

HADES FADING (HADES MEMUDAR)

BY MAINTEATER, IN ASSOCIATION WITH KATH PAPAS PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTED AS A PART OF ASIA TOPA 2020



Image by Muhammed Sa'iq

Hades Fading (Hades Memudar) is a vocal and visual performance which re-imagines the Ancient Greek realm of Hades, fading away in post-apocalyptic times with no humans left to believe in or imagine it. **Hades Fading** reflects on memory, media, belief, and the potential catastrophe awaiting humans if we don't care for our world.

Fresh from its highly successful debut in Bandung, West Java, in August 2019, **Hades Fading** comes to La Mama for its Australian premiere as part of Asia TOPA (Asia Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts) from 27 February to 1 March 2020.

Hades Fading is a rich interplay of artistic elements. The ensemble's vocals work in tandem with the visuals to create a sophisticated interweaving of English and Indonesian language. Deden Bulqini's stunning projections are based in the text by Melbourne writer Sandra Fiona Long, integrating subtitles across languages, and riffing with the original score created and performed live by Ria Soemardjo with the performers. Based in Melbourne, Ria's trademark, extraordinary Javanese and jazz-based vocals are a highlight of the work, which left Bandung audiences speechless. Working closely with Ria in composition and performance is leading exponent of Guzheng harp, Sisca Guzheng Harp, bringing another level of musical dynamism to the work.

Performing **Hades Fading** are renowned Bandung based performers, Heliana Sinaga as Eurydice, Wawan Sofwan as Orpheus, Rinrin Candaresmi as Persephone and Godi Suwarna as Hades. The performers bring energy, humour and physicality, crossing traditional, stylised and naturalistic performance styles.

Godi Suwarna (Hades), is considered a cult figure in West Java, a poet and performer who has reformed the Sundanese (West Javanese) language, generating a movement of young writers working in the Sundanese language, and winning multiple awards for his work.

Hades Fading is the latest of Mainteater's 22 years of vocal and multilingual collaboration between artists in Bandung and Melbourne, initiated by actor Wawan Sofwan and writer-director Sandra Fiona Long, reflecting on consumerism and its impact.

Mainteater's previous Melbourne-Bandung work includes *Happy 1000 1000 Bahagia*, which won Innovation of Form from Melbourne Fringe, and received a Green Room nomination for Innovative New Form (2000); *The Wind in Bminor*, developed at Hothouse Theatre's Month in the Country, La Mama and the Fitzroy Town Hall (2007); *Urat Jagat (Veins of the Universe)* based on actor-poet Godi Suwarna's epic poem about the earth in pain, which toured Indonesia in 2015.

"Stunning from all sides. Acting, design, music and especially the direction create a performance which is truly an aesthetic work of art from all angles." Tribune Jateng (Indonesia)

Hades Fading is supported by the Australian Government through Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, Besen Family Foundation, Helen Soemardjo Fund, Playking Foundation, Australian Cultural Fund, and Auspicious Arts Projects Inc. Development of the work was also supported by Creative Victoria and Project Eleven.

TIME 27 February 7.30pm | 28 February 2pm & 7.30pm | 29 February 8pm, followed by Q&A | 1 March 2pm
VENUE La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton
TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession
BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au or www.asiatopa.com.au

Artists are available for interviews in English and Indonesian language.

ASIA TOPA

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