

A woman with dark hair is wearing a dark, textured hooded cloak. Her face is lit with a mix of red and blue light, creating a dramatic effect. The background is a solid, muted blue.

# DESTINY DOOMED

A NEW MUSICAL  
BY ANINA-MARIE VAN WYK



OBSERVATORY THEATRE



# FROM THE WRITER & DIRECTOR



**Are we bound by destiny or do we have the power to change our own fate?** When I started to write this show, it was purely because I loved the Irish legend about Deirdre of the Sorrows and I wanted to give Deirdre some agency in her own story. I have always loved fairy tales and mythology but unfortunately I found that most of these stories were told through a patriarchal lens. As a woman, and a feminist, in 2022, I felt that it was time to reinvent it. But ultimately, this show is so much more than just a feminist retelling. This show is about empowerment. It is about finding that inner strength to challenge fate, to fight destiny and to win.

But what is destiny really? It's the notion that a predetermined course of events is certain to unfold. Basically, it's the idea that the story has already been written and that nothing that we do could change the outcome. But is that true? Or is destiny merely a manifestation of our own making?

The stories we tell are important, they carry weight. Stories have the power to inspire, to challenge, to shock, to strike fear, to move hearts, to build or break down entire belief systems. *Destiny Doomed* begs the question: how do the stories we tell, the religions we believe, the prophecies we buy into, shape our world, our destiny? Is destiny merely just a story we've told ourselves one too many times?

So here we all are. Gathered outdoors to share in the ancient oral tradition of storytelling. Much in the same way that Deirdre's original story was shared over and over again around the campfire, under the stars. But this time we dare to question destiny, we endeavour to fight fate. Together, we tell a different sort of story; one where women are more than pawns in the games of men, where feminine is strong, clever and wise, where little girls have the power to change destiny, where witches and warrior women thrive and where damsels become dragons capable of breaking free from thousands of years of stories that have told them otherwise.

Anina-Marie.

# FROM THE MOVEMENT DIRECTOR



**It's hard for me to put a finger on exactly what drew me to *Destiny Doomed*, because in truth it was everything.** This story is an opportunity to disrupt the dominant discourses found in the media we consume. The arts reflect the culture of our societies, our perspectives, our opinions and our values. Let's use the arts to tell stories that reflect the real world, a diverse world, a world where you can see your story. This story, written by a woman, about a woman, is a feminist retelling of an old Irish folktale where maybe this time the woman's fate may be different.

Our team have thoroughly enjoyed developing the nuanced characters, finding resemblance of figures that we recognise in our own world. We invite you to explore their stories and enjoy discovering the good, the bad and all the grey that sits in between them, as it does us. For me, I most enjoyed using these characters to discover all the ways in which we can embody femininity, that it is both delicate and bold, warm and fierce.

This is a narrative that celebrates the power of teamwork. In our story it means using different knowledges and skills to disrupt destiny, in our creative team it means collaborating, listening and sharing ideas to build an artwork we're all proud of. I have thoroughly enjoyed creating and being a part of our *Destiny Doomed* community, and I hope you find a place in it too.

SJ.

# DESTINY DOOMED

## DATES

Sep 29 - Oct 8

## CREATIVES

**Book, Music & Lyrics** Anina-Marie van Wyk  
**Director** Anina-Marie van Wyk  
**Musical Director** Anina-Marie van Wyk  
**Movement Director** Sara Jane Aistrope  
**Assistant Director** Zara Chandler  
**Assistant Musical Director** Elliot Daniel Gough  
**Light & Sound Design** Lachlan Driscoll  
**Stage Manager** Charlotte Carter  
**Music Arrangements** Elliot Daniel Gough  
**Vocal Coach** Georg Gleeson  
**Fight Coach** Jason McKell  
**Dialect Coach** Trina Pickens

## ABOUT THE SHOW

A destined girl is born and the King wants her to himself, locked away, controlled, his rightful claim. But the prophecy comes with a price - the child will bring great suffering - and rebellion soon ignites. Destiny? Fate? She's not going down without a fight.

Based on the legend 'Deirdre of the Sorrows', originally from The Ulster Cycle, translated by Randy Lee Eickhoff.

## SONGS

*Destiny Doomed*  
*Beautiful Women*  
*Resident Feminist Witch*  
*Obsessed*  
*Chasing The Sun in His Shadow*  
*Until The Stars Don't Shine*  
*Spectacle*  
*Deirdre Dragonheart*  
*The Fortress of Shadows*  
*I'm Going Home*  
*She Will Bow to Me*  
*Kaboom*  
*Sugar*  
*Dragon*  
*Warrior Heroine*

## RUN TIME

70 Minutes, no interval

## CAST

**Deirdre** Clarise Ooi  
**Blathnaid / Scathach** Laura Fois  
**Naoise** Elliot Daniel Gough  
**Maigne** Jesse Blachut  
**Conchubar** Kieran J. Evans  
  
**Voice Over** Will Bergman  
**Understudies** Meg Kiddle and Presley Woods

## PRODUCTION

**Producer** Lachlan Driscoll  
**Music Producer** Elliot Daniel Gough  
**Sound Technician** Steve Maples  
**Front of House** Tammy Wells, Oliver Carroll-Collerson and Zara Chandler

## SPECIAL THANKS

WOW Australia, Sandra Harman and Tristan Hargreaves

## CONTENT WARNING

This production contains mature themes, sexual references, simulated violence, mild coarse language and strobe lighting. If you or someone you know needs support, please contact:

**Lifeline:** 13 11 14

**Beyond Blue:** 1300 22 4636

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Jagera and Turrbal peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land Meanjin on which we are gathered today. We recognise the rich traditions of First Nations art and performance which have shaped Australian theatre today and pay our respects to them as the first storytellers, creators, performance makers and dreamers.



OBSERVATORY THEATRE



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DESTINY DOOMED



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