

The Will To Be

by Mark Salvestro



No legacy is so rich as honesty

Adelaide Fringe 2020

The Bakehouse Theatre | 24 February - 7 March

“Compelling and must-see theatre”
- Melbourne Observer.

A University Office, 1962: homosexuality is illegal. The fear of communism is in the air. A lecturer is dismissed. His secret is out. Will he choose legacy or the law?

One man’s exploration of sexuality, society and shame, laced with the words of Shakespeare.

“Beautifully crafted... exceptionally performed.”
- Weekend Notes -

Written, Co-Produced and Performed by Mark Salvestro

Co-Produced by BCauseARTS

Sound Design by Steve Carnell

Lighting Design by Stephen Dean

Set Design by Carmody Nicol

Costume Design by Oliver Ross

*Content Warning: sexual references; not suitable for persons under 15 years.

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“A fresh perspective on Australia’s history of homosexuality and the persecution that many faced.”
- My Melbourne Arts -

“Mark Salvestro is indeed a very talented young man. Riveting and moving - a talented actor and playwright.”
- Adelaide Theatre Guide -



The Creative Team

Mark Salvestro - Actor | Writer | Co-Producer

Mark Salvestro is a Melbourne-based actor, writer, producer, and founding member of North of Eight theatre company.

Mark's most notable achievement is his critically acclaimed one-man show, Buried at Sea, which he wrote, produced and performed for Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, Brisbane Anywhere Festival, and a NSW Snowy Mountains tour.

Mark has trained extensively as a performer in Sydney and Melbourne, and in 2014, graduated from the Full-Time Program at the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia, where he continues to hone his craft.

Theatre credits include The Will To Be (Melbourne Fringe), Strata Inc. and Navy Pier (North of Eight); Comedy of Errors (Australian Shakespeare Co., Prague Fringe), Buried at Sea (Dir. Phoebe Anne Taylor), Lonely People are Always Up in the Middle of the Night (La Mama), Couch Potato and Fairy Tale News (WIT Inc.), and Private Moments: A Double Bill (Anywhere Festival).

Mark has been a provocateur at the Malthouse Theatre, an intern at Red Stitch Actors Theatre, and is currently a Trust Member at the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia and a proud member of Actors Equity.

April Erskine (BCauseARTS) - Co-Producer

April Erskine is the Director and Founder of BCauseARTS - a service for Melbourne's creative community that empowers individuals with tools that bring their creative ideas to life.

Originally from New York City, April has served Melbourne's creative community for over six years in roles such as communications management, tour management, marketing development and strategy, community arts advisor and more working alongside theatre makers, performers, producers, visual artists, musicians and arts organisations.

While in the US, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from DeSales University, and worked for several years as a New York actor on stage, film, television and commercials.

She now leads low budget marketing workshops throughout Melbourne, and has presented similar workshops at Adelaide Fringe Festival. April is also a proud wife and owner of two loving cats.





Steve Carnell - Sound Design

Melbourne based Sound-Designer/Composer, Steve Carnell strives to support stories with sound. Working primarily on short films and independent theatre productions, he relishes the opportunity to collaborate with creative folk to deliver engaging audio content.

Steve's credits include 'Buried at Sea' by Mark Salvestro, 'Love Bird' by Georgina Harriss, North of Eight's 'Strata Inc.', 'Semi Charmed' by Sarah Clarke, 'Child's Play' by Jem Nicholas, and international short films 'Out of Awareness' and 'Black Blood'.



Carmody Nicol - Set Designer | Stage Manager

Carmody Nicol is a designer and maker from Newcastle and 2019 graduate of Victorian College of the Arts. She has been part of the theatre community from a young age, first working in amateur theatre with the Local Newcastle group Young People's Theatre.

During her time at the VCA, Carmody has been involved in a number of productions including recent internships with Melbourne Theatre Company in the wardrobe department for 'A View From The Bridge' and with Melbourne Opera as a set assistant for Andrew Bailey.

Carmody is most notable for her design of the 2018 Dance On season as a second-year student, and her costume design for 'The Great Australian Play', which recently opened at Theatreworks in Melbourne. She first collaborated with Mark Salvestro as a set designer for North of Eight's production of 'Strata Inc.' in 2018.



Oliver Ross - Costume Designer

Oliver Ross is a designer, developer, advocate and writer with work across over 80 projects in stage, screen and events. Working in boards, coordination and committees including Transgender Victoria, MEAA, The University of Melbourne and tilde film festival, he runs the review website Shakespeare Oz. He recently got the chance to work in consultation on Robert Connolly's The Dry and participate in Screen Australia's Developing the Developer program.



Stephen Dean - Lighting Designer

Stephen Dean is resident Lighting Designer/Technical Manager for all of the Bakehouse Theatre Fringe shows and has his own production company, BallyHoo Productions, technical services for theatre. He believes that lighting has as much importance to a theatre piece as the performers.

Stephen's recent lighting designs include STARC's "A Night at the Theatre", SA Playrights' "Bordertown" and "The Double Bass" presented by Cranking Hog Productions. He has designed for several companies including Factory Space Theatre in Sydney - including Macbeth, How I Met My Mother and Devil's Caress - and the Hunter Valley Summer Theatre. He has worked in Edinburgh, London, and Sydney.

Stephen's latest design for "Brilliant Traces" by Joh Hartog productions received rave reviews. He also designed the lighting and audio for "Seventeen" for the Theatre Guild.

Stephen likes to explore new ways of lighting and believes thinking outside of the box is very important in design. He also works as a venue technician and writes for CX magazine and Ramblings of a Techie Blog.

Thank you!

Many thanks to each and every person who has contributed to the creation of 'The Will To Be' over the past 12 months:

Our incredible creative teams for Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, Phil Evans and the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia, Photographer Sarah Clarke, Graphic Designer Phoebe Anne Taylor, Acting Coaches Sarah Hallam, Phoebe Anne Taylor, Emma Louise Pursey and Danielle Cresp, Dramaturgy Consultant Mark Pritchard, Promo Trailer team (William Lee, Scott Pope, Harrison Byrne and Andy Berry-Brown), Pamela Munt and The Bakehouse Theatre team, and Creative Partnerships Australia.

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