

Michael Gray Griffith

Marooned

The souls of four strangers are Marooned in the afterlife.
What do they have to do to get home?



A powerful and beautiful suicide prevention Play

Marooned is a new play written in Melbourne that is proving to be not only a crowd favourite but an emotional Icebreaker especially with its ability to open men up.

So far we've had two self-funded seasons in the city and a funded night at The Wedge Theatre, Sale and now thanks to an extraordinary deal with the MTC we are heading to The Lawler Theatre

Each night the reaction from our audiences has been overwhelming and the feedback is always the same;

You must take this play everywhere."

This is what we intend to do.

The Wolves Theatre Company

Four souls, one woman and three men are Marooned in a waiting room in the afterlife.

They have no connection other than they have all tried but apparently failed to take their own lives. Because they are strangers they are able to talk about their suicides in a remarkably frank way. But as time slowly passes, in a series of vignettes, some of them not only begin to yearn to go home but fear that they haven't survived. This fear and this want manifests into an ever-growing hunger to live. But despite this hunger they are still Marooned.

Finally, one of them believes that their only way out is for them all to help each other. Desperate to get home to his children, this man, known only as 1620 begins trying to get the others to open up. He wants them to reveal the real reason as to why they are here. But not everyone is forthcoming. Some are not convinced that the truth will set them free and one doesn't want to go back. Regardless 1620 perseveres and is proven to be right. One by one the others are sent home. Now alone, he is preparing for his return. He is so happy that he is still alive. Then "God" informs him that his suicide attempt was successful and he is to remain where he is.



This story's simple scenario enables us to powerfully explore one of the darkest stains on our society in a way that is so fresh and engaging that not only has it uncovered a surprising amount of heart felt humour but it has achieved something that many would think impossible, a play about suicide that despite its final tragedy is so entertaining that many people are coming back to see it again and again.

A Town Hall Show Experience

If you were a member of the audience this is how a night would go. You'd arrive at the venue, either a theatre or a hall, if really remote, even an outside space. The first thing you would see would be The Wall of Faces. Boards where people were able to pin a photo of someone they have lost to suicide and along with their name and a small message of love. No explanation needed, just love. Then once you were seated someone from your town or city would give a small speech, after which they would point out the mental health advocates who you could approach if you were feeling vulnerable. Please Note; in all our seasons to date, there has never been a need to use these advocates.

Then the lights would go down and the play would start. The play is remarkably funny by way of the kind of gentle heart-felt humour strangers often have when they are communally under stress. But there is also drama. Even though they are Marooned in this strange waiting room the play is a journey into each of them in a goal to discover why they are here and a solid reason to return.

At the end of the play you'd be welcome to remain and have a drink and a chat and we find people are wanting to do this. People learn from tragedy and the plays final tragic moments open people up, especially men, and so moved they want to hang around and talk. At this point it would be up to the town to decide if they wanted to have a Q&A or just let people chat. And in amongst this would be people from local mental health organizations to help keep the conversation flowing and hopefully reap the benefits of all this talk.

The goal is to have a warm cathartic evening where the only one not invited would be the silence.

LINKS



Listen to mini Doco for Life Matters Radio National



Michael on the Jon Faine Show
Talking about Marooned



From left, Alec Pinder, Charlie Collopy-White, Alec Gilbert and Christopher Grant star in *Sidelined*. MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Read the $\frac{3}{4}$ page article in The Age



Read the Article on the play's origins

I saw this last night. You should go. Thought provoking, funny, poetic it is beautifully written and well performed. Go and see it.

-Andrew Thomson

“Michael Griffith’s play is captivating as these four people, through ribbing, humour, affection even, are forced to look at their past and current selves in a new light. Compelling performances. It gives me some hope that the current appalling rate of male suicide may turn a corner. That the futility of suicide and the impact on those left behind is talked about in a way that cuts through. Asking are you ok is not enough. Go see it.”

-Felicity May

Marooned: brilliantly written and performed about one of the most taboo life topics - suicide. If not for anything, this profound and confronting play sensitively provides insight into each character’s story without prejudice and judgement and allows the audience to be a part of their individual and collective journey. The audience can relate, rejoice, grieve and smile even at times laugh with the cast who so wonderfully portray their characters. Humour is appropriately used to ensure the powerful message, while humility and humanity prevail.

