

Ciara Thorburn proudly presents  
the Australian premiere season of

## The Thesis

*Written and Performed by Ciara Thorburn*

*Directed by Fraser Hooper*

*Dramaturgy by Mike Finch*

**19 - 28 August 2021**

**Alex Theatre - 135 Fitzroy Street Boulevard, St Kilda**

[www.ciarathorburn.com](http://www.ciarathorburn.com)



Melbourne-based Circus Artist **Ciara Thorburn** recently birthed a lockdown baby of a different kind. A 50-minute voyeuristic glimpse into the life of an eccentric polymath, this August **The Thesis** takes centre stage at the **Alex Theatre** in St Kilda - superbly highlighting that there are no limits to what can be achieved when you are supposed to be doing something else.

Driven by silent comedy and theatrical circus, this ambitious Australian premiere season is a peculiar reflection of the creative process as an academic navigates writers block, procrastination, and perfectionism, while writing their hallowed thesis.

*“After the completion of my third degree (a Bachelor of Circus Arts), I graduated into a pandemic.”*, explains writer/performer **Ciara Thorburn**. *“So I decided to con my way into my ninth year of study - rather than writing my thesis I wrote a show - about writing a show, about writing a thesis, during a pandemic.”*

*“Through **Expression Australia**, the **Sustaining Creative Workers** program also made me keenly aware of the need for more accessibility within the arts once theatres were able to open our doors again. I created the work with that at the fore. The most enjoyable thing about the show is that most nights I don’t know what’s going to happen. The performance is rooted in moments of improvisation and my ability to react to what’s going on with any given audience. My work doesn’t really fit into any boxes. If I had to label it, I’d call it ‘Cult Clown Cinema.’”*

A progressive and creative mid-career Melbourne-based circus artist, **Ciara Thorburn** is a graduate of Australia’s **National Institute of Circus Arts**. She has also trained under theatre master **Philippe Gaulier** and toured extensively throughout Australia, Europe, New Zealand and Japan. Her various show credits include *Shuffle Club Royale*, *Circus Rio*, *Wonderland Spiegelent*, *Awaji Art Circus* in Japan, Edinburgh Fringe’s *Late Night Lip Service* and *Cheeky Cabaret* at the Brunswick Picture House.

Embracing the mundane and making it remarkable, **The Thesis** is a subtle yet intelligent exploration of the human condition; both inspiring... and incredibly frustrating. Proudly supported by **Creative Victoria**, **Antipodes Arts** and the **Alex Theatre**, **The Thesis** will be **Ciara Thorburn’s** debut self-devised show.

**19 - 28 August 2021**

**Thurs to Sat 7:00pm**

**Tickets: \$29 Full, \$25 Preview, \$23 Concession/Unwaged, \$20 Grps 8+**

**Bookings: online only at [www.ciarathorburn.com/work/thethesis](http://www.ciarathorburn.com/work/thethesis)**

**Venue: Alex Theatre - Level 1/135 Fitzroy Street Boulevard, St Kilda**

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*Show length: 50mins (no intermission)*

*Companion Cards welcome*