

DIPLOMACY

BY CYRIL GÉLY

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY JULIE ROSE

21 JUNE – 13 JULY 2019

PARIS, 25 AUGUST 1944.

A suite in the Hotel Meurice, headquarters of the Military Governor. Two and a half months after the D-Day landings on the coast of Normandy, the Allied forces are at the gates of the city. Just before dawn, Dietrich von Choltitz is getting ready to destroy the French capital, following Hitler's orders.

"The supreme mystery of despotism, its prop and stay, is to keep men in a state of deception, and with the specious title of religion to cloak the fear by which they must be held in check, so that they will fight for their servitude as if for salvation, and count it no shame, but the highest honour, to spend their blood and their lives for the glorification of one man."

Baruch de Spinoza,
TRACTUS THEOLOGICUS-POLITICUS (1670)

CAST

DIETRICH VON CHOLTITZ **JOHN BELL**
Army General, Military Governor of Paris
RAOUL NORDLING **JOHN GADEN**
Consul General of Sweden in Paris
FRAU MAYER **GENEVIEVE LEMON**
His orderly
WERNER EBERNACH **JAMES LUGTON**
Engineering officer in charge of mining Paris
HANS BRENSDORF **JOSEPH RAGGATT**
Sentry

CREATIVES

DIRECTOR **JOHN BELL**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **ANNA VOLSKA**
TRANSLATION & ADAPTATION **JULIE ROSE**
SET DESIGNER **MICHAEL SCOTT-MITCHELL**
COSTUME DESIGNER **GENEVIEVE GRAHAM**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **MATT COX**
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER
NATE EDMONDSON
STAGE MANAGER **ERIN SHAW**
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER &
TOURING PRODUCTION MANAGER
REBECCA POULTER
COSTUME SUPERVISOR **RENATA BESLIK**

RUNNING TIME APPROX. 70 MINS NO INTERVAL

Special Thanks: Alex Stuart at Sydney Theatre Company Props, Steven Vella, Paul Britton – PBA Group & NIDA.



This adaption was made possible by the generous donation of Ross and Jinnie Gavin.

Thank you for your \$2 donation, it helps cover the production of our programs

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.

WELCOME

It's very rare that we program return seasons, but after the runaway success of last year's gripping production, we wanted to share this very special piece of theatre with everyone who missed out last time.

We are also excited to be taking DIPLOMACY to regional venues around the country and sharing this captivating night in the theatre with audiences beyond Ensemble.

This year, we came close to losing one of Paris' icons, the Notre Dame Cathedral - DIPLOMACY is a timely reminder that we very nearly lost the whole city of Paris with one fateful command.

Mark Kilmurry Artistic Director

WRITER'S NOTE

What a joy for an author to see his play played in a theatre. But when it is played in a foreign language, it is an additional joy, and I am very honoured.

I had the idea to write this play on September 11th, 2001, when I saw on my television the two towers of the World Trade Center collapse. I wanted to examine the madness of men and the idea of the destruction of Paris in August 1944 imposed itself on me.

The idea was simple: put face to face two men who bring everything into conflict. On one side a soldier, General Dietrich von Choltitz. On the other side, a diplomat, Raoul Nordling. The first one has to blow up everything, the second has to dissuade him from it. We all know that Paris will not be destroyed. What is interesting in this play is to see how Nordling is going to gradually influence Choltitz, and convince him not to do such a crazy thing.

Last year, I had the pleasure to be in Sydney to attend the premiere of DIPLOMACY at Ensemble Theatre. I was extremely moved by the acting, sober, efficient, and very poignant. I want to thank them all once again. Now it's your turn, dear spectator, to have a great evening!

