

MLF SMH  
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## An Oz fable of today

By BERWYN LEWIS

Long Long Time Ago  
Realised by Mike Mullins  
Mona Lisa of the Desert . . . Mickey Furuya  
Three Young People . . . . . Alan Dargin.  
Tsukasa Furuya, Ewa Sitta  
Drover's wife . . . . . Joan Grounds  
Bondi Lifesaver, Anzac, General . . Bob Noble  
Performance Space, 199 Cleveland Street,  
Redfern. March 24-April 10  
Tues.-Sat. 8 pm Sat.-Sun. 5 pm

MIKE Mullins's glimpses of the bizarre and the surreal edges of Australian identity continue to flourish.

His inspired event at the freshly renovated Performance Space is more like a visual performance art piece. It takes the form of a modern fable set in the sandy crater of a desert.

Populated by Australian figures from the past, present and future, the characters reflect images of a culture lost and dazed by their environment, disinherited and on the run, searching for a sanctuary, the victims of a rapidly encroaching bureaucracy, the Uniformed Ones.

This production has no dialogue. The sinister silences are punctuated with eerie music, ugly fragments of speech and war cries. But there are moments of sheer hilarity. The Ocker demigod resurrects himself from the sand in the form of a muscle-flexing, dinki-di lifesaver.

This true blue in the tailored perfection of his one-piece bathing suit semaphorically executes a series of balletic reel-and-surf rescue motions to the distant call of pounding waves.

A Tom Roberts-inspired drover's wife endlessly rakes an infinity of sand to the sound of extreme heat. A time-warped and war-crazed Anzac wrestles with the Japanese boy (Tsukasa Furuya). The metamorphic Mona Lisa (Mickey Furuya) drags her shopping stroller across a wasteland littered with radio-active space junk, eskies, back packs and High Tech military toys.

This oneiric work captures the frailty of the balance between life and MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction).

As the final image a robotic general presses the button and Mullins introduces a view of the future — a suspended combination of hope and horror, a perfection in engineering and provocative symbolism.