

Theatre Works proudly presents

Medea: Out of the Mouths of Babes

Directed by Steven Mitchell Wright

30 July - 20 August, 2022

Theatre Works - 14 Acland Street, St Kilda

www.theatreworks.org.au

Recalled and reimagined from the fantastical minds of her slain children, **Medea: Out of the Mouths of Babes** is Theatre Works' latest premiere production, drawn from Euripides' famous tale. Developed with children and performed by adults, this new Australian work is a seriously playful tragedy.

With most presentations of the Medea myths, the framework positions Medea and Jason and as those who sacrificed and lost the most. But this consistent oversight ignores the very obvious fact that it was the children who suffered the greatest. They lost their parents, their futures, and their lives.

Medea: Out of the Mouths of Babes doesn't erase the experience of the adult characters but it does shift the focus onto the experience of the young ones - those who are all too often weaponised in adult arguments and left without a voice of their own.

Arguably one of the darkest tales in the Western theatrical canon, this age-old story is given a fresh and surprisingly playful rebirth. Developed by a **council of five children** (aged 6-10) and Theatre Works' award-winning creative team, **Medea: Out of the Mouths of Babes** is a compelling new Australian work told from the point of view of two of its undoubtedly most important characters; Medea's children.

"Choosing to frame this particular retelling from the perspective of the children came about initially from not wanting to demonise, justify or vilify either Medea or Jason in one particular light", explains **Director Steven Mitchell Wright**.

"I think in the current political climate, with the kind of media and social media cycles that we have, it would be very easy to tell a reductive version of this story, which is why I wanted to include real children in the development of the work. Their minds work in ways that are so different from ours. Their politics are different, their hearts are less shielded, and their imaginations are simply wild."

What we are doing is focussing on myth and story-telling through a highly child-like lens, and allowing the themes of the work to sit within that. Purists will still have enough there for them to enjoy the work, but there are new elements that the children discovered which we'd simply never think of."

Playing out like a surreal living music video with film projection, live feed, and song, **Medea: Out of the Mouths of Babes** looks to be a dynamic and compelling addition to the Victorian Arts Calendar. Also playing as a part of the 2022 VCE Drama Playlist, the work strives to be an incredibly entertaining and evocative production for young and old audiences alike.

History is told by the victors, and myths preserved by those in power, but perhaps it is the youngest that grip the hardest truths?



One of Australia's longest-running independent theatres, **Theatre Works** is constantly reinvigorating and reimagining the sector by providing a hotbed for artist and audience development. They strive to champion artists and work that embraces difference and celebrates risk, working to provide a platform for marginalised conversations and voices.

Medea: Out of the Mouths of Babes will be the second in-house **Theatre Works** produced season with the 2022 evolution of the organisation.

*This production is proudly supported by the **City of Port Phillip, Rise Funding, Besen Foundation and Creative Victoria***

Directed by Steven Mitchell Wright (he/him)

Performed by Willow Sizer (she/they), Emily Joy (she/her) and Paolo Bartolomei (he/him)

Video Artist: Chris Bennett, Underground Media (he/him)

Compositions and Sound Design by Danni A. Esposito (they/them)

Set and Costumes Design by Hahnie Goldfinch (she/her)

Lighting Design by Ben Hughes (he/him)

Stage Manager: Holly Anderson (they/them)

Photos by Underground Media

30 July – 20 August

Opening Night: Wednesday 3 August, 7:30pm

Tues – Sat 7:30pm, Wed – Fri 11am

Tickets: \$40 Full, \$32 Concession, \$25 Preview and Student, \$20 20 x 20 Indie Tix each night (+ booking fee)

Bookings: (03) 9534 3388 or online at www.theatreworks.org.au/medea

Venue: Theatre Works – 14 Acland Street, St Kilda

www.theatreworks.org.au

Duration: 75 minutes no interval

Suitable for ages 15+

Warnings: This production contains mild coarse language, simulated violence, sexual references, gore, loud sound, flashing lights and haze effects