Cyril Gély



CYRIL GÉLY PLAYWRIGHT

Cyril Gély is a scriptwriter, novelist and playwright. His plays include: SIGNÉ DUMAS (7 nomination at the Molière Awards including Best play and

Grand Prix de l'Académie Française), and DIPLOMATIE. As a screenwriter, he wrote the adaptation of DIPLOMATIE and MONSIEUR CHOCOLAT (with Omar Sy). DIPLOMATIE has been created in Paris starring Niels Arestrup and André Dussollier at Théâtre de la Madeleine in 2011. The play has been nominated for a Globe de Cristal (award given by the French press) and both actors have also been nominated for the Molière Awards for Best Actor in 2012. It has been adapted for the screen, directed by Volker Schlöndorff starring the same actors who created the stage version. DIPLOMATIE, the play has also been, or will be, produced in Germany, Denmark, Italy, Hungary as well as this Australian production. Awards: Cyril Gély received the Best Screenplay at the Shanghai International Film Festival and the Cesar Award 2015 for Best Adaptation.



JULIE ROSE TRANSLATION AND ADAPTATION

Julie is an internationally renowned Australian translator of French, who has translated over 40

books and plays, including works by some of France's most highly-prized writers, both classical and contemporary: Racine, Molière, Victor Hugo (with the world's first fully original, unexpurgated English translation of LES MISÉRABLES), Emile Zola, Alexandre Dumas père, André Schwarz-Bart, André Gorz of LETTER TO D: A LOVE STORY fame, foremost cultural critic Paul Virilio, Jacques Rancière, Chantal Thomas, Hubert Damisch, Bruno Latour and many more. Recent translations for theatre include Jean Genet's THE MAIDS and Georges Feydeau's A FLEA IN HER EAR, both adapted and performed by the STC. She was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des

arts et des lettres by the French government in 2016, and was most recently awarded the Australian Academy of the Humanities 2018 Medal for Excellence in Translation for her translation of Philippe Paquet, SIMON LEYS. NAVIGATOR BETWEEN WORLDS.



JOHN BELL DIRECTOR / DIETRICH VON CHOLTITZ

John Bell is the founder of Bell Shakespeare and one of Australia's most acclaimed theatre personalities. In a career

of acting and directing, John has been instrumental in shaping the Australian theatre industry as we know it. After graduating from Sydney University in 1962 John worked for the Old Tote Theatre Company, all of Australia's state theatre companies and was an Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company in the United Kingdom. As co-founder of Sydney's Nimrod Theatre Company, John presented many productions of landmark Australian plays including David Williamson's TRAVELLING NORTH, THE CLUB and THE REMOVALISTS. He also initiated an Australian Shakespeare style with Nimrod productions such as MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING and MACBETH. In 1990 John founded The Bell Shakespeare Company where his productions have included THE WINTER'S TALE, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, HAMLET, ROMEO AND JULIET, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, RICHARD 3, PERICLES, HENRY 4, HENRY 5, JULIUS CAESAR, ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, WARS OF THE ROSES, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, MACBETH and AS YOU LIKE IT, as well as John Webster's THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, Goldoni's THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS, Gogol's THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR and Ben Jonson's THE ALCHEMIST. His Shakespeare roles include Hamlet, Shylock, Henry V, Richard III, Macbeth, Malvolio, Berowne, Petruchio, Leontes, Coriolanus, Prospero, King Lear, Titus Andronicus and Falstaff. He played the title role in co-productions with Queensland

