

The Metamorphosis



Why is it that insects freak us out? Oh I'm sorry
– were you expecting 'One morning, when
Gregor Samsa woke from anxious dreams, he
found – ' so on and so forth?

I'll bet he was dreaming about insects.

MU Modern and The Metamorphosis would like to thank:

Union House Theatre Staff and Theatre Casuals
The University of Melbourne Theatre Board
Melbourne Fringe Festival Team
Sonny Lim

And everyone else who supported us financially,
physically, and emotionally.
You have our sincerest thanks.

This show is taking place in The University of Melbourne, which rests on the lands of the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nations. Sovereignty was never ceded. MU Modern Theatre would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

A NOTE FROM MU MODERN THEATRE

MU Modern Theatre is thrilled to be producing this new adaptation of Kafka's seminal novella, carefully crafted by playwright James Macaronas to work on the stage, and directed with grace by Jacob Kuek and Alison Ford. Moreover, to have the show take place as part of the 2019 Melbourne Fringe Festival is an honour for our debut year as a company.

The Metamorphosis is a work of fiction that has infected people with its take on what becomes of people in modern society. Evidence alone of this can be seen in the plethora of interpretations of the work - religious, psychological, feminist, sociological, and economic readings of the book respond to Gregors sudden transformation into a dung beetle, or something... it is the point of this adaptation to bring this story to life on stage, and in doing so stage the multifaceted experiences of disillusionment and oppression.

Bringing this forward to today, and all the while looking back at each of the distinct theatrical adaptations made of this work, The Metamorphosis has always addressed present and continuing anxieties because it is inherently about anxiety itself. It is for this reason Kafka's work speaks to us as a company, and to the audience of Melbourne Fringe this year, and any year.

We hope you enjoy the show.

**Arthur Knight, Artistic Director
MU Modern Theatre**

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

The astonishing thing about Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* is that a relatively ordinary man is turned into something even more insignificant. A giant bug, an ungeziefer, a monstrous insect - ***Vermin.***

What is astonishing about Macaronas' adaptation is the question of the relationship between human and vermin. Where do they intersect? How does one infiltrate the lives of the other and what happens when the lines between the two blur? How do we reclaim our humanity in a world that advocates for a narrow world view?

This adaptation presents many opportunities for horror, but as much as we can be shocked by what happens physically, we also hope to uncover the true eeriness that lies within the Samsa's home.

What makes our spines tingle and why is it that when faced with ourselves we fear it more than any rogue spider ever could?

In this ensemble piece a consciousness will form. A collective will divide – the domestic household will crumble, and the individual will be overwhelmed by the masses. How can you push against the walls to shape a changing world? Reclaim space? Keep track of the changing void in the midst of clashing voices?

This absurdist, in-yer-face adaptation focuses on the constant – the insects that survive regardless of the circumstance. When the apocalypse comes insects, whatever or whoever that may be, will rise up...

Jacob Kuek, Co-Director
Alison Ford, Co-Director

CAST



ANTHONY KUIPER
GREGOR/COLEOPTERON

Anthony eagerly launched into life three-months premature, just as Miguel Indurain smashed the Tour-de-France, and hopefully not just as Asiana Airlines Flight 733 smashed into Mt. Ungeo. He's been obsessed with performing and writing since he was 10. He continues to script his own shorts, write poetry and squirrel away story ideas, when he's not auditioning, or building a profile. He spent his university years acting within the UniMelb theatre scene (with companies like UHT, MUSC & FLW), and just this year transitioned into independent theatre, as the antagonistic Pope Stephen in the Fringe show 'Horrendus! The Bizarre True Trial of a Very Dead Pope'. He is a self-represented writer, actor and filmmaker.



Ania Skotniczna
GRETE

Ania is an exchange student from Amsterdam, where she studies Liberal Arts and Sciences. Her interests are all over the place: from neuroscience and psychology to dance, theatre and photography. Her philosophy is "I will rest when I'm old". Always moving, smiling and catching every opportunity to meet people and explore places. She loves spending time in nature, especially in the water. She fell in love with surfing recently. In The Metamorphosis, Ania plays Grete Samsa - a German teenager who is not understood by her parents and eventually loses her temper.



