



MENTAL HEALTH MONTH ^{ACT}



FRAGMENTS

BY MAURA PIERLOT

THE STREET PRESENTS

FRAGMENTS

BY MAURA PIERLOT

23 - 27 October 2019
The Street Theatre, Canberra



"I feel like I'm a piece, a fragment that's missing all the good bits but I don't know where to find the rest ... the parts I need to work properly. I bet they wouldn't fit anyway." — Lexy

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Cast (in order of appearance)


Tom Bryson *Will*
Marni Mount *Freya*
Prithvi Saxena *Vijay*
Erin Pierlot *Reena*
Linda Chen *Mila*
Damon Baudin *Nicky*
Zane Menegazzo *Mason*
Holly Johnson *Lexy*

CREATIVE TEAM

WRITER
Maura Pierlot
DIRECTOR
Shelly Higgs
STAGE & COSTUME DESIGN
Imogen Keen
SOUND DESIGN
Kyle Sheedy
LIGHTING DESIGN
James Tighe
CULTURAL CONSULTANT
Daniel Berthon

PRODUCTION TEAM

LIGHTING OPERATOR
William Malam
SOUND OPERATOR
Kyle Sheedy
STAGE TECHNICIANS
William Malam, Stephen Rose
PUBLICITY
Su Hodge
SOCIAL MEDIA
Jessica Conway
PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY
Shelly Higgs
MARKETING ARTWORK
DAMS

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SYNOPSIS

Eight young people navigating high school and beyond, each struggling to hold on – to family, to friends, to a piece of themselves. Perhaps you know them. The bubbly girl who keeps telling you she's okay. The high achiever who's suddenly so intense. The young teen with the fake Instagram account. The boy challenged by communication. Every single day they, and others, are working hard to keep it together. So hard, they don't see their friends are struggling, too.

The action of *Fragments* takes place in the minds and hearts of an ordinary group of eight young people. Although set in Australia, their stories could take place anywhere.

Fight Song
Stranded
Short Circuit
In My Head
Don't!
Good for Nothing
Picture Perfect
Distortion
Pretty Stupid
She
Now You See Me
Escape
Roller Coaster
Two Worlds Collide
Here and Now

THEATRE—MUSIC—COMEDY



FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

Rarely presenting as neat packages, mental health issues often involve feelings and behaviours with jagged edges and blurred origins. *Fragments* embodies the theme that stress at home, at school and in life is challenging young people beyond their usual coping abilities, often leaving them disenfranchised and vulnerable.

I wrote *Fragments* to start a conversation, to give a sense of agency to young people while reaching out to their peers, families and the community. It's only when we speak openly about mental health issues – without fear or judgment – that we can chip away at the stigma that prevents many people from seeking help. This is especially important for young people. So much of adolescent life is spent looking inwards that it's perhaps not surprising that mental health issues are often internalised and ignored. Swimmers put up their hands when struggling in a rip but there's no clear, universal signal for people who need help with mental health issues. And sometimes the waters are so turbulent that those who are struggling don't recognise themselves in each other.

In bringing *Fragments* to the Canberra community, and hopefully beyond, I wanted to explore the healing that may come from looking outwards – from our connectedness to others and our realisation that we are not alone. The eight monologues presented here are pieces – fragments – of the countless stories to be told, layering voice upon voice until the sound is so loud it can no longer be ignored. Please help create awareness about mental health issues, while reaching out to those who may be struggling, now and in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for coming to see *Fragments*. Please connect with me on Facebook (@maurapierlotauthor) or Instagram (@maurapierlot) to share your thoughts about *Fragments* and to stay up to date with my work.



FROM OUR SPONSOR LJ HOOKER CANBERRA CITY

LJ Hooker Canberra City takes great pride in supporting our local community and has done so for many years. We are delighted to support The Street's production of *Fragments*, a play written by Maura Pierlot featuring the journey of eight young people.

We hope this informative play encourages everyone to open up to someone they can trust and make positive changes to their mental health and wellbeing. Let's start the conversation and raise awareness. Together we can make a difference and help our friends and colleagues be happy and well.

If you know of someone that may be struggling, please let them know they're not alone.

