

Ensemble
theatre for everyone



A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS

by James Graham

7 JULY – 20 AUGUST 2016

A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS

by James Graham

PLAYWRIGHT
JAMES GRAHAM

DIRECTOR
NICOLE BUFFONI

CAST

ROBIN
ERIC BEECROFT

JACQUI
SOPHIE HENSSE

LESLEY
MERRIDY
EASTMAN

REECE
BRIAN MEEGAN

JIMMY
SAM O'SULLIVAN

JOHN
(VOICEOVER)
MARK KILMURRY

DESIGNER
ANNA GARDINER

**LIGHTING
DESIGNER**
CHRISTOPHER PAGE

AV DESIGNER
TIM HOPE

SOUND DESIGNER
ALISTAIR WALLACE

**STAGE
MANAGER**
LARA QUALTROUGH

CREW

**ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGER**
SLADE BLANCH

**WARDROBE
COORDINATOR**
RENATA BESLIK

**DIALECT
COACH**
NICK CURNOW

**REHEARSAL
OBSERVER**
ELSIE EDGERTON-TILL

RUNNING TIME: APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES (NO INTERVAL)

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James is a playwright and film and television writer who won the Pearson Playwriting Bursary in 2006 and went on to win the

Catherine Johnson Award for the Best Play in 2007 for his play EDEN'S EMPIRE. James' play THIS HOUSE premièred at the Cottesloe Theatre in September 2012, directed by Jeremy Herrin, and transferred to the Olivier in 2013 where it enjoyed a sell out run and garnered critical acclaim and a huge amount of interest and admiration from current and former MP's for his rendition of life in the House of Commons. James's play TORY BOYZ for the National Youth Theatre caused a storm during its run at the Soho Theatre and received excellent reviews for its portrayal of young, gay men in the modern Conservative Party. His play THE WHISKY TASTER premiered at the Bush Theatre in early 2010 to uniformly excellent reviews. He has written the book for FINDING NEVERLAND the musical with music by Gary

JAMES GRAHAM – **PLAYWRIGHT**

Barlow. It opened in Boston in Summer 2014 and transferred to Broadway in Spring 2015. His play THE VOTE at the Donmar Warehouse aired in real time on TV in the final 90 minutes of the 2015 polling day and has been nominated for a BAFTA. His first film for television, CAUGHT IN A TRAP, was broadcast on ITV1 on Boxing Day 2008. James was picked as one of Broadcast Magazine's Hotshots in the same year. He is developing original series and adaptations with Tiger Aspect, Leftbank, Kudos and the BBC. His film X AND Y has been produced by Origin Pictures and BBC Films and was on the prestigious 'Brit List', the list of the best unproduced screenplays in the UK. It opened in cinemas in Spring 2015 starring Rafe Spall, Sally Hawkins & Eddie Marsan. He is currently working on an adaptation of 1984 for director Paul Greengrass. James' play PRIVACY will open at the Public Theatre Off Broadway in New York in July 2016 starring Daniel Radcliffe.



Nicole studied under Hayes Gordon AO OBE and Zika Nester OAM at the Ensemble Studios. She worked as an Assistant

Director for Mark Kilmurry and Sandra Bates on numerous productions between 2008 and 2013. In 2008 she received the Order of Australia Emerging Director's Grant. In 2012 she received the Walter Reid Memorial Prize at Sydney University. Earlier this year Nicole served as Ensemble Theatre Literary Coordinator. Directing credits include:

NICOLE BUFFONI – **DIRECTOR**

LADIES IN LAVENDER, A PICASSO (Ensemble Theatre), PUSH UP (Newtown Theatre), THE QUIET BROTHER- AWGIE Nominated (Belvoir Downstairs), THE THINGS GOOD MEN DO (Tap Gallery) THE HISTORY OF THEATRE and LOVE, DEATH AND A LITTLE MADNESS (HGR Shakespeare in Schools Program), SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME, BOMBSHELLS, CRIMES OF THE HEART, PLAYING SMALL (self devised), LOYALTIES and GIRL INTERRUPTED for which she wrote the stage adaptation (Ensemble Studios).



