

WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY JASON ROBERT BROWN

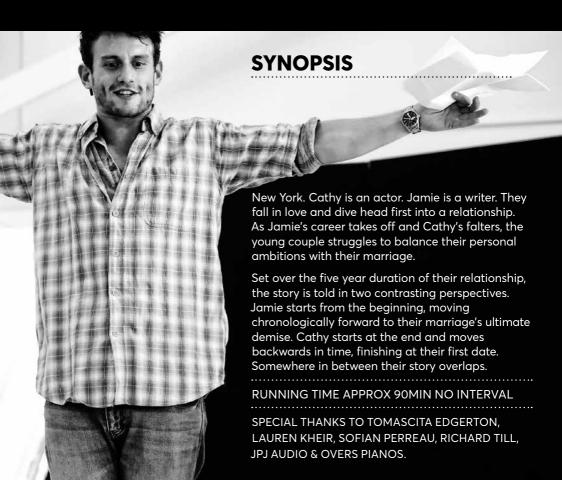
THE LAST FIVE YEARS THE MUSICAL

29 MAR - 27 APR 2019

WELCOME

A year or so ago on one of our many opening nights Elise McCann came bounding over to ask a question, "have we ever thought of doing the wonderful musical THE LAST FIVE YEARS?" As I had just seen her be utterly brilliant as Miss Honey in MATILDA, I was a little star struck and stammered something like, "yes it has been on our list for a while now"... which of course prompted me to reread and figure out when and at what time we could make it work. With a promise of including Elise if we go forward, we set about making it work. Jason Robert Brown's extraordinary lyrics need extraordinary talent and the team we have assembled are just that: Elise McCann and Christian Charisiou as the couple who tell their stories from opposite ends of the tale, director Elsie Edgerton-Till, musical director Daryl Wallis and the top creatives working today, means we have the best of the best for this poignant and life affirming musical.

Mark Kilmurry
Artistic Director



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Jason Robert Brown's masterful and well loved work chapters the relationship of Cathy and Jamie over five years. However, events do not unfold in a linear progression of time: Jamie's story is told from first kiss to last goodbye, while Cathy's journey starts with the breakup and ends with that first kiss.

In crafting the narrative in this way, Jason Robert Brown illuminates the many missed moments of connection that change this sweeping love story to one of disconnection, hearthreak and loss

Under the watchful eye of time, these two characters sail past each other, like ships in the night.

This production would be nothing without the leadership of our musical director, Daryl Wallis. His expert ear and eye have been integral to our work.

I would like to thank my sublime cast, capital creative and production teams for bringing the world and music of the THE LAST FIVE YEARS to life.

Elsie Edgerton-Till

MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The musicals of Jason Robert Brown are performed infrequently in Australia, but as a musical director I would often come across individual songs in cabarets and auditions, and beyond the unique fusion of pop, gospel and musical theatre idioms, one common feature was often a fiendishly difficult piano accompaniment.

Robert Brown writes – "I'm not trying to be coy, I know it drives the best pianists in the world insane, but I guess part of the story is that I'm such a weird and idiosyncratic player that what I write feels very natural to me and feels completely bizarre to other pianists."

In THE LAST FIVE YEARS he brings these idiosyncrasies to bear on a range on influences. "Joni Mitchell (particularly 'Hejira' and 'Hissing of Summer Lawns'), Billy Joel, Sondheim, Paul Simon, Shawn Colvin, lots of traditional Irish and Jewish music, a million other things." But once the notes are in the fingers, the virtuosic singing parts nailed, and the groove locks into place...there's no better feeling in the world.

Daryl Wallis

CAST

CHRISTIAN CHARISIOU JAMIE WELLERSTEIN ELISE MCCANN CATHERINE HIATT

CREATIVES

DIRECTOR ELSIE EDGERTON-TILL

MUSICAL DIRECTOR DARYL WALLIS

SET DESIGNER MICHAEL SCOTT-MITCHELL

COSTUME DESIGNER GENEVIEVE GRAHAM

LIGHTING DESIGNER KAREN NORRIS

CHOREOGRAPHER DANIELLA LACOB

COSTUME SUPERVISOR HANNAH LOBELSON

STAGE MANAGER LAUREN TULLOH

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER ALIRA MCKENZIE-WILLIAMS

SOUND OPERATOR JESSICA LEGG

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

Ensemble Theatre acknowledges the Cammeraigal 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.











