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CYBEC SCENES 1



Readings of excerpts from
works-in-development,
directed by Katy Maudlin

Inside Out

By Maurial Spearim

The World Isn't Made for Them

By Jamaica Zuanetti

Croydon

By Benjamin Nichol

These readings contain mature themes,
adult concepts and strong 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

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INSIDE OUT

By Maurial Spearim

Four independent First Nations women have moved to the city in pursuit of their dreams. Battling racism head-on and with the support of each other, they are confident they can overcome any obstacle, big or small.

In this daring new work – a fierce, dramatic comedy – these four unique women will stop at nothing to right wrongs and pave a new path.

Maurial Spearim is an Indigenous Australian from the Gamilaraay, Kooma and Muruwari nations who draws strength from her connection to Country and People. An actor, singer and writer, she is interested in creating work that brings First Nations voices and stories front and centre to be embraced and celebrated on main stages, in film & television and in music arenas.

Her work is bold, thought-provoking and unapologetic. Maurial continues to collaborate with a wide range of artists who, much like herself, have a passion to develop, perform and create change. Her first play, *BlaaQ Catt*, was performed at Next Wave Festival and Melbourne Fringe Festival 2016. Maurial has written poetry for Melbourne Writers Festival, Blak & Bright festival and YIRRAMBOI festival. Maurial started writing her second play at Besen Family Writers program at Malthouse Theatre. Currently, Maurial is co-writing for two Australian TV series, and co-producing the Homelands Tour.



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THE WORLD ISN'T MADE FOR THEM

By Jamaica Zuanetti

Four women institutionalised in Paris's Salpêtrière Hospital in the late nineteenth century are world famous: their 'symptoms' of 'hysteria' are renowned and performed daily for crowds of young male doctors and Parisian socialites.

But are they really 'ill'? What do they think of their 'celebrity'? And their 'treatment' will come at what cost to them?

Jamaica Zuanetti is a Melbourne-based writer. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Melbourne. She is an acting graduate of the National Theatre Drama School. She has a Master of Writing for Performance from the Victorian College of the Arts, where she was the recipient of the Cassidy Bequest Scholarship.

Her plays include *Too Ready Mirror* (Darebin Arts Speakeasy 2017); *Thigh Gap* (La Mama Theatre 2019), shortlisted for London's Platform Presents Playwright's Prize; *The World Isn't Made for Them*, selected by NIDA Launchpad for development; and *A Woman Returned* (PLAYList Red Stitch 2019). She was a participant in Melbourne Theatre Company's Women in Theatre Program in 2020. She has been selected as a writer-in-residence with And Also Presents at Siteworks; as a creative-in-residence at the Centre Pompadour in Ercourt, France; and as a writer-in-residence with Lonely Company. She tutors in Creative Writing at the University of Melbourne.



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CROYDON

By Benjamin Nichol

In a tiny flat in Melbourne's Croydon are Elissa (unemployed, agoraphobic and severely overweight) and her octogenarian mother, Beryl (opinionated, sharp-tongued and with a failing heart).

Both women provide routine and purpose for the other but fifty years of living together has bred a manipulative and parasitic household.

When Beryl dies, can Elissa keep the truth from her sister Joan and the hunky 'meals-on-wheels' delivery man, Daz?

Not if Beryl's ghost has anything to do with it!

Benjamin Nichol is a Melbourne-based writer and actor, holding both a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) and a Master of Writing from the Victorian College of the Arts. Proudly public educated, and self-described 'boy from the burbs', Benjamin's writing typically explores the intersectionality between class, faith and sexuality. He has had writing developed with the Darebin Speakeasy, Theatre Works, ATYP, VIMH and the Poppy Seed Theatre Festival.

As an actor, Benjamin appeared in the Melbourne and European seasons of *LOVE* by Patricia Cornelius. The production was presented at the Teatro Biennale in Venice (marking the team as the first ever Australians invited to attend) with *The New York Times* describing the production as 'superb'. In addition to this, Benjamin regularly writes, directs and teaches with the Fresh Theatre for Social Change, a youth program utilising theatre for its social change potential with adolescents.



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Cast includes

Zach Blampied
Carissa Lee
Amanda Ma
Louise Siversen
Leonie Whyman
Jenny Zhou

Director

Katy Maudlin

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.

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

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