

VCASS | THEATRE ARTS | 2024

presents

THE TRIAL

By Jason Klarwein
after Franz Kafka

Wednesday 29 May @ 7pm | Thursday 30 May @ 7pm

Chapel Off Chapel

12 Little Chapel Street, Prahan, VIC. 3181



Education
and Training



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL

CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

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THE TRIAL



By Jason Klarwein
after Franz Kafka



Tara Daniel | Director
SPECIALIST THEATRE ARTS COORDINATOR

Directors' Notes

The Trial is one of the great dystopian works of fiction in the twentieth century; so much so that the term Kafkaesque has come to describe the absurd and nightmarish aspects of the administration and bureaucracy of contemporary everyday life. Czech novelist Franz Kafka wrote frequently of the sense of futility this engenders in us as individuals. Examples of nonsensical bureaucratic process exist everywhere, from managing our many passwords, to completing online forms, to the frustrating ordeal that is interacting with Centrelink. Simultaneously, we navigate social media, the rise of AI and surveillance technology. Like many dystopian writers, over one hundred years ago, Kafka somehow clearly articulated the experience of what it is to be human in this psychologically fragmented age.

He stopped writing *The Trial* in 1915 and it was published posthumously, unfinished, against his wishes in 1924. Prominent English theatre artist, Steven Berkoff first adapted *The Trial* for the stage in 1971, and drew on a Weimar Cabaret aesthetic, which directors of this show have found appealing ever since. It has also appealed to film makers and has been adapted into several contemporary films.

In 2019, contemporary Australian playwright, Jason Klarwein collaborated with the teenaged actors of the Young Artists' Ensemble with Queensland Theatre. Klarwein wanted to comment on Australia's historically questionable policies concerning refugees and asylum seekers but, not wanting to make depressing, nihilistic theatre, this adaptation takes a wholehearted leap into the absurd. Klarwein also switched up the gender of many of the characters to make efforts towards gender equity in lead roles in theatre. These themes are still very relevant right now, and he very generously worked with us to make minor edits to the original script to suit audiences in 2024, for which we are very appreciative. The Pink Floyd song we added as a prologue to the show serves as a metaphor for the central character, K's experience, and establishes a motif that recurs throughout Klarwein's script.

From the exaggerated characters to the ridiculous scenarios in which they find themselves, our VCASS graduating class of 2024 present this hilariously uproarious play in the vein of *The Office*, *Broad City* and *The Good Place* - with an Australian dash of *Sammy J's Playground Politics*. You will laugh and, while you're laughing, hopefully Kafka's message will find its way through.

I would like to thank the cast. This group of incredibly energetic, dedicated, and hard-working young people have given this show their all. They regularly impress me with not only acting, singing and dancing skills, but also their comedic sensibilities, intelligence, empathy and kindness. They have been a joy to work with on this production, and we have all grown because of it.



Enhui Cai and Sophia Grant

THEATRE ARTS CAPTAINS 2024



Theatre Arts Captains' Notes

This will be our first and last text-based, full-length public performance, so creating *The Trial* has been quite trialling for all of us involved (pun most definitely intended).

As Theatre Arts Captains, we had the privilege of working with our director, Tara Daniel, who has generously offered professional skills and insight in assisting us throughout the process, while also putting up with all of our year twelve shenanigans. Year 12 Theatre Arts couldn't have been possible without her help and support, so please give her a round of applause every time you see her in the foyer to show your appreciation.

Through Klarwein's adaptation of Kafka's novel, he has opened the door for more diverse opportunities for actors that weren't as available previously and this has allowed us to creatively explore the contextual meaning of the performance. It also helped us realise through research how progressive that is within the current landscape of entertainment. It also shines a mirror on some of the deficits in the Australian political and societal climates.

We hope you think deeply about the themes and messages of the show, or at the very least, walk home with 6-packs from all the laughing you do in this comedic masterpiece we have put together. Feel free to say "heeeelloooooo" to us after the show.





CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

PROLOGUE

OFFICER 1	Darcy Smith
OFFICER 2	Ashlyn Norman
DETAINEE (PINK)	Oliver Turner
PERSON	Liliana Crismani
DETAINEE'S MOTHER	Gabriela Snook-Villalobos
THE JUDGE	Phoebe Jackman

THE TRIAL

JOSEPHINE K (K)	Enhui Cai
FRANK	Ashlyn Norman
WILL	Darcy Smith
SUPERVISOR	Matilda Milewska
MRS GRUBACK	Olly Spencer
BURSTNER	Sophia Grant
BOSS	Mika Hatherley
CARLSON	Tia Upiter
STEWART	Charles Court
TRISH	Chloe Johnstone
ASH	Oliver Turner
KAREN	Lily Major
EMAIL	Minka Lukey
SECURITY GUARD	Mika Hatherley
MAGISTRATE	Minka Lukey
LOVER 1	Chloe Johnstone
LOVER 2	Tia Upiter
PERSON (UNHCR)	Liliana Crismani







DANCERS

Tea Govers-Thomas | Mika Hatherley
Phoebe Jackman | Chloe Johnstone
Lily Major | Ashlyn Norman
Gabriela Snook-Villalobos | Tia Upiter
Lucas Dwyer | Tea Govers-Thomas
Phoebe Jackman | Minka Lukey
Olly Spencer

DEFENDANTS

Gabriela Snook-Villalobos
Elsie Steele

INFORMATION CLERK (TANYA)
INFORMATION OFFICER (TRACY)

LENNY

Charles Court

HARRIET HULD QC

Phoebe Jackman

BLOCK

Chloe Johnstone

CLIENTS

Tia Upiter | Sophia Grant
Olly Spencer

TITUS

Lucas Dwyer

JUANITA

Tea Govers-Thomas

CREW

PLAYWRIGHT

Jason Klarwein

DIRECTOR

Tara Daniel

SET DESIGN

Charles Court | Tea Govers-Thomas
Minka Lukey | Darcy Smith

SET CONSTRUCTION

Zac Koukoravas | Chris Davis

SET DRESSING

Lucas Dwyer | Mika Hatherley
Elsie Steele | Oliver Turner

PROPS

Tia Upiter

Enhui Cai | Mika Hatherley,
Elsie Steele

COSTUME DESIGN

Tara Daniel | Phoebe Jackman
Lily Major | Gabriela Snook-Villalobos
Olly Spencer | Tia Upiter





HAIR & MAKE-UP

WIG STYLING

LIGHTING DESIGN

LIGHTING OPERATION

SOUND DESIGN

SOUND SOURCED FROM
FREESOUND.ORG

ARRANGEMENT OF PINK FLOYD'S
THE TRIAL (PROLOGUE)

MUSICIANS

SOUND OPERATION

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

CHOREOGRAPHY

POSTER DESIGN

TITLE TYPOGRAPHY DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHY &
PROGRAM DESIGN

CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL
PROMOTION

STAGE MANAGEMENT

FRONT OF HOUSE

Liliana Crismani | Chloe Johnstone

Phoebe Jackman

Matilda Milewska | Ashlyn Norman

Oliver Turner

Calysta Morgan

Lucas Dwyer | Sophia Grant

Brown Sound | Craig Smith

Eye North | Finn Sound

Grape Melon | Iso Hoo

Lag Music | Lena Orsa

Reid Mangan

Isaac Gardner

Brooklin Bouphasavanh

Isaac Gardner | Mark Hartland Van Driel

Ji Hun Hwang | Arthur Lou

Tara Daniel

Jackson Castiglione

Tara Daniel | Tea Govers-Thomas

Mika Hatherley | Phoebe Jackman

Chloe Johnstone | Lily Major

Ashlyn Norman

Erk Cadzow

Alicia Thienpatoon

Dylan Breninger

Peter Ritchie

Silvana Rossington

Joel Batalha | Alex Joy

Nicole Sage







Special thanks

To our outstanding TA team at VCASS; Joel Batalha, Jackson Castiglione, Olivia Connolly, Alex Joy, Silvana Rossington, Nicole Sage and - you have all helped in so many ways, from keeping students calm backstage to working out how to create a live-feed on stage - it has been a privilege to work with you all and I thank you for your ongoing support.

