

# THE PAST IS A WILD PARTY

Siren Theatre Co (Australia)

**The Past is a Wild Party** is a solo performance exploring identity, history, our notions of time, the power of great literature and life's events to shape us.



## Contact

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“Director **Kate Gaul** clearly has an uncommon affinity with playwright Janaczewska’s language and preoccupations ... *The Past Is a Wild Party* is deceptive, beautiful, funny, and illuminating. Don’t miss it!” Diana Simmonds, [STAGE NOISE](#)



“Director Kate Gaul has assembled all the right ingredients for this to really sing. Apart from casting a magnetic performer in Billington, the master stroke is bringing in lighting guru Benjamin Brockman who uses endless tricks to make the series of lightbulbs that make up the set into characters in their own right. There is a simplicity and elegance to the staging that elevates the performance. The final piece of this ensemble is the music by Madeleine Picard that gently guides the audience through moments.” [Chad Armstrong, CULTURAL BINGE](#)



“It is an enchanting one-person show, directed with great passion by Kate Gaul, who brings wonderful elucidation to the meaningful complexions of the text. Performer Jules Billington is extraordinarily precise with each physical gesture and verbal inflection, making sure that we detect all the nuances of this soulful meditation on a collective phenomenon that encompasses tribulation, trauma and triumph...” suzy Wrong, [SUZY GOES SEE](#)



“This is essential theatre. There are few opportunities to experience sophisticated and engaging performance essays in the theatre. Highly recommended.” Fiona Hallenan Barker, [THEATRE NOW](#)

“Few writers can share such wide research, learned reflection and wistful memories in words that are so clear, so poignantly poetic and so performable. In the right hands, they can reach across generation – and gender – to entertain and enlighten” [Carol Wimmer](#)

“This is an extraordinary piece of theatre. ... Jules Billington’s splendid performance - a performance that is (to the very syllable, the very glance) exact, crisp and yet still utterly natural. It’s a joy to witness an actor use all the tools in the box with such consummate skill.

One (of the things we’re not *permitted* to talk about) was, and *is*, the queer sexual experience. We live in a censorious age. Book bannings are increasing. And, with the fear of being cancelled, comes the even more insidious censorship of self ... the past is a wild party because, if you explore literary history, it becomes apparent there’ve been times queer sexuality has been celebrated ...

But what about the other end of my imagined spectrum of speech? If one border designates the limit of what it is *permitted*, what does the other border designate? What it is *possible*. There’ll always be the ineffable, those human experiences which seem beyond artistic representation, where silence reigns supreme.

But, with its gloriously innovative form, *The Past is a Wild Party* pushes back that boundary as well.” Paul Gilchrist, [THEATRE RED](#)

“The scenarios, passion, pain and pleasure are enthralling ... this is a credit to the masterful writing of course, (and) the incredible vision and direction of Kate Gaul. For one person to stand on the stage and deliver great text you need to harness the audience’s imagination, and the way we were transported to so many locations—a hospital, a mattress, a Sydney street, the check in line at The British Museum—so clearly was just good, smart direction.” Victoria Luxton, [STAGEDOOR](#)

