

Arts Centre Melbourne and Black Honey Company present

One the Bear

Written by Candy Bowers, Music by Kim Busty Beatz Bowers



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 27 MAY 2019 – *One the Bear (OTB)* is a game changing production for young people and audiences with radical hearts and curious minds. Pushing the boundaries of form, style and storytelling *OTB* shows at Arts Centre Melbourne's Fairfax Studio as part of the Big World, Up Close and Families Winter/Spring programs this 8 – 10 August. It's a neon saturated hyper-fairytale for the hip hop generation that seeks to decolonise via allegory and music.

One the Bear is the story of a young bear who wants more for her tribe. Set in a rubbish tip, where garbage sparkles and catches on beams from broken streetlights, One (**Candy Bowers**) and her best friend, Ursula (**Nancy Denis**), get up to mischief, spit rhymes and mourn the dank life they lead. The two orphan cubs rail against living under Hunter law and dream of the days when bears were free; eating fresh fish rather than packaged fish-fingers.

In a stunning turn of events, One is thrust into the wild world of celebrity where everything she believes in is commodified and exploited.

Exploring themes of identity, body image, fame, friendship, oppression, colonialism, celebrity and the seduction of assimilation; this work was created by real-life sisters Candy Bowers and **Kim Busty Beatz Bowers** who together have been creating award-winning innovative theatre for over 15 years.

Written wholly in rhyme with infectious beats, full-stage projections and powerful performances, audiences are invited to enter a stunning dystopic world that far too closely parallels the very world we live in. This brave new piece of explosive theatre is guaranteed to burst your senses and expand your mind.

★★★★ *"art-activism at its best, performed with compassion, vibrancy and joy"* – **Daily Review**

"world changing theatre" – **Stage Whispers**

"a loud, proud and powerful journey" – **The Theatre Times**

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artscentremelbourne.com.au



Media Release

Arts Centre Melbourne's year-round Families Program was launched in August 2009 and has grown in reputation to become highly respected nationally and internationally. Featuring intimate and large-scale theatre from some of the world's most respected companies and a diverse range of interactive workshops, the program is robust and growing in size, scale and scope.

Arts Centre Melbourne's highly acclaimed series *Big World, Up Close* amplifies vital voices in contemporary performance giving space for fierce storytellers to reclaim and reframe our view of the world today. These stories know no limits and are more urgent than ever. Woven from raw emotion, brutal truths and radical love each story speaks across the fault lines between ancestry and contemporary existence. This year, it turns the spotlight on First Nations artists from New Zealand, Canada and Australia, as well as those representing Cambodian, Malaysian and African diasporas – it's a fearless new world in the making.

Images can be found [here](#).

About Black Honey Company

Black Honey Company is a production house and cultural consultancy team that collaborate on and create fearless sticky performance. The company was established by award-winning South African Australian sisters, Writer/Performer Candy Bowers and Composer/Sound Designer Kim Busty Beatz Bowers. The team has worked together for over 15 years on projects across the Music, Arts and Entertainment industry in Australia and around the world.

Creative Team

Written and Directed by: Candy Bowers

Composer & Sound Designer: Kim Busty Beatz Bowers

Performers: Candy Bowers as One, Nancy Denis as Ursula

Set Designer: Jason Wing

Costume Designer: Sarah Seahorse

Lighting Designer: Verity Hampson

Video Designer: Optikal Bloc

Sound Engineer & Operator: Hayley Forward

Outside Eye/Dramaturgy: Susie Dee & Claire Christian

Dramaturgy: Sista Zai Zanda

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One the Bear

Fairfax Studio | 8 – 10 August

8 – 9 August | 7:30pm

10 August | 10:30am*, 2pm & 6pm

Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)

Age Suitability: 11+

Accessibility: Wheelchair Access, Assistive Hearing, *Auslan Interpreted performance

Warnings: This production uses theatrical haze and strobe lighting. In one scene characters use a 'Kryptonite-like hallucinogenic' - presenting the desperate and dire situation of the characters. At one point, racist slurs (text) are projected onto the set.

Bookings at artscentremelbourne.com.au

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit www.artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of [Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further media information and interviews, please contact Media Advisor Kara Bertoncini on (03) 8699 9553, 0438 423 308 or kara.bertoncini@artscentremelbourne.com.au.

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