Andrew Ligdopoulos

Managing Director

LJ Hooker Canberra City supporting Mental Health Month

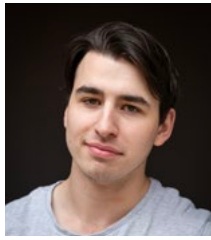


Maura Pierlot Playwright

Maura Pierlot is an award-winning author and playwright who hails from New York but has called Canberra home for nearly thirty years. In 2016 Maura won the MPS Travel+Tours Award, Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation to write a dramatic work on youth mental health, which has developed into *Fragments*. That year she also won the SOLO Monologue Competition, Hothouse Theatre for her play, *Tapping Out*, which went on to receive three awards at Short+Sweet

Sydney (2017). More recently, Maura has been an Artist-in-Residence at Bundanon Trust and Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres. A former business owner, medical news reporter and editor of *Australian Medicine*, Maura also writes for children and young adults. In 2017 she was named winner of the CBCA Aspiring Writers Mentorship Program for her young adult manuscript, *Freelyfalling*. Maura's first picture book, *The Trouble in Tune Town* won the 2018 ACT Writing and Publishing Award (Children's category) along with international accolades. Maura enjoys visiting schools and libraries as a guest reader and speaker, contributing reviews for the Children's Book Council of Australia's *Reading Time*, and growing the street library she started last year. She has a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate, each in philosophy, specialising in ethics.





Tom Bryson
Will

Tom Bryson has always had an interest for acting but his passion and understanding of the artform grew when he began studying at the National Acting School three years ago. Now Tom is constantly thinking about the teachings of emotional truth in his performances.

Having spent the last couple years acting in front of the camera in student films Tom is keen to get back on to the stage for what will be his professional debut.

“Feels really good to have got my first professional job as an actor, I’m super excited to get started and I’m hoping I can use this opportunity to learn more things to build upon my knowledge of the acting industry.”



THEATRE—MUSIC—COMEDY



Prithvi Saxena
Vijay

Prithvi Saxena started training in theatre at Campbell High School and Dickson College and has performed in *Dags* (Gorman House Arts Centre); *Black Comedy* (The Canberra Repertory Theatre) and *No Exit* (Dickson College Theatre). He has played leads in independent films: *Black Guilt*, *Working Title* and *Detecting Derrick*.

“I’m super excited about making my debut at The Street in *Fragments*. The Street is a great establishment where I’ve seen some great shows put on and some of my favourite comedians perform and I can think of no better place to begin a career in acting. *Fragments* is an important step in my career as it is a powerful play that will allow me to access techniques and emotions that will help me in years to come.”



Marni Mount
Freya

Marni Mount is a local actor, writer, director, and student. She has been performing on Canberra stages for the last 5 years while completing her Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy, and Economics/Bachelor of Arts at the ANU. Marni is the Founding President of the ANU Shakespeare Society, currently works for Canberra Youth Theatre, and is developing a new queer comedy with fellow cast member Holly Johnson. Selected credits include:

Amber in *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, Cynthia in *The Real Inspector Hound* (National University Theatre Society), Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*, various roles in *The Art of Coarse Acting* (Canberra Repertory Theatre), as director: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (National University Theatre Society), *Juris Doctor Strangelaw or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Cop the 5%* (ANU Law Revue). Given her penchant for comedy, Marni is thrilled to be exploring her more dramatic side with *Fragments*.

“I am thrilled to be making my professional debut here in Canberra with The Street. It’s so valuable to have a company putting faith and resources behind new writing and young actors right here in my hometown. *Fragments* deals with issues that are close to my heart and I’m so excited to be working with an ensemble of emerging local talent to bring it to life.”

THE STREET



Erin Pierlot
Reena

Erin Pierlot is an actor, singer/songwriter and musician who has performed with Canberra Youth Theatre youth ensemble, Melbourne Opera, Opera Australia, Budding Theatre, Wildvoices Music Theatre and in several school productions. A Year 12 student at Radford College, Erin hopes to study theatre at university after taking a gap year. She enjoys doing promotional, photographic and film work throughout Canberra, and is thrilled to be on stage in her first professional production at The Street.

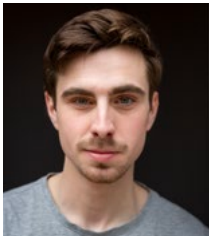
“I’m excited to be part of *Fragments*. It’s such a powerful and important piece of work. So many people are struggling but don’t know ask for help. And we need to change that. I’m really looking forward to making my debut on The Street stage. I hope to pursue acting as a career and The Street is such a great place to learn and gain valuable experience.”



