



**Thank you:**

Mary Lou Jelbart and all at fortyfivedownstairs,

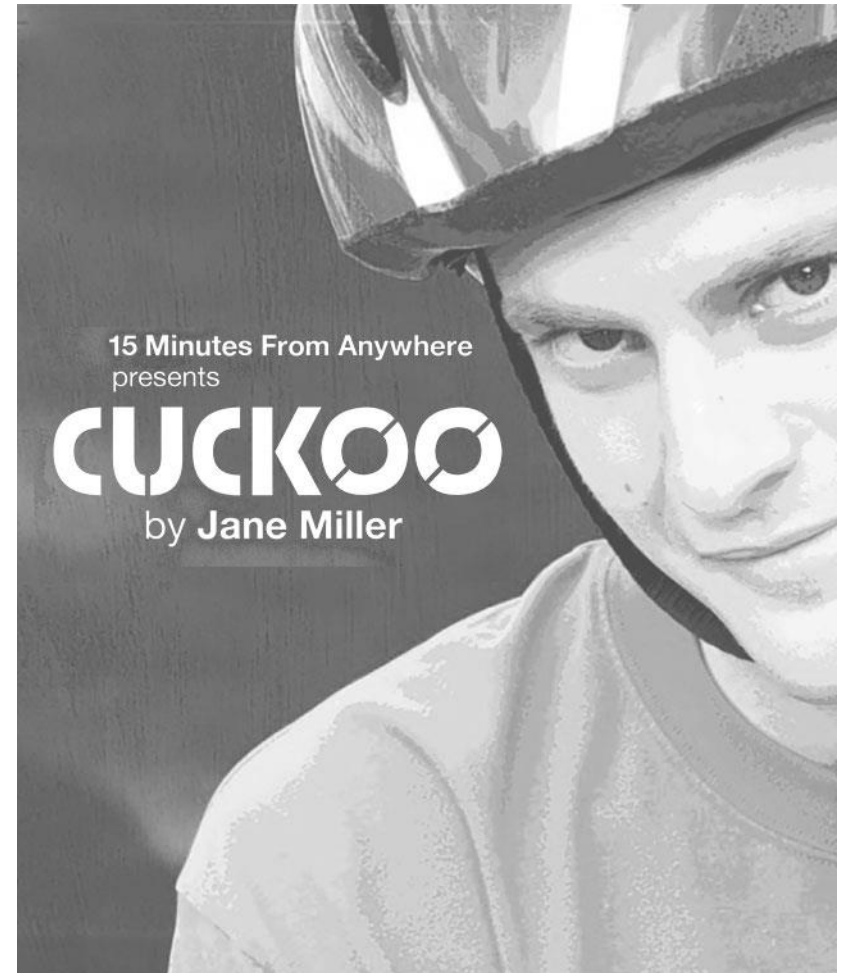
Thomas Banks, Sarah Bianco, Edward Chia, Creative Spaces & the City of Melbourne's Arts and Culture branch, Katrina Gubbins & Maribyrnong City Council, Peta Hanrahan, Lauren Hopley, Sarah McKenzie, Ben Man, Pauline Miller, Beng Oh, The University of Melbourne Library, the VCA Writers of 2014 and Barton Welch.

A special thank you to Raimondo Cortese, Richard Murphet, Robert Reid for the dramaturgical support and insight.



15 MINUTES  FROM ANYWHERE

fortyfivedownstairs is a not-for-profit theatre and gallery showcasing independent, experimental, and thought-provoking visual art, theatre, live music, and discussion.



Directed by: Alice Bishop  
Cast: Natalie Carr // David Kambouris // Matthew Molony // Samuel Russo  
8 to 26 July 2015

 **fortyfive  
downstairs**

45 flinders lane, melbourne 3000  
bookings 03 9662 9966  
[fortyfivedownstairs.com](http://fortyfivedownstairs.com)

*15 Minutes from Anywhere presents:*

**Cuckoo**

writer – Jane Miller  
director – Alice Bishop  
set design – Kelsey Henderson  
lighting design – Bronwyn Pringle  
sound designer – Natalie Grant  
violinist – Jo Gill  
stage management – Hayley Fox  
publicity - Ben Starick, Starling Communications  
graphic design – Karen Slade Brief Eater design

**Cast**

(in order of appearance)  
Mel – Natalie Carr  
Leo – Matthew Molony  
J - Samuel Russo  
Dan - David Kambouris

**Director's Note**

I was very pleased to be asked to direct this new play. I have been a fan of Jane Miller's work for a long time. There are few writers that can walk the fine line between comedy and tragedy. Jane does this. With aplomb and with a big heart. The subject matter of this work is dark and difficult. But sometimes we need to go to the dark and difficult places, and we need to laugh in order to survive. I thank my long-time collaborators and friends Nat, Dave, Matt and Bron who make me laugh and make life better, and new friends Sam, Kelsey, Hayley and Jane.

