

# **IDENTITY** By D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective



## PRESENTER'S INFORMATION

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## **COMPANY PROFILE**

D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective is a Sunshine Coast-based multicultural contemporary theatre company that provides performing arts experiences of the highest calibre for audience members who come to see their shows, artists in search of purposeful development opportunities, school students and the community who participate in their training program and engagement activities.

D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective is a dynamic ensemble dedicated to pushing the boundaries of traditional theatre through innovative storytelling and immersive experiences. With a commitment to diversity and inclusion, D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective aims to create thought-provoking productions that resonate with audiences on a profound level.

Their purpose is to effect meaningful transformation in the lives of people and their communities through diverse, investigative, visceral and enlightening theatre experiences.

Their work is highly regarded in the local industry and they have been awarded the Horizon Festival Anywhere Award in 2021 and the Best of Anywhere Festival Award in 2023.

Since 2024, D.I.V.E. is committed to developing partnerships to present works regionally and nationally, in order to see powerful relationships flourish. In August 2024, their show *Amor* toured North Queensland as part of JUTE Theatre Company's DARTS Initiative.

## ABOUT Identity

#### SHOW SYNPOSIS

Step into a world where the lines between audience and performer blur, and explore the question: who are we, really? *Identity*, the latest production from D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective, is an immersive, boundary-breaking theatrical experience that will challenge the way you think about belonging, culture, and human connection.



Set to premiere at Black Box Theatre, Nambour, in May 2025, this multidisciplinary show weaves together theatre, dance, visual art, and multilingual storytelling, creating a rich sensory experience that engages both heart and mind.

With a culturally diverse cast and an innovative use of space, *Identity* invites you to move through the performance, interact with the cast, and become a part of the unfolding narrative.

Through powerful movement, stunning visuals, and evocative soundscapes, this performance explores the complexities of personal and collective identity in a world constantly shifting around us. It's more than just a show—it's a journey that will leave you reflecting on what it means to belong.

Don't miss the chance to be captivated by a performance that's as thoughtprovoking as it is visually stunning. *Identity* is theatre like you've never experienced it before.

#### <u>CREDITS</u>

Director: Cesar Genaro Performing Artists: Bella Wanwei Liu, Wanrong Liu, Megan O'Hare, Valentina Ayala Voiceover: David Erskine Creative Producer: Priscila Da Cunha Sound & Light Design: Cesar Genaro Dramaturgy: Priscila Da Cunha Choreography: Bella Wanwei Liu Makeup: Jane Wanrong Liu and Bella Wanwei Liu Costume Design: Hayley Davis Stage Technician: Max Dodson

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### Cesar Genaro (Director)

D.I.V.E.'s co-founder and Artistic Director, Cesar has been engaged with the performing arts industry as an actor, director, teacher, sound & lighting designer and filmmaker for 17 years. He trained in Experimental Theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed, Meyerhold's Biomechanics, Puppetry, Physical



Theatre, Viewpoints and Butoh with different schools and theatre companies in Brazil and Australia. Performance and directing credits for D.I.V.E. include Amor (2024), Into the Light (2023 & 2020), Caprichos (2022), Diver.city Inside Out (2021), Exodus (2021), Urban Twitters: Dis.connect.ed (2019) and Stories of Dis.place.ment (2018). He also directed Dis.connect.ed: A Short Documentary (2019).

#### Priscila Da Cunha (Creative Producer & Dramaturg)

D.I.V.E.'s co-founder and creative producer, Priscila has worked as a performer, producer and director for independent theatre companies and schools in Brazil and Australia for 14 years. She has trained in creative writing, immersive theatre, composition, contact improvisation, contemporary dance, Viewpoints and Rudolf Steiner's Creative Speech and Drama. Production credits for D.I.V.E. include Amor (2024), Into the Light (2023 & 2020), Caprichos (2022), Diver.cityInsideOut (2021), Exodus (2021), Dis.connect.ed: A Short Documentary (2019) and the street performance Urban Twitters: Dis.connect.ed (2019). In 2018, she also facilitated and acted in two street performances as part of Stories of Dis.place.ment.

