

a romantic comedy of errors...

THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE AND APK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

SALTED Pretzels

BY CEZERA CRITTI-SCHNAARS



3 - 21 OCTOBER

THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE | 53 JAMES ST, NORTHBRIDGE

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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. This production is supported by BLOCK, The Fulcrum Agency and Fremantle Foundation.

statements from creatives

From the Director: Emily McLean

One of the most romantic and radical acts we can do is let people be exactly who they are. Salted Pretzels' characters and structures embody this. The characters (queer/straight/bi/white/black) are complicated and interesting and their stories are about love and a shared humanity. They populate a romantic comedy not a trauma narrative. This feels future focused. Salted Pretzels draws us into its glow with humour, inclusive generosity and that radical, romantic act of acceptance.

The first production of a new script is an act of trust between writer and director. It's been an honour and I have loved working with Cezera on her very clever, technically interesting, layered script. Her intelligence, her wisdom and her super fun-ness are vividly evident in this work. The generous inclusivity of the story has been reflected in the rehearsal process and in the team we gathered. The cast and creatives are a mix of undergraduate, new graduates, emerging and established artists. It has been a radical act of sharing, unity and being who we are. I thank them for their superb silliness and beautiful work.

After the last three years it feels right to put on a show that has love and lightness as its method of being in the world. Plus, who doesn't love a romcom? After all, laughter allows us to open our hearts and minds and love is the answer.



From the Writer: Cezera Critti-Schnoors

Three years after the inception of Salted Pretzels, the full length version is finally here. Even as I write this, I can't quite believe it. Watching the rest of the cast and the creative team bring this piece to life has been nothing short of joyful. They have turned this piece into more than I ever could have imagined. This is a work I needed when I was younger and I'm not sure I'm not the only one. So, take a breath and relax and trust in the fact that you're not on your own in all of this. You never were. Enjoy the show!



Photos by Jessico Russell

cast biographies

Cezera Critti-Schnaars Writer/Dom

Based in Perth, Western Australia, Cezera is a proud Nyoongar and Greek theatre maker whose passion for theatre started when she was a kid. As a teenager, she branched out into writing her own work, participating in Yirra Yaakin Writers' Group. She completed the Aboriginal Performance Course at WAAPA in 2018. Since then, she has worked with a number of companies in both acting, writing and directing positions. She played the role of Jo March in the adaptation of *Little Women* for The Blue Room Theatre and *Mel & Sal* in 2021 and directed the *Ngalaka Daa* Ensemble piece for Yirra Yaakin and WAYTco in both 2021 and 2022. Most recently she co-directed *Seven Sisters* with WAYTco for Perth Festival 2023. For her performance in *Hecate* (2020) she was awarded Best Newcomer and Best Supporting Actress at the PAWA awards.



Cezera

she / her



Tristan McInnes Cassius

Tristan McInnes is an actor, theatre-maker, improviser and puppeteer, who first broke out in 2015 co-devising The Emergence Company's award-winning debut, *Under This Sun*, in 2015. Since then, he's collaborated with independent theatre darlings such as The Umbrella Works, Monkey Brain Physical Theatre and Second Chance Theatre Company, and been nominated for 2 PAWA awards.

He has developed work with Spare Parts Puppet Theatre as part of their 2017 *First Hand* program and joined as a member of the Big Hoo Haa in 2018, quickly becoming a staple cast-member and avid comedic improviser. His skills in physical theatre and comedy have rendered him one of the most critically acclaimed young artists in Perth.



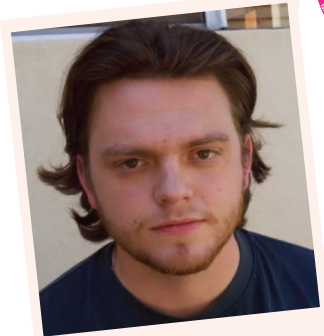
Tristan

he / him



Ray Teakle James

WAAPA graduate, Ray Teakle, is a budding jack of all trades. After completing the Bachelor of Performing Arts, majoring in Performance Making, at WAAPA, Teakle undertook his Honours, focusing on writing for performance and having particular interest in the Australian Gothic. He has a valuable and broad skillset in acting, physical theatre, directing and devising, honed through his studies which culminated in a suspenseful performance of his original piece, *After the Tone* (TILT, 2021) and stepped into a deviser and performer role for *100 Seconds to Midnight* (TILT, 2021). He has most recently performed in the comedy *Doghouse* for Bunbury Fringe Festival.



