

The Long Pigs

ABOUT AN HOUR

We3 | Insite Arts

Australia



Photo: The Long Pigs © Ponch Hawks

"A dark-hearted jewel." **The Age**

"A dirty little masterpiece." **Herald Sun**

"...the most engrossing and satisfying work of physical theatre I've seen in the better part of a decade." **The Australian**

There's something not quite right about the clowns in *The Long Pigs*. Their noses are black, their outfits are grubby, and there's something sinister about the goings-on in their dimly lit factory. How did they acquire that suspicious-looking crop of red noses? Making their Sydney Festival debut, *The Long Pigs* is a knock-out production from new physical theatre supergroup, We3

Owing as much to **Samuel Beckett** and **George Orwell** as *The Three Stooges*, *The Long Pigs* is a black comedy with a grim and gruesome twist. It's definitely no children's birthday party. Taking its title from the Melanesian Pidgin phrase for "human flesh", discomfort mingles with glee and horror as we are reminded of how close we are to becoming their next victims.

Rooted in black comedy and physical theatre, *The Long Pigs* spins a poignant metaphor around the theme of racism, shadowing three disenfranchised and highly paranoid comrades as they turn against their red-nosed cousins.

Set against a gritty industrial backdrop, the increasingly perturbing collection of red noses is made even more noticeable. *"I've never really been a fan of red noses, to be honest,"* says co-devisor and performer **Clare Bartholomew**. *"A lot of people have such a fixed notion of what a clown is. It can be a real stereotype, boring and clichéd. It's still relatively rare to see clowns who are genuinely outright evil and frightening."*

We3 is comprised of **Clare Bartholomew** (*Die Roten Punkte*, Sydney Festival 2013), **Derek Ives-Plunkett** (*The Candy Butchers*), **Nicci Wilks** (*Circus Oz*), and director **Susie Dee**. Including a knockout "abattoir-cum-playground set" designed by **Anna Tregloan** and an engaging sound design from **Jethro Woodward**, all the elements of this work combine in perfect synchronicity - balancing the macabre with the comical. Combining black comedy, subtle metaphor and menacing jokes, this inventive piece of theatre will certainly change perspectives on the seeming innocence of clowns.

Devised and Performed by **Clare Bartholomew, Derek Ives-Plunkett and Nicci Wilks**

Devised and Directed by **Susie Dee**

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

Set Design by **Anna Tregloan**
Sound Design by **Jethro Woodward**
Lighting Design by **Andy Turner**

Where Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre

When 15 January at 8.30pm
16 January at 9.30pm
17 January at 2.30pm & 5.30pm
18 January at 7.30pm

Price \$35 General Admission

Duration 60minutes no interval

Bookings Sydney Festival 1300 856 876
Seymour Centre 02 9351 7940
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