

THE CULTURE

Don't even get me started

A NEW PLAY BY LAURA JACKSON

PRESENTER
PACK



PRESENTED BY
powersuit
productions





What is 'THE CULTURE'?

The Culture is a 75 minute one-act play, a two hander and is the debut work presented by Powersuit Productions: a female led venture all about Australian stories with women at the heart.

Five Star Rated, The Culture has received critical acclaim on its 6 city US, NZ and Australia Tour.

Tell Me More.

Katie's cheeky, brave and sensitive. Will is witty and warm with a huge heart. They're single and maybe a little co-dependant.

Together they host a podcast 'Don't Even Get Me Started', where they bitch about the fact that they're straight up done. When they're home together, they're safe, they're happy, no-one can hurt them. They have everything they need. Almost. What happens when you put yourself out there, and try to find love as a woman or a gay man? Is their friendship enough to keep them safe?

Upcoming playwright, Laura Jackson has penned a touching and relevant two hander play called The Culture. Set in Sydney Australia, the play is a story about deep and enduring friendship, and the pitfalls... and sometimes dangers of finding love in a modern world. Audiences are welcomed into Will and Katie's living room and into an important wider conversation.



CONTENT WARNINGS: DEPICTS VIOLENCE. REFERENCES DOMESTIC ABUSE, DISORDERED EATING, HOMOPHOBIA AND MISOGYNY.



"A terrific tale told with delectable realism. Bravo!"

THE BAREFOOT REVIEW



"Fast-paced and seamless."

THE CLOTHESLINE



"Wonderful, timely, and poignant."

THE FRONT ROW CENTRE, NYC



"Jackson and Asfour are magnetic."

IN DAILY

"Jackson and Asfour have brilliant chemistry."

ART MURMURS

"The Culture is an extremely important show.
Make sure you make the time for it."

THE WELLINGTONISTA

"Every word has been crafted for maximum
impact. So visceral, so captivating. This piece
moves me. The Culture is not to be missed."

REGIONAL NEWS

"Mina Asfour and playwright Laura Jackson are
wonderful as Will and Katie."

THE ADVERTISER

"Jackson's writing is hilarious. The acting is
fantastic."

THE WELLINGTONISTA

"The Culture makes us turn the lens on ourselves,
to excellent effect."

THEATREREVIEW



Where We've Been

Off Off Broadway – New York City

The Producer's Club

Nov 26th – Dec 17th 2022

New Zealand Fringe – Wellington

Gryphon Theatre

Feb 28th – March 4th 2023

Adelaide Fringe – Adelaide

Holden Street Theatre

March 7th – March 16th 2023



Where We're Headed

Hobart – Peacock Theatre – April 24th – April 29th

Sydney – Flightpath Theatre – May 14th – June 3rd

Melbourne – Theatreworks' Explosive's Factory – June 7th – June 17th

Where To Next?

After a triumphant season in NYC and the first legs of our NZ and Australia tour, we are ready to continue adding further locations, including regional, in late 2023 and into 2024. If you are interested in presenting *The Culture*, Please get in touch at hello@powersuitproductions.com

TECH SPECS

Content Rating: M (15+)

Running Time: 75 mins (no interval)

Cast: 2 Actors

Staging: blackbox, proscenium arch,
traverse – intimate preferred

Technical requirements:
projector, lighting and sound

Staff required: 1 x technician to
operate lighting, sound and projection



THE CULTURE

CREATIVES

Playwright/Actor/Exec Producer:

Laura Jackson

Director: Bethany Caputo

Creative Producer/

Tour Director: Carly Fisher

Actor: Mina Asfour

Stage Manager: Natalie Low

Dramaturg: Catherine Fargher

Graphic Designer: Brandon Wong

Lighting Designer: Capri Harris

Sound Designer: Charlotte Leamon

Dramaturg: Catherine Fargher



**PLAYWRIGHT, ACTOR &
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

LAURA JACKSON

Plays by Laura

'The Culture', 'Handle It', 'Come On Baby', 'Speak Now'

Acting Credits

Lucia (Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown), Lady Fidget (The Country Wife), Willow (The Colbie Sisters of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania) and Grusha (Caucasian Chalk Circle).