Ray

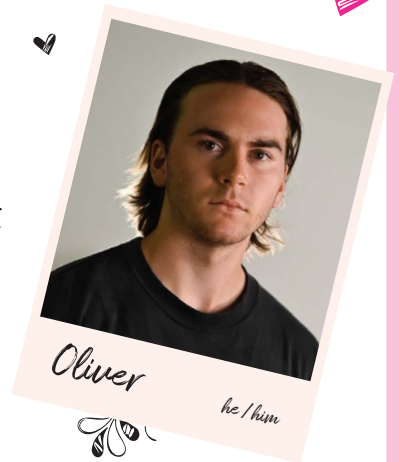
he / him



cast biographies

Oliver Hughes Ash

Oliver is a proud Ballardong Noongar man from Perth. He began his acting training at John Curtin College of the Arts in the specialist drama program and has gone on to get further training in the Aboriginal Performance course at WAAPA and is currently in his 2nd year in the Bachelor of Performing Arts at WAAPA. Oliver has done work with Yirra Yaakin in the Ngalaka Daa Ensemble (2018-2021) and Panawathi Girl (2022). He has also worked with WAYTCo in BESIDE (2021) as well as their 24 Hour Play Generator. His other performance roles include ASK - 600 Seconds (2023), Wundabaa Gaay-Galga (2022) and Walardu Thula (2021).



Maitland Schnaars The Waiter

Maitland Schnaars is one of Western Australia's premier Indigenous contemporary theatre artists. He completed the Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre and Acting for Camera at WAAPA and went on to study a BA in Contemporary Performance at Edith Cowan University.

Maitland co-founded the international theatre company Corazon de Vaca and has performed in and co-created a number of their productions, both in Spain and Australia. He has worked with many independent theatre companies in Perth. He has performed in productions for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company (Panawathi Girl, Dating Black, Hecate, Conversations with the Dead, King Hit...), Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA, Queensland Theatre Company and Griffin Theatre.

Maitland continues to work with artists from various backgrounds such as dance, multimedia and music. He was a member of Wadumban Noongar Dance Group for a number of years. In 2016 he won the Performing Arts WA Best Actor award. He is currently Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in Perth, Western Australia.



crew biographies

Emily McLean Director

Emily McLean is a WAAPA Directing graduate, and a founding member of Red Ryder Productions. She was a Black Swan State Theatre Company Resident Artist in 2017 and 2019. Emily has worked for Black Swan, Perth Theatre Company, Deckchair, Red Ryder, WAAPA, Curtin, and many of Perth's independent companies. For Black Swan, she has directed *Toast* by Liz Newell, the world premieres of *Animal Farm* an adaptation by Van Badham, *Water* by Jane Bodie and *Dust* by Suzie Miller. Other recent productions were *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe (Red Ryder, 2019), for which she won Best Director of an Independent Production at the PAWA awards, and *Unsung Heroes* (Black Swan, 2020) which was filmed during Perth's lockdown. Emily directed *Grounded* by George Brandt (Red Ryder, 2016) at The Blue Room Theatre and has just finished directing *Takeaway* by Liz Newell for Hayman Theatre, Curtin University. In the last ten years she has directed eight new Australian works and has won awards from Equity, PAWA and The Blue Room Theatre for her work.



Amber Kitney Producer

Amber is a performing artist, creative producer and inclusivity advocate currently residing on Whadjuk Noongar land. Coming from a background as a performer, she is particularly passionate about creating opportunities for artists and giving artists a platform to promote their projects and ideas. Therefore, she founded APK Productions: an inclusive, collaborative independent arts company with a focus on intercultural collaborations and nurturing the creation of new theatrical works.

Amber sat on Youth Advisory Board for WAYTCO in 2020/21 and is a current member of The Blue Room Theatre Equity and Justice Advisory Group. Amber completed a Diploma in Musical Theatre (WAAPA, 2018) and maintains a practice as a freelance performing artist.



