

A
IN

THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

REPUBLIC
WITH

PRODUCTION
ADELAIDE
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED
CENTRE

HOW NOT TO MAKE IT IN A M E R I C A

A WORLD PREMIERE BY EMILY STEEL



17-20
SPACE

THEATRE,

NOVEMBER
ADELAIDE



Theatre Republic is privileged to tell stories on the lands of the oldest storytelling culture in the world. We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT
DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
LIGHTING & AV DESIGNER
COMPOSER
SOUND DESIGNER/ OPERATOR

Emily Steel
Corey McMahon
Meg Wilson
Chris Petridis
Jason Sweeney
James Oborn

MATT

James Smith

PRODUCTION MANAGER
STAGE MANAGER
PRODUCER

Françoise Piron
Bridget Samuel
Manda Flett

HOW NOT TO MAKE IT IN AMERICA
By Emily Steel

WORLD PREMIERE SEASON
17-20 November 2021
Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre

A Theatre Republic production presented in association with Adelaide Festival Centre

How Not to Make it in America was inspired by a monologue written by Emily Steel for the Act Now/State Theatre Company South Australia Decameron 2.0 series and received major investment from the Department of Premier and Cabinet through Arts South Australia's Arts Recovery Program.

Theatre Republic would like to thank their board, donors, Adelaide Festival Centre, Patch Theatre Company and Windmill Theatre Company for their support and assistance with this production.



WRITER'S NOTE

EMILY STEEL

I'm writing this note with my thumb, on my phone, with a baby asleep on my lap.

This whole play was written around the schedules of my children, mostly on weekends, because as parents of young kids will know, your days are spent doing things for and with them, and by the time it gets to evening your brain is probably mush.

Ivor (now ten months) was in the room for the creative development, and the readings of drafts, and he and I spent much of the rehearsal period sitting in a playpen together (he cried if I got out). Which is all completely off-topic, but what I have to say about 9/11 and being a young actor is more or less in the play already, and this is, instead, about what went on behind the scenes, because the kindness and patience and flexibility and good humour of everyone in this company and creative team has made this whole project possible for me.

Thank you Corey, and Jim, and Bridget, and Meg, and, Chris, and Jason, and Manda, and Anthony. Thank you James and Françoise.

And thank you Chris, and Frank, and Ivor - I'm rather glad I never made it in America, because I'd much rather be here with you.

Emily Steel
Playwright

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

COREY MCMAHON

How Not To Make It In America is the story of Matt, a young man from Adelaide, who travels to New York City to follow his dream of becoming a famous actor. He arrives in NYC with his girlfriend, Michelle, just three weeks before the attack on the Twin Towers on 11 September 2001.

How Not To Make It In America is not directly about that tragic, world-changing event. Instead, Emily Steel has written a play that examines how such an event reverberates through our lives in often subtle and insidious ways. 9/11 forms the backdrop of Matt's story but the play looks at the impact the attack has on Matt, his relationships (both at home and in New York City), and his decision to get a visa and remain in America.

How Not To Make It In America is a memory play. Emily has weaved together fragments, moments in time, to tell the story of a young man whose dream is momentarily threatened by a cataclysmic and world-changing event.

Our production is storytelling in its purest form. An actor, a story, and an empty space. *How Not To Make It In America* invites audiences to imagine the sprawling metropolis of New York City, Nussbaum and Wu, Kim's Mediapolis, Tom's apartment, and the smoke rising up from the ruins of the World Trade Centre. Actor James Smith inhabits this world and introduces us to 28 different characters. Jim's talent, courage, and big heart sit at the centre of this production. We have been in awe of his performance. I am sure you will be too.

