



VIDYA RAJAN

Vidya Rajan is a fresh and fearless talent of undeniable range. A comedian, performer and writer for theatre and television, her genre-crossing work is contemporary, innovative, and sharply hilarious.

With a background in improv, sketch and theatre, Vidya is an in-demand comedy voice. She recently appeared (and wrote on) Auntie Donna's new sitcom **Auntie Donna's Coffee Café** as part of the core ensemble, and Grouse House's **Finding Yeezus**. She was a contributing writer and performer for the ABC sketch show **At Home Alone Together** (playing a spectrum of characters from teenage wank-boy to crow), appeared in the 2021 **Australia Debates** series for ABC TV, and was a writer and actor with **The Feed Comedy** SBS on a number of projects, for which she won the 2022 AWGIE award for Comedy – Situation or Narrative.

Vidya appears as a series regular in **Slushy**, an audio comedy series for Audible, and was a staff writer on the Amazon Original series **Deadloch**, created by Kates McCartney and McLennan. Her live comedy is known for combining the silly and surreal with incisive insights into race, capitalism and the strange depths of the internet. Her 2022 show **Respawn** (a show about death and reincarnation through the giddy lens of stand-up, sketch and passive-aggressive PowerPoint) was a hit at the MICF & Darwin festivals, and her digital interactive experience **In Search of Lost Scroll** took home Best Experimental Artwork at the 2022 Melbourne Fringe awards.

An accomplished playwright and theatre-maker, Vidya studied at VCA and her shows have been performed to acclaim at some of Australia's best art spaces including Red Stitch, Griffin Theatre, The Blue Room, Artshouse, Belvoir, and the Malthouse amongst others. A one-time Malthouse writer-in-residence, as well as a Besen and Malcolm Robertson Fellow, 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”.

In 2022 Malthouse Theatre and Belvoir St Theatre presented Vidya's adaptation of the beloved Australian novel **Looking For Alibrandi**. Her digital performance **In Search Of Lost Scroll** recently won Best Experimental Work at the 2022 Fringe Awards, garnering a rapturous critical response and a recent return online season.

Increasingly working as a screenwriter, Vidya has contributed to various story rooms across broadcast and streaming services, worked as a development assistant for Tony Ayres' Productions on YA and high-concept scripts, and written on several Screen Australia-funded developments and series. She is currently working on narrative projects with Princess Pictures and Passionfruit Bites and developing an original slate.

“Rajan has combined some of her best talents—comedy and screenwriting, as well as acting and games design – into an experience that is all her own. ★★★★★” **The Age, 2022**

“A master of sketch...provocative (and) disarmingly complex.” ★★★★★ **Time Out**

“One of the smartest, funniest, and most resolutely cooked writers and comedians in Australia right now.” **Declan Greene**