



LA MAMA presents

"These are dangerous times,
difficult times, times in which
the blowtorch of history is
being applied to
each and every
one of us..."



TRAITORS

(a Branch production)

La Mama at the Carlton Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton
April 29 - May 15, 2004

Tues and Suns at 6.30pm, Weds to Sats at 8.00pm (no show on Wed May 5)
Bookings: 9347 6142

TRAITORS

CAST (in order of appearance)

ANNA a Trotskyist..... Daniela Farinacci
EKATERINA Anna's friendMing-Zhu Hii
MOTHER DYBENKO an urbanised peasant Beth Child
RUBIN a ZinovievistJay Bowen
ANITA a ZinovievistMing-Zhu Hii
KRASIN an army officer Neil Pigot
LEBESHEV Krasin's superior officer Bruce Myles
NADEZDAH a Bolshevik..... Beth Child

Writer..... Stephen Sewell
Director Melanie Beddie
Set Design Kathryn Sproul
Production Manager / Lighting Design Daniel Zika
Costume Amy Faram, Alison Ragland, Beth Child
Production AssistantAmy Faram
Fight Consultants Lewis Pratt & Cinnoidh MacLeod

TRAITORS is a play I have wanted to direct for a long time. I believe it to be an extraordinary piece set at a unique moment in history and filled with muscular and energised characters. Its emotional reach is vast and visceral. It offers very strong ideas in a bold theatrical form. The play asks the question – Do people shape history or does history shape people? These characters are fired by passion and the belief in the possibility of a better world - they believe (as we should) that the future is always open.

Melanie Beddie

The epilogue and prologue occur in the Winter of 1941, 100kms south of Moscow

ACT 1 is set in Leningrad and then Moscow, 1927

ACT 2 is set in Moscow, 1927

Approx running time (with a short interval) 2.5 hours



Melanie Beddie is the artistic director of the Branch, an independent theatre company that exists to produce works that combine strong political and theatrical ideas. She has worked for a number of Melbourne companies including Playbox, MTC and La Mama. Her production of *Second Childhood* (MTC/Hothouse) will tour nationally from July.

This work marks **Jay Bowen's** debut Melbourne theatre performance since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts. He is a trained singer and dancer and has appeared in Marcel Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* (Melb. Fest., 2002) and Maxim Gorky's *Summerfolk* (VCA, 2003).

Beth Child has been a performer and director for over 20 years. She has appeared in theatre, film, TV and cabaret, winning an award for the music theatre piece *Zen and Now* at the Adelaide Festival Fringe. She is currently devising a new work for the Music Theatre Foundation Course students at the VCA and will direct a new Australian play *Absence* (working title) by Alison Ragland later in the year at La Mama.

Daniela Farinacci has worked professionally and extensively in theatre, film and TV. Her most recent credits include *Metamorphoses* for the Melbourne Theatre Co. (2004 Green Room Award Nomination); *MDA* for ABCTV and the feature film *Lantana* (2001 Film Critics Circle Award; IF Award nomination and AFI nomination). Due to be released projects include *Blackjack* for Channel 10 and the feature films *Josh Jarman* and *Life Story*.

Ming-Zhu Hii was performing in Uwe Mengel's *Lifeline* for the 2002 Melbourne Festival while finishing her degree at VCA. She then premiered Stephen Sewell's *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America* (Playbox) and *Love, Death Music and Plants* (STSA) and made various television appearances. She will be performing in *Dinner* at MTC in August.

Bruce Myles trained at the HB Studio New York. He has performed at the Playbox Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company and the Nimrod Theatre in Sydney. He is a member of Actors for Refugees and takes part regularly in their state wide Club Refuge programme.

Neil Pigot's most recent theatre work includes the Australian premier of Martin Crimp's *The Country* (Belvoir St) and the international tour of Back to Back Theatre's acclaimed production *Soft*. He is a 5 time Green Room Award Nominee and was awarded Best Actor for *Judgement* in 1999 and *Uncle Bob* in 2002.

Stephen Sewell's works include *Welcome to the Bright World*, *The Blind Giant is Dancing* and *Hate*. His latest play *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America* was nominated for three Green Room awards, and won the Green Room Best New Play for 2003. He recently received the lifetime achievement award at the National Playwrights Conference.

Kathryn Sproul works nationally as a designer for theatre, dance and events. Recent works include *Second Childhood* (MTC/Hothouse), *Runners Up* (Legs on the Wall), *Moon Play* (Gekidan Urinko, Japan), *Live Acts on Stage* (St Martins Youth Arts Centre), *The Flood* (NORPA) & the Fringe Lounge, (Adelaide Fringe 2004).

Daniel Zika is a lighting designer and production manager for dance, theatre and multi-media exhibitions and presentations. Credits include: *Falling Petals*, *Svellana in Slingbacks*, *Post Felicity* and *Inside 01* (Playbox), he won a 2001 Green Room Award for his work on *Inside 01*; *The Funniest Man in the World* (Keene/Taylor Theatre Projects); *Liquid*, *Red Rain* and *Quiescence* (co.motion) (he received nominations for 2000 and 2001 Green Room Awards for *Red Rain* and *Quiescence*).



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TRAITORS was first performed on 26th April 1979 by the APG at the Pram Factory. It was directed by Kerry Dwyer with lighting by Tony Watts and design by Dave May. It was performed by Sue Ingleton, Judy McHenry, Jan Cornell, Mark Mitchinton, Wilfrid Last and Max Gillies.

With very special thanks to Micheal Munday for image design, Rachel Mackie for taking the photos and to William Henderson for the hall.-also to Playbox, MTC, Sioban Tuke, Tom Considine, Michelle Smith, Terry Sullivan, Mandy Doolan, Bruce Gladwin, Fiona Todd, Sunchana Gogic, Nik Pajanti, Dominic Petراسi and everyone at La Mama

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LA MAMA

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Liz Jones
Maureen Hartley
Alicia Benn, Tess Butler,
Mary Helen Pirola & Victoria Zamora
Graham Downey

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT: Edwin Batt, Liz Jones, Tes Lyssiotis, Sophia Bucek, Mark Rubbo, Catherine Hill, Lloyd Jones, Malcolm Robertson and Maureen Hartley.

La Mama's Committee of Management, Staff and its wider theatrical community acknowledge that our theatre is on traditional Wurundjeri land.

La Mama is financially assisted by the Federal Government through the Australia Council - its Arts Funding and Advisory body, and the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the Community Support Fund. La Mama productions at the Carlton Courthouse are supported by the City of Melbourne. The La Mama Regional Mentorship programme is funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. Our thanks to the Management and staff of Readings Bookshop, Carlton, for their contribution to the running of the Box Office.

