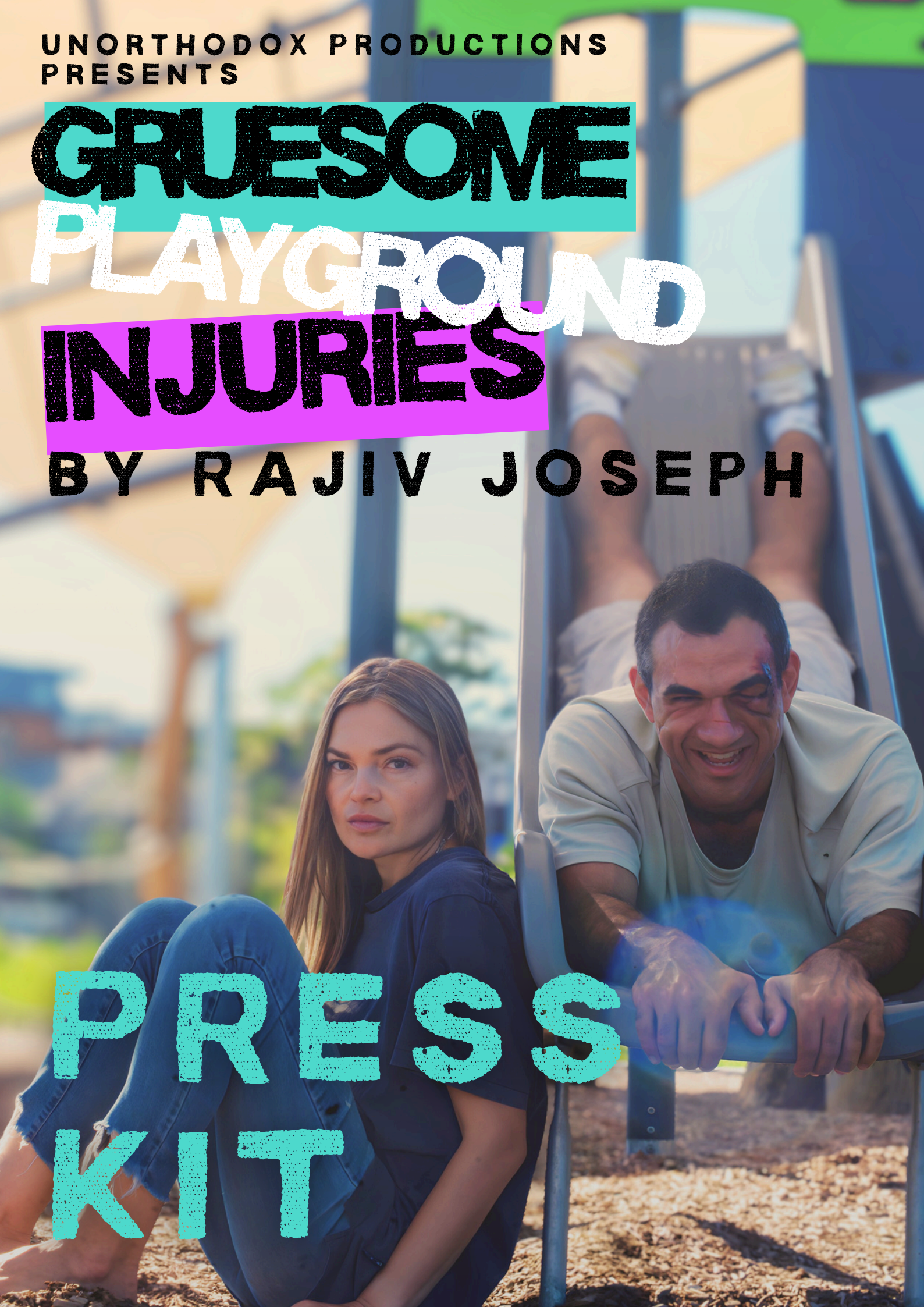


UNORTHODOX PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

GRUESOME
PLAYGROUND
INJURIES

BY RAJIV JOSEPH

PRESS
KIT



SHOW DETAILS

GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES

Presented by Unorthodox Productions

Tap Gallery, 259 Riley St, Surry Hills

22 April - 3 May, 2026

Tickets from trybooking.com/DJONB

SYNOPSIS

Why do we hurt ourselves?