A definite must see - even for the faint hearted. Life is too short and precious. Go see it.

-Despina Poursanidis

I will go so far as to say this play will save lives ! Well done!!!!

-Alicia Mann Mckirdy

Marooned is a fantastic play dealing with "life issues" and what it means or doesn't mean to be a man in today's diverse world. Entertaining, funny, sad, and thoughtful. Not to be missed!

-Damien Mecoles

“Marooned is a ballsy show. Michael Gray Griffith is a playwright offering a brave male voice, rare in contemporary Australian theatre.”

-Ezra Bix

The family and I went along to this show last night and I can tell you it created discussion in the car....It's not any easy subject matter to watch, but it was performed brilliantly. For men my age, it's a wakeup call not to be so hard on yourself.

-Frank Damiani

“It is a difficult thing to write about suicide in a meaningful and entertaining way. It is a difficult thing to write about men’s issues these days when nearly no one else is doing it.

It is a difficult thing to present a work that is engrossing and captivating and yet devoid

of any frills, relying simply on it’s own elegant merits. Michael and the four

extraordinary actors playing have succeeded beyond belief.”

-Alf Albini



MAROONED

“This is an
important play”

Alan Hopgood Playwright



Marooned is not a suicide awareness play. We are all aware that suicide is a massive problem. What it is, is an attempt to be a powerful suicide prevention play.

Not for profits were set up in order to make it ok to fail. They exist to tackle difficult problems for all the easy problems have been solved.

The Wolves Theatre Company is trying to see if a theatre company made of mainly mature creatives can produce plays that target the issues of the mature demographic and our era in an engaging entertaining and relevant way.

Suicide is one of our greatest problems, and so our play Marooned tackles that head on.

As Jodie Myintoo said in her review, “**There are no Elephants in this room.**” And she’s right, the language is raw and confronting and often doesn’t let up and instead uses humour and empathy to make it palatable.

Yet despite all the rules it breaks and it’s pain, the one comment we are hearing the most from the audience is that it leaves them feeling uplifted.

Now whether you agree or disagree with our approach that is an interesting discovery.

Now, let me be clear, we do not claim to have the cure for suicide, all we are doing as a group of artists is exploring the one idea that gave birth to the play.

And nightly we often change things. Tweaks here and there.

But now, since the play appears to have a future before it beyond The Lawler, we intend to travel with it.