Torsten Strokirch
HERMANN/VERMIN

Torsten is from rural NSW and loves birdwatching and reading classic literature, but manages to keep up an interesting personality on the side. He is pleased to be playing Herman in this production because Herman is a German and rhymes always make things better. Here is a rhyme about Torsten:

There once was a boy named Torsten
Who thought that rhymes were quite awesome
He tried a short verse, but it was the worst
Cause his name too hard to rhyme with. Damn.



Chelsea Crosby
JULIE/VERMIN

Chelsea is a working independent artist who graduated back in 2018 from Deakin University with a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Drama). You'll most likely see this passionate and determined young woman working in retail whilst she climbs her way up and makes a name for herself in the creative arts industry. When this busy bee is not doing 'actors stuff' she's usually practicing her aerial moves on the Trapeze or Lyra. Chelsea has previously trained in the United States and England, and is currently training with the Circus Oz here in Melbourne. This is Chelsea's second time at Melbourne Fringe and she is excited to cause a little chaos with her vermin side.



Lucas Beckert-Berger
EXTERMINATOR/RECEPTIONIST/VERMIN

The last time Lucas was on stage was in 2011. Year 12 – he played The 14th Earl of Gurney/Jack the Ripper in the production, The Ruling Class. He is so excited to be back on stage. It's been a surreal experience; remembering the process you as an actor go through in finding your character and working and making new friends through a project that entices those like-minded to you. He is very honoured to be performing for you and his cast. He hopes you enjoy!

CAST

continued.



HANNAH LIM
DORA/DICK/VERMIN

Seven years ago, Hannah debuted as an actor, playing a character who was belting out Call Me Maybe by Carly Rae Jepsen while being stuck in a toilet cubicle. So unexpectedly joyful was this experience that she decided she'd keep at it, so here Hannah is today! When she's not involved in theatre, some of her occupations include reading, reminiscing about early 2000s emo music, and being the number one advocate for chai latte to anyone who will listen.



Tom Worsnop
LOUIS/VERMIN

Tom Worsnop is an Australian-born American actor during the Golden Age of Hollywood. Considered the natural successor to Douglas Fairbanks, he achieved worldwide fame for his romantic Swashbuckler roles in Hollywood films.

Not really, he just kinda likes Errol Flynn.



Malaynee Hayden
LESTER/VERMIN

Malaynee graduated from Patrick Studios Australia's Musical Theatre full-time program in 2016. You can watch her regularly performing on Harold night with her team 'Dingo' at The Improv Conspiracy or catch her plowing through the 'men's' section in savers on Sydney road.



Nicholas Thoroughgood
CLERK/VERMIN

Nicholas has been an actor since the spritely age of nine, best known for his role as a frog in the 2008 production of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie in his home town of Newcastle. A little known fact about Nicholas is that he can't burp. A little known fact about Dogs, they can't operate MRI machines. But Cats can.



Sahar El-Hady
FELICE/VERMIN:

New to the city hailing from Bristol, UK, Sahar is a Geology student by day and an actress by night. She works towards accessibility in the arts and creative science communication. Also an older sister to too many people, crazy about cats and a sucker for romantic comedies. She loves long walks in nature and laughing with friends. Her favourite part of Melbourne so far has been wandering around the markets on Sunday mornings.

PRODUCTION TEAM



JACOB KUEK
CO-DIRECTOR



ALISON FORD
CO-DIRECTOR



JAMES MACARONAS
WRITER



ARTHUR KNIGHT
PRODUCTION MANAGER
SOUND DESIGNER



TALIA NORTH
STAGE MANAGER



JONO WEDGWOOD
LIGHTING DESIGNER



JACK MURRAY
SET DESIGNER



MERRYN ALLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY & MEDIA



ERIN CASEY
FRONT OF HOUSE
MANAGER

ANNA GRACE-SMITH
LIGHTING OPERATOR

MARGOT
PROPERTIES AND COSTUMES

FINN MCHENRY
SET ASSISTANT





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