**CREATIVE PRODUCER
& TOUR DIRECTOR**

CARLY FISHER

Directing & Producing Credits

In Their Footsteps (Adelaide and Canberra), 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche (Sydney and Adelaide), Puppets (Sydney, Melbourne, Edinburgh), Silenced (Q Theatre Residency, Sydney season), The Culture (New York), Young Bodies/Somebody's (Sydney) and the Sweet Science of Bruising (Sydney)



DIRECTOR
BETHANY CAPUTO

Co-Artistic Director of The Actors' Ensemble in New York.

Directing

'Dearest Partner of Greatness', 'Bicycle Face', 'Roman Fever', 'Washington Square', 'The Trip to Bountiful'.

Coaching Credits

Bruce Willis in "Misery" on Broadway, Taylor Schilling in "The Bite" and "Monsterland," and Christie Burke in the new HBO series "Billy the Kid."



STAGE MANAGER
NATALIE LOW

Stage Manager Credits

Molly Sweeney (Clock & Spiel Productions), James & the Giant Peach (Excelsia College), 3 Fat Virgins Unassembled (Slanted Theatre), Puppets (Touring), In Their Footsteps (Theatre Travels) in Canberra, Freud's Last Session (Clock & Spiel Productions), Sweet Science of Bruising (Theatre Travels). Production Manager of The Marriage Agency (Kwento).



LIGHTING DESIGNER
CAPRI HARRIS

Lighting Design Credits

'The Culture', 'The Sweet Science of Bruising', 'Control', 'Cherry', 'Playpen', '5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche', 'In Their Footsteps', and 'Silenced', 'No: Intermission' Festival' 2021 for 'In Their Footsteps' and 'Rattling The Keys' and 'Kitchen Sink Festival' 2022.



SOUND DESIGNER
CHARLOTTE LEAMON

Sound Design Credits

The Culture (NYC), Silenced (Sydney), Puppets - Sound Design and Musial Direction (Sydney, Melbourne, Edinburgh), Inexistence

Awards

Artology Competition 2021 finalist
Berlin Short Film Festival finalist



FULL ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

vimeo.com/laurayjackson/theculture

Time Codes of Key Moments

14:12 SAD OLD LONELY CAT LADIES

Will and Katie have fun with their followers, sharing their single lives

23:09 I'M NOT DRESSED AS A VAGINA, KALE

Katie interacts with Kale... is he friend or foe?

25:21 HARRY POTTER... READ A BOOK?!

Will gets protective

41:21 MSN GUY

Will shares a story about when we was catfished

52:19 YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING FOR ME

Katie and Will fight

1:07:50 YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU WANT TO A STUPID LETTUCE

Will tries to help Katie release her anger

1:12:46 OKAY NOT PERFECT. BUT GOOD.

Katie tells her painful story



15 SECOND VIDEO ADS

<https://bit.ly/3KrInXj>

30 SECOND VIDEO PROMO

<https://bit.ly/3ZGftaq>

SCRIPT EXCERPT

ACT I

SCENE 2

A podcast intro accompanied by music plays. During this Will and Katie enter. They are drunk. Katie grabs Will's hand and drags him to the podcast booth.

Pre-recorded:

WILL: *Welcome to Don't Even Get Me Started. The show where we bitch about the fact that we're straight up done.*

KATIE: *Done with your shit.*

WILL: *I'm Will Archer.*

KATIE: *And I'm Katie Monroe.*

WILL: *And this is Don't Even Get Me Started.*

KATIE: *No but seriously, don't get us started.*

WILL: *Do not. Under any circumstances, get us started.*

The show begins.

KATIE: Wow we sound really perky on that thing.

WILL: Like scary-perky.

KATIE: Okay, so we weren't meant to be recording until tomorrow, but we just had to jump on and, you know. Before we go to bed, and it's a blur. We had to tell you about tonight.

