

FOUR LETTER WORD PRESENTS

THE DAYS IN BETWEEN



A NOTE FROM FOUR LETTER WORD

Four Letter Word Theatre Company is thrilled and privileged to be producing *The Days In Between* an original piece by Sara Laurena. Our company is committed to supporting new art and new artists. We aim to provide a platform for the development of bold new work, particularly of contemporary Australian pieces created by young people. We believe in the extraordinary potential of these emerging voices to speak to the wider university community, to speak to issues that matter and highlight perspectives that are marginalized. Sara Laurena's *The Days In Between* is a beautifully written play, that explores the experience of and representation of mental illness, specifically post-traumatic stress disorder. The text has been superbly realized by the director Karla Livingstone-Pardy and her team. Everyone who has worked on this production has come together with the aim of doing justice to this new work and engaging in considerate theatrical practices. So, it is with great pride that we present to you *The Days In Between*.

- Artistic Director, Freya McGrath

Four Letter Word Theatre would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations. We acknowledge their elders past and present and pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in attendance.

This production gratefully acknowledges the support of the University of Melbourne Theatre Board through its New Work Grant scheme

As result of the Theatre Board's support we were able to organize a mental health and theatre workshop with the wonderful Sarah Borg. This was a hugely beneficial workshop, providing the team and the company with useful tips and frameworks.

We would also like to thank the UHT staff for their ongoing and invaluable support.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

I began writing this piece for assessment in the subject Scripts for Contemporary Theatre in 2016.

I sought to explore the way mental illness is represented in theatre, in particular the hysterisation of gendered trauma in performance as it is often interpreted through the lens of melodrama.

Drawing on my own experiences, I sought to shatter the implausible notion trauma is over dramatised, and therefore unbelievable. Everyone experiences mental illness across a spectrum which borrows from various diagnoses. There is no getting better – no, resolution at the end of mental health; there is only mindful practise in managing your psychological and emotional balance - in finding healing. This piece demonstrates the way trauma manifests in the everyday life of an individual. I have chosen to tell one story, one experience; this piece does not speak for mental illness as a blanket term.

Using the surreal physicalisation of the Chorus to depict the overpowering emotion of mental illness on the body, and the voice of the individuals' psychology, Ira defends her reality of an inherently dramatic experience.

- Playwright, Sara Laurena

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I'm eternally grateful to both FLW and Sara for giving me the opportunity to develop this play, and bring this new work to life. This script immediately spoke to me because of the honest and clever way it represents trauma and mental illness. While I was terrified at first at the thought of being responsible for the first ever production of a new work, what I've enjoyed most about this process is the creative relationship I've been able to build with Sara. Because of the open communication we've had, this rehearsal process has been one of the easiest and most joyful I've ever been involved with. Specifically, because of the content of this work, I have strived to make our rehearsal room be not only a safe space, but also a space we all actively want to be in. I'd like to specially thank Hannah Disher for the work she's done on bringing this show to life. It's been an honour to direct, I hope it speaks to you the way it does me.

- Director, Karla Livingstone-Pardy

THE CAST



Eunice Chuang
IRA

Eunice is currently in her final year of a Master of Arts and Cultural Management degree. She has been involved in various student/community theatre productions in both Malaysia and Melbourne for the past 5 years after quitting dance. This will be Eunice's first time taking the lead role in a student theatre production in Melbourne and she is very excited to be sharing this important piece of work written by one of the strongest women she knows together with her amazing cast that fancies getting all up in her business as Hexate during rehearsals.



Zoë Steiner
LEE/HEXATE

Zoë is set to graduate from her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology at the end of this semester. Starting out in music theatre with The University of Melbourne Music Theatre Association (UMMTA), Zoë made her foray into devised theatre with the Melbourne University Shakespeare Company (MUSC) as part of the performance season 'Shake It Up'. Zoë was immediately drawn to 'The Days in Between' for its brave and authentic depiction of what it is like to live with PTSD, and she wanted to be a part of a show that was unafraid to delve into the often-stigmatised world of mental illness.



Evangeline Stoios
PSYCH/HEXATE

Evangeline is in her 3rd year of a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Screen and Cultural Studies and English and Theatre Studies. She has been acting in theatre performances for her whole life with the most recent roles being 'Athena' in "The Gentle Rain from Heaven" by Mark Nicholls; and 'Karen' and 'Ellis' in "Hands Over Eyes" by Peter Danastasio, which was part of La Mama's 2016 Explorations. She has thoroughly enjoyed working and collaborating with the cast and crew of "The Days in Between" because of its beautiful, supportive and pure nature in exploring the experience of a woman with PTSD.



Julia Frecker
TESS/HEXATE

Julia is currently in her 2nd year of a Bachelor of Environments majoring in Urban Design and Planning. Last year she was a part of UHT's 'Megaphone Democracy', the Melbourne Uni Law Revue and a comedy show at the Adelaide Fringe. Julia has relished the experience of working with a more serious piece of theatre and enjoys creepily tilting her head with the other cast members.



