

By Lucy Rossen, Morgan Owen & Sophia Benjamin

A three-act window into the hospitality experience, where consumption, service and class collide.

Act I: *Service Overture* by Lucy Rossen & À La Carte Company. In the hyper-realistic world of the restaurant, we meet characters both strange and familiar getting ready for a night out at a Sydney fine-dining establishment.

Act II: In *Fatty Liver* by Morgan Owen. We meet Alex, a young professional waitress and Marcus, a powerful, yet warm man who is dining alone and invites, (no, insists) that Alex dine with him.

Act III: *My Wedding Cheesemonger* by Sophia Benjamin. The service descends to a dreamlike bacchanal, led by a bride telling a story of her tantalising wedding night...

LUCY ROSSEN

DIRECTOR



Lucy Rossen is a performer and director whose practice is driven by community and collaboration. She seeks to create work that connects artist and witness in both process and performance.

Currently working towards her MFA in Directing at NIDA, her directorial work includes *We Forgive you Patina Pataznik* by Jake Glanc and Olivia Macleod (MICF), *DARLING BOY* by Rupert Bevan (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Sydney WorldPride & Dublin IGTF.) and assisting Sarah Goodes during her remount of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf* by Edward Albee (GWB entertainment, Comedy Theatre, Melbourne).

While studying, Lucy directed scenes from *Fireface* by Marius Von Mayenburg (ACA and NIDA) and assisted on *Spring Awakening*, adapted and directed by Claudia Osborne.

Lucy has a passion for the specificity of screen work and has enjoyed directing music videos: *NUMB* for Alex The Astronaut and *REAL!* not everything is... for JUPiTA!

REG GRUNDY THEATRE

2-5 Apr, 9pm
5 Apr, 2pm

Cast (in order of appearance)

WAITERS

Benji	Ari Tjandra
Charlie	Lilian Alejandra Valverde*
Shane	Jackson Hurwood*
Alex	Claudia Leon
Gregory	Leon Walshe*

Ensemble

GUESTS

Julia Boyd*	Bride	Madeline Flood
Rupert Bevan*		Ruva Shoko*
Cameron Steven*		Joel Beasley*
Anika Banerjee*		Kymberly Adams*
Matthew Heale*		Flynn Barnard*
	Marcus	Sam McGown

Creative/Production Team

Director	Lucy Rossen
Costume and Set Designer	Leah Hall
Lighting Designer	Poppy Townsend
Sound Designer	Jun Tung
Video Designer	Taylah Crouch
Voice Coach	Raechyl French*
Movement Choreographer	Gavin Robins**
Intimacy Consultant	Lucia Mastrantone*
Production Manager	Nicola Sinclair*
Stage Manager	Amelie McCarthy
Construction Manager	Michael Fisher
Costume Supervisor	Raphaella Khun
Head Electrician	Jasmine Power

* Guest
** NIDA staff

Thank you to our mentors – Imara Savage and Carissa Licciardello (Directing), Peter Rubie & Steve Hendy (LX Design), Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin (Head LX), Michael Toisuta (Sound), Todd Eichorn (Stage Management).

Content Advice: Explicit language, sexual content, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, partial nudity and haze effects.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

À La Carte is a collection of stories about modern hospitality.

Using a combination of devised work by the ensemble, a three-hander by Morgan Owen and a short story by Sophia Benjamin, we have set out to create a window into the restaurant world. A world that dances between the glorious experience of sharing food, wine and time with loved ones, and the grimy underbelly of the industry that makes indulgence possible.

I hope this work allows the audience to witness the co-existing chaos and order of the dining room from a distance, and then slowly become immersed in the world as the night goes on.

DESIGNER'S NOTE

The space of *À La Carte* twists and turns at the whim of the performers. Glimmers of jewellery and silverware are at one moment enticing and then unnerving. Lighting mirrors the evolution of the restaurant's dinner service, shifting from grounded and naturalistic to theatrical and surreal.

We begin with warm, ambient lighting that reflects the intimate environment of the bustling restaurant. As the service progresses, the lighting grows more dramatic, utilising sharp contrasts and dynamic colour shifts to capture mounting tension and chaos. This progression enhances the emotional arc of the show, immersing the audience in the heightened experience of the night. Sound intensifies this atmosphere, capturing the rhythmic flow of service, tension between characters, and the gradual shift from reality to a dream-like world.