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# NEXT (ON) STAGE



Join us as we share fresh new works from our NEXT STAGE Writers-in-Residence, Merlynn Tong and Emme Hoy, in conversation with MTC Literary Director Chris Mead.

These readings contain mature themes and coarse language.

**CYBEC ELECTRIC**  
19 – 20 FEB 2021  
Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

**CYBEC SCENES 1**  
Fri 19 Feb, 7.30pm

**NEXT (ON) STAGE**  
Sat 20 Feb, 2pm

**CYBEC SCENES 2**  
Sat 20 Feb, 7.30pm

[MTC.COM.AU/CYBEC](https://www.mtc.com.au/cybec)



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# GOLDEN BLOOD

By Merlynn Tong

A Boy and a Girl, siblings, meet at their mother's funeral having not seen each other for years.

Will they make good on their million-dollar inheritance; will Boy blow it all on drugs and 'gangster' trappings; will it fund Girl's dreams of becoming a vet: or will both use it to mastermind Singapore's biggest Ponzi scheme?

In Merlynn Tong's *Golden Blood* the answer is: all of the above.

As a playwright, **Merlynn Tong's** credits include *Antigone* (adaptation) and *Good Grief* (Queensland Theatre); *The Big Mac* (Black Swan Theatre Company); *SKIN* (Dear Australia, Playwriting Australia); *Ma Ma Ma Mad* (Wax Lyrical); and *Blue Bones* (Playlab Productions).

*Blue Bones*, which she also performed in, won six Matilda Awards including Best New Australian Work and Best Female Actor in a Leading Role. Merlynn is also the prize recipient of Screen Queensland's Screen to Stage pitch, The First 10 Pages 2.0. Her works are published by Playlab.

As an actor, Merlynn's performances have included *White Pearl* (Sydney Theatre Company & National Theatre of Parramatta); *The Shot* (Queensland Theatre, The Scene Project); *Harrow 2* (ABC); *Top of the Lake: China Girl* (BBC & Sundance Films); *The Mathematics of Longing*, *Straight White Men* (La Boite Theatre), *The Lost Lending Library* (Punchdrunk & Imaginary Theatre); *Bitch: Origin of the Female Species*, *The Theory of Everything* (Brisbane Festival); and *Hot Brown Honey* (Judith Wright Centre).



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# A LONG AND FATAL LOVE CHASE

By Emme Hoy

Louisa May Alcott, 30, lies struck down with typhus in a hospital, convinced that a proud literary life lies ahead for her – despite being an unemployed teacher and sickly governess.

She has an idea for a novel about her sisters becoming little women; but she'd much prefer to write a wild feminist thriller. So she does.

Emme Hoy has excavated Alcott's lost novel and brings its fearless ambition to the stage in *A Long and Fatal Love Chase*.

Recipient of the Belvoir Philip Parsons Fellowship and the 2020 STC and NIDA Pathways Commission in addition to MTC's NEXT STAGE Writer-in-Residence program, **Emme Hoy** completed her Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Performance at NIDA.

Her TV series *Nobody's Perfect* was shortlisted in the ABC/AWG Laugh Out Loud Competition, among others. In 2020, she won the AWG/Audible On Air Competition with her original series, *Left Behind*.

In 2017, her play *Extinction of the Learned Response* was shortlisted for the Patrick White Playwright's Award and the Griffin Award, among others. Her co-written play, *Bathory Begins*, was awarded the 2019 ATYP co-commission. Emme's other plays include: *Salem* (NIDA); *Strangers* (Bondi Feast); *Five Year Plan* (Silent Theatre); *La Finta Giardiniera* (Queensland Conservatorium).

Emme currently has commissions with Malthouse Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company and ATYP, as well as an audio series with Audible.



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### Cast includes

Max Brown  
Carissa Lee  
Louise Siverson  
Jenny Zhou

### Literary Director

Chris Mead

### Associate Dramaturg

Emma Gibson

### Programs Producer

Karin Farrell

### Stage Manager

Christine Bennett

### Cybec Electric Interns

Brodie Murray  
& Susanne Porter

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukit Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the First Peoples of Country on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand.

We pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.

In this programme, terms used to describe an individual's cultural identity when referencing a particular work or artist have been determined in consultation with the artists involved..

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## NEXT STAGE

MTC's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program is supported by the donors, foundations and organisations of MTC's Playwrights Giving Circle

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Cybec Electric is made possible with the support of the late Dr Roger Riordan AM and The Cybec Foundation

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