

Theatre Works proudly presents the premiere season of

# Senser

by *Brittanie Shipway*

7 - 17 September

Theatre Works: 14 Acland Street, St Kilda

[www.theatreworks.org.au](http://www.theatreworks.org.au)

Another powerful world premiere takes the stage at Theatre Works this September with **Brittanie Shipway's** latest work, *Senser*. A graduate of the **National Institute of Dramatic Art**, **Shipway** is a proud Gumbaynggirr and Turkish woman and the recent recipient of the prestigious **2022 Australia Council First Nations Dreaming Award**. Currently a resident dramaturge for **Theatre Works First Nations Initiative** and the **Director** of their **First Stories Festival**, her latest work asks; *"Would you risk everything to hear a song one last time?"*



Centering around main character Ava, *Senser* is set in a neoliberal world where everyone is watched by Guardians and music has been censored out of existence. Three generations into this new age people are content with the silence, but Ava hears music everywhere she goes. Determined to share the soundtrack of the past she opens an illicit underground cabaret bar, which is fraught with danger. Because in her world you wouldn't ever dream of being caught singing.

*"The Western world is obsessed with social progression and technological advances, but we rarely stop to think of the repercussions of such progress",* explains writer **Brittanie Shipway**. *"Our sense of morality shifts and expands over centuries, but when ideas and social constructs are being shattered in a ten second TikTok, are we moving too fast? What if we make a mistake? What if, in this rapid move forward, we lose something we love? Something we need? Senser isn't meant to be some futuristic prediction - I certainly hope it doesn't come true. But history does show that when society comes to times of new ethical divides, art is the first to go."*

A defiant and devilish celebration of music, freedom, and the things that keep us human, *Senser* will feature original music by **Jess Newman** and an immersive design by **Grace Deacon**. Directed by fellow **NIDA** graduate **Miranda Middleton**, this compelling new work will transport Melbourne audiences into a dark and enchanting world of drag kings, cabaret queens, and outlawed dance halls.

Proudly supported by the **Malcolm Robertson Foundation** and **Playking Foundation**, *Senser* is a **Theatre Works** produced season and an exciting addition to their 2022 in-house season of shows. 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.

**Written by Brittanie Shipway - Direction and dramaturgy by Miranda Middleton - Performed by Luisa Scrofani and Adam Noviello - Set and costume design by Grace Deacon - Lighting Design by Spencer Herd - Music Supervisor/Sound Design by David Youngs - Compositions by Jess Newman - Stage Management by Andrew Hughes**

7 - 17 September

Opening Night: Thursday 8 September, 7:30pm

Tues - Sat 7:30pm

Tickets: \$40 Full, \$32 Concession, \$25 Preview and Student, \$20 20 at 20 (+ booking fee)

Bookings: (03) 9534 3388 or online at [www.theatreworks.org.au/program/senser](http://www.theatreworks.org.au/program/senser)

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