

Live Performance

# Las Hormigas



Three unreliable narrators play out an absurdist, ever-evolving live family drama

# Pilar Mata Dupont

29 October → 17 December 2022  
2pm every Saturday

# Director's Notes

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*Las Hormigas* began, rather naively, as a truth finding mission into my migrant family's past. Over nearly a decade, I lived with women in my family in Australia, Argentina, and France, filming documentary footage, interviews, and collecting oral histories. As I grappled with finding a form for these stories, my own began to infiltrate as I navigated the ethics of dealing with the contesting truths, trauma, and fragmented histories I encountered. Beyond the question of generational healing and the fact that trauma is held in the body and passed to subsequent generations, through this kind of work I believe that the fluidity and embodiment of experience and history can be represented by the interweaving and overlaying of these multiple 'truths'; mimicking the forms of memory itself.

*Las Hormigas* features multiple short scenes developed from stories told by the women in my family. My intention is to capture the fragmentation and looping of traumatic memory, as well as the coping mechanisms that dark, absurdist humour offers in dealing with those memories. This fragmentation means the narrative, time, geography, and characters themselves are not stable or clear; they change from performance to performance, and scene to scene. The performers' moments of vulnerability, hesitation, and confusion that you might witness are real... mostly. They are reflections of this concept, played out as the performers determine the dramaturgy (dramatic composition), collectively choosing the next scene live in front of the audience.

My decision to work with my family's memories through the proxies of the performers and co-creators, Maree Cole, Cezera Critti-Schnaars, and Daisy Sanders, is a way of thinking through the blurring of collective and individual identities within violent or difficult histories – each collaborator bringing their own experiences and knowledge into the process. The performance slides between time, character, and geography, rejecting a linear historicism and mirroring the way in which traumatic experiences are transmitted from one generation to another, reverberating across time and space. Far from settling accounts of the past, *Las Hormigas* speaks to the cacophony of voices and emotions that complicate them.

# Cast & Crew

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Director

Pilar Mata Dupont

Performers/Co-creators

Maree Cole, Cezera Critti-Schnaars, Daisy Sanders

Dramaturg/Co-creator

Caro Duca

Sound Composition/Design

Tom Hogan

Scenographer

Rhiannon Peterson

Lighting

Joe Paradise Lui

Costume

Nicole Marrington

Stage Manager

Jasmyn Day

Music Consultant

Sharon Ogle

# From the Director

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Thank you to Sarah Wall and PICA staff, Caro Duca (for the extra emotional support/coaching, etc), Sharon Ogle, Nicola Unger, my incredible creative team, and my ever supportive family for sharing their stories with me.

## PICA Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

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ALEX HOTEL

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