



MINNIE & LIRAZ

by Lally Katz

Education Mini-Pack

12 MAY – 24 JUNE

Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio

About the Play

When Minnie's bridge partner dies, fellow resident of the Autumn Road Retirement Community Village, Liraz, finally has her chance to pair with her ideal partner. Minnie, and her husband Morris, are reluctant but when Minnie sees a potential match between her single granddaughter and Liraz's devoted grandson, she changes her mind.

About the Playwright

Lally Katz's plays have been dazzling audiences between Australia and New York for more than a decade. This American born, Canberra raised, playwright appears to be unafraid of the characters and narratives she draws, however she attests that she is afraid 'all the time' of how her representations are perceived. Lally's style of writing, which centres around who and what she knows, has rewarded her with repeat commissions, and allowed her to make a name for herself as one of Australia's most produced playwrights. Lally is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts.

Lally's one-woman show, *Stories I Want to Tell You in Person*, played at Belvoir and Malthouse Theatre before being remounted off-Broadway in New York. One of Lally's most produced and lauded works *Neighbourhood Watch* was written for Australian actor Robyn Nevin and was first produced at Sydney's Belvoir Theatre. It toured to MTC for a revival in 2014 and is currently being adapted for film. *The Cat* and *Back at the Dojo* had their world premieres at Belvoir Theatre last year.

Minnie & Liraz is a commissioned play from Kim Williams through the Australian Writer's Guild and makes its world premiere at the Southbank Theatre.

Cast

Rachel Virginia Gay

Minnie Cohen Nancye Hayes

Liraz Weinberg Sue Jones

Morris Cohen Rhys McConnochie

Norma Georgina Naidu

Ichabod Peter Paltos

Production

Director & Dramaturg Anne-Louise Sarks

Set & Costume Designer Mel Page

Associate Set & Costume Designer Matilda Woodrooffe

Lighting Designer Matt Scott

Tour Lighting Associate Amelia Lever-Davidson

Composer & Sound Designer Stefan Gregory

Directorial Secondment Stephanie Ghajar

Stage Manager Christine Bennett

Assistant Stage Manager Pippa Wright

Stage Management Secondment Will Barker

Genre

Contemporary comedy

Running Time

Approximately 2hr 30min with interval.



Turn the page for activities, and discussions.

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Before the show



Bridge is a highly competitive, trick-taking card game that requires two sets of partners to play. There is a director, a declarer, a dealer, a defender, a dummy, deals, discards and doubletons. Read more about bridge at mtc.com.au/backstage



Reflect on your relationship with your grandparents. Where do they live, and how often do you see them? What kinds of things do you talk about together? Do they use social media? What do you know about their lives at your age?



See the *Minnie & Liraz* team prepare for the show in our rehearsal gallery at mtc.com.au/backstage

Post-show Activities



Lally's characters have historically (sometimes infamously) represented family members, neighbours, friends or just everyday people who appear in her real life. Read more about the people who inspired this play at mtc.com.au/backstage



- Have a class discussion based on this moment from the play:

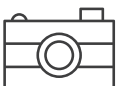
LIRAZ: You take after your Bobeshi. You see windows where others see walls. We might face scorn for our passions. But who in the history of this world ever accomplished anything by worrying about the rules? By playing it safe?
 - Recall this moment from the play:

ICHABOD: If you had the chance, would you leave this universe for another?
RACHEL: What would be in it?
ICHABOD: Well you can't know until you go there.

What would your answer be? How might other characters interpret and respond to this question?
 - Discuss how the costumes in *Minnie & Liraz* communicated the personalities of each character. Read more about Mel Page's designs at mtc.com.au/backstage
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- Think about the way director Anne-Louise Sarks made use of the revolving set designed by Mel Page. How did the vignettes with other residents in the halls enhance the production?
 - Compare and contrast *Minnie & Liraz* with some of Lally Katz's other plays, such as *Neighbourhood Watch* and/or *Back at the Dojo*. Examine the themes, characters, and style.
 - Imagine you attend Norma's memoir class. Write a memoir in the form of a monologue (like the one delivered by Morris) for another character in the play, or a relative of your own.
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Think about the double-sided set design by Mel Page. How were these two performance spaces dressed to create a variety of different locations at Autumn Road Retirement Village? Look at the production photos in our online gallery at mtc.com.au/backstage

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukit Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the Traditional Owners of the land on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand, and we pay our respects to Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors past and present, and to our shared future.



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MTC Education

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