JASON ROBERT BROWN
PLAYWRIGHT

JASON ROBERT BROWN (Book, Music and Lyrics) is the Tony Award-winning composer and lyricist of SONGS FOR A NEW

WORLD, PARADE, THE LAST FIVE YEARS, 13, THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY and HONEYMOON IN VEGAS. As a singer-songwriter, his albums include WEARING SOMEONE ELSE'S CLOTHES, JASON ROBERT BROWN LIVE IN CONCERT and last year's HOW WE REACT AND HOW WE RECOVER. Jason has earned acclaim as a director, arranger, pianist, conductor and educator. Future projects include a musical of FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE and a new show with Billy Crystal and Amanda Green.



ELSIE EDGERTON-TILL
DIRECTOR

THE LAST FIVE YEARS marks Elsie Edgerton-Till's return to Ensemble Theatre after directing the premiere production of Kit

Brookman's THE PLANT in 2017. Elsie's extensive theatre experience includes directing engagements for Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney Theatre Company, New Zealand Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre, The King's Collective, The National Institute of Dramatic Arts. The Court Theatre, World Busker's Festival, The Forge and NORPA. Recent credits include the Australian premiere of Kate Tempest's WASTED (The King's Collective), the premiere production of WONDERBABE for NORPA and The Byron Bay Writers Festival, LA CALISTO and THE FAIRY QUEEN (Sydney Conservatorium of Music). As assistant director she has worked for Opera Australia, Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Auckland Theatre Company and Sydney Chamber Opera. She was a 2018 recipient of the Glorias Fellowship.



DARYL WALLIS
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Daryl is a composer, keyboard musician, vocal coach and musical director. He has composed music for Belvoir, Ensemble Theatre, Griffin,

Merrigong, Studio, ATYP, Monkey Baa, CDP, Milkcrate, Karnak and Siren Theatre Companies. He won the 2012 Federation Bells Composing Competition, the 2013 Sydney Theatre Award for best Score & Sound Design with Elana Kats-Chernin for the Ensemble Theatre production of FRANKENSTEIN and a Green Room award as musical director for the STRANGE BEDFELLOWS. He worked with C!RCA on LANDSCAPE WITH MONSTERS, ONE BEAUTIFUL THING, AURA and RECLAIMED PIANOS. He composed and performs the immersive spiritual song cycle THE AUROBINDO PROJECT and performs with jazz/ soul singer Ali Hughes as ALI & THE THIEVES currently touring their LEONARD COHEN KOANS show to USA/Canada.



CHRISTIAN CHARISIOU JAMIE WELLERSTEIN

Christian is a 2013 NIDA acting graduate. Since completing his studies, Christian has sustained an impressive diverse presence in

the Australian theatre scene appearing in Griffin Theatre Company's one-man tour of THE WITCHES, the title character in the Hayes Theatre and LPD's acclaimed production CRY-BABY, Theatrongroup's WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF, Mop Head Productions THE HOUSE OF RAMON IGLESIA and most recently in Good Grandon Productions two-hander GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES. His screen credits include, RAKE (ABC), READY FOR THIS (ABC), NEIGHBOURS (Ten) as well as an extensive list of award winning independent short and feature films. Christian is also an established voice artist and the artistic director & founder of Good Grandson Productions.



ELISE MCCANN
CATHERINE HIATT

Theatre: MISS HONEY, MATILDA THE MUSICAL (Royal Shakespeare Co) 2016 Helpmann Award Winner, 2015 Sydney Theatre Award

Winner, 2016 Green Room Award Nomination; Lucille Ball, EVERYBODY LOVES LUCY (Luckiest Productions) 2015 Sydney Theatre Award Nomination; Ado Annie, OKLAHOMA and Mea Brockie, BRIGADOON (The Production Company); Ali, MAMMA MIA! (Littlestar); Florinda, INTO THE WOODS (Victorian Opera); SOUTH PACIFIC (Opera Australia/GFO): DOCTOR ZHIVAGO (GFO): Fruma Sarah, FIDDLER ON THE ROOf (TML Enterprises); MY FAIR LADY (Opera Australia); Cordelia, FALSETTOS (Darlinghurst Theatre Company); LITTLE WOMEN (Kookaburra); SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM (Enda Markey Presents). Television: Lynne Woolnough, PETER ALLEN: NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR (Shine/Network 7). Other Works: DAHLESQUE Album (ABC Music & Universal Music); DAHLESQUE in Concert (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra 2018 & 2017 Adelaide Cabaret Festival); IN CONVERSATION WITH STEPHEN SCHWARTZ (Enda Markey Presents); BEYOND THE BARRICADE Australian Tour (Lunchbox Theatrical).



