

Presented by The Hive Collective and Metro Arts

CONVICTION

By Zoey Dawson | Directed by Kate Wild

17 - 27 March 2021

New Benner Theatre, Metro Arts



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Self-doubt. We all have it. We all see ourselves and the world through the distorting lens of our insecurities. We all worry that the parts of ourselves we choose to share will be found wanting. We all feel the Fear when we go out on a limb, whether it's wearing a particularly daring pantsuit, trying a new hobby we might be terrible at, or saying "I love you" for the very first time.

For artists, self-doubt is an occupational hazard. Exposure is obligatory. Failure is inevitable – an essential, and often public, part of the process. Making work requires many terrifying leaps into the darkness.

In *Conviction*, Zoey Dawson takes her self-doubt on a Homeric journey of discovery with the playwright as hero. With a clumsy and over-the-top first draft as her starting point, she travels first through the Pit of Despair and then the Fires of Hell to emerge triumphant on the other side.

This very personal story is told with an honesty that is often hilarious, sometimes brutal, but always generous. With her mocking self-portrayal Dawson gifts us with a sense of kinship, a shared struggle, and shows us the way out of our own self-doubt into the light of purpose and conviction.

Kate Wild | Director

PRODUCTION CREDITS

CREATIVES

KATE WILD

Director

SARAH WINTER

Designer

CHRISTINE FELMINGHAM

Lighting Designer

ANNA WHITAKER

Sound Designer

NATALIE CALLAGHAN

Stage Manager

KIERAN CERATO

Production Manager

NJ PRICE

Fight Director

CAST

EMILY BURTON

2/Lillian/Child

LUISA PROSSER

3/Agatha/Mother

KEVIN SPINK

1/William/Matey Boy

JEREMIAH WRAY

4/Mud/Convict

THE HIVE COLLECTIVE

HEATHER FAIRBAIRN

HEIDI MANCHÉ

KATE WILD

Artistic Directors

CREATIVE ASSOCIATES

TRUDY GUNSTON

First Nations Emerging
Creative Producer

EMILY WELLS

Directing Associate

RHUMER DIBALL

Education/Dramaturg
Associate

JESSICA PALFREY

Design Associate

STEPHEN HENRY

Season Photographer

BIOGRAPHIES



THE HIVE COLLECTIVE

Hive is a new theatre collective led by Artistic Directors Heather Fairbairn, Heidi Manché and Kate Wild. These three established directors are thrilled to be producing and supporting each other's work, creating jobs for local artists and offering quality independent theatre for Brisbane's audiences



KATE WILD – DIRECTOR

A graduate of NIDA's directing course, Kate has worked with some of the UK's most prestigious theatres including the Young Vic, English Touring Theatre, and the Gate Theatre, where she was Associate Director. After relocating to Brisbane in 2015, Kate founded Now Look Here theatre company and directed *Splendour*, *A Slight Ache* and *The Seagull* for the company. Other directing credits include: *Mariana Pineda* (Gate Theatre), *Simply Heavenly* (Young Vic Youth Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard* (Southwark Playhouse and fortyfive downstairs), *A Doll's House*, (Alma Theatre), *Drowned World* (The Storeroom), *Billy Liar* (RWCMD), and *Sons of the Prophet* (QUT Acting). Kate is the award-winning writer and director of *The Sound of a Finished Kiss*, a new Australian musical featuring the songs of The Go-Betweens, which won Best Independent Production and Best Musical at the 2018 Matilda Awards. She is currently developing a new immersive theatre work set in an Australian campground and has just directed *Rising* for Playlab Theatre at Metro Arts' New Benner Theatre.



ZOEY DAWSON – PLAYWRIGHT

Zoey Dawson is a theatre-maker and screenwriter based in Naarm/Melbourne on the lands of the Kulin nation. Her recent credits include as playwright, *Australian Realness* (Malthouse Theatre), *Conviction* (ZLMD Shakespeare/Darebin Arts), *Welcome to Nowhere* (Monash University/Malthouse), *Calamity* (MTC NEON/ZLMD Shakespeare), *The Unspoken Word is "Joe"* (MKA/La Mama/Griffin Theatre/Brisbane Festival), *Madonna Arms* (I'm Trying To Kiss You/Next Wave) and *I Know There's A Lot Of Noise Outside But You Have To Close Your Eyes* (I'm Trying To Kiss You/LaMama/NIDA). As well as performing in much of her own work, she appeared in a world-ish tour of *The Economist* (MKA/World Theatre Festival/Edinburgh Fringe), for which she was nominated for a UK Stage Award for Best Actress. As director, she staged an all-female *Romeo and Juliet* at fortyfivedownstairs (ZLMD Shakespeare). She won the Melbourne Festival Discovery Award for *The Unspoken Word is "Joe"*.

THANK YOU

The Hive Collective would like to thank Nancy Bamaga and Karen Miller of Bamaga Productions, the Performing Arts department at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Playlab Theatre and QPAC for their generous support of this production.

METRO ARTS' PROGRAMMING TEAM

JO THOMAS

CEO + Creative Director

SHANI GOULD

Programming and Ticketing Administrator

DANIELLE CARNEY

Producer

metroarts.com.au

Metro Arts and the artists acknowledge the Jagera and Turrbal peoples, as the custodians of this land, recognising their connection to land, waters and community. We honour the story-telling and art-making at the heart of First Nation's cultures, and the enrichment it gives to the lives of all Australians.



Metro Arts

METRO ARTS PARTNERS



**Australia Council
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Government**

Metro Arts is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Metro Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.



Metro Arts acknowledges West Village and Hutchinson Builders as Founding Venue Partners.

Metro Arts is proudly supported by TAFE Queensland as Education Partner. The Emerging Producer Xchange is supported by The Ian Potter Foundation.

Metro Arts acknowledge the generosity of our Patron, Wesley Enoch AM.

THE HIVE COLLECTIVE PARTNERS



**Queensland
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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

The Hive Collective's 2021 season is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and through the Creative Sparks Fund, a partnership between the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council to support local arts and culture in Brisbane.

The Hive Collective would also like to acknowledge the generous support of our co-presenters Metro Arts without which this season would not have been possible.

Despite this support, the professional theatre-makers on this production (including all members of The Hive Collective) have all made a considerable in-kind contribution of time and expertise in the interests of enriching the Australian cultural landscape. Without their participation, much of Australia's theatre would not be possible. We thank you for supporting independent theatre.