

### AUG-DEC 2016



CITY of PERTH Proudly supported by the City of Perth

Monty Sallur, The Trembling Giant COVER: Nicola Bartlett , Is This Thing On?

All images by Matsu unless otherwise stated.

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New artists, new work, new ways of making work

Join us this August to December as we shine a light on eight new works.

We see bold minds collaborate and thrilling ideas find their feet as the creative talent of independent artists is put centre stage.

This season features emerging artists leaping head first, along with established artists returning to try something new; all of them bringing these stories out of the shadows and into the spotlight just for you, the audience.

We want everyone to experience these shows, so tickets are affordable, as are the drinks in our bar. With 90% of the box office income going straight back to the artists, buying a ticket directly supports your local arts scene.

Grab a drink and take it in with you, hang back afterwards to meet the artists, deliberate over what you saw, just be sure to join us here at your home of independent theatre and experience what's next in contemporary performance.

#### SECURE YOUR TICKETS NOW

blueroom.org.au 08 9227 7005 Box office open Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm and one hour before show time.

All tickets \$18-\$28

# The Complete

#### MEMBERS: \$144 GENERAL: \$184

You can buy the Complete Works online at <u>blueroom.org.au</u> or by calling us on 08 9227 7005

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## Want to see all eight shows in this season at a discounted rate?

The Complete Works subscription locks 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 no longer make it.

You can choose to be booked in for Members' Nights throughout the season or you can choose a more flexible approach where you select each date you would like to attend.

Members' Nights have the added perk of complimentary snacks (courtesy of Torre Butchers) and bar specials for members before and after the show.

Best yet, you'll save over 35% on full price tickets as a member and almost 18% as a nonmember.





### The Trembling Giant

Gum, banksia, eucalyptus, golden wattle. What kind of world is it where these trees don't exist? Maybe ours.

In a world where natural resources are coveted, information is currency and the air is poisonous, how do you create change?

For Margot and Flint, change starts with a seed. A seed that brings hope, a seed that brings life, a seed that brings a tree. But it's not easy caring for the world's most valued resource when the stakes are your life and not everyone is ready to give theirs away so easily.

From the company that brought you *The Secret Garden Project* at Fringe World 2016 comes a brand new psychological drama set around an eco-disaster. *The Trembling Giant* is an explosive and emotional journey exploring the polarised issue of humanity versus the natural world in a race for survival.

Recommended for ages 15+

9–27 AUG 7:00PM

**Director** Monty Sallur

**Producer** Sean Guastavino

**Featuring** Zoe Street Peter Lane Townsend

Lighting Designer Rhiannon Petersen

Sound Designers Alex & Yell

Design Consultant Matt McVeigh

Set Constructionist Matt Crock

> Stage Manager Georgia Smith

Marketing & Publicity Amelia Tuttleby

#### AUGUST M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 E E



## l Do l Don't

"Tell me something from when I was little. Just give me anything. Give me me."

So begins the quest of the young woman at the centre of this warts-and-all true tale.

Whitney Richards doesn't remember her childhood. Not much, anyway. All her memories are hand-me-downs. photographs and things she's been told by other people, but nothing feels quite right.

Her parents had more of a love for Whitney Houston than each other, hence her name. She moved around a lot and eventually found her calling as a performer, thanks to an early introduction to the glittery world of The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge. The rest is history. And now she's digging that history up, once and for all.

Fresh from seasons at Fringe festivals in Montreal and Winnipeg, I Do I Don't traces the forgotten past of our storyteller. Truthful, compassionate and warmly funny, this is a story for everyone with a less-than-nuclear family - and a secret love of pop songs and sequins.

Writer & Performer Whitney Richards

> Director & Dramaturg Rachel Chant

Producer & Publicist Liz Newell

> Choreographer Claire Nichols

> > Sound & AV Designer Brett Smith

Lighting Designer Joe Lui

Stage Manager Claire Biddiss

Recommended for ages 15+

16 AUG-3 SEP 8:30PM

#### AUGUST

MTWTFSSMTWTFSSMTWTFSS 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 31 1 2 3 \*MAT

#### **SEPTEMBER**

PRE Preview MN Members' Night MTA Meet the Artists \*MAT +6PM Matinee Tickets: \$18 - \$28

Groups 6+: \$23 each





"You are the blue. You are alone in the vastness and you are the blue"

Flying fast and free as one of the Air Force's finest, The Pilot is grounded when she falls pregnant.

