

Monash Uni Student Theatre

# 2014 SEASON



must

Monash Uni  
Student Theatre



msa  
monash student association

Monash Uni Student Theatre (MUST) is an engine room of creativity, a department of the MSA that creates vibrant, innovative performances by, with and for Monash students and the wider community.

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## GET IN TOUCH

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MUST Artistic Director

**Yvonne Virsik**

MUST Technical Manager

**Jason Lehane**

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Surprised by the breadth and diversity of our season, someone recently asked me how I came up with all the ideas for MUST's projects. Did I spend a lot of time travelling to find inspiration for new work? I answered quite honestly, "No, the students bring most of the ideas to us"—just one of the things that makes working with this animated community of theatre makers so genuinely exciting.

Jason and I, and indeed all of us, are constantly challenged by new voices, new approaches and new ways of looking at things. In a time when developments in our country are depleting our personal and collective resources, working alongside exceptional artists and instigators, like those at MUST, is a refreshing experience.

We hope you'll share our excitement at this year's season. It's a season teeming with new work: new texts, new devised explorations and new subject matter. And, after blowing us all away with its enormous success last year, *The Container Festival* is back!

We look forward to seeing you in 2014 onstage, backstage or in the audience.

**Yvonne Virsik**

**MUST Artistic Director**

**MUST Artistic Director**  
**Yvonne Virsik**



**MUST Technical Manager**  
**Jason Lehane**



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## THE WELL (REDUX)

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**February 15–March 1**

When the Earth's magnetic poles flip and the planet falls out of orbit, life on the ground gets colder and crazier. A long lost civilisation turns up in the drive-through, an angel collides with the earth and Gareth hits a girl with his car. It's the strangest end of the world you can imagine.

After a sold-out season at *La Mama*, this immersive, surreal deconstruction of the apocalypse has been reimaged for *The Adelaide Fringe Festival*.

*"Evocative and beautiful."*

*Anne-Marie Peard, Aussie Theatre*

*By Robert Reid*

*Directed by Kate Brennan*





**The 2014 O-Show**

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## **GAME OF THRONES: REIGN OF THE MAD KING**

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**O-Week**

**February 24–27**

*Summers span decades.  
Semesters can last a lifetime.  
And the struggle for a degree  
has just begun!*

A fun, friendly, and frivolous introduction to campus life. Combining the well-loved Westeros from

*Game of Thrones* with our very own Clayton Campus, O-Show 2014 is an informative adventure filled with love, deceit, and ridiculous outfits.

*Sponsored by Campus  
Community Division*

*Created by James McGuire  
and James O'Donoghue*

*Produced by Zoe Dove*

# PRONTO

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**March 31–April 4**

Continuing through the year

*PRONTO* offers emerging student playwrights a glimpse of their developing works in the flesh. A team of young directors and actors explore, examine and stage each script in a week of performed readings. Performance nights conclude with a Q&A between audience members and creatives to aid the playwright in their continuing journey.

A unique opportunity for audiences and theatre makers alike, *Performed Readings of New Theatrical Offerings* is a staple of the MUST Season and a fantastic place to spy young talent.

*Curated by Trelawney Edgar*



## **MUST B-Grade Overdubbing Project**

# **MUSTBOP**

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**April 7 and 8**

In the cinema

*Take a B-grade (or classic) film, remove the sound, add a live mix of cheeky new dialogue, music and sound effects—and enjoy the spoofing!*

*MUSTBOP 2014 takes a classic horror film and turns it into a gut-busting, tear-jerking, romantic comedy gone wrong. Filled with innuendo, sappy love scenes, grotesque humour and more pop songs than you could poke a butcher's knife at, it is sure to be a memorable night!*

*Created by Callum Dale*





Double Bill

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## PSYCHOPOMP

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April 9–17

Psychopomp: from the Greek word *ψυχοπομπός* (*psychopompos*), literally meaning the “guide of soul”. Psychopomps are creatures, spirits, angels, or deities in many religions whose responsibility it is to escort newly deceased souls to the afterlife.

Their role is not to judge the deceased, but simply provide safe passage. *Psychopomp* is a quartet for four voices. Not sung but spoken. Each of the four voices is trying to understand what it was that brought them to this place. And through it all the psychopomps are watching.

Written by Penelope Bartlau  
Directed and designed  
by Jason Lehane



Double Bill

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## DRENCH

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April 9–17

*Have you ever been Drenched?*

Sometimes, no matter how much we try to keep ourselves above water, no matter how much we love something, we just soak ourselves more. Emily lovingly keeps an eye over Ricardo and his world. If only she could have stopped herself from crying. Developed with puppetry, sound and water, and inspired by some extraordinary occurrences in regional Victoria, *Drench* is a delicate tale of a giant heart and heartbreak of giant proportions.

*Created by Caitlyn Barclay and team*



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## KNIVES IN HENS

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May 1–10

*Knives in Hens* is a brutal fable of awakening consciousness: a poetic, stark and fierce study of sex and knowledge. In a pre-industrial landscape, a young woman journeys joyfully and painfully from ignorance to knowledge, finding liberation

through the transformative power of language. A threatening love triangle emerges between the woman, her ploughman husband and the hated miller.

