

Ensemble
theatre for everyone



13 OCTOBER 2016 – 13 NOVEMBER 2016

e-baby

by Jane Cafarella

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SETTING

The action takes place over 16 months from 2015 to the present day in Catherine's home in London in the UK, and Nellie's home in the surrogacy friendly state of Massachusetts in the US, and in New York where Catherine works and where they meet for medical and social appointments. There is one hospital scene.

When the two women are in their separate locations they communicate via phone, text, Skype, Facetime or Google Hangouts.

PLAYWRIGHT
JANE CAFARELLA

DIRECTOR
NADIA TASS

CAST

CATHERINE
DANIELLE CARTER

NELLIE
GABRIELLE SCAWTHORN

DESIGNER
TOBHIYAH STONE FELLER

LIGHTING DESIGNER
NICHOLAS HIGGINS

AV DESIGNER
CHRISTOPHER PAGE

COMPOSER
DANIEL NIXON

CREW

STAGE MANAGER
DANI IRONSIDE

**WARDROBE
COORDINATOR**
ALANA CANCERI

DIALECT COACH
NICK CURNOW

ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRODUCTION 2016 DRAMATURG: NADIA TASS

Written and originally produced by Jane Cafarella. Original season direction and dramaturgy by Anna McCrossin-Owen.

90 MINUTES, NO INTERVAL

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Conceiving a child through surrogacy is the last option for some to achieve their dream of having a family. But for others, surrogacy is nothing short of immoral.

In e-baby we follow the lives of 28 year old surrogate mother Nellie from Massachusetts, and 'future' parent 45 year old Catherine, an Australian expat in London who take us on this difficult and emotional journey.

The women who choose to become surrogates are performing the ultimate act of human

kindness. They understand the fierce private pain of being childless and in turn they offer these heartbroken individuals, the joy of becoming a parent.

This is a stage play for today – the advances in medicine create a new world that allows new possibilities – in e-baby we enter that world and explore the raw truth, the unbridled joy and the paradox of surrogacy through a carefully woven story of love, generosity and a newborn child.



Jane Cafarella is an Australian journalist, cartoonist, and playwright based in Singapore. She began writing plays in 2011

and has since had various short plays produced in Australia, Singapore and Scotland. Before turning her hand to playwriting, Jane was well known in Melbourne as a print media journalist, working at the Melbourne Age for almost ten years and at News Ltd for nine years as a journalism trainer. Her cartoon archive is held by the State Library of Victoria. e-baby, Jane's

JANE CAFARELLA – **PLAYWRIGHT**

first full-length play, premiered in Melbourne at Chapel off Chapel in March 2015 to critical acclaim, with direction and dramaturgy by Anna McCrossin-Owen. Since then, the play has gone from strength to strength, with the Ensemble Theatre producing the Sydney premiere in 2016, and the Tasmanian Theatre Company producing the Hobart premiere in March 2017. Talks are also underway for various overseas productions. Jane is also the author of A NEW LIFE JOURNAL, a collection of newspaper columns (Partridge Press, 2014).



Awarded the 2014 Screen Leader Award for Outstanding Leadership, Nadia Tass is one of Australia's most iconoclastic

directors of both stage and screen. Nadia's experience as a theatre director is extensive and diverse, ranging from improvised, classic, contemporary and musical theatre. 2016 saw Tass direct THE BOOK CLUB for Melbourne and London; EXTINCTION by Hannie Rayson; DISGRACED by Ayad Akhtar for MTC, and an UNCLE VANYA adaptation by Annie Baker.

NADIA TASS – **DIRECTOR**

Tass has directed many plays for Red Stitch, among them, Annie Baker's THE FLICK (also for the QTC) and THE ALIENS, as well as THE GRONHOLM METHOD by J.G.Ferrer. For the Melbourne Theatre Company THE OTHER PLACE by Sharr White including the Louis Nowra plays SUMMER OF THE ALIENS, MISS BOSNIA and COSI. She directed PROMISES, PROMISES for The Production Company, and THREE WOMEN IN AN ICE-CREAM CONE was staged in London. Musical theatre; her production of THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE

WARDROBE, toured Australia/New Zealand and garnered a nomination for Best Director of a Musical at the Helpmann Awards. Films Nadia has directed include MALCOLM, RIKKY AND PETE, THE BIG STEAL, PURE LUCK, THE MIRACLE WORKER, UNDERCOVER CHRISTMAS, SAMANTHA AN AMERICAN GIRL, MR RELIABLE, AMY, FELICITY; AN AMERICAN GIRL ADVENTURE, MATCHING JACK, FATAL HONEYMOON, GEMMA/LEA, and the Mini series STARK for the BBC.