Tombi Lloyd
MIA/HEXATE

Tombi is in her 2nd year of Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Indigenous Studies and Creative Writing. This is her second venture into on-campus theatre, following her involvement in Whitley College's 2016 production of 'Rent'. Tombi has particularly enjoyed getting to work with such a lovely cast and crew, and challenging said cast and crew to rap battles whenever possible.



Cindy Jiang
MOTHR/HEXATE

Cindy is currently in her first year of a Bachelor of Arts, and will double major in French/Creative Writing. Having only previously participated in musical theatre, this is Cindy's first straight theatre production. She has found the exploration of physical theatre and surrealist style a fascinating and highly enjoyable process, and is grateful to have worked alongside and learnt from her more experienced peers for her first uni show.



Arthur Knight
DOCTOR BUNT/HEXATE

Arthur is in the second year of a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English and Theatre Studies as well as History. This is his first university production, but he has been involved in community theatre in the past for plays such as A Midsummer Night's Dream and Waiting for Godot. After having shifted towards more directorial, dramaturgical, and writing positions, Arthur has returned to acting for the first time in two years. He has particularly enjoyed getting back up on the stage.

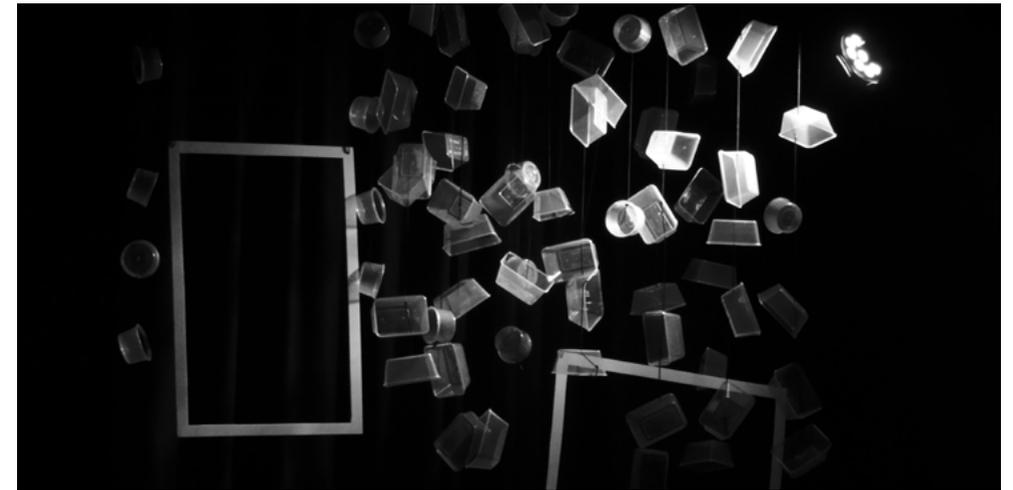


Kyle Leitermann
OLD MAN/HOUSEMATE/HEXATE

Kyle is currently within his 1st year of a Bachelor of Science, hoping to major in Civil Systems. Although this is Kyle's first university production, he's worked with a variety of community theatre organisations outside of Uni. He has a fun time crawling on the ground and contorting his limbs to un-natural lengths, all in the hopes to make the show entertaining for cast, crew and audiences alike.



THE CREW



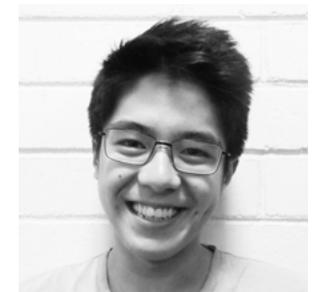
Sara Laurna
PLAYWRIGHT

Sara is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in Creative Writing and Screen and Cultural Studies. She has been involved in several student theatre productions, both in performance and as a Creative Producer for Open Body Theatre. This year she will be the co-Artistic Director of Mudfest, hoping to support her fellow emerging artists in their ventures, as she settles herself into the notion of being a playwright. This is her first written work to be taken to the stage.



Karla Livingstone-Pardy
DIRECTOR

Karla is undertaking what she hopes will be her final year at the University of Melbourne (for a while at least), as an honours student researching the embodied power of performance. She has been involved in the student theatre community here for the last couple of years, in both directorial and performance roles. This is Karla's first main stage work as a director and she's flipping excited about that!



Miguel Lontoc
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Miguel is in his final year of a Master of Science - Math & Stats. Despite obviously being a bit of a masochist, Miguel occasionally does fun things like theatre. This year, he's the Treasurer of Four Letter Word, and will be involved in Mudfest this year as the Deputy Production Manager. This production has been an absolute delight; giving opportunities to new artists and promoting the exploration and development of skills. Student theatre is pretty great!