#### Bella Wanwei Liu (Performer & Choreographer)

Originally from China, Bella Wanwei Liu is a seasoned choreographer, dancer, and dance educator boasting over 15 years of industry expertise. She is a graduate from the esteemed Xie Jin Art Performance College of Shanghai Normal University, specializing in Performing Arts, Broadcasting, and Dance. Bella brings a wealth of diverse experiences to her craft, enabling her to embrace a multitude of roles with ease. She is currently the Event Manager and Choreographer for the Arts and Culture Federation of Sunshine Coast. *Amor* (2024) was Bella's first production with D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective.

#### Wanrong Liu (Performer & Makeup Designer)

Wanrong Liu is a versatile artist from China with expertise in event planning, choreography, and multimedia production. As Event Planning and Marketing Director at the Arts and Cultural Federation of Sunshine Coast since 2020, she has orchestrated multicultural events like the Lunar Year Celebration. In 2024, she collaborated with D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective on *Amor* as a makeup artist, enhancing its visual storytelling. Her background in choreography and stage design enriches her contributions, and her dedication to education and community engagement highlights her collaborative spirit. Wanrong is excited to continue her journey with D.I.V.E. as a performer in 2025.



#### Megan O'Hare (Performer & Education Officer)

Originally from Ireland, Megan is a performing artist and graduate from the University of Queensland. She joined D.I.V.E, Theatre Collective in 2021 due to her shared belief in the potential of art to effect change. Megan has performed in *Pandemonium* (dir. Stephanie Dimitriou) and in D.I.V.E.'s productions *Amor (2024), Into the Light* (2023) and *Caprichos* (2022), directed by Cesar Genaro. She has trained in Biomechanics, Theatre of the Oppressed, Devising, Improvisation and the Meisner Technique. Megan presently works as D.I.V.E.'s Education Officer, overseeing in-school workshops and the South-East Queensland school tours of D.I.V.E.'s productions.

#### Valentina Ayala (Performer)

Valentina Ayala, originally from Colombia, moved to Australia in pursuit of fresh opportunities in her blossoming career as both an actress and professional dancer. Currently, she is immersed in her studies of Theatre and Performance at the University of the Sunshine Coast. With a lifelong passion for the arts, Valentina's journey began in urban dance, where she excelled in both solo freestyle and group competitions. Her extensive training spans across various dance styles including hip hop, Latin, contemporary, and jazz. Throughout her time in Australia, Valentina has showcased her talent in prominent theatrical productions such as *Adam and the Engine* by Lauren Gunderson, *Influencer Inferno* by Bree Glasbergen, and several noteworthy short films. *Amor* (2024) was Valentina's first collaboration with D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective.

#### David Erskine (Voiceover)

David is a versatile performing artist, theatre director and arts educator, with a strong background in drama, film, and music. He holds a Bachelor of Education and has shared his passion for the arts at various educational levels, from primary schools through to universities. His specialised skills include clown, mask, puppetry and magic. David's performance career has spanned many years. In the early 1980s he joined Adelaide clown troupe *Magick Circus*. After touring Australia, they ventured to Europe and based themselves in Amsterdam. Scotland was next, with performances at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. On returning home, David established his own group, *Fools Theatre Company* and developed a repertoire of shows and wandering characters, performing in schools and major festivals throughout



Australia and overseas. With theatre still coursing through his veins, David continues to explore the art of storytelling through words, theatre and music.

## PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

TOURING AVAILABILITY From August 2025 to December 2028

DURATION 60 min (no interval)

#### SUITABLE VENUES

- Theatres (black box / arena)
- Cultural Facilities
- Non-traditional performance spaces

#### Note for venues / presenters:

- *Identity* is a 4-actor show designed to be flexible and scalable depending on the facilities available.
- The ideal set up for *Identity* is in a space in which the audience members share the performance space with the actors and are free to move around during the show. There is no stage or audience seats (unless required for elderly and disabled patrons)
- D.I.V.E. performers can hold a main-stage theatre space as well as deliver a beautifully intimate performance in less traditional performance spaces.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK (Negotiable) Up to **7 shows** per week with one double-show day. There must be a rest day following any double show.

#### MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES 3 hours

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 6 people.



