



DARK NOON

Sydney
Festival
2025



DARK NOON

fix+foxy, Glynis Henderson Productions & The Pleasance
South Africa & Denmark
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Sydney Town Hall
9-23 January
1 hour, 45 minutes (no interval)



Søren Meisner

CAST AND CREDITS

A fix+foxy production, produced by Glynis Henderson Productions & The Pleasance

Writer & Director Tue Biering

Co-director & Choreographer Nhlanhla Mahlangu

Featuring

Mandla Gaduka, Katlego Kaygee Letsholonyana, Lillian Malulyck, Bongani Bennedict Masango, Siyambonga Alfred Mdubeki, Joe Young, Thulani Zwane

Set Designer Johan Kølkjær

Sound Designer Ditlev Brinth

Costume Designer Camilla Lind

Video Designer Rasmus Kreiner

Lighting Designer Christoffer Gulløv

Props Designer Marie Rosendahl Chemnitz

Producer Annette Max Hansen

Production Managers Anne Balsma & Thomas Dotzler

Stage Manager Svante Huniche Corell

Sound Manager & Operator Filip Vilhelmsson

Assistant Director Katinka Hurvig Møller

Costume Manager Clara Bisgaard

ABOUT THE SHOW

History is told by the victors, this story is told by the vanquished...

Dark Noon is an immersive and explosive theatrical experience which demands to know: 'who has the power to write our history?' Seven South African actors explore a time when 35 million hungry and poor Europeans fled west across the Atlantic in search of the American Dream. This is a race for land, for gold, for wealth, and ultimately home.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For me, *Dark Noon* has been a journey in many ways. We set out to create a performance about migration, powerlessness and the many stories we have about civilisation. But it ended up having many more layers and meanings. It was about who told the story and my own blind spots. Something that appears at first glance as a pop culture reference to Western cowboy movies is also the catalogue of our collective search for freedom and a better life – and all the horrible things we have done over time to grab it and keep it.

What I also found out was those Western films, as effective entertainment, laid the foundation for some violent narratives that moved off the screen and became part of a reality for many.

–Tue Biering, Director and Writer

PRODUCER'S NOTE

I first saw *Dark Noon* in Copenhagen nearly five years ago. It was quite by chance as I was giving a talk at an international theatre conference; I never imagined that what I was to experience would turn out to be one of the most unique and powerful performances I'd witnessed for many, many years. It is truly rare to see something you literally cannot forget. I felt compelled to produce this terrific work internationally for a wider audience. But then the world shut down.

However, in November 2021, fix+foxy invited me to France where *Dark Noon* was performed at Théâtre Nanterre-Amandiers in Paris and at Théâtre du Nord in Lille as part of the NEXT Festival. I invited several industry colleagues. A key person was Anthony Alderson, Director of the Pleasance Theatre in Edinburgh and London and who had previously worked with my company for seven years.

Anthony's admiration for the production matched mine. We presented the show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe last year, at considerable risk, and assisted by our associates at Alchemation. It received

an ecstatic response and was invited to Factory International in Manchester, Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and then St Ann's Warehouse, for a four-week run in Brooklyn, New York.

fix+foxy's amazing show touches humanity in all its guises – exposing how desperate situations create levels of cruelty, greed and corruption. History repeatedly speaks of this, and it goes on to this day. *Dark Noon* is brilliantly unique and conceptually ground-breaking; its themes are totally universal, and it even manages to be funny.

I am extremely proud to be associated with *Dark Noon* and look forward to working with presenters internationally and introducing the show to the audience it so richly deserves. A huge thank you to Sydney Festival for giving us the opportunity to share this incredible piece of work.

– Glynis Hall, Producer, Glynis Henderson Productions

FIX+FOXY (PRODUCER/CREATOR)

fix+foxy has created original work in theatre, sound performances and digital formats for almost two decades. Driven by curiosity, we craft complex narratives through playful and accessible formats, challenging our presumptions about ourselves and the world. We aim to engage society by involving audiences and telling stories about diverse people. We often feature individuals rarely represented in theatre, believing art plays a vital role in society. We've worked with people with disability, children, sex workers, refugees and the homeless. fixfoxy.com

GLYNIS HENDERSON PRODUCTIONS (PRODUCER)

Glynis Henderson Productions has specialised in curating and presenting international touring productions, nurturing their global development for the past 30 years. As the original co-producer and general managers of the Olivier, OBIE and Drama-Desk award-winning sensation, *STOMP* (except for North

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America), we've taken the show to over 50+ countries worldwide. We produce the groundbreaking *Orchestral Qawwali Project* which sold out London's Royal Albert Hall in 2024 and this year Punchdrunk Enrichment's *Lost Lending Library* will tour Asia. Meanwhile, Olivier Award-nominated *Dragons and Mythical Beasts* enchants families with its awe-inspiring puppetry and *The Sex Lives of Puppets* by Blind Summit, is an exploration inspired by the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles. Our diverse portfolio of international touring includes *BLAM!*, *The Nature of Forgetting*, *Life of Pi*, *Electrolyte*, *Ennio Marchetto* *The Living Paper Cartoon*, to name but a few. ghmp.co.uk

THE PLEASANCE THEATRE TRUST (PRODUCER)

As a registered charity, The Pleasance Theatre Trust aims to create a compelling platform to discover, nurture and support fresh artistic talent from across the globe. All proceeds from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and our year-round London venue are invested back into the development of new people and new ideas. In August 2024, the Pleasance celebrates 40 years at the heart of the world's largest festival, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe. pleasance.co.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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