Michael

Costs of bringing the play to your town

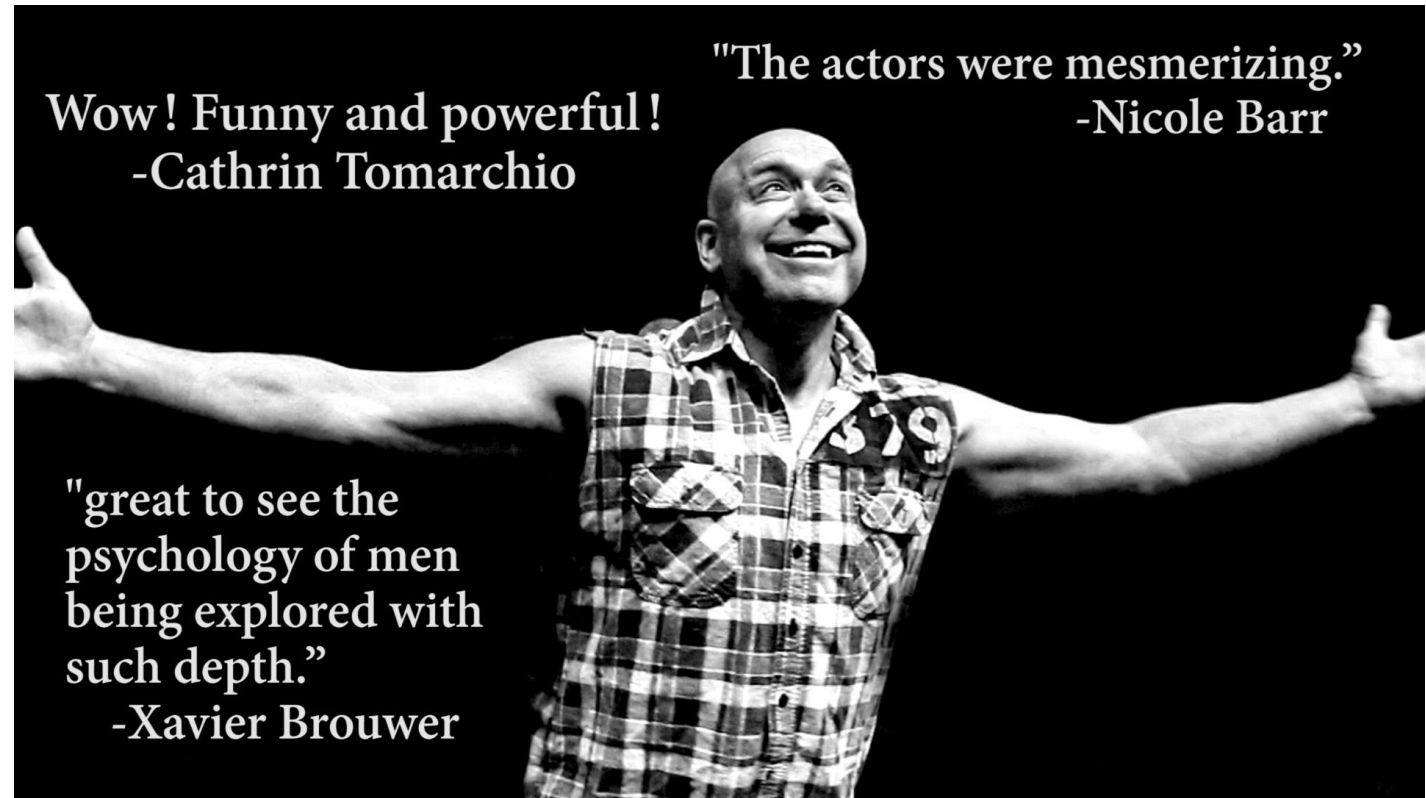
If we can drive to your town and back in a day its \$4500 per show.

If we need to stay over then there will be accommodation and travels costs on top of that.

We can stage Marooned in a theatre, or a hall, or if it's a warm night we can perform it outside.

If you want to have it, we bring with us "The Wall of Faces," or you can set your own wall up.

We can also help with marketing, imagery, poster design, radio interviews, social media posts.



The Wall Of Faces

End the silence,the stigma and the shame



My son Guy May was 48 years old.

He left behind family, friends, admirers, FB followers whom he had touched in a uniquely, inspiring personal way. The phrase, 'once met never forgotten,' personifies Guy.

~Felicity May

The play Marooned is dedicated to Guy

The Wall Of Faces

End the silence, the stigma and the shame

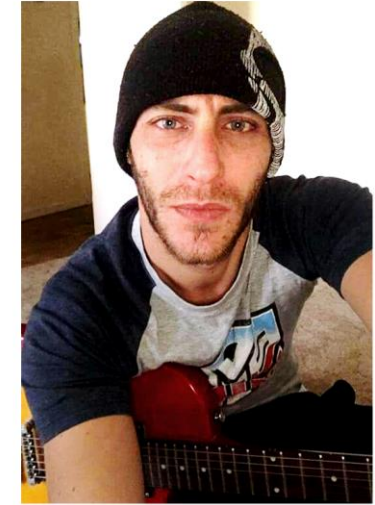


My husband's name was Peter Chaucer. He was a lovely man, a devoted husband and father and he is very much missed. This was the last picture taken with his children.

Giovanna ❤️

The Wall Of Faces

End the silence,the stigma and the shame



MyJoe was 33yrs old. Adored son, oldest brother to 3. Much loved grandson, nephew and oldest cousin of 13. Joe had many friends, played the guitar, did martial arts and seemed the happiest he had been in a long time. Love and hugs, Always and Forevermore.

