



Brisbane Audiences Choose Their Own Adventure

Brisbane Powerhouse and Team Mess present

This Is It

Choose your own adventure theatre

This is It takes traditional theatre and turns it on its head. - WA Today

Enjoy salacious celebrity gossip? Then you'll love ***This Is It*** by Team MESS where you enter the theatre on a press pass and ask the stars of the movie ***This Is It*** everything you want about the film, on set romances and in-fighting. ***This Is It*** hits the stage at World Theatre Festival from **Thursday 16 – Sunday 19 February**.

This Is It challenges the idea of celebrity and the artifice of performance, according to Malcolm Whittaker, who stars as himself in the show.

"I think we're all aware of celebrity culture and PR spin and see it as an entertaining spectacle – ***This Is It*** gives audiences the opportunity to take part in the hype and help construct the narrative. No two shows are the same as audience questions drive the storyline – some nights the cast are best friends, other nights it's a fight over 'artistic differences' and audiences always wants to know about our 'personal lives'."

"Team Mess create work that explores the boundary between performers and audiences, so in ***This Is It*** we've tackled press conferences to see how far we can invite audiences to cross the line from spectator to participant and co-inhabit the work with us. We are often quite scared of how well the general public plays the role of the press.

"While ***This Is It*** does encourage audience members to participate it's not mandatory – like any press conference not everyone needs to ask questions so everyone is welcome to join in and observe."

Team MESS are a Sydney-based collective comprised of Dara Gill, Sime Knezevic, Frank Mainoo, Natalie Randall and Malcolm Whittaker. The company's credits include ***This Is It*** (Performance Space, PICA and Arts House), *I Think I Can Dance* (Peats Ridge Festival 2009), a Cartesian choreography dance competition; *Killing Don: Evolution of a Memory* (Performance 2009), a party in celebration and lamentation of memory and nostalgia; *You and Me and a Very Large Bottle* (Performance Space 2008), a game of spin the bottle to fill a void in a young woman's life.

Brisbane Powerhouse is Brisbane City Council's leading arts performance venue helping to deliver a vibrant and creative city. World Theatre Festival is supported by Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland and Events Queensland.

This Is It has been developed with the support of Performance Space, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Belvoir St. Theatre, the Creative Practice and Research Unit in the School of English, Media and Performing Arts, UNSW and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts through its Artists Residency and Creative Hub (ARCH) program which is funded by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

This Is It tours to Brisbane with the funding support of the Hopscotch Touring Initiative from the Australia Council for the Arts.

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| Date | Thu 16 – Sun 19 February |
| Time | Thu 6.30pm/Fri 9.00pm/ Sat & Sun 5.30pm |
| Venue | Rooftop Terrace, Brisbane Powerhouse |
| Tickets | \$12-\$15 (Festival Passes also available) |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

**For more information, images and interviews please contact
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