2000GETHER
SYDNEY GAY + LESBIAN MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL EVENT PROGRAM

BABY X

BY CAMPION DECENT

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):
Georgie & Ensemble: Jennifer Vuletic
Evelyn & Ensemble: Imelda Corcoran
Adam: Zach McKay
Adam's Father & Ensemble: Walter Grkovic

Producer: Christine Dunstan
Director: David Fenton
Set & Costume Designer: Andrew Raymond
Lighting Designer: Martin Kinnane
Composition/Sound Designer: Felicity Fox
Movement Director: Gail Kelly
Stage Manager: Catherine Capolupo
Assistant Stage Manager: Rebecca Harding

Dramaturg: Beatrix Christian
Assistant Sound Designer: Jasmine Guffond
Wardrobe Coordinator: Janet Irving
Set Construction: Diversion Productions
Production Photographer: Yann Le Berre

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Janet Balaskas & Yehudi Gordon for permission to use extracts from their book *The Encyclopedia of Pregnancy and Birth,* Tristan Coombs for the Diva headwear and Luke Dunn Gielmuda

WRITER'S NOTE
Writing for the theatre is a funny business. I walked away from it a few years ago, determined to do something more useful. Colleagues and friends said it would come back to haunt me, to grab me by the throat. It has. *Baby X* has been born, and in relatively pain-free fashion too. It was conceptualised as a little bit serious but ended up a little bit silly. I guess it changed course because between the time dear Mr Fenton suggested I cobble together some words, and Mardi Gras offered development funding, I had entered and re-emerged from one of life's dark periods. The result is *Baby X*, a poem scribbled in a fearful sweat, a reminder from a slightly bent perspective of life's little blessings.
Blessed, indeed, I am to have this wonderful cast and crew, led magnificently by David Fenton. I thank our producer Christine Dunstan for her velvet-gloved iron fist! I acknowledge Janet Balaskas and Gordon Yehudi's kind permission to plunder their book, The Encyclopedia of Pregnancy and Birth in service of *Baby X*. I am especially grateful to Beatrix Christian for her wise dramaturgy and for keeping the faith. And my beloved Mardi Gras, I bend before you in gratitude (in a manner of speaking). I dedicate *Baby X* to my new family; and to my sister, a blessing prematurely departed but not forgotten.
I hope you find some enjoyment in *Baby X* because ultimately you count the most in this funny business we call theatre. — Campion Decent

DIRECTOR'S NOTE
As a gay man, who wants a child, directing this play has provided a great opportunity to bring a more personal response to the work. As the new Festival Director for SGLMG in 2001 and 2002 I hope that this play's relevance continues the Festival's commitment to celebrating and exploring our culture. And as a Director I feel privileged to be directing *Baby X*, because Campion's work is both ingeniously theatrical and full of humanity. Enjoy. — David Fenton

CAMPION DECENT — Writer

Campion is currently Artistic Director of Victoria's Next Wave Festival. He holds a Bachelor of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong and a Master of Arts (Theatre Studies) from the University of NSW. Campion is a graduate of the NIDA Playwrights Studio; and has been an affiliate writer with the Sydney Theatre Company's New Stages and writer-in-residence for the University of Wollongong. His plays include *Collar of Thistles*, *Three Winters Green* and *The Pearls of Heaven*. He has also been Editor of the *Sydney Star Observer*, Festival Director for Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras and held senior positions at State and Federal arts funding agencies. A new Playbox production of *Baby X* opens in Melbourne in April 2000.

DAVID FENTON — Director

David is the recently appointed Festival Director for Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras 2001 & 2002. A freelance director for 10 years, graduating from NIDA in 1992, amongst David's many directorial credits are *Twelfth Night* for the Bell Shakespeare Company, *Cosi* for the 1999 Sydney Olympic Arts Festival and *Two Weeks With The Queen* for the Riverina Theatre Company. David was Artistic Director of the Riverina Theatre Company from 1996 to 1999. As part of the 1996 SGLMG Festival David directed the Christine Dunstan production of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* which was honoured with a Mardi Gras Award for "Best Performing Arts Event."

CATHERINE CAPOLUPO — Stage Manager

Catherine studied Theatre Technology at the University of Wollongong graduating in 1997. Her stage management credits include: *Wallflowering* (Railway Street Theatre Company), *State of Shock* (Griffin Theatre), *The Living Photograph* (Riverina Theatre Company), and *Footprints on Water* (Neonheart/Griffin), 1999 Marrickville Festival and 2000 Australia Day – Enmore Park Festival. She has also stage managed for Warner Bros – Showtime and has worked as Wardrobe Assistant/ASM for Spectak Productions.

IMELDA CORCORAN — Evelyn & Ensemble

Imelda graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and has since worked in theatre, television and film. On stage she has worked with Belvoir Street Theatre appearing in *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love* and *Bold Girls*, Sydney Theatre Company in *Dead Funny* and *Historia*, Ensemble Theatre's *Educating Rita* and Bell Shakespeare Company's production of *Coriolanus* directed by Steven Berkoff. Imelda's television credits include *Kings in Grass Castles*, *Water Rats* and *Murder Call* and she appeared in the features *Two Hands* and the upcoming *Better Than Sex*.

FELICITY FOX — Composition / Sound Designer

Felicity Fox has been writing music for film, television, dance and theatre since 1985. Her work includes the electro-Baroque score for *Senesino* (Mardi Gras Festival 1998) and the score to the musical *Frozen Girl* (REM Theatre). In 1999, Felicity was nominated for an ARIA Award for Best Soundtrack Album for the documentary series *Afrika – Capetown to Cairo* (released on BMG records and aired on the ABC). She was nominated for an AFI Award for Best Film Score for her work on the feature *Redheads* in 1992 and was awarded Best Original Soundtrack at FIFREC Film Festival in France for her score to the short film *Loyal to My Image*. Felicity is also pianist and singer/songwriter for her solo project Pluto.

