

DOOR 3

BIG SCARY ANIMAL PRESENTS



THE NORMAN MAILER ANECDOTE

BY ANTHONY MULLINS

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3 — 18 MAY 2024
DIANE CILENTO STUDIO

THE NORMAN MAILER ANECDOTE

BY ANTHONY MULLINS

Creatives



Writer
Anthony Mullins



Director
Julian Curtis



**Production
Designer**
Madeleine Barlow



**Production
Designer
(Assistant)**
Leila Marsden



**Set Designer
(Associate)**
Tony Noble



Lighting Designer
Teegan Kranenburg



**Music/Sound
Designer**
Morgan Francis



Stage Manager
Kayla Alexandra

Cast



Samantha
Hattie Clegg-
Robinson



Helen
Zoë Houghton



Marshall
Christopher
Sommers

Warnings

This production contains coarse language, discusses sexual assault, and explores the themes of sexual violence.

We understand the themes may be triggering for some people. If you have any concerns about the content of the play, we encourage you to contact our Box Office.

If you or someone you know needs information or support, these organisations are there to help:

**Queensland Sexual
Assault Helpline**
1800 010 120

1800RESPECT
1800 737 732

Duration

80 minutes,
no interval.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Queensland Theatre acknowledges the Jagera and Turrbal people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, and their unique relationship with the lands, seas and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Director's Note

***The Norman Mailer Anecdote* is a metaphor for what we hide behind.**

This is *not* message theatre. Like plays should, it argues all sides passionately. It entertains, pokes, and challenges who we are today and what we hope to be tomorrow. These are the elements that drew me to Anthony's play when I heard it read as runner up in the Queensland Premier's Drama Award. It struck me as a smart, robust, and entertaining discussion of themes that are quite frankly not that fun to talk about. The nuance of consent, danger of social media and the consequences of an alcohol fuelled culture are weaved into a ripper of a story driven by questions surrounding personal and collective accountability.

No one wakes up thinking they are a bad person. Here we have three over-achievers in crisis — guilty of grave mistakes — fighting to not be tarred by them for life and in legacy. Each

blame, gaslight, cover and forget — anything that avoids throwing their hands up in the air and taking responsibility for their actions. In a black and white world, where heroes and villains are defined quickly and often without all the facts, can we reasonably expect much more from each other? Furthermore, words equate with fists in the 'safe space' era. As a result, people operate from anxiety to care about all things all at once while perpetuating impossible images of virtuousness.

But don't let me tell you what to think. Pour a wine, buckle up and make up your own mind. This is provocative stuff that I hope stays with you well beyond the blackout.

Julian Curtis
Director



Christopher Sommers, Zoë Houghton



Anthony Mullins, Madeleine Barlow



Zoë Houghton, Julian Curtis

About Big Scary Animal

Big Scary Animal produced a sold-out season of *Savage in Limbo* in 2018; and co-produced the critically acclaimed *Anatomy of a Suicide* in 2021 at Metro Arts. Both yielded Matilda Award acting nominations. Big Scary Animal is a collaborative banner for NIDA alumni, Julian Curtis and Zoë Houghton.

Thank you

Big Scary Animal is supported by Philip Bacon. We would also like to thank the in-kind support of Tony Noble Events, PIP Theatre and of course everyone at Queensland Theatre. The realisation of this production has also been assisted by help and guidance from A Noble Event (Set Construction), Eleanor and Chris Barlow, David Berthold, Glenda Curtis, Alexander Ellem, Tristan Gasiewski, Grant Helg and Les Mac Nevin (Art Department), Leo Herreygers (Scenic Artist), Sara Houghton, Kris Kneen, Lee Lewis, Kathryn Marquet, Julian Meyrick, Suzie Miller, Peter and Helen Mullins, Kris Olsson, Patrica Perle (Project Head Carpenter), Beejay Silcox, Kia Smythe (Carpenter), Livy Watkins, Melanie Zanetti, Avid Reader and Playlab.



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