

# Vidya Rajan

## Comedian, Playwright, Screenwriter

**Vidya Rajan** is a fresh and fearless talent of undeniable range. A comedian, performer and writer for theatre and television, her work mixes genres and styles while being contemporary, innovative, and sharply hilarious.

As a comedian, she's thrashed around in the sparkling goo of Melbourne's alternative comedy scene, regularly performing spots at nights across the city and running her own as well. With an eye for the silly and surreal, her live comedy boldly stirs together stand-up, sketch and clowning and explores everything from race to capitalism to the strange depths of the internet. Vidya has trained and performed in improv with companies and ensembles in the States and across Australia, and her original sketches have been viewed more than half a million times on social media. She was also recently a contributing writer and performer for ABC sketch show *At Home Alone Together*, playing a spectrum of characters from teenage wank-boy to crow.

An accomplished and in-demand playwright and theatre-maker, Vidya studied at the VCA and has had her work performed to acclaim at Red Stitch, Griffin Theatre, The Blue Room, Artshouse, Metroarts, KXT bakehouse and Theatreworks, amongst others. A recent Malthouse writer-in-residence, as well as a Besen and Malcolm Robertson Fellow, she is currently creating two new works for the company, one a co-production with Belvoir St Theatre, Sydney. Her previous work has included award-winning shows like experimental comedy-play *Asian Ghost-ery Store*, *Sleepover Gurlz*, *Poorly Drawn Shark*, and cult Fringe favourite *The Lizard is Present* – described by *Kill Your Darlings* as “a torrid brew of truth, satire and mindfuckery”.

Increasingly working as a screenwriter, Vidya has contributed to various story rooms, worked as a development assistant for Tony Ayres' Productions on YA and high-concept scripts, and written episodes for several Screen Australia-funded developments. Recently aired credits include the ABC/Netflix comedy *Why are you Like This?*, WTFN's *Wonderpup*, Network Ten's *How to Stay Married* and digital live-streamed half-hour sitcom *We are Nemeses* which she created and wrote with frequent collaborator Alistair Baldwin.

Recently, Vidya has also been seen on national television as a sketch performer and writer on SBS' *The Feed* as well as ABC TV's *Australia Debates* in 2021. She has also written on the upcoming Amazon Original series *Deadloch*.

She is currently working on developing an original slate of screen projects spanning comedy, crime, and mixed genre series. She was also working on her first solo live comedy hour, *Ultimate Worm*, before the pandemic hit. She hopes to premiere it when there is a gap in the apocalypse's schedule.

## TELEVISION

2021 Guest Panellist	ABC	<b><i>Australia Debates: Ep 3</i></b>
2021 Performer, Writer	SBS	<b><i>The Feed</i></b>
2020 Performer, Writer	ABC	<b><i>At Home Alone Together</i></b>

## WRITING

2021	Amazon	<b><i>Deadloch</i></b>
2021	SBS	<b><i>The Feed</i></b>
2020 Writer on Series 3	Network Ten	<b><i>How To Stay Married</i></b>
2019-20 Writer on Series 1	Audible/Screen Australia	<b><i>Golden Boy</i></b>
2019 Writer on Series 2	WTFN/Channel 7	<b><i>Larry the Wonderpup</i></b>

2019 Netflix/ABC Comedy ***Why Are You Like This?***  
Additional writer (1 Ep), pilot writer

2019 Screen Australia ***The Zoo***  
Writer (3 Eps)

2019 RMITV/Channel 31 ***The Leak***  
Writer and Regular Correspondent (Series 6)

## **PLAYWRITING**

### **2020**

#### **Looking for Alibrandi** (*Belvoir/Malthouse*)

Writer under commission to adapt Melina Marchetta's novel *Looking for Alibrandi* as a co-production for two major Australian theatre companies – the Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne and Belvoir Theatre in Sydney.

#### **We Are Nemeses** (*Wheeler Centre*)

Writing a one-off half-hour narrative digital comedy special with Alistair Baldwin for a live-streamed event through the Wheeler Centre.

### **2019**

#### **The Lizard is Present: A Gala** (*Melbourne Fringe*)

Director, Devisor, Writer.

#### **Batmania Bus Tour** (*Melbourne Fringe*)

Co-writer, Performer.

#### **Hurricane** (*Artshouse development with Emma Hall*)

Co-writer, Performer.

#### **Future Perfect** (*Malthouse theatre commission*)

Writer.

#### **Mermaids** (*La Mama development*)

Dramaturg.

#### **Madam Nightshade's Poison Garden** (*Midsumma, Darwin Fringe*)

Dramaturg, Assistant Director.

#### **Poorly Drawn Shark** (*Fringe World, Theatreworks*)

Co-creator, Dramaturg, Assistant Director.

### **2018**

#### **Asian Ghost-ery Store** (*Griffin Theatre, Blue Room Theatre, Melbourne Fringe, This is Not Art*)

Creator, Writer, Performer.

#### **Sleepover Gurlz** (*Griffin Theatre, Melbourne Fringe*)

Writer, Performer, Devisor.

#### **The Lizard is Present** (*Happenstance*)

Devisor, Director.

#### **The Story of Eve** (*Artshouse development*)

Dramaturg.

#### **The Lament** (*EWFLive art program, Queensland Poetry Festival*)

Writer, Devisor.

### **2017 (and prior)**

**Last Night** (*West Australian Youth Theatre Company*)

Writer.

**Genesis** (*Red Stitch Theatre Playlist*) –

Writer.

**Congress** (*All the Queen's Men*) – Writer, Performer.

**A completely unified theory of you + me** (*This is Not Art*) – Performer, Director.

**Aunty** (*ASIATOPA*)

Writer, Performer.

**The Shubaratnams** (*Victorian College of the Arts*)

Writer (2016).

**Friendquest** (*Fringe World, Paper Mountain*)

Writer, Director (2015)



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**AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS**

Malthouse Theatre Writer in Residence (2018 & 2019)  
The Blaz Award for New Writing – Perth Fringe World (2019)  
Best Theatre Nomination – Melbourne Fringe (2019)  
Screen Australia Developing the Developer Recipient (2018)  
Theatreworks Associate Artist (2018)  
Lonely Company Residency (2018)  
City of Melbourne Creative Spaces fellowship (2018)  
Westerly Writers Program Mentorship (2017)  
Melbourne Festival Director's Lab (2017)  
A Room of One's Own Residency (2017)  
Wheeler Centre Hot Desk Fellowship (2016)  
Innovation in Practice Award – Melbourne Fringe (2015)  
Best Theatre Nomination – Perth Fringe World (2015)

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for further details.

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