



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.



A woman with dark hair tied back with a purple headscarf is seated and playing a red and white button accordion. She is wearing a dark grey short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. The background is a dimly lit room with a wooden table and some glassware.

***'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.



# PREMIERE CAST



**Valerie Bader**  
**'The Widow'**



**Vicky Falconer Pritchard**  
**'The Fidel Player'**



**Alec Steedman**  
**'The Keeners'**



**Johanna Lyon**  
**'The Keeners'**

***'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

*As at September 2026 pre-premiere*

## AUDIENCE LAYOUT

Thrust-style seating with 3-5 rows on each side

## SET

One large table 2.5m L x 1.25m W with six chairs wrapped around.

One hanging light over the table

One bank of Votive Candles (either live flame *\*preferred\** or battery operated as approved by venue)

One Rug under table 3m L x 2m W

Two Standing lamps

## SOUND

Touring equipment - 1 Macbook with Qlab

Venue to provide: High-quality FOH system to suit your venue, On-stage

foldback options, x4 headset mics

## LIGHTING

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

One hanging light

Two floor Lamps - either patched or plugged

*Full Technical Specifics available October 2026 Here*

## DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

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

**2025:** Script Development & Musical Development

**2026:** Premiere, Bleach Festival Gold Coast

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## LINKS

**Development Reel**

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## CONTENT DESCRIPTION

**Themes of grief & loss, some coarse language**



# PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS CONT.

## Venue Suitability

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

Studio

Site Specific e.g. a chapel

## Audience capacity

Min: 60

Max: 350

## 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.

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.

## Bump in/ Tech

2 days - 8hrs + 4hrs

## 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

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Co-Artistic Director & Producer

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

