

# HANGMAN



10-29 AUGUST 2009  
MUDFEST.ORG.AU



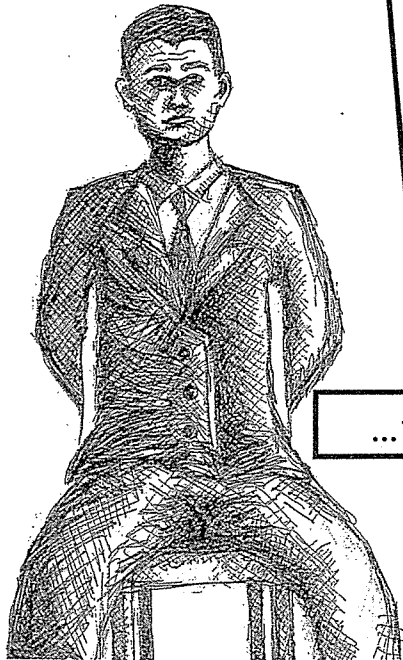
MU Student Union Ltd

We acknowledge the contribution of the Theatre Board,  
The University of Melbourne.

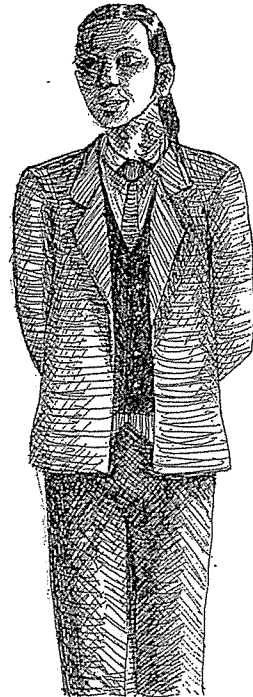
We have ways...



...of making you...



...talk.



#### Directors notes

We are constantly asked by the media to consider the implications of torture and that on those who suffer by it. For me, I was drawn to the people that torture rather than their victims- I wanted to know what drove them - is it sociopath tendencies or something more? When interviewed by journalists, French General Paul Aussareesse a man known for his brutal torture techniques in the Algiers crisis in 1958, was unrepentant over his actions. He believes that he has saved thousands of lives, which is his justification that hides the moral dilemma from his conscious. This shocked me yet I felt a way to relate. Everybody at some point in their life has been hurt by others, but we usually forget the times that we hurt others. We move on, we deny, we find a way through it.

The same time I started thinking of these things I was buying my new mobile phone. Flashy. Filled with endless useless crap. In the store there were so many of the same type of phone, that all did the same thing. I eventually chose one, and it continually didn't work trying to do the most simple of tasks, calling some one. I became frustrated with it, but couldn't stop using it. Like Facebook, Myspace and twitter, our world is preoccupied with having endless choices and getting the best of life. Putting the idea of choice in the world of torture changes perspective on the little choices in comparison to the bigger ones. While the choices are more urgent, more important, there still is a problem with coming up with a decision.

Maybe the best choice is no choice at all?  
But hey that's a choice too.

#### Synopsis

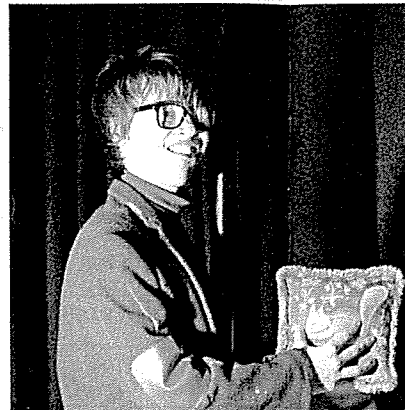
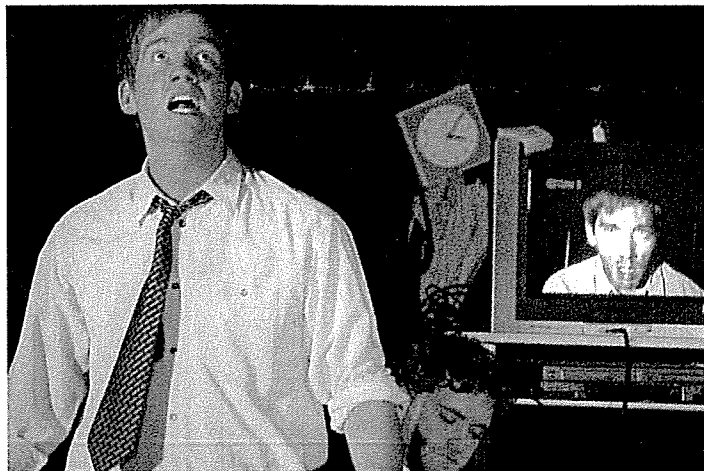
One suspect, one mute, one egomaniac and one over sentimental joker were not part of the job description for Alphonse's "new" career choice. With a case like no other the team of torturers will try anything - every technique known to man- but no matter what they do they just can't get the man to talk.



