

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Raspberry Ripple proudly presents

That's Why The Lady Needs a Ramp

Created and performed by Kate Hood

Directed by Alice Darling

A one-woman (+) show by **Kate Hood** and her disability-led theatre company, **Raspberry Ripple Productions**, *That's Why The Lady Needs a Ramp* is an invigorating ride into a contemporary life on wheels.

Running at **Chapel Off Chapel** this June for a **limited season**, Kate brings together a wonderful array of quirky, yet familiar, characters in this engaging season. Meet Queen Esme of Collingwood, the eternal Aussie optimist living high in a high-rise. Share in the daily ritual of Kerry the coffee addict. And rethink human existence with Kate and her alter-egos as they tackle taboos with lively results.

A 100% accessible season, *That's Why the Lady Needs a Ramp* is **Auslan interpreted**, features **audio description included in the script**, **circus designed for everybody**, a set with **wheelchair access** in mind and the **lighting and sound is accessible for Neuro-diverse or Autistic people**. The + in one-woman (+) represents all this, plus the invention of an onstage "Buddy", who is a personal assistant to the disabled performer.

A founding member of **Equity's Diversity Committee** and **Co-Chair of the Performers with Disabilities Committee**, **Kate Hood** believes passionately that the best way to advocate for disabled performers is to create work which depends on them for its impact:

*"In Australia it's common practice to have disabled characters played by able-bodied actors. At **Raspberry Ripple** we want to change this. We want to tell stories that have not made it to the stage before. And we want to use a combination of disabled and able-bodied actors to do it. Why? Because in life we all breathe the same air. It would be good if people saw disability as just a part of the human condition. As normal and ordinary."*

Launching in 2017, **Raspberry Ripple** (Cockney rhyming slang for "Cripple") is a Melbourne-based Disability-Led theatre company. It operates around the Social Model of disability, which says that the barriers put in place by a world designed for "normal people" disables far more than bodies ever will. **Raspberry Ripple Productions** aims to celebrate the deliciousness of diversity and apply it to existing and new work, while exploring and debunking the myth of perfection. Above all, it wants audiences to leave their shows having been inspired to question their constructs about disability.

Cancelled in 2021 due to the Covid Lockdown, **Raspberry Ripple** now invite Melbourne Theatre Lovers to its latest season. Paying tribute to the late, great wheelchair-using comedienne, **Stella Young**, *That's Why The Lady Needs a Ramp* is a pertinent new Australian work that is a deeply personal, very funny, and surprisingly universal.

Written by Kate Hood - Directed by Alice Darling - Performed by Kate Hood, Josie Wardrope, Sam Gaskin, Sophie Mcrae and Sam Aldham - Circus Direction by Kathryn Niesche - Audio Description by Sam Gaskin - Lighting Design by Richard Vabre - Set Design by Bronwyn Pringle - Sound Design by Chris Wenn - Costume Design by Jac Antcliff - Produced by Dans Sheehan - Stage Managed by Max Woods

18 - 20 August, 2022

Thurs - Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm

Tickets: \$49 Full, \$35 Concession

Bookings: 03 8290 7000 or online at www.chapeloffchapel.com.au/show/thats-why-the-lady-needs-a-ramp/

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran, Melbourne

www.raspberryripple.co

