

 LA MAMA



**LA MAMA EXPLORATIONS PRESENTS**

**HUNGRY  
JOHANNES**

**JUNE 30 - JULY 2 2026**

## WRITER'S NOTE

700 years ago, In the year 1315, it started to rain across all of Europe.

It didn't stop raining for two years. In medieval times, budgets and margins were already pretty tight for most people. When two years worth of crops failed, starvation ensued.

Out of this catastrophe, a grim tale emerged. (It would later be collected by folklorists and come to be known as a Grimm tale.) In this tale, two children adventured through the woods, between parents who would abandon them and a witch who would eat them – very real fears in a widespread famine. The boy's name was Hansel (short for Johannes) and the girl's name was Gretel (short for Margaret). Everyone in that story was very, very hungry.

6 years ago, in the year 2020, we stayed inside for two years.

Those of us who survived the pandemic are still not quite sure of its long-term effects. Economic upheaval, certainly. Unstable mental health for many. A new relationship with our under-resourced medical systems. And now, perhaps unrelated but maybe not, a new miracle weight-loss drug and the return of 'heroin chic'. We're hungry, but it's different. Mostly.

Out of this chaos, many of us are trying to make sense of our relationships with our resources and our minds and our bodies. I wrote the tale of Hungry Johannes (only his family are allowed to call him Hansel) to help us do that.

I hope you enjoy. It's a work-in-progress, so please send me your feedback: [hey@JamieGarner.online](mailto:hey@JamieGarner.online). Or you can find me at [@JamielsGarnering](https://www.instagram.com/JamielsGarnering) on Instagram, where'll you'll also find book, podcast and more recommendations if you'd like to learn about my research for this play.

Jamie Garner (they/she)

## **Credits**

Writer and Performer: Jamie Garner

Composer and Sound Designer: Sarah Barlow

Costume and Art Designer: Amy Pattie

Directorial Assistance: Sarah Frencham & Hayley Ricketson

Image: Darren Gill courtesy of La Mama

Lighting Design: Emma Barlow

Voiceover Actors: Conor Mainwaring, Luke Tonkin, Emmanuela Lia, Jessica Munna, Charlie Ives, Lewis Bruniges

## **Thanks also to**

Evan Pattie

Mark Garner & Jill Francis

Myf Powell

The Inga Court Empire



**JAMIE GARNER**  
WRITER & PERFORMER

Jamie Garner is a multi-hyphenate artist of many skills, many accents, and many passports. After a B.A. (Hons) at Monash University, they began their career touring Australia performing in children's theatre with Tony Bones Entertainment. They performed, taught and wrote for five years with American regional theatres, then moved to London to train at LAMDA. Their recent work as writer, performer and voiceover artist in London includes *Babies and Bathwater* (The Glitch, Dublin Gay Theatre Festival), *We Never Get Off at Sloane Square* (Drayton Arms, Park Theatre), *Make Me* (Spotify), and *Something by Tolstoi* (Trafalgar Studios). Their directorial debut *Pieces of Us* (EdFringe) was Offie-nominated, and they served as Movement Consultant for Lionwoman Productions Texas. After fourteen years living abroad, they have recently returned home to Melbourne, where in 2025 they appeared as Touchstone/Musician in *As You Like It* with Melbourne Shakespeare Company.

Jamie is proudly represented by Ian White Management.

@JamielsGarnering



**SARAH BARLOW**  
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

A graduate of the University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Sarah Barlow is widely experienced as a conductor, musician and sound designer.

She is a multiple award nominated creative, who is currently touring nationally with Phantom, a Tribute to Michael Crawford (Musical Director, Keith McNamara Presents) and performing later this year with Into the Woods (Ballarat, Musical Director, Matthew Management Presents). Other notable credits include Persuasion Podcast (Lead Composer, Ballarat National Theatre), Torch (Orchestrator and Musical Director, Alchemy Theatre) and sound engineer for audio books. She is an educator of music performance and sound production, and runs live music events in a café that she co-owns.

Sarah is proudly a sister to Jamie Garner.

@Sarah\_Barlow\_Arts



**AMY PATTIE**  
COSTUME & ART DESIGNER

Amy is an illustrator, writer and costume designer, and holds a Diploma in Costume Production from Swinburne TAFE. Her artwork explores the eerie, childlike fantasy found in the twilight between waking and sleeping.

Mrs Pattie aims one day to be the mystic fairy godmother in her cottage in the woods, spare beds covered in quilted doonas, warm chocolate to calm the soul, and a plethora of fairy tales to make sense of it all. She doesn't have her cottage yet, but she's working on it.

@Mrs.Amy.Pattie



Office Phone: (03) 9347 6948  
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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.