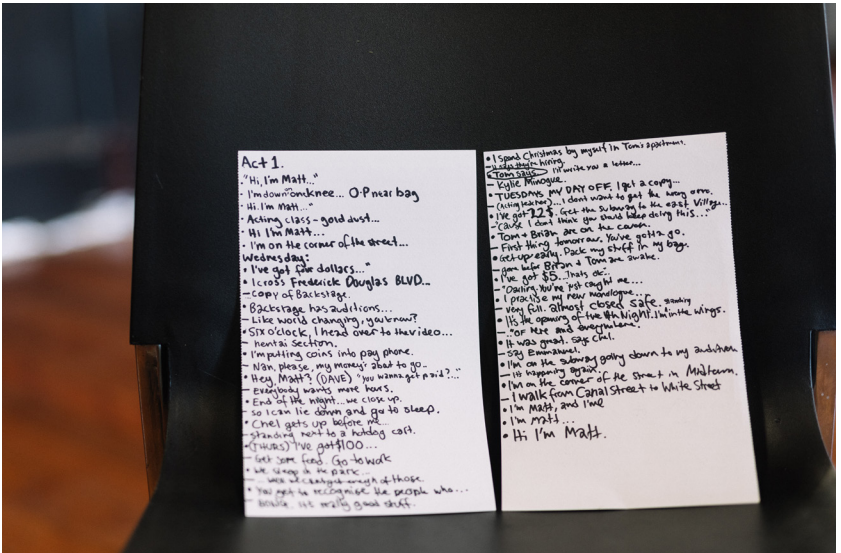
How Not To Make It In America started life as a monologue, written by Emily for the Act Now/State Theatre Company South Australia *Decameron 2.0* project. *Decameron 2.0* was created, by Emily, in response to the shutdown of the arts industry as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Having seen Jim perform the monologue, I felt there was enormous potential for the work to be expanded into a full-length play. When I approached Emily about the possibility of adapting the original text, I was excited to learn that it was based - in part - on her experience of living as an out-of-work actor in New York City and that she was there when the attacks on the Twin Towers took place. Emily and I had been looking for a project to collaborate on for some time. I am grateful that she has placed her trust in me and Theatre Republic to tell this story.

This show is unique in that the writing, development, and production of the play has taken place over the course of 10 months. Often new plays take 2-3 years to make it to the stage. In some instances, the work is developed, but never produced. The compressed timeline used on this production, has been designed to provide certainty of employment to the artists and creatives working on the show at a time when the reverberations of the pandemic are still being felt in our industry.

My sincere thanks go to the team at Department of Premier and Cabinet (Arts SA), Terri Dichiera and Liz Gogler at the Adelaide Festival Centre and State Theatre Company South Australia for supporting the production and Theatre Republic. Thank you also to our Green Card donors and our Cultural Fund donors who have generously supported us and made presenting our first show in the Space Theatre a reality.

Corey McMahon
Director





CREATIVE TEAM



Corey McMahon
Director



Emily Steel
Playwright



James Smith
Actor



Meg Wilson
Production Designer

THEATRE REPUBLIC BOARD: Jamie Anderson (Chair), John Wells, Corey McMahon, Staten Evans, Roz Hervey, Sylvie Huigen, Annika Stennert and Manda Flett (Secretary).

