

NORPA and the Eltham Hotel present

LOVE FOR ONE NIGHT

Premiere Season
8—24 September

HOME

Joon ba na blagganmirr ngalibeh
Garima ba, Garima gu Wadje li ah
gala djagi mah

We ask you to respect, care for and
learn about this special place.

NORPA acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation, traditional custodians of the
land on which we work, create and perform.

Julian Louis with the members of the creative team onsite at the Eltham Hotel in 2021. Image by Tajette O'Halloran.

A LOVE LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Love For One Night is a love letter to country pubs and our region.

The concept started with my long-term collaborator Janis Balodis over a couple of schooners in the beer garden. We started imagining a daisy chain of scenes about love, a small cast playing multiple roles, pub band scoring the action, and all of it happening at an old hotel, surrounded by paddocks, literally in the middle of nowhere, but somehow also in the perfect location for gathering and telling stories.

As a local theatre company, we're driven to create new shows that connect us all. We love making theatre that's popular, joyous, and adventurous. We also enjoy tackling difficult subjects, but the world's felt pretty serious lately, so this show is pure unapologetic entertainment, made to seduce our audience back into the physical and dynamic experience that only theatre can deliver.

From its inception, we wanted to create a work that combined a variety of styles and tell a series of stories, each of them inspired by research from around the pub and improvisations from performers across two phases of creative development. What's emerged is a collection of short scenes that express different aspects of love.

Like many punters recently, we fell head-over-heels with the Eltham Hotel's relaxed vibe, classic character, and good music. This 130-year-old building is the perfect setting for our exploration of affection, and publicans Matt and Luke have been super supportive during what's been a difficult time for NORPA and the performing arts more broadly.

Working in the arts over the last few years hasn't been full of much love. The pandemic closed us down before the floods ripped through our home, just over the hill in beloved Lismore. But these extraordinary challenges have only given us strength and clarity that art is important in everyday life and it's what we absolutely adore.

Making *Love For One Night* has recharged our company. Getting the opportunity for our team to come together again and focus on creating something new, with all the effort that requires and the joy it gives, felt like falling in love for the first time. The way it pulls you in, makes your heart race, and keeps you wanting more.

This is a show with heart. We hope you love it.

Julian Louis
Director

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM



Lloyd Allison Young
Performer & Devisor



Claire Atkins
Performer & Devisor



Phil Blackman
Performer & Devisor



Zoe Gameau
Performer & Devisor



Katia Molino
Performer & Devisor



Jo Turner
Associate Artist



Anna Marais
Associate Artist



Julian Louis
Director & Devisor



Janis Balodis
Writer & Devisor



Mic Gruchy
Video Producer



Poppy Walker
Video Designer

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM



Jamie Birrell
Musical Director



Luke Bennett
Musician



Ben Cox
Musician



Charlotte Haywood
Production & Costume Designer



Alex Torney
Lighting Designer



Kimberley McIntyre
Movement Consultant



Ava Jarrett
Assistant Stage Manager



Kylie Fuad
Stage Manager

PRODUCTION TEAM

Steve Gooding
Production Manager

Karl Johnson
Production Consultant

Sasha Bradbury
Producer

Marcus O'Brien
Camera Operator

Rohan Langford
Eden Crawford-Harriman
Video Switchers

Steve Shaw
Audio Technician

Rich Morrod
Patrick Bollinger
Andrew Thompson
Nat Rolls-Gordon
Technicians

Daniel Dynan
Security

CREATING A DEVISED THEATRE WORK

1. IDEA

The idea for *Love For One Night* grew from squiggles on a whiteboard, looping and linking images and concepts; a country pub, a bar, the classic Aussie pub band, love found, love lost, people telling stories. Inspired by a special place – the middle of nowhere, the centre of everything – The Eltham Hotel.

2. RESEARCH

The Eltham Hotel is a unique place with many stories to tell. Its welcoming and relaxed atmosphere has an innate theatricality. The stories in *Love For One Night* were developed from observations of interactions at the pub, and chats with locals who offered us their stories and experiences of love, in all its forms. Romantic love, infatuation, parental love, friendship and more.

The form of *Love For One Night* is inspired by Schnitzler's play *La Ronde* – translated best to 'round dance' or 'roundelay'. Our interpretation is a series of duets, where one actor/character from a scene stays on stage and is joined by a different actor/character in a new scene. This format offers performers the opportunity to play multiple roles and tell a variety of stories in playful and theatrical ways.

3. EXPLORATION & PLAY

Following the research stage, Julian brings together a group of actors and some of the creative team to respond to and play with the concepts and starting points, and to explore stories and characters through improvisation and movement.

