

MELBOURNE
FESTIVAL

08—25
OCTOBER
2015

MEDIA
RELEASE



“Jacobs is one of the hot new talents of Australian theatre.” – *The Guardian*, Australia

Theatre Works

Thursday 08 – Saturday 24 October

Wed — Sat at 7.30pm

Thu 22 also at 1pm

Sat 24 also at 3.30pm

1 hr 10 mins, no interval

\$50 / \$35

Transaction fees may apply

www.festival.melbourne

Theatre Works 03 9534 3388

Ticketmaster 136 100

#melbfest

AUSTRALIA // Theatre

World Premiere

Melbourne Festival co-commission

Melbourne Festival, St Martins and Theatre Works present

THE BACCHAE

St Martins and Fraught Outfit

Conceived by Adena Jacobs and Aaron Orzech after Euripides

Director Adena Jacobs

Music Kelly Ryall

Performed by members of the St Martins teen ensemble

A city teeters on the edge of crisis. A god arrives in the guise of a mortal. A monster defies the audience. Boundaries collapse; old, young, boy, girl, human, beast, mortal, divine, good, bad, light and dark.

A group of teenage girls pray to the god Dionysus, seeking salvation in the arms of excess. Around them a plague rages and their city burns, as all they've known turns to dust at their hands.

Co-commissioned by Melbourne Festival, St Martins and Theatre Works, and co-created by Aaron Orzech and critically-acclaimed director Adena Jacobs with a collaborating ensemble of young female actors and musicians from the acclaimed St Martins, **The Bacchae** is an epic, and hallucinatory theatrical experience.

Through the perspective of young people, the core themes of sacrifice, worship, freedom and the inescapability of violence become brilliantly urgent and ever more complex.

The Bacchae is the second instalment in a series of three works by Fraught Outfit in conjunction with young performers for an adult audience. Fraught Outfit and St Martins previously collaborated on the critically acclaimed *On The Bodily Education Of Young Girls* for MTC's 2013 Neon Festival.

Fraught Outfit is a Melbourne based independent theatre company, established in 2010 by Artistic Director Adena Jacobs. Fraught Outfit seeks to re-frame known mythologies through a lens that is feminine, contemporary and radical. The Company has produced three acclaimed works: *Elektra* (The Dog Theatre), *Persona* (Theatre Works, Malthouse, Belvoir) and *On The Bodily Education Of Young Girls* (MTC - Neon Festival).

Artistic Director Adena Jacobs was the 2013-2014 Resident Director

MEDIA CONTACT

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395
tatia@tspublicity.com.au

EMMA COSTELLO M 0421 201 344
emma@tspublicity.com.au

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at Belvoir, where she directed *Wizard Of Oz*, *Oedipus Rex* and *Hedda Gabler*. Other directing credits include *Exil* (Sydney Chamber Opera/Carriageworks), *The City* (Red Stitch) and *This Is For You* (La Mama).

St Martins, under Artistic Director Clare Watson, creates performance work that is fuelled by the voices, aesthetics and concerns of children and teenagers. They believe adults have a lot to answer for, and children ask the best questions. And so, they make work with and by children for adults.

Theatre Works is a creative hub in St Kilda led by Daniel Clarke. Supporting many of Melbourne's most visionary artists develop and present ambitious works of scale, Melbourne Festival offerings have included *No Child...* by Nilaja Sun, *M+M* by Daniel Schlusser Ensemble and *Room of Regret* by THE RABBLE. Recently Theatre Works co-commissioned and toured UK performer Bryony Kimmings' *Fake it 'til you Make it* across Australia.

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