



LA MAMA EXPLORATIONS PRESENTS

PORTALOO

BY RACHEL EDMONDS

25–27 AUGUST

WRITER'S NOTE

The inspiration for *Portaloo* came in 2020. When I was driving the long country road to and from the supermarket with my unsettled baby in the back seat. I would drive past this run down house near the top of a hill. I presumed the exterior had once been white and I wondered if anyone still lived there. Then one day, a portaloo showed up and it became obvious that somebody did. At the bottom of this hill was my escape. Park areas, green grass, a lake, rabbits not used to being disturbed. Sometimes I'd stop there and walk around, have a picnic, scream into the void. It was public land but there was rarely anyone else there. The story was born. The character's reflecting people from my past and present; reflecting the area, and my home. In what is not quite regional, not quite metropolitan but a very real place. A place that can be lonely although filled with community. A place that can find hope even in the most difficult of circumstances. What a pleasure it has been to see this incredible team bring these characters and place to life. Huge thanks to Jennifer Piper who believed in this piece from the very beginning and has been its absolute backbone as dramaturg and director. Thank you to Maribrynong City Council and Pride Australia Foundation for their support and of course La Mama for having us!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When Rae got in touch three years ago to ask if I could recommend any director/dramaturge, and I sheepishly suggested myself, I couldn't have imagined how far these characters would burrow into my heart. Most of us didn't come of age in Melton in the early-90s, but all of us know the excruciating agony of late adolescence; knowing your supposed to be an adult but feeling nothing like a grown-up, and being certain you're the only one of your friends who feels like this much of a loser or a weirdo.

And that's without a dare that goes horribly wrong!

If you'd told my teenage self, in 1993, that in thirty-odd years I'd be making theatre about queerdos like me, I would have found it hard to believe that we'd have words to describe what we are. If you'd told me I'd be doing so at La Mama, I probably would have told you to get stuffed. But the idea would have been pretty exciting.

I'm incredibly grateful to Rae for trusting me with these characters and this story, and to the actors who have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into finding the characters and coming along for the ride when I took us on a tangent about music, film, and queer community in the 90s. Thank you, my colleagues. Delicious work.

Crew

Directed by Jennifer Piper

Written and Produced by Rachel Edmonds

Sound Designed by Micah Edmonds

Cast

Emily Farrell as Joe

Same Eade as Craig

Kit Berry as Moose

Kye Tamm as Eze

Special Thanks

Arts & Culture Maribyrnong, Pride Australia Foundation, La Mama, Doug Ferris, Rani Hughes, George Hanley, and all the family and friends who make it possible for all of us to tell stories to all of you.

Supported by Maribyrnong City Council as part of its artist residency program and Pride Foundation Australia.



JENNIFER PIPER
DIRECTOR

Jennifer Piper is an anti-disciplinary, cross-media storyteller whose award-winning acting, writing and directing spans screen, stage, radio, and page. JP's plays *A Scandal in the Weimar* (2017) and *That Time Everything Went Well And We Were Totally Fine* (2019) are published by APT. *At Home with Anne Zieté* was a finalist in Midsumma's 2021 Queer Playwriting Award. Films *Russian Spy* (2023), *What We Do For Family* (2023), *The Golden Rollers* (2022), and *POND* (2022) continue to screen at festivals around the world. JP founded Wit Incorporated theatre company in 2014, and Keep the Table screen collective in 2021, receiving City of Maribyrnong's inaugural Individual Arts award, for service to theatre. JP holds a Masters Degree from WA Screen Academy, Bachelor of Arts from UWA and Associate Degree in Broadcasting from WAAPA.



RACHEL EDMONDS
PLAYWRIGHT

Rachel Edmonds is an award-winning queer and disabled playwright, actor, and theatre maker. Through their career, Rachel has strongly advocated for authentic disabled voices in theatre to exist alongside quality storytelling. They were a finalist for the Queer Playwriting Award in 2019, a member of APT's playwrights with a disability group in 2025, and took home a Melbourne Fringe Award in 2018 for their debut work. Edmonds is thrilled and thankful to be presenting *Portaloo* for the 2026 La Mama Explorations season.



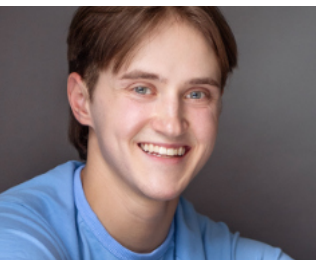
MICAH EDMONDS
SOUND DESIGNER

Micah is a musician and writer from Melbourne, Australia. An early interest in voice acting and music saw Micah pick up both drums and dinner-table Simpsons impersonations from an early age, eventually leading to the wide world of audio and voice over. An online content creator for a library of media video essays, Micah produces his own music as "The Cinema, Alone" and designed sounds for Rae Edmonds' previous show "Have You Tried Yoga?" He can frequently be found singing My Chemical Romance songs in the voice of the Joker.



KIT BERRY
MOOSE

Kit Berry is a Melbourne-based actor, improviser, and singer. A company member of Impro Melbourne, they have appeared in productions including *Jane Austen Improvised*, *Smells Like a Song*, *KitKat Prov*, and *Dungeons and Improvisers*. Scripted theatre credits include *The Woman in Black* and *Shakespeare's Henry Five*. Their work has featured at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Melbourne Fringe, and Adelaide Fringe. In 2025, Kit appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, playing Malcolm in a bluegrass production of *Macbeth*. Kit holds a Diploma of Musical Theatre and has completed full-time acting training. They are delighted to be bringing the character of Moose to life in the new work *Portaloo*.



SAM EADE
CRAIG

Sam Eade is a transgender male actor based in NAARM/ Melbourne. In 2023 he graduated from VCA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) and has been working full time, predominantly in theatre since. Sam has performed in venues all around Melbourne such as La Mama in *Straight White Male* (2024) and while building his screen repertoire with his highlight being the short film *Wake* (2025). Currently Sam is working with Complete Works Theatre company in their Shakespeare touring shows of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth* all throughout Victoria.



EMILY FARRELL

JOE

Emily Farrell is a neurodivergent artist working as an actor, writer, director, and producer. She is the founder of Five by Five Theatre and holds a Bachelor of Acting for Stage & Screen, alongside a Master's in Counselling. Emily has written and produced *Broken Record* (2022) and *The Charade* (2023) that received outstanding reviews. Her directing credits include *Ohio!* (2023), *Skating in the Clouds* (2024), and *Odie!* (2025). As an actor, she has appeared in numerous productions including *The Cuddle Parlour* (2021), *The Wind and the Willows* (2022/23), *You Can Do It!* (2024/25), *Fairytalers* (2025) and *All Bull* (2026).



KYE TAMM

EZE

Tamm (he/him) is a Sino-Dusun Trans artist born and raised in Malaysia. He moved to Los Angeles in 2017 to attend the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. After graduating, he worked as a recurring guest star on the American television series *Good Trouble* (Freeform). He moved to Melbourne in 2025 and has performed as Emcee in *Once The Musical* (Chapel Off Chapel) and Em in *The Death of Lý Văn Chi* (La Mama HQ). When he's not performing, Kye can be found binge-watching *Critical Role*, playing video games or taking long walks to get his daily steps in!



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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.