

The Jasmine Suite

By Michael Olsen

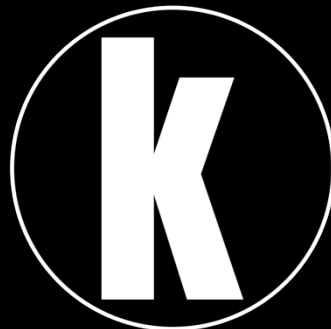
AUDITION INFORMATION

Produced by The Knack Theatre

Directed by Greg Gorton

Audition date: Saturday 25 February 2023
The Last Jar (616 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne)

Show dates: 28 June to 8 July 2023.
Club Voltaire (14 Raglan Street, North Melbourne)



Welcome to The Knack Theatre

We thank you for your interest in auditioning for our production of *The Jasmine Suite*. We are incredibly excited to be working with Melbourne's creatives like yourself to bring this show to life.

The Knack Theatre is a company that showcases work that is both innovative and distinctive. It creates a space for emerging artists to learn, grow in their craft, and see their work come to life, becoming a bridge between emerging artists and the arts industry.

Our Core Values are:

- **INNOVATION:** We showcase new work that pushes boundaries - things that haven't seen the light of day and have something to say. That being said, we also accept reinterpretations and adaptations; new takes on non-original work that add to the conversation.
- **INCLUSION:** The Knack is an organization that welcomes all except those who make others feel unwelcome or unsafe. We don't tolerate discrimination, racism, sexism, fascism, homophobia, or intolerance of any kind.
- **ACCESSIBILITY:** We know how difficult it is to be an emerging artist, so, at The Knack, we break the glass ceiling of the arts industry, accepting submissions from everyone and anyone. We let your work speak for you.
- **QUALITY:** While we are inclusive, we also feel that good enough is not good enough. So if your work is not up to scratch, we will help get you better.

The Jasmine Suite is an independent theatrical production that is operating on a profit-share basis for both cast and production members. We are operating on a micro-budget and, unfortunately, cannot afford union rates. However, while actors will be paid profit-share, a small sum of \$300 is guaranteed (even if we don't fill a seat).

PERFORMANCE DATES

Wednesday 28 June, 7:00PM (Opening Night)

Thursday 29 June, 7:00PM

Friday 30 June, 7:00PM

Saturday 1 July, 2:30PM

Saturday 1 July, 7:00PM

Wednesday 5 July, 7:00PM

Thursday 6 July, 7:00PM

Friday 7 July, 7:00PM

Saturday 8 July, 7:00PM (Closing Night)

The Jasmine Suite will be presented at Club Voltaire (14 Raglan Street, North Melbourne). Unfortunately, the venue is on the second floor and is not wheelchair accessible.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Holed up in a hotel room in Prague, Richard and Kathryn find themselves the target of assassins. They've come to Prague to play 'The Jasmine Suite', a real-life, real-time algorithmic game hidden in the Dark Web which enmeshes participants in a game of assassination. But are people really meant to die—or even be wounded, as Kathryn is?

In a world where the line between fantasy and reality has blurred to the point of confusion, can Richard and Kathryn survive the game they're playing—or is the game playing them?

CHARACTERS

KATHRYN

Kathryn is a woman in her mid-thirties who is bored with her life. She tried to make it more exciting by sleeping with a work colleague, but that didn't improve things. Now, she is trying a role-playing game that is getting too real. Real enough that she thinks she just killed someone. Real enough that she got shot.

The actor playing Kathryn must be comfortable:

- Performing intimate scenes involving kissing and touching the neck, upper chest, and abdomen of another actor (regardless of gender)
- Speaking in a bad English accent and switching between it and their natural voice
- Eating strawberries

All female-presenting actors are welcome to audition for this role. If interested in this role, please prepare/perform the following scene for your audition:

Kathryn enters. She has been shot in the abdomen, and while she has been able to stop the bleeding, she knows that without medical attention, she will not last the night. She sees Richard waiting for her. Kathryn knows Richard betrayed her, but the only way to survive is to hide this knowledge. Instead, she tries to calm him down by telling him a story.

