



29TH
- 30TH
OF OCTOBER

MAKING HERSTORY

THE
ETERNITY
PLAYHOUSE

CELEBRATE FEMINISM, THEATRE, WRITING,
COMEDY AND MUSIC OVER TWO INCREDIBLE DAYS!

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INTERVIEWS

SELKIE



1. How did your show come about?

Nicola James (Director): After hearing of the announcement of Festival Fatale I put the call out to Finn O'Branagain (playwright) asking for any plays she had begging to be produced. She sent through Selkie and I was immediately struck by the truth in her beautiful story. It has such striking imagery and I imagined vast animated worlds for actors to live amongst. The vision for the combination of live action and animation lends itself so perfectly to this script, I decided to jump in and submit it to WITS!

2. What do you think is your biggest challenge in putting on this show?

Nicola James (Director): We have many challenges bringing this show to life. Jumping into the unknown with multiple artists across different disciplines collaborating together we are working towards creating something truly wonderful. However we're creating what will be a tech heavy show in a festival environment working with other artists using the Eternity [Playhouse] space. With this in mind we have to be extremely adaptable.

3. What do you think makes your show stand out in the Festival Fatale lineup?

Nicola James (Director): We are bringing to life a beautiful story drawing on the mythical and the domestic. We have the expanse of the animated world and the intimacy of two actors live on stage.

4. Why do you think WITS and the Festival Fatale is important to theatre/women/men/the world?

Nicola James (Director): This is a fantastic platform to show Sydney and the world the wealth of female talent, and the power of female stories. To show an audience used to following a male protagonist through a male world that a strong female story is not only engaging but universally enjoyable to all audiences. Festival Fatale will be a celebration of women in the performing arts!

5. Why this play? What about this play stands out to you?

Sarah de Possesse (Ronnad): I'm slightly obsessed with the ocean - spending time in and around it - and the idea of mythical creatures, particularly mermaids and sea creatures has always fascinated me (though I hadn't heard of a selkie before this play). What really resonated with me when I first read it was the aching, the longing and the deeply ingrained sadness that surrounds Ronnad throughout her time with Sean. She's quirky and adventurous, and has a naturally joyful spirit, but being separated from her skin and her world is so painful for her. Even in her moments of fun and respite, her words reveal that ever constant pull of her roots. Sean and Ronnad have a strong bond, they're almost magnetically drawn to each other, but their worlds and beliefs are very different. I don't believe Sean consciously acts with malice, but his frustration with her differences and lack of understanding of Ronnad manifests in him inadvertently crushing her (and preventing her from returning to her home and skin). The final moments of the play really struck a chord - she uncovers a huge betrayal of trust, and he knows he has committed an unforgivable act. This betrayal, which I think originated in his fear of losing her, destroys them. Even though Sean's deception is the reason their relationship had time to grow and strengthen, it's still a very real love and bond. The play left me feeling really torn.

Jordan Gallaway (Sean): Sean is a big hearted, really sweet man. The first few times I read it I thought he was quite a sad guy. But he has fallen very deeply in love with Ronnad, and that is his main driving force - this desperation and this complete surrender to how he is feeling. This play is firstly just a really beautiful and interesting love story, and it is very relatable to me. Of course the mythical element is awesome but love can make you do crazy things and act irrationally. The first thing I noticed, as I have constantly found myself in situations where I am completely led by my heart, and it's almost like you watch yourself in slow motion saying "Get out. Get out" but you just can't. And that is why I was drawn to it.

Selkie
Saturday 29 October
1.30 - 2.30pm
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