



Union House Theatre presents

Mirror's Edge

**A new play by Kim Ho
Directed by Petra Kalive**

Eight strangers are drawn to an impossible lake
in the heart of the Mallee – connecting across
cultures, across languages, across time

**27 July – 5 Aug 2017
Union Theatre, Union House
University of Melbourne**

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Mirror's Edge

Writer's Note

This play began when I heard a radio feature about Chinese tourists reviving a regional Victorian town, drawn to Lake Tyrrell's reflective water and the clear night sky. Being partial to stories of cross-cultural encounters, I decided to take a road trip to Sea Lake, alone. I saw the 'sky mirror' lake for the first time on the day of the Orlando shooting. As I stared at my reflection I was overwhelmed by contradictions: the tragic loss of the lake's original custodians, the Boorong people, in the past; the senseless violence in the present; the straightforward beauty of the Lake holding a promise for the future.

I've been fortunate to workshop Mirror's Edge in MTC's Cybec Electric Programme and through consultations with Wotjobaluk elder Ron Marks. I'm hugely indebted to everyone who patiently offered thoughts and feedback – together we refined eight drafts with five storylines across three centuries into one show. I hope Mirror's Edge will prompt us to reflect (heh) on who we are as a nation. What does it mean for people to come to this land? How might different ways of knowing expand our capacity for empathy? By encountering other cultures, we may learn to see through new eyes.

Writing a story that real people were living has been humbling and rewarding. A day after the cast concluded our excursion to Sea Lake, the State government announced a \$2.3 million grant for infrastructure at Lake Tyrrell. The next day, the Royal Hotel closed up for good after a century of operation. I hope Mirror's Edge can make a positive contribution to the Sea Lake community. Go visit the Lake! It's waiting...

Kim Ho

Cast

Aoife: Eleanor Young
Castor: Eden Gonfond
Jasmin: Lucy Holz
Kai: Rebecca Poynton
Leanne: Rachel Shrives
Lao Ghit: Antonia Yip Siew Pin
William Stanbridge: Martin Hoggart
Xiaoyu: Jo Chen

Creatives and crew

Writer: Kim Ho
Director: Petra Kalive
Assistant Director & Dramaturg: Jean Tong
Lighting Design: Jacob Trethowan
Video Design: Zoe Scoglio
Composer/Sound Designer: Liam Bellman-Sharpe
Costume Designer: Juliet Bennie
Production Manager: Kellie-Jayne Chambers
Head Technician: Clynton Jones
Stage Carpenter: Jim Stenson & Allen Laverty
Stage Manager: Christa Jonathan

We acknowledge that our theatre practices take place on traditional Wurundjeri land. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land, We honour and respect their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country. We pay respect to Elders both past and present, and extend our respect to all Indigenous people present, their cultural heritage, customs and beliefs.

Photo by Kim Ho



umsu.unimelb.edu.au/events/mirrors-edge

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