

**Ensemble**  
theatre for everyone

# THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR

BY  
KATE MULVANY

1 APRIL – 30 APRIL 2017  
WORLD PREMIERE

# THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR

**BY**  
**KATE MULVANY**

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Late evening. The Moika Palace.  
Petrograd. 29th December, 1916.

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**DIRECTOR**  
JOHN SHEEDY

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## CAST

**FELIX**  
TOM BUDGE

**VLAD**  
JOHN GADEN

**DIMITRI**  
HAMISH MICHAEL

**RASPUTIN**  
SEAN O'SHEA

**MINYA**  
ZINDZI OKENYO

**SPECIAL THANKS:**  
Alex Stuart at Sydney Theatre Company Props  
Scott Fisher at Sydney Theatre Company Wardrobe Department  
Bell Shakespeare Company  
Peter Blanch

## CREW

**DESIGNER**  
ALICIA CLEMENTS

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**  
MATTHEW MARSHALL

**SOUND DESIGNER**  
NEIL MCLEAN

**WARDROBE COORDINATOR**  
ALANA CANCERI

**STAGE MANAGER**  
STEPHANIE LINDWALL

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**  
SLADE BLANCH

**COSTUME MAKERS**  
CLAIRE WESTWOOD  
MELANIE LIERTZ

**FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY**  
KYLE ROWLING

Although this play is based on true people and events, some events and characters  
in this play have been fictionalised and should not be construed as truth.

RUNNING TIME APPROX 2 HOURS INCLUDING INTERVAL  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR \$2 DONATION, IT HELPS COVER THE PRODUCTION OF OUR PROGRAMS**

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## KATE MULVANY – **PLAYWRIGHT**

Kate Mulvany is an Australian actor, playwright, dramaturg and screenwriter. Her plays include her award-winning autobiographical piece **THE SEED, THE WEB, BLOOD & BONE, STORY TIME, THE DANGER AGE**, an adaptation of the Craig Silvey novel **JASPER JONES**, which recently played at Belvoir and the Melbourne Theatre Company, an adaptation of the best-selling childrens' book **MASQUERADE** by Kit Williams for Griffin Theatre Company, and a new version of **MEDEA**, which has had sell-out seasons in Sydney, Warsaw, Auckland and London and won an AWGIE and several Sydney Theatre Critics awards. Kate also wrote the book to the musical **SOMEWHERE** (music and lyrics by Tim Minchin), and the Australian Anzac oratorio **TOWARDS FIRST LIGHT** with composer Iain Grandage. Kate was the 2015 Patrick White Fellow at the Sydney Theatre Company and the first Intersticia Fellow at Bell Shakespeare.



## JOHN SHEEDY – **DIRECTOR**

John is currently the Creative Director and CEO of Theatre Works in Melbourne. A multi-award winning Director whose work has been staged extensively throughout Australia, John has directed productions for Belvoir Street, Bell Shakespeare, Parramatta Riverside, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Theatre Company, Griffin and Opera Australia. John's work has been recognized with multiple nominations for Helpmann and Sydney Theatre Awards. John was the Artistic Director at Barking Gecko Theatre Company from 2010, delivering his final season for the company in 2015. In his first season as Artistic Director at Barking Gecko, John directed a stage adaptation of Shaun Tan's children's book **THE RED TREE**, and also **DRIVING INTO WALLS, HAMLET, STORM BOY, DUCK, DEATH AND THE TULIP, ONEFIVEZEROSEVEN, and JASPER JONES**. In 2015, John's swan-song for Barking Gecko, in conjunction with Opera Australia, was **THE RABBITS** adapted from the novel by John Marsden and Shaun Tan, premiering at the 2015 Perth International Arts Festival and Melbourne Festival and has had a subsequent season at the Sydney Festival and QPAC in 2016. **THE RABBITS** was the winner of 4 awards in the 2015 Helpmann Awards – Best Presentation for Children, Best Original Score, best Costume Design and Best New Australian Work. In 2016 for Opera Australia, John was the assistant director to Matthew Barclay on the recent revival of **FOR THE LOVE OF THREE ORANGES** and has just completed shooting his first short film **MRS MCCUTCHEON**.

THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR WAS ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED BY THE MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY.

THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR WAS DEVELOPED WITH THE SUPPORT OF  
PLAYWRITING AUSTRALIA AT THE NATIONAL SCRIPT WORKSHOP 2016





## TOM BUDGE – **FELIX**

"Tom Budge is a mystery. It's been said that if you stare for too long into his sapphire eyes you will forget how to love. White box, black box,

no box, eyeball, earwall, Narwhal." Theatre: STC: ENDGAME, MTC: THE BEAST, Belvoir:

THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE. Film: ABRAXAS, SON OF A GUN, TRACKS, LARRY CROWNE, BRAN NUE DAE, TEN EMPTY, LAST TRAIN TO FREQ, KOKODA, CANDY, THE PROPOSITION, AUSTRALIAN RULES. TV: GALLIPOLI, MABO, THE PACIFIC, EAST OF EVERYTHING. Music: TOM BUDGE BAND.



## JOHN GADEN – **VLAD**

John Gaden has worked extensively in film, theatre and television for over fifty years, building a solid reputation as an outstanding actor. Renowned

for his exceptional stage performances, recent highlights include Belvoir's THE WILD DUCK performances in Sydney, Perth, London, Vienna and Amsterdam, as well as SEVENTEEN, HAMLET and CLOUDSTREET (National and International tours). For Sydney Theatre Company he was recently seen in ORLANDO, MACBETH, ROSENCRANTZ AND

GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD, THE WAR OF THE ROSES and COPENHAGEN. John recently performed in Melbourne Theatre Company's STRAIGHT WHITE MEN, as well as appearing in their production of OTHER DESERT CITIES, in PERICLES for Bell Shakespeare and in the State Theatre Company of South Australia's KING LEAR in the title role. John's most celebrated performances include THE LOST ECHO and THE UNEXPECTED MAN which have won him Helpmann Awards and TRAVESTIES, KOLD KOMFORT KAFFE and GALILEO winning Sydney Critics Circle Awards.



## HAMISH MICHAEL – **DIMITRI**

Hailing from the island of Tasmania, Hamish Michael has worked as an actor, musician, composer and voice-artist for nearly two decades. While

perhaps best known for his portrayal of lawyer Richard Stirling in the ABC dramas CROWNIES and JANET KING, he has an extensive list of other television credits including: DOCTOR DOCTOR, READY FOR THIS, BLACK COMEDY, REDFERN NOW, MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES, POWER GAMES: THE PACKER-MURDOCH STORY, HOWZAT! KERRY PACKER'S WAR, SPIRITED, CITY HOMICIDE, US mini-series NIGHTMARES & DREAMSCAPES: FROM THE STORIES OF STEPHEN KING, BLUE HEELERS, STINGERS and THE SECRET LIFE OF US. His

film Credits include the features THE GREAT GATSBY, LUCKY MILES, EM 4 JAY and TOM WHITE; and the shorts HEAVEN, INGRID SITS HOLDING A KNIFE, SBS telemovie THE HEARTBREAK TOUR, HOMESICK, SWEETNESS & LIGHT, HEARTWORM and THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD. Hamish's broad list of theatre credits include: SHAKESPEAREALISM for Red Line Productions, CHILDREN OF THE SUN for Sydney Theatre Company; STRAIGHT WHITE MEN, THE BEAST, RAY'S TEMPEST and TWO BROTHERS for Melbourne Theatre Company; DEATH OF A SALESMAN and AS YOU LIKE IT for Belvoir; THE TRIAL, OPTIMISM, WOYZECK, MOVING TARGET and ELDORADO for Malthouse Theatre; MEAT PARTY for Playbox Theatre Company – to name a few.

Last year Hamish received an AACTA Award nomination for 'Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama' for his portrayal of Richard Stirling in the JANET KING season 2 finale, 'The Long Goodbye'. In 2015 Hamish was awarded the Equity Atlantic Scholarship to study at the prestigious Atlantic Acting School in New York, founded by David Mamet & William H. Macy. In 2012 he was nominated for the peer-voted 'Graham Kennedy Award

for Most Outstanding New Talent' at the Logies for his work in CROWNIES. He received a 2008 Green Room Award as part of 'Best Ensemble' for Moving Target. In 2007 he received Green Room Award nomination for 'Best Male Performer' for his roles in both ELDORADO & RAY'S TEMPEST and in 2006 he received a Helpmann Award nomination for 'Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play' for TWO BROTHERS, his main-stage debut.



