

Rants in the Dark

Based on the book by Emily Writes
Adapted for the stage by Mel Dodge
& Lyndee-Jane Rutherford
Produced by Good Times Company



Preview Season - Five shows only!
Circa One
25 – 29 Sept

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm, Fri – Sat 8pm
\$25 – \$39

Part of WTF! Women's Theatre Festival 2018 

Theatre makers and friends Lyndee-Jane Rutherford and Mel Dodge have been working to adapt Emily Writes' hilarious and heart-felt book about parenting into a play over the past year. Mel and Lyndee-Jane's previous collaborations include the solo show *Miss Brontë*, based on the story of writer Charlotte Brontë, which was performed at Circa in 2014. They toured *Miss Brontë* throughout Victoria and NSW (Australia), with Mel's first child in tow. Earlier this year, during the writing phase of *Rants in the Dark* the play, Mel gave birth to her second child, Rafferty.

"When I was first approached about helping to adapt this play I had no idea about the parallels that I would experience with the material," Mel recently wrote. "It is 3am as I type and I am up with my 4 month old baby who, in three weeks time will be having surgery to repair his cleft lip and palate. Every time we go to the Sydney Children's Hospital I hear Emily Writes' words and am reminded that I am not alone. That many mothers have come before me. Every time I'm up at 3am wishing I was still in bed, I'm reminded of all the other mums who are wishing they were asleep. Every time I lose my patience or drown in parenthood, I hear Emily's words..."



Top: Director Lyndee-Jane Rutherford and cast (Credit: Roc+ Photography)
Below: Co-writer Mel Dodge and son Rafferty

you got this. Although I wish I could be in New Zealand creating the preview season of this work, I know that my little one needs me right now."

Mel's son Rafferty has come through a successful first surgery to correct his cleft lip and palate, and is recovering well. Mel is Sydney based and in addition to raising her two boys she works as a Teaching Artist for Sydney Theatre Company and Bell Shakespeare.

Blonde Poison

By Gail Louw
Director Paul Gittins
Company Plumb Productions
Starring Elizabeth Hawthorne

Circa One
2 – 6 Oct
Five shows only!

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm, Fri – Sat 8pm
\$25 – \$39

Part of WTF! Women's Theatre Festival 2018 

Blonde Poison by Gail Louw is a fantastic piece of writing and a brilliant opportunity for an experienced actor. I was hooked after my first read and Elizabeth Hawthorne immediately sprang to mind to play the complex personality that is Stella Goldschlag. I thought what a fantastic vehicle for Elizabeth and I was thrilled when she agreed to take on the challenge.

We began by slowly working our way through the text. We met half a dozen times over a month to clarify the intention of each moment and then followed up with further sessions to explore the underlying emotional content of the play.



There was also a good deal of research going on. We both read the biography *Stella* by Peter Wyden and the recently published *Holocaust* by Laurence Rees. We even found live footage of Stella as a young innocent looking girl which got us very excited. Very helpful was an in depth account of Stella published in *Der Spiegel*. And of course there are countless Youtube documentaries. Elizabeth has always been fascinated with this period of history and really enjoyed immersing herself in Stella's world.

The response to the play and Elizabeth's performance was overwhelming and led to a completely sold-out Auckland season and we are excited to bring this production to Wellington! - Paul Gittins, Director