



Presented by **Half The Sky**

I'M WITH HER

by **Victoria Midwinter Pitt**



**Subiaco
Arts Centre
July 16
2022**



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



HALFTHE SKY

Half The Sky acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work: the Whadjuk Noongar people. We respect their culture and the continuing contribution they make to the life of this city and this region. We honour the Elders past, present and emerging and particularly value the wisdom and knowledge of the women. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

**I'M
WITH
HER**

A note from

Victoria Midwinter Pitt

Since the #metoo movement erupted, women all over the world have been joining the dots about how common harassment and discrimination are. But here's the thing - within the horror stories are other dots, begging to be joined - nuggets of proper heroism.

These stories come from long, long conversations with eight marvellous women, who have all been so funny, so warm, so clever in how they have understood and told their own lives to me. I don't know how I got to be so lucky, or how I'll ever properly thank them.

The women who have come together at the Subiaco Arts Centre to deliver so many wise and wicked words have all been infected with their spirit.

This show could not have better partners than the magnificent women of Half the Sky who are doing so much, not simply to raise women's voices, but to really hear them.

We hope many women and girls will pick up this script and carry it off now and make it theirs, and add their own stories to the pile.

Executive Producers | Half The Sky

Wendy Martin

Deborah May

Writer & Director

Victoria Midwinter Pitt

Dramaturg

Francesca Smith

Producer

Libby Klysz

Stage Manager

Emily Sky Stokoe

Marketing

Kira Ridders

Ai-Ling Truong

Evaluation

Liesbeth Goedhart

Publicity

Tracy Routledge

Projections

Design: Kristen Kin

Editor: Lawrie Silvestrin

Composer

Nicolette Boaz

Sound Design

Glenn Martin

Program Design

Irene Schneider

ACT ONE:

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Once I started, it just got
a life of its own. I meant
every word of it. I didn't
feel heated or angry.
I felt powerful.

JULIA GILLARD
FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER
OF AUSTRALIA

Read by Grace Chow

**Nikki Keating**

Originally from Queensland, now based in Naarm (Melbourne), Nikki Keating has worked in hospitality for a decade. In 2017 she began working with United Voice and Hospo Voice and was the face of the Respect is the Rule Campaign for zero tolerance policies in hospitality venues to help fight sexualised violence. In 2020 she co-founded The Consent Blueprints, a consent education and consultancy service, which has built a program to help venues manage the risk of sexual harassment in hospitality.

Grace Chow is an emerging Asian-Australian theatre-maker, playwright and actor. A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, her work strives to embrace humanity, explore underbellies and blur the lines between magic and reality.



Read by Lee Sappho

**Julie Bates**

Julie Bates AO is the Principal of Urban Realists Planning & Health Consultants. She is also an 'out' sex worker, harm reduction advocate and sex worker rights defender. She

was a foundation member of the Australian Prostitutes Collective, served on the Australian National Council on AIDS, contributed to the first Australian National HIV/AIDS Strategy and was a consultant to the World Health Organisation on minimising HIV risk in the sex industry. She was the inaugural sex industry liaison officer appointed to local government following the decriminalisation of sex work in NSW. Today Julie is a public speaker, political lobbyist and social researcher.

Lee Sappho is an award-winning blues singer and songwriter based in Walyalup (Fremantle). As a long-standing icon in the industry, Lee has fearlessly blazed the way for women in blues.



Read by Libby Lyons**Patricia Madigan AO**

Patricia Madigan, a Catholic sister, has for many years been a prominent leader in ecumenical and interfaith relations in the Catholic Church in Sydney. She was a founding member of the Women's

Interfaith Network. In 2008 her PhD was published as "Women and Fundamentalism in Islam and Catholicism: Negotiating Modernity in a Globalised World" (Oxford: Peter Lang 2011). Patricia is a member of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands.

Libby Lyons has decades of leadership experience in corporate affairs and issues-based advocacy. She is the President of Chief Executive Women WA. A former Head of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, Libby advocated to close the gender pay gap and break down occupational gender segregation.



Read by Lucy Griffiths**Pam Burridge**

Pam Burridge was the first woman in Australia to become a full time professional surfer.

Born in Sydney in 1965, Pam was given her first surfboard at the age of 10 and won her first surfing contest in 1977. At 15 she joined the professional tour and in 1990 won her first World Championship at Sunset Beach, Hawaii. In 1988 Pam retired to the NSW South Coast where she runs a busy surf school and surf retreat, with many girls and older women coming to her classes.

Lucy Griffiths is a recreation planner, working with communities and local government in the fields of play, sport and recreation projects. She is a sometime musician and performer. Lucy has water in her blood, and in her youth she was an elite synchronised swimmer.



Read by Andrea Gibbs**Hon. Julia Gillard AC**

Julia Gillard served as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia from June 2010 until June 2013.

In October 2012, Ms Gillard received worldwide attention for her speech in Parliament on the treatment of women

in professional and public life. She currently serves as the Chair of Beyond Blue, one of Australia's leading mental health awareness bodies; is the inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, which through research, practice and advocacy, is addressing women's under-representation in leadership. She was recently appointed as the Chair of Wellcome, a global charitable foundation which supports science to solve urgent health challenges. Her third book, *Not Now, Not Ever – 10 years on from the misogyny speech*, will be released in October 2022.