#### SEAN O'SHEA – RASPUTIN

Sean has worked extensively in theatre throughout the country since graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). For Ensemble Theatre he has appeared in TRIBES, SWEET ROAD and THE CAVALCADERS. He has a long association with Bell Shakespeare, having appeared in some twenty of their productions over the years, including their UK tour of COMEDY OF ERRORS, the title role in MACBETH and more recently, TARTUFFE and HAMLET. Sean played Rupert

Murdoch in RUPERT at the Kennedy Center in Washington and for Melbourne Theatre Company. Work for Sydney Theatre Company includes A FLEA IN HER EAR, MARIAGE BLANC, THE CRUCIBLE, WAY OF THE WORLD and SCENES FROM A SEPARATION. He has worked for many other companies including Griffin, Sport for Jove, South Australia Theatre Company, Railway Street and West Australian Theatre Company. Television and film credits include MCLEOD'S DAUGHTERS, MURDER CALL, WATER RATS, CHLORINE DREAMS, THE RAGE IN PLACID LAKE and WONDERLAND.



#### ZINDZI OKENYO – MINYA

Soon after graduating from NIDA in 2006 Zindzi was cast in THE VERTICAL HOUR and THE CRUCIBLE for STC and SCORCHED for Company B Belvoir. From 2009 to 2011 she was a member of the Residents Company at STC performing in THE MYSTERIES: GENESIS, Vs MACBETH, THE ORESTEIA, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, BLOOD WEDDING, BEFORE/AFTER, MONEY SHOTS and A HISTORY OF EVERYTHING. In 2012 Zindzi toured Europe and the USA with A HISTORY OF EVERYTHING and began as a presenter on ABC's PLAYSCHOOL. In 2013 Zindzi appeared in THE OTHER WAY (STC),

THE GIRL IN TAN BOOTS (Griffin) and won a Best Female Performer Award for her role in STCSA's RANDOM. In 2014 she continued PLAYSCHOOL and appeared in WONDERLAND (Network 10) and THE CODE (ABC). 2015 saw her in the ABC series HIDING, MASQUERADE (Griffin), GAYBIES (Darlinghurst), LA TRAVIATA (Belvoir) and BOYS WILL BE BOYS (STC). She commenced 2016 in THE GOLDEN AGE (STC) followed by GOOD PEOPLE (Ensemble Theatre) and DISGRACED (MTC). In 2017 Zindzi performed in PRIZE FIGHTER (Belvoir) and will be seen on TV in JANET KING (ABC) and SISTERS (Network 10). Zindzi also performs her own music under the name 'OKENYO'.





## **ALICIA CLEMENTS – DESIGNER**

Alicia Clements is a costume and set designer who has worked and trained across Australia and the UK. She has a Bachelor of Design for

Performance from WAAPA and was awarded the Kristian Fredrikson Scholarship for Design in the Performing Arts in 2014. Recent designs include HAY FEVER and AFTER DINNER (Sydney Theatre Company), HAMLET (Bell Shakespeare), ARMIDA and BAJAZET (Pinchgut Opera); REMEMBERING PIRATES (Darlinghurst Theatre Company), EDWARD II (Sport for Jove); as well as Associate Costume Design for

IVANOV (Belvoir Theatre Company). Additionally she was production and costume designer for two short films in 2016, PROBLEM PLAY and COLD HEARTS. Alicia was the Resident Designer of Black Swan State Theatre Company and has worked extensively in Western Australia. Her work in London has seen her form relationships with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, The National Theatre Studio and The School of Historical Dress. She is currently working with Gabriela Tylesova as costume associate for Sydney Theatre Company's upcoming production of MURIEL'S WEDDING THE MUSICAL.



