

Arts Centre Melbourne and Alter State
present a Restless Dance Theatre production

PRIVATE VIEW

BY RESTLESS DANCE THEATRE



***Wominjeka yearmann koondée
biik Wurundjeri balluk.***

Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people.

Arts Centre Melbourne and the Melbourne Arts Precinct sit on a site that has been a gathering place for song, storytelling, community and culture for First Nations people for millennia.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung.

We also acknowledge the neighbouring Kulin Nation groups, the Boonwurrung and Bunurong people, and pay our respects to elders, past and present.

Contents

About this Guide	4
Important Information	6
About the Venue	9
About the Show	18



About this Guide

This guide's design will prepare you for the experience of attending *Private View*.

It will also give you an idea of what your experience as an audience member may be like. The guide will have a mixture of the broad, big-picture points, as well as fine detail about the venue and the show.

You can skip parts that will not be of benefit to you. You can focus on parts that will make your experience more predictable. Please engage with this guide as much or as little as you'd like if it will help you and your brain.

The guide has been developed in collaboration between writer Kin Francis and the Arts Centre Melbourne Access & Inclusion team.

Contact

If you would like any additional information in the lead up to your visit, please contact Arts Centre Melbourne on 1300 182 183 during business hours or email tickets@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Relaxed Performance

Arts Centre Melbourne is committed to providing events where everyone can feel welcome to participate in their own way.

Relaxed Performances (RP) are for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment. We focus on adapting the environment and performance, as well as preparing the audience by developing pre-show resources.

All dates for *Private View* are Relaxed Performances. For *Private View*, seating is general admission, the theatre doors will stay open, and we may make minor changes to some sensory elements, such as reducing bright light and loud sound.

Audiences will be able to move about, stim and/or make noise in the theatre space. You can leave to use the quiet space and return at any point in the show.

The quiet space is a designated low-sensory area for use by anyone who may need it to self-regulate and decompress. We also encourage you to bring and use your own stim toys, headphones or anything else that will help with self-regulating.

Important Information

Auslan Interpreted

All dates for *Private View* will be Auslan Interpreted. Auslan (Australian Sign Language) is used by the Deaf community in Australia. This event is general admission which means you can choose to view the performance from wherever works best for you.

Audio Described

All dates for *Private View* will be Audio Described. Audio Description (AD) is a narration that provides detailed information and descriptions of the visual elements of a performance. Audio Description can benefit people who are blind or have low vision. It can also be suitable for people with multisensory or learning disabilities and Autistic people. If you would like to use an Audio Description headset, please ask any Arts Centre Melbourne staff or Usher wearing a black uniform and they will help you.

Open Captions

All dates for *Private View* will include Open Captions. Open Captions are text displayed on a screen during the performance, enabling audiences to read what is being said. Caption text is prepared from the script of the performance by highly trained staff. Where open captioning is provided, it is visible from almost all seats in our venues.

Tactile Tour

All dates for *Private View* will include a Tactile Tour. Tactile Tours allow audiences to feel key elements of a performance such as props, the set, and costumes. Tactile Tours run prior to the event to enhance the experience. They will begin an hour before the performance and you do not need to book to attend.

Venue

This production of *Private View* will be performed at The Show Room, which is inside Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building.

Length

The show is 1 hour with no interval.

Age Recommendation

Suitable for ages 14+.

About Private View

Private View is a contemporary dance theatre show featuring eight performers. Some performers identify as Disabled and some don't. The show is set across four different stages. The audience sits in the middle of the performance space. This creates more intimacy and is different to other shows you may have attended at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Private View invites you into a world of secret desires and dreams. The show explores love and sex through diverse personal experiences. The performers are playing characters. Some moments performed might be recognisable to you in your own life. Some moments you might not understand or relate to, and that is okay.

Throughout *Private View*, each stage is revealed one at a time with performances. Pre-recorded audio, original music, projection, and video will bring the stages to life. Closed captions and Auslan interpretation are embedded in the show.

Content and Sensory Warnings:

Contains sexual references, partial nudity, theatrical haze, latex and some audience participation. You are encouraged to review warnings and talk to staff in order to assess appropriateness of content. More detail is also provided for you later, under 'Show Details' within this guide.

