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TEMPEST  
INIST

tempest was founded in 2011 as a feminist theatre company, the word tempest means a storm and making waves - a feminist theatre company that explores and empowers female stories and roles. we make raw, visceral and visually arresting work.

(DIS)SOLUTION



LYSISTRATA



THE COMMUNISTS ARE IN THE FUNHOUSE



THE YELLOW WALLPAPER



SPARROW



tempest



THE MAIDS



**BY WOMEN  
ABOUT WOMEN.**

ten years  
fifteen shows  
three brand new WA works  
one PAWA award nomination  
four tours  
over one thousand audience  
members



# MELBA

"The Queen of Farewells has her final farewell."

Genre DRAMA

Audience 12+

Prosc Arch or Black Box with minimum stage size of 6m x 6m.

Duration 60 minutes

The most famous opera singer in the world, Nellie Melba, retired officially in 1926 at Covent Garden but had so many farewell tours and concerts subsequently that the sarcastic expression 'Doing a Melba' became a byword. This is one of those final farewells. Set in her dressing room in the space of one evening, Melba talks to her friend and writer Beverley Nichols, reminiscing about her career and her fears of growing older. A snapshot of a superstar on the cusp of old age and irrelevancy, this show is a bittersweet look at what it means for women to age in the spotlight.

Press quotes & reviews:

"Melba is a heartfelt, intimate performance. Susie Conte expertly portrays Nellie Melba, presenting the perfect amount of sassy and spoilt - exactly what you'd expect from a world famous diva. It was easy to believe that Conte was truly an internationally acclaimed soprano - her acting appeared so effortless and natural that at times, it was truly easy to forget that she was playing a role." (Isolated Nation)

"The grand dame is very nicely played by director Susie Conte, whose Melba is temperamental, narcissistic and bossy, but also very likeable. Melba is said to have a wonderful presence, and Susie Conte captures this feeling well. She is joined onstage by an excellent Liam Longley as her companion and secretary Beverley Nichols, who is attempting to ghost write Melba's autobiography 'Melodies and Memories' - a device that allows for some lovely moments of humour as Melba reminisces...this short show is a little treasure." (Stage Whispers)

Melba, played to perfection by Susie Conte is the diva to end all divas - she had so many farewell tours' it became common vernacular to 'do a Melba'. Conte is every bit the overindulgent, self-absorbed diva, yet she breathes charm into the character. Melba drinks herself to distraction, gorges on lamingtons, laments her failing voice, and provides little tidbits to English author, Beverly Nichols (Liam Longley) - ghostwriter of Melba's 'autobiography. Longley and Conte play off each other perfectly - their banter and repartee are at times sharp but there is clearly great affection between the two. Melba is a touching and funny vignette into the trials and tribulations of a diva who is perhaps past her prime but not willing to admit it. (Fourth Wall Media)

MELBA, presented by tempest theatre, is a deceptively light-hearted look at Dame Nellie Melba's refusal to give up the spotlight. Writer Dawn Farnham has created a bittersweet vignette exploring the concepts of public life, ego, and women's roles as objects of beauty and desire. The Dame herself is fabulous. Just as a Dame should be. A perfect balance of the self-absorbed diva and a woman struggling with her creeping fear of obscurity. (Gutter Culture)

## Marketing and Audience

Appeals to a broad cross-section of audiences including:  
Regular subscribers who enjoy new work around Australian themes.  
35 to 65 year olds who enjoy intelligent theatre around 'meatier' themes.  
30-50 year old women who love women's stories.

## Selling Points

A smart and funny blend of comedy, drama and pathos (points which are highlighted in excellent reviews). To help highlight these hooks, Tempest will provide presenters with access to high-quality marketing collateral, including promotional videos and an extensive set of strong visuals ranging from marketing and production images to review quotes and poster/flyer artwork.

## Community Engagement

Q&As: Excellent for deepening understanding of the work.

PERFORMING WORKSHOPS: Tailored for students or adults, our team takes participants through a 90-minute, behind-the-scenes, hands-on workshop.

WRITING INSIGHTS: Perfect for aspiring writers, we unpack the creative writing process using Melba as a case study.

SCHOOL PACKAGES: Full Teachers' Resources are provided, with creative workshops available.



Written by  
Dawn Farnham

Directed by  
Susie Conte

Starring  
Susie Conte  
Liam Longley

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TempestPerth

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@TempestPerth

Instagram  
@thetempestlife

Website:  
[www.tempest-theatre.com](http://www.tempest-theatre.com)

Hashtag:  
#tempestfeminist