After three years raising her child she is desperate to return to the blue, but the rules of the game have changed. Drones are the new top gun. That means 12-hour shifts hunting terrorists by day then driving home to be a wife and mother by night.

Gripping and compulsive, Grounded challenges our assumptions about modern warfare, family and how we live and fight in an increasingly virtual world.

"Brant's snappy, slippery, poetic, stark text is about as close to perfection as it's possible to imagine." What's On Stage

"Grounded is a heartbreaking, beautiful, necessary and perfectly-structured solo drama ... an essential story for our times." The Scotsman



Recommended for ages 15+

**13 SEP-1 OCT** 7:00PM

#### Writer George Brant

Director Emily McLean

Producer & Performer Alison van Reeken

**Production Manager** Benj D'Addario

**Lighting Designer** Karen Cook

Sound Designer **Brett Smith** 

> **AV Designer** Mia Holton

Stage Manager Georgia Smith

Publicist Alison Welburn

By arrangement with ORiGiN Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel French Inc



Government of Western Australia Department of Culture and the Arts

This project has been funded by the Government of Western Australia through the Department of Culture and the Arts

#### **SEPTEMBER**

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Groups 6+: **\$23 each** 



## Is This Thing On?

Brianna is a stand-up comedian careening along the fine line between triumph and disaster. Struggling with life, herself and pretty much everything in between, her story is one of bad puns, beer nuts and breakdowns.

Is This Thing On? is the portrait of a life told through a comedy routine - make that five comedy routines. One life. Five great actresses. We meet Brianna as an awkward teen and watch her figure sh\*t out for forty years on her way to becoming an unapologetic 60-year-old.

Written by Zoe Coombs Marr (the mastermind behind Fringe hits Dave and Dave 2: Trigger Warning) and directed by Zoe Pepper (The Wives of Hemingway, The Pride), Is This Thing On? is making its West Australian debut for your pleasure.

It is funny. And a bit intense. It's about being funny when that's all you've got.

Recommended for ages 15+

#### **20 SEP-8 OCT** 8:30PM

Writer Zoe Coombs Marr

> Director Zoe Pepper

Producer & Stage Manager Liz Newell

Featuring Nicola Bartlett Daisy Coyle Andrea Gibbs Samantha Maclean Giulia Petrocchi

Lighting Designer Joe Lui

Sound Designer Rachael Dease

Set & Costume Designer Tessa Darcey

> Publicity Little Shout

#### **SEPTEMBER OCTOBER** M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W S S 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30 1 7 8 MTA ¥

Groups 6+: \$23 each



#### CHAOS ENSEMBLE

## TANK

What would you sacrifice to survive?

Three fish swim peacefully in an aquarium. The coral is bright but life is dull. When a fourth fish is introduced into the tank, their status quo is confronted and life begins to take a turn for the worse.

The temperature rises, food is scarce, and a fight for survival begins. Primitive instincts are brought to the fore as the world they know collapses around them.

TANK is a cautionary tale; a brutal reflection of our absurdly volatile relationship with the environment and each other. Adapt or die, it's a fish-eat-fish world out there and one of them has to go.

This is the third production from CHAOS ENSEMBLE, an eclectic group of local artists exploring the outer limits of performance and creating engaging and unpredictable works in a celebration of chaos.

"Dark humour at its finest... raw, charged, and powered by an immense underlying empathy." Praise for i'm not alright from The West Australian

Recommended for ages 16+

11-29 OCT 8:30PM Writer & Director Daley King

Producer Natalie Di Risio

Featuring Nick Maclaine Izzy McDonald Geordie Crawlev Tristan McInnes

**Lighting Designer** Scott McArdle

> Set Designer Sara Chirichilli

**Costume Designer** Sophie Braham

Stage Manager Georgia Smith

**OCTOBER** 

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## [PORTO]

It's evening and four people find themselves fumbling through one of Western culture's remaining rituals, congregating at a neighbourhood bar. Among them is Porto, on her own, ordering her usual glass of Malbec. Porto is a modern woman striving to embody those monumental values of individualism and independence, yet somehow she also finds herself longing for connection and a sense of community that seem to have disappeared.

