

YOUR DIGITAL PROGRAM / TEXT ONLY VERSION

# Maureen: Harbinger of Death

By Jonny Hawkins and Nell Ranney

**Tue 14 – Sat 18 Mar / Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre**

**Duration:** 1hr 25mins, no interval

**Warnings:** Contains adult themes, sexual references and the use of herbal cigarettes. Recommended for audiences 15+

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## THIS DIGITAL PROGRAM INCLUDES

Credits

A Note from the Creators

Biographies

About Soft Tread

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## Credits

**A Soft Tread production in association with Sign of the Acorn.**

Writer & Performer **Jonny Hawkins**

Co-conceiver & Director **Nell Ranney**

Set & Costume Designer **Isabel Hudson**

Lighting Designer **Nick Schlieper**

Sound Designer **Steve Toulmin**

Lighting Associate **Morgan Moroney**

Company Stage Manager **Tanya Leach**

Touring Technical Director **Marcus Kelson**

Originating Production Manager **Lachlan Steel**

Producer **Jo Dyer**

## A Note from the Creators

**By Jonny Hawkins & Nell Ranney**

It's an honour to watch a person engage with something they truly love. Something that is uniquely theirs alone. A hobby, a pet or a curiosity. Perhaps an in-depth understanding of something we once found entirely mundane. When a person shares their passion, it can be infectious. Suddenly, something we had no previous knowledge of becomes rather important to us.

This is the story of Maureen and her friends, and our relationships with other elders. We want to share with you the people who've had a profound impact on our lives, who taught us about joy and delight in the intimate spectacle of a living room.

This show is about the beautiful and edifying experience of listening to the wisdom of older women who've had the courage to live dangerously enough to be themselves without shame, even when the world appears to be looking the other way.

While *Maureen: Harbinger of Death* is a mix of fact and fiction, inspired by Jonny's relationship with their dear friend, it has also been informed by writers Helen Garner and Joan Didion, beacon of style Iris Apfel and the artist Leonora Carrington.

We are delighted you have chosen to come along to meet Maureen, and we're sure you'll leave with new appreciation for the world around you and the gift of life, even amongst its harsher details.

*"Sometimes it seems to me that, in the end, the only thing people have got going for them is imagination. At times of great darkness, everything around us becomes symbolic, poetic, archetypal. Perhaps this is what dreaming, and art, are for."* – Helen Garner, *Everywhere I Look*

## Biographies

### **JONNY HAWKINS**

**Writer & Performer**

Jonny Hawkins is an actor, writer and DJ. They studied Acting at WAAPA, where they won the Burton Award for outstanding Shakespearian Performance, and they have subsequently won awards including the Sydney Theatre Critic's Best Newcomer Award. Their appearances across film and TV include *Mr Inbetween*, Stan's *The Other Guy*, *Les Norton*, the ABC's award-winning *RIOT* and the mini-series *Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door*. As a writer, their short film *Joy Boy* won Best Film at Melbourne's Queer Film Festival and Best Screenplay at Vivid's Fresh Flix. *Maureen* is Jonny's first full-length play.

Jonny is also one of Sydney's best loved DJs and founder of The Dollar Bin Darlings, preaching disco and love all over Australia.

## **NELL RANNEY**

### **Co-conceiver & Director**

Nell Ranney is a director and producer of original and multi-disciplinary theatre work. Her credits include the Sydney premiers of *TUESDAY* by Louris van de Geer (Belvoir) and *She Rode Horses Like the Stock Exchange* by Amelia Roper (KXT), and she is currently leading creative development of *GRLZ* by Victoria Haralabidou (supported by Australia Council of the Arts). Nell was Associate Director for Debra Oswald's solo performance *Is There Something Wrong With That Lady?* (Griffin Theatre), and in 2018 she was appointed the Baylis Assistant Director at the Old Vic in London for *SYLVIA* (Old Vic/ ZooNation) by Kate Prince. Her previous roles in artistic programming include Program Manager of The Garden of Unearthly Delights from 2018-2020 and Artistic Associate of Belvoir from 2016-2017.

## **ISABEL HUDSON**

### **Set & Costume Designer**

Isabel Hudson is a Set and Costume Designer whose recent work includes *Winyanboga Yurringa* (dir. Anthea Williams) and *Every Brilliant Thing* (dir. Kate Champion) at Belvoir, and *Jess & Joe Forever* and *TUESDAY* as part of Belvoir's 25A program. Her past credits include designing set and costumes for *The Rise & Fall of Little Voice* at the Darlinghurst Theatre, *The Shifting Heart* (White Box Productions), *The Walworth Farce* (dir Kim Hardwick), *A Girl Is A Half Formed Thing* (dir. Erin Taylor), *You Got Older* (Kings Cross Theatre dir. by Claudia Barrie) and *King of Pigs* (Red Line productions dir. By Blazey Best). In 2018 Isabel was the Winner of Best Independent Scenic Design at the Sydney Theatre Awards. She is graduate of the NIDA Design Course (2015), holds a Bachelor of Arts (Screen and Sound) from the University of New South Wales (2012) and was awarded the William Fletcher Foundation Tertiary Grant for emerging artists in 2015. Isabel is also a lecturer for the Design for Performance program at NIDA.

## **NICK SCHLIEPER**

### **Lighting Design**

Nick Schlieper designs for all of the major performing arts companies in Australia and works regularly in Europe and the USA. He is one of Australia's most highly awarded designers having received six Melbourne Green Room Awards, six Sydney Theatre Awards (two for set design and four for lighting), the inaugural 2013 Australian Production Designers Guild Best Lighting Award, as well as five Helpmann Awards and in 2016 a Nomination for Best Lighting and Best Set (with Simon Phillips) for *North by Northwest* (MTC and Kay and McLean Productions). His credits include *War of the Roses* for Sydney Theatre Company performed at Sydney Festival and Perth Festival; *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* in London's West End; *Dissocia*, *Elling*, *The City* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Sydney Theatre Company (Sydney, Washington and New York) and *Poor Boy* for Sydney Theatre Company and Melbourne Theatre Company. Nick has also designed lighting for *Scheherazade* for the Australian Ballet, the acclaimed *Cinderella* for Royal New Zealand Ballet and several pieces for Bangarra Dance Theatre, including *Bush* and *Sandsong*.

## **STEVE TOULMIN**

### **Sound Designer**

Steve Toulmin is one of Australia's most sought-after composers and sound designers for theatre. He has worked with the country's most acclaimed companies and directors and has had his work tour nationally and internationally – most recently with *Blanc De Blanc* playing at The Spiegel tent in Christchurch. His credits as Composer and/or Sound Designer for theatre include numerous productions for Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Bell Shakespeare, Queensland Theatre Company, La Boite Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre and Sydney Festival. For Strut & Fret he has designed sound for *Blanc De Blanc*, *Love Riot*, *Funhouse*, *Life The Show*, *Blanc De Blanc Encore* and his independent productions include *Prehistoric*, *After All This*, *Queen of Wolves*, *Me Pregnant*, *Rommy*, *Porn.Cake*, and *Trapture*.