

5 LESBIANS EATING A

Quiche

BY ANDREW HOBGOOD AND EVAN LINDER

Program

FEBRUARY 18TH AND 19TH 2022
MANNING BAR SYDNEY



Sydney Gay and Lesbian
MARDI GRAS



Director's Note

The first iteration of this show was a long time in the making. Through the challenges of 2020, we almost thought that it wouldn't go ahead. But as restrictions eased and audiences felt safe enough to return to the theatre, I can't tell you how elated we were that 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche was going to make it to the stage in 2021. What was even more magical was the fact that the season completely sold out - communicating to us that these are the kind of narratives that people want (and need) to see during Mardi Gras. So when we had the opportunity to bring this story to even more audiences across Sydney and Adelaide, I jumped at the chance.

I've watched a lot of queer theatre, and we seem to have a pattern of narratives that end in devastating tragedy. That's if we're allowed the platform at all - I could count on one hand how many female-driven queer narratives I've ever seen. That's what I find so special about 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche: the show has created a space where women can be unapologetically silly, funny, and proud of their identity. A space where we can just have fun.

That's what I feel like the 2022 Mardi Gras Festival needs for the LGBTQ+ community. It has been a pleasure to see our own queer narratives reflected back at us and now for us to share those narratives with you. It's also been extremely empowering to laugh at ourselves, and to take those stereotypes so often thrust upon us and turn them on their head.

If I've got one goal for 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche, it's that you leave the theatre having had fun. After a year of uncertainty and fear, and the second year of a Mardi Gras Festival that doesn't look the way we hoped it would, I think what we need more than anything is a good, fun night out at the theatre.

I'm honoured that we get to bring 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche back to Sydney before our Adelaide run, and I can't wait to bring more female-driven, queer narratives to the stage in years to come.

Rosie Niven
Director



Producer's note

WE ARE BACK for another year of annual Quiche Breakfasts and participation in the Mardi Gras Festival and I could not be more thrilled! 2021 was a weird year (at best) for many and whilst we all experienced the lows, we were so privileged to experience the major high of a totally sold out season of 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche here in Sydney. To me, it was the perfect reminder of how much shows like this are needed at the moment - shows that celebrate truth, individuality, authenticity. Shows that make you laugh - and loudly - again! Shows that encourage you, challenge you or just entertain you. And importantly, shows that REPRESENT you.

It has been truly fabulous to have so many of the original Company members return to the production - Maddie (our awesome Stage Manager), Nyssa, Demi and Julia (3 of our wonderful cast members) and of course, the fantastic Rosie (our brilliant Director). It has also been an absolute joy to welcome Laura and Dominique (our other 2 stunning sisters) and Capri (our genius Lighting Designer) to the Quiche family.

Last year, the consistent comments solidified what Rosie had already been telling us all was so important - to see more works made by women in the LGBTQI+ community, for women in the community. The response was overwhelming and we were so proud to have been able to bring this fun, sometimes silly but truly poignant show to the stage. This year, not only are we back for a limited season in Sydney for anyone who missed out last year, we are also packing our bags and heading over to the Adelaide Fringe Festival to share this great work with more Australian audiences.

So, if you're returning again after seeing the show last year - thank you! Welcome back!!
For everyone else, you're in for a treat!

And with that, to all members of the LGBTQI+ community, Happy Mardi Gras!!
Enjoy the show!

Carly Fisher
Producer



Meet the cast



DOMINIQUE DE MARCO : GINNY (SHE/HER)

Dominique De Marco grew up in Brisbane, before heading to Singapore to complete a BA (Hons) in Acting, at Lasalle College of the Arts.

She moved to Sydney in 2016 and has been in the following theatrical productions: Fuente Ovejuna, with Angus Evans at Flight Path Theatre: Varya in The Cherry Orchard, with Victor Kalka at Chippen St Theatre: Richard III and Comedy of Errors, with Patricia & Kyle Rowling's 2019 Bard on the Beach: Alison's House with Julie Baz at Depot Theatre: Sally in Dr Seuss's Cat in the Hat with Dan Jenkins at Singapore Rep Theatre and Chris in Lady of Soul & Her Ultimate S Machine with Zizi Azah at Esplanade Studios SG. Her film credits include; Nicole in Bad Behaviour (2010), directed by Joesph Sims, produced by SterlingCinema/MEDiAKiN/Caldwell Entertainment/Global Alliance.

Dominique is thrilled to be part of a production that supports queer women in theatre.



LAURA DJANEGARA: WREN (SHE/HER)

Laura was raised in Perth and is of Indonesian and Australian descent.