Theatre Company including: RICHARD 3, Heiner Müller's ANATOMY TITUS FALL OF ROME: A SHAKESPEARE COMMENTARY and performed the role of Mephistopheles, in FAUSTUS. John directed TOSCA and CARMEN for Opera Australia, THE RAKE'S PROGRESS for the Victorian Opera and has also directed a production of MADAME BUTTERFLY for an Oz Opera national tour. John performed the role of the Professor in Sydney Theatre Company's production of UNCLE VANYA, presented in association with Bell Shakespeare which also toured to Washington and New York. John played the leading role in THE FATHER for Sydney Theatre Company and Melbourne Theatre Company in late 2017 and directed and starred in DIPLOMACY for Ensemble Theatre in 2018. He has been touring the country throughout 2018 with Simon Tedeschi in two shows ENOCH ARDEN and BRIGHT STAR. John has also appeared in two television series to be aired in 2019, DIARY OF AN UBER DRIVER for ABC and LAMBS OF GOD for Fox Television. In 2019 John played the title role in Moliere's THE MISER for Bell Shakespeare. John Bell is an Officer of the Order of Australia and the Order of the British Empire. He has an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the Universities of Sydney, New South Wales and Newcastle. In 1997 the National Trust of Australia named him as one of Australia's Living Treasures. In 2003 the Australia Business Arts Foundation awarded John the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Cultural Leadership Award. His many awards as an actor and director include the Helpmann Award for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor (RICHARD 3, 2002 & Jaques in AS YOU LIKE IT, 2015) & nominated for Best Support Actor and Best Actor (UNCLE VANYA 2011 and THE FATHER, 2017), a Producers and Directors Guild Award for Lifetime Achievement and the JC Williamson Award (2009) for extraordinary contribution to Australia's live entertainment industry and the 2010 Sydney Theatre Award for Lifetime Achievement in recognition of his extraordinary career as an actor, director and producer.



ANNA VOLSKA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Anna has worked in the theatre as an actress, teacher and director for over fifty years. She has appeared in every major

state theatre company in Australia. In the UK she played with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-on-Avon, and on tour in Paris and Moscow. She also played in Malaysia, Singapore, China, Hong Kong and Japan. She was involved in the founding of the Nimrod Theatre, which was the precursor to Belvoir, and the Bell Shakespeare Company. Theatre boards: TOE TRUCK, INTERPLAY, Glen St Theatre. Television: ALL SAINTS, SISTERS OF WAR, A TOWN LIKE ALICE. Film: COMRADES, A FISTFUL OF FLIES. Recent theatre: Tiresias in ANTIGONE for Sport For Jove, Edwina in SEVENTEEN for Belvoir, Mother in UNHOLY GHOSTS for Griffin.



JOHN GADEN
RAOUL NORDLING

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, John appeared in the 2018 season of DIPLOMACY and THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR at Ensemble Theatre. Career highlights include THE WILD DUCK and CLOUDSTREET National and International Tours (Belvoir), SAINT JOAN, ORLANDO, MACBETH, ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD, and COPENHAGEN (Sydney Theatre Company), PERICLES (Bell Shakespeare) and KING LEAR (State Theatre Company of South Australia). John's most celebrated performances include DEMOCRACY, 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. Last year, John was made Officer of the Order of Australia.



GENEVIEVE LEMON
FRAU MAYER

Genevieve's numerous theatre credits include, for Ensemble Theatre: FOLK, 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 also starred the London and Sydney seasons of Working Title's production of BILLY ELLIOT (Helpmann Award, Sydney Theatre Critics 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 recent 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 Critics 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.



JAMES LUGTON
EBERNACH

Theatre Credits include: For Bell Shakespeare JULIUS CAESAR, OTHELLO, RICHARD III; for Sport for Jove THE HOLLOW

CROWN, WAR OF THE ROSES, LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, SHAKESPEAREALISM, EDWARD II, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, THE CRUCIBLE, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, CYRANO DE BERGERAC, HAMLET, THE TEMPEST, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (Sydney Theatre Award - Best Actor in an Independent Production 2012), MACBETH, THE LIBERTINE (Sydney Theatre Award - Best Independent Production 2011), AS YOU LIKE IT, ROMEO & JULIET and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM; for Whitebox/Griffin Independent UNHOLY GHOSTS; for Version 1.0 THE MAJOR MINOR PARTY; for Monkey Baa Theatre THURSDAY'S CHILD. TV includes DIARY OF AN UBER DRIVER (ABC), HARROW (Hulu), DOCTOR DOCTOR (Nine Network), FIGHTING SEASON (Foxtel/Goalpost), MARY: THE MAKING OF A PRINCESS (Network Ten/Fremantle), WONDERLAND (Network Ten/Fremantle), CLEO – PAPER GIANTS (ABC), THE CUT (ABC), TOUGH NUTS (Foxtel), ALL SAINTS (Channel 7), HOME AND AWAY (Channel 7), WATER RATS (Channel 9); Film includes HACKSAW RIDGE, JOE CINQUE'S CONSOLATION, QUEEN OF THE NIGHT, and BMX BANDITS.