WILL: Tell em, sis!

KATIE: So. We were at the Ivy.

WILL: Katie's work drinks. On a Thursday.

KATIE: Work drinks plus a whole lot of hangers-on.

WILL: Myself included.

KATIE: And my boss was there /and

WILL: Oh yeah, did you talk to him about your pitch?

KATIE: No, it's tomorrow. And also there was this dude hanging around him the whole time, which is what I was /going to say

WILL: Oh yeah, that dude *was* weird. He came up to me /in the bar

KATIE: Excuse me.

WILL: What?

KATIE: You just interrupted me twice in a row. I'm telling a story.

WILL: Yeah but my story came first.

KATIE: Oh my god.

WILL: My story gives context.

KATIE: Ugh. Fine. Go.

WILL: So earlier in the night, you went off with your work friends and left me to fend for myself. Which was unforgivable, how dare you. So, I'm hanging by the bar and this guy offers to buy me a drink.

KATIE: Um, you didn't tell me this.

WILL: And we're talking, and I'm like, go me, because you know...

BOTH: Stranger Danger.

WILL: Rhyme time!

Will is quicker this time. He smacks Katie.

KATIE: How did I not see that coming?

WILL: Because you've had six Pinots and a tequila shot.

KATIE: Oh wow, exposed.

WILL: But then I feel a tap on my shoulder. That giant dude is looming over us, standing right there with his arms crossed. And at first he seems really angry, and he looks at me, and his jaw's all tight. But then, your boss calls out to him, and he just walks away.

KATIE: Holy shit.

WILL: Right.

KATIE: That's fucked.

WILL: Right?

Katie crosses her arms.

What?

KATIE: Can I tell my bit yet?

WILL: I suppose.

KATIE: So later, were leaving and I'm saying goodbye to David.

WILL: Gotta butter up the boss.

KATIE: Unfortunately yes. And that huge Mountain of a dude is standing next to him. And David turns to him and goes, "Katie's a real ball-buster. You should see her in action." And the Mountain looks at me and says... "I'll bet she is."

WILL: Mm.

KATIE: It wasn't even what he said, it was the way he said it.

WILL: Yuck.

KATIE: I haven't even got to the bad bit yet.

WILL: I'm scared.

KATIE: And as I turn to go, something - I felt it - something brushed my arse.

WILL: Ugh.

KATIE: But when I looked back, they were facing each other. Neither of them even glanced back.

WILL: Was it your David? Your boss?

KATIE: Oh god. I didn't even think of that. Did you know there are more CEOs called David, than there are women CEOs?

WILL: No. Seriously?

KATIE: Actually I read that a few years ago, so it might not be true anymore. But still.

WILL: So wait, hold on, go back. First The Mountain looms over me and then slaps you on the arse? I should've hit him.

KATIE: No, ok. It's not your responsibility to like protect me, but also women in these situations are already dealing with one asshole, and we don't need the men in our lives, to add their aggression.

WILL: Wow. Fuck. I never thought about it like that.

KATIE: But you know when something happens, and you're like, did I imagine that? Cause we're on the lookout, all the time. Programmed to watch for danger.

WILL: CONSTANT VIGILANCE!

KATIE: Like, maybe it wasn't a hand, maybe it was a bag? I don't know. Anyway. So that was tonight.

WILL: Oh good, are we done? I'm so sick of your voice.

KATIE: I'm sick of your voice.

WILL: My god, the poor podcast listeners who have to listen to both our voices.

KATIE: Okay, do not even get me started on this podcast!

WILL: Who is responsible for this fucking podcast!

KATIE: Those two need to be stopped.

WILL: Immediately.

KATIE: Anyway, bye! Thanks for listening!

The podcast is over. Katie exits.

What do you call it when a woman is passed up for a promotion?
What do you call it when a man is catfished because of his sexual orientation?
What do you call it when a woman threads her keys through her fingers on the walk to her car?



We call it 'The Culture'.

To read a full copy of the script, or
for further information,
contact Laura Jackson or
Carly Fisher at
hello@powersuitproductions.com