

LAB KELPIE PRESENTS

BECOME THE ONE

BY ADAM FAWCETT

PRESENTER PACK



LAB KELPIE

An Australian New Writing Theatre Company.



gasworks
ARTS PARK

CREATIVE VICTORIA



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ABOUT LAB KELPIE

“One of Australia’s most exciting independent theatre companies on the rise.” **Maxim Boon, The Music**

Lab Kelpie Inc. is a not-for-profit independent theatre company dedicated to the development of playwrights and the presentation, touring and publishing of new Australian work.

Founded in 2012, Lab Kelpie has delivered 240 performances to over 17,800 audience members across 87 venues in Australia and New Zealand.

Our work is highly regarded in the industry and has both won and been nominated for Green Room Awards and State Literary Prizes alike.

Leading the way as producers of new Australian text-based work, Lab Kelpie is currently the only unfunded independent theatre company in Australia who can support a playwright’s work through its entire life cycle from development and presentation through to touring, publishing and rights management.

ABOUT BECOME THE ONE

SYNOPSIS

Become The One is a new Australian comedy-drama that looks through the lens of a domestic relationship between Noah, an openly young queer man and Tom, a closeted high-profile AFL player nearing the end of his career.

Following Noah and Tom’s relationship over the course of an AFL season, this two-hander delves into themes of masculinity, identity and acceptance as it asks us to consider what happens to love when good intentions and patience aren’t enough anymore.

As audience and critical feedback will attest, this mainstage love story gives you all the feels as it weaves its trifecta of comedy, romance and drama over its audience.

Winner of the 2018 Playtime Award for new queer writing, it was a highlight of the 2019 Midsumma Festival where it recently received its world premiere.

Employing rapid-fire dialogue and lashings of humour, ***Become The One*** is a celebration of difference, a call to bravery, and an examination of what it takes to do the right thing: as a lover, as a role model, and most importantly... as a human being.

CREDITS

Playwright **Adam Fawcett**
Director **Lyll Brooks**
Composition & Sound Design **Tom Backhaus**
Producer **Lab Kelpie**

Cast **Chris Asimos & Henry Strand**

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CREATIVE BIOS

Adam Fawcett Playwright



Adam Fawcett is a playwright, writer and independent theatre producer based in country Victoria. As an emerging playwright, Adam chooses to prioritise the representation of queer characters in his work. His first play, *Become The One*, was selected as winner of the 2018 Midsumma Playtime Award for new queer writing.

His second play, *Sissy*, has received public readings at Seymour Centre in Sydney, Small and Loud at Arts Centre Melbourne and the Bradford Playhouse in Leeds, while his short play, *Somewhere Only We Know*, was recently performed in London. A recipient of a 2018 Jacky Winter Gardens residency, his new play *Every Lovely Terrible Thing* has just been named a finalist in the 2021 Midsumma Queer Playwriting Award.

adamfawcett.com

Lyall Brooks Director



Lyall is Lab Kelpie's founding Artistic Director, for whom he has directed Katy Warner's *Refined*, Liz Newell's *Alone Outside*, and assistant directed Petra Kalive's *Oil Babies*, as well as co-devising and starring in *SuperGirly* and the upcoming *A World Of Our Own*. He was a 2017 Theatre Works Associate Artist and

is a 2021 resident artist for Regional Arts Victoria's Creative Workers in Schools program. A four-time Green Room Award nominee across mainstage, independent and music theatre, his onstage work includes Mary Anne Butler's *Broken*, the national tours of Katy Warner's *Spencer* and her award-winning solo *A Prudent Man* (Lab Kelpie), *North by Northwest* (Arts Centre Melbourne), *Savages* (fortyfivedownstairs), *The Pride and Penelope* (Red Stitch), *The Heretic* (Melbourne Theatre Company) and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Victorian Opera).

lyallbrooks.com

Chris Asimos Tom



Chris is an international performing artist who has worked extensively on stage, television and film. Credits include *Miss Fishers Murder Mysteries*, *Danger 5 Series 1 and 2* (SBS Television), *House Husbands* and *Bad Language*. His stage work includes State Theatre of South Australia productions *Three Sisters*, *The Give* and *Take and Ripcord* opposite Nancye Hayes in 2020, as well as the world premiere of *Barassi: The Stage Show* for Arts Centre in Melbourne. In 2018 Chris toured with the National Theatre for Children, performing to over 100 schools throughout Australia.