Kathryn: When I woke up today and got up and dressed myself, I suddenly began to feel as if everything in this life was open to me, and that I knew how I must live. Dear Richard, I know everything. A man must work, toil in the sweat of his brow, whoever he may be, for that is the meaning and object of his life, his happiness, his

enthusiasm. How fine it is to be a workman who gets up at daybreak and breaks stones in the street, or a shepherd, or a schoolmaster, who teaches children, or an engine-driver on the railway....My God, let alone a man, it's better to be an ox, or just a horse, so long as it can work, than a young woman who wakes up at twelve o'clock, has her coffee in bed, and then spends two hours dressing...Oh it's awful! Sometimes when it's hot, your thirst can be just as tiresome as my need for work. And if I don't get up early in future and work, Richard, then you may refuse me your friendship.

You may recognise this monologue from "Three Sisters". You may substitute it with any other monologue you feel comfortable with, as long as it conveys the same optimistic view.

CHARACTERS

RICHARD

Richard is in his twenties to early thirties. He is in love with Kathryn, a slightly older work colleague with whom he once spent a drunken night. He would do anything for her, including risking his own life.

The actor playing Richard must be comfortable:

- Performing intimate scenes involving kissing and touching the neck, upper chest, and abdomen of another actor (regardless of gender)
- Speaking in a bad English accent and switching between it and their natural voice
- Eating strawberries

ALL actors are welcome to audition for this role, including those auditioning for Kathryn. While Richard was originally written as a man, the writer has expressed flexibility for the right actor.

If interested in this role, please prepare/perform the following scene for your audition:

Kathryn is crying on the ground, filled with self-pity at her failure of a life. Richard is impatient but still loves her. Right now, however, it is hard not to see her as pathetic.

Richard: The moment I saw you I thought, you are beautiful, really beautiful, so beautiful, and small. Beautiful and small. I loved you. I saw you and I couldn't keep my hands off you. Wanted to touch you, pick you up, feel your beautiful little body in my hands. Something about how little you were, how I could hold you, how I could lift you right off the ground, made me feel a big man. And a good man, a really good man. I wanted to look after you. Never wanted that before. Now look at you. Fuck. Look at you, you look

like an old crow. Fuck. Look at you. You used to have some pride in the way you looked, dressed up you looked beautiful. It felt good to be seen with you. Like, feast your eyes on this, and she's mine. Now who wants you, looking the way you look, who'd come near you? You're a slag, an old rag. Get up. Fucking get up would you, you fucking useless scrag. Get up!

You may recognise this monologue from "Love" by Patricia Cornelius. You may substitute it with any other monologue you feel comfortable with, as long as it highlights the complexities of being in love.

If you choose to perform this monologue, please aim to perform it as though the character pities the person they are talking about rather than finds them disgusting.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Auditions for *The Jasmine Suite* will be held at The Last Jar (616 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne) on February 2023 from 12pm to 9pm.

We encourage and hope for diversity in our casting and we especially encourage application from LGBTQIA+ performers, performers of culturally diverse backgrounds, performers with disabilities, and performers of all different skill levels and experiences.

If interested, please book an audition time via the following link: <https://calendly.com/theknacktheatre/the-jasmine-suite-auditions?month=2023-02&date=2023-02-25>

If this date does not work for you but you would still like to audition, please send us a self-tape to theknacktheatre@gmail.com.

REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsals for *The Jasmine Suite* will start on the week of 22 May 2023. Rehearsals will be held twice a week and be three hours long each. We will decide time/days depending on the cast's availability. Increase in rehearsals may be required as subject to the Director's wishes.

It is expected that you will come to the first rehearsal with a strong working knowledge of the script (but are not required to be off-book on first few rehearsals). You will also be expected to participate in the show's marketing activities throughout the rehearsal period.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this audition material, please contact us at theknacktheatre@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you soon!