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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community as we work towards the La Mama rebuild. Thank you!

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund - an Australian Government initiative, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne through the *Arts and Creative Partnerships Program*.



LA MAMA & BCAUSEARTS

PRESENT

# THE WILL TO BE

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# THE WILL TO BE

Written, Performed and Co-Produced by  
**Mark Salvestro**

Co-Produced by **BCauseARTS**  
Stage Managed by **April Erskine**  
Sound Design by **Steve Carnell**  
Set Design by **Carmody Nicol**  
Costume Design by **Oliver Ross**  
Lighting Design by **Lachlan McLean**  
Photography by **Sare Clarke**

## CREATORS' NOTES

Throughout my artistic journey, I've developed a craving, an obsession: with history; with long gone eras, cultures and societies. I love to delve into those eras, cultures and societies that shape who we are today, and anticipate how the stories told now, shape who we are in years to come.

Somewhere along the line – in addition to my historical obsession - is my love of the works of Shakespeare. Upon returning from Prague in 2018 where I performed in a production of 'The Comedy of Errors', I was determined to learn as much about

**OLIVER ROSS COSTUME DESIGN**  
Oliver Ross is a designer, dramaturg and writer with work on over 70 projects across theatre, film and advocacy. He was recently selected for Screen Australia's Developing the Developer program, and has worked across Arenamedia, La Mama, the MEAA, Union House Theatre, Transgender Victoria, University of Melbourne, the Equity Diversity Committee, tilde film festival, Melbourne Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He is passionate about developing stories with trans and autistic communities, working as a writer in the upcoming queer webseries 'Wicked Women' and coordinating support for over 40 community projects at Transgender Victoria and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Running the review website Shakespeare Oz, he loves getting to incorporate little details of character and history into his designs.'

### Thank you...

Special thanks to Phil Evans and the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia, acting coaches Sarah Hallam, Phoebe Anne Taylor (and Graphic Designer!), Emma Louise Pursey and Danielle Cresp, dramaturgy consultant Mark Pritchard, promo trailer team: William Lee, Scott Pope, Harrison Byrne and Andy Berry-Brown, La Mama Theatre, Midsumma Festival, Melbourne Fringe, Adelaide Fringe, Sarah Clarke, Lauren Lloyd Williams, Anne and Robbie Salvestro, Tom Brown, Jack McTaggart, James Hanna, Creative Partnerships Australia and the 90 donors of the Australian Cultural Fund campaign for the 2020 Adelaide Fringe season.

## **LACHLAN MCLEAN** LIGHTING DESIGN

Lachlan McLean is a Victorian College of the Arts alumni, with a degree in production design. Working as an emerging creative in Melbourne, Lachlan's lighting design credits include 'Philtrum', 'Strata Inc.' (North of Eight), 'The Trial of Dorian Gray' (Bitten by Productions), 'The Will to Be' (Melbourne Fringe), 'Ross & Rachel', 'You are the blood' (Spinning Plates Co.), 'Body' by Sue Healy, 'On the Town' directed by Adam Mitchel (VCA), 'Lobby Hero' (Around the Moon Productions), 2019 Green Room Award nominated 'Ghost Quartet' (Antipodes Theatre Company), 'Disclosure' choreographed by Alistair Macdinoe (VCA) and 'Single Ladies' (Red Stitch Actor's Theatre).

## **CARMODY NICOL** SET DESIGN

Lachlan Carmody Nicol is a designer originally from Newcastle and a 2019 graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts. During her time at the VCA, Carmody has been involved in a number of productions including internships with Melbourne Theatre Company in the wardrobe department for 'A View From The Bridge' and with Melbourne Opera as a set assistant for Andrew Bailey on 'The Flying Dutchman'. Since graduating, Carmody has been the designer for 'The Will To Be' (Melbourne Fringe 2019 and Adelaide Fringe 2020), 'The Great Australian Play' (Theatreworks, 2020) and 'Animal Farm' (New Theatre, 2020). She hopes to continue working in independent theatre, designing and making sets and props.

*(creator's note continued...)*

Shakespeare as possible. The best way? To write a new solo show about him, of course!

This soon proved to be stale. Hollow. And boring. So, I brainstormed – for two months – and began to question why I was so invested in someone else's words, in someone else's history. Then, I arrived at another realisation: as a gay man, I knew very little about the history of my community and was somewhat ashamed of that.

From there, these two themes, these fascinations amalgamated and became the basis of 'The Will To Be'. They found refuge in the romanticised '60s and a home in the heart of a closeted gay university lecturer on the brink of a breakdown.

'The Will To Be', however, is about much more than Shakespeare and LGBTQIA+ history; it's about forbidden love, it's about sacrifice, it's about finding one's authentic voice, owning it and allowing it to reach its utmost potential.

**Mark Salvestro**

## **M A R K S A L V E S T R O**

ACTOR | WRITER | CO-PRODUCER

Mark Salvestro is an actor, writer, theatre producer, voiceover artist, and founding member of North of Eight theatre company. 'The Will To Be' premiered at Melbourne Fringe 2019 and was awarded a Best Theatre Weekly Award at Adelaide Fringe 2020. Mark also wrote, produced and performed his critically-acclaimed debut solo work, 'Buried at Sea', which had seasons in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Forbes and Cooma in regional NSW. In 2020, Mark was commissioned by Midsumma Festival to create a digital one-man show titled 'A Covid Coming Out', which is being screened as part of a special exhibition at ACMI on Saturday and Sunday April 24 and 25, titled 'Queerantime in the Flesh'. He is a 2014 graduate of the full-time program at the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia.

## **B C A U S E A R T S | A P R I L E R S K I N E**

CO-PRODUCER | STAGE MANAGER

BCauseARTS founder April Erskine is an independent theatre producer and marketing consultant who empowers Melbourne's creative community with tools that bring their creative ideas to life. Originally from New York City, April has served Melbourne's creative community for over seven years in roles such as communications management, tour management, marketing development and strategy,

community arts advisor and more working alongside theatre makers, performers, producers, visual artists, musicians and arts organisations. While in the US, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from DeSales University, and worked for several years as a New York actor on stage, film, television and commercials. In 2020, she produced a docu-series on YouTube, 'Before Peaks', about her personal training journey for the Bicycle Network 2021 Peaks Challenge cycling event.

## **S T E V E C A R N E L L S O U N D D E S I G N**

Melbourne based Sound-Designer/Composer, Steve Carnell strives to support stories with sound. Working primarily on short films and independent theatre productions, he relishes the opportunity to collaborate with creative folk to deliver engaging audio content. Steve has recently created sound design and music for the theatre works 'Child's Play' and 'Low level Panic' and won several international short film awards for his original score in the short film 'We Only Know Violence'. Other sound design credits include 'Buried at Sea' by Mark Salvestro, 'Love Bird' by Georgina Harriss, North of Eight's 'Strata Inc.', 'Semi Charmed' by Sarah Clarke, 'Child's Play' by Jem Nicholas, and international short films 'Out of Awareness' and 'Black Blood'.