**Alice Bishop**

**Bronwyn Pringle – Lighting design**

Bronwyn is a freelance lighting designer who has worked around Australia with companies such as Pop up Playground, NICA, Ballarat Arts Academy, Arts Projects Australia, Finucane & Smith and more. Projects range from large festivals to small developmental pieces in venues that include The Princess theatre, a London west end nightclub, the Segerstrom centre in California, a warehouse in Buenos Aires, the Federation Square air-conditioning ducts and a woolshed in Glencoe, plus many more conventional and non-conventional theatre spaces. Design highlights include Lloyd Beckman: Beekeeper(SoulArt), The Hatpin (BAA), Cabaret (BAA), Asylum (Here Theatre/La Mama), Topsy (Here Theatre), LEFT (Short answers to simple questions), 4x Beckett (Stuck Pigs Squealing), Batboy and Filch (La Mama). Previous collaborations with Alice Bishop include Catalpa, After the War and For all that Lives. Bronwyn has won Green Room Awards for alias Grace (Malthouse Theatre), Letters from Animals (Here Theatre/SRWT) and two Melbourne Fringe design collaboration awards.

**Samuel Russo – J**

Samuel is a graduate of the VCA. As an actor Samuel has also trained with institutions such as the Queensland Actors Playhouse (2009-2011), the Australian Acting Academy (2004-2009) & Practical Aesthetics with Andrea Moore (2011). Samuel has a strong background in live theatre. His previous stage credits include Arthur Kipps in *The Woman in Black* (Brisbane Arts Theatre) and Peter Pevensie in *Narnia* (Brisbane Arts Theatre). Whilst studying at the VCA (2012-2014) Samuel's roles included, Achilles in *The Greeks*, Baron Tuzenbach in *Three Sisters* and The Little Prince in *The Little Prince*. Samuel's Film and Television credits include, *Prombie* (QCA), *The Walk* (QUT), *Eustice Solves A Problem* (HeadPictures) *ManChild* (Flemhouse Productions) and *Mortified* (Nine Network).

### **Alice Bishop – Director**

Alice Bishop began her career as an actor and has worked across a variety of disciplines since as a singer, comedian, producer, musician, writer, costume and production designer, and these days primarily as a director. Alice is co-creative producer and resident director with ITCH Productions and *le poulet terrible*, and freelances with many theatre companies and arts organisations, as well as designing for theatre, television sketch comedy, video clips and commercials. She has written and directed several short films and presently has a feature script under commission. Recent directorial credits for ITCH Productions include Tennessee Williams' *Vieux Carre*, *The Butterfly Catcher*, *Bodybag*, and *Catalpa* (Greenroom nominations for best composition and best direction). For *le poulet terrible* she has directed *Nil Cat & Buried* by Stephen Sewell, Moliere's *The Reluctant Doctor*, and *Ruffian on Stair* by Joe Orton.

### **Natalie Carr - Mel**

Natalie has worked in Film, TV and Theatre for 23 years. She has been nominated for a Greenroom award and has won best female actor at both Tropfest (*In Your Dreams*) and *Short & Sweet* at The Arts Centre. TV credits include *Fat Tony & Co*, *Utopia*, *The Time of Our Lives*, *Dangerous Remedy*, *Twenty Something*, *Killing Time*, *Satisfaction*, *M.D.A*, *Skithouse*, *The Secret Life of Us* and *Blue Heelers*. Her film credits include *Bad Boy Bubby*, *The Little Woman*, *In Your Dreams*, *Johnny Ghost* and *Little Deaths*. Natalie also plays Sergeant Roxanne Finch at The Old Melbourne Gaol. She is an ex-Australian Ballroom Dancing Champion and has been teaching singing for the past 7 years

### **Hayley Fox – Stage Management**

Hayley completed her Diploma of Live Production at the Box Hill Institute, including a secondment with The Rabble as Assistant Stage Manager for their Melbourne Festival production of Orlando. Previously, Hayley gained a Bachelor of

Creative Industries majoring in Theatre, Music and Sound at QUT in 2005 and a Master of Arts in Writing at Swinburne University in 2010. Hayley's recent stage management credits include, *Palace of the End* and *Credible Likeable Superstar Rolemodel* for Theatreworks, *Iphigenie en Tauride*, *Werther* and *The Spanish Hour* with the Lyric Opera of Melbourne, *The Road to Woodstock*, *Nina Black Power Diva*, *The Billie Holiday Story* and *An Evening with Sarah Vaughan* for Neil Cole, *Room of Regret* with The Rabble, and *Wuthering Heights* with the Australian Shakespeare Company. Hayley is House Manager for La Mama and Venue Technician for the Alan Ross Centre and Chapel off Chapel.