WALTER GRKOVIC — Adam's Father & Ensemble

A graduate of NIDA, Walter's theatre credits include: *The Sum of Us*, *Antony & Cleopatra* (Sydney Theatre Company), *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (Riverina Theatre Company) *Cabaret* and the national tour of *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Gordon Frost Organisation), *Lift Off Live* (Back Row Productions) *Short Circuits* (Sydney Festival) *Carnival of the Animals* (Theatre of Image) and national tours of *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Mikado*. TV credits include *Police Rescue* and *Spellbinder*. Amongst Walter's film credits are *Soft Fruit*, *Kick* and *The Weatherman*. He has also devised and appeared in numerous cabaret productions.

REBECCA HARDING — Assistant Stage Manager

Rebecca Harding's stage management credits include *Late Night Catechism*, *Odyssey* and a regional tour of *Hating Alison Ashley* (Theatre South), *2 Doses of Moliere* (Downstairs Belvoir Street), *Sleaze Ball*, *Stories from the Underground* (Redhanded Theatre Company) and *Wrong Way Go Back* (Thinkfast Productions). Recently Rebecca worked within the stage management team for Sydney Recital Hall and Spectak Productions for the millennium celebrations. Rebecca graduated from Wollongong University in 1998, majoring in Theatrical Production.

GAIL KELLY — Movement Director

Gail Kelly has directed and devised performances for companies such as: Circus Oz, Rock 'n Roll Circus, Legs on the Wall, Urban Theatre Projects (Death Defying Theatre), Open City, Sidetrack Performance Group, People Next Door, Upfront Community Theatre, St Martins Youth Theatre and Playworks. Gail has devised solo performance works with Jeremy Robins for Next Steps (Sydney), Out Of Bounds (Midsumma Festival, Melbourne) and Queer Up North (Manchester, UK). She is the artistic director of the Party Line (appearing in *Pieces*, *Desperate 'n Dangerous Divas*, *700 Positions*, *Whet Flesh*) and Club Swing (*Appetite*, *Razor Baby*). Gail has also worked in film and radio.

MARTIN KINNANE — Lighting Designer

Martin Kinnane has numerous theatre design credits to his name including: *A Street Car Named Desire*, *How I Learned to Drive* (Ensemble Theatre), *Favorite Names for Boys* (Railway Street Theatre Company), *Three Sisters* (Old Fitzroy Hotel), *Macbeth* (New England Theatre Company), *Gannon's Forrest Gothic* (Shopfront Theatre Company), *Two Weeks With The Queen* (Riverina Theatre Company), *Italian Stories* (Theatre South) and *The Gap* (Studio Theatre Canberra and Theatre Cai Tokyo). Martin was lighting designer for the Thirst exhibit for the Australian Museum and was resident designer for the Australian Museum for three years. He has also worked for the UNSW Theatre Studies Dept and on *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Miss Saigon*. Martin graduated from NIDA in 1991.

ZACH MCKAY — Adam

Zach trained at the Drama Studio Sydney and the NSW Conservatorium of Music. His numerous theatre credits include: *Beauty and the Beast* (Disney/Jacobsen), *Darlinghurst Nights* (Sydney Theatre Company) *Wild Honey* (Nimrod) *The Tempest* (Queensland Theatre Company), *Hamlet* (Phillip Street) *Sweet Charity* and *Death of A Salesman* (Mercury, NZ), *Sinbad's Last Adventure* (Playbox), *Once in a Blue Moon* (Griffin), *Drums of Thunder* (Belvoir Street Theatre), *Biloxi Blues* (Garry Penny), *The Three legends of Kra* (Adelaide Festival) and *Big River* (Gordon Frost). Zach's numerous film and television credits include *Starstruck*, *Contact*, *Mad Bomber in Love*, *Water Rats* and *Police Rescue*.

ANDREW RAYMOND — Set & Costume Designer

Andrew studied at QUT and NIDA. His theatre design credits include: *Twelfth Night*, *Pericles*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Bell Shakespeare Company), *Cosi* (La Boite) and *Appetite* (Melbourne International Festival and Mardi Gras Festival). In 1996 Andrew worked with David Fenton on Christine Dunstan's award-winning production of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*. Andrew is co-creator of the dance works *Androgyny* and *Senesino* and has exhibited at the international installation event *Bau, Bild, Stelle* in Germany. For television Andrew has designed *Good News Week/GNW Nitelite* (Channel 10) and has worked as assistant designer on *Roy & HG* and *McFeast*. Andrew also designed the short film *The Reunion*.

JENNIFER VULETIC — Georgie & Ensemble

Having recently just completed a successful season of her own cabaret show *Chanson, Champagne & Chopped Liver!* Jennifer has graced the stage in many various Australian and international productions... to name a few: *The New Rocky Horror Show* and *Phantom of the Opera* (Dainty Consolidated), *The Game of Love and Chance* (Royal Queensland Theatre Company) *The Venetian Twins* (State Theatre South Australia) *The Real Live Brady Bunch* (Footbridge Theatre) and *Into The Woods* (Sydney Theatre Company). Jennifer's television credits include: *The Whipping Boy* and *Seven Deadly Sins* and film credits include *Let Me Die Again*, *For Love Alone* and *My Life Without Steve*.

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