



# A NIGHTTIME TRAVESTY

Q + A

WITH WRITERS AND CREATORS /  
Kamarra Bell-Wykes + Carly Sheppard

BRINK

## 1. How was the idea for 'A Nighttime Travesty' born?

A Nighttime Travesty, like all of us, was born under colonial occupation, in particular the bit just after pandemics became all the rage for the privileged west. It was our second child, so it had the benefit of our practice in raising our first born, Chase.

ANT (as we affectionately name it) came out of our musings on the diabolical reality of trying to be an artist with integrity, when we struggle to even hold an audible conversation over the death rattles of our collective sense of purpose and, ah... habitat. So naturally we drew upon one of our trusted methodologies: gutting the animal of Australian pop culture and the Australian mythos, and building a new monster out of it.

Travesty was inspired by a bunch of different things including Carly's near death experience on a plane, our encroaching collective doom, a shared obsession with 80's television, an eccentric physicist and an infuriatingly difficult to navigate keyboard.

## 2. What reactions did you receive when you performed ANT at the Yirramboi Festival.

Cheering, stomping, multiple standing ovations throughout the show and shocked looks of delight and horror. We think people liked it. They came up to us afterwards and told us we are insane, and I choose to take that as a compliment. We also got rave reviews, which is the most important thing in earning money. The wider public must THINK we are good at what we do. I think we achieved that through ANT.

## 3. What do you hope people walk away feeling after seeing the show?

Invigorated, alive, like they've stared death in the face and survived and a more expansive lexicon for the dread they feel in everyday life, to bring to their therapist.

## 4. What excites you most about working with Stephen?

It feels like we got a lucky star having Stephen on board to direct this. We didn't have a director last time, and it felt like we were flying with no captain. Now it feels like we are orphans who just got adopted by a cool rich gay guy. He is just as bent as we are, and he understands and believes in our work, he is a genius, he gets it, and we trust him as a bold, skilled and respected director who has refined and sharpened the show.