

JACKRABBIT
THEATRE
PRESENTS



SEX OBJECT



19 - 29 APRIL 2017

Written by Charlie Falkner
Directed by Michael Abercromby

The Depot Theatre | thedepottheatre.com



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

After the fun I had with *Dirty People*, I was very excited to hear that Charlie wanted to work together on another project. His brand of comedy is exactly the type of theatre that made me want to start JackRabbit Theatre in the first place. It's fun, it's fast, it's new; and it is great that a place like The Depot is taking a chance on new writing.

The most enjoyable part of working on this show, was getting to know the characters. You could say this about any play, but the characters Falkner writes are so cringingly familiar to me, because he preys on the archetypes of Generation Y for his inspiration: selfish, entitled and contradictory, I think I could watch these characters in any situation. Place them in the ridiculous world of *Sex Object* and you really do have all the ingredients for a great night at the theatre.

For a generation who has unlimited access to sexual material, we really do not have the vocabulary or urge to discuss it as openly as we should. *Sex Object* skirts around these themes of porn and sex in the modern age, but does not let this subject weigh itself down. Instead it feels more like a Moliere, where the comedy and characters take precedent over a message, but the given circumstances on stage make you consider the issues of a larger problem.

Theatre really is a team sport, and my team has been spectacular. Andrew, Charlie, Charlotte and Grace have been so much fun to work with, and we have shared many a laugh bringing this show to life. Loredana was a gem to work with, as were Maddy and Louise, three people that we truly could not have gotten this show up without. Shaynee, my beautiful partner spent hours listening to me talk about a show she had never seen, and provided fantastic artwork to really bring the set alive.

And to you, the audience, the last piece of the puzzle, thank you for supporting The Depot, JackRabbit, and new, independent theatre in Sydney.

Michael Abercromby



WRITER'S NOTES

Sex Object was written over the course of a few months with what seemed like never-ending edits. I wanted to write about where we are now as a generation that views beauty through mass-media and/or a pornographic lens. For me, it was important not to be preachy, and instead, to be reflective. I write 'important' not because I don't think theatre should have strong and clear statements about certain issues, but rather because I personally wanted to present facets of modern living:

pornography, technology, complex relationships, and to leave them there, on stage, so that an audience may take what they like from it. And comedy helps with that.

This is the second time Michael Abercromby has directed a script of mine, and found comedy where I didn't know it was. Michael and I have a similar taste in fast, sharp, funny theatre. While many of the issues explored in *Sex Object* are not funny at all (well...maybe they can be), I found through working with him and the cast, that we had a show that was funny because of the characters' reactions and decisions when faced with certain dilemmas, and not the meaning of the dilemmas themselves.

I wanted to say a big thank you to all the cast and crew, who were patient while I was still writing edits a week out. You bloody legends. To the cast, Andy, Charlotte and Grace as well as our director Michael, thank you for your collaborative effort on helping me fix parts of the script that weren't working. And a big thank you to producer Loredana Cross who slayed it at making this whole thing possible.

Thanks for comin'

Charlie Falkner

CAST & CREATIVES



RON: CHARLOTTE DEVENPORT

Charlotte Devenport is a 2013 graduate from the acting course at The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Charlotte made her professional debut in Black Swan State Theatre Company's 2014 production of *Dust* in the dual roles of Ailsa and Emma. Theatre credits include the role of Lucy in *Dirty People* (JackRabbit Theatre), Hunter in *Threnody* (Red Line Productions) and Ashley in *Lucidity* (JackRabbit Theatre). Charlotte has

also appeared on screen as opera singer Nellie Melba in Channel 7's *Australia: The Story of Us*.



BEN: CHARLIE FALKNER

Charlie Falkner is a Sydney-based actor and writer currently managed by Smith and Jones Management. After graduating from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, Charlie has been involved in a number of independent theatre companies and productions including *The Old Fitz*, *Tamarama Rock Surfers* and more recently, JackRabbit Theatre Company. He has also featured in film projects culminating in the 2013

feature film *Wrath*. His debut show as a writer, *Dirty People*, was produced in May 2016 to critical acclaim, followed by four star reviews at the Perth Fringe World Festival.



GUSTAV: ANDREW HEARLE

Andrew is an acting graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. He has worked professionally in major TV series including *Australia: Story of Us*, *Deadly Women* and *Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door*. Andrew has also worked in theatre, performing in the highly acclaimed production of *Beautiful Thing* at the Seymour Centre. Andrew has recently finished work on the feature film *Spirit of the Game*, which was released internationally in late 2016.