JOSEPH RAGGATT
HANS BRENSDORF

Joseph Raggatt is a recent graduate of NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art). While at NIDA Joseph performed in productions

including THE SPACE BETWEEN THE FUEL AND THE FIRE, SCORCHED, CAPRICORNIA and THE TEMPEST. Most recently, Joseph was part of the ensemble of SERPENT'S TEETH for Kings Cross Theatre. Previously he played the title role of 'Doctor Frankenstein' in TheatreIQ's FRANKENSTEIN, directed by Terri Brabon.



MICHAEL
SCOTT-MITCHELL
SET DESIGNER

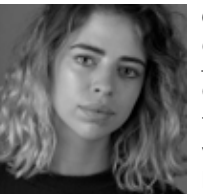
Michael Scott-Mitchell is one of the most outstanding designers in Australia. Recognising

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.



Rehearsal images by Prudence Upton
Drawings by Nicholas Harding

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GENEVIEVE GRAHAM COSTUME 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 young Australian artists. In 2017 Genevieve was costume designer on a new opera with The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra: BITTERSWEET OBSESSIONS. That year she was also the costume and set designer for two new Australian works: EURYDIKE and ORPHEUS, directed by Priscilla Jackman, and FRATERNAL directed by Benjamin Sheen. In 2017, she went on to win the APDG award for 'Best Emerging Designer' for EURYDIKE and ORPHEUS. In 2018, Genevieve was the costume designer for Channel Seven's DROP DEAD WEIRD. This year she was also the costume designer for The Theatre of Image's Sydney Festival show BRETT AND WENDY written and directed by Kim Carpenter. This year Genevieve has been costume designer for four shows at The Ensemble Theatre including MURDER ON THE WIRELESS.



MATT COX LIGHTING DESIGNER

Since arriving in Sydney in 2003, Matt has designed numerous theatre productions including for Bangarra Dance Theatre:

DUBBOO, ONE'S COUNTRY, OUR LAND PEOPLE STORIES, BLAK, BELONG; For Carriageworks: LAKE DISAPPOINTMENT; For The Hayes Theatre Company: SHE LOVES ME; For Siren Theatre Co: THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY; For Ensemble: MURDER

ON THE WIRELESS, DIPLOMACY; For the Australian Chamber Orchestra: REFLECTIONS ON GALLIPOLI; For Marrugeku: BURRBGAJA YALIRRA; For Musica Viva: GOLDNER STRING QUARTET; For Bell Shakespeare: THE MISER, HAMLET, ROMEO AND JULIET; For Monkey Baa: POSSUM MAGIC, THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, DIARY OF A WOMBAT; For Sydney Theatre Company: THE WHARF REVUE 2018, RUBY MOON; For Louise Withers and Associates: THE MOUSETRAP, and A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED; For Michael Sieders Presents: ALICE IN WONDERLAND; For Company B: THE SEED; For Legs on the Wall: SYMPHONY; For Sport for Jove: THE LIBERTINE, OTHELLO, ANTIGONE, THE RIVER AT THE END OF THE ROAD, THE TEMPEST; For Red Line Productions: THIS MUCH IS TRUE, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE; For Sydney Festival: THE FAMOUS SPIEGELTENT (2016), THE FAMOUS SPIEGELTENT (2015), THE AURORA SPIEGELTENT (2014); For the Sydney Chamber Opera: HIS MUSIC BURNS. Matt currently tutors for the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).