Henry Strand Noah



Henry has recently moved to Melbourne from interstate. Since moving he has starred in Williamstown Little Theatre's production of *Under Milk Wood* as well as appearing in Stan's production of *Bloom*. Before moving to Melbourne, Henry worked on many local theatre and film projects in his home town of Canberra. This included playing Posner in Everyman Theatre's production of *The History Boys*, Arthur in Canberra Repertory Society's production of *Trelawny of the Wells* and the title role in the Bell Shakespeare Schools Festival production of *Macbeth*.

Tom Backhaus Composition & Sound Design



Tom is a freelance composer, sound designer and producer. A 2017 Besen Family Resident Artist at Malthouse Theatre, some of his sound design and composition credits include *Astroman* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Real and Imagined History of the Elephant Man* (Malthouse Theatre), *The Feather in the Web* (Red Stitch), *Anti-Hamlet* (New Working Group), *The Mill on the Floss* (OpticNerve Performance Group) and *My Sister Feather* (VIMH). Recipient of Melbourne Fringe's 2017 Best Emerging Producer Award, Tom has also produced, sound- and AV-designed the sell-out Australian and international tours of the *Dazza and Keif* series of multi award-winning comedy shows.

tombackhaus.com

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PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

The following amounts exclude touring costs.

Remount
\$19,794

Weekly Sell Off
\$7,927

Per show range
\$6,000-\$7,500

Royalties
5%

Notes
- Multi-show or weekly buy-ins are negotiable.
- No GST charged.

DURATION

75 minutes (no interval)

SUITABLE VENUES

Technical Rating C: Prosc Arch or Black Box with minimum stage size of 6m x 6m.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

7 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

120 minutes

APRA OBLIGATIONS

Producer to cover all APRA obligations.

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 4 people:

Role	Name
Touring Technician & Operator	Tom Backhaus
Tour & Stage Manager	Adam Fawcett
Cast x 2	Chris Asimos Henry Strand

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Performances
2019	Gasworks Arts Park, Melbourne	9
2019	The Bowery, St Albans	1
2019	ChillOut Festival, Daylesford	1



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AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

We have a range of audience engagement opportunities available for the production, from exploring the themes of the play itself to sharing the artistic working methods of the writer and performers. Please see below for a sample, and read our separate **Community Engagement & Education Menu** for further details.

Q&A

Lab Kelpie can provide post show Q&As with the actors and, possibly, the writer and/or director. Whether informal meet and greets, community incursions or an allocated panel discussion at the venue, these are excellent tools for deepening the understanding of the work and its themes.

PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS

Tailored to either school students or the wider community, our team can take participants through the creation and themes of **Become The One** with a 90-minute, behind-the-scenes, hands-on workshop exploring the structure and style, casting and character dynamics, performance, and how to touch on serious subject matter in a real but comedic way.

WRITING INSIGHTS

Playwright Adam Fawcett takes participants through his own creative writing process using **Become The One** as a case study. Perfect for aspiring writers of any genre, this insight session is accompanied by handouts, further resources, and practical exercises to workshop participants' own ideas.

SECONDARY STUDENTS

An excellent example of contemporary Australian theatre, **Become The One** provides rich stimulus for students studying Drama, Theatre Studies, and a range of Arts and Humanities subjects from Years 10 to 12. Lab Kelpie's team of education professionals will create comprehensive Teachers' Resources with activities, creative exercises, stimuli and links to a wealth of external references, designed to prompt discussion and ignite ideas back in the classroom. For further information on suitability to your state's specific curriculum units, email education@labkelpie.com.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Become The One presents an opportunity for the community to start conversations around vital topics like self-acceptance, self-expression, identity, masculinity and equality. We are open to developing a program with each presenter tailored to the needs of their community. Contact us at education@labkelpie.com to begin the conversation.



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MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

ONE LINE

What would you do for love? And what wouldn't you?

SHORT

When Noah captures the attention of Tom, a celebrated AFL player nearing the end of his career, sparks immediately fly. But as the season progresses and their relationship grows, questions around identity, sexuality and our devotion to hyper masculinity begin to surface, forcing us to consider what happens to love when good intentions and patience aren't enough anymore.

