

PRESENTING PARTNERS



OUTER URBAN PROJECTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
LA MAMA COURTHOUSE  
THE BOWERY THEATRE AND  
BUNJIL PLACE

PRESENT



THE AUDITION  
THE AUDITION

SUPPORTED BY



The original production of The Audition was developed and presented with support from the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation, Besen Family Foundation, Inner North Community Foundation, La Mama Theatre and Outer Urban Projects school and community partners.

LA MAMA COURTHOUSE  
BUNJIL PLACE  
THE BOWERY THEATRE

CARLTON  
NARRE WARREN  
ST ALBANS

22 MAY–2 JUNE  
6 JUNE  
21 JUNE

TERM 2 2024  
EDUCATION SHOWS  
SUITABILITY YEARS 9–12+

## THE AUDITION

The Audition is a moving insight into the protocols and powers that permit or deny entry into our country and to our stages. The gatekeepers. The Audition examines the parallels between actors auditioning for work and refugees seeking asylum in Australia. A cohesive, multi-authored work by Iranian asylum seeking artists and immigrants and acclaimed Australian playwrights, The Audition honours those whose lives are spent awaiting entry. Contrasting yet cohesive, transformation of character, time and place hauntingly meld with metatheatre, verbatim, poetry and song. Glowing in the warmth of a low light, a solitary swing hanging over a mound of red sand suggests the landscape of Woomera Detention Centre, symbolising Australia's harshness. The fourth wall and actor-audience relationship shifts throughout the performance.

This text offers students and their teachers a truly unique opportunity; direct insight into the lived experience of marginalised voices who have collaborated with established contemporary Australian playwrights on a new, meta-theatrical and intertextual work, rich in symbolism and depth. Yet, it is also age-appropriate, entirely accessible, meets VCAA's expectations around community standards and aligns with multiple cultural and stylistic curriculum requirements. Suitably challenging thematic and contextual depth is offered for a secondary school audience, yet the work is subtly woven to convey its intended meanings without triggering a student audience.

**OUTER URBAN PROJECTS** facilitates the performances and storytelling of emerging artists from Melbourne's outer northern suburbs whose origins span five continents. Our works investigate and affirm the challenges of searching for respect, love and emotional security, through vital, empowering work. The Audition poses questions around Australian cultural and artistic identity and belonging, drawn from the lived experience of our diverse artists.

## ARTISTS

**DIRECTOR, CONCEPT & DRAMATURG**  
**IRINE VELA WRITERS** **CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS, MELISSA REEVES, MILAD NOROUZI, PATRICIA CORNELIUS, SAHRA DAVOUDI, TES LYSSIOTIS & WAHIBE MOUSSA**  
**CAST** **MARY SITARENOS, MILAD NOROUZI & SAHRA DAVOUDI**  
**DRAMATURG** **MARYANNE LYNCH**  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER** **GINA GASCOIGNE**  
**DESIGNER** **ADRIENNE CHISHOLM**

***THE STAGE IS A COUNTRY IN ITSELF.  
WITH ITS OWN RULES AND REGULATIONS.  
OR LACK OF THEM.***

***“VISUALLY STRIKING THEATRE MAKING  
WHERE MEANING IS PORTRAYED  
BEYOND WORDS”***  
— NINA ROSSINI  
**BOARD MEMBER DRAMA AUSTRALIA**

***“ELECTRIFYING THEATRE”*** ★★★★★  
— CAMERON WOODHEAD | **THE AGE**

***“THE HUMOUR IS DOUBLE EDGED,  
THE EMOTIONS PIERCING.”***  
— MICHAEL BRINDLEY | **STAGE WHISPERS**

***“METICULOUS DIRECTION”*** ★★★★★  
— ROBINA BAMFORTH | **BE MELBOURNE**

## CURRICULUM LINKS

**LEVEL 9 & 10 ENGLISH**  
**Strand: Literacy**

**Sub-strand: Examining Literature**  
**Features of literary texts**

“Analyse texts from familiar and unfamiliar contexts, and discuss and evaluate their content and the appeal of an individual author's literary style.”

**Sub-strand: Texts in context**  
**Texts and the contexts in which they are used**

“Analyse and evaluate how people, cultures, places, events, objects and concepts are represented in texts, including media texts, through language, structural and/or visual choices.”

**VCE ENGLISH**  
**OUTCOME 2.1 Reading & Exploring texts**

“Students read or view a text, engaging with the ideas, concerns and tensions... Through discussions about representations in a text, they examine the ways readers understand text considering its historical context, and social and cultural values. They also explore the text through the prism of their own cultural knowledge, experiences and understanding of the world...”

**OUTCOME 3.2 Creating texts**

“Students read, explore and revisit examples of text, including extracts, to stimulate structural innovation and to inspire ideas... They make connections with experiences and events in their own lives...use and experiment with vocabulary, text structures... including the use of colloquial and idiomatic language such as slang or dialect... They deepen their understanding of how writing can move, provoke and/or inspire.”

**VCE LITERATURE**  
**OUTCOME 1.1 Reading practices**

“Students consider how language, structure and stylistic choices are used in different literary forms and types of text. They consider both print texts, reflecting on the contribution of form and style to meaning, (and) on the degree to which points of view, experiences and contexts shape their own and others' interpretations of text. Students closely examine the literary forms, features and language of texts.”

## SHOW TIMES

**LA MAMA COURTHOUSE**  
**CARLTON 22 MAY–2 JUNE**  
**WEDNESDAYS 1PM\* & 6:30PM**  
**THURSDAYS 11AM\* & 6:30PM**  
**FRIDAYS 11AM\* & 7:30PM**  
**SATURDAYS 7:30PM**  
**SUNDAYS 4PM**

**BUNJIL PLACE**  
**NARRE WARREN 6 JUNE**  
**THURSDAY 11AM\* & 7:30PM**

**THE BOWERY THEATRE**  
**ST ALBANS 21 JUNE**  
**FRIDAY 11AM\* & 7PM**

**\*Q&A**

**EDUCATION SHOWS**

Comprehensive education resources aligned with VCAA curriculum created by expert teachers

**THE AUDITION PUBLISHED IN**  
**‘STAGING ASYLUM, AGAIN—VOL. 2’**  
**CURRENCY PRESS FEB 2024**

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**  
**LA MAMA EDUCATION**  
**PROGRAM SHOW**

**ALL SCHOOL ENQUIRES**  
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