

CONNIE AND KEVIN AND THE SECRET LIFE OF GROCERIES

by Noelle Janaszweska.

Downstairs Belvoir St September (B Sharp) September 2001

Director:	Kate Gaul
Designer:	Catherine Raven
Composer:	Daryl Wallis
Lighting Designer:	Stephen Hawker
Movement Director:	Raymond Mather
Dramaturg:	Kathryn Millard
Sound design:	Aaron Symonds
Cast:	Joanne Priest + Jason Chan

In a busy international food court of a city mall, Connie + Kevin dream of sex + romance - both unaware they are the object of each other's fantasies. They do eventually meet + events take a surprising turn. A topical + comic romance with a fantastical twist. This play began life as a monologue for the character of Connie. Following a modest production in 1998 the full-length play was developed for this season.

What the Critics Said:

"...Awwie award-winning writer Noelle Janaczewska creates texts in which phrases and images move around each other and accumulate slowly to build up those confused stories, uncertain fantasies, urgent desires and shadowy patterns of memory that we call ourselves. Her verbally playful scripts are based in rich sensuality of experience - in this case, food and sex a wonderfully rich collection of ingredients and dishes that work lyrically, for a new multicultural Australia, like the lists of suburban domestic details that in the 1960s turned Barry Humphries character Sandy Stone into a folk philosopher and transformed Harpic and tinned peas into poetic objects...this is a cheerfully romantic show, with an edge"

John McCallum, THE AUSTRALIAN, 17/9/01



"The text, and Kate Gaul's production, is a pleasing confection with some deeper ideas occasionally bubbling to the surface of the broth...the two actors give well-directed and warm performances, keeping the sometimes textually dense fabric of the play legible and flowing..."

Stephen Dunne, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 17/9/01

"Noelle Janaczewska's ...play sets up a coconut shy of stereotypes, romantic and cultural, and then ever so graciously knocks them over...it's charmingly performed. Director Kate Gaul exhibits an amiably ironic eye; and designer Catherine Raven ingeniously evokes plastic suburbia.

One for sweethearts."

Colin Rose, SUN-HERALD, 15/9/01

"The script is superb: fast paced, witty and brilliantly tongue-in-cheek. We cringe, we howl and basically enjoy ourselves

immensely...Janaczewska finds humour in the bastardisation of a rich culture, questioning Australia's supposed fostering of cultural diversity. Through the food she finds a hypocrisy in our society that claims to embrace new cultures wholeheartedly, but essentially enjoys only the chosen portions...this is a world we dream of, but too easily dismiss. And Connie inspires us to fantasize again."

Clara Iaccarino, REVOLVER, 17/9/01

