



ENS
THEATRE
MLE

FOR EVERYONE

BY TOM WELLS

FOLK

3 MAY – 1 JUNE 2019

WELCOME

I am always thrilled when the right project and right team land in our laps. And Tom Wells' FOLK with Terence O'Connell as Director, Genevieve Lemon as an outrageous folk-singing nun and Libby Ascik and Gerard Carroll adding to the mismatched trio, is a very exciting prospect indeed! We are so pleased to have such a beautiful, gentle and heart-warming story as part of our 2019 Season and for those who enjoyed Wells' THE KITCHEN SINK, you are in for another treat. For those who missed that play, I am envious of your introduction to Tom Wells' life-affirming world. Enjoy!

Mark Kilmurry
Artistic Director

SYNOPSIS

Sister Winnie's no ordinary nun. She's feisty, irreverent and has a soft spot for a pint of Guinness. Her front room is a haven for socially awkward Stephen, who shares her passion for folk music. Their world is suddenly turned upside down when fifteen year old wayward and rebellious Kayleigh unexpectedly appears into their lives. Each of them is keeping a secret and as confidences are shared, ever-optimistic Winnie concocts a harebrained scheme to help her friends unleash their musical talent on the world.

FEATURED SONGS

HOLY GROUND (Traditional)

DIRTY OLD TOWN (Ewan MacColl)

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME (Tannahill/Smith)

BRING ME A BOAT (Traditional)

IF I SHOULD FALL FROM GRACE WITH GOD (Shane MacGowan)

WINNIE'S AIR (Composed for this production by Gerard Carroll)

RUNNING TIME APPROX 90MIN NO INTERVAL

First presented by Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Hull Truck Theatre and Watford Palace Theatre at The STUDIO at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on 14 April 2016.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A few years back, I was lucky enough to direct THE KITCHEN SINK for Red Stitch in Melbourne and became an instant Tom Wells fan. Most of Tom's funny, tender plays are set in Withersea, his home town, and he has peopled its East Yorkshire landscape with a collection of unique, memorable characters including a teenage girl searching for aliens, a forlorn milkman who can't move with the times, a gay five-a-side football team and, in FOLK, a smoking, drinking, singing Irish nun.

Music, and its transformative possibilities, is a vital ingredient in his work: in BROKEN BISCUITS, three teen geeks form a band; in THE KITCHEN SINK, the aspiring artist son is a Dolly Parton fanboy; in DRIP, a shy outsider presents a one man musical to his school assembly; and FOLK floats its plot on a collection of great Irish traditional songs.

His plays are about families and friendship and, usually, how his 'slightly broken' characters find both. It's been a great privilege to be part of the Ensemble family and to work with such a great team to bring Tom Wells' latest Withersea story to you.

Terence O'Connell

WRITER'S NOTE

When you listen to a lot of folk songs, you see that the stories they tell are full of struggle and resilience, full of characters who feel strong and brave and sometimes a bit broken. I wanted to have a go at writing a play that felt a bit like a folk song, fill it with music, and see what happened. It's lovely to think that (a bit like a folk song) it's made it to the other side of the world. I'm really excited for this company to give the play a new life, fill it with their heart and spirit and warmth and humour, and make it their own.

Tom Wells

CAST

KAYLEIGH
LIBBY ASCIAK
STEPHEN
GERARD CARROLL
SISTER WINNIE
GENEVIEVE LEMON

CREATIVES

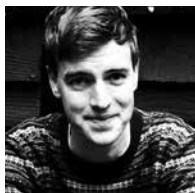
DIRECTOR **TERENCE O'CONNELL**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **ERIN TAYLOR**
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **HUGH O'CONNOR**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **TRENT SUIDGEEST**
COSTUME SUPERVISOR **RENATA BESLIK**
STAGE MANAGER **ERIN SHAW**
DIALECT COACH **AMY HUME**
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT **ABBY GALLAWAY**

Special thanks to Alasdair Fraser for his performed composition of Dawn Dance and Common Ground in our show FOLK, both from his 1996 album DAWN DANCE

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

Ensemble Theatre acknowledges the Cammeraiagal people of the Eora nation as customary owners of the land on which we work and share our stories. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.





TOM WELLS
PLAYWRIGHT

Plays include: DRIP (Script Club/Boundless Theatre); BROKEN BISCUITS (Paines Plough/Live Theatre, Newcastle); FOLK (Birmingham Rep/Hull Truck Theatre/Watford Palace Theatre), JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS (Paines Plough - Watford Palace Theatre and UK tour, 2013/14); COSMIC (Ros Terry/Root Theatre, E. Yorkshire tour, 2013); THE KITCHEN SINK (Bush Theatre, 2011, winner of the Most Promising Playwright - Critics Circle, 2011 and the 2012 George Devine Award); ME, AS A PENGUIN (West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2009 and Arcola Theatre/UK Tour, 2010) and ABOUT A GOTH (Paines Plough/Oran Mor, 2009). BEN & LUMP, written as part of the Coming Up season (Touchpaper), was broadcast on Channel 4 in 2012, and JONESY was broadcast on Radio 4. He has also written three pantos for the Lyric Hammersmith.



TERENCE O'CONNELL
DIRECTOR

Terence has directed and/or devised some 150 productions in theatres, concert halls, circus tents, cabaret rooms, comedy clubs and at arts festivals across Australia and internationally. Selected work from his eclectic career includes LIFE ON MARS: THE WORDS AND MUSIC OF DAVID BOWIE (New Moon Theatre), WHEN I WAS A GIRL I USED TO SCREAM AND SHOUT (Wharf Theatre), DARLINGHURST NIGHTS (Sydney Theatre Company), CIRCUS OZ (Los Angeles, Edinburgh), CERTIFIED MALE (Australia, Dublin), THE KING & I and OKLAHOMA! (State Theatre, Melbourne), CIRCUS SENSO (London), Spiegelworld's EMPIRE (Sydney, Montreal, Tokyo), THE KITCHEN SINK (Red Stitch Actor's Theatre) and many National Tours including BOUNCERS, Steven Berkoff's DECADENCE, BUDDY - THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY, FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS, AROUND THE WORLD

IN 80 DAYS and, for Playbox/Malthouse, MINEFIELDS AND MINISKIRTS: AUSTRALIAN WOMEN AND THE VIETNAM WAR. Forthcoming productions include PRIVATE PEACEFUL (Chapel Off Chapel), MELINDA SCHNEIDER: THE WOMAN and THE BLONDE, THE BRUNETTE AND THE VENGEFUL REDHEAD, both touring extensively. Terence is currently adapting ONE CROWDED HOUR: NEIL DAVIS COMBAT CAMERAMAN for Tasmanian Theatre Company.



ERIN TAYLOR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Erin is a director and dramaturg and the 2019 recipient of the Sandra Bates Director's Award. She will work as Assistant Director at Ensemble on FOLK and BABY DOLL. In November this year Erin will direct KASAMA KITA by Jordan Shea for 25A at downstairs Belvoir. In 2018 she directed EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED by Rachel Roberts for the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre and A GIRL IS A HALF FORMED THING by Eimear McBride for KXT. In 2017 Erin was a mentee in Melbourne Theatre Company's Women in Theatre Program. As a Dramaturg Erin works regularly with Playwriting Australia (PWA) as a Script Assessor and has read for Sydney Theatre Company's Patrick White Award.



LIBBY ASCIAK
KAYLEIGH

Hailing from Melbourne, Libby moved to Sydney to study at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). She received a Robertson Family Trust scholarship and graduated with a Diploma in Music Theatre. After graduating from NIDA Libby moved to Perth to study at The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) graduating with a Bachelor in Musical Theatre in 2013. Since graduating, Libby's stage credits include Heather Duke in HEATHERS (Hayes Theatre Company/QPAC/Showwork), Monique/Kate/Joe in THE INCREDIBLE HERE AND NOW (National Theatre of Parramatta)

and Carla in IN THE HEIGHTS (Hayes Theatre Company/Sydney Opera House). Libby's screen credits include Rachel Rossi in THE SECRET DAUGHTER (Screentime/Seven Network), Alisha in HERE COME THE HABIBS! (Nine Network) and NEIGHBOURS (Fremantle Media/Network 10).



GERARD CARROLL
STEPHEN

Gerard is a graduate of NIDA and has worked consistently over the past 25 years. Gerard recently appeared as Eamon in the multi-Helpmann Award winning musical ONCE in Melbourne, directed by Tony Award winner John Tiffany. TV credits include RIOT, THE CODE 2, CAMP, UNDERBELLY: BADNESS, RAKE, THE KANGAROO GANG, TOUGH NUTS and HOME AND AWAY. Gerard most recently played Robert in PROOF at Glen Street Theatre, Richard in COLD LIGHT for Street Theatre and Homeless Man in the acclaimed HIDDEN SYDNEY. He created the role of Smokey in the world premiere of DEAD MAN BRAKE by Alana Valentine at Merrigong. Gerard also created the role of Mr Frog in the musical workshop production of DO GOOD AND YOU WILL BE HAPPY by Hilary Bell. He toured Australasia with BUDDY: THE MUSICAL playing Norman Petty as directed by Craig Ilott. Other theatre credits include PATSY: THE MUSICAL with Deborah Conway, Weasel in WIND IN THE WILLOWS, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, THE SEAGULL, WEST SIDE STORY, CYMBELINE, ANNA KARENINA, and GATHERING OF VAMPIRES. A proud Equity Member since 1994.



GENEVIEVE LEMON
SISTER WINNIE

Genevieve's numerous theatre credits include, for Ensemble Theatre: DIPLOMACY,

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, TRIBES, BROKEN GLASS; for Sydney Theatre Company: THE HANGING, THE GIRL WHO SAW EVERYTHING, HANGING MAN, HARBOUR, HAY FEVER, MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG, MIRACLE CITY, MORNING SACRIFICE, NOISES OFF, ONCE IN A LIFETIME, THE RECRUIT, THE REPUBLIC OF MYOPIA, SUMMER RAIN, VICTORY, SUMMER RAIN; for Melbourne Theatre Company: PIAF, SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL; for Griffin: THE HOMOSEXUALS OR 'FAGGOTS', THE BIG PICTURE; for Belvoir St Theatre: A TASTE OF HONEY, THE BLIND GIANT IS DANCING, THE COSMONAUT'S LAST MESSAGE, DEATH OF A SALESMAN and SEVENTEEN. Genevieve was in the London and Sydney seasons of Working Title's production of BILLY ELLIOT (Helpmann Award, Sydney Theatre Critic's Award, Green Room Award). Genevieve's television credits include: FRAYED, AFTER THE BEEP, HEARTLAND, NEIGHBOURS, PRISONER, RAKE, REDFERN NOW, THE SECRET RIVER, THREE MEN AND A BABY GRAND, TOP OF THE LAKE (Equity Ensemble Award), and a special guest star role on HOME AND AWAY. Film credits include: THE DRESSMAKER, BILLY'S HOLIDAY, HOLY SMOKE, THE PIANO, SOFT FRUIT, SUBURBAN MAYHEM, THE WATER DIARY, ACUTE MISFORTUNE, LADIES IN BLACK, AND SWEETIE (Australian Film Critic's Award). Genevieve has sung on cabaret stages the world over, and released a live album of her Sydney Opera House concert, ANGELS IN THE CITY. She also performed in many incarnations of THE WHARF REVUE, and shows at the Tilbury Hotel.



HUGH O'CONNOR
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Hugh O'Connor is a production, set, costume and event designer. Hugh holds a Bachelor of Design from NIDA where he graduated in 2013. He was nominated for best set design at the 2015 Sydney Theatre Awards for his work on THE ALIENS for Outhouse Theatre. Production credits in set/costume design include: THE NORMAN CONQUESTS, RELATIVELY SPEAKING, NEVILLE'S ISLAND for Ensemble Theatre; THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS and COSI for La Boite Theatre Company; THE WITCHES for Griffin Theatre Company and Malthouse Theatre; A LIFE IN THE THEATRE, GOODWORKS, RIDE and FOURPLAY, DAYLIGHT SAVING for Darlinghurst Theatre Company; THE ALIENS, THE FLICK, 4 MINUTES 12 SECONDS for Outhouse Theatre; HIDDEN SYDNEY: THE GLITTERING MILE for Vivid Sydney; MY NAME IS ASHER LEV and THE MAN IN THE ATTIC for Moira Blumenthal Productions; THE FANTASTICKS for The Hayes Theatre; THIS HOUSE IS MINE for Milk Crate Theatre Company; A DOLL'S HOUSE for Sport for Jove.



TRENT SUIDGEEST
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Trent's recent Lighting Design credits include MURIEL'S WEDDING THE MUSICAL (Global Creatures/Sydney Theatre Company); THE RABBITS (Barking Gecko Theatre Company/Opera Australia); CARMEN and SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE - THE OPERA [The Eighth Wonder] (Opera Australia), ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST, TALK, HAY FEVER (Sydney Theatre Company); PRIMA FACIE, FEATHER IN THE WEB, KILL CLIMATE DENIERS (Griffin Theatre Company) and THE HOMOSEXUALS, OR 'FAGGOTS' (Griffin/Malthouse Theatre). Other credits include: I AM EORA (Sydney Festival/Performing

Lines); THE SAPPHIRES (Belvoir/Black Swan), THE BOY FROM OZ, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, DUSTY, NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT, KISMET and THE KING AND I (The Production Company); GYPSY, THE VIEW UPSTAIRS, DARLINGHURST NIGHTS, ONLY HEAVEN KNOWS and CALAMITY JANE (Hayes Theatre Co). Trent is a graduate of WAAPA.



RENATA BESLIK
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Renata graduated from NIDA in 2007 with a Bachelor's degree in Costume Production.

Supervising credits include: THE BIG TIME, LUNA GALE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, DIPLOMACY, THE KITCHEN SINK, BUYER AND CELLAR, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, ODD MAN OUT, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, BETRAYAL, A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS (Ensemble Theatre), ARTASERSE, ATHALIA, THE CORONATION OF POPPEA, RAMEAU: ANACREON AND PIGMALION, THEODORA (Pinchgut Opera), HENRY V, THE WINTER'S TALE, MACBETH (Bell Shakespeare) STAY HAPPY SMILING, THE TEMPEST, WOYCECK, A LIE OF THE MIND, PORT, THE THREESOME (NIDA). Renata is also an accomplished costume maker and milliner who has worked for companies including Opera Australia, STC and Darlinghurst Theatre, for films like THE GREAT GATSBY and musicals such as LOVE NEVER DIES.



ERIN SHAW
STAGE MANAGER

Graduating from the Technical Theatre and Stage Management course at NIDA in 2016, Erin has previously worked in

the industry as a Dresser on GIRL ASLEEP (Belvoir, 2016); Stage Manager on LITTLE BORDERS (The 505, 2017), MOTH (ATYP, 2017), and LOVE, ME (The 505, 2018); and Assistant Stage Manager on DIPLOMACY (Ensemble Theatre, 2018), BLISS (Belvoir,

2018), THE WIDOW UNPLUGGED OR AN ACTOR DEPLOYS (Ensemble Theatre, 2018) and THE NORMAN CONQUESTS (Ensemble Theatre, 2018). Erin feels privileged to have worked with such an incredible team on this production and looks forward to the season.



AMY HUME
DIALECT COACH

Amy Hume is a Voice Teacher at NIDA, Voice and Accents Tutor at ATYP and Founder of leading voice and drama studio, Viva Voice. She is currently Voice Coach on the new ABC/Netflix TV series THE UNLISTED. For Ensemble: Dialect Coach THE NORMAN CONQUESTS, SHIRLEY VALENTINE and THE KITCHEN SINK. For Belvoir: Voice Coach SAMI IN PARADISE, Voice Support on COUNTING AND CRACKING, THE ROVER and GHOSTS. Other 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. At Viva Voice, Amy regularly facilitates corporate voice and communication training across different industries.



Thank you to Martin Guitars for providing the guitar for this production.



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Mark Kilmurry Artistic Director

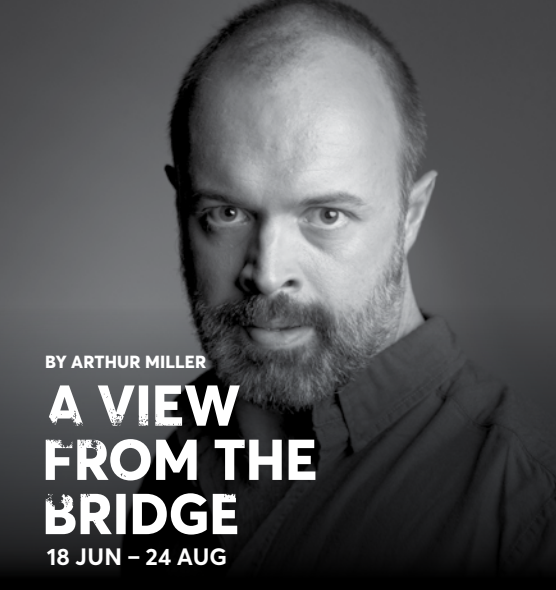
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The management reserves the right to make any alteration to cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or any other unavoidable cause. Patrons are reminded that out of consideration for others, latecomers cannot be admitted until a suitable place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