Winner of the 2018 Midsumma Playtime Award for new queer writing, this funny, smart and challenging relationship drama explores the true meaning of bravery and what it might take – as both a lover and a high profile sportsman – to **BECOME THE ONE**.

EXTENDED

When Noah captures the attention of Tom, a celebrated AFL player nearing the end of his career, sparks immediately fly. But as the season progresses and their relationship grows, questions around identity, sexuality and our devotion to hyper masculinity begin to surface, forcing us to consider what happens to love when good intentions and patience aren't enough anymore.

A mainstage love story featuring vibrant queer characters at its heart, it is less interested in exploring why an AFL footballer is yet to come out, and more concerned with why same-sex partners of AFL players (who statistically have to exist) continue to accept it.

What if the partner, not the athlete, became the driving force behind dismantling the last bastion of heteronormative masculinity in Australian sport? What might they – and that journey – look like?

This is a celebration of difference, a call to bravery, and an examination of what it takes to do the right thing – as a lover, as a high profile sport star, as a human being – to **BECOME THE ONE**.

This work was selected as the winner of the 2018 Playtime Award for New Writing as part of the 2018 Midsumma Festival and was presented by Gasworks Arts Park and Lab Kelpie at the 2019 Midsumma Festival.

MARKETING MATERIALS

Lab Kelpie will provide each venue with a comprehensive **Marketing Toolkit**, including all performance, company and artist information, key audience demographics and advice on how to engage them and hot tips for your marketing, publicity and box office teams.

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

- Promo video (30 sec cinema and online-ready trailer) individually branded to your venue
- Exceptional print-quality Promotional, Production and Rehearsal photography (over 100 images)
- Social media collateral including pull-quotes
- Poster and flyer design templates
- Media release with existing five and four star reviews

TEACHER'S RESOURCES

A comprehensive **Teachers' Resource Kit** will be prepared including thoughts and activities to explore pre- and post-show. Covering the background, themes and structure of the play, as well as further reading, the kit is designed to prompt discussion and ignite ideas back in the classroom.

MEDIA QUOTES

★★★★★ "Become The One is heart wrenching, raw and categorically brave - it doesn't let you off the hook. You're suspended in the tension of this relationship. We need more of this on our stages." **Theatre People**

★★★★½ "Excellent. Definitely worth seeing." **Be Melbourne**

★★★★ "A tragedy representative not only of queer athletes and their partners but of the AFL's persistence in modelling a repressive narrative of masculinity and heteronormativity to a nation. Become The One presents many layers... it is meticulously curated." **Arts Hub**

"Fawcett's exquisite writing is undoubtedly the highlight of this production. Sensitivity and intelligence are woven all through it. His clever combination of romance, comedy and drama gives director Lyall Brooks and actors Chris Asimos and Henry Strand the room to explore and create a piece of theatre exceedingly important for audiences to witness. Beautifully written, acted and directed." **Stage Whispers**

"Classy, sharp and deeply moving, Become the One makes for a special experience." **Theatre Press**

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AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

You men have crafted a very real representation of our queer male city. I speak as a bi identifying man, this story and its complexities are exactly what I have faced my entire life! Never have I seen them so articulate!!! Bi men are completely underrepresented and often erased from the conversation and landscape. our story is never handled with dexterity and honesty. I know Tom's sexuality was never truly confirmed but this is a true representation on sexuality in itself. It's a life long journey of discovery!!! I thank you for giving me a role model and a voice. Thank you for reminding me that I'm not broken. X



2 likes
christopherjphesterie Just saw the best piece of theatre this Midsumma festival. I bought the script as this play truly reflects what must go on for all the AFL players who are not in a hetto - normative relationship and what harsh society and toxic culture place upon football player and the ones they love.
#labkelpie #gayaff #afl #midsumma2019 #gasworksartspark #midsummafestival #labkelpiepress #becometheone

Chris Cumming commented on Lab Kelpie's photo.

