

WORLD PREMIERE

DAVID WILLIAMSON'S

# CRUNCH TIME

14 FEB – 9 APR 2020



FOR EVERYONE

# WELCOME

What a privilege and pleasure it is to direct David Williamson's last ever play. His work always has a finger on the pulse of contemporary issues and CRUNCH TIME sits right at the heart of the ongoing debate about the right to die with dignity. But the main theme stems from within the family nucleus so CRUNCH TIME is also about parents and children, husbands and wives, betrayal and ultimately love. It also happens to be very funny.

If there is a message in David's amazing 50 year career in writing plays, it is this: be tolerant. Accept people with all their flaws, foibles and idiosyncrasies. Find a way to work together, and then you can move forward. I couldn't think of a better message at this time in the world. Enjoy CRUNCH TIME and this wonderful cast working with an incredible writer. Thank you David, it has been an honour.

**Mark Kilmurry**  
Artistic Director

# WRITER'S NOTE

CRUNCH TIME is a story of sibling rivalry and a story about dying. If that sounds grim, then some of the time it is. Dying can't be avoided and sibling rivalry is a reality of life.

In any family each sibling wants their share of love and parental attention and can get very distressed if they feel they aren't getting it. The other fact of life, although we often pretend it isn't true, is that parents have favourites. Sure they love all their children but sometimes not quite equally, and children are acutely sensitive to signs that they aren't the chosen one.

But CRUNCH TIME isn't a saga devoid of laughter. In life sometimes it's only humour that can get us through. Laughter is a survival skill we alone, of all living creatures, have been gifted and it's part of life and part of all my plays.

This is genuinely my last play. I've had a wonderful fifty years in the theatre and my time at the Ensemble has been particularly dear to me, so I'd like to thank Sandra Bates for her enthusiasm and belief in my work and Mark Kilmurry and all the wonderful people at the Ensemble for all the love, support and friendship they've given me. And of course for staging so many wonderful productions of my work with top line casts — the cast I have for CRUNCH TIME is one of the very best.

**David Williamson**

Ensemble Theatre proudly 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.

# SYNOPSIS

Steve is the typical Aussie bloke, self-assured, social and sports-mad. Recently retired from a high-flying career, he's passed the family business over to his son Jimmy — a chip off the old block. But his eldest son Luke, an engineer with more of an interest in algebra than AFL, has never quite seen eye-to-eye with his dad and they haven't spoken in seven years. When Steve suddenly falls ill, time is running out to repair their broken relationship — and Luke and Jimmy will have to go to extreme lengths to fulfil their father's final wishes.

## CAST

**DIANE CRAIG** HELEN  
**MEGAN DRURY** SUSY  
**GUY EDMONDS** LUKE  
**MATT MINTO** JIMMY  
**EMMA PALMER** LAUREN  
**JOHN WOOD** STEVE

**DIRECTOR** MARK KILMURRY  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR** JANINE WATSON  
**SET & COSTUME DESIGNER** LAUREN PETERS  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER** NICHOLAS HIGGINS  
**SOUND REALISER** ANTHONY LORENZ  
**STAGE MANAGER** BROOKE KISS/STEPHANIE LINDWALL  
**COSTUME SUPERVISOR** RENATA BESLIK

RUNNING TIME APPROX. 2HRS 10MINS INC INTERVAL

## SPECIAL THANKS:

Dennis Blumendeller	Giulia Rinaudo
Shayne Higson	Samantha Gilberthorpe
Michael O'Neill	Pier Productions
Sandi Steep	Wentworth Galleries
Dr Rodney Syme	(supplied painting)

**Content warning:** This production contains strong language and adult themes including assisted dying. If CRUNCH TIME leaves you needing support please call Lifeline's 24 hour crisis line on 13 11 14.



# DAVID WILLIAMSON ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Since 1995 we've staged 24 Williamson plays at Ensemble Theatre, including 19 world premieres & produced three national tours.

