

About the play:

This one-woman production was conceived by Sue Diepeveen and saw one outing as a test run back in 2016. Since then, the piece has been refined by writer and performer under the insightful watch of director Wynne Bredenkamp. Further directorial assistance was given 2022 by Greg Karvellas.

The production was set to make its debut at the National Arts Festival in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) in 2020, but had to enjoy a digital debut instead. The production went on to enjoy successful runs at both The Drama Factory and 44 On Long later that year. 2022 saw the production touring successfully to Paternoster, the Umtiza Festival in East London and up to Johannesburg for a two-week run at Theatre on the Square. We finished the year with two performances at Toyota US Woordfees before heading to KKNK and Hilton Arts Festival in 2023.

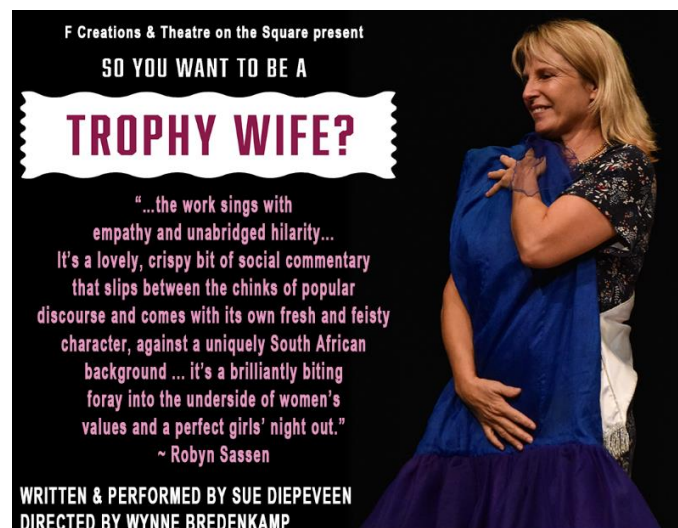


When creating this production, “I spent a lot of time researching tropes and norms that feed into the belief that we are objects to be used and abused as men see fit. I started asking myself if women put themselves in harm’s way precisely because they perpetuate this thinking unconsciously - why do we go out of our way to keep our legs shaved? Do we do it to feel more comfortable or is it a need to be more attractive to men?” says Diepeveen.

“The character of Marie was really born from an aunt of mine who was rather unsophisticated in her thinking and who was content to go along with what her family and friends thought and easily influenced. I started questioning if her life was actually happier because she didn’t rock any boats. Perhaps all this soul searching makes us discontent?”

Audiences have called So You Want to be a Trophy Wife? “funny, poignant, different” and “Beautifully written and performed”.

- To see production reviews and comments from audience members, [click here](#).
- To read interviews with Sue Diepeveen about the creation of the play, [click here](#).



Story:

In a world awash with “influencers” and “blessers”, poor old Marie is swamped! Feeling invisible and desperate, her only hope, it seems, is to find herself a rich husband. But that is easier said than done. She’ll also need to make few changes in order to attract said rich man. Can mutton really be dressed up as lamb? Does it want to be dressed up as lamb?

The play is set in a room full of boxes and Marie is packing up after her mother has passed away. As she uncovers things, we take a trip down memory lane with Marie and discover the twists and turns life has handed her along the way. First losing her husband and then her mother in the space of year has put Marie in a position she never imagined she would be in.

Just how do you move forward when you don’t feel like you’re equipped for this world? Laugh along with Marie as she explores her options in a world with unbelievable expectations, where success and happiness are mercurial. Through trying to reclaim her youth, Marie’s eyes are opened to how ridiculous we fairer sex can be.



The team:

Sue Diepeveen – Writer, performer

Sue is a Cape Town based film, television and theatre actress. Her recent camera work includes Honey 3, Killer Instinct, DPO Training, American Monster, Cultured & The Deprived. Sue is an accomplished voice actor who relishes the challenge of accent-based work.

The first run of her self-written solo show So You Want To Be A Trophy Wife? (2015) saw her return to the stage. Sue performed in 2019's Vday performance of The Vagina Monologues. 2018 saw her on stage with Dario Fo's A Woman Alone directed by Margot Wood. In 2019, she performed in Mike Van Graan's Two To Tango, which had a successful run at the National Arts Festival and The Hilton Arts Festival.