# HANGMAN

## Actors

Alphonse - Luke McMahon  
 Victim - Will Stanton  
 Captain MacDeath - Andrew Smith  
 Eddy - Kerry Glennon  
 Lexington Chase - Ben Volchok



## Creative Team

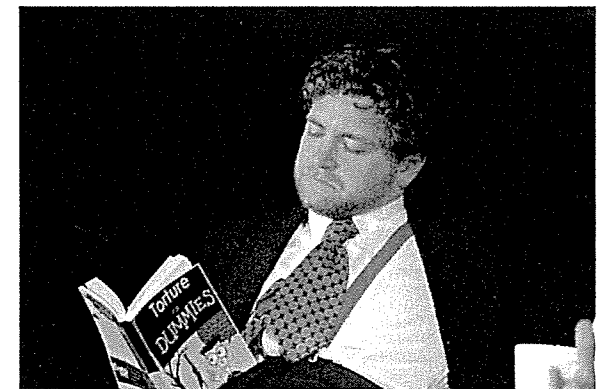
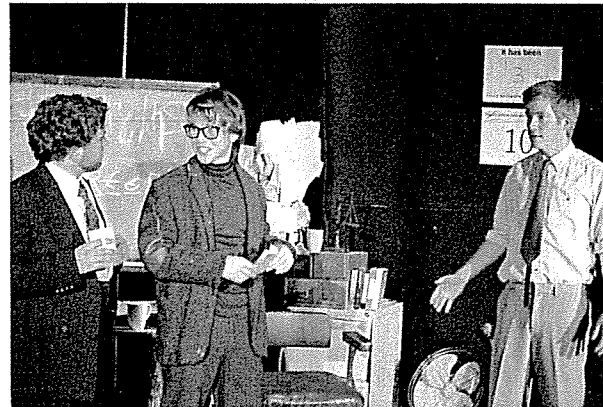
Director/Writer - Matthew Ziccone  
 Designer - Erin Hutchinson  
 Sound designer/ Operator - Dean Kerr  
 Lighting Designer - Al Green  
 Lighting Operator - Minglei Lin  
 Graphic Designer - Pat Carroll  
 Resident Artist - Sophie Norman  
 Multimedia - Daryl Tanner

## Production Team

Producer - Jessica Gulasekharam  
 Production Manager - Jenn Taylor  
 Stage Manager - Ele Toulmin

## Front of House Team

Kevin Ponniah  
 Michelle Williams  
 Danielle Kielty



### Choice

There is a difference between having a magnitude of choices and having 3, and while the freedom of many choices seems welcoming at first, the opportunity that mistakes will be made in the decision sometimes lead to a paralysis of choice.

"When you have to make a choice and don't make it, that is in itself a choice."

Philosopher                      William        James,        American

"There's an ice cream place in Vancouver that has 200 flavors, if you can believe that. But the people who go there end up less satisfied with their purchase than the people who buy their ice cream at a place with only 20 flavors. Yet people are lined up out the door at the place with 200 flavors because it seems like you're more likely to get exactly what you want."

Barry Schwartz, *The Paradox of Choice*

### Torture

Surrounded by a complicated world, the media show's us the world at war and how grey the colour of it all is. Our politicians tell us, torture is not acceptable, and indeed the violation of human rights is disgraceful. Yet, is the value of one human life worth more than the life of hundreds or even thousands?

"We don't Torture"

Barak Obama                      Winston Churchill, then copied by

"The healthy man does not torture others - generally it is the tortured that turn into torturers."

Carl Gustav Jung

"During numerous public appearances since September 11, 2001, I have asked audiences for a show of hands as to how many would support the use of nonlethal torture in a ticking-bomb case. Virtually every hand is raised."

Alan        Dershowitz,        Political  
Commentator

Special thanks to,

The Mudfest Team, especially David Ryding,  
Laura Maitland, Tim Smith , Kelly Fogarty,  
all the fantastic curators.

Union House Theatre Staff- Josie Byrt, Tom  
Gutteridge, Erin Adams, Clynton Jones, Gus  
Macdonald & Simon Smith

The Melbourne University Student Union

We acknowledge the significant contribution  
of the University of Melbourne Theatre  
Board

All of our families and friends for their  
endless support.

Eileen Wall

Mark Richardson

Hilary Slater

Maureen O'Sullivan (Matt's Nan)

Trinity Grammar Drama Department

Tristan Lawrence

Chris Watkins

Edward Gardam

John O'Sullivan (and his trailer)

With thanks also to  
Matt's dad's printer  
Jess' mum's photocopier  
Jenn's houses chocolate supply

A Port-Able Heroes  
Production