



By Vanessa Bates
Directed by Tasnim Hossain
Venue Space Theatre
When 05 Jun - 14 Jun
Run time 75 mins

Content advice - *Checklist for an Armed Robber* contains haze and fog effects, adult themes and violence, references to drug use and sexual assault. Suitable for ages 15 and over.

SYNOPSIS

Two Crimes. One Truth.

A Moscow theatre under siege. A Newcastle bookshop in chaos. Two crimes, worlds apart—yet disturbingly connected.

Vanessa Bates' *Checklist for an Armed Robber* interweaves two real-life events: the 2002 Chechen hostage crisis and a small-time robbery gone wrong in suburban Australia. As these seemingly unrelated events unfold, the play exposes the raw human instincts that emerge under pressure. Tasnim Hossain, Associate Artist at Melbourne Theatre Company, helms this masterclass in suspense and satire.

How far will we go to survive—and how far is too far?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It's been 18 years since Vanessa Bates's *Checklist for an Armed Robber* first premiered and more than twenty years since the play's events. But these two real incidents, the Chechen siege of a theatre in Moscow and a young man holding up a bookshop in Newcastle, feel like they could have been ripped from the headlines today.

Over the past several weeks – and in some cases, months - these early-career artists have worked with courage, empathy and openness to explore and present Vanessa's elegant weaving of these two events. This work invites us to consider how people are pushed to desperate extremes, and how others choose to respond.

I hope as audiences leave the theatre after the show, not only will they be struck by the skill and dedication of all involved, but also the quiet compassion and dignity in this play that these students have worked so tirelessly to bring to life.

CAST (in order of appearance)

Rebel Leader/Alex/Owner/ Rebel/Boy/Derrick/Reporter 1 Samuel McGown
Young Man/Nikolai/Rebel/ Nigel/Reporter 2 Ren Watson
Journalist/Raisa/Stage Manager/Drunken Woman/ Reporter 3 Claudia Leon
Bookseller/Larisa/Presenter/ Rebel/Reporter 4/Mother Nyasha Ogden

Director Tasnim Hossain*
Costume, Set & Props Designer Bronte Hunt
Lighting Designer Matthew Phillips
Sound Designer & Composer Jun Tung
Pianist Chiêu Quân Đào*
Movement Coach Troy Honeysett*
Voice Coach Raechyl French*
Assistant Director Ava Rusch
Production Stage Manager Chaii Ki Chapman
Construction Manager and Supervisor Nick Day**
Costume Supervisor Katrina Mark
Props Supervisor Emily Lilley
Technical Crew Supervisor Bella Muslado
Deputy Stage Manager Alexandria White
Assistant Stage Manager Atlas Andrews
Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager Jade Dunleavy
Head Electrician Lila Browning
Costume Assistant Designer Edward John
Costume Assistant Maddie Pawlak
Set Assistant Designer Carmi Pirola
Props Assistant Amelia De Villiers
Floor Electrician Kaia Krause
Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Chaii Ki Chapman