For Ensemble Theatre: THE ANZAC PROJECT, DARK VOYAGER, and THE GLASS MENAGERIE. Other theatre credits include: MACBETH and ROMEO AND JULIET (Sport for Jove Theatre),



A NIDA graduate, Merridy Eastman has performed in a swag of productions for the Melbourne and Sydney Theatre Companies as well as the State Theatre Company of South Australia. Having appeared in many television comedies and dramas, Merridy is best known for being a former PLAYSCHOOL presenter and a regular cast member of television series ALWAYS GREENER and PACKED TO THE RAFTERS. Most recently she has appeared on the fourth series of RAKE. In 2002,



Sophie has trained with the Australian Theatre for Young People and participated in the NIDA open program. Sophie holds a BA in Media Communications, Media, Arts and Production from UTS. Sophie is currently screening in Series 3 of Channel Nine's acclaimed production of LOVE CHILD in the role Viv. Her other television credits include AUSTRALIA THE STORY OF US, Channel Nine's TRICKY BUSINESS as the series regular Lily Christie, SERANGOON ROAD and CROWNIES for ABC, HOME AND AWAY,



Brian graduated from WAAPA in 1984. For The Ensemble Theatre Brian has appeared in ABSENT FRIENDS, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, FRANKENSTEIN, THE ACT, MY WONDERFUL DAY, NINETY, ABIGAIL'S PARTY, CHAPTER TWO, ART, THE HEARTBREAK KID, MACBETH, WRONG FOR EACH OTHER, ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS AND THE BOYS NEXT DOOR. His other theatre credits include COCK for Red Line Productions, GLEN GARRY GLEN ROSS for the Western Australian Theatre Company and A

ERIC BEECROFT – **ROBIN**

UNDER MILK WOOD, THE TRIAL, and HAMLET (WAAPA). Film: LIFE (dir. Robert Stromberg), A LADY AND A ROBOT (Tropfest Finalist 2014 dir. Toby Morris), RED (AFTRS dir. Erin Good). WAAPA Acting Graduate 2010.

MERRIDY EASTMAN – **LESLEY**

Merridy's first book was published by Allen and Unwin. THERE'S A BEAR IN THERE (AND HE WANTS SWEDISH) was an Australian best seller, and was followed by RIDICULOUS EXPECTATIONS (2007) and HOW NOW BROWN FRAU (2011). Merridy has contributed to two anthologies, Penguin's THANKS FOR THE MAMMARIES (2009) and Pan Macmillan's JUST BETWEEN US (2013). She was one of the contributing writers of BREAST WISHES the Musical, and is a regular columnist for the Wentworth Courier.

SOPHIE HENSSEY – **JACQUI**

UNDERBELLY: THE GOLDEN MILE, COPS LAC, ALL SAINTS AND THE SADDLE CLUB. Her theatre credits include UGLY MUGS FOR MALTHOUSE Theatre / Griffin Theatre Directed by Marion Potts, THE REMOVALISTS for Tamarama Rock Surfers directed by Leland Kean, SILENT DISCO for the Griffin Theatre Company, directed by Lee Lewis, THE DISTANCE FROM HERE for Griffin independent directed by John Sheedy, SUMMERFOLK FOR BOB PRESENTS, directed by Eamon Flack. Sophie was nominated for "Best Newcomer" at the 2011 Sydney Theatre Awards for SILENT DISCO.

BRIAN MEEGAN – **REECE**

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and THE GRASS WIDOW for The Hole in the Wall Theatre Company. BREAKING THE SILENCE for Marian Street, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING for Shakespeare in the Park, HAMLET, HENRY IV, OTHELLO and ANTHONY AND CLEOPATRA for Sydney Theatre Company and KING LEAR for The Studio Company. Brian also co-wrote his own show, THE BOYS GOTTA BONK which toured to Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. For Television he has appeared in DEVILS DUST, UNDERBELLY "BADNESS", A MODEL DAUGHTER – THE KILLING OF CAROLINE BYRNE, SEA PATROL, WATER RATS, ALL

SAINTS, GRASS ROOTS, STINGERS, BLUE HEELERS, BLUE WATER HIGH, THROUGH MY EYES. Brian played the regular character of Colin Thompson on GOING HOME for SBS. For the ABC he has appeared in MARKING TIME and CURTIN. His voice over credits include PETALS for ABC, OZ THE MAGICAL

ADVENTURE – Interactive DVD and DEADLY for Yoram Gross, voice work on the Interactive game BORDERLANDS for 2K Australia P/L. Brian's film appearances include PRIME MOVER, \$9.99, JOYRIDER, THREADED, RISK and THE ILLUSTRATED FAMILY DOCTOR.



Originally from Perth, Sam completed a Bachelor of Arts at Curtin University, majoring in Film and Television before moving to

Sydney to attend the National Institute of Dramatic Art. Since graduating, Sam's theatre credits include the HOBO Collective's MEN WITHOUT SHADOWS, Toby Schmitz's, CAPTURE THE FLAG, the 2011 JUST FOR LAUGHS COMEDY GALA, the Rodney Seaborn Award winning play, SPROUT, Australian Youth Workshop's SHAKESPEARE ON TRIAL, Pantsguys' multi-award winning production of Simon Steven's, PUNK ROCK, Cathode Ray Tube's A STEADY RAIN, POSTNUPTIALS for AnotherBrightIdea and the Sydney Mardi Gras Festival, PLAYHOUSE for NIDA