To our Principal, Hilary Bland, for trusting in my ability to move into Theatre Studies at VCASS and take on the direction of this production.

To VCASS staff Zac Koukoravas & Chris Davis for building our fabulous set. To Adrian Bowler for offering his piano accordion skills and James Rust for helping Isaac Gardner's ensemble to record the track. To Calysta Morgan for her lighting prowess. To Dylan Breninger for taking professional headshots of our cast and collaborating with student artists on our promotional material. To Bridget Higgins and Jenn Purcell for managing all of our purchase orders and to Felicity Torrisi for assisting our costume team with her vinyl cutting expertise.

To Paige Starr for demonstrating her professional make-up skills to our students.

To Jess Maguire at MTC for letting us borrow such a perfect wheelchair and to Jennifer Bismire at Stage School Australia for supplementing our costumes.

To Cate Crowley, Ibrahim Mustafa and Peter Ritchie at Chapel off Chapel for their support of this project - our students have benefited so much from performing in a professional venue and under your professional guidance.

And most of all to Jason Klarwein, for writing a play that inspired such creative output from us all. It has been such a joy to work on this script.





THE CAST
OF
THE
TRIAL



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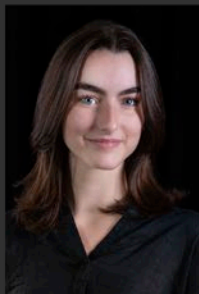
CHARLES
COURT



LILIANA
CRISMANI



LUCAS
DWYER



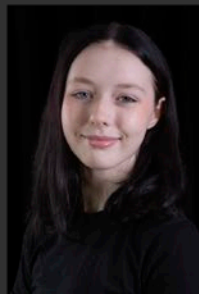
TEA
GOVERS-THOMAS



SOPHIA
GRANT



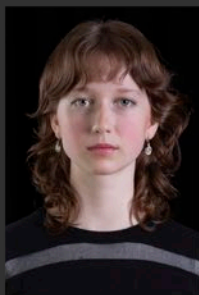
MIKA
HATHERLEY



PHOEBE
JACKMAN



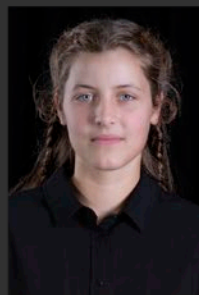
CHLOE
JOHNSTONE



MINKA
LUKEY



LILY
MAJOR



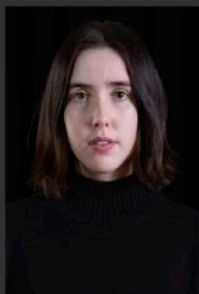
TILLY
MILEWSKA



ASHLYN
NORMAN



DARCY
SMITH



GABI SNOOK-
VILLALOBOS



MOLLY
SPENCER



ELSIE
STEELE



OLIVER
TURNER



TIA
UPITER



2024 YEAR 12 THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS
(PHOTOGRAPH BY PARADE PICS)

**VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

PRINCIPAL
Hilary Bland

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Joel Batalha, Donatella Mannolini,
James Rust & Karen Schofield

THEATRE ARTS STAFF
Joel Batalha, Daniele Buatti,
Jackson Castiglione, Olivia Connolly,
Tara Daniel, Alex Joy, Nicole Melloy
& Nicole Sage

**PROMOTIONAL DESIGN
& PHOTOGRAPHY**
Dylan Breninger

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Ticket information available @
www.vcass.vic.edu.au

SAVE THE DATE

- **MUSIC | Choral Fantasy**
27 August @ Melbourne Recital Centre
- **DANCE | Major Performance**
29, 30 & 31 August @ Malthouse Theatre

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