MICHAEL SCOTT-MITCHELL

SET DESIGNER

Michael Scott-Mitchell is one of the most outstanding designers in Australia. Recognising his contribution to design he was recently

appointed the first Professor of Practice, Art and Design UNSW. His extensive credits in opera, theatre and special events, include the set design of State Opera of South Australia's production of Wagner's RING CYCLE and the Cauldron & Ceremonial Stage for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Recent designs include DR ZHIVAGO on Broadway for which he won the 2015 APDG Award, STILL POINT TURNING for Sydney Theatre Company; THE MERRY WIDOW, TOSCA and CARMEN for Opera Australia; and FREEZE FRAME for Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles

and Washington DC. At NIDA, he was Deputy Director/CEO and Head of Design.



GENEVIEVE GRAHAMCOSTUME DESIGNER

Genevieve graduated from NIDA in 2016 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Design for Performance), and went on to complete her Masters of Fine

Arts (Design for Performance) degree in 2017. In 2016, she undertook a placement on the set of ALIEN: COVENANT by renowned director Ridley Scott, assisting in both the art and wardrobe department, and that same year was awarded the William Fletcher Foundation Grant for the development and advancement of talented young Australian artists. In 2017 Genevieve was costume designer on The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's BITTERSWEET OBSESSIONS, a new Opera combining the works of Monteverdi and Bach. That year Genevieve was also the production designer for two new Australian works: EURYDIKE and ORPHEUS, directed by Priscilla Jackman, and FRATERNAL directed by Benjamin Sheen. In 2017, and went on to win the APDG award for 'Best Emerging Designer' for EURYDIKE and ORPHEUS. In 2018, Genevieve was the costume designer for The Ensemble Theatre's DIPLOMACY directed by and starring John Bell, before working as the costume designer on series 2 of channel seven's television program DROP DEAD WEIRD. Genevieve was the costume designer on The Theatre of Image's Sydney Festival show BRETT AND WENDY written and directed by Kim Carpenter. Most recently Genevieve was the costume designer for Ensemble Theatre's THE APPLETON LADIES POTATO RACE directed by Priscilla Jackman.



KAREN NORRIS LIGHTING DESIGNER

Karen has extensive experience as a lighting designer for theatre, dance and music throughout Australia and Europe. Karen

was based in London and Nice from 1998 to 2008. Credits: THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS -

Timecode The Royal Ballet, WAITING FOR THE MOON The Tindersticks Royal Court -Glastonbury; THE DREAMING and SKIN Bangarra, JAZZ EXCHANGE SHERON WRAY, Liz Lea Dance - Irvin Lewis Company, Recent designs: LOVE ME TENDER, BARBARA AND THE CAMP DOGS Belvoir Street, TERRAIN - LORE I.B.I.S and SHEOAK Bangarra, ON VIEW Sue Healey, SONGS NOT TO DANCE TO and CHAMPIONS Martin Del Armo Sydney Festival 2017, CELLA Narelle Benjamin Colours Dance Festival Stuttgart Germany - Sydney Festival 2018 Dance Massive 2019, KOTAHI Atamira NZ. Broken Glass Sydney Festival 2018, The Weekend Sydney Festival 2019 Moogahlin and THE APPLETON LADIES' POTATO RACE Ensemble Theatre, BLAK BOX Urban Theatre Baranagroo and Blacktown Sydney Festival 2019. Nominations for lighting design: SKIN Bangarra Dance Theatre 2001 Helpmann Awards, LORE Bangarra Dance Theatre 2016 The Green Room Award



DANIELLA LACOB CHOREOGRAPHER

South African born, Daniella has worked extensively as an actor, dancer, movement- director, and choreographer for Sydney

Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre Company, Spiegelworld Absinthe. The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative, and Showtime Management. Daniella graduated from NIDA in 2008 specialising as a Movement Director. Recent credits include: VOICES UNHEARD (Darlinghurst Theatre Co/2017), THE FATHER (STC/2017), DINNER (STC/2017), A FLEA IN HER EAR (STC/2016), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (STC/2016), and THE FAIRY QUEEN OPERA (The Sydney Conservatorium of Music/2016). As winner of The Amanda Holmes Award and Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Award, she is devoted to her craft of cultivating an interest in how the actor becomes a primary vehicle for physically presenting and representing human experience. Daniella was Head of Movement for Sydney Theatre School from 2013-2017 and is currently the National Programs Manager for NIDA Open.