Name	Role
Cesar Genaro	Production Manager & Light/Sound Operator
Bella Wanwei Liu	Performing Artist
Wanrong Liu	Performing Artist
Megan O'Hare	Performing Artist
Valentina Ayala	Performing Artist
Priscila Da Cunha	Stage Manager

#### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Date	Venue	Number of performances
23-24 May 2025	North Lakes Community Centre –	3
	Anywhere Festival Moreton Bay	
30-31 May, 4	Black Box Theatre, Nambour, Qld	3
June 2025		
6-7 June 2025	Perseverance Street Theatre, Gympie,	2
	Qld	

### PRODUCTION TECHNICAL RIDER

#### TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This is a show that can be adapted to most venues. The ideal set up is in a black box space in which the audience can stand around the performers and is free to move around the performance space. There is no stage or audience seats (unless required for elderly and disabled patrons).

We can provide a comprehensive redrafted design for your individual venue.

#### EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

- Bump In & Tech: 4-6 hours
- Performance: 1 hour (no intermission)
- Bump Out: 2-3 hours

#### CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE



- Pre-Rig & Bump-in: 1 x multi-skilled crew with lighting and sound knowledge (4-6 hours).
- Venue Front of House (2 hours)
- Bump-out: 1 x multi-skilled crew with lighting and sound knowledge (2 hours)

#### <u>STAGING</u>

Venue to supply:

- Stage playing space 10m deep x 10m wide (scalable to smaller venues)
- Clean, smooth stage surface (no carpet) for dancing.
- For an immersive experience, *Identity* requires space for the audience to stand around the performers, being free to move around during the performance.
- Comms between FOH, Bio box and Stage Manager for doors and late comers.

Producer to supply:

- Stage Manager onstage with performers & audience
- All costumes and company Mac Book travel with the show.

#### <u>LIGHTING</u>

*Identity* requires a front, side and backlighting. LX designed and called by Touring Production Manager, from bio box.

Venue to supply:

- Lighting Console (GIO, ION etc.)
- 8 x Profile spots
- 8 x Par lights
- 4 x Fresnel lights
- 1 X Haze machine (venue needs to be isolated)
- Comms required between Bio box, FOH and Stage Manager.

Producer to supply:

- LX to be designed and operated by Touring Production Manager in the Bio box.
- In a non-traditional performance space, D.I.V.E. will supply alternative light sources that can travel with the show.



• Lighting plan for each specific venue. See example lighting plan at the end of this document.

#### <u>SOUND</u>

We will have a laptop loaded ready to patch into the venue's system.

Venue to supply:

- Sound system to be operated from laptop.
- Comms between Stage Manager and Biobox if not in the same location.

Producer to supply:

- Qlab (or similar) to be operated from Biobox ideally FOH with a clear view of the stage.
- In non-traditional performance venues, D.I.V.E. can supply portable own amplifiers.

#### CALL TIMES & WARM-UP

- Show call: 2 hours prior to performance (at least 1 hour of this must be onstage).
- Post show: 1 hour post-performance for cool down and reset (stage not required).

Cast requires a dedicated space for makeup (1 hour) and a warm-up space 1 hour prior to each performance. The stage is ideal, if possible. If not possible for cast to access stage for warm up, a separate studio space / rehearsal room must be available for the second hour of the show call.

#### DRESSING ROOMS

Venue to supply:

- Shared dressing room for six cast including hanging space, power outlet and mirrors.
- Access to a toilet and (if possible) shower backstage.
- First Aid Kit & ice packs in case of injuries during performances.
- Bubbler or other suitable way to refill water bottles.

Producer to supply:

• All costumes. Costume maintenance by touring Stage Manager.



#### ACCESS & FREIGHT NOTES

Entire tech and props travels in a car with roof rack or van. Access to loading bay preferable. Cast can travel by rental car and/or plane.

If the rental car does not have a roof rack, or no car is available, freight will be required for the following items (measurements to be provided by April 2025)

- 1 Bed Frame (disassembled & packaged flat)
- 1 Single mattress
- Chair
- Cupboard
- 21 Cardboard boxes (packaged flat)

#### LOGISTICAL RESOURCES

The production requires:

- Ground transport for actors between venue and accommodation
- Secure parking for touring vehicle
- Secure storage for larger set items

### AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

#### <u>OVERVIEW</u>

We can provide a range of audience engagement opportunities alongside with the production, from investigating the topics raised by the play itself to sharing the creative development methods used by D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective.