Kayleen and Doug are destined for each other. After a chance encounter in the school sick bay, they find themselves pulled back together again and again, like stitches over an open wound. Messy, complicated, funny and deeply painful, Gruesome Playground Injuries asks whether a relationship can last when its participants are bent on their own self-destruction.

CAST & CREATIVES

Written by Rajiv Joseph

Directed by Brea Macey

Produced by Darya Miroshnikova and Chris Stamoulos

Kayleen - Darya Miroshnikova

Doug - Chris Stamoulos

DATES & TIMES

Preview - Wednesday 22 April, 7.30pm

Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm

Friday 24 April, 7.30pm

Saturday 25 April, 7.30pm

Sunday 26 April, 5.00pm

Thursday 30 April, 7.30pm

Friday 1 May, 7.30pm

Saturday 2 May, 7.30pm

Sunday 3 May, 5.00pm

MEDIA RELEASE

PAINFULLY HUMAN - GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES CUTS DEEP INTO THE HEART OF CONNECTION

Unorthodox Productions launches onto the independent theatre circuit with *Gruesome Playground Injuries* by Rajiv Joseph, a darkly funny play exploring the milestones that make us (and break us).

Kayleen (**Darya Miroshnikova**) and Doug (**Chris Stamoulos**) are destined for each other. After a chance encounter in the school sick bay, they find themselves pulled back together again and again, like stitches over an open wound.

The play explores Kayleen and Doug's lives over a period of 30 years, through a series of non-linear vignettes. We see the characters in primary school, high school and as young adults, each time marked with a new physical or emotional scar.

In fact, one of the things about this play that excites Chris Stamoulos, co-founder of Unorthodox Productions, is that the script calls on the actors to craft these physical injuries onstage, using special effects make-up and tools, in view of the audience.

"It's a unique challenge as an actor," says Stamoulos. "We're talking bruising, missing teeth, bleeding head wounds. The audience are getting to see up close the kind of theatrical magic that is typically undertaken offstage."

For Producer Darya Miroshnikova, the special effects come second to the way the text strips everything back to showcase simple human connection.

"Being from a non-English speaking background (Miroshnikova was born in Russia), I love the straight-forwardness of this play. There is no fluff. The words just punch you through the heart. I love the directness."

It is this intimacy of connection that Director Brea Macey believes will resonate with today's audience.

"I think the play's vulnerability, intimacy, the details of touch and how these two are navigating connection is what makes it feel immediate," says Macey.

Continues...

"Watching someone touch and trace their finger along a scar of another person's cheek. It's a vulnerability I think we have lost in society, are not used to being present for, yet such a beautiful thing to experience."

Messy, complicated, funny and deeply painful, *Gruesome Playground Injuries* asks whether a relationship can last when its participants are bent on their own self-destruction.

- ENDS -

BIOS

BREA MACEY **DIRECTOR**

Brea Macey is a multi-disciplinary artist that graduated from ACA (2023). Most recently directed the twice sold-out season of Traffic Light Party (Jezebel Productions) that won 'Best of the Fest' for Sydney Fringe (2025) that was then picked up for another sold-out success at KXT (2026).

Nominated 'Best Actor' (KXT Awards 2025) for her critically-acclaimed titular role in Ophelia Thinks Harder (dir. Alex Kendall Robson). Her self-directed, one-woman play, A Thing of Hope, swept the 2024 Short+Sweet Sydney Festival winning six awards including 'Best Actor', while the nationally-toured cabaret, Noel and Gertie, Down and Dirty (dir. Jonathan Mill) earned the 'Adelaide Fringe Critics Circle Award' (2024).

Additional screen credits include the Cannes-screened feature film, From All Sides (dir. Bina Bhattacharya), NCIS: Sydney Season 3 (dir. Catherine Millar), Peking Duk Music Videos The Paradise Films (dir. Omen Trevor), Locked (dir. Thea O'Connor), and Not the End of the World (dir. Michael Power).

