



GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
A GREEN DOOR THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BELVOIR ST THEATRE

SISTREN

BY IOLANTHE

9 APR – 3 MAY 2026

📍 DOWNSTAIRS THEATRE, BELVOIR ST THEATRE

GRIFFIN
THEATRE
COMPANY

GREEN DOOR
THEATRE
COMPANY

CAST & CREATIVES

Director Ian Michael

Production Designer Emma White

Lighting Designer Kelsey Lee

Composer & Sound Designer Daniel Herten

Video Designer TK Abioye

Dramaturg Dylan Van Den Berg

Voice & Accent Coach Angela Sullen

Production Managers Frankie Clarke, Tyler Fitzpatrick

Stage Manager Jen Jackson

Community Engagement Strategists Janet Anderson, Iolanthe

Directorial Attachment Zarif

Associate Production Designer Geita Goarin

With Janet Anderson, Iolanthe

SUPPORTED BY



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



SISTREN was supported by Australian Plays Transform through the Untold Stories Program and the premiere season was a part of Griffin Lookout 2025, supported by Shane & Cathryn Brennan. This presentation is supported by the Girsogensohn Foundation.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

SISTREN exists because these girls exist. Black girls. Trans girls. They don't just occupy space—they grab it, flip it and reverse it, and claim it. They make you laugh, make you flinch, tug at your heart and pull you into a world bigger than any of us. That refusal to be small is what powers this story and why it demands to be told.

At the heart of it? The lethal combination—Isla and Violet. Their friendship is wild and tender all at once. It's personal but political too, a statement that joy, love and identity aren't optional—they're essential. Watching them, you see them push each other, call each other out and insist on being unapologetically themselves, even when the world tries to shrink them. The sisterhood is unpredictable and unstoppable. Being themselves isn't passive—it's hilarious, rebellious and present.

And the world that **Iolanthe** has poured out onto the page moves as fast as they do. Their brains and imaginations leap between reality, memory, pop culture and fantasy. It's electric. Maybe uncomfortable. It's alive in all its chaos and silliness.

SISTREN captures the thrill of being fully yourself in a world that often refuses to make space for you. The audience is asked to lean in, to ride the chaos and still crack up along the way. What's on stage isn't just performance—it's lived experience, absolute imagination and defiance.

It's about claiming space. About refusing to make yourself smaller for anyone else. About joy that won't be erased, love that can't be contained, and life lived loud, untamed and relentless. It's a celebration of existing on your own terms—for yourself, for community and for your sistrens.

To **Iolanthe** and **Janet Anderson**—you are the heart of this. Making *SISTREN* with you is a dream. The trust, the risk, the way you show up for each other and the work carries the same wild, tender, unapologetic energy that lives inside Isla and Violet. You bring them to life with so much joy and care. Thank you, always.

To **Emma White, Kelsey Lee, Daniel Herten, TK Abioye, Dylan Van Den Berg, Angela Sullen, Jen Jackson** and **Cris Chavez**—you didn't just create this, you made it bigger and bolder. You met the world of this story head-on and pushed it further than any of us ever imagined. Thank you for seeing it and for running at it.

To our producers, **Leila Enright, Bernadette Fam** and **Janine Lau**—thank you for your care and belief throughout. And to Green Door Theatre Company and Griffin Theatre Company, thank you for your support and for championing this work.

Ian Michael
Director

BIOGRAPHIES



IOLANTHE

PLAYWRIGHT / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIST / ISLA

Afro-Caribbean / Australian artist Iolanthe is an actor, writer, model and self-proclaimed socialite. Spending almost all of her childhood living in England, with a Norwegian-German parent, Iolanthe's artistry is impacted by understanding the mixing of cultures and creative landscapes. In both her life and work, she tends to examine her role in society, refining the purpose of her creative talent into plays, performances, creative direction, styling, essays.

Iolanthe is a NIDA graduate (BFA Acting 2022), leaving her class with the annual Lesley Walford AM Award of excellence, taking her to study method acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York.

Her theatre credits include: for Green Door Theatre Company: *SISTREN* (as part of Griffin Lookout), *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*. Iolanthe's screen work includes: for ModiBodi: *I'm Dying Inside*, for Joe Lycett: *MARK*; for Belmore Pictures Presents in association with Dark Sky Films: *Cruel Hands*; for Netflix: *Black Mirror*; for Stan Originals: *He Had It Coming*.

