

The Blue Room Theatre and Sabrina Hafid
present

Not Far from the Tree



PROGRAM



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that ***Not Far from the Tree*** was written, devised and created in Boorloo, on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk Nyoongar people.

We recognise, honour and thank them for their continuous custodianship of its waters, land and eco systems that provides each of us spiritual and physical sustenance to create art that deepens our own connection to this beautiful Boodja.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders past, present and emerging and stand in solidarity with the Community for a just future.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

**Always was,
Always will be,
Aboriginal Land.**



"A crackling radio, warm bread, a revolution"

Algeria, 1987- 18-year-old Mohammed carries his radio to the middle of the dirt road in his tiny village; the only spot with reception. The radio crackles as news of Algeria's civil war fills the airwaves.

Walyalup, 2023- 25-year-old Sahra reluctantly sips her badly burnt, oatmilk latte as she strolls along the beach. She would ask for a refund except she doesn't want to inconvenience anyone. There are worse things in the world right now than badly burnt coffee, right?

Written by Sabrina Hafid (*Passing, Car Rides with Ahmed*), and directed by Laura Liu (*The Complete Show of Water Skiing*), Not Far From the Tree is a semi-autobiographical storytelling experience that invites Boorloo audiences to break bread with a modern day Australian family. A warm and gentle play about family, legacy and identity.



Writer's Note

"When I started writing this I wanted to ask how the value of peaceful change-making shows up in different generations, life circumstances, and across migration.

I started looking through my family's experiences, and it became clear how closely those values in my family were linked to the change in Algeria across the years.

This story takes place after Algerian independence, and before and after the Algerian civil war of the 90s/2000s. I wanted to show how recent this civil war was but also not focus on the actual acts of war, as my family's story is far more than the violence that has happened to and around them. They are the constant willingness to help others and make a difference for their family. They are their passion, dreams, optimism and generosity.

Every character in this family tries different solutions, but their goal is always the same- to help their community.

This is a story that has been in my heart for a long time, long before I was even able to understand it. It was probably imprinted in my veins.

History books may remember great political leaders and military leaders, community remembers those who make a difference by educating, supporting, working hard, and loving.

Thank you to the great Laura Liu, who helped me write this story and whose hard work shaped how we are sharing it with you tonight. Thank you to my family for allowing me to tell their story, and for their support. Thank you to everyone involved in this project, for believing in this story and in me.

And thank you, dear audience, for sharing our story. We hope you feel part of the family by the time you walk out the door.

Sabrina Hafid



Director's Note

In August last year, Sabrina and I met up at a café. Over hot drinks, she shared with me a beautiful and evocative story about her family, both in Australia and before. Though I've never been to Algeria before – and to be completely honest, didn't know much about the country before this process – her father's tenacity and courage to move to a different land, matched with her uncle's spirit and determination to stay, is one that many of us can see in our parents and grandparents. Likewise, her experiences of growing up in the in-between of cultures and grasping at fragments of family history is a journey meant to be shared and travelled on with others.

Sabrina brought together a wonderful team of creatives to support her in telling her family's story. I am very thankful to have been invited to share this iteration of the story with Sabrina, and look forward to seeing how this story continues.

Biggest shout out to Nikita for her clear creative vision for the stage design from the moment she jumped onboard, and to her and Ari for realising our dreams of having a hanging suitcase and cooking onstage. Another big thanks to Ari for being super great at their job, and also for the neat handwriting in the AV. Kat is so so great with all things lights and mood, and I'm super thankful to be able to work with her again on this project. Special thanks to Kieron for coming onboard quite late in an already short process, and for producing so many great sounds and saying yes to so many requests. Dureshawar for their work on the socials and beautiful marketing sketches. And our producer Sam, thank you for keeping me sane and keeping this show going.

Depending on the circumstances each day, you might see Ari or Jemma behind the tech desk tonight. I'm super stoked to get to work in the same room as Jemma again (always), and a massive thanks to her for coming on last minute to keep our show going.

Laura Liu



Cast and Crew

Sabrina Hafid

Laura Liu

Samantha Hortin

Nikita Bernardo

Kieron Alford

Katrina Johnston

Dore Khan

Ari Rahim

Moya Thomas

Writer/ Performer

Director

Producer

Set Designer

Sound Designer

Lighting Designer

Marketing/Publicity

Stage Manager

Writing Mentor

Special thanks to Sabrina Hafid's family for their love, support and for allowing us to share their story.



**The
Blue Room
Theatre**



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



CITY OF PERTH
City of Light

Our Annual Season is proudly supported by the City of Perth. The Blue Room Theatre is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.