



Maria!
★ THE MUSICAL ★



Help Bring Maria the Musical to Life!

This development showcase is only the beginning. By scanning the QR code and donating through the Australian Cultural Fund, you can directly support the artists, musicians and creative development of this new musical.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and every contribution helps bring this story one step closer to the stage.

Thank you for supporting new Australian theatre.

Creative Team



Director and Librettist

Cindy Sykes

Growing up, I would often ask my mum to tell us the story of her life - a story so touching and inspiring that I remember vowing I would one day find a way to share it with the world. Over the years, as I fell in love with storytelling through theatre, the "how" slowly took shape. Maria the Musical remained a concept in my mind for a long time - until 2017, when I first heard Matt's melodies drifting into my classroom from the room next door. I noticed he had an incredible ability to create entire worlds through music and take listeners on an emotional journey - exactly what this story needed. I pitched the idea to him, and as I told him my mother's story, he immediately began playing the melody that would later become The Lullaby, one of the core musical motifs that has stayed with us through the years.

It was also a dream of mine to have the incredible Daniel Rojas orchestrate the work. Not only is Daniel an exceptionally gifted composer and orchestrator, but he is also Chilean-born and a family friend. His family helped my mother and us through some of our hardest times, and it was Daniel's father who took me to my first day of Prep while my mum was in Chile rescuing my brother. Daniel has been woven into this story from early on - he witnessed these years unfold and I feel incredibly blessed to have his artistry bringing our music to life with such vibrancy and heart.

This journey has been deeply personal, and I'm so grateful to my beautiful mum for trusting me with her story. Tonight is just the beginning - I can't wait to share the rest with you.

Working with writer Cindy Sykes and composer Matthew Rabbas on Maria the Musical has been a richly rewarding experience. The story is compelling, the music gripping, and I've loved shaping its emotional world through the textures and colours of our ensemble. It's a privilege to help bring this powerful new work to the stage alongside such a committed and creative team.



**Musical Director, Orchestrator,
Additional Composer**

Dr Daniel Rojas



**Principal Composer,
Associate Musical Director**

Matthew Rabbas

This has been one of the most meaningful projects I have ever worked on. It has been my first time creating music in a professional context, and I've poured my heart into it. Before this, I was mostly writing for uni or personal projects - so being invited into a story of this depth and significance was incredibly exciting. It's been challenging, and at times, overwhelming, but in the best way - the kind that pushes you to grow. Meeting Maria felt like meeting a hero from a legend - I've become so immersed in the world of this musical that it's hard to remember life before it. I'm honoured to help bring it to life and proud of what we've created so far.

Creative Team



Choreographer

Sally Muntz

Being a co-choreographer for Maria the Musical has been an equally amazing, humbling, challenging and deeply fulfilling experience. Working alongside such a diverse and talented cast, an incredible musical score, and under the very clear and inspiring vision of our wonderful director, Cindy Sykes, has truly been something special. This has been the kind of opportunity I've waited my whole life for. From the very beginning, the cast have been so welcoming, adaptable and generous throughout the creative process. I've loved collaborating with them, hearing their ideas and input, and together bringing Maria's story to life on stage. I absolutely cannot wait to see the show hit the stage. I truly believe this is something we are all going to be incredibly proud of for a very long time.

Having the opportunity to work with Cindy and the incredible team behind Maria the Musical has been one of the most beautiful and meaningful experiences. As the child of Chilean immigrant parents who arrived in Australia in the 80s, this story touched my soul in a deeply personal way, and I felt truly honored to be invited to be part of such a special project.

Being able to combine my passion for the arts with my knowledge and love of Chilean folklore has been rewarding in ways I never could have imagined. Opportunities like this are rare, and I feel incredibly blessed to contribute to a project filled with so much heart, culture, and soul.



Choreographer & Cultural Consultant

Leticia Avila

Working with Cindy and the team on Maria the Musical has been beyond rewarding. As someone who immigrated from Chile to Australia, this story resonated with me through its themes of courage, resilience, and hope.

Watching all the hard work, creativity, and talent come together through the production process has been truly inspiring. It has been a privilege to be part of something so meaningful and to work alongside such an amazing team bringing this story to life.



Choreographer & Cultural Consultant

Rodrigo Parra

Order of Songs

1. Cueca de Festival

2. The Lullaby

3. Cueca-Tango

4. My Heart's Been Stolen

5. Sergio's Prayer

6. Ten Years

7. Welcome to Australia

8. My Heart, My Son

9. Finale: Welcome to Australia Reprise

Synopsis

Set against the vibrant backdrop of Chile and Australia, Maria the Musical tells the powerful true story of one woman's extraordinary resilience in the face of unimaginable hardship.

Maria, a spirited young girl growing up in Chile, dreams of a future filled with love, freedom, and hope. But when love leads her down a path of domestic violence and betrayal, her world is turned upside down. Forced to leave behind her family and homeland, Maria migrates to Australia in search of a new beginning - only to face new battles that will test her courage to its limits.

Spanning decades, Maria the Musical follows her journey as she navigates cultural displacement, family separation, and the ultimate fight for her children's safety. Through heartbreak, unwavering faith, and moments of defiant hope, Maria refuses to let her story be defined by fear.

Blending contemporary storytelling with the rich colours and sounds of Latin American music, Maria the Musical is a celebration of resilience, love, and the extraordinary strength found in ordinary people.

Cast

Maria

*Constanza Acevedo-
Burekhardt*



Marcos

Cein d'Costa



Sergio

Diego Mansilla



Guille/Street Singer

Tania Bafit



Young Maria/Sofia

Alice Franco



Miguelito

Imani Sykes



Ensemble

Bia Fontenelle



Gasmin Elahi



Szonja Meszaros



Gabriel Jassin



Gracie Gardener



Lachlan Farufield



Daniel Lewis



Maxwell Muntz



Orchestra

Keyboard 1

Matthew Rabbas



Keyboard 2/Conductor

Daniel Rojas



Guitar

Danielle Yang



Percussion

Ally Quin



Bass Guitar

Charlie Green



Clarinet

Elsie Chen



Production Team

Stage Hand

Charlie Gardener



Photographer

Charmaine Patel



Graphic Designer

Stacey Corvalde





Thank You

Introspect Theatre Company inc. would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our incredible team and volunteers, including those not listed in the program, whose dedication and hard work made this event possible; we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters



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