Kate Weston
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Kate Weston is an Arts student majoring in English and Theatre Studies. She's worked in theatre as an actor, director, writer, production manager, and more recently can't seem to stop stage managing. This is her fifth show with Four Letter Word and she has enjoyed making schedules, coming up with cute nicknames for the cast and deciphering her own feverish notes.



Hannah Disher
CHOREOGRAPHER

Hannah recently completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and English & Theatre Studies. She has been involved in several student theatre productions as a performer, and this is her second time choreographing a show. Hannah has enjoyed exploring her love of dance and the use of physical theatre to express different emotions within the show, and making movements look creepy.



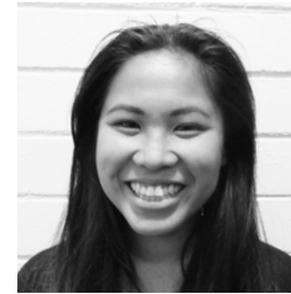
Chandler Yang
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Chandler completed his Bachelor Degree in English Literature and Creative Writing from Lancaster University, UK in 2016. He is thrilled and honoured to be able to realise with the incredible cast and crew this important piece of new work by Sara Laurena. The passion, energy and creativity he has witnessed in the rehearsal room convince him that it was a right decision moving to Australia.



Joy Heng Yiting
SOUND DESIGNER

Joy Heng is a composer currently in her 2nd Year of Bachelor of Music, Interactive Composition. Previously, she volunteered at FOG theatre, an inclusive theatre group where she assisted performers with intellectual disabilities. She is currently writing music for Mongrel, a VCA collaborative new work. This is her first time working as a sound designer, she has enjoyed collaborating with the production team and cast to bring this original work to life



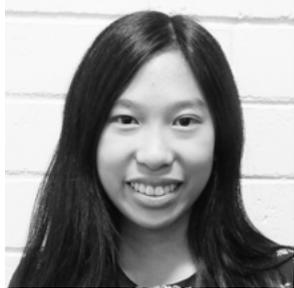
Melanie Huang
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF
CAPTIONS AND CODE

Mel is a Melbourne-based interactive designer and digital artist. For Mel's very first theatre performance, she is bringing her passion for creative coding and technology to the stage. She hopes to use her experience to not only provide but enhance the service of captioning performing a unique and generative painting each night.



Freya McGrath
PUBLICITY MANAGER

Freya is currently in her 3rd year of a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English and Theatre Studies. She has been involved in several student theatre productions, including as a director on Four Letter Word's 2016 production of Triptych and UHT's Tastings showcase. This is Freya's first venture into the world of publicity, she has enjoyed experimenting with aesthetic and filming spiders and lint on the floor of the workshop.



Christie Hidajat
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Christie is currently in her 2nd year of a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Creative Writing and French. Previously, she has been involved in the UHT's Tastings performance as a lighting operator. This is her first time working behind the stage curtain as an ASM, and she's been loving the experience of working with the amazing casts and creatives.



Kiera (Yanhong) Shi
SET DESIGNER

Kiera is currently in her 2nd year of a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Accounting and Economics. She has been involved in several student theatre productions, including as a set designer on Melbourne University Shakespeare Company's 2016 production of Henry IV and as a stage hand for Mudcrabs' Box Set. Kiera has enjoyed experimenting with aesthetic and workshop tools.



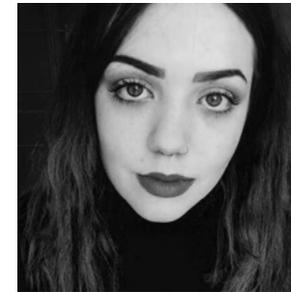
Dane Lucas
LIGHTING DESIGNER

This is the first time Dane has ventured into lighting design and the first time has worked with Four Letter Word Theatre. Dane comes from a background of performing onstage and is now enjoying the challenges of putting together an original work from behind the scenes.



Serena Cowie
COSTUME DESIGNER

Serena is currently in her first year in a Bachelor of Arts and is majoring in Art History. This is Serena's first production as costume designer and was also her first experience working in a production that tackled human psychology and anxiety. She has loved working with new people and helping to bring to life amazing ideas and visions.



Madeleine Kerr
EQUITY OFFICER

Rhoanna Furneaux
PROPS MANAGER

OUR SINCEREST THANKS

Without assistance, this production would not have been possible. We cannot be grateful enough for the support of the following people:

The University of Melbourne Theatre Board

The Union House Theatre Staff, esp.
Petra Kalive, Erin Adams, Angus Macdonald, Clynton Jones

Sarah Borg, for her fantastic support of the mental health
and well-being of our cast and crew

James O'Donoghue, for his eternal support of Four Letter Word

Connor Ross, for being constantly present supporting the technical aspects of the show (Connor declined having a headshot in the programme, unfortunately)