1995 | **EMERALD CITY**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM

1996 | **MONEY & FRIENDS**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM

1998 | **SANCTUARY**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM

1999 | **FACE TO FACE**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
**world premiere**  
2000 NSW, VIC & WA tour

2000 | **TRAVELLING NORTH**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
at Footbridge Theatre, Camperdown

2001 | **A CONVERSATION**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
**world premiere**  
2003 NSW, VIC & WA tour

2002 | **AFTER THE BALL**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM

2003 | **BIRTHRIGHTS**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
at The Playhouse, Sydney Opera House



2004 | **FLATFOOT**  
Directed by Jonathan Biggins  
**world premiere**  
Ensemble Productions & Christine Dunstan

2005 | **OPERATOR**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
**world premiere**

2006 | **CHARITABLE INTENT**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM

2007 | **LOTTE'S GIFT**  
Directed by David Williamson  
**world premiere**

2009 | **LET THE SUNSHINE**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
**world premiere**

2010 | **RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
**world premiere**  
2012 National Tour

2011 | **NOTHING PERSONAL**  
Directed by Mark Kilmurry  
**world premiere**

2012 | **WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
**world premiere**



**AT ANY COST?**  
Co-written with Mohamed Khadra  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
**world premiere**

**MANAGING CARMEN**  
Directed by Mark Kilmurry  
**world premiere**

2013 | **HAPPINESS**  
Directed by Sandra Bates AM  
world premiere

2014 | **CRUISE CONTROL**  
Directed by David Williamson  
world premiere

2015 | **DREAM HOME**  
Directed by David Williamson  
world premiere

2016 | **JACK OF HEARTS**  
Directed by David Williamson  
world premiere

2017 | **ODD MAN OUT**  
Directed by Mark Kilmurry  
world premiere

2018 | **SORTING OUT RACHEL**  
Directed by Nadia Tass  
world premiere

2019 | **THE BIG TIME**  
Directed by Mark Kilmurry  
world premiere

2020 | **CRUNCH TIME**  
Directed by Mark Kilmurry  
world premiere



**Cruise Control 2014**  
Helen Dallimore &  
Felix Williamson



**Jack Of Hearts 2016**  
Chris Taylor &  
Craig Reucassel



**Sorting Out Rachel 2018**  
John Howard



Rehearsal Images By Robert Catto



**DAVID WILLIAMSON**  
PLAYWRIGHT

David Williamson is Australia's best known and most widely performed playwright. Some of his 56 produced plays over

the last 50 years include THE COMING OF STORK, THE REMOVALISTS, DON'S PARTY, THE CLUB, TRAVELLING NORTH, MONEY & FRIENDS, DEAD WHITE MALES, THE JACK MANNING TRILOGY, UP FOR GRABS, SOULMATES, NOTHING PERSONAL, WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY, RUPERT, CRUISE CONTROL, DREAM HOME, ODD MAN OUT, SORTING OUT RACHEL, NEARER THE GODS, THE BIG TIME and FAMILY VALUES. His plays (also in translation) have been performed internationally, including in London, Los Angeles, New York and Washington. David has adapted many of his plays into feature films to great acclaim and his many original feature screenplays include GALLIPOLI, PHAR LAP, THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY, and BALIBO (as co-writer) and ON THE BEACH (adapted for television). David's many awards include 12 Australian Writers' Guild Awards, 5 Australian Film Institutes' Awards for Best Screenplay and, in 1996, the United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Award.



**MARK KILMURRY**  
DIRECTOR

Mark is the Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre. Recent directing credits include: THE ODD COUPLE, THE LAST

WIFE, MURDER ON THE WIRELESS, THE BIG TIME, THE NORMAN CONQUESTS, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, 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 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.



**JANINE WATSON**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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Janine is an actor and director. Janine was the 2016 recipient of the Sandra Bates Director's Award. Her directing credits include ROMEO AND JULIET for Bell Shakespeare, UNQUALIFIED for Ensemble Theatre, FIERCE, CRIMES OF THE HEART and DOLORES for Old Fitz Theatre. Acting credits include the 2019 remounting of A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE at Ensemble Theatre. In 2018, Janine won the GLUG Award for Best Supporting Actress, and was nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award. Also, THE HAPPY PRINCE for Griffin Theatre, ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA for Bell Shakespeare, AMERICAN BEAUTY SHOP for Kings Cross Theatre, ANTIGONE & THREE SISTERS for Sport For Jove. DOLORES for Old Fitz, DANGEROUS LIAISONS for MTC Neon and OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE for La Boite. TV Credits include THE SECRETS SHE KEEPS, THE CODE and NEIGHBOURS, and the feature film THAT'S NOT ME.



**DIANE CRAIG**  
HELEN

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Well-known for her numerous appearances on television, film and stage, Diane Craig previously appeared for Ensemble Theatre in RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN; AFTER THE BALL, FACE TO FACE, THREE HOTELS, MONEY AND FRIENDS and A CONVERSTATION; MTC in Hannie Rayson's TWO BROTHERS and Alex Buzo's THE MARGINAL FARM. Among her stage credits are WICKED SISTERS for Griffin Theatre; SCAM FOR Christine Dunstan Productions (Sydney and Perth seasons); THE WOMEN for Q Theatre; WALLFLOWERING and ARMS AND THE MAN for Railway Street Theatre; THE HEIDI CHRONICLES and DOUBLE ACT for Perth Theatre Company; EMERALD CITY for Sydney Theatre Company; and seasons at the Old Tote and Tasmania

Theatre. Diane's many television appearances include principal and guest roles in most of Australia's major series: UNDERBELLY, WILDSIDE, HEARTBREAK HIGH, HOME AND AWAY, E STREET, A COUNTRY PRACTICE, FLYING DOCTORS, GP, MOTHER AND SON, CARSON'S LAW, ALL THE RIVERS RUN, PRISONER, COP SHOP, and CERTAIN WOMEN. On Film, she has been seen in NED KELLY, THE MANGO TREE (for which she received an AFI nomination for Best Supporting Actress), and TRAVELLING NORTH.



**MEGAN DRURY**  
SUSY

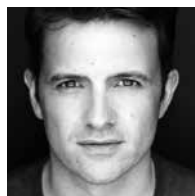
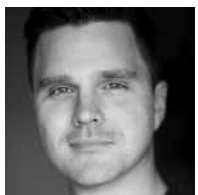
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Megan's stage credit's include: for Broad Encounters - A MIDNIGHT VISIT (Sydney, Perth, Melbourne); for Sport For Jove - MACBETH, JULIUS CAESAR, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE TEMPEST, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM; for National Theatre of Parramatta - SWALLOW (Best Ensemble nomination 2016 Sydney Theatre Awards); for Belvoir St Theatre - RUBEN GUTHRIE; for Darlinghurst Theatre - LOVE'S TRIUMPH; for Griffin Independent - TATTOO; for The Street Theatre, Canberra - CLOSER; for Don't Look Away - A PROPERTY OF THE CLAN. Megan's screen credits include: the feature films THE SCHOOL (Best Female Performance nomination 2019 OzFlix Independent Film Awards) and MANNY LEWIS; the television series' INFORMER 3838; FIGHTING SEASON; UNDERBELLY III: THE GOLDEN MILE; PACKED TO THE RAFTERS; RESCUE SPECIAL OPS; COPS LAC; ALL SAINTS and HOME AND AWAY. Megan has also recently worked as Associate Artist on Broad Encounter's A MIDNIGHT VISIT and Assistant Director on Sport For Jove's THE MERCHANT OF VENICE. CRUNCH TIME is her debut with Ensemble Theatre.



**GUY EDMONDS**  
LUKE

Guy's an actor, writer and director. Theatre credits for Ensemble include BETRAYAL and DREAM HOME. Other theatre credits include RUPERT in the Sydney, Melbourne and Washington seasons (MTC, Daniel Sparrow Productions), THE WITCHES (Griffin/Malthouse), TOY SYMPHONY (Belvoir), DEGENERATE ART (Red Line) and the original production of HOLDING THE MAN in Australia and London's West End. Selected TV credits include A MOODY CHRISTMAS, THE CODE, HOUSE HUSBANDS, CAMP, UNDERBELLY: RAZOR, BLACK COMEDY, HOME AND AWAY and THE SECRETS SHE KEEPS. His feature credits include the lead role in the thriller BEDLAM, SUPER AWESOME! and RAPID FEAR. Guy co-created, wrote and stars in the ABCMe series HARDBALL, which went to air last year to critical acclaim.