Laura completed a BMus majoring in Classical Voice in 2012 at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) where she performed in the operas Die Fledermaus and The Rake's Progress, and was nominated for the Julie Michael Award for Musical Cabaret. In 2016 Laura completed a BFA in Acting from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) where she performed in The Roaring Girl, Stranger I am, The Olympians and The Space Between the Fire and the Fuel. Recent credits include Macbeth (Bell Shakespeare), Videotape (Montague Basement) and The Linden Solution (Ratcatch Theatre) - for which she received the Broadwayworld Award for Best Performer in a play.

This will be Laura's second production with Theatre Travels and she is excited to be working with the company again.



Meet the cast



NYSSA HAMILTON: LULIE (SHE/HER)

Nyssa Hamilton has resided on three continents, of which she prefers Australia. She has recently appeared in Clock and Spiel's Wit, as Elsa Stanhope in Alison's House, Mercy Lewis in The Crucible, and Maxine in the Australian premiere of Technicolor Life. She trained at Seattle Central Community College, The University of Newcastle Australia, and has a Masters in Theatre Making from Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance, London. Nyssa wrote, produced, co-directed and performed Too Few To Mention at the Hackney Showroom in London in 2015 and the Newcastle Fringe Festival in 2016. Her dog is named after a comic book character not Shakespeare, in spite of what she tells people. In 2011 Nyssa won the City of Newcastle Drama Award portraying Honey in Janet Nelson's NTC Production of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?



JULIA PENNISI: VERN (SHE/HER)

Julia has and has been doing drama since 2008, after being encouraged by her mum to break out of her shyness and try acting. It has been her sole desire to pursue a career in theatre ever since. She graduated Excelsia College in 2019 with a Bachelor of Dramatic Art and cannot wait to get back on the stage with this hilarious production of 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche. Her previous performance highlights include CUT, A Tea Party For Sad People (Short+Sweet), Clinchfield, Love & Information, The Tempest, The Crucible, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Youth In Performing Arts, HissyFest and voiceover work in Lost & Found directed by Lily Drummond. Julia has recently starred in her first short film, Tea Party For Sad People, directed by Michael McLennan that won Best Comedy at the Italian Assurdo Film Festival celebrating Independent cinema. Julia would like to thank her family, friends and college lecturers over the years for all their love and support.



Meet the cast

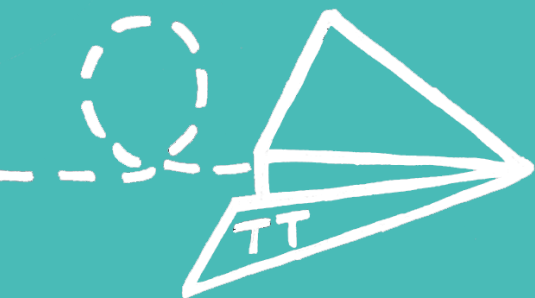


DEMITRA SEALY: DALE (SHE/HER)

Demitra Sealy is an award-winning actress, singer and comedian; who is very excited to celebrate the Mardi Gras festival and be a part of this production!

Her latest acting credits include feature film *The Debt Collector 2* (Netflix trending Top 5), short film *Euphoria* (The Sundance Film Festival), ATYPs 2020 National Studio and playing Mephistopheles in LA Shakespeare Company's production of *Dr Faustus*. In 2020, Demitra was also selected as a finalist in the Warner Brother TV World-wide Talent Search out of of "many thousands of auditions".

She has completed a BA from AIM in Dramatic Arts and has further training from The Actors Studio NYC, The Bell Shakespeare Company, Playwriting Australia, NIDA and the Upright Citizens Brigade.



Meet the crew



ROSIE NIVEN: DIRECTOR (SHE/HER)

Rosie is a Sydney-based Director with a portfolio that focuses on LGBT and female-driven works. She is passionate about working with young people and emerging artists to create greater access for everyone in the Australian theatre community.

Rosie has Directed a number of works in Sydney, including Oleanna in conjunction with Maltman Lab and White Ribbon (2016), The Laramie Project and The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later at the Seymour Centre (2018), and Preserving Jars and Full Contact as part of Mardi Gras' PLAYLIST (2019 and 2020).

For the past three years, Rosie has co-curated Theatre Travels' inaugural one-act play festival NO: INTERMISSION, choosing eight works that celebrate emerging artists and groundbreaking work across the globe. Within that festival, she Directed Bleach (2019, which also premiered at Adelaide Fringe in 2020), Queenslander (2019), and Rattling the Keys (2020).

Most recently she Directed Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again. for Sydney Fringe, which was nominated for an Emerging Artist Award, and the 2021 sold-out run of 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche.

