



**Jopuka Presents**

# **The Mortality Project**

**Created by Jopuka's Writers Club  
Directed by Tayah Blackman and Anthony Wall**

**August 18th - 20th 2023  
The Launch Pad Tuggerah**

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Jopuka acknowledges the *Darkinjung People* who are the traditional custodians of this land.

We would also like to pay respects to their elders past and present.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

Always was, Always will be Aboriginal land.



# ABOUT THE SHOW

In 2022 the Jopuka Writers' Club began working on a collaborative project based on the prompt "The top five ways the world will end according to Professor Brian Cox."

Those methods of extinction, according to Cox in a 2015 interview, are as follows:

- 5 - Supervolcano
- 4 - Plague (yes, this was before COVID)
- 3 - Supernova
- 2 - Asteroid
- 1 - Stupidity

We used this as impetus to explore both real and metaphorical ideas about how the end of the world might look, or more importantly feel. The loss of a parent or an asteroid plummeting into the earth can both feel equally as world ending and life changing.

Our writers then embarked on creating a series of drafts before leaving it in the hands of facilitators Danielle Brame Whiting and Jamie Hornsby to edit and sew these scenes together into the production you are seeing this weekend, The Mortality Project. Packed to the brim with ideas from a team of brilliant young creatives, and highlights the unique and unexpected approaches each writer chose to tackle this prompt - some heart breaking, some hilarious, often at the same time!

The Mortality Project is the beta test for what we hope will be many years of collaborative writing projects with our Jopuka Family.

If you're interested in joining the Jopuka Writers' Club, get in touch!

Written by

**Ethan Dale**  
**Tallulah Eden**  
**Brooke Shorten**  
**Kani Lukuta**  
**Khy Elliott**  
**Jamie Hornsby**  
**Danielle Brame Whiting**

Directors

**Tayah Blackman**  
**Anthony Wall**

Starring

*Is this a bad time?*  
**Max Lindhardt-Ward - Todd**

*The Power Hour*

**Samuel Saifiti - Jonty**  
**Caillin Hopkins - Lawyer**

*End of a Dream*

**Steph Hanlon - Fallon Green**

*Together*

**Hayley Chivas - Alex**  
**Chantel Johnston - Peyton**

*The Great Almighty Apple*

**Lara Gerste - Quinn**  
**Wren Hopkins - Ash**

*School's Out*

**Jarrold Whybrow - Avery**  
**Richie Gleeson - Sam**  
**Pia McLean Barth - Casey**  
**Thanataphobia or Fear of Dying**  
**Jacob Bloor - Morgan**  
**Trinity Young - Charli**

Producer

**Danielle Brame Whiting**

Set and Lighting

**Joshua Maxwell**

Stage Hands

**Rose Aspinall**  
**Skye Gleeson**

Welfare Officer

**Kelly Maxwell**

with special thanks to **Ben Ross** for his stellar work on the sound recording for "Is this a bad time?" scenes.

# THE DIRECTORS

## **Anthony Wall**

This is Anthony's first go at directing, but after reading what the Writers Group created, he was confident he could do them justice. Anthony would like to thank Jopuka for their support, the actors for listening and what they have created, and his beautiful Wife for always being by his side.

## **Tayah Blackman**

Tayah is so excited to be back directing with Jopuka, and excited about the opportunity to direct an original work, this time alongside her good friend, Anthony! Tayah would like to thank Danielle for all her support, the writers for sharing their incredible ideas, the actors for all their dedication, and, lastly, Jopuka Productions for entrusting her with this project. She hopes you enjoy the show!

# THE FACILITATORS AND SENIOR WRITERS

## **Danielle Brame Whiting**

Danielle Brame Whiting is the co-founder of Jopuka and the Creative Development Manager. She works as an independent teaching artist in theatre and adores, in equal amounts, creating with her own stories and supporting young artists to develop their own skills and ideas, whilst telling their original stories.

## **Jamie Hornsby**

Jamie Hornsby is a multi-award-winning playwright and performer. His work has been seen nationally and internationally, winning the David Williamson Prize for Excellence in Writing for Australian Theatre, among others. He has been commissioned by Jopuka three times and is thrilled to help mentor other emerging writers through Jopuka's Writers' Club.



# THE WRITERS

## Ethan Dale

Ethan Dale is an Actor/Writer/Director from the Central Coast of Australia, he finished his studies at the Regional Institute of Performing Arts in 2017. Some notable acting credits include Lucifer/Mephistopheles in The Tragedy of Dr Faustus and Nick Dawes in Worm Farming (Salt House Creative, 2022 and 2020) and Joe in The Peach Season (Jopuka Productions, 2019). He has won several awards for his writing and acting. He frequently runs acting workshops for several theatre companies across Sydney, the Central Coast and Newcastle. He can also juggle.

## Tallulah Eden

Tallulah Eden has been writing stories ever since she was a little girl. Her debut novel "Elephant's Business" surely would have skyrocketed her to prodigy status if her mother had taken her seriously at the age of five. Instead, Tallulah discovered the wonderful world of theatre where her desire to capture an audience's attention for approximately 2 hours was finally fulfilled. And even better, she could harness her storytelling skills by writing plays (so far exclusively for Jopuka Productions). Her works have included a pregnant teen, a guy who enjoys eating eyeballs, a rooster with aggression issues, and now Todd from the Australian Registry of Underground Bunkers.