NATE EDMONDSON COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Nate is an international, multi-award winning composer and sound designer for stage and screen. His

musical scores have played to audiences across the world, including his work on THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW (Rockefeller Productions), touring globally. Locally, he has worked on critically acclaimed productions, including THE HARP IN THE SOUTH, BLACKIE BLACKIE BROWN, and CLOUD NINE (STC); MARK COLVIN'S KIDNEY, and SEVENTEEN (Belvoir); THE TEMPEST (Bell Shakespeare). Nate was awarded the 2016 and 2015 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Score/Sound Design of an Independent Production (GOOD WITH MAPS, MISTERMAN); the 2018 and 2016 Broadway World Award for Best Score/Sound Design of a Play (THE HARP IN THE SOUTH, LEAVES); and the 2014 Brian Dyer Trophy for Best Score/Sound Design [UK] (ALL MY SONS).



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), LOVE, ME (The 505, 2018) and FOLK (Ensemble Theatre, 2019); 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.



REBECCA POULTER ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER & TOURING PRODUCTION MANAGER

Rebecca is a graduate of NIDA (Production). As Stage Manager: LUNA GALE, UNQUALIFIED, BUYER AND CELLAR, TWO, RELATIVELY SPEAKING, THE GOOD DOCTOR, MOTHERS AND SONS, EDUCATING RITA, DREAM HOME, BLUE/ORANGE, RICHARD III, CLYBOURNE PARK, CAMP (Ensemble Theatre), MY FIRST TIME (Kay & McLean Productions at Sydney Opera House), SONGS FOR THE FALLEN (Arts Centre Melbourne/Critical Stages), THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW – Sydney Opera House, Adelaide, La Boite Brisbane (Michael Sieders Presents), SENIOR MOMENTS – QPAC, Comedy Theatre, State Theatre Centre WA (Return Fire Productions), BRETT & WENDY...A LIFE BOUND BY ART (Theatre of Image/Sydney Festival). Also for: Darlinghurst Theatre Company, Performing Lines, ATYP, The Hayloft Project/Critical Stages, Dead Puppet Society, Sport for Jove, Sydney Chamber Opera. As Assistant Stage Manager: DANCE BETTER AT PARTIES, AUSTRALIA DAY, BLOOD WEDDING, ZEBRAI, TRUE WEST,

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (Sydney Theatre Company), INTERPLAY – International Tour, COUNTERMOVE (Sydney Dance Company), STRANGE INTERLUDE, THYESTES (Belvoir), BLOOD WEDDING (Malthouse Theatre). As Production Manager: 91-STOREY TREEHOUSE (CDP Theatre Producers), OUT OF EARSHOT (KAGE/Chunky Move/Adelaide Cabaret Festival), DANGEROUS LIAISONS (MTC Neon), MERCELESS GODS (Griffin Theatre Company), CYRANO DE BERGERAC – IPAC & Seymour Centre (Sport for Jove).



RENATA BESLIK COSTUME SUPERVISOR

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

include: FOLK, 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 (Pinchut Opera), HENRY V, THE WINTER'S TALE, MACBETH (Bell Shakespeare) STAY HAPPY KEEP 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.



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Artistic Director

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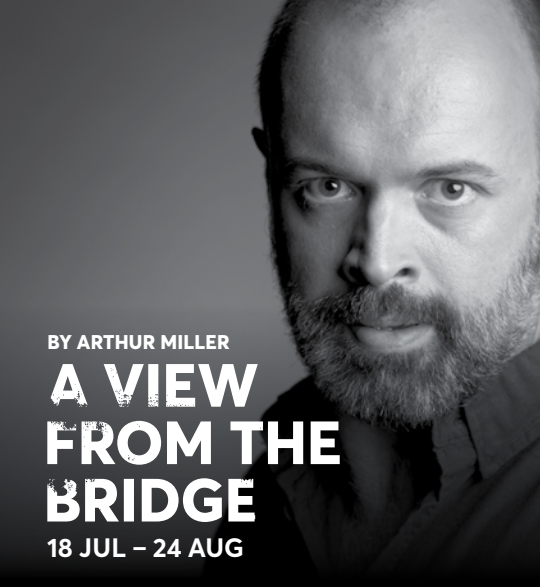


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BY ARTHUR MILLER

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