



LA MAMA
HOPE
PUNK
CLIMATE FESTIVAL

LA MAMA PRESENTS
PULSE
SEPTEMBER 8 - 12

PULSE:

A LOVE SONG TO A BLEEDING OCEAN

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY

Elissa Goodrich and Susan Bamford Caleo

CREATORS' NOTES

Pulse is a work inspired by love of and concern for the sea. Informed by distress about pollution in our oceans and the impacts of climate change we are witnessing daily, we use this performance and new music to acknowledge the scale of the problem and to call for change for the better.

Initially provoked by Susan's childhood memories of her parents playing Elgar's 1899 romantic orchestral song cycle, 'Sea Pictures', Elissa and Susan were confronted by the stark contrast to the seas that we picture today. The song cycle we now offer is fuelled by the voices of today's generations – a Marine Biologist-Ecologist, an Anthropology and Policy-Governance Honors student, and two primary school students – all who share a love for the ocean.

If you'd like to read more about positive action being taken to protect our seas, or get involved yourself, you may find these links useful:

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/a-more-than-human-rights-movement/>

<https://reasonstobecheerful.world/>

<https://www.marineconservation.org.au/>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/decades/ocean-decade>

<https://climarte.org/>

CREDITS:

'Sea Pictures' Edward Elgar 1899 (settings of poems by Roden Noel, Alice Elgar, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Richard Garnett and Adam Lindsay Gordon)

Original music and music arrangements: Elissa Goodrich and Susan Bamford Caleo

'Pulse' sound-art: all tracks by Elissa Goodrich

1. Love alone / It is calculated that
2. Picture sea ice
3. The deep-sea benthos and deep-sea mining
4. Tempest
5. Bleaching corals
6. Things can change
7. Hope finale

Voice, original text and text edits: Susan Bamford Caleo

Percussion, prepared piano, sound-art, composition, text edits, sound design: Elissa Goodrich

Guest voices: Lara Skerratt, Eliza Kimlin, Florence Caleo, Rafi Caleo

Sampled field recordings include from: Elissa's Polar Sounds, & Waves and Bubbles Project with Swinburne's Surf Sounds, Elissa's and Gabby O'Connor's Data Days, sounds sourced from Antarctica, Arctic, Pacific, Baltic and Australian waters. Thank you to Professor R. Manasseh, Dr J. Brakel, Dr C. Stephens, HiFMB, NIWA for additional field recordings

Lighting and Video Design: Gina Gascoigne

Set/Costume Design: Susan Bamford Caleo

Rubbish collected from beaches during May to September 2026: Brighton, St Kilda, Seaford, Frankston, Williamstown and various on Phillip Island (Victoria, Australia)

Make-up Design: Isabel Knight with Susan Bamford Caleo

Stage Managed/Operated: Melina Wylie

Production Assistance: Freyjika Parker

Marketing photography by: Darren Gil

ELISSA GOODRICH

Musician, composer, sound artist Elissa works across musical idioms and artforms. With over 30 years' experience in sound design, composition and dramaturgy for theatre, she has contributed to many La Mama productions. Since 2015, her practice has explored intersections of climate science and new music. Her Gene Tree Project (2015-) won 2023 Green Room Awards for Best Production and Outstanding Composition & Sound Design, and 2025 Excellence in Community Arts Participation at Darwin Fringe Festival, in partnership with St Martins YAC, Royal Botanic Gardens, Corrugated Iron and Darwin Symphony Orchestra. Her The Waves Project (2019) in partnership with Professor Manasseh's team has produced 13 international sound exhibits to date. She is ANAT's 2026 Synapse artist-in-residence, a composer for FLOW which premiered at EU General Assembly of Geosciences, Vienna (2026), and releases two albums: "Gene Tree" and "Waves and Bubbles."

<https://elissagoodrich.bandcamp.com>

SUSAN BAMFORD CALEO

Susan is excited by experiments in transdisciplinary musical composition and exploratory performance, focusing on embodied, extended and extreme physiovocal work for live-production and recordings. Her compositions and audio works have been presented at institutions including Museums Victoria, National Gallery of Australia and the ABC. Susan won the 2004 Fringe Festival Award for Most Outstanding Female Performer for 'The Now Hour' and was nominated for Best Female Performer in the 2001 Greenroom Awards for 'Quartet'. She's an accredited Roy Hart Centre Voice Teacher, Vocal Combat Trainer and Certified Vocal Massage Therapist. Susan teaches Voice privately, and at institutions including Victorian College of the Arts. She loves working and performing at La Mama and founded and co-curated Cabaretica (with Isabel Knight). Active with the Climate Guardians/Angels since 2012, she created a performance, with Elissa, highlighting COP26 for CLIMARTE in 2021.

<https://susanbamfordcaleo.com/>

GINA GASCOIGNE

Gina Gascoigne is a lighting designer with over 40 years of experience. She has worked for contemporary dance groups internationally and more locally theatrical productions, circus companies and directors including Kamarra Bell-Wykes, Archie Roach, Glen Shea, Circus Oz, Deborah Leiser Moore, Snuff Puppets, Susie Dee, Adelaide Festival, La Fura dels Baus, Chamber Made Opera, Maude Davey and The Flying Fruit Fly Circus.

She has a Masters in Research (Fine Art) from RMIT and is a Certified Feldenkrais practitioner.

THANK YOU

John Howard and Michelle Fox (Body Voice Centre), Isabel Knight, Sarah Wilmot, Margaret Mills, Freyjika Parker, Lodzia, Dawn and Ross Bamford, Bernard, Joseph, Zebedee, Steve Gome, Rachel Bamford, Dave Pammer, Gabby O'Connor, Linda Wise, Richard Manasseh.... and all at La Mama – yay!

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Box Office is open 1 hour before show time.

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La Mama Theatre is on the traditional lands of the peoples of the Kulin nation, and we give our respect to the Elders and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

La Mama Theatre is financially assisted by the Federal Government through Creative Australia and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria. Thank you to the The Robert Salzer Foundation for supporting 2026 LA MAMA PRESENTS.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community. Thank you!



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