

Born on a Thursday

by Jack Kearney

A *World Premiere* presented by New Ghosts Theatre Company
Directed by Lucy Clements

“We’re not the bad things that happen to us. We are – in spite of those things. And sometimes because of them.”

THE PLAY

Logline:

A fractured family in 1990s Western Sydney struggles to reconcile as they navigate the aftermath of a young man’s traumatic brain injury, exposing the toll of unspoken resentments, systemic failure, and the enduring fight for connection and hope.

Synopsis:

After years abroad, April returns to her family home to find her brother irrevocably changed and her mother unyieldingly the same. What begins as a strained homecoming unravels into a desperate reckoning with memory, guilt, and the weight of things left unsaid. Set across four seasons, *Born on a Thursday* is a raw, emotionally charged new Australian drama about the ache of family ties, the long shadow of trauma, and the strange, persistent shape of unconditional love. Grounded in a Western Sydney kitchen, the play finds poetry in the domestic—rugby league, kidney beans, and the rare magic of a well-fitting pair of jeans. Delivered through characters that stay with you long after curtain call, this is a story about coming home—not in triumph, but with trembling hands.

Content Warnings:

Self-harm, domestic violence, traumatic brain injury, suicidal ideation, coarse language

Characters:

- Ingrid Treloar: The matriarch. Tough, sharp, and burdened by duty. A woman holding her family together with grit and willpower.
- April Treloar: A professional ballerina returning from Europe. Guilt-ridden and vulnerable, her estrangement and return drive the story’s emotional core.
- Isaac Treloar: April’s younger brother. Living with a traumatic brain injury, Isaac is caught between moments of lucidity and confusion, anger and humour.
- Estelle: Ingrid’s oldest friend. Warm, loyal, and unafraid to call things as she sees them.

- Howard: A neighbour and family friend. Quiet, kind, carrying his own unspoken history with Ingrid.

Themes:

- Family & Estrangement – Exploring resentment, loyalty, and love through the broken dynamic of the Treloar family.
- Trauma & Recovery – Isaac's injury is a catalyst for unraveling emotional and social wounds.
- Identity & Guilt – Each character battles their own version of self and shame.
- Cultural Critique – A sharp commentary on the failure of institutions to protect vulnerable individuals, especially within sport.

Tone, Dialogue & Structure:

Naturalistic, grounded in Western Sydney vernacular of the late '90s, and peppered with dry humour. The emotional weight is cut with levity and tenderness. Tonally, the play moves between bleak realism and quiet, earned hope. The play is told across four seasons—Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring—mirroring cycles of grief and growth.

KEY DATES & PRODUCTION DETAILS

Timeline:

- Rehearsals Begin: 13 October (3 days/week – Mon, Wed, Fri, daytime – ATYP)
- Production Week: Commences 24 November
- Previews: 28 + 29 November
- Opening Night: 30 November
- Season: 2–14 December (+ extension window: 16–21 December)

Key Team:

- Director: Lucy Clements
- Producer: Emma Wright
- Confirmed Cast: Sharon Millerchip, Owen Hasluck, Deborah Galanos

Venue:

The Old Fitz Theatre (129 Dowling St, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011)

EOIS:

The team is currently casting the role of **April Treloar** (EOIs close midnight 21 July, auditions to be held 7+8 August), and accepting EOIs for Volunteer Assistants across all production departments (EOIs close midnight 31 July).

CONTACT:

Lucy & Emma at info@oldfitztheatre.com.au