

The Blue Room Theatre and Sapatos Angels Collective present

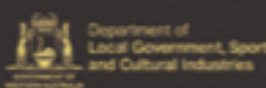
"Perception is real... Truth is not."



# Emelda



The Blue Room Theatre



The Blue Room Theatre is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the City of Perth. Summer Nights has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.

# **Acknowledgement of Country**

**We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land where IMELDA has the privilege of being presented on: the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.**

**This is the land of many countries and languages - similar to that of our ancestors from what we now call the Philippines, whom we wish to honour this work. We recognise our privilege as immigrants to live & work on this Boodja.**

**This land's and our ancestors' culture of connecting through music and storytelling guided us in the making of this work.**

**Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be.**

# About the show

**To be an immigrant is to be haunted.**

**Hailing from the Philippines, Maria Clara is proud of where she's from... but not of its past. Maybe not even its present.**

**On top of carrying the grief of eroding her motherland from her personhood to keep up with the expectations of assimilation, Maria Clara's infamous childhood hero comes back to her: former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos.**

**As Maria Clara assesses the shoes she wears, the articles she writes, and the country she can no longer call home, it becomes horrifyingly clear that the last thing she wants to do is get rid of the only thing that makes her feel Filipino – the ability to forgive those who may not even deserve it.**

# The IMELDA team

Writer/Co-Director/AV Designer/Deviser

**Donita Cruz (she/her)**

Co-Director/Performer/Set Designer/Deviser

**Rachel Adams as FLO (she/her)**

Performer/Deviser

**Efa Mackenzie as IMELDA (she/her)**

**Jenny Guigayoma as MARIA CLARA (she/her)**

**Zoe Garciano as BET-BET / FLORIBETH (any)**

Stage Manager

**Reese Horne (they/them)**

Dramaturg

**Jess Nyanda Moyle (they/them)**

Acting Mentor

**Ming Yang Lim (he/him)**

## Writer's Note

How this play came about is actually really funny because it all started with Efa having some trouble in our second year of uni to lock an idea down for solos. Since she owns a good number of shoes despite coming from interstate, Rachel and I joked that her solo should be her playing Imelda Marcos. Thankfully she ran with a different idea or else we wouldn't have begun the development of this show for our third year showcase.

I recently went home to the Philippines before opening the show and the street sounds you hear during the show are from my hometown where I grew up. I miss it dearly so it is always difficult to admit that I can never move back due to the life I've built up here. Writing this show has helped with that because it's brought me to the people in this team and we're going through the odd diaspora / third culture kid journey together.

I hope people receive this show as a gift that starts conversations. It mainly tackles a massive topic that affects Filipinos everywhere in different ways but I hope audiences walk away encouraged to listen to each other with compassion at the forefront. A reminder that we, the people, have to believe in each other in order to shape a better future.

**Donita Cruz**

# **MARAMING SALAMAT!**

**Ramona S. Diaz**

**Angelo Ravina**

**Azariah Felton**

**Phoebe Eames**

**Stephen Heath**

**Edwin Sitt**

**Ariane Katscherian & PICA**

**Zoe's family**

**Mitchell Thomas**

**Meliza Dalisay-Cruz & Sebastian Campbell**

**Puay Hoon Lim**

**Andrew Sutherland**

**Caitlin Oversby & Max Higgins**

**Joe Paradise Lui**

**Dr. Renee Newman**

**Dr. Alexa Taylor**

**The Blue Room Theatre Summer Nights team**