



TROPHY BOYS

BY EMMANUELLE MATTANA

Monash University Respect, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion team presents

A Soft Tread production in association with The Maybe Pile

ABOUT THE SHOW

It is the biggest night of Melbourne’s high school academic calendar, the Grand Finale of the Year 12 Inter-school Debating Tournament. The all-boys team from the elite St Imperium college are ready to totally annihilate their sister school rivals until...

Performed by a female and non-binary cast in drag, the show unfolds in real time as the boys are locked in a classroom for their one-hour prep window, and forced to argue:

‘Feminism has failed women - affirmative.’

Aspiring future PM and brainiac scholarship kid Owen, joins sot-boy-jock, Jared, dopey lawyer’s son, Scott, and nerdy enigma, David, to come up with a case that will win them the debate - and save them from getting cancelled.

But what begins as a riotously funny satire on insecure adolescent masculinity, entitlement and the ego of Australia’s next generation of politicians and power brokers, quickly turns sour when news that one of the boys has been anonymously accused of sexual assault enters the classroom.

Using queer methodologies and drag, Trophy Boys playfully and powerfully interrogates the well documented toxic masculinity, misogyny and homophobia of our ‘elite’ private boys schools.

Born in response to the Christian Porter allegations and #teachusconsent campaign, the show lays bare the pipeline from school boy, to the highest offices of power.

EVENT INFORMATION

Location: Alexander Theatre, The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts, 48 Exhibition Walk, Clayton 3800

Show length: 70 minutes (no interval)

Opening Night: April 21 | Commences 7:30pm

Show 2 (Matinee): April 22 | Commences 1:00pm

Show 3 (Evening): April 22 | Commences 7:30pm

CONTENT WARNING

Recommended for ages 13+

This event features strong language, low level violence and flashing lights. Sexually explicit content including references to sexual violence, underage sex and depictions of image-based abuse. Lynx Africa aerosol deodorant is used in the performance so may impact the first few rows.

If you require support during or following this performance, a number of support services are available.

Monash Safer Community Unit: (03) 9905 1599

Monash Counselling (Students): (03) 9905 3020

Employee Assistance Program (Staff): 1300 360 364

Lifeline: 13 11 14

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

13YARN: 13 92 76

Rainbow Door: 1800 729 367

A NOTE FROM THE WRITER, EMMANUELLE MATTANA

As a competitive high school debater I spent a lot of time with the ‘good boys’; the supposedly clever, morally-upstanding boys from elite private schools who were destined for the highest offices of power...

But the very nature of the endeavour – turning argument into sport while believing yourself the smartest in any room – required you fervently argue things you didn’t know enough about or even necessarily believe. Logic was a game, something to be won or lost, and words and arguments were things you could twist at your own whim. If you were articulate and commanding enough you could speak over anyone, or for anyone.

It was no wonder this ethos seeped so dangerously into other parts of these boys’ lives.

There was a time a boy at Sydney Grammar (Turnbull’s Alma Mater) told me the only reason his team lost against me in a debate was because they were too distracted by my legs. Then there was the time the team at Sydney Boys High School (Scom) created a spreadsheet to rate the girls in the friendship group. Categories included, amongst others, ‘tits’, ‘ass’, and ‘playfulness’. A boy with a crush on me informed me I ranked poorly in the latter because I was too argumentative and angry, but then reassured me that the boys had unanimously agreed I had the best ass. I think it was meant to be a compliment. Thanks, I guess?

As soon as I graduated, I moved to Melbourne, rebranded as a creative, dumped debating and quickly forgot all about it. That was until the historic sexual assault allegation against Christian Porter was made public. The event in question took place at a high school debating tournament much like the ones I had attended. I felt compelled to revisit my years debating in the most satirical, camp way I knew how... and Trophy Boys was born.



CREDITS

WRITER

Emmanuelle Mattana

DIRECTOR

Marni Mount

DESIGNER

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Emmanuelle Mattana

Marni Mount

LIGHTING DESIGNER

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SOUND DESIGNER

Ben Andrews

PRODUCED BY

Jo Dyer and Ben Andrews

PERFORMED BY

Myfanwy Hocking

Tahlia Jameson

Fran Sweeney-Nash

Kidaan Zelleke

STAGE MANAGER

Genevieve Davidson

LIGHTING REALISER/ TOURING TECHNICIAN

Sam Read

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

Ben Andrews

VOCAL COACH

Ash Farrough

ABOUT MONASH PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (MPAC)

MPAC is a space for community, creativity and discovery, presenting live music, theatre, experiential shows and festivals. A place where Monash research excellence meets the transformative power of artistic collaboration.

We acknowledge and pay respects to the Elders and Traditional Custodians of the land on which our venues stand. These places proudly continue a long legacy of dreaming, storytelling, song and ceremony.