

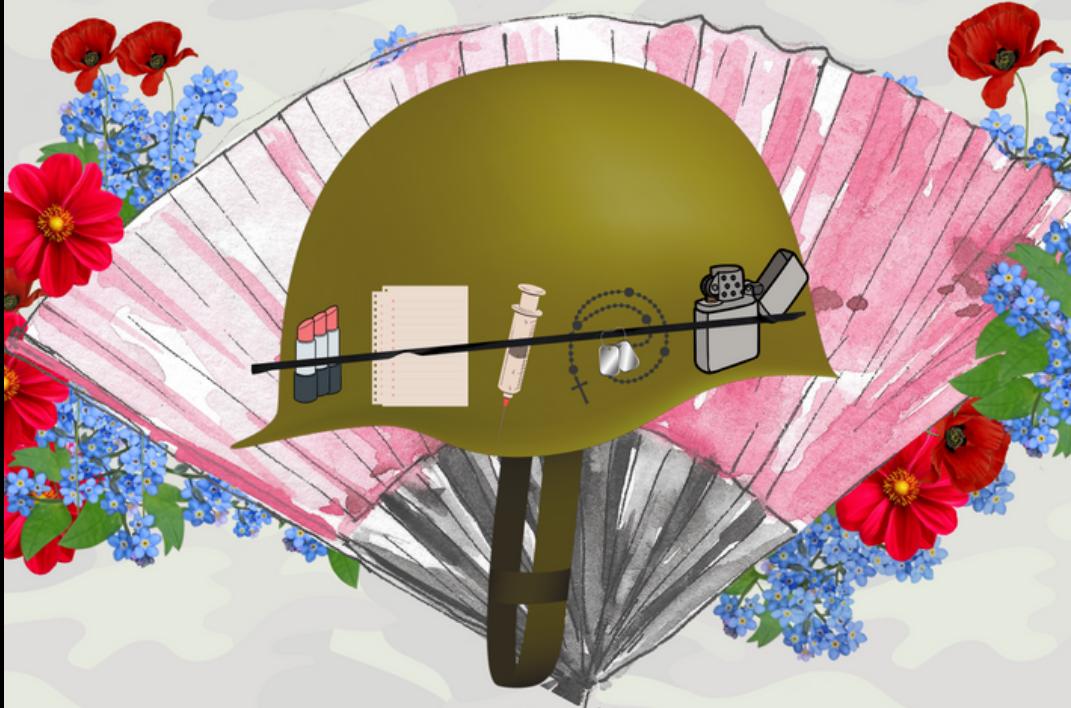


**SPECTRUM THEATRE**  
PRESENTS

# **MINEFIELDS AND MINISKIRTS**

**WRITTEN AND ADAPTED BY TERENCE O'CONNELL  
FROM THE BOOK BY SIOBHAN MCHUGH.**

**DIRECTED BY  
MICHELLE HARRIS & JEN CROSTON**



**EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES OF THE WOMEN WHO PLAYED  
A PART IN THE VIETNAM WAR**

**FEBRUARY 2023**

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# About the Playwright

Terence O'Connell is well known as a director of physical and music theatre, circus, comedy, cabaret and drama. His work has been produced throughout Australia, with a number of his productions touring nationally. O'Connell was part of the Creative Team for Ceremonies at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. O'Connell currently works for Antipodes Theatre Company in Melbourne as a writer and director, continuing both new work & adaptions.

## Synopsis

If history is told by the victors, the story of war is usually told by the blokes. Now it's the 'sheilas' turn. Nearly a thousand Australian women had a part in the Vietnam War as entertainers, typists, consular staff and army nurses. The one thing they have in common is that their lives were changed forever by Vietnam. For many of them it was the most vital and alive they had ever felt. Minefields and Miniskirts records the voices of those who were actually there; ordinary woman revealing how they survived a war and discovered what they believed in. Adapted from Siobhan McHugh's book, this play reveals through a collage of true stories, the extraordinary experiences of ordinary women in surviving a war.

