

THE DRILL

Presented by Women's Circus as part of Due West Arts Festival



21 November to 1 December, 2019

**DUE
WEST** ◀
ARTS FESTIVAL

women*scircus

“You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.”

- Jeannette Rankin

The Footscray Drill Hall was built in 1914 to facilitate compulsory military training for men and boys aged 12 to 26 years old. Dozens of Footscray locals volunteered at the Drill Hall and these men became one of the first companies sent into battle in World War One - E Company. Soon they would find themselves in one of Australia's bloodiest battles; Gallipoli. Most of the company of 250 did not return... and Footscray became a city in mourning.

A century later, Women's Circus invites audiences to a bold new feminist circus work, sharing untold stories of war through the lens of those left behind. Disappear into the world of 1914 for a surreal journey that blurs the lines between contemporary circus, immersive theatre, historical re-imagining, and art installation. Created and performed by over sixty members and artists, The Drill uncovers buried stories of the site's history to explore the far reaching effects of war on communities.

THE DRILL references WW1, a time when many Aboriginal people fought and lost their lives for a country that didn't recognise them as citizens. We understand there is a much longer, richer history obscured by a colonial war that is still being fought today. There are many Indigenous people from all around Australia living in this area today who, due to the genocide that was and is still being committed on this land, have no way of knowing their country, their place.

We acknowledge this show takes place on the un-ceded lands of the Boon Wurrung & Woi Wurrung peoples and pay our respects to their Elders. We also acknowledge that we are on traditional lands of the Kulin Nation. We offer our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and, through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to any Elders, past, present and emerging attending the show today. We honour them as those who continue to care for land and culture and resist in the face of colonisation. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Cast, Crew and Tech

Performers:

Catherine Arnold, Kristen Bell and baby Joanna, Kelsea Blackburn, Rebecca Bonser, El Boydell, Genevieve Butler, Tess Stapleton-Clark, Di Cunningham, Annie Fayzdaughter, Alex Fuller, Sal Frances, Vivienne Halat, Greta Jean, Charlotte Lepetoukha, Mickey Loveridge, Meg Milligan, Amali McCoppin, Nikii McCoppin, Tanija Parker, Lynne Regan, Susannah Thomas, Luca Trimboli

Creative Director: Penelope Bartlau

Circus Director: Katy Burrows

Producer: Devon Taylor

Production Designer: Emily Barrie

Lighting Designer: Georgie Wolfe

Sound Designer: Kellie-Anne Kimber

Rigging Designer/Head Rigger: Franca Stadler

Production Manager: Beth Weatherly

Stage Manager: Emma Telford

FOH Coordinator: Maya Green

Scent Designer: Erin Adams

Production Assistants: Laura Dunnington, Mich Oliver,
Sarah Platts & Morgaine Presser

Assistant Stage Managers: Monica Christou & Ruth Pearson

Technicians: Millie Levakis-Lucas, Freya Soldnordal
& Liam Webster

Photographer: Marie Watt



Big shout out and love to...

- Women's Circus Board members for your ongoing dedication.
- All volunteers whose time and skills made this vision a reality.
- Our amazing Show Marshals.
- The dedicated research crew behind THE DRILL.
- Our Circus Solidarity Club members.
- Our 2019 Pozible supporters.
- All our wonderful Women's Circus Trainers and Members.
- Jason Lehane from MUST for the amazing tech support.
- Our amazing PR person Eleanor Howlett
- Matthew Harrod from Hobo Design.
- Barking Spider Visual Theatre for props and studio support.
- Families and friends who supported behind the scenes.
- Victoria University's V4U Day 2019 crew for the clean up day.
- Snuff Puppets for the generous use of their space and for being most excellent creative neighbours.

We could not have done this without all of you!

THE DRILL is generously supported by:

