

BY WILLY RUSSELL

SHIRLEY VALENTINE

3 MAY - 9 JUNE 2018



ENS
THEATRE
MLE

THEATRE FOR EVERYONE

WELCOME

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY SHIRLEY VALENTINE!

We want to bring you the best of entertaining theatre from close to home and around the world. We are working hard to make Ensemble Theatre not only a place of quality entertainment, but also a place that sits naturally within our gorgeous environment. To this end we are installing solar panels on our roof top to help us cut bills and reduce greenhouse emissions the natural way. We have successfully applied for a grant toward this work and with the Federal Member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman's help we have offset some of the cost, but we still have a way to go to reach our target of \$50,000. If you are interested in SETTING THE SCENE with us please visit our website or Box Office to donate. Here's to a brighter future, on stage and off.

To soak in the full experience of our beautiful natural setting, we invite you to complement

your visit to the theatre with a relaxing drink in the foyer bar or a sumptuous meal in Bayly's Bistro. Our location boasts unsurpassed views of the harbour which are stunning – rain, hail or shine.

We are busy behind the scenes as always and looking forward to two DIRECTOR AT WORK sessions in the coming months: with Mitchell Butel (May 24 for MARJORIE PRIME by Jordan Harrison) and Janine Watson (June 7 for UNQUALIFIED by Genevieve Hegney & Catherine Moore). Venture into the rehearsal room with these two skilled practitioners and see first-hand what the rehearsal process entails. You can catch both these wonderful productions up next at Ensemble Theatre: from MARJORIE PRIME's dazzling exploration of our possible future, to the laugh-out-loud hilarity of UNQUALIFIED, we hope there is something for everyone.

Mark Kilmurry, Artistic Director

BY WILLY RUSSELL SHIRLEY VALENTINE

3 MAY – 9 JUNE 2018

CAST

SHIRLEY VALENTINE **SHARON MILLERCHIP**

CREATIVES

DIRECTOR **MARK KILMURRY**

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **SIMONE ROMANIUK**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **NICHOLAS HIGGINS**

STAGE MANAGER **STEPHANIE LINDWALL**

COSTUME SUPERVISOR **RENATA BESLIK**

DIALECT COACH **AMY HUME**

ACT 1. Scene 1:

THE KITCHEN OF A SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE. EVENING.

Scene 2:

THE SAME. THREE WEEKS LATER.

ACT 2.

A GREEK ISLAND

RUNNING TIME APPROX 2HRS
INCLUDING INTERVAL

PROGRAMS: \$2 which helps enormously with the cost of printing.



WILLY RUSSELL PLAYWRIGHT

Willy Russell's career spans more than four decades; born in Liverpool in 1947, he left school at 15, became a women's hairdresser,

part-time singer/songwriter before returning to education and becoming a teacher. Russell's breakthrough work, commissioned by Liverpool Everyman, JOHN PAUL GEORGE RINGO... AND BERT transferred to the West End winning Best Musical - Evening Standard and London Theatre Critics Awards. Two of Willy's best-known plays have female protagonists, EDUCATING RITA (Olivier Award for Best Comedy) and SHIRLEY VALENTINE (Olivier Award - Best New Comedy & Best New Actress, Tony Awards, Broadway - Best Actress). Both became successful films - Julie Walters and Pauline Collins who played the roles on stage received Oscar nominations as did Willy Russell for the screenplay of EDUCATING RITA. BLOOD BROTHERS, (Laurence Olivier Award, Best New Musical, 1983), played for 24 years becoming the 3rd longest running West End musical. Major foreign productions include a 2 year run on Broadway, with recent productions in South Africa and Korea and current productions in Australia and Japan. The UK tour is still playing to packed houses. OUR DAY OUT, originally written for TV, about a school outing, has been adapted for the stage as OUR DAY OUT - THE MUSICAL. Premiered at Liverpool's Royal Court in 2010 to rave reviews it was revived a year later for another sell out season. The critically acclaimed novel, THE WRONG BOY was published in 2000 and translated worldwide. For the last few years, Willy has been working on painting, developing his ideas and experimenting with line, colour and form. During 2017 Willy's artwork was exhibited for

the first time; ANOTHER ASPECT at the Kirkby Gallery, Liverpool and SEEING BETTER at the Coningsby Gallery, London. Willy Russell continues to be one of the most celebrated and widely produced writers of his generation with works regularly being produced throughout the world as well as in the UK. willyrussell.com twitter.com/willyrusselluk



MARK KILMURRY DIRECTOR

Mark is the Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre.

Recent directing credits include: TAKING STEPS, NEVILLE'S ISLAND, TWO,

ODD MAN OUT, RELATIVELY SPEAKING, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, BETRAYAL, GOOD PEOPLE, MY ZINC BED, EDUCATING RITA, ABSENT FRIENDS, OTHER DESERT CITIES, THE ANZAC PROJECT, RICHARD III, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, FRANKENSTEIN, MANAGING CARMEN, RED, THE SPEAR CARRIER and HAMLET. Mark's recent acting credits include: Frank in EDUCATING RITA, Richard in RICHARD III, Hamlet in HAMLET; Otto in THE ACT; Angus in THE DRAWER BOY and Serge in ART. Mark's recent plays and adaptations include; RICHARD III (with Patrick Dickson); HAMLET (with John Trutwin); THE BIG DRY (based on the novel by Tony Davis); CASANOVA (based on the TV series by Russell T Davis); DIARY OF AN OLYMPIC CABBIE (based on the book by Anthony Sharwood); MERCY THIEVES; HAPPY AS LARRY & VIV and ONE SHOT. Mark is the recipient of two Norman Kessell Memorial Awards for Outstanding Performance by an Actor for his roles in HAMLET and JAPES, he was awarded the 2006 Hayes Gordon Memorial Award for Important Contribution to Theatre and the 2017 North Sydney Community Award.





SHARON MILLERCHIP
SHIRLEY VALENTINE

Sharon returns to the stage after recently stepping out of the spotlight to work as Resident Director/Choreographer

on the Disney blockbuster ALADDIN and Baz Luhrmann's STRICTLY BALLROOM: THE MUSICAL. Sharon was last seen at the Ensemble Theatre in the smash hit one-woman show BOMBSHELLS, A PICASSO and LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS. Other main stage roles include Roxie Hart in CHICAGO, Meg Giry in Andrew Lloyd Webber's LOVE NEVER DIES, Belle in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, Anita in WEST SIDE STORY, Charity in SWEET CHARITY, Catherine in PIPPIN, Meg Giry in THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, Velma Kelly in CHICAGO, Columbia in THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, Sonia Walsk in THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG, Demeter in CATS, and Cordelia in FALSETTOS and Little Red Riding Hood in INTO THE WOODS for the STC. Sharon has received many awards for her performances, including three Helpmann's and three Sydney Theatre Awards. sharonmillerchip.com

Rehearsal photos by Karen Watson





SIMONE ROMANIUK
SET & COSTUME
DESIGNER

Simone Romaniuk is an award winning theatre and festival designer who works between Australia and the

UK. For Ensemble Theatre she has designed FRANKENSTEIN and CASANOVA. Set and costume design credits include: Unicorn Theatre, London: THE HUNTING LODGE. RNCM, Manchester: LA VIE PARISIENNE. Queensland Theatre Company: MACBETH, VENUS IN FUR, KELLY, HEAD FULL OF LOVE, ELIZABETH: ALMOST BY CHANCE A WOMAN, BOMBSHELLS, FRACTIONS, THE REMOVALISTS, WAITING FOR GODOT, RUBY MOON, EATING ICE CREAM, BECKETT X 3, and THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED. Opera Queensland: THE MAGIC FLUTE, THE MERRY WIDOW, SPACE ENCOUNTERS and THE MIKADO. Sydney Theatre Company: THE CRUCIBLE and THYESTES. Simone is the Creative Director of OZASIA FESTIVAL, the annual international arts festival at Adelaide Festival Centre. She was resident designer at Queensland Theatre Company across

2011- 2012 and was awarded Matilda Awards for Outstanding Achievement for Design in 2012 and 2014. She holds design degrees from NIDA and QCA. simoneromaniuk.com



NICHOLAS HIGGINS
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Nick has been an independent lighting designer since graduating from WAAPA in 1999. He

has worked across all genres in all states and for most companies. Nick is not only a Lighting Designer, but a photographer and film-maker. He has worked extensively for Ensemble Theatre and was a nominee for the Best Lighting Design Award, Sydney Theatre Awards for his design for FRANKENSTEIN. Nick and his partner moved to Tasmania after working on a show and falling in love with the state. He just hopes that no-one else finds out how wonderful it is there!



STEPHANIE LINDWALL
STAGE MANAGER

Stephanie is a graduate of the Australian Academy of Dramatic Art. As Stage Manager: NEVILLE'S ISLAND, THE RASPUTIN

AFFAIR, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, GOOD PEOPLE (Ensemble Theatre), THE DAPTO CHASER, HOOTING AND HOWLING (Critical Stages Regional Tours), SENIOR MOMENTS (Return Fire Productions National Tour), 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).



RENATA BESLIK
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Renata is a costume supervisor, maker and milliner. She graduated from NIDA in 2007 with a Bachelor's degree in

Costume Production. Supervising credits include: DIPLOMACY, THE KITCHEN SINK, BUYER AND CELLAR, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, David Williamson's ODD MAN OUT, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, BETRAYAL, A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS (Ensemble Theatre), THE CORONATION OF POPPEA, RAMEAU: ANACREON AND PIGMALION, THEODORA (Pinchgut Opera),

HENRY V, THE WINTER'S TALE, MACBETH, INTIMATE LETTERS (Bell Shakespeare) THE TEMPEST, WOYCECK, A LIE OF THE MIND, PORT, THE THREESOME (NIDA). Design credits include: THE TEMPEST, ROMEO AND JULIET, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Sport for Jove). Costume making credits include: THE CRUCIBLE (Sport for Jove), KING KONG (Global Creatures), IN THE NEXT ROOM (STC), THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, LOVE NEVER DIES, and many Opera Australia productions. Millinery credits include: THE GREAT GATSBY (Bazmark), THE 7 SOPRANOS (Cre8ion), MY FAIR LADY, AIDA, CARMEN (Opera Australia).



AMY HUME
DIALECT COACH

Amy Hume is a voice teacher at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), voice and accents tutor at Australian Theatre

for Young People (ATYP) and Founder of one of Sydney's leading voice studios, Viva Voice. Amy was Dialect Coach for Ensemble's THE KITCHEN SINK. Most recently she was Dialect Coach for Belvoir's SAMI IN PARADISE and provided voice support on THE ROVER and GHOSTS (Belvoir). Other theatre credits include Voice/Dialect Coach at the Sydney production of MATILDA THE MUSICAL (RSC/ Louise Withers), Voice Coach for MEASURE FOR MEASURE and THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS (Sport for Jove), and Dialect Coach for STONES IN HIS POCKETS (Critical Stages). In New York she has worked on productions with Shakespeare & Co, The Shakespeare Forum and Columbia Stages. Through Viva Voice, Amy regularly facilitates corporate voice and communication training for organisations across different industries.





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BY JORDAN HARRISON

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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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WITH SOLAR
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At Ensemble Theatre we experience the environment at its best, surrounded by stunning scenery! We now have the opportunity to set the scene by going solar, helping us protect our beautiful environment, save energy and reduce running costs.

Our quest to harness solar energy to light our stage will be made possible with the installation of quality solar panels significantly reducing our electricity bills.

With your generous support we can harness solar energy and move positively into the future, aware of how fortunate we are to work in the midst of such beautiful scenery - both onstage and off!

The end of financial year is just around the corner, donate now and help us reach our target of \$50,000

All donations will receive a tax deductible receipt. For more information please contact David Balfour Wright on david@ensemble.com.au call 9929 8877 or go to ensemble.com.au