

THANK YOU

Thank you to the actors and audiences who have been part of The Book of Ducks' development life (so far), in particular: Joshua Bell, Jeni Bezundoit, Bo Chung, Odi Crisp, Laura McAloney, Lucy Pitt, Remy Graham Throssell. Marisa Cesario at Gasworks Arts Park. Pippa Bainbridge and Swiss Kalken at The Burrow. Liz Jones, Caitlin Dullard, Sophia Constantine, Hayley Fox, Jen Tran at La Mama Theatre. The staff at Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre.

Na An, Eliza Coyle, Emily Eskell, Alice Fitzgerald. Betty Auhl, Stéphanie Ghajar, Gavin Ingham, Eryn Skinner, Remy Graham Throssell. Tom Wright, Sarah Goodes, Lee Lewis, Louise Gough. Jack Dixon-Gunn. Emma Saunders. Claire & Clive Saunders. Elias Jamieson Brown. Ariella Stoian. Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou. Hilary Bell. Elyse Horan.



Office Phone: (03) 9347 6948
Office Hours: Mon – Fri | 10:30am – 5:30pm
349 Drummond Street, Carlton VIC 3053
www.lamama.com.au | info@lamama.com.au

Our sincerest thanks to the many volunteers who generously give their time in support of La Mama. La Mama's Committee of Management, staff and its wider theatrical community acknowledge that La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of this country and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

The La Mama community acknowledges the considerable support it has received in the past decade from Jeanne Pratt and The Pratt Foundation.

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the City of Melbourne through the Arts and Culture triennial funding program.



 LA MAMA presents

THE BOOK OF DUCKS



JUNE 19 - 21, 2019
THE BURROW



Explorations
2019

THE BOOK OF DUCKS

Written and directed by **Glenn Saunders**
with **Bo Chung, Celia Handscombe, Clare Hayes, Katherine McLure, Jessica Tanner**
Dramaturgs, Elias Jamieson Brown, Ariella Stoian
Sound Design: **Gavin Ingham**
Stage Manager: **Jordan Carter**

Poster and rehearsal photos: **Glenn Saunders**
Production photos: **Jack Dixon-Gunn**

Approximate running time: 75 minutes

WRITER'S NOTE:

The Book of Ducks is a love letter to Melbourne, a city I've fallen in love with, and have called home for the past two years. With its spirit of seriousness and silliness, Melbourne is the perfect setting for a twenty-first century fairy tale, what with all that magic and potential lingering in its laneways and backyards.

Ducks feature strongly in fairy tales and folk tales as forces for 'wisdom, joy and innocence,' as Michael Leunig puts it. Taking a feather of inspiration from Leunig's duck (and its mythological ancestors), our duck – and, I suppose, the play – becomes a symbol of hope and optimism, reminding us not to lose sight of the things that matter.

A brand new fairy tale for Melbourne, **The Book of Ducks** is for everyone who never got to be the main characters in the old ones. It is a play about lightness and darkness (and, I suppose, duckness); about love and trust, the ups and downs, reality versus expectations. A story about friends and siblings; new starts, unexpected visitors. And dancing.



Glenn Saunders (writer and director) is a Melbourne-based dramaturg and writer, with a Masters in Dramaturgy from Victorian College of the Arts. He has worked with Elias Jamieson Brown on *Aleppo*, and Fiona Spitzkowsky on *This Storm Will Kill Your Children*; *Henry V*, and *Richard III* (all VCA, 2017); *A Comprehensive Study of Gastric Juice* with Remy Graham Throssell (VCA, 2018); and *The Marvellous Life of Carlo Gatti* with Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou. He has interned on *Cybec Electric* (MTC, 2018); received a Besen Family Artist Placement (2018); and can't wait to share this play with you. You can find out more at www.glennsaundersdramaturg.com/



Bo Chung (*Callie*) is an actress based in Melbourne. She discovered her love for acting in 2016, while pondering a new creative outlet. She was an architect by day and squeezed in her acting training at Brave Studios and 16th Street by night. Since then, she has continued to train and work on independent film projects. With her background in architecture, Bo also has experience behind the camera in production design and art direction. She was production designer for the short film *Dream House*, which screened at the Jewish International Film Festival in 2017. **The Book of Ducks** will be her first appearance in a play.



Celia Handscombe (*George*) is looking forward to working with Glenn and her castmates to bring **The Book of Ducks** to life. She has appeared on stage as Lysander in an all-female adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and in MWT's *The Melbourne Monologues*. Her most recent screen efforts have been focussed on creating the character of Mathilde for *Life, Camera, Awkward*, the debut comedy web-series for the female-driven, creative production company She and the Others. She likes nature, yoga, and dancing like nobody's watchin'.



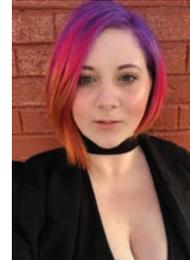
As a young child, **Clare Hayes** (*St. Michael*) was involved in theatre and musicals and developed a love of portraying a story to an audience. She has trained at Atlantic Acting School in New York and has also worked with Rob Meldrum and Suzanne Heywood in voice. Clare has appeared in theatre, feature and short films, and loves to challenge herself in dramatic and comedic roles. Some of her most memorable work in the theatre has been *The Other Place*, *Time Stands Still*, *Mr. Bailey's Minder*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Forget Me Not* and *The Trojan Women: After Euripides*. Clare is very excited to work with a talented cast and director, and to bring the role of St Michael to life (in many shapes and forms).



Katherine McLure (*Lou / Lucy*) enjoys swimming in ponds, munching on slimy greens, and flapping about. When she's not enjoying herself in parks, she works as a professional princess, bringing joy to younguns all over Melbourne. Sometimes she lectures in digital illustration. Most of the time she just waddles around yell-singing.



Jessica Tanner (*Fee*) graduated from the National Theatre Drama School in 2013, and studied postgraduate voice at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2016. She has performed around Australia in productions such as *The City They Burned*, *The Legend of King O'Malley*, *Coriolanus* and *Marie Antoinette*, *Low Level Panic*, *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls*, and *Abigail/1702*. Most recently, Jessica performed in *The Bar: A Farce of the Law* and NIDA's development of the new play *The World Isn't Made For Them*. Jessica loves working with new writing and is excited to be involved in **The Book of Ducks** for La Mama Explorations.



Jordan Carter (Stage Manager) is a freelance Stage Manager who graduated from Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Production (Stage Management) in 2018 and Swinburne University with a Diploma of Theatre Arts in 2012. Jordan has previously worked on *The Crucible* directed by Adena Jacobs in 2018, and interned with The Production Company on their 2017 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* directed by Gale Edwards. Jordan loves the variety of work and people she experiences working in stage management. **The Book of Ducks** is Jordan's first stage management role outside of university.



Gavin Ingham (Sound Design) has worked as an actor, comedian, director, writer, and musician, for close to twenty years. His sound design has featured in theatre productions for La Mama and Honeytrap's *The Maze*, while his performance history extends to theatre, feature film, TV, short films, and commercials. Gavin also has a Masters of Screenwriting from VCA. For more information on his doings: www.gavin-ingham.com