

**MELBOURNE
THEATRE COMPANY**

3 MAY-22 MAY 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE LAWLER

23 MAY-7 JUNE 2024
REGIONAL VICTORIA

WORLD PROBLEMS

BY **EMMA MARY HALL**

DIRECTED BY **CASSANDRA FUMI**

A woman summons up her childhood with an intensity so visceral it seems to be playing out in front of us. But as her memories draw closer to the present, the space between the personal and the speculative grows ever more blurry. Where do you end, and everything else begins?

An elegy for the future we're yet to inherit, *World Problems* is both comical and terrifying, gripping and cathartic. A solo time capsule catapulting across the ages, it seamlessly merges the most private and intimate reflections with a world-spanning perspective.

Theatre maker Emma Mary Hall has cemented a reputation for herself as one of the most astute and insightful observers of the shape of things to come, blending a poetic sensibility with rigorous attention to global and historical matters.

Performed with vivid physicality by Carly Sheppard, directed by Cassandra Fumi (Associate Director, *A Very Jewish Christmas Carol*) and designed by Dann Barber (*Bloom*), *World Problems* trains a microscope on one soul to chart the future of all humanity.

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2024 Education & Families Show

Melbourne Theatre Company is producing a new and original production of the award-winning and critically-acclaimed script *World Problems* by Emma Mary Hall.

PLAYWRIGHT Emma Mary Hall
DIRECTOR Cassandra Fumi
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER Dann Barber
PERFORMER Carly Sheppard

Recommended for ages 14+

Submitted for 2024 VCE Playlist

Free in-person drama workshops for local schools

2020 Green Room Award for Best New Writing

‘At once reflective and genuine.’
DAILY REVIEW

‘*World Problems* isn't only a show for humans. This is a show for every living thing on this planet.’
MY MELBOURNE ARTS

‘*World Problems* will make you feel calm and grateful, it will inspire you to appreciate every part of you, every good and embarrassing memory, and all the people in your life.’
THEATRE PRESS

‘In single moments it is elating and full of humour, the next second it turns upon itself and burrows into a universal sense of outrage. This work proves that art still has the ability to uphold pivotal conversations which bring individuals together.’
MELBOURNE CRITIQUE

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Technical & Marketing Information

Artform	Scripted play
Cast size	One (1)
Duration	60 minutes (no interval) + post-show Q&A
Audience	Recommended for ages 14+ / school years 8-12
Touring party	Four (4): performer, stage mgr., technician, tour mgr.
Venue	Black box studio in end-on configuration or proscenium arch
Bump-in	5 hours
Bump-out	1.5 hours
Venue staff	2 x LX & 1 x SND for bump-in
Staging	Minimum depth 7.5m, width 10m
Lighting	Pre-rig, maximum 30 fixtures from venue stock; venue Haze machine if available; Company tours ETC Nomad console with wireless DMX
Sound	FOH PA; Company tours MacBook Pro running QLab through RME interface

Marketing materials with venue-specific information:

- Season launch trailer available from 13 Sep 2023
- Production trailer available from 12 Mar 2024
- Digital flyer and social media assets
- A6 postcard and A2 poster

Draft season launch trailer (mute, not colour-graded):

Link: <https://f.io/IL-0Yh2o>

Password: mtc2023

Education Resources

Submitted to the Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority for the 2024 VCE Playlist.

Education Pack with classroom activities, behind-the-scenes insights and links to the Victorian Curriculum for Drama Years 8-10 and VCE Drama.

