

## The Medea Hypothesis

Cockpit Theatre, Voila festival



On the verge of ecological disaster, a mother who no longer wishes to be a mother and a child who no longer wishes to be, find salvation in a drastic solution.

The Medea Hypothesis uses an ancient myth to address a very modern crisis - is humankind's current path self destructive?

As we seek to give our children every advantage are we securing a way of life that leads to destruction? In the same way that the original Medea play questions fundamental concepts of what it is to be a mother, The Medea Hypothesis questions what it means to fight for survival, or even the value of life in a world where 'strength in numbers' might only serve to secure destruction.

Their reassessment of life's fundamental values is played out by a single mother who doubts any reasonable future for her and her son, and a son who perceives himself and his peers as the cause of tomorrow's global catastrophe. Running through the core of this play is The Medea Hypothesis - a real life theory by Palaeontologist Peter Ward that suggests a malign alternative to burturing concepts of a Mother Earth - one that instead casts off her children to save herself.



Medea – Susie Fairbrother  
Jason – Leo Ashizawa  
Woman/lecturer – Valentina Pakou

Original concept – Tania Batzoglou  
Sound – Carlo Cenciarelli  
Script/stage design – Colin Legge  
Production coordinator and marketing – Valentina Pakou

Directed and produced by The Washing Machine

**The Washing Machine**, a London based theatre and performance collective, are interested in the narrative of narrative; how yesterday's stories become today's. Whether revisiting the concepts of a prominent play, or building a story around something socially unspoken or unheard, our emphasis is on creating new works - captivating theatrical and performative pieces that encourage new thinking.



**Leo Ashizawa** is an actor, writer and a producer. He has performed in **various theatre performances, TVs and films**. His creative passion is shedding a light to people, things or matters that can be ignorantly neglected or cannot be seen.



**Tania Batzoglou** is a theatre practitioner, drama and movement therapist and an educator. Between Greece, UK, Berlin, her extensive experience in acting, performing, and performance making varies from classical plays, devised, immersive promenade performances, live art to commissioned work for the V&A museum, TATE modern, Hampton Court Palace, British Museum, NHS. Alongside The Washing Machine, she collaborates with Vanio Papadelli for **CANDID Project**.



**Carlo Cenciarelli** is a film music theorist and sound designer. He studied composition in Italy and musicology in London, and now teaches music and audiovisual media at Cardiff University. His theoretical and creative work is characterised by an interest in how small (sometimes tiny) changing details in what we hear can affect our sense of self and our understanding of reality.





**Susie Fairbrother** trained at London International School of Performing Arts.

Theatre includes: 'Family Histories' (Bush Theatre); 'Antigone' (Riverside Studios and Cyprus International Festival of Ancient Greek Theatre); 'Medusa' (SHUNT); 'In the Wake Of' (Rich Mix); 'Trilogy' (BAC and Barbican); 'Kiss the Shadow' (Soho Theatre).

Susie also writes and devises her own work.



**Colin Legge** is a writer and visual artist.

Alongside script-writing and devising performance, Colin writes short stories, and has recently completed his first novel. His writing centres around the friction between humankind and its environment. Colin's practice is based in London where he lives on a narrow boat - a nomadic lifestyle that informs his practice.



**Valentina Pakou** is a theatre practitioner and workshop leader with an extensive background in movement.

Having worked in Russia, Greece, Italy, Austria and UK, the body of her work covers all aspects from classical plays, physical and musical theatre to devised and immersive performance. She is the newest member of The Washing Machine and you can find her @valentina.pakou on Instagram. [Spotlight CV](#)