Danielle is a graduate of NIDA. For Ensemble Theatre she has appeared in MY ZINC BED, RICHARD THE THIRD, THE GINGERBREAD LADY, MY WONDERFUL DAY, ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR, FACE TO FACE and THE QUARTET FROM RIGOLETTO. For Sydney Theatre Company: AWAY and HYPOTHALAMANIA; and for Malthouse Theatre: STILL. Television credits include: series regular roles in MAL. COM, SOMETHING IN THE AIR, MEDIVAC and RICHMOND HILL and recurring guest roles in HOUSE HUSBANDS and



Gabrielle graduated from NIDA in 2009 and has since studied with The Atlantic Theatre Company (US). Some of her theatre credits include: STOP KISS for ATYP for which she received a Sydney Theatre Award Nomination, YOUNG TYCOONS for Darlinghurst Theatre Company, YOUNG AND JACKSON for 45 Downstairs, RIDE AND FOURPLAY for Darlinghurst Theatre Company, BLOODBANK for Ensemble Theatre, LOVE'S LABOURS LOST and SHAKESPEAREALISM for Sport for Jove

Nadia has directed films for major studios and networks in America including Universal, Disney, Warner Bros, CBS, A&E. Nadia has received 23 International awards for MALCOLM, including the Golden Sprocket award in London; 28 International awards for AMY, including The Grande Prix de Cinephage at Cannes and Won Best Film and Best Director /Milan International Film Festival for MATCHING JACK.

DANIELLE CARTER – **CATHERINE**

ELEPHANT PRINCESS. Other featured roles include MR AND MRS MURDER, MAGAZINE WARS, UNDERBELLY, CITY HOMICIDE, SATISFACTION, ALL SAINTS, STINGERS, THE SECRET LIFE OF US, BLUE HEELERS, HALIFAX FP, MURDER CALL, GP as well as the US series LOST WORLD, BEASTMASTER, TALES OF THE SOUTH SEAS and SALEMS LOT. Film credits include NOTHING BETTER, THE LEGEND MAKER, REASON TO SMILE, LAST DANCE, KNOWING, EUSTICE SOLVES A PROBLEM, THE BLUE LADY, THE FORTUNE TELLER and A FEW THINGS I KNOW ABOUT HER.

GABRIELLE SCAWTHORN – **NELLIE**

and HURT at Old 505. TV credits: THE KILLING FIELDS for Cornerstone/Channel 7, DR BLAKE MYSTERIES for ABC, FRESHBLOOD for ABC2, DEADLY WOMEN for Beyond Entertainment. Film: DICK'S CLINIC for Smack Art. Gabrielle also writes, performs and produces sketch comedy with I'M WITH STUPID; their work has been featured on ABC, ABC2, FUNNY OR DIE and BIGSMOKE. Gabrielle is a proud member of Actor's Equity and is thrilled to be back at the warmest stage in Sydney.



TOBHIYAH STONE FELLER – **SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER**

Tobhiyah is a design graduate from NIDA and previously attended the College of Fine Arts UNSW where she studied sculpture, installation and art history. Set & Costume Design credits include: GOOD PEOPLE, MY ZINC BED, BLOODBANK, BLUE/ORANGE and CLYBOURNE PARK for Ensemble Theatre; REPLAY for Griffin Theatre; PARRAMATTA GIRLS for Riverside Productions; ORPHEE AUX ENFERS, DAISY BATES AT OOLDEA for Sydney Conservatorium of Music; VARIANT for Performing Lines; HUMAN RESOURCES for Siren Theatre Co.; MY NAME

IS SUD for Blacktown Arts Centre; ANNA ROBI and the HOUSE OF DOGS for Tamarama Rock Surfers; PLAYHOUSE CREATURES, BLOOD WEDDING for AADA; CAMARILLA for Merrigong Theatre Company; A VIEW OF CONCRETE for Belvoir’s B Sharp. Her multi-purpose set design for Ensemble’s repertory productions MY ZINC BED and BLOOD BANK recently won the Installation category of the Australian Interior Design Awards. Tobhiyah is co-director of Architecture & Design studio Stukel Stone and is a proud member of Australian Production Design Guild. For further information visit: www.stukelstone.com



NICK 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 here!