D.I.V.E. can tailor audience engagement and development activities to suit local needs. Here are a few options available:

#### Q&A

Post show Q&As with the performers and the director. These can be informal meet and greet after the show or an organised discussion at the venue. These are excellent ways of delving into the themes raised by the play and artistic methods used in the creation of the show.

#### Performance Workshops

Hands on workshops that explore the performing and creative approaches used by D.I.V.E. in the creative development of *Identity*. The sessions can be



tailored to school students or the wider community. Workshop options include:

- Introduction to Physical Theatre
- Devising
- Contemporary Performance
- Theatre of the Oppressed

#### Movement & Creative Writing Workshop

A hands-on practice of D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective's devising and creative writing process for *Identity*. With a focus on the contemporary stage and an in-depth exploration of sounds, words, sentences and texts the workshop includes guided movement routines, role plays and writing exercises that can be applied to the composition of expressive and poetic scenes, stories and poems for the stage, a book or an artistic project.

#### Secondary Students

*Identity* is an excellent example of physical and contemporary theatre, collage drama, fragmentation, non-linear form and site-specific performance, providing rich material for High School students studying English, Drama Theatre Studies, and a range of Arts and Humanities subjects from Years 9 to 12. Teacher's resources with activities, background information, themes for discussion and external references are available upon request.

#### Community engagement

*Identity* brings to the community an opportunity to discuss themes such as identity, belonging, human connection and social constraints. D.I.V.E. is keen to work with the presenter to develop an engagement program tailored to the needs of their community.

#### TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Q&A:** Show audience members
- Workshops: Local performing artists, students and their teachers (15+), wider community, local theatre groups / associations
- **Community Engagement:** Community groups / Wider community



## MARKETING

#### MARKETING COPY

#### Tagline

Who we are is never just one story— a poetic, multilingual journey through self and society.

#### One line

No label can hold a whole life—four strangers confront their pasts, labels, and each other in a bold, multilingual journey where physical theatre, movement, poetry, and storytelling unravel identity, belonging, and self-perception.

#### Short

*Identity* immerses you a profound exploration of identity, belonging, and self-perception through the stories of four diverse individuals.

Using a blend of physical theatre, movement, poetry, and multilingual storytelling, this compelling performance invites audiences to witness the raw, complex journey of confronting one's past and the labels imposed by society.

With each character's journey, the show unravels the layers that define who we are.

A celebration of the universal human experience, *Identity* leaves a lasting impression, sparking reflection on what shapes our identities and how we relate to others.

Expect to be moved, provoked, and inspired.

#### Extended

Are you ready to step into a world where identity is questioned, redefined, and laid bare?

*Identity* is a bold and immersive performance that invites you to witness the raw, complex journey of four strangers confronting their pasts, their labels, and the forces that have shaped them.

Through a striking blend of physical theatre, poetic movement, and multilingual storytelling, *Identity* unravels the layers that define who we are.



As the audience moves freely through the space, standing face to face with the performers, the boundaries between stage and spectator blur, creating a visceral, deeply personal experience.

This is more than a performance—it is an invitation to reflect, to feel, and to challenge the stories we tell ourselves about belonging and self-perception.

Expect to be moved, provoked, and inspired as *Identity* lingers in your thoughts long after the final moment.

#### TARGET AUDIENCE

- Contemporary theatre audiences
- Physical theatre audiences
- Drama and English students and their teachers (15+)
- Theatre lovers, 15 to 65+
- Audiences seeking an immersive, original, multicultural indie liveperformance experience

*Identity* will appeal to audiences who are interested in:

- Original Australian contemporary theatre and dance
- Immersive, non-traditional theatre experiences
- A thought-provoking show that draws on real life situations
- Theatre that sparks lively discussion in the foyer

#### MARKETING MATERIALS

Marketing Toolkit, including all performance, company and artist information, key audience demographics will be provided.