**MATT MINTO**  
JIMMY

Matt Minto is a graduate of The Impulse Company London and the Actors Centre Australia. Theatre credits include Ensemble Theatre's THE BIG TIME and ODD MAN OUT, Eclipse Productions TIME STANDS STILL, Darlinghurst Theatre's THE PRIDE, Red Line Productions COCK, Silo Theatre's ANGELS IN AMERICA PART 1 & 2 and COCK in co-pro with Auckland live, Maidment Theatre's OTHELLO, Circa Theatre's RABBIT, THREE SISTERS with Offstage London and TWELFTH NIGHT for Bedlam Theatre Edinburgh. Matt recently played the lead role in the NZ series THE BAD SEED. Other screen work includes INFINI, HOME AND AWAY, I ROCK, BACK HOME, THE BLUE ROSE and SHORTLAND STREET.



**EMMA PALMER**  
LAUREN

A 2007 NIDA graduate, Emma's theatre credits include RELATIVELY SPEAKING for Ensemble, ROSE RIOT for Sport For Jove, KINDERTRANSPORT, REMEMBERING PIRATES, CONSTELLATIONS, RIDE, FOURPLAY & THE JUNGLE for Darlinghurst Theatre, the Australian Tour of WAR HORSE for National Theatre/Global Creatures, TOT MOM & THE LOST ECHO for STC, THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY for Melbourne Festival, THE KID & ON THE SHORE OF THE WIDE WORLD for Griffin and the national tour of SYNCOPATION for Critical Stages. For television Emma has appeared in ALL SAINTS, UNDERBELLY II: A TALE OF TWO CITIES, OFFSIDE and BIKIE WARS: BROTHERS IN ARMS and voiced several characters on the cartoon series GASP!. She is well known to Australian audiences as a regular presenter on the much loved ABC children's program PLAYSCHOOL. Emma has been a proud member of MEAA since 2008.



**JOHN WOOD**  
STEVE

John Wood has been a part of the Australian entertainment industry for over 50 years earning himself a long list of credits for varied roles on stage and screen. His TV career commenced in 1976 in POWER WITHOUT GLORY, then he went on to star in the hit drama RAFFERTY'S RULES. From 1994 he played the role of "Tom Croydon" in BLUE HEELERS for 12 years in one of our highest ever rating TV drama's which culminated in John winning the prestigious Gold Logie in 2006. His more recent television roles include THE DOCTOR BLAKE MYSTERIES, TRUE STORIES, HOW TO STAY MARRIED, MAD AS HELL and THE YEARLY WITH CHARLIE PICKERING. John's stage career has covered

everything from Shakespeare to Williamson and a few Musicals in between, again winning a number of Best Actor awards along the way. In 2019 he performed in THE WIZARD OF OZ, after touring nationally in SENIOR MOMENTS and also performing in SUMMER AND SMOKE, CARPE DIEM and BAKERSFIELD MIST.



**LAUREN PETERS**  
SET & COSTUME  
DESIGNER

Lauren designed Hayes Theatre Co's sell-out THE DROWSY CHAPERONE for which she was awarded a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Stage Design of an Independent Production. She has also designed Highway Run Production's RENT and HIGH FIDELITY, Hayes Theatre Co's production of HIGH SOCIETY, INTO THE WOODS for the Australian Institute of Music, SIDE SHOW for One Eyed Man Productions, Working Management's MACK AND MABEL, THRONES THE MUSICAL PARODY for the Sydney Opera House, and STALKING THE BOOGEYMAN and ALICE IN SLASHERLAND at the Old Fitz. Lauren was production designer on CALAMITY JANE for One Eyed Man Productions, which she received two Sydney Theatre Award and Green Room nominations for Best Costume Design of an Independent Production and Best Set Design for an Independent Production in 2017. She also designed Luckiest Productions' national cinema release of DAVID CAMPBELL SINGS JOHN BUCCHINO. Most recently she was the production designer for THE LIFE OF US at Hayes Theatre Co.