BIOGRAPHIES



IAN MICHAEL

DIRECTOR

Ian is a proud Noongar man and WAAPA graduate. He is a Resident Director at Sydney Theatre Company.

Ian's directing credits include, as Director: for Belvoir St Theatre: *Big Girls Don't Cry*; for Black Swan State Theatre Company and The Blue Room: *The Bleeding Tree*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *Constellations*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Stolen*; as Associate Director: for Black Swan State Theatre Company: *The Cherry Orchard*; for Black Swan State Theatre Company and Yirra Yaakin: *Skylab*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *Dracula*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Sweat*, *The 7 Stages of Grieving*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The President*, *The Seagull*.

As an actor, Ian has performed with companies including Sydney Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre Company, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company. His writing credits include *York* (with Chris Isaacs), *HART* (with Seanna van Helten), and *Another Day in the Colony*.

He has received numerous awards and nominations, including multiple Sydney Theatre Award nominations for *Constellations* and *Stolen* and PAWA and Blue Room Awards for *The Bleeding Tree*, along with recognition from CHASS, Green Room Awards, and Fringe Festivals.

BIOGRAPHIES



EMMA WHITE PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Emma White is a set and costume designer for stage and screen. Emma is a graduate of NIDA's Master of Fine Art Design course and has a Bachelor of Fine Art in Sculpture from UNSW Art and Design. In 2019, Emma was nominated for an APDG Award for Best Emerging Designer.

Her credits include: as Set Designer: for Sydney Theatre Company: *Oil*; for ATYP: *The Deb*; for Hayes Theatre Co: *Godspell*; for Red Line Productions: *A Streetcar Named Desire*; as Costume Designer: for Sydney Theatre Company: *Lifespan of a Fact*; for Red Line Productions: *Seven Deadly Sins + Mahagonny Songspiel*; for NIDA: *Venus in Fur*; as Set & Costume Designer: for Griffin Theatre Company: *A is for Apple, Green Park*; for Queensland Theatre: *As You Like It*; for Squabbalogic: *The Dismissal*, for Red Line Productions: *Hand to God, Chorus*; for Belvoir 25A: *Kasama Kita*; for Campbelltown Arts Centre: *Bad Machine*; for Bondi Feast: *The Knife*; for Blue Room Theatre and Sotto: *You've Got Mail*; for Milk Crate Theatre: *Natural Order*; for National Theatre of Parramatta & Sydney Festival: *Boom*; for NIDA: *Stay Happy Keep Smiling*; for Old 505: *Homesick*; for Old 505 and Sotto: *Safe*; for Q Theatre: *Daisy Moon Was Born This Way*.

Associate Designer credits include: as Associate Costume Designer: for Sydney Theatre Company: *On the Beach*; as Associate Designer: for Hayes Theatre Co: *American Psycho*; for Sport for Jove: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest*; as Assistant Designer: for National Theatre London: *Nine Night*; for Shakespeare's Globe: *Richard II*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *Appropriate, Lord of the Flies*.

For screen, Emma was production designer on the feature documentary *Step Into Paradise* for Blackfella Films, the television pilot *Gym Rat* for Guesswork TV, Taylor Ferguson's award-winning short film *Tough* and short film *Beautiful They*. She was costume design assistant for *PM's Daughter* (ABC) and *Mr Inbetween* S3 (Foxtel) and set designer for Shannon Murphy's short film *Fractal* with *AJE*. Emma has worked as production designer and costume designer on numerous TVCs.

BIOGRAPHIES



KELSEY LEE **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Kelsey's credits as Lighting Designer include: for Griffin Theatre Company: *Sex Magick, The Lewis Trilogy, Whitefella Yella Tree*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *4000 Miles*; for ATYP: *April Aardvark*; for Australian Chamber Orchestra: *There's a Sea in My Bedroom, Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge*; for Belvoir 25A: *An Ox Stand on My Tongue, Destroy, She Said*; for Belvoir St Theatre: *A Room of One's Own, At What Cost?, Big Girls Don't Cry, Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Well-Behaved Women*; for Bell Shakespeare: *The Comedy of Errors*; for Blue Film: *Long Story Short*; for Ensemble Theatre: *A Letter for Molly, Killing Katie, Masterclass, Switzerland, The Memory of Water*; for Fervour: *Life Is a Dream*; for Force Majeure: *Gurr Era Op*; for Green Door Theatre Company: *Good Dog, If We Got Some More Cocaine I Could Show You How I Love You, SISTREN*; for Hayes Theatre Co: *Catch Me If You Can*; for Melbourne Theatre Company: *Destin*; for Marrugeku: *Cut the Sky, Mutiara*; for Michelle Guthrie Presents: *Tell Me on a Sunday*; for National Institute of Dramatic Art: *Lulu: A Modern Sex Tragedy*; for National Theatre of Parramatta: *A Practical Guide to Self Defence, Nothing, Queen Fatima*; for re:group collective: *Autotune*; for Sydney Dance Company: *Silence & Rapture, Somos*; for Tinderbox Productions: *Black Box: The Musical*.