As the owner of a new theatre space in Somerset West (The Drama Factory) Sue is heavily involved in mentoring programmes for young actors and is committed to ensuring a safe and affordable space for new work to see the light of day. She runs a drama school specializing in LAMDA examination work and spends a great deal of time adjudicating various Eisteddfods and competitions.

Recently Sue directed Your Perfect Life (2019) for F Creations, which won an unprecedented two Standard Bank Ovation Awards at The National Arts Festival. In addition to directing Thirst for the Cape Town Fringe (2016) under the Sugar-Daddy Production house, she has directed the acclaimed Blueberry Toast (2018), which completed two successful Cape Town runs. As a writer she has written five plays for large casts for children. Sue is also the writer, director and producer of several current children's shows. These include a series of puppet shows based on Aesop's Fables – What Did the Fox Say? – and a new adaptation of The Emperor's New Clothes.



Wynne Bredenkamp – Director

Wynne is a University of Cape Town graduate with distinction in a BA in Theatre Making and performance. In her final year of study, she co-won the Most Promising Student Writer award for being part of UCT's student production Behind Every Yawn is a Silent Shout in the National Arts Festival. Writing, directing and producing her own work, Wynne attended the NAF the next year and won a Standard Bank Ovation Award for her first professional production, Salt, as well as a PANSAs New Writing Award. Since then, she has written two plays: Warrior Green, a post-apocalyptic tale of young eco warriors for children and At the Edge of the Light, which came to life under the Theatre Arts Admin Emerging Director's Bursary and the mentorship of Tossie Von Tonder. At the Edge of the Light was then chosen to be part of the 2018 National Arts Festival Main Stage.



Other direction highlights include The Woman Who Would Be King by Esosa Edosomwan, Why Not Socialism? by Brent Meersman, and assistant director to Greg Karvellas on Clybourn Park by Bruce Norris at the Fugard Theatre and Sue Pam Grant's Curl Up and Dye.

In addition to being a theatre writer and director, she has been a casting director, art director and is now a part-time Live Performance tutor at AFDA, Cape Town, and have directed year-end work such as Reza De Wet's Good Heavens, Aeschylus The Oresteia: Agamemnon, Dario Fo's The Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Martin Crimp's The Misanthrope and Arthur Miller's The Crucible.

Faeron Wheeler – Producer

Faeron has been involved in theatre and the stage since she was only three years old. She studied drama and dancing throughout her school years. She then went on to do a BA with a double major in Screenwriting and English before earning her Honours in Film Production from the University of Cape Town.

In 2017, she began producing theatre through her new company, F Creations and has toured shows around South Africa. Branching out from just theatre, Faeron entered an F Creations team into the Cape Town 48 Film Project in 2019, and their film received a nomination for Best Editing. 2019 also saw Faeron take on the role of theatre critic, writing for Broadway World South Africa and Fine Music Radio.

Recent acting credits include The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), The Comedy of Errors and a role in season two of the TV series American Monster. Faeron also works as a voice over artist, regularly lending her voice to educational and training material. In 2019, Faeron teamed up with Erika Breytenbach-Marais to write and perform in Your Perfect Life. The show premiered at the National Arts Festival Fringe, where it received its first Standard Bank Ovation Award, before touring around Cape Town later that year. In 2021, Faeron was named as a Regional Finalist in both the Main Pro and Endurance categories of the World Monologue Games.

During the pandemic, Faeron continued to create - turning to directing, filming and editing with (extra)ordinary, (un)usual. Created as a hybrid of theatre and film, this piece was part of the vFringe on-demand streaming platform for the National Arts Festival in 2021, where it received a Silver Standard Bank Ovation Award. F Creations also received a second Standard Bank Ovation Award for their digital offering of Your Perfect Life during the 2021 festival. That year, F Creations also took part in the World Monologue Film Festival, where they were chosen as a finalist in the festival.

As theatre opened up again in 2022, Faeron teamed up with Sue Diepeveen of The Drama Factory to co-produce a Women's Month Festival. F Creation's production So You Want to be a Trophy Wife? also toured to East London, Paternoster, Sandton and Woodfees (Stellenbosch) through the course of the year. In 2023, Faeron became the Head of Programming for the Masque Theatre in Cape Town and has produced several shows for the theatre.