[Linda Chen](#)
Mila

Linda Chen has appeared on the stage in works including: *The Inheritance* (Budding Theatre), *Vinegar Tom* (COUP) and *In Loco Parentis* (The Street); in TV and films: *Total Control* (ABC); *The Third Wheel* (Melbourne Queer Film Festival); and in performance art: *Rear view* (Australian Centre for Contemporary Art), *Love and Desire: Pre-Raphaelite Poetry* (National Gallery of Australia). She has also worked extensively in the applied theatre space. Linda graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.)/Commerce from the Australian National University, completing her thesis on fostering cross-cultural competence through applied theatre.

“After working on my first play out of school at The Street several years ago and having been supported by the team here at various stages of my creative development ever since, it feels both fitting and thrilling to be making my professional stage debut here in *Fragments*. I’m beyond excited to bring Maura’s writing to life and to continue the same trajectory of personal and professional growth through in-depth engagement with new, topical and resonant work like hers.”



[Damon Baudin](#)
Nicky

Damon Baudin was last seen on The Street stage in *Revolt She Said. Revolt Again*. He is a co-founder of Limbo Theatre, and has performed across a variety of Canberra stages. Notably; *Neighbourhood Watch*, *The Art of Coarse Acting* (Canberra Repertory Theatre); *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (National University Theatre Society); *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *The Good Doctor* (Limbo Theatre). In 2018, Damon was selected as a member of The Street Company, The Street’s intensive ensemble training and production program led by Karla Conway for the development of pre-professional actors in the ACT. Damon currently tutors at Canberra Youth Theatre.

“There’s something incredibly exciting about the possibility of, and being involved in, new works. I hope throughout my career I can continue to be involved in creating new works both within theatre, film and television. For this reason I’m very excited to make my professional debut in *Fragments* at The Street.”



[Zane Menegazzo](#)
Mason

Zane Menegazzo has been on the stage in *Yes, Yes, No* (Canberra Playhouse) and in musicals *Rock of Ages* (Hawker College) and *Grease: The arena experience* (AIS). Zane completed a double degree in drama at Hawker College and workshops at the Australian Film and Television Academy and NFTA acting and script reading workshops, receiving New Faces and Talent Awards nationally and a first place in the NSW/ACT monologue category.

“I am beyond excited, to work with a piece of writing that is so relevant and more importantly real is a gift in itself, I hope everyone comes and see it. To come to The Street after growing and honing my craft I wouldn’t want to debut in the professional theatre scene anywhere else.”



[Holly Johnson](#)
Lexy

Holly Johnson has a Bachelor of Laws/Art History and Curatorship from the Australian National University. She also studied at the University of Dundee in Scotland and Kincoppal Rose Bay in Sydney. Her performances in theatre include *Sweeney Todd* (ANU Interhall Productions) and various others with Canberra Youth Theatre.

“I’m thrilled to be making my debut in *Fragments*, a show that brings to light many important questions surrounding youth mental health and need to shares these often difficult stories. I’ve loved theatre since I was a child and have developed a particular interest in directing and the casting process of production making.”





Shelly Higgs
Director

Shelly Higgs is a professional theatre director, producer, dramaturg, sometimes co-playwright, and multi award-winning photographer. Shelly trained as an actor (BA Acting Charles Sturt University), (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) and co-founded regional theatre company Gearstick Theatre with Craig Alexander

in 2002. With Gearstick, Shelly spent a decade producing dozens of shows, touring them regionally and to major metropolitan centres within Australia, playing Fringe Festival circuits and creating theatre in education performances for schools within the Riverina. Shelly's directing credits include: *Epitaph* by Ross Mueller, *7 Great Inventions of the Modern Industrial Age* (The Street); *Closer* by Patrick Marber, *Baby Talk* by Doug Wright, *The injuriousness of Tobacco* and *The Bear* by Anton Chekov, *Cinderella* (Jetty Theatre, NSW), *Irreconcilable Differences* (Shakespeare adaptation toured as TIE piece throughout NSW and VIC), *And Then There Were 3* and *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* (The Street, Depot Theatre). Shelly is currently project co-ordinator for The Street's First Seen new works-in-progress program and has worked on a number of creative developments for The Street including; *The Refuge* by Geraldine Turner, *Marion and Walter* by Peter Coleman, *Life's a Bitch* by David Cole, *Diode Yang* by Graham McBean, and *Outsider* by Peter Cook.