Awards include the Sydney Theatre Award for Best Set Design for *Destroy, She Said*. Training: National Institute of Dramatic Art.
Pronouns: she/her.

BIOGRAPHIES



DANIEL HERTEN

COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Daniel's theatre credits include: Griffin Theatre Company: *Flat Earthers: The Musical*, *Green Park*, *Pony*, *Sex Magick*, *The Lewis Trilogy*, *Wherever She Wanders*, *Whitefella Yella Tree*; for Belvoir St Theatre: *Furious Mattress*, *Grief Is the Thing With Feathers*, *Miss Peony*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; for Bell Shakespeare: *Twelfth Night*; for Clockfire Theatre Company: *Plenty of Fish in the Sea*; for Darlinghurst Theatre Company: *Let the Right One In*; for Ensemble Theatre Company: *The Half-Life of Marie Curie*; for EARTH: *ARC*, *Shark Dive*; for essential workers: *Collapsible*; for Green Door Theatre Company: *SISTREN*; for Hayes Theatre Co: *Murder for Two*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *The Pirates of Penzance*; for National Theatre of Parramatta: *FADE*; for Performance Space: *Follies of God*; for Red Line Productions: *Hand to God*, *The Chairs*; for Rising Festival: *Set Piece*; for Sport for Jove: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; for Sydney Festival: *William Yang: Milestone*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Rules for Living*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; for Tinderbox Productions: *Black Box: The Musical*.

Training: National Institute of Dramatic Art.



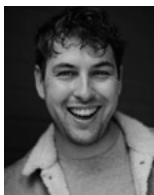
TK ABIOYE

VIDEO DESIGNER

Adetokunbo (TK) Abioye is an up and coming video designer based in Sydney.

TK has recently worked on video-based shows including *Alice: Mother of Cinema* and *Seen*, as well as with the Video and Design teams on *Dracula* at Sydney Theatre Company. He has also been working and learning with the Stage and Company Management teams at *MJ the Musical*.

BIOGRAPHIES



DYLAN VAN DEN BERG

DRAMATURG

Dylan Van Den Berg is a Palawa writer and dramaturg, originally from the northeast of lutruwita/Tasmania. As a dramaturg, recent credits include: for Griffin Theatre Company: *Nucleus*; for Green Door Theatre Company: *SISTREN* (Griffin Lookout); for ILBIJERRI Theatre Company: *10 in 10 Play Festival, Nan's Place*; for Queensland Theatre: *Burning House*; for The Street Theatre: *A Better Tomorrow*. As a playwright, recent credits include: for Griffin Theatre Company/Sydney Theatre Company/La Boite: *Whitefella Yella Tree*; for The Street Theatre: *Milk, The Chosen Vessel*; for the National Institute of Dramatic Art: *All that Glitters is Not Mould*; for Belco Arts: *Ngadjung*; for FlickFlick City/Hobart Fringe: *The Camel*. For his writing, he has received the Griffin Award, two AWGIES, the David Williamson Prize, two NSW Premier's Literary Awards and was shortlisted for the Bruntwood International Playwriting Prize. He is currently under commission with Griffin Theatre Company and Malthouse Theatre.



FRANKIE CLARKE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Frankie Clarke is an independent artist working across Production Management and Lighting Design, with a deep respect for the theatrical form and the stories it creates pathways for. They have worked with Green Door Theatre Company to deliver two national tours: *Overflow* and *Burgerz* as part of the Trans Theatre Festival, as well as working on a myriad of design works across dance, theatre and installation.

BIOGRAPHIES



ANGELA SULLEN

VOICE & ACCENT COACH

Angela Nica Sullen is an Italian, African American actor from the United States. She grew up in California and on Noongar country in Western Australia. Angela is an Actor, Vocal Coach, Writer, MC and self-proclaimed comedian. Now based on Gadigal land, she studied at the National Institute of Dramatic Art, completing Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting, 2016) and Master in Fine Arts (Voice, 2020). She was Associate Lecturer for Voice at NIDA.

