

THANK YOU

Tenielle, Lucie, Heidi, Paul. The staff of Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre. Liz Jones, Caitlin Dullard, Hayley Fox, Sophia Constantine at La Mama Theatre. Barbara Chung, Janelle Ewert, Sarah Goodes, Laura R, Verity Wells, Alana Wesley, Max Wilkie, Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou. Stéphanie Ghajar, Ariella Stoian. Remy Prichard. Hilary Bell. Elyse Horan.

If you have any questions, thoughts, feedback, or would like to stay in touch, please don't hesitate to drop me a line at thespellofwakinghours@gmail.com

A 'GIRL WHO FELL TO EARTH' playlist is available on Spotify:  



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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund - an Australian Government initiative, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne through the Arts and Creative Partnerships Program.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community for helping us rebuild La Mama. Thank you!



 LA MAMA presents



PLAY READING:
**THE GIRL WHO
FELL TO EARTH**
A NEW PLAY BY GLENN SAUNDERS

AUGUST 13, 2022
LA MAMA HQ

THE GIRL WHO FELL TO EARTH

Written and directed by Glenn Saunders

With Tienielle Thompson, Lucie Chaix, Heidi Arena, Paul English

Producer: Remy Prichard

Cover image: Glenn Saunders

Approximate running time: 75 minutes

THE SCIENCE OF LONELINESS: WRITER'S NOTE

This play started in the depths of Melbourne's 120-day lockdown in late 2020. Unable to see or do the stuff we loved, I started to think about the impacts of loneliness – of this time – on our lives and relationships. Old friendships and relationships bubbled to the surface, bringing ghosts and unfinished conversations with them, and I tried to find a way to make sense of it all.

I started to dream of everything that might be possible once we started reopening (we weren't to know we'd be thrown back in the deep end again six months later). I dreamt of kindness and honesty, of bigheartedness and chance encounters, being scared of jumping in headfirst too quickly but also desperate to not keep living the iso-life. I dreamt of emotional bravery and selflessly giving someone your heart – what would happen if it backfired; more importantly, what would happen if it didn't?

Around the same time, I was watching all of Wong Kar Wai's films, and a bit of them must've rubbed off in this – all those neon lights and lonely rooms, every frame and pore saturated with emotion.

I don't know what it means for the play to have been written between the February and May '21 lockdowns, but it feels significant. Strangely, very little has changed since then. Of the plays I've written to date, this is hands-down my favourite. I hope you love Leo and Art as much as I do.

BIOGRAPHIES



Glenn Saunders (he/him) – WRITER/DIRECTOR

Glenn is a Melbourne-based dramaturg, writer, director, creative consultant, with a Masters of Dramaturgy (VCA). Highlights include: as playwright: *like me* for Someone New Theatre Company; as playwright/director/producer: *The Book of Ducks* for La Mama Explorations 2019; co-writer & dramaturg: *LANNY* with Remy Prichard for Trinity Grammar School, Kew; dramaturg: *A Comprehensive History of Gastric Juice* for Remy Prichard/VCA; *The Marvellous Life of Carlo Gatti* for Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou/Wildefang Productions/TheatreWorks. *The Book of Ducks* is available through Australian Plays Transform.



Tienielle Thompson (she/her) – LEO

Tienielle Thompson is an actor and theatre-maker who graduated from VCA in 2016. She played June in Tim Winton's *Shrine* at 45 downstairs in 2017, and in 2018 co-devised and performed in *_CONTROL* as part of the VCA Director's showcase. She also played Lucia Joyce in *Solas* which toured to New Zealand for the UNESCO Cities of Literature festival and was reprised at La Mama in February 2022. Her role as Carrie in the comedy short film *A Handful of Toenails* toured festivals around the world and earned her an award for Best Actress at Byron Bay Underground Film Festival.



Lucie Chaix (she/her) – ART

Lucie is a Melbourne-based actor and a graduate of Brave Studios acting school. Her TV credits include *The Underbelly Files: Chopper* directed by Peter Andrikidis, and *Get Krack!n*. Lucie has appeared in many TV commercials and short films including: *Breathing Underwater* and *Medium* for VCA, as well as the SASA nominated short *Nature Therapy*. Her stage credits include *Seminar* by Theresa Rebek at Cromwell Road Theatre (Performed Reading), *Bachelorette* by Leslye Headland for Twelve Angry Independent Theatre, *Clochemerle* by Gabriel Chevallier for Panache Theatre, and the recent Theatreworks season of *When The Rain Stops Falling* for Iron Lung Theatre Company.



Heidi Arena (she/her) – ALICE

Since graduating from NIDA in 2002, Heidi Arena has gained a reputation as one of Australia's most loved chameleon actresses. Best known as Mrs Gonsha in *Little Lunch*, and Audrey in *Audrey's Kitchen* (Working Dog/ABC), Heidi has appeared in *The Librarians*, *Upper Middle Bogan*, *Mad As Hell*, and *Get Krack!n!*, as well as *Jack Irish*, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, and *Nowhere Boys*. On stage, Heidi has appeared in *The Beast*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *August: Osage County*, *The Other Place*, *Born Yesterday*, and *Admissions*. Heidi is enjoying growing credits as a creator/writer with *Plan G* (Pilot) and *Part-Time Private Eyes* (Channel Ten). Heidi currently has several other TV projects in development with CJZ, ACTF, KOJO and GUESSWORK TELEVISION.



Paul English (he/him) – GRAMPS

Paul recently played Willy Loman in Hearth Theatre's acclaimed production of *Death of a Salesman* at fortyfivedownstairs. He's also performed there in Patricia Cornelius's *Do Not Go Gentle*, Gorky's *Lower Depths* (as Satan) and in the title role of Chekhov's *Ivanov*. He joined NZ's Pop-Up Globe for *Henry V* and *As You Like It* in the Melbourne season. He was a founding member of the celebrated Keene/Taylor Theatre Project and has worked with the major companies in *Arcadia* (STC, and national tour), *Cabaret* and *Closer* (STC of S.A.), *King Lear* (Bell), *Ninety* (Black Swan), and over 30 shows for MTC and Playbox, including *Measure for Measure*, *All My Sons*, *Music*, *Rapture*, *A Return to the Brink*, and *Good Works*. Among his TV credits are *SeaChange*, *Phoenix*, *Curtin*, *Howzat!*, and *Gallipoli*. Paul has performed Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* with Melbourne's Plexus Trio and at the Canberra International Music Festival.



Remy Prichard (he/him) – PRODUCER

Remy Prichard is an accomplished director, writer, and educator in Melbourne. He is a graduate of the VCA Masters of Directing Performance and recipient of the Orloff Scholarship for creative work. To date, he has produced and directed many theatrical productions including the award-winning adaptation of Woyzeck, *A Comprehensive Study of Gastric Juice*; *August: Osage County* directed by Leith McPherson; co-writer and director of the Australian premiere of *Lanny* the unofficial adaptation of Max Porter's novel. He is a keen educator, working across sectors to bring the arts to students in Australia.