Theatre Guidelines

- Photography and mobile devices are not permitted during the performance, however if you need to use a device (such as an iPad) to assist with communication, please inform the ushers. It's always fine to use a device in the foyer or quiet spaces.
- During the Relaxed Performance, a relaxed attitude is taken to movement, noise and eating/drinking in the auditorium (this is okay).
- If you need to take a break during the show, you are welcome to come out into the foyer area. A quiet space will be available, with low lighting and comfortable seating. You can return to the theatre when you are ready – trained staff are available to assist as required.
- For some audience members, clapping can be very loud and feel uncomfortable so we encourage you to join us at the end of the performance by using the Deaf applause. This is done by waving your hands up in the air, which is the Deaf community's way to show appreciation. We invite you to applaud in whatever way is comfortable for you.
- To ensure COVID safety, sensory items will only be available upon request. We encourage audiences to bring your own items that will help you feel comfortable in the theatre, such as headphones and fidget toys.
- Face masks are recommended indoors.

About the Venue

Private View is being performed at The Show Room, one of the theatres within Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building. It's the building on St Kilda Road with the spire on it.



Parking

There are construction works to the Theatres building at Arts Centre Melbourne. If you're travelling by car, please be aware that construction in Southbank may cause delays.

Accessible parking spaces are available in both the Arts Centre Melbourne car park and on nearby streets.

For more information about parking, pick up and drop off, please [check our website](#), phone (03) 9281 8012 or email carpark@artscentremelbourne.com.au.

Tram

Stop number 14 – “Arts Precinct” is the closest stop to Arts Centre Melbourne. This is a wheelchair accessible tram stop. The trams that stop here are: 1, 3, 3a, 5, 6, 16, 64, 67 and 72. Routes 5, 6, 16 and 72 are sometimes serviced by low-floor trams.

Taxi

There is a taxi rank on St Kilda Road. You can flag one down or ask our Welcome Team (behind the gold desks in the Theatres Building) to call one for you.

Train

The nearest train station is Flinders Street Station. It's about 600 metres away straight down St Kilda Road and over the river.

To get to Arts Centre Melbourne from Flinders Street Station, take any exit onto Swanston Street and head in the direction of the river. Once you have crossed the river you will see the Hamer Hall, a large round building. Just past it is the building with the spire, the Theatres Building.

Entering the Theatres Building

When you arrive you will most likely enter the foyer at street level of St Kilda Road or through the Arts Centre Melbourne car park.

If entering from St Kilda Road, proceed through any of the glass doors. The automatic doors on the far left are recommended for wheelchair users.

If entering from the carpark, follow the signs for the Theatres Building. You will enter into the Smorgon Family Plaza. This is a large foyer on Level 5 of the building, one floor below street level.



Private View

In the foyers you might encounter other people who are coming in to see shows. As audiences arrive, these areas get crowded. If this could be a challenge for you, we recommend arriving earlier to give yourself some more time, bringing items with you like headphones or stim toys that may assist you and/or asking the ushers if you can access a quiet space before the show.

Trained staff are available to assist if required – this includes the ushers who wear black uniforms, and it's their job to make getting around the venue as easy as possible. If you need assistance upon arrival, you can also contact our staff by phoning (03) 9281 8298 or (03) 9281 8196.



Finding the Show Room

If you enter the Arts Centre Melbourne street-level foyer, head across to the lifts, which you will find directly to the right of the Australian Music Vault. If you arrived from the car park, go through the Smorgon Family Plaza to a ramp to find the lifts. Take the lift down to Level 3. There are some moving images and beeping sounds in these lifts. When you reach Level 3, there are accessible toilets near the lifts.

To find The Show Room – from the lifts turn to your left and take the second corridor. This will lead you directly towards The Show Room. There are signs that can help you find your way if you feel disorientated.

If you prefer, you can use the escalator and stairs to take you through the street level foyer and the Smorgon Family Plaza down to Level 3. There are several flights of stairs needed to navigate these areas. The ushers can help you with directions to The Show Room if you want.



Quiet Space

You will arrive into the Quiet Space as you approach The Show Room. This is a room with soft lighting where you can take a break if you want. You can do this whenever you need to. There will be armchairs, bean bags and sensory items available for you to use including weighted animals and tactile cushions.

Surrounding the Quiet Space are Arts Centre Melbourne's historic marble walls which may be visually stimulating. These walls are covered in glass-like panels and are filled with coloured marbles, bubbles, toys, keys, images, household items and computer chips. You are welcome to touch these walls and have a look up-close if you would like.

You can move to the next room when you are ready and can return to the Quiet Space any time you would like.



The Show Room foyer

The Show Room foyer is a carpeted area with comfortable seating and a bar serving food and drink. The foyer looks similar to the Quiet Space but has more bright lighting. You are welcome to move and look around but the paintings on the walls are not for touching.

Ushers will let you know when it is time to move into the theatre. You can choose to wait in The Show Room foyer or the Quiet Space.

