

LA MAMA PRESENTS

LA MAMA IS BACK IN 2026! BE PREPARED TO HAVE YOUR SOCKS KNOCKED OFF THIS **FEBRUARY TO MAY** AS INTIMATE THEATRE RETURNS TO CARLTON WITH LA MAMA'S RETURN TO PRESENTING.

LA MAMA PRESENTS showcases eight new Australian works by some of the country's most exciting writers bringing you some of the most urgent stories. Comedy, drama, satire, gothic – each show will immerse you in its secrets, confront you with its truths, and delight you in its craft. All while still enjoying Melbourne's cheapest tickets and warmest welcome – plus of course – the famous La Mama raffle at each show.

FEBRUARY: Maki Morita's stunning 月を見る夜 **MOONGAZING** (Antipodes Theatre Company) draws from Noh, Japanese folktales and the digital realm to examine spiritual connection in an increasingly atomised world, while **SAINTS** created by Elbow Room takes us on a satirical tour through a revolutionary England to pose the question: how do we know we're on the right side of history?

MARCH: 2025 Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting winner Glenn Shea completes his 30 year work *An Indigenous Trilogy* with the haunting gothic **SOME SECRETS SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET**. And Joel Te Teira (La Mama Writing Intensive 2024, Cybec Electric 2025) brings us a riveting Māori dramedy that tests the friendships of men in **BACK TO TE MAUNGA** (Antipodes Theatre Company).

APRIL: Nicola Watson takes aim at privilege in an isolated posh Airbnb in her dark comedy **SPARE A THOUGHT FOR JANA WENDT** (shortlisted for 2023 Patrick White Playwrights Award), and James Hazelden's black comedy thriller **HEAD | THORAX | ABDOMEN** fragments the narrative in a darkly mysterious mindfuck that will keep you guessing right to the end.

MAY: Black comedy **STUCK** written by Megan Twycross and directed by Susie Dee takes aim at the systems that keep women down in a fluorescent-lit battle of wit, will and survival. Meanwhile **GAG REFLEX** by Flick (La Mama Writing Intensive 2024, Cybec Electric 2025) is the extremely controversial comedy that anyone who's ever raised a child or been 16 needs to see.

FOR FULL DETAILS PLEASE REFER TO LA MAMA'S [WEBSITE](#).
FOR HIGH RESOLUTION SHOW IMAGES [CLICK HERE](#).

Image credits: Darren Gill



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LA MAMA 2026

THIS YEAR, OUR PROGRAM BREATHES IN THREE PARTS:

- **LA MAMA PRESENTS** (Feb–May): Eight works ready to meet their audiences
- **PLAY** (Jun–Aug): Artistic development
- **PARTNERSHIPS** (Sep–Dec): Collaborations that expand our reach

JUNE–AUGUST: PLAY is not about polish—it's about potential, daring to invite risk, fuel experimentation, and build the theatre of tomorrow. PLAY includes:

SCRATCH: Fast, raw and electric. A live platform for performance makers to test new ideas in front of peers and community.

EXPLORATIONS: La Mama's iconic season of works in development gives artists three nights of public presentation to push boundaries and chase bold ideas.

IMMERSE: A deeply focused 12-week practice-led program for 16 mid-career writers ready to take their work to the next level. For eight metro and eight regional writers.

SEPTEMBER: LA MAMA FESTIVALS: Bespoke programs that respond to urgent issues and showcase new forms. 2026 will include:

HOPE PUNK CLIMATE FESTIVAL: Embracing 'hope' as a verb and 'punk' as a culture, this platform will empower independent creatives to contribute to the national climate conversation through art.

MELBOURNE FESTIVAL OF PUPPETRY: Our returning collaboration with Lemony S Puppet Theatre is a week of puppet fun for the whole family.

OCTOBER: MELBOURNE FRINGE AT LA MAMA: We play hard, presenting six new cutting-edge Australian works, that are unafraid to challenge and just a little bit wild.

NOVEMBER: CULTURAL CONSERVATION IN ACTION: A combination of full seasons, one-off events and yarnning circles that undertake the crucial work of archiving within the Australian cultural canon First Nations storytellers' lived experience.

DECEMBER: FARADAYS: A love letter to summer nights in the neighbourhood, we create our very own 'piazza pubblica' in Carlton, closing off the year with street performance, one-off events and building on the legacy of our beloved La Mamica: Musica, Poetica and Cabaretica.

More information on all these programs can be found on our website.

La Mama will open applications for artists for the rest of 2026 on 30 October 2025.

All 2026 Program media enquiries to georgina@lamama.com.au

