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INCORPORATED

COUCH POTATO

12–27 February 2016

Bluestone Church Arts Space
10A Hyde Street, Footscray





This is the story of how one small break-in saved a family.

Robert lives with his parents. They've been dead for years, but he's still there and nothing in the house has changed. His sister, Lisa, would like to find him a girlfriend. His best mate, Lorrie, just wants him to get laid.

Then The Girl appears. On the couch. Asleep.

When a man who never talks back shares his space with a woman who never talks, who takes care of whom? Is a beautiful woman who cooks, cleans, sleeps, and asks nothing more, really the perfect partner? How long will it be before somebody is forced to speak up?

This absurd new Australian comedy explores the way we navigate grief, family, relationships and love – usually while saying the exact opposite of what we mean. Are we more honest in our words or our actions? How can one stranger's presence bring a family back to life?

About the Playwright

Hayley Lawson-Smith writes about the human condition from a quirky point of view.

She's had many of her short plays produced through events such as Board Shorts, Little Gems, Short and Sweet, PlaySix and various one act play festivals around Victoria. This includes her three plays, *Advertise Here*, *If* and *Second Chance* which were all produced this year at Shepparton Theatre



Company's successful 10 in Ten festival. In 2011, Hayley's first piece of writing, a one act play entitled *Immersed* was staged to excellent reviews. She is also a regular participant in Crash Test Drafts, Melbourne, with many of her ten minute plays receiving judge's choice and people's choice at these competitions.

Last year, the first instalment of Hayley's trilogy, *The Julius Romeros Extravaganza, Part 1: The Bearded Girl* was

published and *Part 2: A New Adventure* was published earlier this year and both books have been well-received in Australia, America, and Indonesia.

Two of Hayley's monologues, *\$* and *Uncle Jack* are scheduled to be performed later this year at Baggage Productions' Mad Women Monologues season, and her short play *Tim Tom Tat* is set to be produced through Birnam Wood Theatre Company's PlaySix season.





'God she does sleep soundly, doesn't she? Is she even alive?'

'Yes she's alive! I saw her move.'

'Are you sure?'

'Pretty sure.'

'Maybe we should check.'

'What, you think she came in here, cooked a casserole, rearranged my kitchen and then just dropped dead?'



Tonmoy Bhattacharya
Lighting/Sound Operator



Belinda Campbell
Director



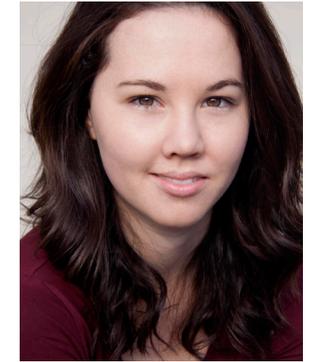
Adele Cooper
Lighting/Sound Operator



Anthea Greco
Stage Manager



Walter Hanna
Voice Actor



Jessica Lawrence
Actor



Hayley Lawson-Smith
Writer



Penny McDonald
Alexander Technique



Jennifer Piper
Actor



Mark Salvestro
Actor



Jessica Stanley
Stage Manager



Luke Styles
Actor



Christine McFetridge
Photographer



Scott Neilson
Technical Wizard



Brian
Mister Fix-It

Design: Belinda Campbell and
Jennifer Piper

Photography: Christine McFetridge and
Tonmoy Bhattacharya

Special thanks to Shirley Sydenham and
Tony Tartaro at Williamstown Little Theatre,
Catherine Hallam at Howard Fine Acting Studio.

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Grant Program.



From the Director

What a wonderful experience this production of Couch Potato has been. Every member of the cast and crew has worked incredibly hard throughout the rehearsal period, to bring together this gorgeous play. I'm very proud of them. And humbled to be a part of it.

This play is to me, most of all, about communication. That simple thing that we so often overlook and sometimes find so very difficult. It's about people trying desperately to connect while never actually saying what they want or feel. It's about those ridiculous – even unbelievable – situations that happen so often in life. It's about family and relationships and grief and – what is this play not about...?