Suite of online interactive and video resources

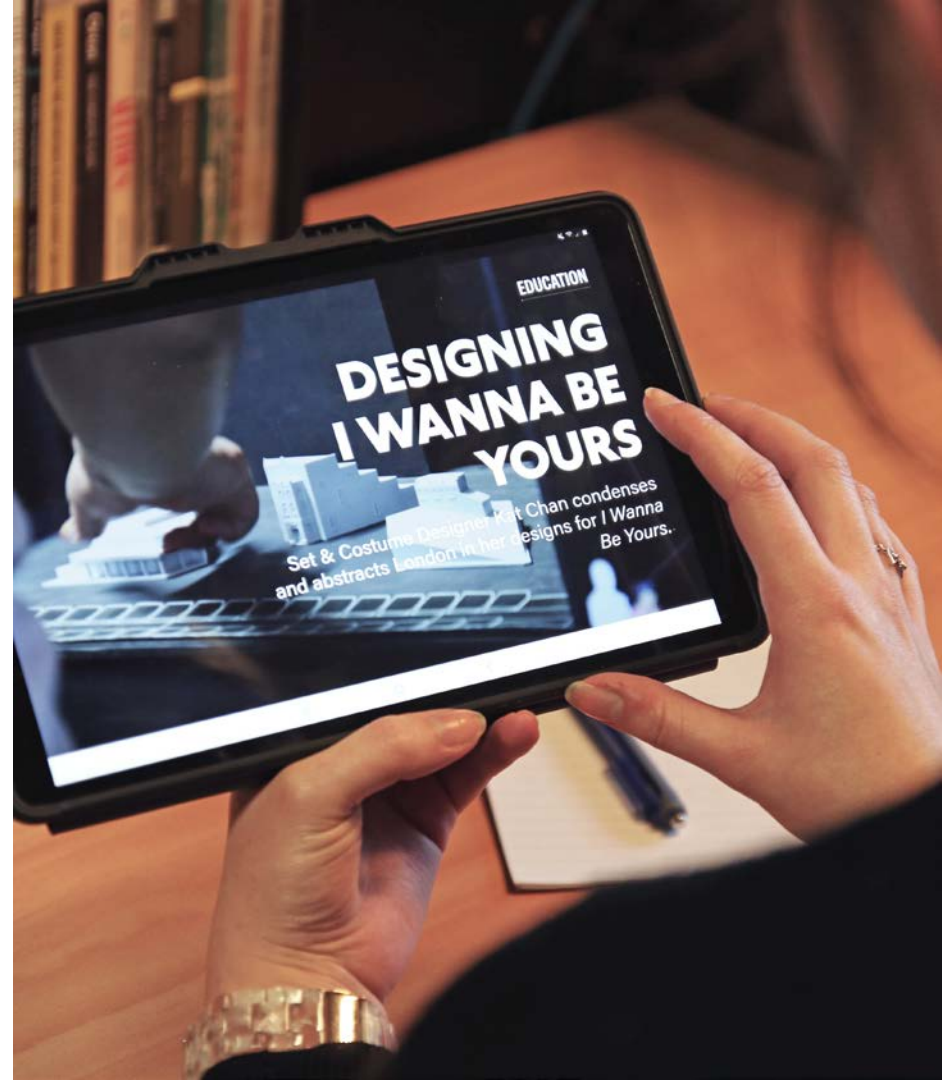
<https://www.mtc.com.au/education/resources/>

Free in-person drama workshops for local schools

<https://www.mtc.com.au/regional-enrichment/>

Script available to purchase from Australian Plays Transform

<https://apt.org.au/product/world-problems-2/>



Synopsis

World Problems is based a deceptively simple conceit, the text almost entirely composed of a series of sentences and paragraphs beginning with the words 'you remember.' The 'you' which the speaker refers to is incredibly specific, made up of a myriad idiosyncratic moments remembered from a life – huge political events and tiny intimate recollections.

As the play continues and the subject ages, memory becomes unreliable in places, with mis-rememberings, corrections and acknowledgement of entirely false memories and impossible-yet-real memories.

The narrative moves from our own history (e.g. the World Trade Center attacks is one memory) to a speculative future. We are taken through future upheavals, revolutions and an evolution of what it is to be human. The performer foresees a future where humanity has found solutions to world problems through technological innovation and improved empathy.

The narrative ends many millennia in the distant future, evoking a new world better than the last one.



Biographies

PLAYWRIGHT Emma Mary Hall

Emma trained as an actor at the Victorian College of the Arts and holds an Honours degree in political science from the Australian National University in Canberra. She makes political, often comedic works. She uses performance to try to understand how political orders govern domestic and psychological worlds.

DIRECTOR Cassandra Fumi

Cassandra Fumi is a theatre-maker and artist who makes interdisciplinary performance works. She often works with non-performers, community groups, and young people to create new works. Her practice is socially-engaged and holds at its heart a championing of theatre's unique ability to allow for the creation of community, expression, and a deep seeing and sharing.

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER Dann Barber

Dann Barber is an award winning set and costume designer and a graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in Design. Dann won Green Room awards for Best Design in Cabaret for *The Ghetto Cabaret* (2019) and Best Design in Independent Theatre for *The Mermaid* at La Mama in 2021.

PERFORMER Carly Sheppard

Carly Sheppard is a First Nations cross-disciplinary performance artist whose work negotiates across dance and theatre performance, sculpture, drawing, voice, and installation. Carly has won Green Room awards for Best Production In Experimental Theatre for *Crackers N Dip With Chase N Toey* and Best Performance in Independent Theatre for *Love* by Dee and Cornelius.

Contact

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