Imogen Keen
Set and Costume Designer

Imogen is an award-winning set and costume designer for professional theatre production. She has enjoyed a long collaboration with The Street, including design for: *Metamorphosis*; *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Venus in Fur*, *Diary of a Madman*; *The Weight of Light*; *Boys Will Be Boys*; *Under Sedation*; *Constellations*; *Cold Light*; *The Faithful Servant*; *The Chain Bridge*; *MP*; *Where I End & You Begin*, *The Give & Take*; *To Silence*; *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*; *Lawrie and Shirley*; *Albert Herring*; *Dido and Aeneas*. Imogen has received Canberra Critics Circle Awards for Theatre Design (2018; 2011; 2009) and an MEAA Peer Acknowledgement Award (2011). She has worked on a wide variety of theatre, film, music and cross-disciplinary productions for numerous theatre companies. Imogen graduated from the ANU School of Art in 1993.

Kyle Sheedy
Sound Designer

Kyle Sheedy is an Audio Engineer based in Canberra. Having completed a Cert II Live Production, Theatre and Events during High School he moved to Canberra to complete an Advanced Diploma in Sound Production through CIT. Predominately a live engineer working on festivals and local gigs, he also works in other areas of sound. He has experience in the film industry having worked a range of films as Location Recordist and Boom Operator as well as Sound Editor, Designer and Mixer in Post Production. He also works in the studio whether it be band Recordings, Mixing, Mastering, or other tasks such as Audio Restoration. Sound design credits for The Street include: *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Constellations*, the double-bill radio-style plays of *Tourmaline* and *The War of The Worlds* and *Venus in Fur*. He started getting into the theatre world working as a theatre technician and operator. He has worked as an Audio Operator on The Street productions: *The Faithful Servant*; *Cold Light* and *Boys Will Be Boys*.



James Tighe
Lighting Designer

James has been working professionally in the live performance industry since graduating from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Professional Music Practice. James has worked in several varying roles within the industry, primarily as an Audio Technician and Production Manager, with notable credits including; Production Manager for *The Merchants of Bollywood* Kuwait Tour (ATA Allstar 2019), Stage Manager for *Grease the Arena Experience* (Harvest Rain Theatre Company 2018), and *The Bar at Buena Vista* (ATA Allstar 2018). Tour Manager for Tim Freedman (2019). Sound Design *Exclusion* (Street Theatre 2018), *Miss Saigon* (ANU 2015) James has also worked as the Head Audio Technician at the Canberra Theatre Centre, and has worked as an Audio and Lighting operator for a range of local, national, and international touring performing artists.

As a Lighting technician, James has worked at the Canberra Theatre Centre, the Hayes Theatre Co, The Street, and other venues, on a range of different productions. James' lighting design credits include *ANU Med Revue* (2015,2016), and *Speaking in Tongues* (NUTS 2015).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without the support of

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 LJ Hooker Canberra City



If you, or someone you know, is struggling and needs help, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14, Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636.

FROM THE WRITER

In developing this work Maura would like to thank: The Street's FIRST SEEN program; ACT Government through ArtsACT; Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation; Australian Cultural Fund (ACF; ACF campaign donors); LJ Hooker Canberra City; Ainslie+Gorman Arts Centre-Ralph Indie Program; Pioneer Theatre; Pyramid Scheme Productions; and all the creatives and colleagues who have contributed to the development of the work including directors, Shelly Higgs and James Hartley; dramaturgs Gin Savage, Caroline Stacey, Suzanne Ingelbrecht, and Rochelle Whyte; Lisa Inman; and the actors, production teams and audiences for the Canberra and Sydney developments, showings and performances.

THANK YOU

Robert Howatson

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STREET LIFE

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To find out more about supporting The Street please call 02 6247 1519 or visit thestreet.org.au/donate-now

ABOUT THE STREET

The Street is Canberra's leading creative producer and theatre company dedicated to contemporary performance. We also present bold work from other places. Inspired by our geography, history and people, we champion creative process alongside finished work; rich dialogue with our community, and in our city of ideas, inquisitive artists who have something to say about the world.

Over 26 years, the company has established itself as an essential part of Canberra's cultural and imaginative life. Our home is The Street Theatre in City West, where cast, creatives, artworkers, and audiences meet in our three performance spaces and café. We are dedicated to bringing distinctive and diverse Australian stories to the stage, with many of the finest and much loved creative talent in the region and beyond, including Canberra's diaspora, on our stages. Original works developed and produced include: *Flight Memory*, *Epitaph*, *Icarus*, *The Weight of Light*, *Tourmaline*, *Cold Light*, *The Iliad Out Loud*, *Pigman's Lament*, *The Faithful Servant*, *The Chain Bridge*, *From a Black Sky*, *M.P.*, *Bartleby*, *Where I End & You Begin*, *How to be (or not to be) Lower*, *In Loco Parentis*, *Johnny Castellano is Mine*, *The Jade Harp*, and *Underage House Party Play*.