Chris Cumming
February 11 at 7:01 PM
Excellent production. Great message. Wonderful writer and director.

threelittlepigs@melbourne Preview was so amazing last night!! Huge congratulations team @labkelpie - I wish I could come to every show!! #FEELINGS
22h · 1 like · Reply

Richard Watts
Last night I saw the new @labkelpie production *Become the One* @GasworksArts for @midsumma. This morning I finished reading the script. Congratulations to Adam Fawcett for his debut play - it's stayed with me. #Midsumma



David Beards
Becoming the one comment
To: Adam Fawcett

Hi Adam,
Just a quick note to say how much I loved *Becoming The One* at Gasworks. Brilliant play that explored many interesting themes that we can all relate to. Thank you for writing this - a very important addition to the Aussie gay theatre canon. Both leads were outstanding. Even though they are polar opposites (in the play and physically), they had such wonderful chemistry on stage.

Thanks again,
Dave.



5 likes
eleanorcooper We have just seen @labkelpie production of #BecomTheOne. I really recommend trying to get to see during its @midsummafestival or @chilcoffestival. Great performances. The writing and direction is great and the performances are raw and real. Go on and support local artists.
12 HOURS AGO

Add a comment as labkelpie...



1:31 am 58%
Photo



6 likes
dani_rothwell Second show of the day done 🥳 a return to @gasworksartspark for the last show of #BecomTheOne at @midsumma. Such a beautiful show 🌈
5 HOURS AGO

Eleanor O'Clock
22 hrs · 🌈
Have you had a chance to see *Become The One* yet? After seeing it myself I truly recommend you booking tickets. Check out this review!

Emilie Collyer shared an event.
February 6 at 9:03 AM · 🌈
This is a brand spanking new Lab Kelpie play written by Adam Fawcett and directed by Lyall Brooks with two really lovely and nuanced performances by Chris Asimos and Henry Strand. It's tender and funny and clever, and about a kind of relationship and masculinity and love we just don't see on our stages and screens. I think it will start many conversations. I reckon it will blossom and have a long life. Highly recommend you get along and see it this week at Gasworks Arts Park as part of Midsumma Festival.

Jason Ball shared your event.
23 hrs · 🌈
I cannot recommend *Become The One* strongly enough — currently showing as part of Midsumma.
The story of a closeted AFL player, it is heartbreaking, funny and deeply moving, with incredible performances.
Only 4 night left, don't miss it!

Jessie Obien
This was such an incredible play. I'm so glad I went last night. I was so touched - you really feel for their struggle and you really feel their joy. Amazing actors. Definitely a highlight of the Midsumma festival!

Stephen A Russell
Absolutely loved #BecometheOne @GasworksArts A smart exploration of what would happen when a closeted AFL player falls for a younger, less macho guy and keeps the relationship under wraps. The dynamics were fascinating, the beats felt real and the chemistry was fantastic.

James Houghton
Christopher, in theatre I'm not a big fan of a small cast. Typically I get bored. But this is really well done. Character development of both characters is really well done I was engaged early and stayed interested right to the end.

labkelpie 3 chances left to catch #BecomTheOne (inc Sat matinee) before we close for #Midsumma! (link in bio) 🌈👉👉👉
8 HOURS AGO

Ifutherfordaniels Saw the show last night..... lovely 🌈
4h · Reply

braithbarkin Saw it last weekend. Awesome show.
1h · Reply

Yesterday 20:57
Congrats Lyall! And to Adam too. Loved it. Thought it so lovely and charming and thoroughly engrossing. Directed with style and skill and lots of heart, and what a writing debut! Such a triumph. Yay!!!!!!



Mark Salvestro is at Gasworks Theatre
10 hrs · Melbourne, VIC · 🌈
Topped off my Midsumma Festival experience seeing the fantastic 'Become The One' by Lab Kelpie - well done team on an excellent production!

Jeffrey Bryant Jones
Comment as Lab Kelpie

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VIDEO LINKS



BECOME THE ONE - SHOW PAGE

<http://www.labkelpie.com/becometheone>



BECOME THE ONE ARCHIVAL

<https://vimeo.com/labkelpie/btoarchival>
(password: **footyfootyfooty**)

PRODUCTION IMAGES

High res production, rehearsal and marketing images provided. Samples images on the following pages.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Become The One engages large audience demographics:

- Lovers of comedy, domestic drama and/or romance
- Lovers of 'issues based' theatre
- Groups (girls' nights out, social clubs and sporting fans - particularly via local sporting clubs given the AFL context)
- LGBTQI+ audiences
- Youth and university audiences (16+)

CONTENT WARNINGS

MA 16+. Some coarse language.