## **MATTHEW MARSHALL – LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Matthew Marshall is a graduate from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) who has earned critical acclaim

and recognition, including The Helpmann Awards and Australian Production Design Guild. Previous designs for Ensemble Theatre include TWO, JACK OF HEARTS, DREAM HOME, DARK VOYAGER, CAMP, A YEAR WITH FROG & TOAD, LET THE SUNSHINE, ABIGAIL'S PARTY, McREELE, RETREAT FROM MOSCOW and THE VIOLET HOUR. In 2016 Matt designed the lighting for HOME (Perth

International Arts Festival), LA CENERENTOLA (Oper Leipzig & San Diego Opera), ARMIDA (Pinchgut Opera), THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (Opera Queensland), 2016 WHARF REVUE (Sydney Theatre Company), BILLY ELLIOT (ASB Waterfront Theatre, Auckland Theatre Company) and BAND OF MAGICIANS at the Tropicana in Las Vegas. In 2017 Matt will remount his productions of THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (Seattle Opera) and LA CENERENTOLA (Royal Swedish Opera) with director Lindy Hume, design lighting for AMERICAN IDIOT directed by Craig Ilott and CARMEN (New Zealand Opera).

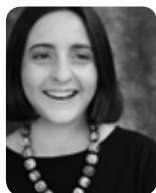


## **NEIL MCLEAN – SOUND DESIGNER**

Neil McLean is a freelance Sound Designer, Composer and Engineer, working for the past 10 years between the UK and Australia. Recent

Sound Designs include FOLLIES IN CONCERT at the Melbourne Recital Centre and MACK AND MABEL at the Hayes Theatre. He has also recently worked as Associate Sound

Designer on MY FAIR LADY, ANYTHING GOES (GFO and Opera Australia) and THE RABBITS (Opera Australia/Barking Gecko). Neil's future projects in 2017 include: THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR (Ensemble Theatre), ONLY HEAVEN KNOWS (Hayes Theatre) and BIG FISH (RPG Productions). You can find out more about his work and projects at [www.neilmcleansound.com](http://www.neilmcleansound.com)



## ALANA CANCERI – **WARDROBE COORDINATOR**

Alana is a Sydney-based costume designer, maker and supervisor. She trained at Ultimo TAFE where she received Diplomas in Costume for Performance, Fashion Design & Technology and Printing & Graphic Arts. Theatre credits for Ensemble Theatre: TWO, e-baby, THE BIG DRY, TRIBES, GOOD PEOPLE, JACK OF HEARTS, BLOOD BANK, MY ZINC BED, THE BOOK CLUB, MOTHERS AND SONS and THE ANZAC PROJECT. Other

credits: CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL (City of Sydney, assistant supervisor, maker), 8TH WONDER - SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE, THE OPERA (Opera Australia, maker), MY FAIR LADY (Opera Australia, maker), THAT EYE, THE SKY (New Theatre, costume designer), PUMPED UP (web-series, designer), SKINFORD (web-series, standby), SENTIENT PHONE (web-series, production designer) and GODS OF EGYPT (feature film, maker). Alana has also styled the Ensemble Theatre 2016 & 2017 Season Brochures.



## STEPHANIE LINDWALL – **STAGE MANAGER**

Stephanie is a graduate of the Australian Academy of Dramatic Art. As Stage Manager: BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, GOOD PEOPLE (Ensemble Theatre), HOOTING AND HOWLING (Critical Stages Regional Tour), SENIOR MOMENTS (Return Fire Productions), PRIDE, THE HORSES MOUTH FESTIVAL, BONDI FEAST (TRS), SET: THE PLAY (NIDA Independent), A VIEW FROM MOVING WINDOWS (Riverside Theatres), ON THE RAZZLE (AADA). As Swing Technician: THE REMOVALISTS (TRS), SAY HELLO FIRST (Cupboard Love). As Production Manager: (&