MARKETING/ DESIGN/ PUBLICITY: Anthony Nocera

CREATIVE TEAM



Chris Petridis
Lighting & AV Design



Jason Sweeney
Composer



James Oborn
Sound Designer

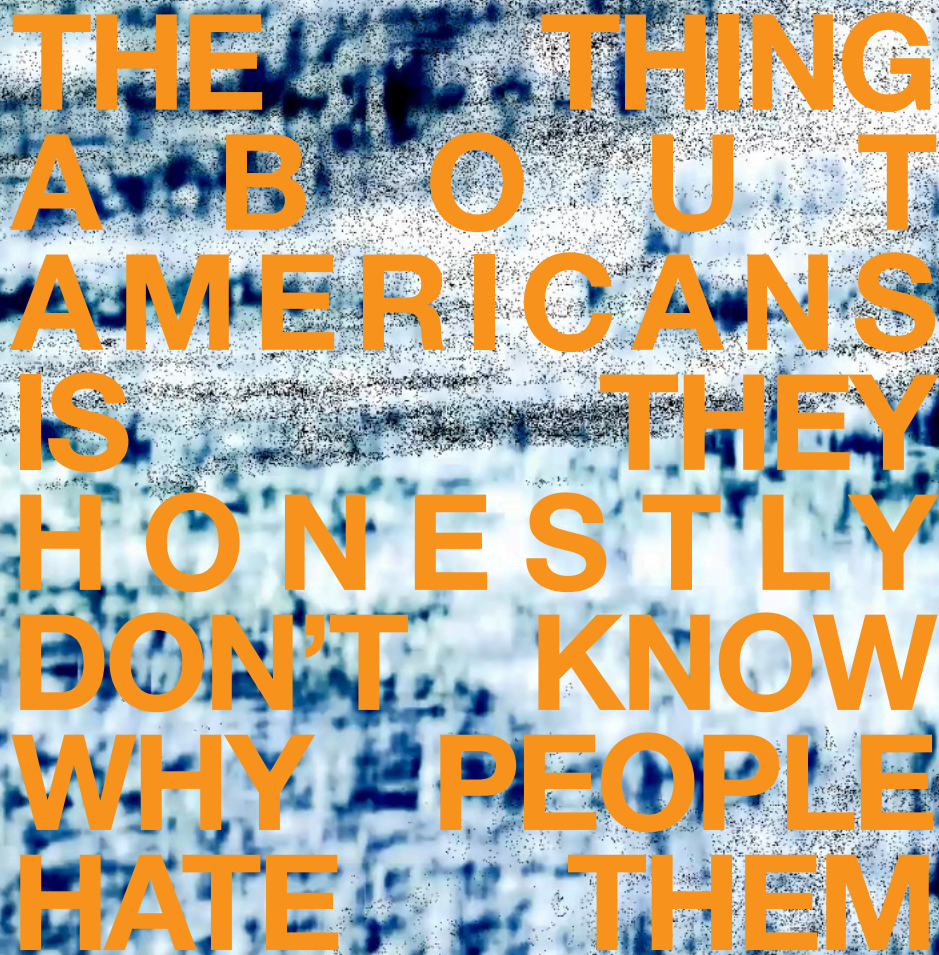


Bridget Samuel
Stage Manager

THANK YOU: Printing provided by YourTech Services. Paint supplied provided by Crowies Paints. Thank you to Kristen, Rachel, Liz, Francesca, Stephanie, Terri and the team at Adelaide Festival Centre for their support. GWB Studios for the provision of rehearsal space, and Matt Crook for his video wizardry. Thank you to our audiences and community of artists and supporters.



W H A T
H A P P E N S
W H E N A N
A U S T R A L I A N
H A S A N
A M E R I C A N
D R E A M ?

A dense crowd of people is visible in the background, rendered in a blue-tinted, grainy, and somewhat blurry style. The text is overlaid on this background in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

THE THING
ABOUT
AMERICANS
IS THEY
HONESTLY
DON'T KNOW
WHY PEOPLE
HATE THEM

DONORS

Creating theatre is a communal act. It takes a village. The creation of independent theatre would be impossible without the generous support of our community of donors.

We would like to thank the supporters of our Green Card program, who contributed directly to the creation of How Not to Make It In America: Helen and Roger Salkeld, Margo Hill-Smith, John Irving, Diané Ranck and Anonymous (1).

We would also like to thank our village of visionary donors who enable us to continue telling new Australian stories here in South Australia:

Julia and John Webber, Kym Mackenzie, Crowies Paints, Michael Morley, Chris Drummond, Patrick Frost, Jean Matthews, Greg Mackie OAM, Clara Solly-Slade, Tom Bastians, Lydia Nicholson, Rachel Bruerville, Tiffany Lyndall-Knight, Ewart Shaw, Andy Packer, Tamara Lee, Elaine Chia, Katrina Faulkner, Finegan Kruckemeyer, Gregory Raven, Rachel Mead, PJ Rose, Rick Sarre, John Irving, Patrick Klavins, Kimberley Martin, Rob Brookman, Sylvie Huigen, Renee Daws, Margo Hill-Smith, Cat Hoffman, Flona Lukac, Felicity Morgan, Britt Plummer, John Wells, John Edge, Emily Tulloch, Abigail Heuer, Sophie Potts, Anthony Nocera, Jamie Anderson, Christie Anthony, Annika Stennert, Sam Harvey, Emily Raven, Mimi Crowe, Diane Ranck, Matthew Briggs, John Morris, Roz Hervey, Anonymous (7).





**Theatre
Republic.**



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