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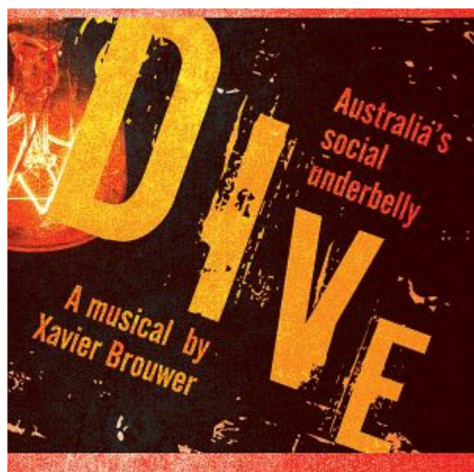
## DIVE - a new Australian musical

DIVE is a new Australian rock musical set in a rooming house in Melbourne.

It uses humour and drama to portray the complex lives of a group of disadvantaged Australians trying to get ahead.

DIVE is written by the well-known Australian music theatre writer Xavier Brouwer and is being performed at the Open Stage Theatre, Melbourne University (near Lygon St).

More information can be found at: [www.divethemusical.com](http://www.divethemusical.com)



### Feedback/Comments

Lili ★★★★★

This musical delivers a strong message about the harsh realities of life and obstacles faced by those who are homeless and their impact on the lives of others. It was very well acted and moving with a touch of humour. Leonie

Demon ★★★★★

Excellent storyline. Good songs, lyrically nailed it. Actors well cast and delivered some compelling moments. A rough diamond well worth polishing.

dgeh@bigpond.net.au ★★★★★

Well done musical. Like the music score.

abc ★★★★★

I thought the writer really captured the harsh realities of life for the people in "Suicide House" as well as the police officers. The acting was very good and we felt all their pain, anger and frustration. This is not your normal musical, but certainly a very interesting one

FatTeddysCrew ★★★★★

Not a feel good show as you expect a musical to be. Dark subject matter. Dark characters. Dark storyline. Almost no plot, just a situation and various reactions to it. Standout song routine was Policy but the rest were pretty woeful.

Hopeful123 ★★★★★

reshmalr ★★★★★

melbchic ★★★★★

Dive is not a feel good theatrical experience. There is no redemption to be found here. And that is precisely the point.

In a cleverly crafted storyline, Xavier Brouwer nails the stark reality of daily life for those who inhabit Australia's social underbelly. With a cast of nine, he invites us to get up close and personal with the unemployed, socially ostracised, mentally ill, violent criminal and other disadvantaged characters. He allows us to venture into their world from the comfort of our theatre chairs.

As we entered the theatre, a single spotlight hovered over Cory Corbett (as Bram) playing the didgeridoo. The haunting sound set a fitting tone for the experience ahead. A stark stage held multiple settings where each scene was played out. A stove and table setting for a kitchen scene, beer bottles and other rubbish scattered on the floor; mattresses on the floor depicting two bedrooms at the rear of the stage; a desk to one side for the Centrelink office; and a broken bench on the other side for the park.

While the storyline flowed well and characters became believable, sadly, the singing ability of the cast let the production down. After all, a musical relies on each actor's ability to sing. They were supported by a talented live band – guitar, bass guitar, sax and drums – and the musicians made a masterful effort in pitching rhythm, tone and mood to match the action playing out in front of us. The harsh sound system was not kind to the actors, who were obviously challenged in hitting the right notes on many occasions.

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### GET TO KNOW US

The multicultural mix of characters gave an authentic feel to the diverse demographics of contemporary Australia. Standout performances in the area of character portrayal were delivered by Lucinda Barrett (as Sue), Otis Binnie (as The Bureaucrat) and Aparna Bhattacharjee (as Wilma).

Dive delivers in regards to giving a voice to Australia's hidden underclass and creating a point of reflection for those of us lucky enough to have no first-hand experience of life in such a hopeless space. With better vocal talent, this play could really shine.

~ Reviewed by Kellie Hancock

VictorMoo 

Fun65 

patatie 

Mamajo 

Outstanding! Captured my attention the entire time. The writing was excellent. The acting was brilliant! Well done.

annao\_81 

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