

# MEDIA KIT

## Blue Bones by Merlynn Tong A Playlab Production



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## Playlab New-Writing Theatre

*Playlab exists to build theatre that matters.*

For over 44 years Playlab has been identifying, nurturing, and supporting new writing for theatre through development programs and publication, and in 2017, production. Producing new-writing theatre has made Playlab unique nationally as the only company to work from idea through development, onto stage and into publication.

Playlab's development programs offer a pathway for a play to move from inception to the stage. From the emerging playwrights program 'Incubator', into 'Alpha Processing', then 'Beta Testing' and into production, the pathway provides multiple entry points for a work at any level of readiness, and from playwrights of any experience. Playlab also hosts a Playwright-in-Residence, who receives the financial and creative support necessary to ready a work for production, while earning additional income through the position.

Over the past 4 years, Playlab has grown to become the second largest publisher of performance writing in Australia. Publication serves to promote plays, playwrights, and the artform in general, while connecting the arts and education sectors and reflecting Australia's cultural diversity.

The decision to become a new-writing theatre was a direct response to the groundswell of quality playwrights in Australia and the lack of opportunities to be produced at a professional level. As a producer, Playlab provides playwrights with a supportive space that privileges creative risk in terms of craft and story. While for audiences, it offers challenging and robust ideas-based work that speaks to the diversity and politics of contemporary Australia.

Playlab is dedicated to creating opportunities for theatre artists and building a sustainable ecology within the industry. *Blue Bones* is the first of what we know will be a catalogue of imaginative, diverse and excellent productions.

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## Full Synopsis

***'I saw my insides today. I found Tom, my first love, in my bones.'***

When a woman finds scars left by her ex-boyfriend of many years ago etched into her bones, she begins a turbulent journey to unpack her past and discover how he got under her skin.

Based on the true story of two teenagers' romance as it blossoms then warps in the heat of bustling Singapore, *Blue Bones* is a one-woman show told with incredible honesty by Merlynn Tong. Combining multiple characters, kung fu and arcade dance games, against a dynamic visual landscape, *Blue Bones* is a multi-lingual whirlwind of love and naivety, violence and courage, with the wreckage continuing to be felt across the years.

Ultimately a story of strength and resilience, *Blue Bones* is an unflinching, honest and surprisingly heart-warming story about overcoming domestic violence. Told in an original and innovative way by one of Australia's most talented playwrights/performers Merlynn Tong, *Blue Bones* will enchant and disturb, and perhaps even wake the stories dormant in your bones.

Playwright and performer Merlynn Tong says:

*"This was a fairly challenging topic to write about, and I needed about 10 years to pass before I could properly digest, process and ultimately find a creative outlet for what happened all those years ago. I also went through about 10 years of researching to understand domestic violence, its cycles, grieving and reclaiming self-worth."*

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## Short Synopsis Copy

### One Line Copy

'I saw my insides today. I found Tom, my first love, in my bones.'

### Short Copy

When a woman finds scars left by her ex-boyfriend of many years etched into her bones, she begins a turbulent journey to unpack her past and discover how he got under her skin.

Based on the true story of two teenagers' romance as it blossoms then warps in the heat of bustling Singapore, *Blue Bones* is a vibrant, uplifting one-woman show told with incredible honesty by Merlynn Tong. With multiple characters, song and arcade dance games, *Blue Bones* is a whirlwind of love and naivety, violence and courage.

Against the backdrop of Singapore with all its beauty, rigidity and insistent chaos, *Blue Bones* will enchant and disturb, and perhaps even wake the stories dormant in your bones.

## Themes

Domestic Violence, Relationships, Self Empowerment

## Sample Press Release

A sample press release has been included in the tour drop box:

<http://bit.ly/2rEpjdB>

## Subject Areas

Drama, English, Culture Studies

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## Reviews

*Merlynn Tong, along with director Ian Lawson, has created a very special, outstanding theatrical work ... original, idiosyncratic and ultimately uplifting. Indeed, this is an absorbing show that needs to be seen by as many young women (and men) as possible in reminder that whatever its shade, no bruise is okay.*

**Blue Curtains Brisbane**

For full article: <http://bit.ly/2skS6TX>

*Merlynn's performance is captivating and slides effortlessly from brutal, to joyous, upsetting, light and even funny ... This is an incredibly powerful, disturbing story that is sure to get under your skin and leave you shaken.*

**Aussie Theatre**

For full article: <http://bit.ly/2s0ovjq>

*Huge Congratulations to Merlynn Tong, Ian Lawson and the whole team at Playlab for a sensational opening of Blue Bones at the Powerhouse last night. I think it is one of the most important productions to hit town in recent times, for all sorts of reasons.*

**Stephen Carleton, Multi-award-winning Playwright**

## Show Quotes

*'I saw my insides today. I found Tom, my first love, in my bones.'*

*'How could I forget all this? How come I don't remember he used to do be like that. Maybe because he is more of a good guy than a bad guy. Right?'*

*'I felt like I had finally gotten something right.'*

## Creative Interviews

Want to get to know our team better? Click on the link below to access biographies and interviews with our cast and creatives:

<http://bit.ly/2tPOaf2>

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## Production Images

<http://bit.ly/2rTat7a>

## Hero Images

<http://bit.ly/2sXga3L>

## Social Media

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/playlab.01/](http://www.facebook.com/playlab.01/)

**Instagram:** @Playlab\_inc

**Website:** [www.playlab.org.au](http://www.playlab.org.au)

## Logos and Acknowledgments

Please ensure you use one of the logo versions below on all promotional materials



**Playlab** est. 1972  
New-writing Theatre

**Playlab Logos are available via the tour dropbox:**

<http://bit.ly/2sSemZz>

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## Quick Facts

*A list of short facts designed for Box Office staff.*

- Perfect for Theatre and Drama students as an inspiring example of solo work.
- A great mix of comedy and drama, but be prepared for its dark twist.
- Based on her own true story and told with incredible humour, compassion and honesty this is a one-woman written and performed by Singaporean/Australian, Merlynn Tong.
- Waking up in hospital, a woman is overwhelmed by memories of her first love and their passionate and violent relationship. The play follows their teenage romance as it blossoms and then warps in the heat of bustling Singapore.
- *Blue Bones* is an inspirational story about a young woman who refuses to be defined by the events of her past.

## Contact Us

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