CHRISTOPHER PAGE – **AV DESIGNER**

For Ensemble Theatre Chris has also designed the lighting for BETRAYAL, A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS, THE GOOD DOCTOR, BLUE/ORANGE. Other recent credits include: THE MAN WITH FIVE CHILDREN, RIDE/FOURPLAY at Darlinghurst Theatre, BLACK JESUS, HIS MOTHER’S VOICE, GREAT EXPECTATIONS, HIS DARK MATERIALS for bAKEHOUSE; GHOST STORIES for Prince Moo Productions; DEFYING GRAVITY, BLOOD

BROTHERS, DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING?, SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM for Enda Markey Presents; THE WITCHES, FIVE PROPERTIES OF CHAINMALE for Griffin Theatre; HOUSE OF RAMON IGLESIA, PLATONOV for Mop Head; CHI UDAKA for TaikOZ & Sydney Festival; CULMINATE for Force Majeure; THE DARK ROOM, WINDMILL BABY, AS YOU LIKE IT for Belvoir; THE TENDER AGE, TELL IT LIKE IT ISN’T, RAINBOW’S ENDING for ATYP and TRUCK STOP for Q Theatre.



Daniel is a composer, sound designer and multi instrumentalist. He has performed with the MSO, Orchestra Victoria, John Farnham, Yothu Yindi, Sebina Meyer, Mikko Frank and many others. He has written and recorded multiple albums and worked extensively as a session player

DANIEL NIXON – **COMPOSER**

and programmer. He has scored and designed numerous films, games, television commercials and plays including work with Flashgun Films, Cascade Films, American Girl, Universal Television, Disney Pictures, RedStitch Theatre, MTC, Dirty Pretty Theatre, Little Ones Theatre, Madman, Farmhand films, and many others.



Dani graduated from Charles Sturt University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in Design for Theatre and Television. Dani's Stage Management credits with Ensemble Theatre include: JACK OF HEARTS, MY ZINC BED, LADIES IN LAVENDER, ABSENT FRIENDS, OTHER DESERT CITIES, CRUISE CONTROL, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, SEMINAR, HAPPINESS, MANAGING CARMEN, SKYLIGHT, GINGERBREAD LADY and WARNING: EXPLICIT MATERIAL. Other Stage Management credits

DANI IRONSIDE – **STAGE MANAGER**

include SAMSON for Belvoir St, 2015 CHINESE NEW YEAR CONCERT for Hunan Orchestra of Chinese Music, DMITRY SINKOVSKY RUSSIAN BAROQUE VIOLIN for Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, THE SHOE-HORN SONATA for Riverside Theatre and A SECRET PLACE for Australian Theatre for Young People. For television, Dani has worked on THE VOICE, THE VOICE- KIDS and SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE.



Alana is a Sydney-based costume designer, maker and supervisor. Her training includes Diplomas in Costume for Performance, Fashion Design & Technology and Printing & Graphic Arts. Theatre credits for Ensemble Theatre: THE BIG DRY, TRIBES, GOOD PEOPLE, JACK OF HEARTS, BLOODBANK, MY ZINC BED, THE BOOK CLUB, MOTHERS AND SONS and THE ANZAC PROJECT. Other theatre credits: THAT EYE, THE SKY for New Theatre,

ALANA CANCERI – **WARDROBE COORDINATOR**

(costume designer). Television and Film credits: PUMPED UP (designer and supervisor), SKINFORD (maker, art finisher, stand-by), SENTIENT PHONE (production designer, set dresser, costume supervisor) and GODS OF EGYPT (maker). Live performance and dance credits: MY FAIR LADY for Opera Australia and HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT (maker). Styling credits: Ensemble Theatre 2016 & 2017 Season Brochure.



Nick Curnow graduated from Theatre Nepean (2002), UNE (2006), and NIDA (2007). As a dialect specialist he has coached productions for some of Sydney's biggest companies including Company B, Opera Australia and Ensemble Theatre, as well as respected independents like Darlinghurst Theatre Company, Red Line and the New Theatre. Recent credits include A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS, GOOD PEOPLE, MOTHERS AND SONS and DARK VOYAGER for Ensemble Theatre, BELLEVILLE, THE RITZ, NO EXIT, DISCO PIGS, BLONDE POISON, GROUNDED for QTC, WHEN THE RAIN STOPS

NICK CURNOW – **DIALECT COACH**

FALLING, ORPHANS, and THE WEIR. Other credits include PROOF, EDUCATING RITA, MURDERERS, BETWEEN US for Ensemble Theatre, RUBEN GUTHRIE for Belvoir, MY FAIR LADY for Opera Australia, REASONS TO BE PRETTY, GOD'S EAR, THE COMING WORLD, THE LARAMIE PROJECT, CODGERS, and YES, PRIME MINISTER. