

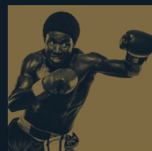
LA BOITE ENCORES

X-STACY

BY MARGERY FORDE



MONDAY 12 MAY



Welcome to the reading of another Epic Play from the Archive

X-STACY

Written by Margery Forde
Directed by Courtney Stewart

CAST

Tom Anderson
Zoe Beirne
Rutika Nagarkar
Pirie Outridge
Cameron Walker

Drawn by the power of the beat and the tribal escape of dance, Ben hangs out with Fergus, a choice rave DJ who is heading for the stars. For Zoe, an aspiring DJ, music is the drug and she's addicted. Ben's mother seeks rapture through the Church and the stories of the saints. And Stacy...?

When his younger sister, Stacy, wants to check out the rave scene, Ben knows he'll have to watch out for her. And tonight she's going to drop her first ecstasy pill. Later, Ben will struggle to forgive himself and his mother retreats into the Church. But the time will come to face the truth about what really happened that night.

First performed in 1998, this La Boite production captured the youth market with its timely themes of dance parties and designer drugs.

LA BOITE ENCOIRES
PRESENTED BY

EPIC HAIR
DESIGNS

X-Stacy is fictional but based on true stories shared with me as I wrote the play. In my research I spoke to countless young people, in schools, at home, at dance parties and raves. I spoke to parents, dance party promoters, DJ's, RaveSafe, drug and alcohol rehab workers, priests, police and student counsellors.

When I asked one young person why she loved going to raves, she said "You don't explain it, you feel it". So, I went and I felt it. The thrilling music, the dancing and the element of religious ritual, celebratory and exhilarating.

Some stories were heartbreaking. One mother told me she used "tough love" to throw her daughter out of the house for using drugs. The consequences were awful and she was carrying so much guilt and pain. I came straight home from talking to her and in tears wrote the scene where Ann tells Stacy to get out and not to come back.

In developing the play, I had constant support from La Boite workshops with marvellous actors, dramaturgical support and play readings where the people I had talked to were invited to give rigorous feedback.

During X-Stacy's first season I was asked to talk to students at QUT. A young man came up to me afterwards. He'd been to see X-Stacy and then had brought his parents and grandparents to see it because "I wanted them to understand me. I wanted them to know who I am." Nobody could have said anything better.

My thanks and love to Sue Rider for entrusting me to write X-Stacy, to dramaturg extraordinaire Saffron Benner and Helen Radvan for the brilliant teachers notes. I'm thrilled X-Stacy is included in Encores.

MARGERY FORDE
PLAYWRIGHT



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OPENING MINDS**

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BY LEAH PURCELL

MONDAY 19 MAY

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