**THE CINEMAS PROJECT**

**EXPLORING THE SPECTRAL SPACES OF CINEMAS IN REGIONAL VICTORIA**

*The Cinemas Project Book*

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To celebrate the culmination of the first iteration of *The Cinemas Project*, we are publishing a book that catalogues the commissioned artists’ work as well as highlighting some of the sites of cinema that we have visited across regional Victoria. The book contains essays on the work of Brook Andrew and Mikala Dwyer, as well as extensive interviews with Tom Nicholson and Bianca Hester regarding their work that was produced for *The Cinemas Project*. We are delighted that the book also contains essays by renowned cinema historians Adrian Martin and Ian Christie, alongside artist Sam Nightingale’s evocative photo-essay that presents the sites of cinema as they appear today. Finally, we are thrilled to present the complete script for Lily Hibberd’s play *4 Devils – Hell and High Water*, which was written for the beautiful Regent Cinema in Yarram and to be performed by a local cast. Built in 1930 by the entrepreneurial Mrs M A Thompson, The Regent remains an active and important part of the Yarram community and Hibberd’s play responds to the important role that the theatre holds within the community as well as telling its fascinating (and often humorous) history.

**About *The Cinemas Project***

*The Cinemas Project* draws upon the spectral space of cinema making reference to the diverse temporal spaces that are opened up within the immersive narratives of film and by acts of reminiscence and memory. As such we see *The Cinemas Project* to be evoking spirited, visions, ghostly images and the theatre of memory.

*The Cinemas Project* is a program of major, new contemporary artworks that explore the spaces of cinema in regional Victoria. These projects, by five of Australia’s leading contemporary artists, evoke both the mechanics of film as well as the history and present day reality of cinema and the power of images in our midst. In many cases the works were housed within or make reference to cinema buildings that still stand, have vanished or have been re-purposed.