

SYD FEST 19



THE CHAT

J R BRENNAN AND DAVID WOODS | AUSTRALIA



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CARRIAGEWORKS
16–20 JANUARY
90 MINS

Co-Creator/Lead Artist J R Brennan

Co-Creator/Performer David Woods

Collaborating Artist/Performer Ashley Dyer

Performers Arthur Bolkas, Shane Brennan, Nicholas Maltzahn, Ray Morgan, John Tjepkema, Simon Warner & Les Wiggins

Sound and System Operation Luke Smiles

Lighting Design Jenny Hector & Steve Hendy

Costume Designer Willoh S. Weiland

Production Assistant Hugo Gutteridge

Script Editor David Woods

Sound & Set Design J R Brennan

Workshop Facilitation Ashley Dyer, J R Brennan

Video Art J R Brennan

Custom Hardware Alex Davies

Consultants and Contributors Professor Eileen Baldry, Dr Anna Eriksson, Peter Barry, Suzanne Beach, Jessica Borthwith, Mark Flewell-Smith, Sammy Hoy, Doddy, Danny P Jones, residents of Judy Lazarus Transitional Centre

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Chat is a unique collaboration between director-performer J R Brennan and renowned writer-performer David Woods, of award-winning cult comic duo Ridiculusmus (UK). Ignited by Brennan's experience working as a parole officer in Sydney's Long Bay Correctional Complex, the work emerged from a series of performance workshops that Brennan ran with performance maker and choreographer Ashley Dyer for ex-offenders in the Melbourne area. Created in collaboration with participants from these workshops and leading criminologists, it is a work that fundamentally challenges our notions of criminal identity and asks the audience to play judge.

J R BRENNAN is an artist and former parole officer, working in theatre, video and music. He was previously an ensemble member of renowned avant-garde theatre company Gardzieniec (Poland). In recent years his work has interrogated ideas of crime and virtue and has been presented locally and internationally in both arts and criminology contexts.

DAVID WOODS is Co-Artistic Director of Ridiculusmus. He trained at The Poor School and has a PhD in drama from the University of Kent. With Ridiculusmus and Back to Back theatre he has made over 16 main stage works that have toured the UK and internationally.

THANKS

To the huge list of people who have supported this project, thank you. A special shout out to James Gilbert, Professor Eileen Baldry, Robert Brennan, Angharad Wynne-Jones, ACSO, Judy Lazarus Transitional Centre, Ozanam Learning Centre and Willoh S. Weiland. The ongoing review of our artistic work continues in collaboration with Dr Anna Eriksson.

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in the performance, the following organisations may be able to provide help and advice.

Lifeline 13 11 14, lifeline.org.au

1800 Respect 1800 737 732, 1800respect.org.au

Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636, beyondblue.org.au

