

Geelong Repertory Theatre Company presents

THE SHAPE OF THINGS

By Neil LaBute

(Victorian Drama League Awards 2025 entrant)

PRODUCTION TEAM

- Production Manager: DEREK INGLES **0450 471 963** - yesjustgo@gmail.com
- Director: JULES HART **0422 373 502** - hulatiger83@gmail.com
- Ass. Director: CALVIN LANGLEY
- Stage Manager: CALVIN LANGLEY
- Production Assistant: SUE RAWKINS
- Lighting Design: JULES HART & JOEL LANE
- Technical Support: JOEL LANE

PLOT

The Shape of Things by Neil LaBute is a provocative exploration of art, love, and deception. The story revolves around Adam, a shy and unassuming college student who works at a campus sculpture garden. His life takes a dramatic turn when he meets Evelyn, a bold and assertive art student who challenges his perspectives and notions of identity. As their relationship develops, Evelyn encourages Adam to transform himself physically and emotionally, pushing him to adopt a more confident persona. Meanwhile, Adam's friends, Jenny and Phillip, observe the changes with concern, particularly as he distances himself from his previous self and relationships.

As the play unfolds, it becomes clear that Evelyn's motivations are not as innocent as they seem. Her artistic vision for her thesis project is rooted in a manipulative agenda that explores themes of authenticity and deception, seeking to redefine Adam in ways he doesn't fully understand.

The play culminates in a shocking revelation of the true nature of their relationship and the moral implications of Evelyn's actions, leaving audiences questioning the authenticity of art and the ethics of personal transformation. The play ultimately poses challenging questions about the boundaries of love, the nature of selfhood, and the often-blurred lines between creator and creation.

CHARACTERS

- **ADAM:** A shy and insecure college student who works at a sculpture garden. He undergoes a significant transformation after meeting Evelyn, struggling with his identity and self-worth as he tries to please her.
- **EVELYN:** A confident and assertive art student who challenges Adam to change. She is ambitious and manipulative, using her relationship with Adam as a canvas for her artistic expression and personal agenda.
- **JENNY:** Adam's close friend, who is skeptical of Evelyn's influence on him. She represents the voice of concern and caution, witnessing Adam's radical changes and questioning their implications.
- **PHILLIP:** Jenny's boyfriend and Adam's old roommate, who is more accepting of change but ultimately uncomfortable with the shifts in Adam's personality.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Please prepare a 2 minute (*approx.*) contemporary monologue.

Some playwrights similar to Neil LaBute include:

- **David Mamet:** Known for his sharp dialogue and exploration of power dynamics, Mamet's plays often delve into themes of manipulation and moral ambiguity.
- **Sarah Kane:** Renowned for her provocative and intense works, Kane tackles themes of love, pain, and the human condition in a raw and unflinching manner.
- **Harold Pinter:** His plays frequently explore the complexities of human relationships and the power struggles within them, characterized by his signature style of pauses and subtext.
- **Martin McDonagh:** Known for blending dark humor with drama, McDonagh's works often examine moral dilemmas and the darker aspects of human nature.

ACTOR EXPECTATIONS

- 1-2 rehearsals midweek, depending on actor availability
- 1 Major weekend rehearsal
- Strong emphasis on learning dialogue early
- Openness and willingness to challenge yourself, and be challenged

INTIMACY

Actors will be required to perform in partial states of undress, and engage in moments of physical intimacy; eg. holding, kissing.

There is a potential video-based, simulated sex scene. This will be entirely dependent on the actors cast and their rapport and level of comfortability with fellow actors.

PRODUCTION WEEK

Sun 27 th April	Last Rehearsal and Plotting Day
Mon 28 th April	Technical Rehearsal
Tues 29 th April	Final Dress Rehearsal 1
Wed 30 th April	Final Dress Rehearsal 2
Thurs 1 st May	Preview Performance

SHOW DATES

Friday 2 nd May	7:30pm
Saturday 3 rd May	7:30pm
Sunday 4 th May	2:00pm
Thursday 8 th May	7:30pm
Friday 9 th May	7:30pm
Saturday 10 th May	7:30pm
Sunday 11 th May	2:00pm
Thursday 15 th May	7:30pm
Friday 16 th May	7:30pm
Saturday 17 th May	7:30pm