~Elizabeth Patterson

We will supply a transportable wall and you will be welcome to bring along a photo of someone you have lost to suicide and pin their photo with their name and a short note to these walls.

The Wolves Theatre Company



RTBU



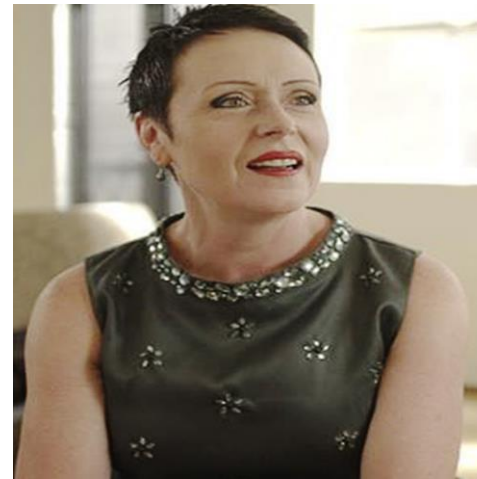
You have a choice
SUICIDAL PREVENTION AND AWARENESS



2011 Australian of The Year

"I love the concept.....to me it's all about taking the audience on a journey that involves the possibility that the attempt was unsuccessful (ie 'hope') and at the same time emphasising how much is lost when the attempt is successful ('brutal reality'). Very, very powerful.....and if it makes just one person reconsider where they might otherwise be headed, from my perspective it's generated an extraordinary return."

Simon McKeon A.O.



"I encourage people wanting to gain a deeper understanding of the many complex factors leading to suicide, to make time to see Marooned – Michael has managed to make an unpopular topic, very entertaining and meaningful."

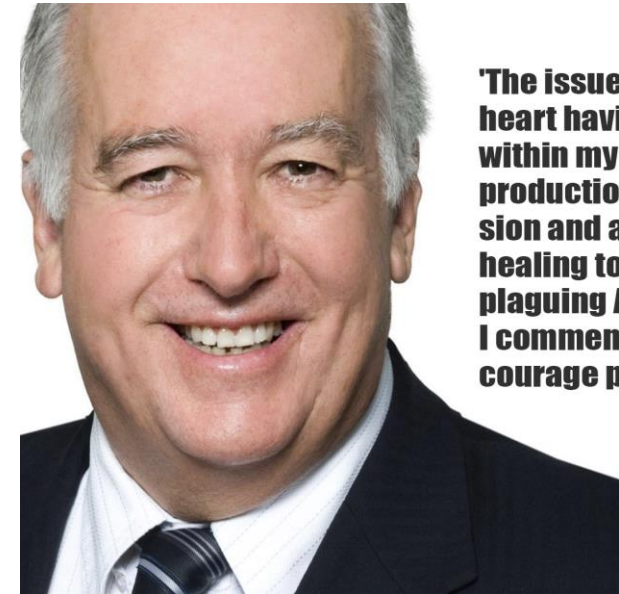
**Rae Bonney
-Men's Issues Advocate**



"It is time to end the sense of shame and to facilitate and acknowledge instead the immense courage needed to pull back from an intended suicide.

This play manages this issue with humour and exhaustive questioning of "why", leaving characters to come up with spluttering explanations but convincing no one. My son Guy would have endorsed this play, as do I."

~Felicity May



'The issue of suicide is close to my heart having had first hand experience within my own extended family. This production opens dialogue, discussion and an opportunity for eventual healing to one of the darkest issues plaguing Australia at the present time. I commend this production and encourage people to see it'

~ Peter McMullin

Some of our Backers and Advocates

" I Am very happy to endorse your script and I thank you for looking at suicide in such a different, gripping and, at times, entertaining fashion. The many questions and doubts you raise about suicide through the play are relevant Am very happy to endorse your script and I thank you for looking at suicide in such a different, gripping and, at times, entertaining fashion. The many questions and doubts you raise about suicide through the play are relevant and provide great food for thought. This is the best script I have read since being on the ARH Board since 2013.and provide great food for thought.

Greg Ross: Chairmen Austrlian Rotary Health



"I saw this play on its opening night in Prahran and it tackled the subject of suicide in a brilliant, sensitive and understanding way."