The nearest accessible toilets are located back towards the

Level 3 lifts. There are also two all-gender toilets which aren't wheelchair accessible located in The Show Room foyer and Quiet Space.

If you need Auslan interpretation and/or prefer to be where the interpreters are, please find our ushers before the show and ask them for recommendations. We will also have an Auslan interpreter before the show to assist with this.

If you would like to use an Audio Description headset, please ask an usher and they will help you.



Seating

When the doors to The Show Room are open, you are welcome to head through and take your seat. Before entering the theatre, you will need to have your ticket scanned by an usher. The ticket scanning device might make a bright light and a beeping sound. Once you have had your ticket scanned you can head inside.

The inside of The Show Room has painted black walls and a hard black floor. Arts workers call this a 'black box' performance space. There will be mostly stools in the middle of the room which you can choose to sit at or there are some chairs with backs if needed. At the highest level of The Show Room, towards the back, you may see people sitting or standing and this is the production team of *Private View* who are working on the show.

Seating for this show is general admission which means you can take any available seat that you like. You can ask ushers for assistance selecting a seat if it would be useful to you. If you need a particular seat for accessibility reasons, you can also contact Arts Centre Melbourne prior to the show by emailing tickets@artscentremelbourne.com.au or phoning on 1300 182 183.

Once you've taken your seat, settle in and enjoy the show! Remember, you can come and go as you please by exiting through the same entrance you came through.



About the Show

The Stage

There are four stages that look like square boxes and are hidden from view in different ways. One stage is covered by sheer, white fabric. The second stage is covered with white shutter blinds, like a large window. The two other stages are hidden without any lighting. Throughout the show, each stage will be revealed to you

by the performers and stage lights. Video images and animation will also be projected onto these stages.

It can be distracting to sit close to other audience members. If it helps, you can focus your attention on the performers when they appear. Stage lighting will also assist you in centring your curiosity.



Carla Lippis

This show includes eight performers. Carla Lippis is the first performer you will see in Private View. Carla wears a dark blue dress, red lipstick and sparkly blue eyeshadow.

Carla is the singer and will act as a guide throughout the show. Sometimes she will sing live using French and English; it's okay if you don't understand all the words.



Private View

The Dancers

Seven dancers will appear at different times in *Private View*. Some will be wearing formal clothes and others wearing casual clothes.

Sam signs in Auslan some of the lines from Carla's songs. It's okay if you don't understand the signs Sam uses.



Jianna Georgiou



Michael Hodyl



Jazzy Williamson-Gray



Darcy Carpenter



Charlie Wilkins



Bonnie Williams



Sam Matthewman



Content and Sensory Warnings

- There is no strobe lighting in *Private View*. Coloured stage lighting is used. There are also moving spotlights, some disco ball lighting, flickering lights, theatrical haze and projection.
- Music is important in this show as it helps create mood and feeling. There are a few different soundtracks that stop and start, sometimes without warning. Each stage draws inspiration from a different genre of music. Some musical influences include Gainsborough, Jack Ladder, Nathaniel Merriweather, and Baby Metal. *Private View* will feature drums, guitars, trumpets, vocals, and more.
- At times, the performers make sexual gestures or cheeky movements. The show has an explicit mention of genitals, suggests pornography, and implies sexual flirting. There is also partial nudity in one scene. This has all been rehearsed with consent. It is part of the performance. The performers have worked with the help of an intimacy coach to make everything safe. More detail is included in the show details.
- The show has some audience participation, but it's voluntary. You don't need to take part if you don't want to. More detail is included in the show details.

Allergens

- During one scene, a condom is blown up with an air pump like a balloon. This prop condom may contain latex.

Private View

Themes

Private View is about love, sex, intimacy, and desire.

Michelle Ryan, the Director, has said about the show:

"Most people are sexual beings, with sexual thoughts, attitudes, feelings, desires, and fantasies. Having a physical or intellectual disability doesn't change your sexuality and your desire to express it. Yet, the subject of people with intellectual disability having romantic dreams and sexual desires is still a taboo subject."

In *Private View*, Disabled and non-disabled performers play characters. The audience sees these characters take control of their personal spaces and lives. The performers express themselves using their own power. They are exploring their sexualities and vulnerabilities before a public audience. This dynamic is rare in reality. It makes *Private View* unique.

Private View also explores the role of the voyeur and makes the people in the audience actively participate in the show. The show questions what it means for an audience to observe someone else's privacy and desires. *Private View* blurs the line between what we think is secret and what is not.



Show details

The following portion of the guide goes into detail about the sights, sounds and story you will experience whilst attending *Private View*. If you would like these things to remain a surprise you are welcome to skip this portion of the guide.