Through our development programs, The Street promotes the creation of high quality original performance work contributing towards a body of stage work encouraging debate on the social, economic, cultural and political relationships central to the reality of lives of Canberrans.

THE STREET – STAFF

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PRODUCER

Dean Ellis

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Andrew Meadows

CUSTOMER SERVICE & TICKETING SUPERVISOR

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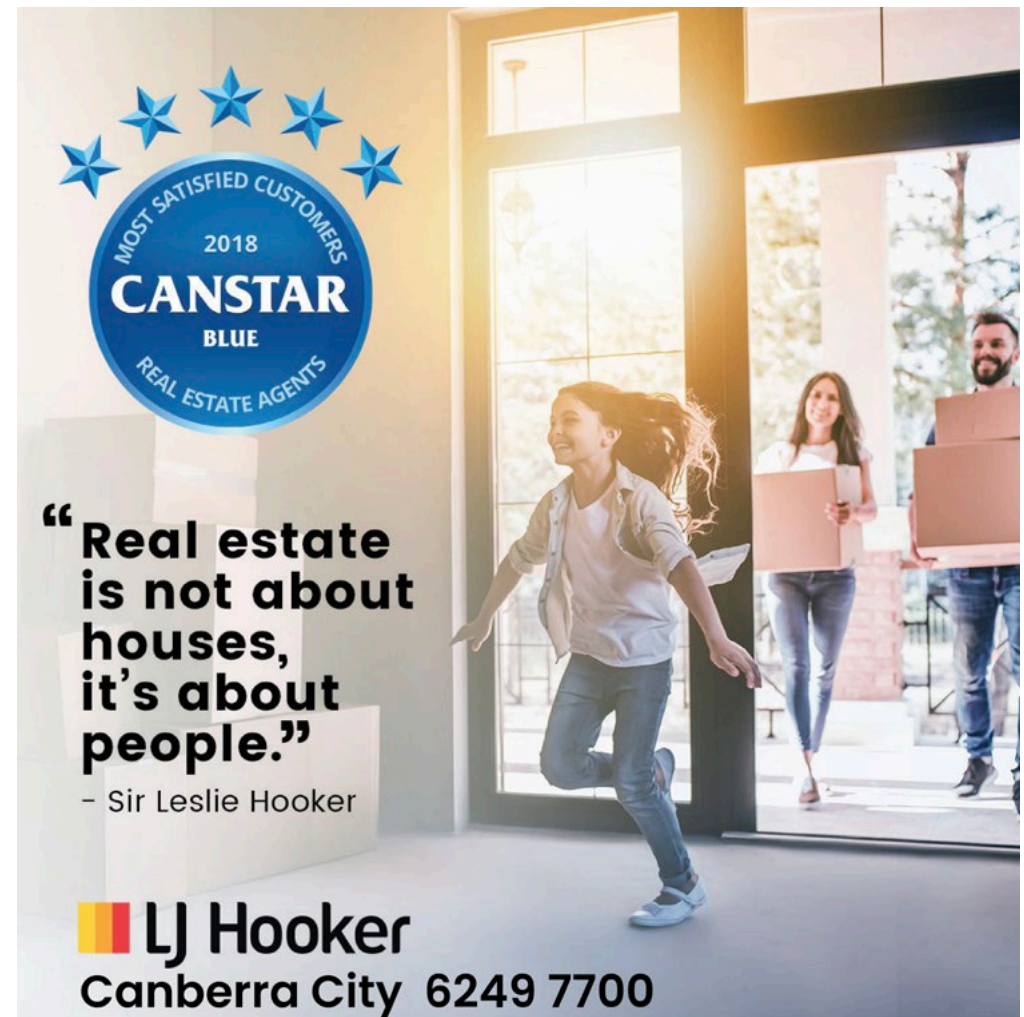
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– Sir Leslie Hooker

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The Street acknowledges the Ngunnawal peoples, the First Peoples of Country on which The Street Theatre stands, and we pay our respects to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.

The Street is managed by The Stagemaster Inc., a not-for-profit organisation. The Street is supported by the ACT Government through artsACT and is an ACT Government arts facility.

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