Vocal and Dialect Coaching credits include: for Green Door Theatre Company and Darlinghurst Theatre Company: *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*; for Green Door Theatre Company: *Chewing Gum Dreams*; for NIDA: *God's Country, An Octoroon*; for Riverside Theatres: *Choir Boy*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *Grand Horizons, City of Gold, Hubris and Humiliation, Do Not Go Gentle*. Angela is working on *Seen* a new television series produced by Rough Diamond, inspired by *Brown Skin Girl* a play she collaborated with creative collective Black birds.

Acting credits include: for Griffin Theatre Company: *Orange Thrower*; for Australian Chamber Orchestra and Belvoir St Theatre: *Bridgetower*; for Force Majeure: *Nothing To Lose, Blackbirds*; for Red Line Productions: *A Streetcar Named Desire, Brown Skin Girl, Faust*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *Mosquitos, The House on Boundary Road, A Raisin in the Sun*. Angela's screen credits include: for Stan: *Bump, I am Woman*; for NBC: *La Brea*; for Seven Network: *Home & Away*; for Netflix: *Pieces of Her*; for ABC: *Mother & Son, Optics*; for Paramount+: *One Night, The Fall Guy*.

BIOGRAPHIES



TYLER FITZPATRICK

PRODUCTION MANAGER

As Production Manager: for Griffin Theatre Company: *Blaque Showgirls, Jailbaby, Pony*; for Milk Crate Theatre: *Dust*; for National Theatre of Parramatta: *Nothing*; for National Theatre of Parramatta and Merrigong Theatre Company: *A Practical Guide to Self Defence*; for Campbelltown Arts Centre: *The Other Side, Mirage, The Complication of Lyrebirds*; for Blush Opera: *Chop Chef*; for Shopfront Arts Co-Op: all productions from 2020-2025.

As Stage Manager: for Griffin Theatre Company: *The Lewis Trilogy*; for Griffin Theatre Company and Adelaide Festival: *Whitefella Yella Tree*; for CAAP and Sydney Festival: *The Bridal Lament*; for National Theatre of Parramatta and La Boite Theatre: *Yoga Play*; for Green Door Theatre Company: *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*; for Merrigong Theatre Company: *As Luck Would Have It, Trash Talk*; for Q Theatre: *The Ugliest Duckling*; for VoxStep: *Garden of Sound*; for Wright&Grainger: *Orpheus, Eurydice*.

As Assistant Stage Manager: for Griffin Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre Company *Whitefella Yella Tree*.

As Lighting Designer: for Purple Tape Productions: *[YOUR NAME], Party Girl, Expiration Date*; for Belvoir 25a: *Moon Rabbit Rising, Porpoise Pool, Aurat Raj*; for QTopia: *Notes on a Scandal, I Want it That Gay*; for Legit Theatre Co: *Misery Loves Company*; for Shopfront Arts Co-Op: *Death of a Junior Salesman*. As Producer: Purple Tape Productions: *werkaholics, [YOUR NAME], Fledgling, Party Girl, Expiration Date, Come Again, Maa Ki Rasoi, Tape Over Festival*.

Positions: Co-Founder Purple Tape Productions, Production and Operations Manager at Shopfront Arts Co-Op (2020-2025), Production Associate - Paperjam Partners (2021-2023)

Other: Touring Stage Manager with *Little Squirt* UK Tour 2025. Awards: 2022 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Lighting Design (Independent) *Moon Rabbit Rising*. Training: University of Wollongong. Pronouns: she/her

BIOGRAPHIES



JEN JACKSON

STAGE MANAGER

Jen Jackson is a Korean-Australian stage manager based on Gadigal land and a graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art, with a particular passion for new Australian work and a commitment to diversity in theatre.

As Stage Manager: Griffin Theatre Company: *Golden Blood, End Of., Koreaboo, Pony*; Contemporary Asian Australian Performance: *Double Delicious, The Bridal Lament, Lost in Shanghai*; Belvoir St Theatre: *A Mirror, Lose to Win*; Ensemble Theatre: *Master Class*; National Theatre of Parramatta: *Nothing*. As Assistant Stage Manager: Belvoir St Theatre: *At What Cost, Song of First Desire*; Pinchgut Opera: *Rinaldo*.



JANET ANDERSON

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIST / VIOLET

Janet Anderson graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Arts in 2022, having previously studied at Newtown High School of Performing Arts.