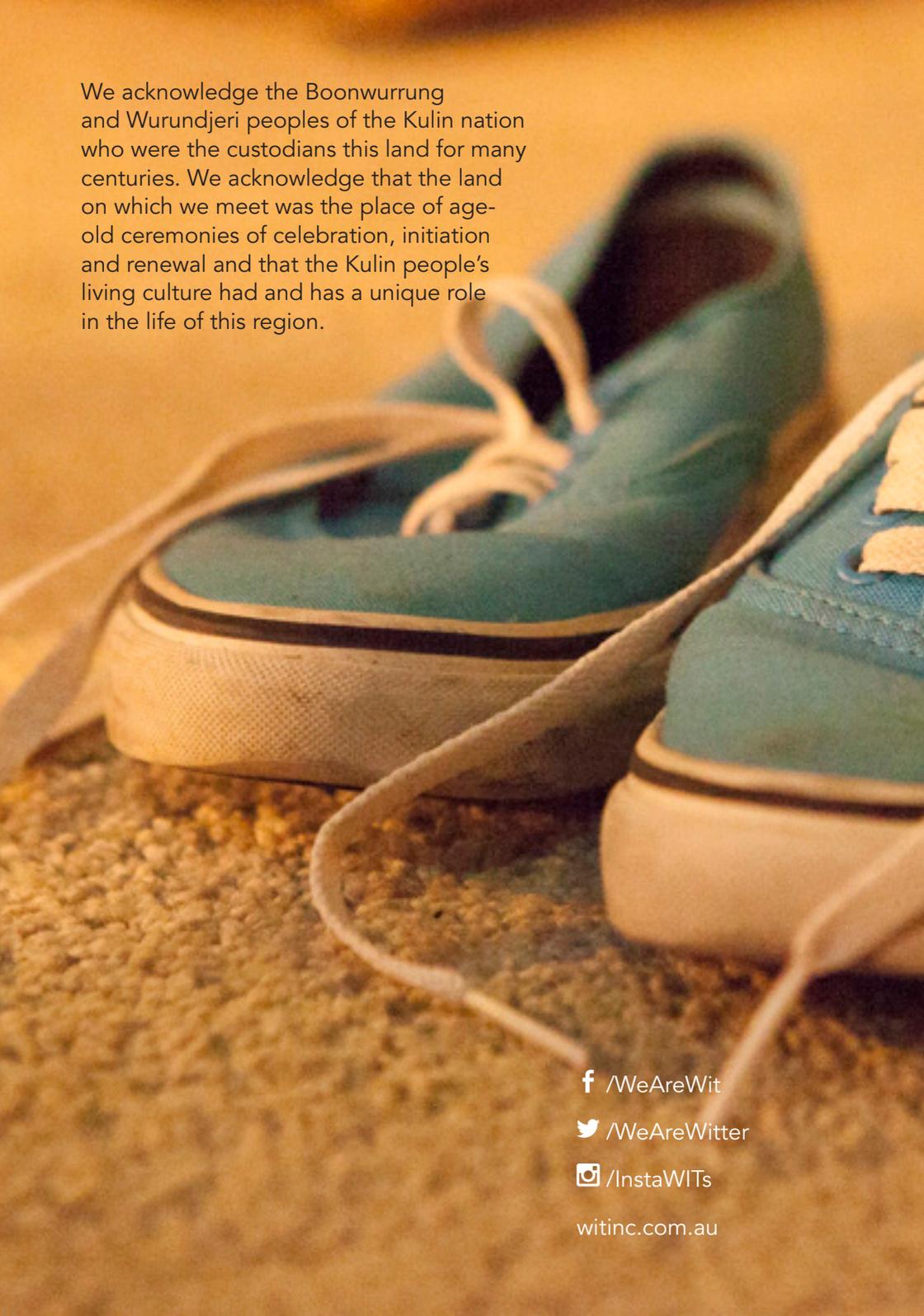
Llamas. It's not about llamas. If you were expecting to see a show about llamas, you might as well go home now.

From those missed connections, unspoken words and the bizarre circumstance, we're finding a story that's not only touching and thought provoking, but incredibly funny. I adore farce. And Dad jokes. Two things that cannot be missed in this play. But all these things, the actors must find truthfully. This cast has done just that and the result is that every night I'm laughing one minute and crying the next.

I'm glad you could join me.

Belinda Campbell

We acknowledge the Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation who were the custodians this land for many centuries. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet was the place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that the Kulin people's living culture had and has a unique role in the life of this region.



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