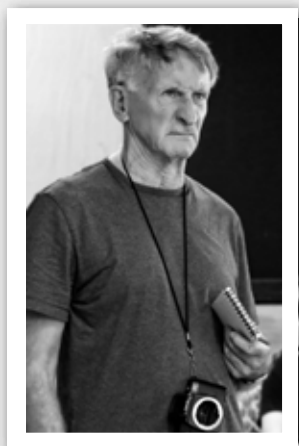
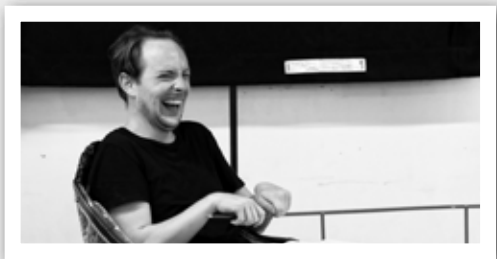
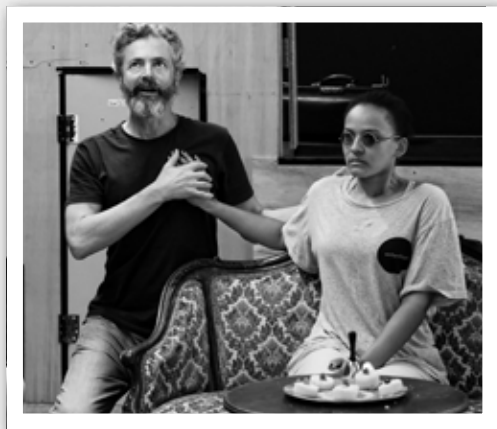
Mentor) PLAYHOUSE CREATURES (AADA), SAY HELLO FIRST (Cupboard Love), BODY LANGUAGE (107 Projects), BEFORE/ AFTER (AADA). As Assistant Stage Manager: EMPIRE (TRS), THE WIZARD OF OZ (Packemin), THE WOODSTOCK EXPERIENCE (AIM), THE THREE LIVES OF LUCY CABROL (AADA). As Producer: Gods and Games: NEW SHORT WORKS (AADA). As an Actor: TALKING WITH (Bare Productions), Various TVC, EMPIRE (TRS), HOME COOKING, SEX- ED (Eastside Radio), GRIMM TALES (Customs House), BEFORE/ AFTER, GODS & GAMES: NEW SHORT WORKS, A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM, THE SKRIKER (AADA).



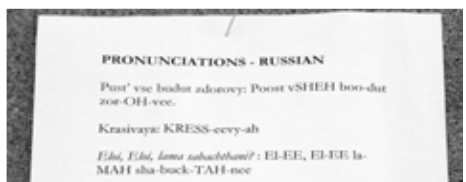
## SLADE BLANCH – **ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Theatre credits include, as Stage Manager: GREASE, FOLLIES, THE PRODUCERS, GUYS & DOLLS for HMS. As Assistant Stage Manager: TWO, TRIBES, THE BIG DRY, BETRAYAL, HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS at Ensemble Theatre, INTO THE WOODS for HMS, HAIRSPRAY for Packemin Productions. As Head Microphone Technician: ANNIE, BEAUTY & THE BEAST, JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, MARY POPPINS,

BACK TO THE 80'S, WEST SIDE STORY, WICKED for Packemin Productions. As Co Prop Coordinator: LEGALLY BLONDE for WTC, Set Coordinator/ Set Designer: PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR for WTC, BEAUTY & THE BEAST, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, ANNIE, THE LITTLE PRINCE for PHHS, THE WEDDING SINGER for HMS, JOSEPH for HTC, RENT for BTC. Co-Director JOSEPH for HTC. Assistant Production Manager: 2015 ROB GUEST ENDOWMENT CONCERT. Sound Crew: MATILDA THE MUSICAL, GEORGY GIRL for System Sound.







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11 MAY – 18 JUNE 2017

## EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?



29 JUNE – 12 AUGUST 2017

## NEVILLE'S ISLAND BY TIM FIRTH

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The management reserves the right to make any alteration to cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or any other unavoidable cause. Patrons are reminded that out of consideration for others, latecomers cannot be admitted until a suitable place in the performance.

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**FINANCE ASSISTANT:** ANITZA VLAHOS  
**ACCOUNTS:** GITA SUGIYANTO  
**CASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:** MERRAN DOYLE  
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**PRODUCTION MANAGER:** THOMAS BLUNT  
**PRODUCTION COORDINATOR:** SIMON GREER  
**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:** SLADE BLANCH  
**FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER:** JAMES BIRCH  
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