

Award-winning theatre company Bloomshed brings their epic rework of George Orwell's classic *Animal Farm* to Arts Centre Melbourne



Photo by Gregory Lorenzutti

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 3 MARCH 2026 – The Green Room award-winning theatre company **Bloomshed** (*Pride & Prejudice*, *Paradise Lost*) will stage an epic rework of the famous Orwell fable [*Animal Farm*](#) at **Arts Centre Melbourne's Fairfax Studio** from **12 – 22 August 2026**. Mixing big political ideas with entertaining and accessible storytelling, the production is a deliciously satirical high-octane mix of dance breaks, physical comedy, and confetti. With their signature satirical style and a political climate that is ripe for a good roasting - this bolshy take on *Animal Farm* aims to have audiences ready to storm the barricades.

Farmer Jones has lost control. The animals of Manor Farm are rising up to seize the means of production, and soon these downtrodden freedom fighters will be ruling the roost themselves. But who's got the chops to lead this rowdy bunch? They need a leader – a captain – a hefty hunk of ham with equal parts wit, strength, and streaky bacon. Enter

Napoleon, a pig who's ready to take the reins, and no qualms breaking a few eggs if that's what it comes to. Rebellion, comrades! It's time to throw hooves, splatter some cow patties, and paint the walls red with freedom!

The original tale by George Orwell is set on Manor Farm near Willingdon, England where the farm animals are ripened for rebellion against Farmer Jones after many years of neglect. Taking inspiration from the tale, Bloomshed's adaptation of *Animal Farm* is set in rural Australia. The farm animals have reneged on a contract with the government, and the complexities of our political system come to light in this reanimated comedic classic.

Animal Farm by Bloomshed brings a light-hearted quality to the traditionally dark tale while addressing the larger issues at hand within the Australian political system.

"Drawing on this classic Orwellian tale about the failures of the Russian Revolution, we've asked ourselves how themes of greed, corruption and ambition could map onto Australian history. What happens when you combine Orwell with Australian larrikinism? When the epic history of Europe gets played out on a small farm in outback Australia?" **James Jackson**

Bloomshed are an award-winning group of Australian artists who create cutting edge political comedy, energising classic texts through accessible storytelling and outrageous dance breaks. Since 2012, they have created 15 new devised and adapted works, such as *Animal Farm*, *Pride & Prejudice* and *Paradise Lost*. Their works examine the major political issues of our time: corporate greed, climate change and class inequity. Their work is characterised by a profane blend of High Art and cheap thrills. Bloomshed's work is grounded in an ethos of shared authorship and collective vision.

Reviews

"An unmissable theatrical event" – Beat

★★★★ ½ *"Melbourne's indie theatre scene at its inventive best"* – The Age

★★★★ ½ *"Startingly original"* – ArtsHub

Arts Centre Melbourne and Bloomshed presents
Animal Farm
12 – 15 August
Fairfax Studio, Arts Centre Melbourne

Creative credits

Created and performed by:

Elizabeth Brennan
James Jackson
James Malcher
Anna Louey
Edan Goodall
Laura Aldous
Lauren Swain
Syd Brisbane
Sam Nix

Stage and Production Manager; Jacinta Anderson
Dramaturg & Sound Designer: Justin Gardam
Set and Costume Design: Nathan Burmeister & Samantha Hastings
Lighting Designer: John Collopy
Creative director: James Jackson

Images can be found [here](#).

For more information visit artscentremelbourne.com.au

For more information and interviews, please contact Senior Media and Communications Advisor Suzanne Robson on 0407 443 271 or Suzanne.Robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au.

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