*"A Mesmerising play."*  
*The Guardian*

By David Harrower  
Directed by Yvonne Virsik

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# THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

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**May 15-24**

An explosive commentary on corruption, fear and greed set amidst interrogations, denunciations and public executions. An unusual crisis of mistaken identity spirals out of control under the public pressure of political imprisonment.

There is no redemption here. No limit. Gogol's text will be re-imagined and infused with various Soviet and modern sources.

*A devised reworking of  
Nikolai Gogol's play, created by  
James Jackson and team*



# THE CONTAINER FESTIVAL

August 1–17

After the enormous success of the inaugural 2013 *MUST* Container Festival—a dynamic multi-venue arts festival incorporating over

200 performances and events—it's back, bigger and bolshier this year! An engine room and showcase for ground-breaking work of all genres, the festival will brand Monash Clayton as a vibrant arts destination this August. Shipping containers around campus, a buzzing *Hub* and lounge



bar in the MUST space, *miniMUST* and other surprising spaces will be filled with brilliant new music, dance, theatre, visual art, games, interactive performances, poetry, puppetry, burlesque, exhibitions and more!

*Sponsored by the Office  
of The Vice Chancellor*





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## THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

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**August 22–30**

A new cabaret interpretation of a classic children's story reimagined as a fairy tale for adults about loving, being loved, finding who we are, and becoming real. Refracted through the stunningly simple tale of a toy rabbit desperate to come

to life, the personal stories and experiences of young adults are gently unravelled through story and song. This piece will touch your heart like a song that lingers in your mind, an unexpected memory of a long summer day, or a simple childhood toy made from scraps of velveteen.

*A cabaret created by Benny Dimas and team*

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## SOFTLY POUTING WHILE WALKING INTO BREEZES

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**September 4–13**

When Ben met Toby, his life was changed, like, completely. When Toby broke up with Ben, his love life was ruined, like, completely. It was a love and a heartbreak that

only Taylor Swift could understand, so don't even bother trying to comprehend it. *Softly Pouting While Walking Into Breezes* follows Ben as he tries to convince himself and others that he's really truly over Toby. Because they broke up like three years ago. It's totally cool. It's fine.

*By Jake Stewart*

*Directed by Jess McLaughlin-Cafferty*





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## NIGHTMAREVILLE

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**September 18–27**

*Friday night's dream, on Saturday told  
Is sure to come true, be it never so old.*

Colin Allen Smithsby isn't normal. Colin has dreams. Strange dreams. Dreams that nobody likes to hear about because whenever they do, strange things start to happen. But it's too late for that now; strange things have already started to happen in the village of Foxbury Hill: disappearances, unnatural sounds and sights and whispers of a monster that stalks the village's street at night.

*By James O'Donoghue  
Directed by Stephanie Dimitriou  
and James O'Donoghue*



## THEM ASPIES

**October 6–11**

With the increase in Autism diagnoses and the changes in criteria over the past year, there's a lot of confusion about what Autism and Asperger's actually are. Who are these "Aspies" we have heard about? Can I call them Aspies? Will they mind? Should they? From the minds of Tom, Jess, and an ensemble of actors, this new performance piece rips the bandaid off modern perceptions of ASD and reveals that, perhaps, you are more like *Them Aspies* than you ever thought you were.

*A devised work created by Jess Gonsalvez,  
Tom Middleditch and team*



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## THE MONASH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

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*A student-run theatre company  
dedicated to exploring and  
celebrating the works of Shakespeare  
and his contemporaries.*

In 2014 the company is staging:

### **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

**May 29–June 7**

*Directed by Lauren Jankovskis  
and Joe Brown*

### **ANATOMY TITUS (2014) FALL OF ROME**

*Adapted by James Jackson from  
Heiner Müller's original text.*

*Directed by James Jackson for  
The Melbourne Fringe Festival*

### **THE TEMPEST**

**October 16–25**

*Directed by Marty Shlansky*

*Also presenting a development of  
a new musical, a murder mystery  
and a number of varied events.*

[shakespeare@monashclubs.org.au](mailto:shakespeare@monashclubs.org.au)

 [monashshakespearecompany](https://www.facebook.com/monashshakespearecompany)

**MONASH  
SHAKESPEARE  
COMPANY**





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## AND THERE'S MORE!

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### **INTER-UNIVERSITY STUDENT THEATRE SYMPOSIUM**

**Saturday, April 12**

Melbourne University

Performances and Forums.

### **MUSTREAD**

**May 5 and August 25**

Readings with the Monash Creative  
Writing Club.

### **miniMUST**

What can we create that will fit  
into a mere 2mx2m space?

Intimate and inventive performances  
and experiences.

**Creative developments, theatre  
workshops, MUST Boot Camp,  
The Wrap and Awards Night  
and more...**

**[msa.monash.edu/must](http://msa.monash.edu/must)**

*Photograph by Alex Dye*

