

Arts Centre Melbourne presents ARTICLE 11's

## *Deer Woman*



Photo credit: Prudence Upton

***“My name is Lila and I am a proud Blackfoot woman. What I am doing is illegal.”***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 20 JUNE 2019** – Hailed as one of Sydney Festival's 2019 highlights and playing to sold-out audiences in Aetearoa (New Zealand), [Deer Woman](#) finds its way to Arts Centre Melbourne as part of the [Big World, Up Close](#) series at the Fairfax Studio from 28 August – 1 September.

Written by **Tara Beagan**, directed **Andy Moro** and performed by actor and activist **Cherish Violet Blood**, *Deer Woman* tells the story of a girl in a country where, [very recently](#), approximately 4,000 Indigenous women and girls are officially recognised as missing and/or murdered. This statistic reflects the past 30 years alone with the true number of victims likely to be known.

Lila, the big sister of one missing girl, refuses to stand by idly. As an ex-army veteran and the daughter of a hunter, she finds the perfect opportunity to avenge her baby sister's murder by exercising the skills taught to her by the Canadian government.

This extremely powerful and provocative work delves into the urgent themes of violence against women, sexual abuse, white privilege and appropriation; leaving the audience to wrestle with complex questions around violence, complicity, and forgiveness. Its delivery also serves up the darkest of laughs, tongue firmly planted in cheek.

Giving voice to those who have historically been silenced in, spite of great strength, is the essence of ARTICLE 11's mission as they continue to push the boundaries of staged storytelling.

*“a work of immense power”* – **Time Out**

*“pulsing with life, purpose and earth-shattering questions”* – **Audrey Journal**

*“brilliantly affecting”* – **Sydney Arts Guide**

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# Media Release

Images can be found [here](#).

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.

## Creative Team

**Lila:** Cherish Violet Blood (Blackfoot)

**Playwright:** Tara Beagan (Ntlaka'pamux)

**Director:** Andy Moro (Mushkegowak Cree)

**Lighting, Video & Set Design:** Andy Moro

**Costume & Prop Design:** Tara Beagan & Andy Moro

**Collaborating Sound Designer:** Luca Caruso-Moro (Italian Canadian and Mushkegowak Cree)

**Original Music Composition & Performance:** Lacey Hill (Mohawk & Oneida)

**Stage Manager:** Lacey Hill

## About ARTICLE 11

ARTICLE 11 is an Indigenous arts activist creation and production company founded in 2013 by Tara Beagan (Ntlaka'pamux) and Andy Moro (Mixed Euro/Mushkegowak Cree). It is named for the eleventh article in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states that Indigenous peoples have a right to practice our arts and culture as we choose, and have the resources to do so. *Deer Woman* is written, directed, designed, composed, stage managed and performed by First Nations artists from traditional Anishnaabe, Haudenauonee and Wendat land, in present day Toronto.

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***Deer Woman***

**Fairfax Studio | 28 August – 1 September**

**Warnings:** extreme, graphic, historical and contemporary violence, disturbing content and descriptions of sexual violence

**Age Suitability:** 16+

**Duration:** 90 minutes (no interval)

**Bookings at [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)**

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit [www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://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 Suzanne Robson on (03) 9281 8526, 0407 443 271 or [suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au](mailto:suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au).

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