

La Mama Theatre presents

UNSUCKLE

Created by

Harriet Wallace-Mead, Isabella Vadiveloo,
and Josiah Lulham

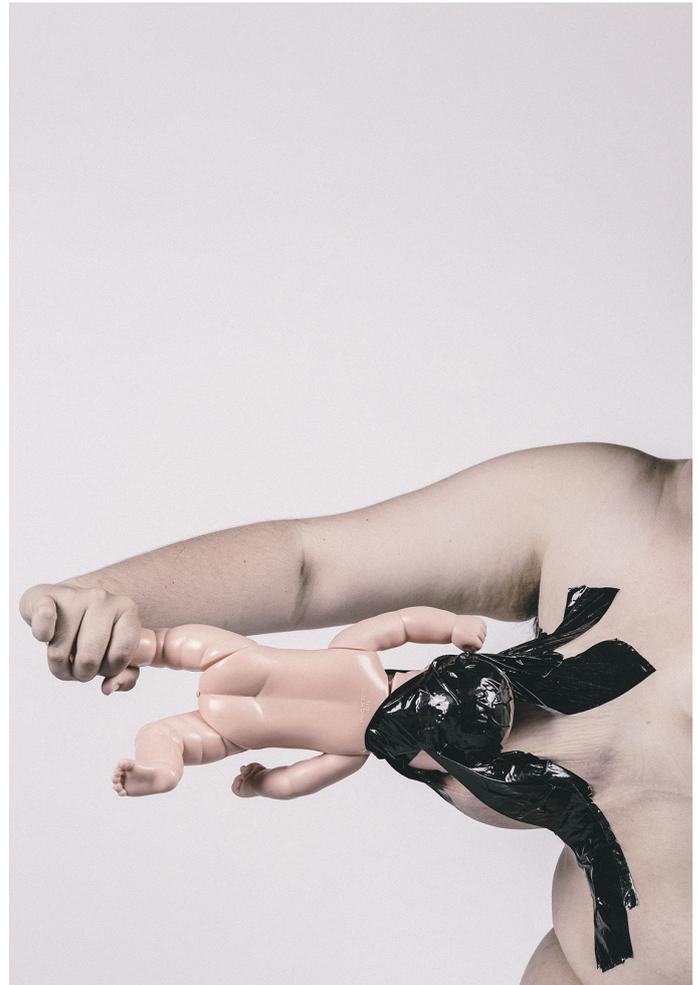
I think about my mum, and her mum, and then think about me being a mum, and then think about when and if to be a mum, and then mother earth, and I'm like... fuck.

After a sold out La Mama Explorations season in 2019, this trio return with an updated and freshly urgent redevelopment of their work under its new title, *Unsuckle*. Through physical theatre, *Unsuckle* presses the question of what motherhood has meant — and what it means now. This intimate work explores the unsung mothers of our lineages, the mothers that bore us, and wrangles with the difficult question of whether — with the all-consuming risk of impending climate catastrophe — there is ever a good time to have a kid. Are we the generation that says goodbye to motherhood?

Unsuckle is a result of almost two years of ensemble physical theatre practice. Based in Narrm (Melbourne), the ensemble was established in 2018 when Wallace-Mead and Lulham began regularly training together, developing a performance collaboration informed by physical theatre and improvisation. Wallace-Mead's ongoing experience working under Xanthe Beasley as assistant director to the devised dance-theatre works *The Lonely Crowd* (The George Paton Gallery, 2019) and *Things We Should Talk About* (The Guild, 2018), coupled with Lulham's experience as a member of Melbourne Playback Theatre Company and a graduate of the Duende School of Ensemble Physical Theatre, laid the foundations of a caring yet rigorous physical theatre duet. In 2019 Vadiveloo — a current Masters of Directing student at the Victorian College of the Arts, former member of the DIG Collective, and creative director of *Small and Loud* — joined the ensemble as a director, using her fierce vision to shape the ideas, motions, and emotions of this work. The ensemble's first outing, *if needed, repeat*, saw a sold out season in La Mama Explorations 2019, and was this dynamic new trio's first attempt at grappling with the possible end of the inevitability of motherhood as we know it.

For *Unsuckle*, the ensemble is joined by prolific and daring designers Jess Keeffe (sound) and Geoffrey Watson (set and costume), promising greater clarity of sound and vision as they push into that fraught space in which personal and political rub up uncomfortably against one another.

As the work continues to develop, so too does the urgency of a response to the climate emergency. Where *if needed, repeat* gently proposed forestalling having kids in the face of this emerging catastrophe, *Unsuckle* digs into the difficult fears, the bodily mess, and the blazing hope that underpins our thoughts and feelings about motherhood in a climate emergency.



Directed by: **Isabella Vadiveloo**
Performed by: **Harriet Wallace-Mead and Josiah Lulham**
Sound Design: **Jess Keeffe**
Set & Costume Design: **Geoffrey Watson**
Mentor: **Lara Stevens**

SEASON TIME 11th - 16th February 2020
Tue (preview) 6.30pm | Wed - Sat 7.30pm
| Sun 4pm
VENUE La Mama Courthouse
349 Drummond Street, Carlton
TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession
BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au

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