Pre-show

A close-up of Carla's eyes, blinking and moving, are projected onto a wall of fabric covering one of the four stages.

Soft, haunting music can be heard before it fades into silence. A pre-recorded Acknowledgement of Country plays.



Opening moments

The show begins as the music changes. Guitars and drums combine into a slow melody. A pre-recorded projection of Carla's eyes changes into a close-up of her lips. Carla's lips are painted with red lipstick, and move as if singing the music's French and English lyrics.

Carla, in person, stands towards the front of the audience. Carla is met by Sam who gives her a microphone. Sam shines a light on Carla. Carla begins to sing live while lit by a larger stage spotlight. Sam signs some of the lines in the song into Auslan.



Ooh la la!

The first stage is lit from within. Michael opens the fabric curtain and looks out at the audience. He is wearing a suit with a vest. As loud, funky music plays he begins to dance energetically. Carla helps him set a candlelit dinner table. As Michael sits, his pre-recorded voice introduces himself. Captions of what he is saying project onto the back

wall of the stage. Carla makes the sound "Ooh la la!" into her microphone while Michael's voice plays. "Ooh la la" is a French phrase used for showing excitement towards romance.



PS: Love ... somehow

In one moment, the stage lights flicker. The music also breaks into static sounds before it fades into silence. Michael blows out the candles and Carla starts the record player again. Slow blues music plays.

Michael and Carla open envelopes that cover the stage's back wall. Michael begins to write, and his words project onto the back wall.



Spotlight

Michael continues to dance. He uses a flashlight to point towards the audience – the light could go on your face. The music stops and a pre-recorded smooching kiss sound plays. A stage spotlight appears and moves over the audience and the stage. Michael continues to dance, as if flirting with someone to get their attention.

A small disco ball begins to reflect light across the stage. Some confetti falls onto Michael from above, and he throws a red rose out to the front audience. You may applaud Michael once he has finished dancing if you would like. If the applause is too loud, it's okay to cover your ears with your hands or with headphones.

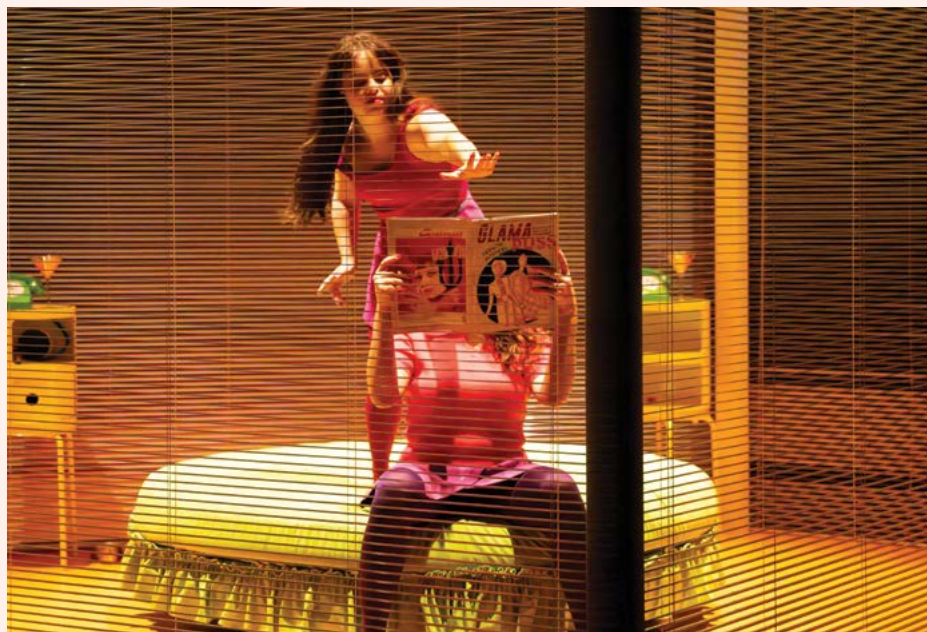


A playful night in

Carla shines her flashlight onto another stage and moves toward it. White shutter blinds cover this stage. Hands from inside poke through the blinds as red stage lighting glows from within. Jianna and Jazzy are in a room with a rotating round couch. They both wear matching pink skirts and t-shirts. They both look like they are having fun together. In one moment, they imitate the poses of people they are looking at in a magazine.

In another, they are blowing up a condom with an air pump like a balloon. This prop condom may contain latex.