She is currently completing her Masters in Drama Therapy at the University of Melbourne.

This will be her fourth time presenting works as part of the Sydney Mardi Gras Festival. Rosie is excited to be bringing another brilliant female-driven queer work to the stage.



CARLY FISHER: PRODUCER (SHE/HER)

Carly is the founder and Artistic Director of Theatre Travels. As a producer, Carly is passionate about bringing debut works to stages in new markets and seeks new writers and performances ready to make their Sydney, Australian and even World premieres. Carly also prioritises telling the stories of real, empowered women in Theatre Travels productions.

Most recently, Carly directed Puppets by Olivia Ruggiero at KXT (Feb '22) and Silenced by Linda Nicholls-Gidley for the Q Theatre Residency Program (Feb '22). Other Recent Credits: Director & Producer - In Their Footsteps by Ashley Adelman (2021), Girl Shut Your Mouth by Gita Bezar (2021, 2020), Final Placement by Ara Watson (2019), Falling Skies by Brayden Frascione (2019). Co-Director - Albumen by Mishka Lavigne, The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman (2018), The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later by Moises Kaufman (2018). Producer - 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche by Andrew Hobgood and Evan Linder (2021), Rattling the Keys by Zoe Muller (2021), Lipstick by Lane Stanley (2021), Bleach by Dan Ireland Reeves (2020, 2019) and more. Carly is the producer and co-curator of the NO: INTERMISSION festival (2019, 2021).

Still to come in 2022: Director & Producer: In Their Footsteps (Canberra and Adelaide Tour), The Sweet Science of Bruising (Sydney). Director: Puppets (Melbourne, Edinburgh, Bathurst Tour), Silenced (Sydney). Producer: 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche (Adelaide), Young Bodies/Somebody's (Sydney), The Culture (New York).

<https://www.carlyfisher.net/>

Meet the crew



MADDIE HODGES: STAGE MANAGER (SHE/HER)

Maddie graduated from The Academy of Film, Theatre and Television (AFTT) in 2020 and has maintained a strong passion for theatre and is beyond excited to be back again for 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche.

While at AFTT, Maddie was the Assistant Stage Manager in Dino Dimitriadis's production of Clinchfield at Downstairs Belvoir and the ASM on Anthony Skuse's production of Yerma on the Belvoir main stage.

In 2021 she was the Stage Manager the Theatre Travels first production of 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche as well as working with them on two shows Rattling the Keys and In Their Footsteps which were a part of their one-act play festival NO:INTERMISSION. More recently Maddie was the Assistant Stage Manager on Queen Lear as part of Sydney Festival.



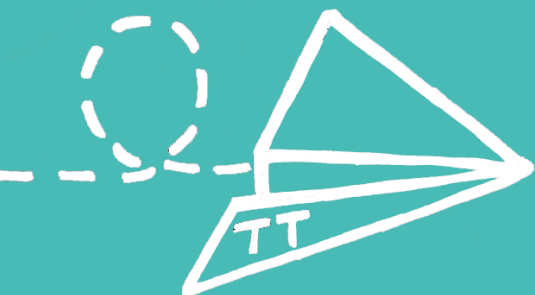
CAPRI HARRIS: LIGHTING DESIGNER (SHE/HER)

Capri Harris is an emerging lighting designer living on Dharawal land. She graduated from the Australian Institute of Music last year with a Bachelor of Performance.

This marks Capri's third time working with Theatre Travels and her first production outside of NSW. Before this Capri worked as the Lighting Designer and Operator for 'Cherry' directed by Nadia Townsend, 'Playpen' directed by Jennifer Hart, '5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche' directed by Rosie Niven as well as, the 2021 season of Theatre Travels 'No: Intermission' Festival for the shows 'In Their Footsteps' directed by Carly Fisher and 'Rattling The Keys' directed by Rosie Niven.

Before graduating she designed, assisted and operated for university shows; 'Emerge Festival' (LD/LA, 2021), 'Love and Information' (LD/OP 2020), 'As You Like it' (LD/OP 2019) 'How To Disappear' (LA/OP, 2018), as well as lighting for musicians such as Ali Barter, Alex Lahey, The Kava Kings, The Moving Stills and Nathan Cavaleri as part of Australian Music Week (OP 2019).

Capri is passionate about making theatre easily accessible so it can be enjoyed by all.



Thank you

RENEE STEIN

LOUISE REILY (PHOTOGRAPHER)

MANNING BAR

CHARITY CHAMPS

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

GRACE SWADLING

JAN PENNISI

JULIA PENNISI'S EXTENSIVE 1950'S WARDROBE

