



WHITE
RABBIT
THEATRE

WHITE RABBIT THEATRE PRESENTS

AWAKE

BY LISA SMITH

AWAKE

PRESENTER PACK
UPDATED JUNE 2026

Duration: 60 minutes + 30-60 post-show engagement

Performers: 4
Touring Party: 6

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ABOUT

WHITE RABBIT THEATRE

White Rabbit Theatre is a female-led theatre company based on Bundjalung country, on the beautiful southern Gold Coast. Founded by Lisa Smith in 2012, WRT's focus continues to be about initiating and leading making processes that create original work for theatre: work that is bold, narrative driven and deeply collaborative.

WRT believes both in the inherent value of tradition in our artform and the importance of innovation and change, and that thorough and thoughtful process is key in creating work of quality, integrity and longevity. As our name suggests, curiosity is a central value for the company, and the work we make, the artists we collaborate with and our arts practise places curiosity in high esteem.

We believe in the power of stories, and as women and artists, we tell our stories through a distinctly feminist lens.

'It's a wake ... but not as you know it'



ABOUT AWAKE

SYNOPSIS

Both theatre show and ritual gathering, **AWAKE** invites audiences into an intimate, gently held space where they are given a front-row seat to the often hidden and surprising face of grieving.

We follow the story of **The Widow**, and witness her meeting the challenges of the practical side of death, alongside her private experience of grief. We see her confronted by real moments, and escaping into imagined ones.

Supported by a small ensemble of players, and underscored by beautiful Irish music created live on stage by award-winning multi-instrumentalist **Victoria Falconer** (Greenroom Award Winner: Musical Direction *My Brilliant Career* MTC, *Once* Darlinghurst Theatre, Co-Artistic Director *Hayes Theatre Sydney*), audiences experience the many facets of grief and loss; from the awkward to the surprising, the heavy to the hilarious, the small to the absurd.

Combining storytelling, reflection and plenty of humour, this work places the audience in a unique configuration that allows them to be both in the action, and outside it.

Pour yourself a whiskey. Grab a sandwich. You can bring your grief with you, or you can just bare witness to hers.

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer | Director: Lisa Smith

Musical Director: Victoria Falconer

Movement Director | Producer: Ainslee Palmer

Cast:

The Widow: Valerie Bader

The Keeners : Victoria Falconer, Alec Stedman, Johanna Lyon.

Costume Design: Jess Hansen

Set Design Consultation & Construction: Freddy Komp

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

2024: HOTA Home of the Arts Artkeeper program & public outcome

2025: Script Development & Musical Development

2026: Premiere, Gold Coast

LINKS

Sizzle Reel

CONTENT DESCRIPTION

Themes of grief & loss, some coarse language

CAST



Valerie Bader
'The Widow'



Vicky Falconer Pritchard
'The Fidel Player'



Alec Steedman
'The Keepers'



Johanna Lyon
'The Keepers'

'I could feel the tide rising in me, like it does, soon it would surface and I'd be undone'

CREATIVES



Lisa Smith
Writer/Director



Vicky Falconer Pritchard
Musical Director



Ainslee Palmer
Movement Director /
Producer



Freddy Komp
Production Design Consultation
& Construction



Jess Hansen
Costume Design
& Construction

*'I put butter and jam on the cold blackened toast.
And then I lay on the table beside it, amongst the crumbs'.*