This one-act play looks into the struggles of a shifting culture. How do we seek to satisfy our basic desires for sustenance and intimacy in an often alienating urban landscape? How can we fall in love again once we know the pain of heartbreak? When are we wilfully blind to the consequences of our actions? How do we move forward knowing the terrible potential of doing so?

[PORTO] is an exploration of theatrical form. Grounded in comedic timing, characterisation, and continuing questions, this is the first production of the work and an Australian premiere. [PORTO] is written by Obie-award winning independent theatre artist Kate Benson, who resides in Brooklyn, New York. Director & Producer Lisa Louttit

> **Writer** Kate Benson

Featuring Joe Lui Alicia Osyka James Marzec Taryn Ryan Nick Pages-Oliver Tristan McInnes

Set & Costume Designer Sara Chirichilli

Sound Designer Joe Lui

Lighting Designer Karen Cook

Puppet Designer Kylie Bywaters

Stage Manager Liz Newell

**Publicist** Alison Welburn

Recommended for ages 18+

18 OCT-5 NOV 7:00PM

#### OCTOBER

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#### SAMANTHA MACLEAN AND TIMOTHY GREEN

## Tissue

"Pornography is literature designed to be read with one hand." Angela Lambert

Do you watch porn?

I bet you do.

Or you have.

Or you will.

Or you want to.

How does that make you feel? Guilty, excited, unclean? Ever seen something you've wanted to try out? Ever seen something that made you sick? Ever shared that with anvone...?

Tissue is a devised theatrical investigation into the effects of pornography on the lives of young Australians. The show seeks to explore the differences between what we've been told we should want and what we really crave, between shame and privacy, and between intimacy and entertainment.

From the shared vision of two recent graduates from WAAPA's Bachelor of Performing Arts course comes a bold new work with a spotlight pointed right at your browser history.

Recommended for ages 15+

8-26 NOV 8:30PM

Co-Directors Tim Green Samantha Maclean

> Producer Clara Lovenv

Featuring Eli Melvin Tarvn Rvan Ann-Marie Biagioni

> Composer Leanne Puttick

> > Publicity Little Shout

**NOVEMBER** 

M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 8 9 10 11 12 \*MAT



### Signifying Nothing

A modern take on the tale of Macbeth set in the world of Western Australian state politics. Macbeth: Thane of Cannington, Thane of Claremont... he who would be 'King.'

Paul and Lainey Macbeth are the ultimate power couple: ambitious, ruthless and willing to risk everything for something more.

Signifying Nothing is a mash-up of the original Shakespeare text and the somewhat arrogant scribing of Greg Fleet (too daft or blinded by ambition to know his literary place). Fleet also wrote *This Is Not A Love Song* and the hit memoir *These Things Happen*.

"It is a tale told by an idiot Full of sound and fury Signifying nothing"

With actors appearing both on stage and on screen, the cast is a who's who of Australian theatre, film and television, including Roz Hammond, Lawrence Mooney, Greg Fleet, Luke Hewitt, and Caitlyn Beresford-Ord.

Friendship, love, sex, power. All is currency. Vote 1 – Macbeth.

Recommended for ages 16+

15 NOV-3 DEC 7:00PM

**Producer** Roz Hammond

Writer & Performer Greg Fleet

Featuring

(on screen) Roz Hammond Caitlyn Beresford-Ord Luke Hewitt Lawrence Mooney

Lighting Designer Joe Lui

Stage Manager Kennah Parker

#### NOVEMBER

#### DECEMBER



#### waapa

Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

#### DEVISED & PERFORMED BY 3RD YEAR PERFORMANCE MAKING STUDENTS

#### **PROGRAM ONE**

Wed 31 August, Thu 1, Fri 2, Sat 3 September, 7.00pm Matinee: Sat 3 September, 2.00pm

#### **PROGRAM TWO**

Wed 7 - Sat 10 September, 7.00pm Matinee: Sat 10 September, 2.00pm

BOOK NOW: blueroom.org.au





### **Stage One**

STAGE ONE premieres a brand new play by an established Western Australian playwright featuring a cast of emerging artists from Curtin's Theatre Arts program.