Other theatre credits include As You Like It (dir Alex Kendall Robson), Omen (dir. Anna Kamaralli), Penpals (dir. Sarah Campbell) and The House of Bernarda Alba (dir. Kim Hardwick). Brea has also produced, directed and performed in multiple cabarets in venues such as Two80 Cabaret, Claire's Kitchen at le Salon, and The Old Fitz. She co-owns production company, Harvey Family Co., that ran one of Sydney's best comedy clubs across 2024-25, Harvey Comedy.

Social Media: @breamacey



DARYA MIROSHNIKOVA KAYLEEN, PRODUCER

Darya Miroshnikova is a Russian-born actor, director and producer passionate about telling stories that explore human connection. With film, television and theatre credits spanning both Russia and Australia, she brings a unique immigrant perspective to the stories she tells.

In 2026, *Aligned* – the short film she co-directed, produced and starred in – was selected as a finalist at SF3 SmartFone FlickerFest.

Her recent theatre credits include *Madam Chwydyakov* and *Julia in The Good Doctor* by Neil Simon, directed by Scott Williams.

She can also be seen in the Amazon Prime Video film *Five Blind Dates*. Darya is also the host and producer of the podcast *Conversations with Darya*, where she speaks with people from diverse professions and walks of life about the choices that shaped who they are.

Social Media: @miroshnikova_daryam



CHRIS STAMOULOS DOUG, PRODUCER

Chris Stamoulos is a Sydney-based actor and producer of Samian Greek heritage. He began training at Actors Centre Australia, moving to London in 2019 to study with Scott Williams at Impulse Company. He has recently trained with Improv Theatre Sydney, Impulse Company Australia and also been taught by Michael Sheasby, Ben Mathews at Acting Mastery, Miranda Harcourt, and Kim Farrant.

Chris's 2024 performance as Alan in *The Chewing* won the Audience Choice Award at the Sydney Underground Film Festival. His short film credits include *We Eat our Young*, *Trying to Breathe*, *White People Spicy*, *3 Men & a Bear*, and *From Russia with Love*.

On stage, Chris has performed as Arronow in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Faulkland in the *Rivals* (Barons Court Theatre in London), Gerald in *Why Women Got the Vote*, and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Social Media: @chrisstamoulos

ALEXANDRA PELVIN STAGE MANAGER

Alexandra Pelvin is a Canberra-born, Sydney-based theatre-maker. An experienced director and performer, *Gruesome Playground Injuries* marks her second sojourn into stage management, following *Dinner with Friends* at Tap Galley in 2025.

Her recent directing credits include *The Appleton Ladies Potato Race* (Pymble Players), *Lizzy, Darcy and Jane*, *Home, I'm Darling* and *Hotel Sorrento* (Canberra REP). She also served as Associate Director on Canberra REP's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. She was Assistant Director for *Mockingbird Theatre's* acclaimed productions of *The Judas Kiss*, *The Laramie Project*, and *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*.

As a performer, Alexandra has appeared in *Henry V* (Lakespeare), *The Good Doctor* and *Top Girls* (The Impulse Company), *Urinetown: The Musical* (Heart Strings Theatre Co), *Our Country's Good*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Così*, *The Art of Coarse Acting*, and *A Doll's House* (Canberra REP), as well as long-format improvised works *Chez Colette* and *Rapt in Felt* (Chrysalis Theatre). Her screen credits include *Misconception* and *Facing Extinction* (Karla Bogaart Films), *Becoming Emma Braintree* (Vorfreude Pictures), *Sunday* and *Chuggers* (Red Gadget Films).

Social Media: @alelvin



PHOTOS

Click below to download promotional photos:

[DROPBOX LINK](#)

Photo credit: Danielle Louise Photography



PUBLICITY

GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES

For interviews, additional information or to reserve reviewer tickets, please contact:

Emily Saint Smith (Publicist)

PromoMyShow

E: emily@promomyslow.com.au

P: 0419 144 484

Please note: this production contains smoking, simulated wounds and references to self-harm and suicide.

By permission of ORiGiN™ Theatrical
on behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc - A Concord Theatricals
Company

UNORTHODOX PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES

BY RAJIV JOSEPH

DIRECTED BY BREA MACEY

TAP GALLERY, SURRY HILLS
22 APRIL - 3 MAY 2026

TRYBOOKING.COM.AU/DJ0NB



By permission of ORiGiN™ Theatrical
on behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc
- A Concord Theatricals Company