

As part of the
2020 Melbourne International Comedy Festival,
La Mama Theatre presents

THE BUSINESS OF GOD

by
Brendan Black (Trotsky and Friends)
& Martin Chellew

'You don't get to where I am through love'
- (God, The Business of God, 2019)

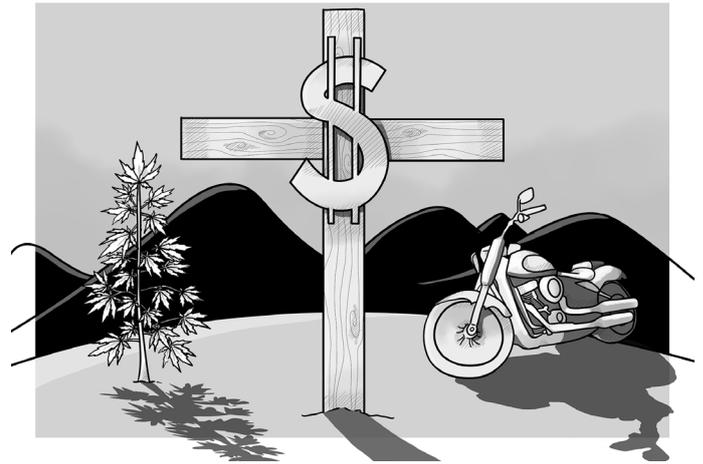


Image by Ruby Culley

Set in a version of Heaven that we rarely see, The Business of God explores the issues of religion, mortality and being the best possible version of yourself - even after death - in a place that is far from a paradise.

Michelle, a passionate atheist and paediatric oncologist, arrives in Heaven after a motorcycle accident, quite confused and disappointed, and increasingly angry over her need to work in Heaven. She speaks with Saint Peter, who slowly comes to admit that she does indeed care about having been misrepresented in the Bible, and the duo decide to speak with God about their concerns.

They come across Jesus, wallowing in self-pity and addicted to marijuana, who has lost his edge and doesn't feel very messiah-y anymore. Joining them is Satan, a drug dealer who just wants everyone to know that he's actually a nice guy, only flailing the bottoms that really deserve it.

Together, the quartet take on God, a tyrannical business leader whose arrogance is only matched by her (yes, her) inability to admit to her many failings. Michelle, Saint Peter, Jesus and Satan soon realise that their futures - and even the future of the business - will lie in the hands of someone who woke up on the wrong side of the universe.

The Business of God came about due to our own personal experiences with religion many years ago, infused with the reasons why we turned our backs on it and the effect we see it having on societies throughout history. It started its life in 2010 as a short film, yet as we soon realised we would need a very large budget to bring it to fruition, we shelved the project. We raised it from the dead in 2018 and set about breathing new life into it as a stage production, discovering that theatre would allow us to examine subjects that we could barely touch on in a 15-minute film.

In October 2019, life imitated art when Martin had a serious motorcycle accident, coming very close to experiencing his own mortality, but he has since started recuperating - though he likely won't ride again. Our main hopes with The Business of God are not only that it gets people laughing, but also gets them thinking that one can still lead a full and rich life without religion.

Brendan Black and Martin Chellew have been making short films together since 2009, on topics such as politics, clerical abuse and asexuality. After Brendan had success with Trotsky and Friends at the 2016 and 2017 Melbourne International Comedy Festivals, the theatre bug had well and truly bitten, and Martin joined him this time, adapting The Business of God into a project of which they could both be very proud.

Written & Directed by
Brendan Black and Martin Chellew



SEASON TIME 7 - 12 April 2020
Tue (preview) & Wed 6.30pm |
Thu & Fri 7.30pm | Sat 4.00pm & 7.30pm
| Sun 4.00pm

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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