

DOOR 3

THE NEST ENSEMBLE PRESENTS



WANDERINGS

BY MARGI BROWN ASH, ZAC CALLAGHAN
AND LEAH MERCER

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29 NOV – 14 DEC 2024
DIANE CILENTO STUDIO

WANDERINGS

BY MARGI BROWN ASH, ZAC CALLAGHAN
AND LEAH MERCER

Creatives & Cast



**Co-Writer/
Performer**
Margi Brown Ash
(she/her)



**Co-Writer/
Performer/
Producer/
Sound Designer**
Zac Callaghan
(he/they)



**Co-Writer/
Director/Producer**
Leah Mercer
(she/her)



Designer
Rozina Suliman
(she/her)



**Lighting/
Projection
Designer**
Freddy Komp
(he/him)



Sound Designer
The Joy
Dispensary:
Zac Callaghan &
Olivia Cosham
(she/her)



**Stage Manager/
Operator**
Sarah Connolly
(she/her)

Warnings

This production contains occasional coarse language, references to transphobia, occasional loud sound effects and haze.

Duration

75 minutes,
no interval.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Queensland Theatre and The Nest Ensemble 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.

A Note from The Nest Ensemble

Wanderings reflects the challenges and wellbeing needs of two often misunderstood and under-represented communities — our ageing population and LGBTQI+ folks, particularly those who are transgender.

The development of this new work grew out of our personal experiences: Zac is a trans queer person whose mum is living with dementia and dad has transitioned into aged care; Margi is a mother of an adult, trans-masculine son; and Leah, whose mother is also living with dementia. During the last three years of creative development, we have engaged in many robust, heart-opening and compassionate conversations about some difficult topics and so *Wanderings* is a confabulation of autobiography and fiction.

Even though dementia is the leading cause of death for women in Australia and millions of Australians care for someone with a diagnosis of dementia, as a society, we fear it. Similarly, our society stigmatises transgender people, even more so in this current political climate.

Alarming national statistics show LGBTQI+ people still experience discrimination, violence and lack of family support.

Our hope is that *Wanderings* encourages courageous conversations and a more empathetic understanding of transitioning in all its forms while highlighting the interconnectedness of us all.

If you would like to talk to someone about any of the content covered in this production, we encourage you to reach out to any of the following support services: Alzheimer's Queensland, Australian Transgender Support Association of QLD, Dementia Australia, PFLAG+ Brisbane and QLife.

We would love feedback about your experience of the show. Please write your thoughts in the foyer, via the QR Code, on The Nest Ensemble Facebook page or email us at wethenestensemble@gmail.com

**Margi Brown Ash, Zac Callaghan
and Leah Mercer**



Margi Brown Ash



Zac Callaghan and Margi Brown Ash

About The Nest Ensemble

The Nest Ensemble (co-founded in Brisbane in 2004 by Margi Brown Ash and Leah Mercer) is a dynamic collective of artists who generate performances and workshops that deal in ideas, imagination and transformation of ourselves and our environment. Now more than ever we're passionate about creating theatre that elevates and innovates, building relationships, connections and communities.

Our original plays have been both award-winning and critically acclaimed, enjoying multiple seasons nationwide, including *Queer as Flux* (Theatre Works, Sydney Opera House, The Blue Room Theatre, MELT Festival Brisbane Powerhouse), *EVE* (Brisbane Powerhouse, The Blue Room Theatre, Metro Arts), *HOME* (Queensland Theatre DIVA Season, La Boite Indie, Metro Arts), *Joey: the Mechanical Boy* (The Blue Room Theatre), *A Mouthful of Pins* (Brisbane Powerhouse) and *The Knowing of Mary Poppins* (Brisbane Powerhouse, Darlinghurst Theatre, Adelaide Fringe).

Thank you

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