### **Act one**

**Scene One & Two - Australia**

**Scene Three-Six - Vietnam.**

**Intermission - Refreshments available at the Kiosk (Eftpos facilities available)**

### **Act Two**

**Scene Seven-Nine - Vietnam**

**Scene Ten & Eleven - Australia**



**Scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook  
to keep up with what's happening at  
Spectrum Theatre!**



## THE CAST

### Keerthana Muthurangan as Margaret



Keerthana is the self confessed 'rookie' of the cast. Until now, Keerthana has enjoyed the theatre only as audience. She has set her foot bravely onto the stage and is enjoying every bit of it. She feels humbled and excited to be a part of the amazing crew. She feels very privileged to be able to tell the incredible stories of a few of the several amazing women, who have played significant role in Vietnam war. She plays Margaret, a housewife in Australia, married to a Vet. She reflects the emotions of hundreds of housewives of Vets around the world, the Vets who bring back unthinkable trauma post war. Keerthana feels honoured to play Margaret, who brings hope, voice and rights to the brave soldiers of Vietnam

### Tahlia Robinson-Solczaniuk as Sandy

Tahlia lives and breathes for the stage, and treats the performance spaces of Albany like Pokemon cards (she's gotta catch 'em all!) You may have seen her singing at your favourite bar, or caught her at the Town Hall as the blue haired 'Penelope' in Southern Edge Arts' own '*The Ballad of Penelope & Marlin*'. Many remember her zany antics as 'The Cat in the Hat' in ALOTCo's '*Seussical: The Musical*' but what you won't remember her from is her first lead role in Spectrum's '*Secret Bridesmaids Business*' which was sadly cancelled in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, being forced into closure 2 days before opening night. Eager to mark Spectrum off her Theatrical Pokedex, she is delighted to have been cast as Sandy the entertainer, and feels honoured to tell the stories of some of the brave women affected by the Vietnam war.



### Priya Moodie as Kathy

Meet Priya, since a young age Priya has been involved in performing productions at her local community. Despite running a business and a hectic family life, Priya looks for opportunities to express herself through the arts. Women often don't have their stories told. This feminine portrayal of Vietnam war is powerfully compelling. Priya is inspired by the depth of her character and has worked hard to tell this story. The voices of these women need to be heard and loved to remember them.

## Trudi Anderson as Ruth



Trudi is no stranger to the stage, be it at Spectrum or ALOTCo.

Despite being seen in many comedic roles, the fantastic opportunity to give public voice to some of the thousands of Australian women who were involved with the Vietnam war, plus several musical numbers in the script, made '*Minefields and Miniskirts*' incredibly appealing to her! Trudi hopes that people leave the show with a greater appreciation for just how intense, confronting, and life changing an experience in Vietnam truly was for those involved. It has long been a poorly acknowledged part of our nations' history, the stories of the women even more so.

## Ruby Mitchell as Eve

Ruby has appeared in local musical theatre productions and recently starred in Spectrum Theatre's '*Custard*'. The role of Eve in '*Minefields and Miniskirts*' is Ruby's first lead role. Ruby has enjoyed the challenge of her most serious role, portraying the loss of faith many women experienced during war times. Look out for Ruby's developing stage career as she commences studies at WAAPA Albany in 2023.



## Sarah Hutton - Ensemble

Sarah has had a love of performing since an early age but only got back into theatre in 2015. Since then she has been in a number of plays and musicals including ALOTCo's '*Urinetown*' and '*Musical of Musicals*'. She had her first lead role as Princess Deanna in an original production of '*Deanna The Musical*' in 2018 and has done her best not to stop performing over the past few years. In her spare time she works as a psychiatrist and is a mum to two energetic boys. She has loved being a part of '*Minefields and Miniskirts*' and is so glad Michelle and Jen found a special part for her.