~Terry Valentine

"This play captures your attention all the way through. It is challenging yet compassionate in its take on this difficult topic, suicide. Seeing this play opens up the conversation for all of us, about a topic that has been hidden for a long time."

~Olivia Wong
Psychiatrist

MAROONED
BRING YOUR TISSUES, FOR YOUR MEN

As its producer I have travelled this play from our living room to three stages in Victoria in less than two years and now the MTC has invited us to stage it in their Lawler Theatre and that's even though the play is aimed mainly at men who would rather read the sports section than the entertainment pages. And the reason for its success? It's simply a great play.

~Rohana Hayes



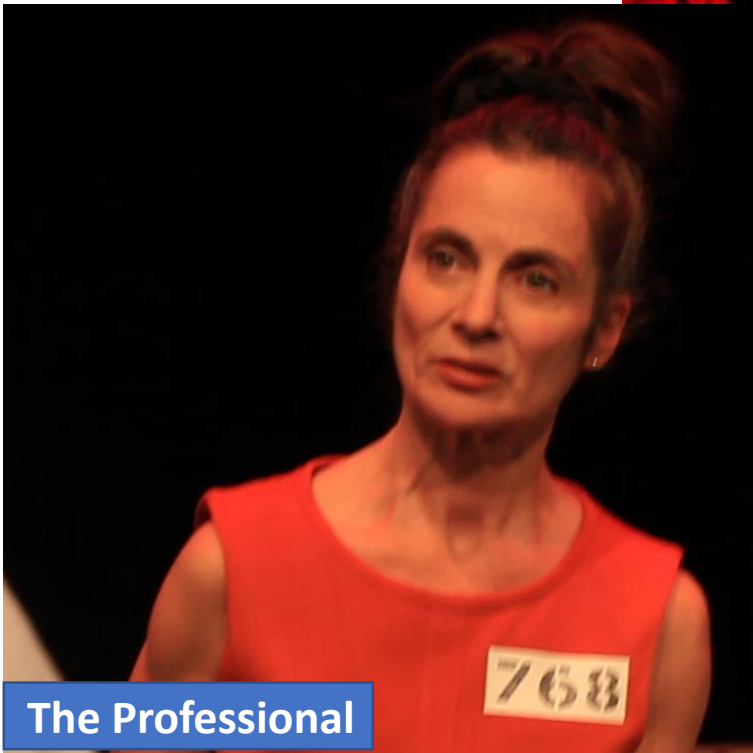
The Characters



The Boy from the country



The Officer Worker



The Professional



The Tradie

The Story So Far.

We expected the first season to be rough. No one knew us. No one at the time had heard of the venue and we had the word "Suicide" in the title which meant "run-away". Too heavy. The play was then called "Suicide Row." We were very nervous and all we really had behind us was each other. We the producers and the actors really believed in the play.

From the first night the audiences were raving. Andrew Thompson from The Wedge Theatre in Sale loved it so much, he booked it for one night from his seat. To prepare for this we put it on again and again we filled up.

Now The Melbourne Theatre Company have given us their Lawler theatre rent free , something they haven't done in years.

Updates:

The Australian Defense Force have purchased two shows.
Corowa and Yarrwonga have Booked two shows.