The music changes to a quicker drumbeat. The stage lighting changes to yellow and pink. Jianna and Jazzy both begin to peek out the blinds. They seem to be giggling and talking with each other as if they are checking out the audience.



The Heart 2 Heart Hotline

Carla appears and enters the stage, joining the two dancers and providing them with a telephone. They all continue to perform together. The music begins to quieten while Carla and Jazzy exit the stage.

Jianna is alone as the stage lighting becomes blue. Jianna uses an old-fashioned rotary telephone and a manual phone dial sound effect plays.



The blinds open as Carla's pre-recorded voice is heard. Carla introduces the phone call service. Carla, in person, arrives in the middle of the audience seating. She holds a telephone that begins to ring (pre-recorded sound).

Stage lighting brightens above the audience. Carla answers the telephone and her voice is amplified. She speaks to Jianna, who can also view the audience. Jianna speaks to Carla (pre-recorded sound) and points out towards the audience. Jianna wants to speak to an audience member.

Carla will help find someone in the audience for Jianna to speak to.

If you don't want to speak to Jianna, you can avoid eye contact with Carla. You can also shake your head like a 'no' if you don't want to take part. If you join Carla to use the telephone, you can choose to give Jianna an honest or false answer to the pre-recorded questions. Some of the questions might be: what does heartbreak feel like? How often do you think about sex? What does a testicle look like?

At the end of this performance, Jianna hangs up the phone.



Alone

Bonnie wears a shiny gold dress. She moves in front of the audience to enter another stage while Carla follows her. Bonnie touches the shoulders of some people that she passes. It's okay to say "No thanks" if you don't want her to touch you.

Loud, moody music plays as the stage becomes lit. Bonnie is surrounded by clear plastic walls and a glass cubicle that looks like a shower.

A shadow of Bonnie projects against her own body, as if there are two figures. The shadow disappears, and the lighting becomes brighter. Carla approaches the stage as if observing Bonnie. Bonnie moves faster and her dress becomes looser.



There is intentional nudity in this performance. If nudity makes you uncomfortable, you can avoid your gaze or exit to the foyer or Quiet Space if you would like. In one moment, Bonnie displays her nude torso. As she continues to dance, Bonnie takes off her dress completely. She is standing while only wearing an undergarment.

Bonnie's face projects onto the stage, showing her crying (pre-recorded). Carla begins to sing live. As the music fades, this is the end of Bonnie's performance. As Bonnie moves off stage, you might want to acknowledge her with the Deaf applause by waving your hands up in the air, which is the Deaf community's way to show appreciation.



Sexting

Lights reveal the final stage. Mobile phone text sounds play. A living room is on display with Darcy and Charlie sitting on a couch texting each other. Their texts are pre-recorded and project onto the stage back wall as captions. Sam sits between them on the couch and is trying to separate them.

During this performance, the dancers turn the stage lamps on and off. Darcy and Charlie's characters continue to flirt with each other. Their physical interactions have been rehearsed with an intimacy coach to make everything safe and consensual.



As the dancers continue to move, the couch becomes separated into two sections. The sections move around on wheels, pushed by the performers.

Darcy and Charlie use their phone cameras and an animal face filter. You can see what they look like as a pre-recorded video is projected onto the stage wall.



Do you want to dance with me?

Carla begins to sing live as the stage lights darken. Sam joins her and signs some of the lines in the song into Auslan. Sam carries Carla onto the floor near the audience. They begin to dance together under a stage spotlight.

The light moves into the audience seating. All the stages become lit and all the dancers throughout *Private View* are dancing to the music. A disco ball lights up, reflecting lights throughout The Show Room.

The other dancers join Carla and Sam near where you are seated. Audience members are invited to dance to the music. You can dance if you would like to but you do not have to participate if you don't want to. No one will judge your choice.

Confetti will begin to fall from the ceiling above the seating during this scene.



Carla returns to a stage and finishes the song. The dancers join her to take a bow together at the end of the show.

To show appreciation to the artists for sharing their work with you, you might want to clap and cheer for the performers. For some audience members, clapping can be very loud and feel uncomfortable. We encourage you to join us at the end of the performance by using the Deaf applause.

This is done by waving your hands up in the air, which is the Deaf community's way to show appreciation. In Deaf culture, some people may also stomp their feet while they wave their hands in the air to create the feeling of vibration. We invite you to applaud in whatever way is comfortable for you. When you are ready, you can exit to the foyer or Quiet Space before you leave Arts Centre Melbourne.



**ALTER
STATE**



restless
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FOUNDATION PARTNERS



ALTER STATE ALLIES

**Major
Festivals
Initiative**



Grangers/Robertson
Foundation

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