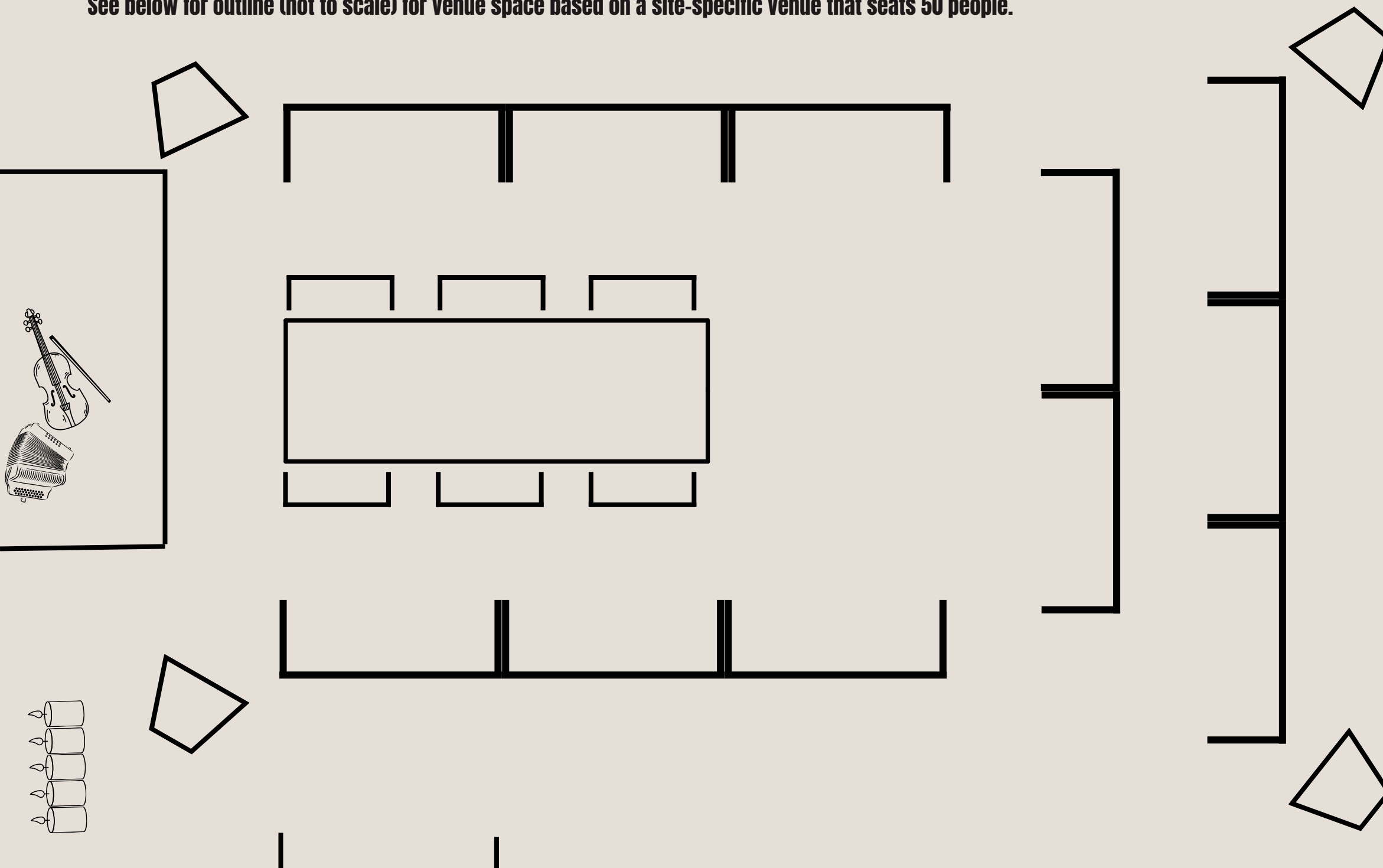
PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

Set | audience layout

Set consists of one large table scalable from 2m L x 0.9m W 0.8m H, to 4.8m L x 0.9m W x 0.8m H with six chairs wrapped around.

One 1m L x 0.3m W 1.5m H pillar containing Votive candles (either live flame *preferred* or battery operated as approved by venue)

See below for outline (not to scale) for venue space based on a site-specific venue that seats 50 people.



Sound Requirements: *as at June 2026 pre-premiere*

Requirements include

- 2x speakers and ability to connect to an Ipad for Qlab operation

Lighting Requirements: *as at June 2026 pre-premiere*

- Basic warm lighting with ability to change intensity and make 3-6 lighting states

KEY



Table and chairs



Audience seating - up to 50 people



Lighting tree options



Audience entry point

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS CONT.

Venue Suitability

Theatre (black box or main stage (in unique configuration))

Studio

Site Specific e.g. a chapel

Audience capacity

Min: 10

Max: 250

Community Engagement

Post-show whiskey and sandwiches* 30-60 mins - Audience are invited to stay behind after each show to share stories while the musicians continue to play.

*We are currently in conversation with local suppliers

Ceilidh (optional) 60mins - Audience are invited to bring along instruments to one performance in the season for a post show play-along of the traditional Irish music from the show.

Buy-in Model Bump in/ Tech

6-8 hours

Bump out

4 hours

Maximum no. of shows in a week

8

Maximum no. of shows in a day

2

Show length

60 mins + post show whiskey & sandwiches

Minimum break between shows

90mins

CONTACT INFO

Ainslee Palmer

Co-Artistic Director & Producer

Email: ainslee@whiterabbittheatre.com.au

Phone: 0478 823 111

***‘This story begins with loss.
No. That’s not the right word.
It begins with death.
An ending at the beginning’***

