

The newest work from award-winning theatre group the Little Eggs Collective

# METROPOLIS

A staged adaptation of Thea Von Harbou's science fiction classic

2023 Australian Premiere

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**PRESENTED BY THE LITTLE EGGS COLLECTIVE:**

- ★★★★★ "Bold, cohesive and thrilling to encounter" Arts Hub
- ★★★★★ "A track record of brilliant theatre-making" The Music with Sylvie
- ★★★★1/2 "Inventive, brilliantly staged and sharply drilled" Audrey Journal
- ★★★★ "Memorable as well as ambitious" Sydney Morning Herald

The Little Eggs Collective is a multi award-winning independent theatre company devoted to the creation of new work. We are best known for original music, ambitious design, imaginative world-building, ability to "sculpt human imagery" (SMH, Mariner 2019) and an "impeccably sophisticated display of ensemble work" (Audrey Journal, PINOCCHIO 2018).

**METROPOLIS:**

The basis for Fritz Lang's 1927 film, Thea Von Harbou's masterpiece of atmosphere and expressionism illuminates parts of the story lost on the cutting-room floor.

In 2023, the Little Eggs Collective will turn one of the most influential science fiction novels of all time into a live theatre experience. With a brand new, completely original score, a cast of ten will premiere this adaptation in April/May 2023 at Hayes Theatre Co.

## **SYNOPSIS**

“In the literature of Science Fiction, there is no more an under appreciated and ignored piece of writing than Thea Von Harbou’s magnificent Metropolis” - Eddie Vega

While you may be familiar with Fritz Lang's 1927 film, you may not know that METROPOLIS was originally a novel written by his wife, Thea Von Harbou, two years earlier. The basis for Fritz Lang’s iconic 1927 film, Von Harbou’s novel illuminates essential parts of the story lost on the cutting-room floor.

In the future, wealthy industrialists and business magnates and their top employees reign over the city of Metropolis from colossal skyscrapers, while underground-dwelling workers toil to operate the great machines that power it.

Freder, the upperclass son of the all-powerful master of Metropolis, falls for a worker from below named Maria and searches the depths of the city for her. Along the way he opposes his father, discovers the oppressed conditions of the labourers, trades places with a worker, and encounters a mad scientist Rotwang who has created an evil robot in the image of Maria.

Metropolis revolves around the social crisis between workers and employers in a capitalist system, with a love story at its centre. After all.. The mediator between brain and muscle must be the heart!

## **THE TEAM**

Director - Julia Robertson

Music Director - Zara Stanton

Set Designer - Nick Fry

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Rehearsals: Mid March - April 2023 (subject to change)

Performances: 21st April - 20th May, 2023

## **PRODUCTION INFORMATION:**

This production will be structured with the MEAA Co-op agreement in mind, including a guarantee/allowance plus profit share percentage. Due to the co-op nature of this production, artists are expected to be based in the city in which the show plays.

Those cast for the Sydney season will have first right of refusal for any season that follows. If those in the Sydney cast are unable to participate in any following seasons we will be recasting from this current set of auditions.

## **AUDITION INFORMATION:**

We are looking to cast exceptional performers with an interest in new work and collaborative work spaces. This production recognises the diversity of the Australian performing community, and we seek to foster realistic and creative representations of Australia on our stages including performers from all diverse backgrounds. The Little Eggs Collective is a committed equal opportunities employer. We value diversity and inclusion across race, gender, age, religion, disability, identity and experience. Little Eggs is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive audition environment that is free from discrimination, harassment & bullying.

**All artists should feel empowered to apply for any role they wish to see themselves in.**

## **AUDITIONS:**

Submission deadline: 18th November 2022

Audition dates: 25th November 2022 & 28th November 2022

Audition location: Village Nation, 32 Bowden St, Alexandria NSW 2015

This is an all-new musical currently in development, with musical influences including Dave Malloy, Samuel Barber, Jeanine Tesori, Kurt Weill, Kate Miller-Meidke and Adam Guettel.