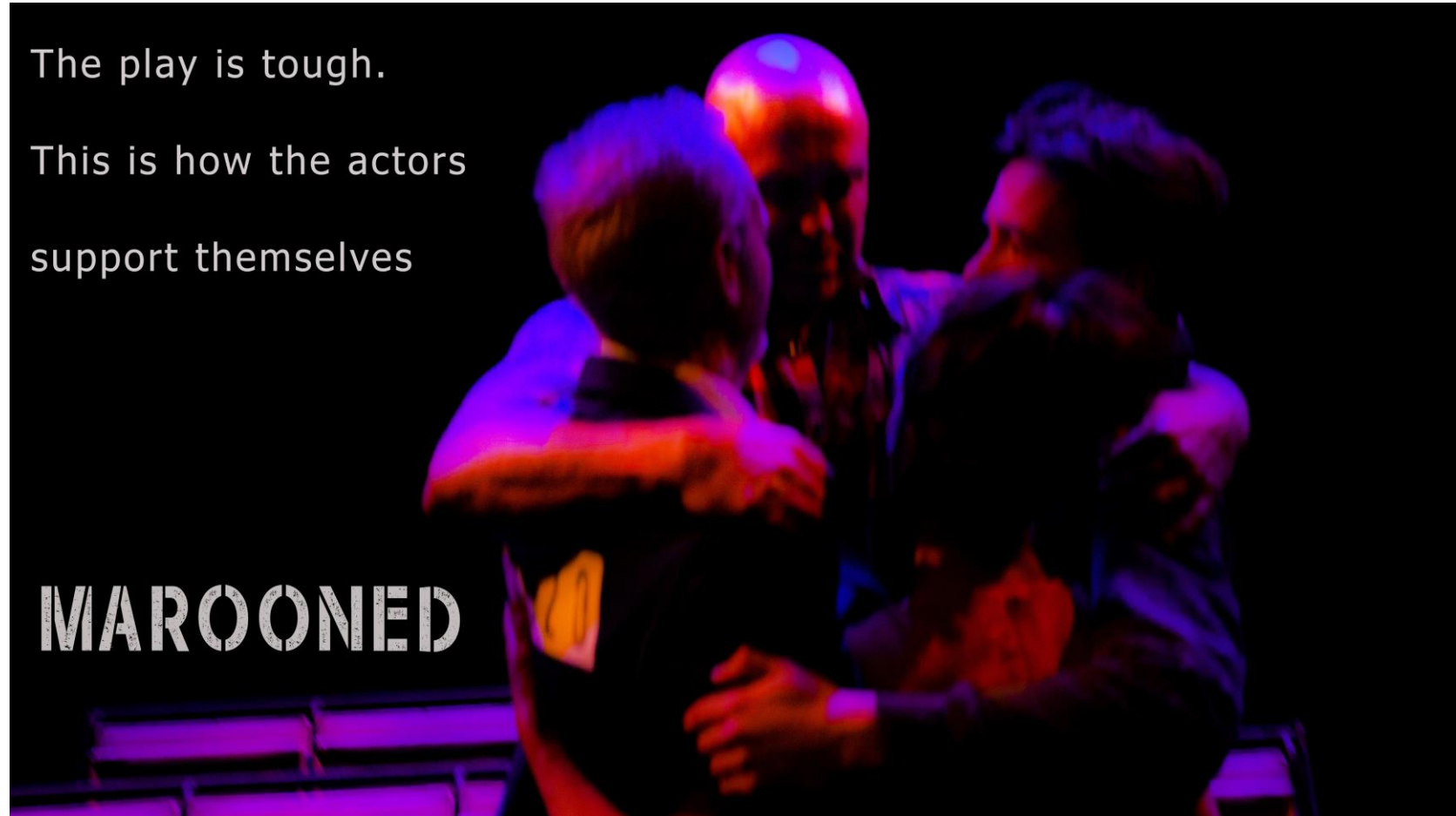
TWO SHOWS ON TWO DIFFERENT DAYS IS BEST.

The First show the brave ones come and once they inform the other its ok, then the second night is busier.

The play is tough.

This is how the actors
support themselves

MAROONED



The Wolves Board



Arne Neeme A.O
Dramaturge



Bruce Whalley
Marketing



Kathryn
Sponsorship



Anthony Bendall
Legal



Rohana & I don't want to be a Mental Health Organization we are just madly passionate about producing new theatre. Fresh pieces that excite, challenge and entertain audiences.

We both know that this play can help.

In the last two years we have staged three powerful new plays.

- [The Magnolia Tree](#)
 - Touring Regional Victoria 2020
- [When Icebergs Burn](#)
 - Directed by Aarne Neeme
 - Tour ready
- [Marooned](#)
 - 3 seasons and now off to Southbank Lawler Theatre..

2020 will see us stage [Magpie](#) the musical

We also have Amanda Muggleton attached to a new comedy for four women called, "Adrift Through The Vomit Generation."

Michael Griffith 0425 854 943

Rohana Hayes 0425854942

[The Wolves Theatre](#)