We will also provide access to our growing Google Drive of marketing collateral including:

- Print-quality Promotional, Production and Rehearsal photography
- Social media collateral including audience vox pop and pull-quotes
- Poster and flyer design templates
- Media release
- Promo video



#### AUDIENCE FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS SHOW (Amor - 2024)

"I was entranced by the physicality of the performers and the audio accompaniment."

"I loved the humour, the synchronised choreographies and the see saw scene."

"The different levels and the interaction between actors and audience captivated my attention."

"I loved the use of multiple languages and the ensemble work."

"The space was filled with interesting and changing shapes, light and sound. It absorbed me completely."

"The theme and the whole aspect of romance and love were truly captivating."

"It was filled with emotion, movement and passion."

"Apart from the amazing talent, I loved the different mediums: aerial silks, singing and interactions with the audience."

"It is contemporary, honest and composed."

"I liked the romance, the flow and the energy. It was real and intense."

"I loved the emotion, the passion and the relatable truth."

"It is full of raw emotion. So different!"

"The script is very poetic and intriguing."

"I liked all the artistic energy, the experiential nature of the show, the way Amor was explored in so many ways."

"It was very creative and so different to what I have ever experienced. The actors were brilliant!"

"I liked the local aspect and the interactive closeness of the performers." "I was absorbed by the focus of the actors, the interweaving stories and languages, the play of light and shadows, the cryptic text with insights into love and the trance-inducing rhythm."

"I liked the experiential element. It made me smile."

"It was mesmerizing and dynamic."

"The show combined action and street theatre with poetry, atmosphere and movement."

"I felt immersed in the whole performance, it made me think and relate."

#### <u>AWARDS</u>

D.I.V.E. Theatre Collective was awarded the Horizon Festival Anywhere Award for their show *Exodus* in 2021.



In 2023, their show *Into the Light* was awarded the Best of 2023 Anywhere Festival Award.

#### VIDEO LINKS

*Identity* official trailer can be found at this link from June 2025: <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CcQpzyBUwUH0rV-0fSO6irBhrobYhqn3?usp=share\_link</u>

#### **IMAGES**

High resolution marketing images can be found at this link from March 2025: <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vITblxDnm3nviqF-</u> <u>StUNFVHSt6MDArS8?usp=share\_link</u>

#### CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

Identity is targeted at audiences 15+.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Identity* will premiere at the Black Box theatre in the Old Ambulance Station, in Nambour, Qld, in May 2025.

This initiative is supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), a partnership between Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, and Sunshine Coast Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

*Identity* is also supported by Ray White Commercial Noosa & Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation, Anywhere Festival, the Blackbox Theatre Nambour, the Old Ambulance Station and Vlad Photo.

#### TEACHER RESOURCES

A comprehensive Teachers' Resource Kit will be supplied upon request. It covers the background, themes and structure of the play and includes preand post-show activities to explore.

<u>POSTER & FLYER TEMPLATE - Canva</u> (Available from April 2025)



<u>PROGRAM TEMPLATE - Canva</u> (Available from April 2025)

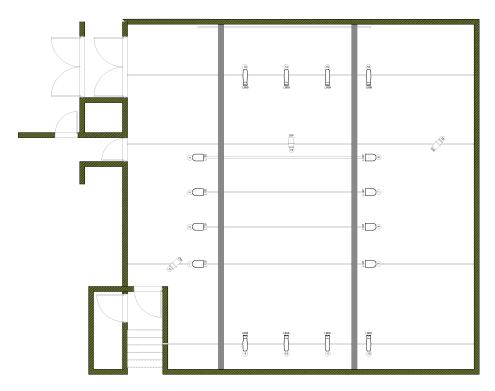
**CONTACTS** <u>PRODUCTION/ MARKETING COORDINATION:</u> Priscila Da Cunha - *Creative Producer* Ph. 0490 158 065 <u>priscila@divetheatre.com</u>

TOURING PRODUCTION MANAGER: Cesar Genaro – Director Ph. 0490 170 309 cesar@divetheatre.com

EDUCATION OFFICER: Megan O'Hare Ph. 0491 639 790 education@divetheatre.com



## IDENTITY LIGTHING PLAN



*Identity* LX Plan Black Box Theatre, Nambour May 2025