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

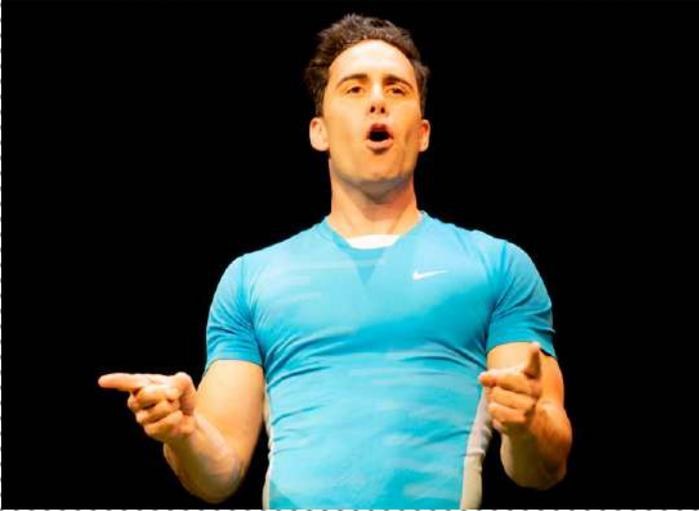
This project's development and premiere season was supported by Gasworks Arts Park, Creative Victoria, a Jacky Winter Gardens Residency and the Victorian Government through the Pride Events and Festivals Fund.



Promotional Images by Pier Carthew.

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Production images by Jodie Hutchinson.

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PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This is a front-on show best suited to prosc arch theatres, or end-stage/corner black boxes.

Our tech team will provide a comprehensive redrafted design for your individual venue using your existing stock, LX bars and dimensions to enable a full pre-rig to be undertaken. This redraft will be completed as soon as practical after contracting, and no later than three weeks prior to arrival.

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Pre-rig is required unless negotiated. Crewing figures may be negotiable for smaller venues.

Pre-Rig: 3 hours
2 x LX @ 3 hours

Bump In: 4 hours
2 x LX @ 2 hours (staggered)
1 x Mech @ 2 hours (staggered)

Performance: 1.5 hours
1 x LX @ 3 hours

Bump Out: 2 hours
1 x LX @ 2 hours
1 x Mech @ 2 hours

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

1330 - 1530	Bump in set
1530 - 1730	LX focus and plot, test sound
1730 - 1830	Crew break
	Cast call and set familiarisation
1830 - 1930	Hour Call
1930 - 2100	Show
2100 - 2300	Bump out

STAGE

Our playing space measures 4.8m wide and is 3.6m deep, and consists of a piece of fake turf, two rostra, one set of treads, grass "walls" and a replica Eames Chair. All of this will travel with the show. See attached images.

There will be a couple of metres to the edge of the wings, of which we will need 2 or 3 set in place, depending on how much we can use the house curtain as a wing, and what the sightlines are like from this position.

LIGHTING

The show utilises house stock plus from a standard rig (essentially just require an isolated front wash, side wash and LED backlighting). LX called by touring Stage Manager, from standard FOH position (bio box).

Venue to supply:

- Basic house stock
- Memory console
- Minimum 36-channel LX rig

Lab Kelpie to supply (all tested and tagged):

- 4 on-stage lamps for props tables

SOUND

We will have a laptop loaded with Qlab and our show file ready to patch into your system.

Touring Stage Manager will operate sound.

WARDROBE & PROPS

Shared dressing room for two (2) cast including hanging space required.

Shared dressing room for travelling Stage Manager and Tour Manager/ASM.

Venue to supply:

- Washer, drier, iron and ironing board.
- 4 x trestle tables in wings (2 each side) for props tables.

Lab Kelpie to supply:

- 2x costume racks, one placed in each wing.

Access to fridge pre-show required.

FREIGHT NOTES

Entire tech travels in a three-tonne truck or sprinter van. Access to loading bay preferable. Cast to travel by car.

CONTACTS

PROD / TECH / MARKETING & TOUR COORDINATION:

Adam Fawcett, Creative Producer, 0409 234 618
adam@labkelpie.com

Meat Market
Office 20
5 Blackwood Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051

labkelpie.com