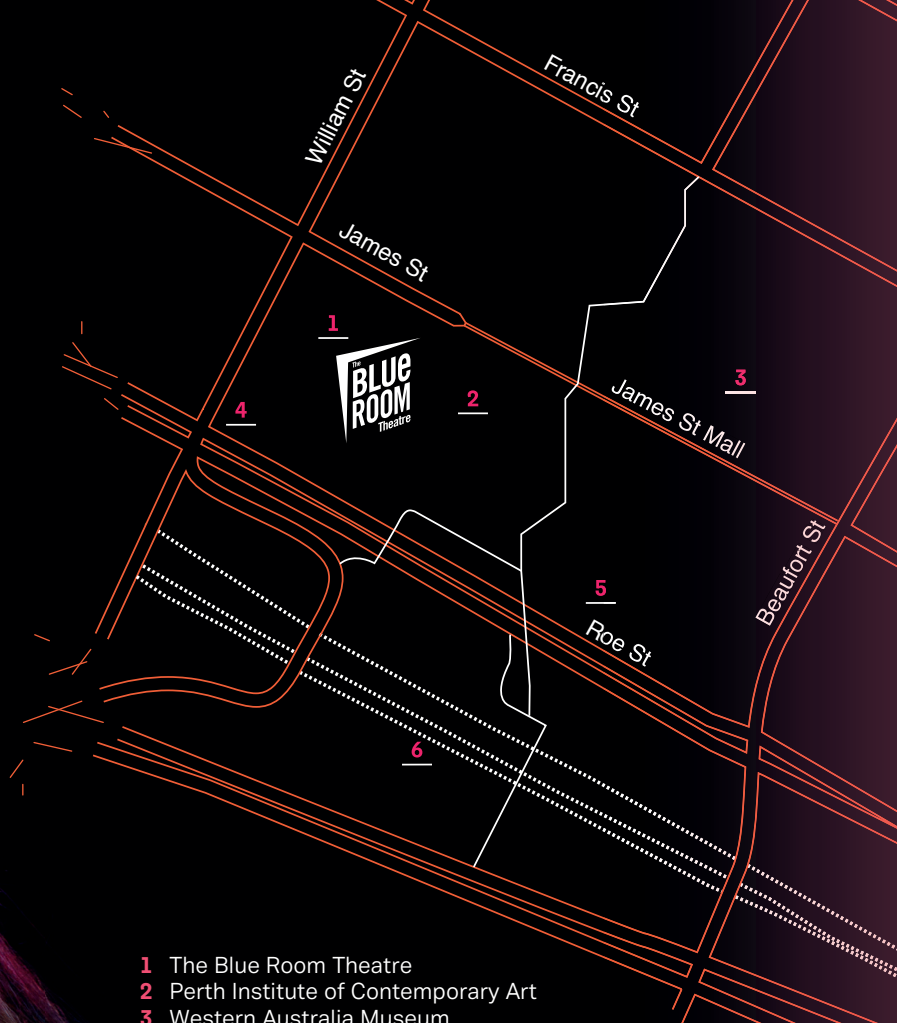
We've phased out bottled water, providing free filtered water at our bar for all.

We're also continuing to do a lot behind the scenes, implementing changes from our energy audit to cut our environmental impact.

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Find out more  
about what  
we're doing at  
[blueroom.org.au/  
sustainability](http://blueroom.org.au/sustainability)





- 1 The Blue Room Theatre
- 2 Perth Institute of Contemporary Art
- 3 Western Australia Museum
- 4 State Theatre Centre of WA
- 5 Art Gallery of Western Australia
- 6 Perth Train Station

## Follow Us

For the latest news, special offers, behind the scenes insights and exclusive info about our shows, join the conversation:

**Web:** [blueroom.org.au](http://blueroom.org.au)

**eNewsletter:** sign up at [blueroom.org.au](http://blueroom.org.au)

**Facebook:** [fb.com/theblueroomtheatre](https://fb.com/theblueroomtheatre)

**Twitter:** we're tweeting as @The\_BlueRoom\_

**Instagram:** posting as @theblueroomtheatre

# The Team

**Executive Director:**

Kerry O'Sullivan

**Venue & Operations Manager:**

Roger Miller

**Producer:**

Susannah Day

**Marketing &****Communications Manager:**

Gemma Sidney

**Office & Front of House Manager:**

Sally Martin

**Finance Officer:**

Karen Connolly

## Board

**Chair:**

Libby Klysz

**Deputy Chair:**

Philippa Maughan

**Treasurer:**

Tanya Payne

**Secretary:**

Humphrey Bower

Ilene Aveling

Gita Bezard

Shane Colquhoun

Dr Vanessa Rauland

## Thanks

We'd like to recognise the artists we employ as front of house and bar staff on a casual basis, along with The Arts Angels and our ushers who kindly volunteer their time for us. Thanks guys, you're all amazing!

We would also like to acknowledge the generous support of our brochure partners: Simon Pynt Photography, Scott Print and Gene Eaton at Inland Studio.



**Dure Rey Khan**  
Image: Simon Pynt



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Culture and the Arts



INLAND  
STUDIO



The Blue Room Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; our development seasons are supported by the City of Perth.

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[blueroom.org.au](http://blueroom.org.au)  
Perth Cultural Centre,  
53 James St, Northbridge WA