#### DECEMBER

M T W T F S S 6 7 8 9 10

6-8 DEC 7:00PM 9-10 DEC 6:00PM & 8:30PM

The Blue Room Theatre Tickets: blueroom.org.au





Proud partner of THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE

CITY of PERTH

Letters Home by Renegade Productions. Image by Simon Pynt.

# Membership

We exist to support our members. Become a member of The Blue Room Theatre and receive:

- Cheaper tickets to shows at The Blue Room Theatre
- Access to free or reduced price workshops
- Relevant industry news and opportunities
- Alerts about applications for funding and seasons
- Discounted rehearsal space

- Support
- Advocacy
- Exclusive discounts at our Members' Nights
- Concession price tickets at a number of other cultural institutions around town

Head to **blueroom.org.au** to find out more about becoming a member.

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

# Giving Program

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

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

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

Each year the generosity of our donors enables us to continue to support independent artists. We receive donations from artists, audiences, and members, to name a few, and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Every little bit counts. "[The Blue Room Theatre] is a home to the independent artist and a smorgasbord for the punters. It is the pulsing undercurrent of theatre in Perth." Chris Isaacs, The Last Great Hunt

Donate online at blueroom.org.au or call us on 9227 7005 and play your part in making all this happen.

## We're working on sunshine

8 Lisa Louttit, [PORTO

#### We used to think maybe we loved sun, now baby we're sure.

Our latest power bill arrived in June and it came in at a measly \$898! That may still sound like a lot to you, but this time last year it was \$1,365 and this time the year before that it was \$1,635. It was nine years ago in 2007 that we last had a power bill so low.

This means we've cut electricity costs by 45% in just two short years, all thanks to the sustainability measures we've put in place. This latest power bill was the first where the solar panels were running for the entire billing period and we couldn't be happier with the result. This just goes to show – sustainability is not only good for the planet, it's good for your pocket too.

Other sustainability measures we've implemented include having the lighting in our hallways changed to lower wattage LEDs, replacing our hot water system to an on-demand electric system, staff education, and implementing an awareness program for anyone who uses our space on ways to reduce electricity usage.

We're on track to be the first carbon neutral theatre in Western Australia by 2020. Stay tuned for more on how we continue to green the Blue.





#### Apply for up to \$10,000

for your performing arts project, performance or initiative.

#### Arts Development Scheme Fund

Applications for our second round close: Thursday 20 October 2016, 5.00pm

For more information call **9400 4230** or visit the City's website at **joondalup.wa.gov.au** 



- 1 The Blue Room Theatre
- 2 Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
- 3 State Theatre Centre of Western Australia

James Si

- 4 Western Australian Museum
- 5 Art Gallery of Western Australia
- 6 Perth Train Station

### **Follow Us**

For the latest news, special offers, behind the scenes insights and exclusive information about our shows, follow us: Web: blueroom.org.au e-newsletter: sign up at blueroom.org.au Facebook: fb.com/theblueroomtheatre Twitter: @The\_BlueRoom\_ Instagram: @theblueroomtheatre

Francis St

4

James St Mall

5

Roe St

# The Team

#### Staff

**Executive Director** Kerry O'Sullivan

**Producer** Jenna Mathie

Marketing & Communications Manager Emma Poletti

Associate Producer Harriet Roberts Venue & Operations Manager Roger Miller

Office & Front of House Manager Sally Martin

Finance Officer Karen Connolly

#### Board

Chair Libby Klysz

**Deputy Chair** Philippa Maughan

**Treasurer** Tanya Payne

Secretary Chris Donnelly

llene Aveling Humphrey Bower Shane Colquhoun Dr Renee Newman Dr Vanessa Rauland

#### Thanks

A big thank you to the artists we employ as frontof-house and bar staff on a casual basis, Marketing Intern Julia Martini, Arts Management Intern Kayla MacGillivray, and the ushers who kindly volunteer their time for us.

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







Government of Western Australia







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