NORPA engaged playwright and long-time collaborator Janis Balodis to initiate some scenarios, based on the material from the research gathered by Rick Bannister, and development stages.

The scenes are developed in a variety of ways – some from stories that have been shared with us, some are created through improvisations, some through genre-play, while some are adaptations of other narrative sources. The outline allows for scenes of dialogue with space for physical action, music and dance.

Love For One Night has been created through a devised theatre making process. It's a collective creation, a method of theatre making in which the script and performance originates from a collaborative, often improvised process by a performing ensemble. It's a process we love, and why we describe our works as being built from the ground up.

4. CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

This group devising process offers the whole of the creative team, (actors along with director, writer, choreographer, composer, set and costume designer, and video designer) opportunities to contribute ideas, test the script, sample the action, draft movement sequences, and assess the overall structure of the narrative.

During this phase, we were able to try-out a handful of scripted scenes and movement sequences on the Eltham Hotel site and explored the viability of streaming live video. The success of this trial excited the creative team to expand their vision for the work.

5. REHEARSALS

In the period leading up to rehearsals, Julian and Janis continued developing the outline, incorporating new discoveries, scripting scenes, and refining the movement and music elements integral to the storytelling. Discovery, experiment, and refinement is ongoing throughout rehearsals, which is what makes devised works so dynamic and exciting. However, the focus of rehearsals is different - on finding efficient and satisfying ways to tell the story on stage for an audience. This is the most intense and challenging phase of making new work. It brings together and unifies the skills and close collaboration of a team of people working towards a common goal after about two years of steady application.

6. PERFORMANCE

The final stage is the performance! We hope that by understanding the making processes of devised theatre, you will have a deeper appreciation and richer experience of the special moments, theatrical surprises, and authentic performances that are built from play, experimentation, and creativity.



ABOUT NORPA

The Northern Rivers is a fertile place. Stuff grows around here and people are busy producing things like macadamias, milk, and original theatre.

Every work we create draws big inspiration from the country and communities surrounding us. All direct responses to the local places we live and work, we aspire to make them universal too, by including shared experiences and thoughts that are unfolding everywhere from Pottsville to Perth.

In a small way, we're shaping the Australia we want to live in by creating art that's culturally respectful, inclusive, brave and playful, and by working for a company that's been built around the same values.

NORPA couldn't exist anywhere else, which is why we're motivated to keep bringing the stories of the Northern Rivers to life and cementing its reputation as a cultural heartland. We do this by collaborating with an assortment of talented artists and creating original work that's ingrained with a real sense of this place we all call home.

AND NOW?

After two years of lockdowns and cancellations, the floods swept through and took with it our home, the Lismore City Hall, and forced the cancellation of our third season in a row. The flood waters reached into all corners of Lismore City Hall, leaving the venue closed for the foreseeable future.

These extraordinary challenges haven't stopped us. We've adapted and continued to create, produce and present new NORPA works, providing much needed jobs and creative opportunities for artists and arts workers, and connection for our community:

Flow, a Yaegl/Bundjalung creation story by Mitch King, as part of our 2021 Season
Into The Forest, made for secondary students which toured to schools and communities across the region throughout 2021 and 2022

The Underlibrary of Unofficial Histories, an immersive theatre experience for primary school students that explores history through story, puzzles and games in 2021 and 2022

Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise, new stories by Bundjalung writers, presented at BLEACH* Festival and Byron Writers Festival, 2022

Love For One Night, an ambitious, site-specific production at the Eltham Hotel, 2022

Next up is the challenge of finding a new home and rehearsal space. If you have an idea or know a place in the region, let us know!



Cast and band during the rehearsals of *Love For One Night*. Image by Kate Holmes

OUR PARTNERS

Presentation Partner

Eltham^{HOTEL}

Government Partners



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AND OUR THANKS TO

The Eltham Hotel team of Matt Rabbidge, Luke Sullivan, Julia Ashwood and Bec Villanti who willingly said 'yes' to our idea in 2020 and then joined us on this wild ride!

Amelia Thompson-Cass
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Matt Hayes
Maxine Mellor
Megan Louis
Neil Young

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Nicolas Witte
Rhoda Roberts AO
Rick Bannister
Rick Johnson OAM
Sarah Roberts-Field
Tajette O'Halloran
Tony Russo
Vanessa Kellas
Zac Lovett

HOTEL

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Eltham HOTEL

FEEL THE LOVE AND SHARE IT



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Cover images by Tajette O'Halloran