## Jess Jovonovic - Ensemble

Jess is a new member of Spectrum Theatre; she is an early childhood educator who has always had a love for music and theatre. As a very young adult, Jess enjoyed performing in school productions, open mic nights and family events. Her passion for singing has since blended into her busy family life, consisting of jam sessions with her kids and dance parties in the kitchen. Jess is pumped to add her vocals to '*Minefields and Miniskirts*' as a part of the ensemble.



## From the Directors

We found this play to be both moving and enlightening. The strength of all five women, who went to Vietnam or cared for a husband on his return is inspiring. The women encounter adventure and abuse, romance, rape, carnage and times of celebration. Through this they discover strengths they didn't know they had, allowing the women who were there to claim their place in the history of Australia's longest war. The impacting stories peppered with the music of the era, are a timely contribution towards recognising how much emotional damage war continues to inflict long after war is over. We would like to thank our cast and crew, for all their dedicated hard work. We feel so privileged to have been able to be a part of the telling of these stories from the women's point of view. We commend the cast on their outstanding portrayal of the characters and their stories.



Michelle and Jen ☺

## Crew

### Directors

Michelle Harris & Jen Croston

### Musical Director

Jen Croston

### Stage Manager

Andrew Huntley

### Stage Hand

Lachlan Benson

### Props

Michelle Harris & Cast and Crew

### Lighting & Sound

Nelson Blake, Callum Greenwald & Ben Davis

### Guitar Playing

Surge Maujean

### Set Design

Michelle Harris & Jen Croston

### Set Construction

Lozz Mitchell, Andrew & Flynn Huntley,

Lachlan & Adrian Benson,

Callum Greenwald, Nelson Blake & Ben Davis

### Costumes

Trudi Anderson & the Cast

### Prompt

Eve Wilkinson

### Hair & Make-Up

Amanda Hickman

### Front-of-House

Spectrum Theatre Members Lead by Diana Caley

### Poster Design

Michelle Harris & Darian Mercuri

### Programme & Publicity

Darian Mercuri

### Royalties and Music Licensing

Darian Mercuri

## Upcoming Auditions at Spectrum Theatre!

Have you always wanted to get involved? Auditions and expressions of interest for onstage and backstage roles for our next show 'Up and Running' by Derek Benfield are being held February 26th at 5pm & 28th at 6pm at Spectrum Theatre. Find us on Facebook or email us ([spectrumtheatre@outlook.com](mailto:spectrumtheatre@outlook.com)) for more information.

**'Up & Running', A comedy by Derek Benfield presenting at Spectrum Theatre in May 2023. Directed by Roger Guinery**

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# Spectrum Theatre Inc.

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Email: [Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com](mailto:Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com)

## COMMITTEE

**President: Darian Mercuri (0434 587 332)**

**Vice President: Maddison Sharpe**

**Secretary: Diana Caley**

**Treasurer: Jodie Browne**

**Jen Croston    Nelson Gilmour    Melenna Cooper    Lozz Mitchell**

## LIFE MEMBERS:

**Frank Astle    Wendy Faville    Bronwyn France    Kevin Kanzler    Shirley Pannell  
Oonagh Randall    Michael Rich    Marianne Winser    Sandra Wilson    Joan Anderson  
Martin Hveisell    Charles Danger    June Hveisell    Eve Wilkinson    Karen Freeman  
Darian Mercuri**

**Spectrum Theatre was formed in 1980 in the Vancouver Arts Centre, moving to its present location in 1981. If you have ever felt like 'giving it a go' on-stage or back-stage, please feel free to have a chat with any of the cast or crew after the show, or contact the committee. You will always be most welcome in any capacity, at whatever level of experience or inexperience!**

## MEMBERSHIP

**Membership is open to all. Applications should be sent or expressed via email - [Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com](mailto:Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com) (Forms are available at the theatre or on application).**

**Annual fees are currently \$20 Single, \$30 Family and \$10 for Juniors, entitling members to tickets at reduced prices, a monthly newsletter which keeps them up-to-date with the theatre insurances to participation in productions, either onstage or behind the scenes, as well as attending our regular and ongoing social groups and clubs.**