A WAAPA Design graduate, Anna has designed numerous productions across Sydney including, Costume Design: for

Sport for Jove - ROMEO AND JULIET, AS YOU LIKE IT, MACBETH, HAMLET, CYRANO DE BERGERAC. Set and Costume Design: for Sport for Jove - THE TEMPEST, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE CRUCIBLE, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. For Ensemble Theatre - A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD, CAMP, DARK VOYAGER, ABSENT FRIENDS, EDUCATING RITA, THE SHOEHORN SONATA, LADIES IN LAVENDER, JACK OF HEARTS. OTHER COMPANIES -TIGER COUNTRY (Little Spoon Theatre), ROOTED (Don't Look Away),

SAM O'SULLIVAN – **JIMMY**

and STORIES LIKE THESE, THE REMOVALISTS for The Rock Surfers, HILT for Mirror Mirror, MUSIC for Stories Like These and Griffin Independent, CONSTELLATIONS for the Darlinghurst Theatre Company, PLATONOV for Mophead Productions, KILL THE MESSENGER for Belvoir St Theatre and MY ZINC BED for Ensemble Theatre. His screen credits include the short films LITTLE LOVE, SIMPLETON, ZOMBIE CASE STUDY, DASH and BACKPACK and TV series BLACK COMEDY, WONDERLAND, PACKED TO THE RAFTERS and FAST TRACKS. In 2012, Sam was nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Actor in an Independent Production for his performance in PUNK ROCK.

ANNA GARDINER – **DESIGNER**

THIS FELLA, MY MEMORY (Moogahlin Performing Arts), HENRY V (Bell Shakespeare), BLOOD BROTHERS (Enda Markey Presents), THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER (Monkey Baa), ORPHANS (Redline Productions), SHELLSHOCK (Riverside Theatre), FOLLIES - IN CONCERT (Storyboard Entertainment), INNER VOICES (Don't Look Away). Anna has been nominated for two Sydney Theatre Awards for her work on CYRANO DE BERGERAC and THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (Sport for Jove), was nominated for a Greenroom Award for Henry V (Bell Shakespeare) and was the winner of the 2014 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Stage Design of a Mainstream Production for HENRY V. Anna has received a 2015 APDG Award for Emerging Designer for Stage for her work on THE CRUCIBLE.



CHRISTOPHER PAGE – **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

For Ensemble Chris has also designed THE GOOD DOCTOR, BLUE/ORANGE. Other recent credits include: THE MAN WITH FIVE CHILDREN, RIDE/FOURPLAY (Darlinghurst Theatre); BLACK JESUS, HIS MOTHER'S VOICE, GREAT EXPECTATIONS, HIS DARK MATERIALS (bAKEHOUSE); GHOST STORIES (Prince Moo Productions); DEFYING GRAVITY, BLOOD BROTHERS,

DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING?, SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM (Enda Markey Presents); THE WITCHES, FIVE PROPERTIES OF CHAINMALE (Griffin Theatre); HOUSE OF RAMON IGLESIA, PLATONOV (Mop Head); CHI UDAKA (TaikoZ & Sydney Festival); CULMINATE (Force Majeure); THE DARK ROOM, WINDMILL BABY, AS YOU LIKE IT (Belvoir); THE TENDER AGE, TELL IT LIKE IT ISN'T, RAINBOW'S ENDING (ATYP); TRUCK STOP (Q Theatre).



TIM HOPE – **AV DESIGNER**

Tim is a Sydney based actor, film and theatre maker. He graduated from the Australian Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2013 with a Bachelor of Performance. Since graduating he has worked on projects such as Sydney Festival and Ken Unsworth's THE ARRANGEMENT as an AV designer;

Julia Cotton/Etcetera's THE INVENTORISTS and Ascham School's INTO THE WOODS and CORAM BOY as Lighting Designer; CAT VS TOAST (short) as Director of Photography; as well as being regular AV mentor at AIM: Dramatic Arts and film mentor at SCEGGS Darlinghurst. He still acts, when he has the time and wishes he had more of it.



ALISTAIR WALLACE – **SOUND DESIGNER**

Alistair is an actor, producer, comedian and sound designer. He graduated from Actors Centre Australia in 2010 and is a founding member and artistic associate of pantsguys Productions. Alistair's sound design credits include: JACK OF HEARTS, BLOOD BANK (Ensemble); RIDE / FOURPLAY (Darlinghurst Theatre Co); THE BLOCK UNIVERSE (Cross Pollinate); A TOWN NAMED

WARBOY (atyp); THE HOUSE OF RAMON IGLESIA, PLATONOV (mophead); JERUSALEM (New Theatre) - nominated Best Independent Sound Design, Sydney Theatre Awards 2013; PUNK ROCK (pantsguys/atyp) - winner, Best Independent Production, Sydney Theatre Awards 2012; BITCH BOXER (Bull Ant Productions); THE REAL THING, WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING AND HARVEST (New Theatre).