**NICHOLAS HIGGINS**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Nick Higgins has been an independent lighting designer since graduating from WAAPA too long ago. 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 for numerous companies in numerous genres, but loves coming back to the Ensemble! 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!



**ANTHONY LORENZ**  
SOUND REALISER

Anthony is a Sound Engineer and Designer based in Sydney with extensive experience in Theatre, Concerts, Festivals

& Design projects across a broad range of genres. He completed formal training on a full scholarship at JMC Academy graduating with a Bachelor Of Creative Technologies. Recent Key Sound Design credits include: BETTY BLOKK-BUSTER REIMAGINED for

Red Line Productions, CAROLINE OR CHANGE for Hayes Theatre Co, IN THE HEIGHTS for Blue Saint Productions & Sydney Opera House.



**BROOKE KISS**  
STAGE MANAGER

This is Brooke's second show with Ensemble Theatre, she was also the stage manager for FULLY COMMITTED in

2019. Brooke's previous roles for other theatre companies include the following. For Sydney Theatre Company; assistant stage manager (ASM) on BANGING DENMARK, ASM on ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST, and ASM on THE TESTAMENT OF MARY. For Belvoir; ASM on BARBARA AND THE CAMP DOGS (2019 Tour), stage manager on BLISS, ASM on SAMI IN PARADISE, rehearsal stage manager on BARBARA AND THE CAMP DOGS, ASM cover on MR BURNS. For Force Majeure; stage manager on THE LAST SEASON, stage manager on YOU ANIMAL, YOU for both Sydney Festival 2018 and Dance Massive 2019. For Froudist & Cubby House Co production stage manager on RUBY'S WISH (2018 Tour). Brooke graduated from NIDA's Technical Theatre and Stage Management Course in 2016.



**STEPH LINDWALL**  
STAGE MANAGER

As Stage Manager: PETER PAN GOES WRONG AUS & NZ National Tour and Stage Management Advisor Italian National Tour, BABY

DOLL, MURDER ON THE WIRELESS, THE WIDOW UNPLUGGED, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, NEVILLE'S ISLAND, THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK and GOOD PEOPLE for Ensemble Theatre, SENIOR MOMENTS AUS NATIONAL TOUR and TRUE BLUE REVUE for Return Fire Productions; THE DAPTO CHASER and HOOTING AND HOWLING for Critical Stages Regional Tours, PRIDE, THE HORSE'S MOUTH FESTIVAL and BONDI FEAST for Tamarama Rock Surfers, SET THE PLAY for NIDA Independent, A VIEW FROM MOVING WINDOWS for Riverside Theatres. As Production Manager: (& Student Mentor) PLAYHOUSE CREATURES for AADA, SAY HELLO FIRST for Cupboard Love, BODY LANGUAGE for 107 Projects. As Assistant Stage Manager: EMPIRE for Tamarama Rock Surfers, THE WIZARD OF OZ for Packemin. Stephanie is a graduate of the Australian Academy of Dramatic Art.



**RENATA BESLIK**  
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

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

DOLL, FULLY COMMITTED, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, FOLK, DIPLOMACY, THE BIG TIME, LUNA GALE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, 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 for Ensemble Theatre, FANGIRLS for Belvoir/Queensland Theatre, FARNACE, THE RETURN OF ULYSSES, ARTASERSE, ATHALIA, THE CORONATION OF POPPEA, RAMEU: ANACREON AND PIGMALION, THEODORA for Pinchgut Opera, HENRY V, THE WINTER'S TALE, MACBETH for Bell Shakespeare, Designer: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, ROMEO AND JULIET, THE TEMPEST for Sport for Jove, THE COLOUR OF AUGUST for Newtown Theatre, Design Associate: THE LIFE OF GALILEO for Belvoir, BETTY BLOKK-BUSTER REIMAGINED for Red Line Productions.

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