Janet's theatre credits include: for Belvoir St Theatre: *Orlando*; for essential workers: *Collapsible*; for Green Door Theatre Company: *SISTREN* (as part of Griffin Lookout); for Green Door Theatre Company and Darlinghurst Theatre Company: *Overflow* (for which she won the 2024 Time Out Sydney Critics Choice and People's Choice Awards); for Michael Louis Kennedy: *All The Fraudulent Horse Girls*; for White Box Theatre and Hasemann, Ball & Radda: *Mercury Fur*. Her screen credits include: for ABC: *Plum, Reef Break*; for Paramount+: *Last King of the Cross*.

Janet is also a changemaker and vocal advocate for transgender rights, she has written op-eds for Vogue, Fashion Journal and been interviewed for the ABC.

ABOUT GRIFFIN

Griffin is the only theatre company in the country exclusively devoted to the development and staging of new Australian writing. Located in the historic SBW Stables Theatre, nestled in the heart of Kings Cross, Griffin has been Australia's home for the exploration of new stories since 1979.

We are the launch pad for new plays, ideas and writing that other theatres won't take a risk on. We boldly contribute to Australia's unique and powerful storytelling culture. Plays like *Prima Facie*, *Holding the Man* and *City of Gold* all had their world premieres at Griffin before

going out to capture the national imagination. In the words of our longest-serving Artistic Director, Ros Horin:

"We are the theatre of first chances."

We are passionate about nurturing emerging and established practitioners alike. We pride ourselves on supporting our vast community of artists, audiences and supporters who consider our theatre their creative home. We help ambitious, bold, risk-taking and urgent Australian work get from the page onto the stage. We tell the stories that help us know who we are as a nation, and who we want to become.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffin Theatre Company operates and tells stories on the unceded lands of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the oldest continuous living culture on the planet, with more than 60,000 years of storytelling practice shaping and underpinning all aspects of Australian culture. It is a privilege that we do not take lightly: to work on this land, and to tell stories on its soil.

GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY

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ABOUT BELVOIR ST THEATRE

Belvoir St Theatre is a theatre company on a side street in Surry Hills, Sydney.

We share our street with a park and a public housing estate, and our theatre is in an old industrial building. It has been, at various times, a garage, a sauce factory, and the Nimrod Theatre. When the theatre was threatened with redevelopment in 1984, over 600 likeminded theatre-lovers formed a syndicate to buy the building and save it from becoming an apartment block. More than thirty years later, Belvoir continues to be at the forefront of Australian acting and storytelling for the stage. In 2026, that story takes a new turn. While Griffin Theatre Company's home is being redeveloped, Belvoir's Downstairs will be its temporary base. Two companies that care deeply about new Australian theatre, sharing a space with decades of creative history behind it and plenty more to come.

At Belvoir we gather the best theatre artists we can find, emerging and established, to realise an annual season of works – new works, both Australian and international, reimaged classics

and a lasting commitment to Indigenous stories. Audiences remember many landmark productions including *Counting and Cracking*, *The Drover's Wife*, *Angels in America*, *Brothers Wreck*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Neighbourhood Watch*, *The Wild Duck*, *Medea*, *The Diary of a Madman*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Blind Giant is Dancing*, *Hamlet*, *Cloudstreet*, *Aliwa*, *The Book of Everything*, *Keating!*, *The Exile Trilogy*, *Exit the King*, *The Sapphires*, *Faith Healer*, *FANGIRLS*, *The Jungle and the Sea* and many more.

Today, under Artistic Director Eamon Flack and Executive Director Aaron Beach, Belvoir tours nationally and internationally, and continues to create its own brand of rough magic for new generations of audiences. We are proud to be creating work that speaks to life and experience in Australia and abroad, continuing our commitment to deliver diverse stories to diverse audiences. Belvoir receives government support for its activities from the federal government through the Australia Council and the state government through Create NSW. We also receive philanthropic and corporate support, which we greatly appreciate and welcome.

BELVOIR ST THEATRE

Gadigal Country
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BELVOIR ST THEATRE

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Income from Griffin activities covers less than 40% of our operating costs—leaving an ever-increasing gap for us to fill through government funding, sponsorship and the generosity of our individual supporters. Your support helps us bridge the gap and keep ticket prices affordable and our work at its best.

To make a donation and a difference, contact Griffin on (02) 9332 1052 or donate online at griffintheatre.com.au

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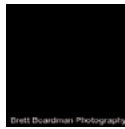
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