"These are dangerous times, difficult times, times in which the blowtorch of history is being applied to each and every one of us..."

(a Branch production)

La Mama at the Carlton Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton
April 29 - May 15, 2004
Tues and Suns at 6.30pm, Weds to Sats at 8.00pm (no show on Wed May 5)
Bookings: 9347 6142
CAST (in order of appearance)

ANNA a Trotskyist ........................................ Daniela Farinacci
EKATERINA Anna’s friend ................................ Ming-Zhu Hii
MOTHER DYBENKO an urbanised peasant ........ Beth Child
RUBIN a Zinovievist ........................................ Jay Bowen
ANITA a Zinovievist ........................................ Ming-Zhu Hii
KRASIN an army officer ................................. Neil Pigot
LEBESHEV Krasin’s superior officer ................ Bruce Myles
NADEZDA a Bolshevik ................................. Beth Child

Writer ........................................................ Stephen Sewell
Director ..................................................... Melanie Beddie
Set Design ................................................ Kathryn Sproul
Production Manager / Lighting Design ........ Daniel Zika
Costume .................................................... Amy Faram, Alison Ragland, Beth Child
Production Assistant .................................... Amy Faram
Fight Consultants ....................... Lewis Pratt & Cinnoidh MacLeod

TRAITORS is a play I have wanted to direct for a long time. I believe it to be an extraordinary piece set at a unique moment in history and filled with muscular and energised characters. Its emotional reach is vast and visceral. It offers very strong ideas in a bold theatrical form. The play asks the question – Do people shape history or does history shape people? These characters are fired by passion and the belief in the possibility of a better world - they believe (as we should) that the future is always open.

Melanie Beddie

The epilogue and prologue occur in the Winter of 1941. 100kms south of Moscow

ACT 1 is set in Leningrad and then Moscow, 1927
ACT 2 is set in Moscow, 1927

Approx running time (with a short interval) 2.5 hours
Melanie Beddie is the artistic director of the Branch, an independent theatre company that exists to produce works that combine strong political and theatrical ideas. She has worked for a number of Melbourne companies including Playbox, MTC and La Mama. Her production of Second Childhood (MTC/Mothouse) will tour nationally from July.

This work marks Jyll Bowden's début Melbourne theatre performance since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts. He is a trained singer and dancer and has appeared in Marcel Proust’s Rememberance of Things Past (Melb. Fest., 2002) and missile Gorky’s Summerfolk (VCA, 2003).

Beth Chilid has been a performer and director for over 20 years. She has appeared in theatre, film, TV and cabaret, winning an award for the music theatre piece Zen and Now at the Adelaide Festival Fringe. She is currently developing a new work for the Theatre Foundation Course students at the VCA and will direct a new Australian play Absence (working title) by Alison Rayment later in the year at La Mama.

Danielle Fairmaire has worked professionally and extensively in theatre, film and TV. Her most recent credits include Metamorphosis (for the Melbourne Theatre Co., 2004 – Green Room Award Nomination), MFAc at ABC TV and the feature film Last Man (2011 – Film Critics Circle Award, F Award nomination and AFPI nomination). Due to be released projects include Blackjack for Channel 10 and the feature films Josh Januel and Life Story.

Mingyi Z-Ning will be performing in Love Mengel’s Lifeline for the 2002 Melbourne Festival while kitting her degree at VCA. She then premiered Stephen Sewell’s Myfb, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America (Playbox) and Lost, Death Music and Dومa (STUT) and made various television appearances. She will be performing in Dinner at MTC in August.

Bruce Mylne trained at the Hill Studio New York. He has performed at the Playbox Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company and the Nimbof Theatre in Sydney. He is a member of Actors for Refugees and takes part regularly in their state-wide Club Refuge programme.

Neil Pigout’s most recent theatre work includes the Australian premier of Martin Crimp’s The Country (Subzero) and the international tour of his new production of Stiff. He is a 5 time Green Room Award Nominee and was awarded Best Actor for Judgement in 1999 and Uncle Bob in 2002.

Stephen Sewell’s works include Welcome to the Bright World, The Blind Giant is Dancing and Hate. His latest play Myfb, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America was nominated for three Green Room awards, and won the Green Room Best New Play for 2005. He recently received the lifetime achievement award at the National Playwrights Conference.

Kathryn Sproul works nationally as a designer for theatre, dance and events. Recent works include Second Childhood (MTC/Mothouse), Runners Up (Leg on the Wall), Moor Play (Gekidan Urinko, Japan), Live Acts on Stage (St Melina Youth Arts Centre), The Flowers (Cairns Festival) and the fringe loud (Adelaide Fringe 2004).

Daniel Zika is a lighting designer and production manager for dance, theatre and multimedia exhibitions and presentations. Credits include: Fasting Pouters, Svetlan in Silentbark, Post Pedley and Indigo 07 (Playbox), he won a 2001 Green Room Award for his work on Indigo 07, The Funest Man in the World (Kennedy/Taylor Theatre Projects); Liquid, Red Rain and Quiescence (co-model) he received non-Awards for 2000 and 2001 Green Room Awards for Red Rain and Quiescence).
TRAITORS was first performed on 26th April 1979 by the APG at the Pram Factory. It was directed by Kerry Dwyer with lighting by Tony Watts and design by Dave May. It was performed by Sue Ingleton, Judy McHenry, Jan Cornall, Mark Mitchinton, Wilfrid Last and Max Gillies.

With very special thanks to Micheal Munday for image design, Rachel Mackie for taking the photos and to William Henderson for the hall.-also to Playback, MTC, Sioban Tuke, Tom Considine, Michelle Smith, Terry Sullivan, Mandy Doolan, Bruce Gladwin, Fiona Todd, Sunchana Gogic, Nik Pajanti, Dominic Petras and everyone at La Mama

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LA MAMA

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Alisa Beec, Tess Butler, Mary Helen Pirola & Victoria Zamora

Dramaturg-in-residence
Graham Downey


La Mama's Committee of Management, Staff and its wider theatrical community acknowledge that our theatre is on traditional Wurundjeri land.

La Mama is financially assisted by the Federal Government through the Australia Council - its Arts Funding and Advisory body, and the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the Community Support Fund. La Mama productions at the Carlton Courthouse are supported by the City of Melbourne. The La Mama Regional Mentorship programme is funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. Our thanks to the Management and staff of Readings Bookshop, Carlton, for their contribution to the running of the Box Office.