Medina Dizdarevic Writing Consultant

Medina Dizdarevic is an emerging Bosnian Muslim playwright and theatre-maker from Boorloo. Her work explores displacement, culture and intergenerational trauma. She graduated from Curtin University in 2015 with a degree in Creative Writing and endeavours to use theatrical storytelling as a means of community healing, joy and connection. She was a participant in Playwrights to the Front with Static Drive Co in 2021 as well as Performing Lines WA Kolyang Lab cohort. In 2022, she was the writer for *The Complete Show of Water Skiing* in Blue Room Theatre's Summer Nights season and developed her newest work *The Strangers* with Performing Lines WA and Black Swan State Theatre Company through the DLGSC Playwright Partnership Program.



crew biographies

Jolene Whibley

 Lighting Designer

Jolene Whibley is a Boorloo based Lighting Designer. Jolene gained her early technical experience in the Goldfields as a theatre technician, in 2019 she relocated to the big city to focus whole-heartedly on a career within lighting design. Her first step to this was completing a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Lighting) at WAAPA.

Since completing her studies Jolene, has designed professionally for companies that include, Black Swan Theatre Company (TOAST, 2022), Perth Festival/WAYTCO (Seven Sisters, 2023), and the City of Fremantle (Wardarnji Festival, 2022).

Salted Pretzels by Cezera Critti-Schnaars, is the second APK Production Jolene has had the pleasure of lighting, the first being Rebirth (2022) by Dr Tinashe Jakwa.



Jolene

she / her

Jess Nyanda Moyle

 Sound Designer

Jess Nyanda Moyle is a musician, theatre-maker and an emerging writer based in Boorloo. They are the lead creative of dark-country-emo-rock act Jocelyn's Baby, 2023 saw the release of their debut album Are you listening? Jess is also a Theatre Arts graduate from Curtin University, occasionally works as an associate artist for local theatre fish punks, Squid Vicious and was recently involved in the Writing Change, Writing Inclusion Mentoring Program for Centre for Stories. They love making sounds, being silly and playing footy.



Jess

they / them

Charli Strickland

 Set & Costume Designer

Charli is an emerging set and costume designer, having recently completed an Advanced Diploma majoring in Theatre Design at WAAPA. They have always had a love for visual art and as a designer they are interested in taking part in productions that spotlight queer and diverse voices and stories. During their education Charli has designed costume and sets for a range of WAAPA productions including musical theatre, dance and newly devised works.



Charli

they / them

crew biographies

Grace Crogan Production Manager

Grace is a young creative and arts manager with over 7 years of experience working and volunteering in the arts sector. She is passionate about contributing to the state's arts and cultural sector, with a particular focus on showcasing young people, and ensuring the arts are made accessible and available to the wider community of people in regional Western Australia.

Grace brings diverse knowledge and experience relating to the visual arts, public art, festivals and performance, marketing and consulting. Her strengths lie in arts management, with knowledge in governance, project coordination, grant funding, communications, and strategy. She has previously lent her skills to organisations such as the Kalbarri Zest Festival, Regional Arts WA, Propel Youth Arts WA and KickstART Festival, the Art Gallery of WA, Foundation for the WA Museum, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Perth Festival, Element, John Curtin College of the Arts, and more. Salted Pretzels is Grace's first project working as an Independent Producer/Production Manager.

In 2023 Grace won the 7News Young Achiever Award for Regional Service in WA for her artistic and community-oriented project involvements. She is an Executive Director and Secretary for Regional Arts WA, and is currently operating as an Independent Arts Manager & Producer in Perth, WA.



Joshua Britiffe Marketing & Publicity

A graduate of WAAPA's Arts & Cultural Management, Joshua now leads Orsino Management - an agency focusing on arts and media facilitation. They have worked across film, television, theatre, ballet, fashion, journalism, and music. As an avid spokesperson for Arts, Wellbeing and Mental Health, Joshua was the WA Finalist for Mr Gay Pride Australia 2022, where he campaigned for arts access to communities and arts wellbeing for LGBTQIA+ youth on Wiradjuri/Nari Nari land (Regional New South Wales).



Philip La Rosa Graphic Design

Philip is a multi-passionate creative, with a background in musical theatre, performance, and music production. Currently the Director of Creative Canary (a Fremantle-based web and graphic design agency), Philip has lent his eye for design to the Salted Pretzels team, as well as other organisations such as Spare Parts Theatre Company, WA Comedy Week, and many more. A proud advocate for mental health, and champion for the arts, he recently launched the Blue Canary Project that aims to help emerging creatives and small business entrepreneurs in leaving their mark.





Salted Pretzels '23

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