Auditionees are required to prepare one piece of music, no more than 2 minutes in length. Please pick a song that you feel reflects your voice in its most comfortable range and style - part of the process of creating this show will be tailoring the work to each cast member's strengths, so we would love to see you sing something that shows us who you are as a performer.

While your song choice does not need to be strictly Musical Theatre, it should still be somewhat theatrical in style and delivery.

Please bring clearly marked sheet music, in the correct key, as there will be an accompanist present for all auditions.

Auditionees may also be asked to do a cold read on the day.

## **SUBMISSION PROCESS:**

Please email suggestions to [casting@littleeggscollective.com](mailto:casting@littleeggscollective.com) and be sure to include the following information:

*Full name*

*Headshot and CV (including vocal range)*

*City of residence (if different to Sydney)*

Auditions will be held in person. If absolutely necessary, artists may request a video submission, although in person is preferred. Callback auditions will be held in the final week of January.

You are welcome to submit for a particular role, however if you are called in for an audition, it may be for another role or multiple roles - please refer to the character descriptions and requirements.

### **\*\*Important\*\***

Casting will be in contact if you are successful in being offered an audition. For those who are successful in receiving an audition, you will be sent a booking email with all relevant information.

Please note that auditionees may be photographed and recorded as part of their participation in the audition process for casting purposes.

## **CASTING DESCRIPTIONS:**

Little Eggs prides itself on strong ensemble performance. While there are particular key roles being cast, it is likely most performers will play multiple roles in the production.

### **Freder - Leading Role:**

*20s / early 30s*

Freder is the son of Joh Frederson, who is the ruler of Metropolis. He is bright-eyed and earnest and at times naive, but these qualities lead him to work towards enacting real political change and helping his society.

Freder is also framed as a musician. If you are proficient in an instrument please let us know.

**Maria / Robot Maria - Leading Role:**

*20s / early 30s*

Maria is gentle, ethical, politically idealistic, and pure of heart. She is seen by the workers as a kind of prophet and holds sermons in the underground city about the importance of uniting the ruling class with the working class.

The actor who plays Maria will also play Robot Maria, the monster brought to life by Rotwang the scientist in the image of Maria. Robot Maria is a sinful and chaotic entity, tasked with leading the charge towards mass destruction in the city.

**Joh Frederson:**

*40s-60s*

Frederson is a very calculating person and seems cold in personality, indifferent to the squalid conditions that so concern his more idealistic son. He is the head of Metropolis and the leader of the ruling classes.

**Rotwang:**

*30s - 60s*

Rotwang is a reclusive scientist who was once friends with Joh and competed with him for a woman in their youth. He is an immoral chaos-loving eccentric who has no regrets about the suffering of others.

**Grot:**

*30s - 50s*

The foreman of the workers and the guardian of the Heart Machine. He is stoic, and physically intimidating. He tries to defend the Heart Machine from the workers during the revolution, but fails. Later, he leads them in their search for the False Maria.

**Ensemble:**

We are looking for an ensemble of five multidisciplinary artists. The Ensemble will cover a number of different roles, have strong sense of musicality and ability to hold close harmonies. Ideally, the ensemble are also confident movers.

## **VACCINATION STATUS**

1. All auditionees acknowledge and understand that this requirement is a condition of employment on the production. All employees must be and remain either fully vaccinated with the recommended doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (3 doses), recognised by Australian authorities, or hold an exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine, authorised by a medical practitioner. All prospective auditionees and employees will be required to provide the Production with up-to-date proof of COVID-19 vaccination or exemption prior to commencement of auditions and employment.

2. The auditionee acknowledges and agrees that they will be required to comply with both all Venue and Production COVID-19 Safety Plans and directions during the course of their auditions and if engaged through their employment on the Production. The Auditionee recognises that Venues and the Production's COVID-19 Safety Plans may change from time to time.