LARA QUALTROUGH – **STAGE MANAGER**

Lara is a stage manager based on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. She recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of the Sunshine Coast and completed a theatre internship in stage management on Belvoir St Theatre's and La Boite Theatre Company's 2015 co-production SAMSON, by Julia-Rose Lewis. Lara's stage management credits include

HAMLET:PSYCHED and FIGMENTS OF ELIZA for USC Theatre, THE DEATH FACTOR for the Sunshine Coast Inclusive Theatre Restaurant and student works LEAVING THE NEST, PLAYER 2, VOLUME, K and THE LOLLY BISHOP EXPERIENCE. Returning to the Ensemble Theatre after a secondment on LADIES IN LAVENDER in 2015, Lara is excited to be involved in A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS.



RENATA BESLIK – **WARDROBE COORDINATOR**

Renata is a costume supervisor and maker, most recently as costume buyer for ScreenTime's upcoming show THE SECRET DAUGHTER. As Head of Costume for Bell Shakespeare Renata worked on HENRY V, THE WINTER'S TALE, MACBETH, INTIMATE LETTERS and TARTUFFE. Since graduating from NIDA's Costume Production course in 2007, Renata has been invited back to supervise productions such as THE TEMPEST, WOYCECK, A LIE OF THE MIND, PORT

and THE THREESOME, acting as supervisor and mentor to the costume students. Costume making credits include OPERA AUSTRALIA, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, LOVE NEVER DIES, THE CRUCIBLE (Sport for Jove), KING KONG (Global Creatures), IN THE NEXT ROOM (STC), THE ORESETES TRILOGY (Steam Industry) in London. Renata has a special interest in millinery, working on Baz Lurhman's THE GREAT GATSBY, VICTORY OVER THE SUN (Sydney Biennale), THE 7 SOPRANOS (Crea8ion) and Opera Australia's CARMEN, AIDA and MY FAIR LADY.



NICK CURNOW – **DIALECT CONSULTANT**

Nick graduated from Theatre Nepean (2002), UNE (2006), and NIDA (2007). As a dialect specialist he has coached productions for some of Sydney's biggest companies including Company B, Opera Australia and the Ensemble, as well as respected independents like TRS, Darlinghurst Theatre Company, Red Line and the New Theatre. Recent credits include GOOD PEOPLE, SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS, MOTHERS AND SONS, DARK VOYAGER (Ensemble), THE RITZ, DISCO PIGS, BLONDE POISON, GROUNDED (QTC), WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING, ORPHANS and

THE WEIR. Other credits include PROOF, EDUCATING RITA, MURDERERS, BETWEEN US (Ensemble), RUBEN GUTHRIE (Belvoir), MY FAIR LADY (OA), REASONS TO BE PRETTY, GOD'S EAR, THE COMING WORLD, THE LARAMIE PROJECT, CODGERS, and YES, PRIME MINISTER. Film and TV work includes UNDERBELLY, DISTANCE, SEA PATROL, and THE SLAP. Nick teaches for NIDA's Open Program, Actors Pulse, ACTT, NSW Department of Education's Arts Unit, and regularly engages in private tuition with some of Australia's most well known and loved performers. More info at www.nickcurnow.com



SLADE BLANCH – **ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Slade graduated school last year, completing his high school certificate, credits include; Assistant Stage Manager: TRIBES, THE BIG DRY (Ensemble Theatre), INTO THE WOODS (HMS), HAIRSPRAY (Packemin Productions). Head microphone Technician: ANNIE, BEAUTY & THE BEAST, JOSEPH & THE AMAZING COLOUR DREAM COAT, PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, MARY POPPINS, BACK TO THE 80'S, WEST SIDE STORY (Packemin Productions), Stage Manager: GREASE, FOLLIES, THE PRODUCERS, GUYS & DOLLS (HMS).

Co Prop Coordinator: LEGALLY BLOND (WTC), Set Coordinator, Set design: PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (WTC), BEAUTY & THE BEAST, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, ANNIE, (PHHS). Assistant Production Manager: 2015 ROB GUEST ENDOWMENT CONCERT. Sound Crew: MATILDA THE MUSICAL, GEORGY GIRL (System Sound) as well as performing on stage: "LUMIER"- BEAUTY & THE BEAST, "THE MAD HATTER"- ALICE IN WONDERLAND, "Mrs Hannigan"- ANNIE (PHHS) as well as crew for a number of other productions.

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16 JULY – 20 AUGUST 2016

BETRAYAL

by Harold Pinter



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