KATE: GRACE VICTORIA

Grace Victoria had her professional debut as Zina in Sozhenitsyn's *The Love Girl and The Innocent* at the Southwark Playhouse in London in 2013. Grace then appeared as Celia in Black Swan State Theatre Company's *As You Like It* and Elizabeth Taylor in *Playing Rock Hudson* at The Old Fitz in 2014. Grace has worked with The Kings Collective as a director, actor and producer since 2014. In 2015 she appeared as Lisa in *The*

Wonderful World of Dissocia and Louise in *After The End* in 2016 for the company. Whilst in her final year at The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts Grace was awarded the Burton Shakespeare Award and a National Australian Voice Association Award.







DIRECTOR: MICHAEL ABERCROMBY

Born and raised in Perth, Michael started his artistic career as a musician before he turned his focus to the theatre. Michael graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts' Acting course in 2013 and moved to Sydney in 2015. Notable roles include King Claudius in *Hamlet* (Barking Gecko, John Sheedy) Tim in *The Sugar Syndrome* (The Kings Collective, Jessica Arthur), Gustave Whitehead in *First Flight* (Artemis Films) and Tim in *The Pitch* for the Melbourne Comedy Festival and Sydney Fringe Comedy Festival. Michael has supplemented his acting by developing his skills in theatre making, and building a profile as a writer and director. In 2015 Michael co-wrote and performed a comedy *The Pitch* for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, directed *Zygoty* by Andreas Lohmeyer for the Adelaide Fringe 2015, and wrote and directed his own play *Lucidity* for The Old Fitz Theatre in August 2015. *Lucidity* continued to a critically acclaimed sell out season for Adelaide Fringe Festival in 2016 at at The Blueroom Theatre, Perth, in February 2017. Recently Michael directed *Dirty People* by Charlie Falkner at The Depot Theatre and toured the show as part of Perth Fringe World, remounted *The Pitch* for the Sydney Fringe Comedy Festival in September and directed *After The End* by Dennis Kelly for The Kings Collective at Kings Cross Theatre. In 2017, Michael will also be working with The Old Fitz Theatre as a director for their upcoming "New Fitz" program.



PRODUCER: LOREDANA CROSS

Loredana began her career in the arts as a singer, dancer and actor, performing as a featured dancer in multiple musicals with Packemin Productions under the direction of Neil Gooding. Since turning to production in 2012 Loredana has produced theatre at Pact Centre for Emerging Artists, Riverside Theatre, the Seymour Centre and The Factory Theatre. Notable credits include *The Threepenny Opera*, *Artsmaggedon*, *Waiting for Godot*, *It's*

Rubeeeeee in Lights! and *Mrs. K. Bretherin Live in Concert*. In 2014 Loredana was the Production Manager for Underground Cinema and in 2015 began working as a Producer & Events Manager for Century Venues. Highlights of this role included working with Ensemble Theatre, the Australian Ballet Company, The Russian Ballet Theatre, Doug Anthony All Stars, The Wiggles and being part of the team that produced Sydney Fringe Comedy and Sydney Comedy Festival.

Sex Object

Directed by Michael Abercromby

Written by Charlie Falkner

Produced by Loredana Cross

Lighting Design by Louise Mason

Set & Sound Design by Michael Abercromby

Staged Managed by Madeleine McWilliam

Theatre Artwork Design by Shaynee Brayshaw

Poster & Program Design by Loredana Cross

Photographs by Omnes Photography

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal Traditional Custodians of this land, on which this production is being staged: the Cadigal Wanggal people of the Eora nation, and pay our respect to their Elders both past & present.

ABOUT JACKRABBIT THEATRE

JackRabbit Theatre is known for creating new, loud, fast and entertaining theatre. We keep it fast, and we keep it loose. Fresh after touring our last two productions *Dirty People* and *Lucidity* and to rave reviews, JackRabbit is proud to present this new work by upcoming writer Charlie Falkner.

Our next production *Front*, written & directed by Michael Abercromby is set to premiere at The Depot Theatre on the 28th June and run until the 15th July.

To learn more about JackRabbitTheatre visit jackrabbittheatre.com

ABOUT THE DEPOT THEATRE

Founded by Julie Baz and David Jeffrey in 2015, The Depot Theatre collaborates with emerging and established theatre makers to challenge and entertain its audiences with performances that are accessible, affordable and – most importantly – a really fun night out. The Depot Theatre is situated within and proudly supported by the historic Addison Road Centre, a thriving inner west hub for culture, arts and the environment. The Addison Rd site was originally occupied by the Cadigal Wanggal people who practiced fire stick farming.

