

THE BIRDS

NIDA

FESTIVAL
OF EMERGING
ARTISTS

25 - 28 MARCH

SPONSORED BY PRIME VIDEO

Reg Grundy, NIDA
7:00 pm | 40 min (no interval)

Based on play by Aristophanes | Directed by Cameron Taylor | Music, Book and Lyrics by Cameron Taylor & Otto Zagala

This production uses theatrical haze and flashing light effects. These elements may affect audience members with respiratory conditions or sensitivities to strobe lighting. Viewer discretion is advised. Subject to change in the development of the production.

***The Birds* is a new Australian musical.**

Log and Ami sit by a fire at the edge of the world. When a mythical bird descends, one is drawn toward flight, the other clings to the earth in fear of loss.

A haunting, music-driven ritual of love and transformation. This is not a story about healing. It is about learning how to hold the grief. It doesn't end. You just leave.

THE COMPANY

CAST (in order of appearance)

Log:	Kaya Byrne*
Ami:	Kai Johnson
Bird 1:	Aisha Aidara*
Bird 2:	Beatrice Ainslie
Bird 3:	Ooen-s'tae Johnson
Bird 4:	Noah Douglas*
Bird 5:	Will Thomas*
Bird 6:	Joshua Reckless*
Bird 7:	Shianne Crampton*
Bird 8:	Zara Sayar*
Swings:	
Brothers & Birds:	Finn Couzner*
Birds:	Maya Hobley*
Director:	Cameron Taylor
Musical Director:	Alec Steadman*
Choreographer:	Joe Miller*

Costume, Props & Set Designer:	Ella Seiffert
Lighting Designer:	Lila Browning
Composer, Sound & Video Designer:	Otto Zagala
Additional Music and Arrangements:	Kaya Byrne*
Additional Arrangements:	Kohan van Sambeek*
Voice Coach:	Angela Sullen*
Production Manager:	Chaii Ki Chapman*
Company Stage Manager:	Jay Cairns
Production Assistant:	Luke McGilvray*
Construction Manager:	Emile Stuart
Costume Supervisor:	Emilia Lilischkis
Systems Manager:	Brent Russell

*Guest Artist

** NIDA Staff

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 2018, I was in San Francisco visiting a clown friend of mine, Andrey Kislitsin. My creative practice was feeling stagnant at the time and he offered me some advice that I've held close ever since.

(Thick Russian accent)

“Clowns bring light to the dark. Take the hardest things you will ever have to go through and bring light to it, because if you've felt that, it's likely someone else has too. Your job is to hold that”

That's paraphrased, but it was something like that. With a few more laughs.

I started thinking about grief. The universality of that feeling. The lostness. It feels like the most abstract,

unfair, unnatural feeling in the world, yet it's one of the few things every human will go through at some point, in one of it's many forms. When I started diving into my grief, as horrific as some of them are, I realised something quite transformative: I am made of everything I've been through, not just the good things. I'm still in the process of learning to love that, but I want to bring that to my audience as well.

The Birds is a meditation on grief. It's filled with the grief of my life, but only as I believe it can serve my community.

My mantra for this piece: Bring solace to the grief of living.

DIRECTOR CAMERON TAYLOR



Cameron Taylor is a director and clown working across theatre, music, and interdisciplinary performance. He wants to break traditional boundaries, progress form and celebrate the shared truths of being human. Hunting for ideas that will impact the mean man. The human mean.

Cameron's professional directorial debut, *Kitty Litter* by Hamish Johnston (2026), was critically acclaimed, extended due to demand, and is in development for a return season.

As a creator and performer, Cameron founded The Feast, under which he created and toured PISCA, earning two Greenroom Award nominations, and later developed *Head in the Clouds* with support from the City of Stonnington and ROOLA BOOLA.

Past performance credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (GWB & Old Vic), *Oklahoma* (Black Swan), *Il Trovatore* (Opera Australia), *Whistleblower* (The Last Great Hunt), *Fly* (Melbourne Lyric Opera Company), *Coming Up* *Sondheim* (Spears Entertainment).

Cameron is listed with Cirque Du Soleil as a physical actor and clown and serves as a clown swing for *Infamous* at Circus Joseph Ashton.

Cameron holds a BFA (Musical Theatre) from the Victorian College of the Arts and a Certificate IV (Musical Theatre) from the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology.

He believes great art is never safe, that sometimes the best way to challenge the world is by making it laugh – and that bios probably shouldn't be written in the third person.

Thank you to the students from Diploma of Live Production & Technical Services for assistance during bump-in.
