

# 3 O'CLOCK, FLAGPOLE

BY STEVE PIRIE

PRESENTED BY  
LA BOITE'S YOUNG ARTIST COMPANY



LA BOITE  
THEATRE COMPANY

V1.0

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## SYNOPSIS

“After school... Fight! Fight! Fight! FIGHT!”

It's the first day of a new school year for Stella Bunt, and everything is changing. New rules, new teacher, new responsibilities. And for Stella and the rest of Year 10 Biology, they have a new class pet, Squish the octopus. Stella can't explain why, but there's just something about Squish that doesn't feel right.

But when Squish goes missing and a terrifying new kid arrives at school the very next day, Stella suspects they might be connected in some way... and she and the whole school could be in danger if she doesn't find out how. And this new kid has his eyes on Stella everywhere she goes.

Can Stella warn her friends in time of a coming disaster? Or will everyone find out why some mysteries of the ocean and its creatures are better left mysteries?

3 O'Clock, Flagpole is a new magical realism work that jumps straight into the quadrangle to pull apart classroom politics, safety and a world where students must figure it out on their own - while learning fun facts about the ocean along the way.

## CAST & CREATIVES

**WRITER** Steve Pirie

**DIRECTOR** Maddie Nixon

**CAST** Young Artist Company

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Suitable for grades 7 to 12

## WARNINGS

- Themes of bullying.

# CURRICULUM LINKS

## **FORM, STYLE & CONVENTIONS**

- Magical Realism
- Theatre for Young People
- Collage Drama
- Ensemble Theatre

## **SENIOR SYLLABUS UNITS**

Grade 11 Unit TWO: Reflect

## **SUBJECT MATTER**

- Schoolyard Politics
- Bullying
- Victim Blaming
- Finding Your Allies
- Mother/Daughter Relationships

## **PURPOSE**

- Empathise
- Challenge or provoke
- Educate or inform
- Empower
- Celebrate

## **CONTEXT**

- Dramatic context
- Real context
- Sociological
- Personal
- Cultural
- Environmental

# ARTIST Q&A

## **DIRECTOR**

Maddie Nixon

### *History of the team and the work?*

This will be mine and Steve's second collaboration. In 2018 we premiered Steve's *Jane + Kel Go To Hell* with Sharehouse Theatre Company, co-directing the work together. *3 O'Clock, Flagpole* is the brainchild of Steve and I'm super excited to stage it with La Boite's Young Artist Company. It's perfect for highschool aged performers and audiences alike, and is an awesome blend of relatable schoolyard content and fantastical sci-fi/action/magical realism tropes. It's going to be epic.

### *Why should highschool students see this show?*

Because it's made by you, about you, for you. The beauty of the Young Artist Company and RIOT programs is that we create work that is relevant for teenagers in Australia today. You can come and see the show, but also stage it in your own classroom. *3 O'Clock, Flagpole* is about how to survive school when everyone and everything seems to be turning against you. How do you find your allies and how do you stand up for yourself when even your own Mum doesn't understand what's going on? Underneath the schoolyard setting is a deeper conversation about victim blaming and how we treat young women in Australia today. That's what I love about Steve's work – he'll make you laugh, cry, then laugh again.

### *What should audiences expect to see?*

Hilarious action-packed ensemble sequences, intimate family moments, schoolyard politics and an octopus with an agenda.



**PHOTO** Kate Lund

**DIRECTOR** Maddie Nixon

**WRITER** Steve Pirie

# CHECK IT OUT

## **BULLYING & VICTIM BLAMING**

'Bullying: Facts and Figures' – Bulling. No Way.:  
<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/WhatIsBullying/FactsAndFigures>

'What is bullying?: Violence, Harassment and Bullying Fact Sheet' – Australian Human Rights Commission:  
<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/commission-general/what-bullying-violence-harassment-and-bullying-fact-sheet>

BullyZero.Org:  
<https://bullyzero.org.au/>

## **THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

'Australia Excels at Theatre for Young People' – The Guardian:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/australia-culture-blog/2013/jul/19/australia-theatre-young-people-excels>

'Why Theatre for Young People Matters' – BANFF:  
<https://www.banffcentre.ca/articles/why-theatre-young-people-matters>

'How Theater for Young People Could Save the World' – Huffpost:  
[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/world-theater-for-children-and-young-people-day\\_b\\_1343408](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/world-theater-for-children-and-young-people-day_b_1343408)

Read more about the Young Artist Company and RIOT programs at [laboite.com.au](http://laboite.com.au)

# TICKET PRICES

## **TICKET PRICES**

Each school booking includes one complimentary teacher ticket with every 10 students.

STUDENT TICKETS ..... \$18.00  
ADDITIONAL TEACHER TICKET..... \$22.00

## **CURRICULUM & WORKSHOP ENQUIRIES**

Visit [laboite.com.au/education](http://laboite.com.au/education) or contact Maddie Nixon our Youth & Education Producer at [maddienixon@laboite.com.au](mailto:maddienixon@laboite.com.au) or 3007 8600

## **SCHOOL BOOKING ENQUIRIES**

Visit [laboite.com.au/education](http://laboite.com.au/education) or contact [schoolbookings@laboite.com.au](mailto:schoolbookings@laboite.com.au) or our Box Office at 3007 8600



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