HANNAH LOBELSON COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Hannah gained her wealth of knowledge and experience through a 20 year international career that has spanned over a

hundred productions. In the UK, Hannah was Head of Wardrobe at Shakespeare's Globe for 8 vears. In addition to this Hannah worked as assistant costume supervisor for The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera, the National Theatre and designed costumes for LA BOHEME in Palestine. She worked as costume supervisor with the Royal Shakespeare Company and on several opera productions at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Hannah has worked with City of Sydney as costume supervisor for the SYDNEY LUNAR FESTIVAL, with Sydney Theatre Company and has held the role of Head of Costume for several years with Bell Shakespeare. Hannah was recently costume designer for Pop Up Globe's HAMLET in New Zealand and costume supervisor for Ensemble Theatre's world premiere, THE APPLETON LADIES' POTATO RACE



LAUREN TULLOH STAGE MANAGER

Lauren's passion is to create the magic of theatre for the audience; as a young girl she was enthralled by many theatrical and musical

productions. However, it wasn't until her final year in high school that she discovered her local musical societies. This led to three years of skills development in Stage Management before attending NIDA, completing a Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Production) in 2009. Most recently Lauren has Stage Managed: CALAMITY JANE at Comedy Theatre, Melbourne. Other productions include: MARJORIE PRIME at Ensemble Theatre and a tour to the Noosa alive! Festival, CALAMITY JANE which toured to Belvoir St Theatre, Canberra Civic Centre, Arts Centre Melbourne, IPAC Wollongong, Orange Civic Centre and Parramatta Riverside Theatre, HIGH FIDELITY at Hayes Theatre Co, ASSASSINS at

Hayes Theatre Co, THE PLANT at Ensemble Theatre, CALAMITY JANE at Hayes Theatre Co, LIGHTEN UP at Griffin Theatre, BETRAYAL at Ensemble Theatre, SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD at Chapel Off Chapel, SPRING AWAKENING at ATYP, VIOLET at Chapel Off Chapel, THE FANTASTICKS at Hayes Theatre Co, VIOLET at Hayes Theatre Co, CHARLIE AND LOLA'S EXTREMELY NEW PLAY at Sydney Opera House, THE GRUFFALO and THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD for CDP Theatre Producers, which toured Australia and New Zealand extensively, THE GRUFFALO: SONGS FROM THE SHOW for Tall Stories UK which toured to Singapore.



ALIRA MCKENZIE-WILLIAMS ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Alira Mckenzie-Williams was the Production Trainee for The State Theatre Company of South Australia from

January 2016-July 2018 while studying at Adelaide College of the Arts. Alira Mckenzie-Williams has worked in a range of disciplines for the State Theatre Company of South Australia as an Assistant Stage Manager for the productions of THAT EYE, THE SKY, BROTHERS WRECK, SISTAGIRL, TARTUFFE, THE 39 STEPS; Assistant Directed AFTER DINNER, Australian Symphony Orchestra co-production ROMEO AND JULIET; Directorial Secondment VALE and Chaperone credits Co-production Sydney theatre company & Adelaide Festival THE SECRET RIVER. Her additional theatre credits at other theatre company's include Assistant Stage Manager THE APPLETON LADIES' POTATO RACE (Ensemble Theatre), Stage Manager LINES (TheatreRepublic), Stage-management Secondments LETHAL INDIFFERENCE (Sydney Theatre Company), MEMORIAL (Brink Productions). And various productions at The Adelaide College of the Arts.



JESSICA LEGG SOUND OPERATOR

Jess has been working in Theatre for the last 7 years, after graduating from The JMC Academy in 2012. She has quickly become an

accomplished Audio Engineer within Australia, going on to mix SAINT JOAN and THE HARP IN THE SOUTH with the Sydney Theatre Company. In 2016 she toured as the FOH Engineer for The Illusionists 1903 during the Australian leg of the tour. She is also a respected Microphone Technician, working on PRISCILLA! QUEEN OF THE DESERT (Michael Cassel), MAMMA MIA! (Michael Coppel, Louise Withers and Linda Bewick), THE WIZARD OF OZ (GFO), MY FAIR LADY (GFO), THE BODYGUARD (GFO), and GHOST THE MUSICAL (Michael Coppel, Louise Withers and Dave Stewart)





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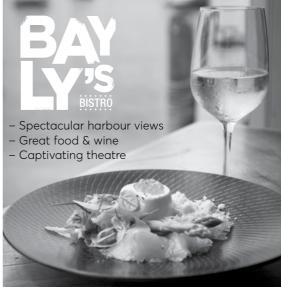
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