

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



SHIT

Dee & Cornelius, Australia



Photo: Sebastian Bourges

"SHIT is a vital piece of theatre, superbly constructed, brilliantly executed."

The Observer

"I don't understand why every theatre company in the country (and beyond) isn't competing to get the next Patricia Cornelius and Susie Dee play.... Cornelius's writing leaves me shaking... It's astonishing theatre."

Aussie Theatre Review

"SHIT is provocative and tragic, bracing and bitterly funny. It's the sort of bold theatre that will have us confronting our own prejudices..." ★★★★★ **The Age**

SHIT is a compelling, raw and powerful play which examines the intersections of class and misogyny. It is provocative and tragic, heartbreaking, bracing and bitterly funny.

What happens when a girl spits, or swears, or shouts, or pulls down her pants to 'moon' someone from a car, or she laughs too loudly, or she fights, really fights. This is a work about three such girls, Billy, Bobby and Sam. They don't believe in anything. They're neither salt of the earth nor sexy. They believe the world is shit, that their lives are shit, that they are shit.

Written by **Patricia Cornelius** and Directed by **Susie Dee**, *SHIT* won four awards at the 2015 Melbourne Green Room Awards including Best Writing, Best Ensemble, Best Set & Costume Design and Best Production for Independent Theatre.

Patricia Cornelius and Susie Dee have made work together for about 30 years. The two first worked together as actors in Cornelius' *Lilly and May*, which toured nationally and overseas, and since then Susie has directed four of Patricia's plays: *Max*, *Taxi*, *The Berry Man* and *Savages*. They both come from a visceral and physical approach to theatre, which is equally rigorous and vital in the language it uses and in what it has to say about the world. Cornelius & Dee have won multiple awards for *Savages* including the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Drama (*Cornelius*) and four 2013 Melbourne Green Room Awards including Best Direction and Best Writing for Independent Theatre.

Sarah Ward, a singer, songwriter, actor and performance artist, best known for her femme-drag cabaret character *Yana Alana* (Sydney Festival 2015 and 2017), plays Bobby. The Green Room Award-Winner **Peta Brady**, best known for her role as Cody on *Neighbours*, plays the character Sam, whilst **Nicci Wilks**, a performer and director who has over 30 years' experience performing at festivals and theatres around the world, commands attention in the role of Billy.

Readings of Patricia Cornelius' *LOVE* and *SLUT* will also be part of the programme. Like *SHIT*, these plays share a language which is rough and vulgar most of the time yet beautiful at others. In addition to this, there will be a discussion held between the playwright and Sydney Festival Director Wesley Enoch, where they will discuss her work and the role of women in the theatre.

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Where The Reginald, Seymour Centre
When 17–21 January 8pm
21 January 2pm
Duration 60mins no interval
Tickets General Admission \$36
+ booking fee
Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/shit
Age Suitability 16+

Director Susie Dee
Set & Costume Designer Marg Horwell
Lighting Designer Rachel Burke
Sound Designer Anna Liebzeit
Production/Stage Manager Bec Moore
Producer Laura Milke Garner
Cast Peta Brady, Sarah Ward, Nicci Wilks

SHIT originally appeared as part of NEON Festival of Independent Theatre in 2015. NEON is a Melbourne Theatre Company initiative.

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