Andrea Gibbs is a storyteller, comedian, actress, TEDx speaker and radio presenter.

Over the past decade, she has helped to bring hundreds of stories to the stage through Barefaced Stories, which she co-founded. She is a broadcaster at ABC Radio and creator of The Chin Wagon and Think Back Stack.



ACT TWO:

THROWING THE ELEPHANT

The second you can actually hear it from so many other women then it's a different picture. Like little dots – that connect to make a very different picture.

ANNE ALY
COUNTERTERRORISM EXPERT
& FEDERAL MP

WOMAN 6

Marcia Langton AO

Read by Dr Marion Kickett



Marcia Langton AO

Marcia was born in Meeanjin (Brisbane) and at birth was named Marcia Lynne Waddy, daughter of Kathleen Muriel Waddy, who later married Douglas Boyd Langton, a returned soldier who served in the Korean campaign. They moved

from town to town, and Marcia attended nine schools in all.

Her grandmother and grandfather, Ruby and Fred Waddy, were Bidjara and Iman (Yiman) respectively. Marcia studied at the University of Queensland, Australian National University and Macquarie University. She holds a B.A. Honours, a PhD and D. Litt. Marcia has been an academic since 1992 and has written for both academic and non academic audiences, advised on television programs and scripts, and appeared on radio and television shows as a commentator.

Dr Marion Kickett was the inaugural Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University. She is a Balardong Noongar leader, born in York, and holds a PhD on resilience from an Aboriginal perspective. On the basis of this research, she developed a culturally safe Aboriginal Resiliency Framework.



**Dr Marion Blackwell AM**

Marion Blackwell is a renowned environmental scientist and landscape architect who helped create a number of Australia's national parks, including Purnululu (the Bungle Bungles). Guided by her deep respect for the knowledge of Indigenous Australians, she was instrumental in highlighting the importance of one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. Throughout her life, Marion has been a dedicated teacher of, and champion for, women.

Fiona Stanley AC is a world-leading epidemiologist, noted for her research and advocacy around child, maternal and public health. She was the founding Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and was named Australian of the Year in 2003.



Read by Sisonke Msimang

**Dr Anne Aly**

Dr Anne Aly is an Australian politician who has been a Labor member of the House of Representatives since the 2016 election, representing the electorate of Cowan in Western

Australia. Dr Aly is currently the Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth in the Albanese ministry. She is the first female federal parliamentarian of Islamic faith and one of Australia's first two government ministers to be Muslim. A professor, lecturer and academic specialising in counter-terrorism, Dr Aly is considered a global authority on understanding how and why young people are drawn into violent extremism. She founded People Against Violent Extremism to address extremism in Australia.

Sisonke Msimang is a speaker and storyteller, and the author of *Always Another Country: A memoir of exile and home* (2017) and *The Resurrection of Winnie Mandela* (2018). Sisonke's work is focused on race, gender and democracy, and she has written for a range of international publications.



Post-show conversation

Hosted by Victoria Midwinter Pitt

**What has the show brought up for you,
and where to from here?**

Two of the show's contributors,
Julie Bates and Marion Blackwell, will be
joining this free-flowing conversation
with the cast and audience.

What did you think?

Your feedback is valuable, helping us
to learn and to put on future events.

Go to survey.

Read the Script

Available from **Currency Press.**

Stage the Play or Host your own Reading

I'm With Her is a piece for eight performers written to be performed on theatre stages, and also in community groups and around kitchen tables. The play makes use of projections of texts and images - now available for you to download. For simpler stagings or kitchen table readings, stage directions and projections can be read out loud. For more information, please go to

I'm With Her The Play.

Stories of Remarkable Women

Half The Sky is calling for stories about the women who have inspired and moved you, nurtured and guided you - to be collected in our online archive. It can be a short story, a letter, a poem, a recipe, a drawing or a photograph - of someone wonderfully ordinary or someone extraordinary. For more information, please go to

Half The Sky.

About Half The Sky

Half The Sky celebrates the voices and works of women. We facilitate conversations and debate, ask difficult questions and embrace the extraordinary diversity of the cultures and communities around us. By telling our stories, by listening and sharing experiences, we aim to expand our communities, build connections, grow our imaginations, and discover social courage and creativity.

Stay in touch

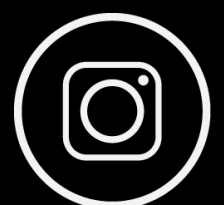
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**Projection production
supported by**

**Blake Beckett Trust
Australian Cultural Fund**

Water cinematography

Rick Rifci

Purnululu cinematography

Ben Broady

Photographs

Lucy McGough: Nikki Keating

Walter Maurice: Julie Bates

Angela Wylie: Julia Gillard

Juno Gemes: Marcia Langton (1982)

Tom Hunt-Smith: Marcia Langton (2022)

**Cover image based on the book cover
design by Allissa Dinallo for Currency Press**

**For more information, please visit
[I'm With Her The Play.](#)**