### **Kelsey Henderson – Set design**

Having completed her Bachelor of Production at the VCA in 2013, Kelsey has put a mark on Victorian theatre and film. She has worked with companies such as The State Theatre Company of South Australia, Windmill and MTC. Working repeatedly with Tooth and Claw, Kelsey has also styled video shoots for bands such as Montgomery and promotions such as Mini Cooper Cars 'Best Dance Floor Ever'. Most happy when working creatively, she plans to continue to work as a freelance artist across the two fields.

### **David Kambouris – Dan**

*Cuckoo* is David's third production at fortyfivedownstairs in as many years. He played Lobkowitz in *Mein Kampf* (2014) and Richard in *True Love Travels on a Gravel Road* (2013) (15 Minutes From Anywhere). His other theatre credits include *Nil, Cat & Buried*, *The Doctor* (*le poulet terrible*), *The Object of Desire* (Fly on the Wall), *An Air Balloon Across Antarctica* (3 to a Room/Edinburgh Festival), *Outlookers* (Arena), *Twelfth Night & A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Essential Theatre). David was a founding member of Red Stitch Actors Theatre. TV credits include hosting *sn:tv* and *Sarvo* on the Nickelodeon channel. He has also appeared in many short films.

### **Jane Miller - Writer**

Jane's work has been produced both around Australia and internationally. Plays include *Perfect Stillness* (Short + Sweet), *The Painter* (MelBorn – Melbourne Writers' Theatre), *Happily Ever After* (La Mama), the R.E. Ross Trust award winning *True Love Travels on a Gravel Road* (fortyfivedownstairs) and *Motherfucker* (La Mama ). In 2013, Jane and director Beng Oh formalised their ongoing collaboration via the establishment of their company, *15 Minutes from Anywhere*. Last year, Jane completed a Master of Writing for Performance at the VCA.

### **Matthew Molony - Leo**

Matt Molony has, over the last number of years, accumulated a diverse body of work in the Melbourne independent theatre scene, appearing in Daniel Keene's *The Cove* and *Half & Half*, directed by Matt Scholten, The Dog Theatre; as John Proctor in *The Crucible*, also directed by Matt Scholten, (Eagles Nest); and in Joe Orton's *The Ruffian on the Stair* and *The Doctor In Spite Of Himself*, by Moliere, both directed by Alice Bishop (le poulet terrible). For Essential Theatre he toured nationally in a number of Shakespearean roles – most notably playing Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*. For Melbourne Writer's Theatre he has appeared in *A Drop Would Be Something* and *Protocol*, which won the Best Short Play Award and toured to Sydney. With La Mama he has appeared in *Porcelain*, directed by Beng Oh. Matt has recently returned to Melbourne after a period away in the UK.

### **Writer's Note**

I am not sure I really know where this play came from. Much like one of its characters, it seems to have just appeared one night at the front door. I wrote it while undertaking a Master of Writing for Performance at VCA but some of the fragments of its ideas have been kicking around my brain for a while without any sense of how they might fit into a whole. Part of it grew from my interest in the ability of human beings to paper over the cracks in life, relationships and truths in the name of self-preservation

*Cuckoo* has stretched and changed me as a writer. I hope audiences find it funny, sad, bizarre and enigmatic, much like life and people can be. The experience of writing the play in the context of the Masters course is one I will never forget. The intensity of the process as well as the insights and support of the lecturers and my wonderful classmates were invaluable and sustaining. In production, I couldn't be more thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with artists of the talent and generosity of Alice, Natalie, Matt, David, Sam, Bronwyn, Kelsey and Hayley, or more delighted that *Cuckoo* is having its premiere in the wonderful space of fortyfivedownstairs.

**Jane Miller**

### **15 Minutes from Anywhere - Producer**

15 Minutes from Anywhere is an artistic collaboration between director Beng Oh and writer Jane Miller. Previous productions include *True Love Travels on a Gravel Road* (fortyfivedownstairs) in 2013 and *Motherfucker* (La Mama), as part of the 2014 Melbourne Fringe festival. Work currently in development includes *[medea]* and *The Yellow Wave*.

web: [15minutesfromanywhere.com](http://15minutesfromanywhere.com)