## Brooke Shorten

Brooke Shorten has always had a love for stories, whether that be reading them, watching them, or writing them. She has been seen most recently in Jopuka's Sydney season of "Boys on the Bus" and trying to survive HSC trials. Though Brooke has been writing various (mostly unfinished) projects for years, The Mortality Project is her writing debut onto the stage.

## Kani Lukuta

Upon stumbling into the awe-inspiring world of theatre, Kani has struggled to stop this passion ever since. With too little time, and too much hatred for his personal schedule, Kani has starred in countless productions, most notably as in Jopuka's 'Very Happy Children' in 2021, and 'The Boys on the Bus' in their latest Sydney Season. On top of this, Kani is fascinated with the idea of crafting stories and scripts for the stage.

## Khy Elliott

Discovering the world of theatre at age 12 ignited an ever-burning creative spark within Khy Elliott who has been immersed in the world of theatre ever since. Making their first mark on stage in 2019's 'Transcendence' and the latest being 2022's 'The Breakfast Club'. Recently, their role as an emerging director for 'The Boys on the Bus.' (Jopuka 2023) allowed them to expand their creative repertoire Khy is making their stage writing debut with in 'The Mortality Project'.





# WE ASKED THE WRITERS FOR THEIR MUSINGS ON CONSIDERING A SCENE ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD:

"Some say the world will end in fire, some say in ice...but I reckon it'll probably be those damn octopuses. They definitely know something we don't. And they've got really freaky legs." - **Tallulah**

"In a way, it's difficult to NOT write about the end of the world these days. In a world where the future looks increasingly uncertain and there seems to be a new existential threat popping up every other week, finding a way to interrogate and express these ideas through art seems more vital than ever." - **Jamie**

"An area that fascinates me is exploring the way our perceptions adjust as we tuck more years under our belts. In this way I was more attracted to the idea of something 'feeling' like the end of the world, as opposed to the demise of the human race. Our physical demise is just a little too much for me on a Monday." - **Danielle**

"I don't know how the world will end (so stop asking me). I found that thinking about it is inherently quite sad, but the deeper you go with the thought, it becomes fairly interesting. The more I thought about it, the more I realised that some major corporation would 100% be involved in the end of the world, whether it be directly caused by them, or they somehow profit off it, I don't know." - **Ethan**

"The end of the world could come about in various different ways. A giant spaghetti monster is a likely one, or you know, global warming. But sometimes, the end of the world can be things on a smaller, more personal scale, that feel just as 'life or death.' - **Brooke**

"With the end of the world looming before us, surely there are more possibilities for the cause of doomsday than we'd expect. From meteors, to catastrophic floods, to an army of genetically modified, super-human, zombie chickens, the ideas can truly be overwhelming. But perhaps the true end of the world as we know it, are the friends we made along the way." - **Kani**

"There's always a chance two enemies, might be lovers, when they're about to experience the end of the world, inside an Apple store." - **Khy**

# ABOUT JOPUKA

Jopuka Productions one of Australia's most celebrated youth theatre bodies. It was established specifically to provide performing arts training and development to a wide array of emerging artists, aged 12-26, from all across Darkinjung Country, on the Central Coast of New South Wales. Jopuka provides a safe and peer-driven space for emerging artists to hone their craft and forge their own pathways into the arts industry. We present unique and innovative seasons, filled to the brim with new works, Australian classics, cutting-edge musicals and Fringe favourites. Jopuka has staged over 45 acclaimed productions, including a range of new and established works. We've commissioned over a dozen new Australian works from emerging writers and theatre-makers across Australia, and even won a couple of awards in the process. Since launching we've provided arts opportunities for over 1500 young people across many areas of production. Now neatly tucked away in our own venue, The Launch Pad, Jopuka is committed to creating innovative, inclusive and exceptional work with our community of emerging artists.

Jopuka is a registered charity

## WITH THANKS

XTRACT DRAMA  
RED TREE THEATRE  
RUTH JORDON  
MADNESS OF TWO  
THE DERPARTMENT OF REGIONAL YOUTH  
UNITING  
CREATE NSW  
BEN ROSS  
AUSTRALIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS  
BENDIGO BANK  
KWIK KOPY TUGGERAH  
SPIRALZ  
THE MAXWELL FAMILY  
THE BRAME WHITING FAMILY  
THE WALL FAMILY TRUST  
GREATER BANK  
COAST COMMUNITY NEWS  
ATYP  
THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE CAST

## THE BOARD OF JOPUKA

CHAIR **ROSIE ROSS**  
SECRETARY **KELLY MAXWELL**  
TREASURER **CHERYL AMEY**  
DIRECTOR **DANIELLE BRAME WHITING**  
DIRECTOR **TAYAH BLACKAMN**  
DIRECTOR **ANNA CARTER**  
DIRECTOR **JAMIE HORNSBY**  
DIRECTOR **TAHLIA NOTT**  
DIRECTOR **JOSHUA MAXWELL**  
DIRECTOR **ANTHONY WALL**  
DIRECTOR **PAUL ZAIA**

## THE STAFF OF JOPUKA

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GENERAL MANAGER  
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THEATRE



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