



LA MAMA

La Mama Mobile and Walker St. Gallery and Arts Centre
presents:



SARAJEVO SUITE

written by Helen Lucas

directed by Bagryana Popov

performed by Donna Dimovski, Olena Fedorova, Anneli Bjorasen

lighting by Richard Vabre • music by Ernie Gruner

music and sound design by Elissa Goodrich • design consultant: Adrienne Chisholm

How would it be to live in a city under siege? To suddenly fear for your life? For four years.

Three women - two Bosnian and one Serbian tell their stories of the siege of Sarajevo. They share the small details of their lives, and their great losses. Their stories are vivid and strikingly simple, woven with poetry and music.

Sarajevo Suite brings the experiences of women survivors of war to Australian audiences. We heard about the war in Bosnia on the news, distantly, briefly. The media attention ends, but the trauma remains for the people who lived through the war.

Sarajevo Suite tells part of that story. Exquisite performances from three women actors from diverse European backgrounds in a poetic new work of documentary style theatre.

Sarajevo Suite is part of La Mama's **Arts About Us** project, 'Theatre for Our Diverse Community'. **Arts About Us** is a VicHealth program that encourages dialogue about the impacts of race-based discrimination and the benefits of cultural diversity.

VicHealth's Acting CEO Associate Professor John Fitzgerald said: "Arts About Us projects such as Sarajevo Suite provide a powerful platform for celebrating cultural diversity and strengthening cultural understanding."

Helen Lucas is a teacher, writer and traveler. She has published eight books, including two collections of poetry and short stories. Her community work with refugees and her travels influences all of her work. This personal experience comes through in the depth of this beautifully rich text.

Bagryana Popov is a theatre maker, director and choreographer. Much of Bagryana's work has investigated themes of displacement, identity, power and who has a voice in society. Recent works include *Progress and Melancholy* (at fortyfivedownstairs), which received 3 Green Room Awards and *Subclass 26A* - a physical theatre work about refugees in detention. Her PhD investigates the experience under the totalitarian regime in Bulgaria, and she has recently presented the performance component of her research in Sofia, including a dance solo, *He Is Not Here*, performed by Simon Ellis, and her short film *Returning*.

For media enquires please contact
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WALKER ST GALLERY

Walker St Gallery and Arts
Centre
cnr. Robinson and Walker
Streets, Dandenong
Thursday 14th July, 8pm.
Duration: 75 mins approx.

Bookings: 9347 6142 /
www.lamama.com.au

Information:
Caitlin at
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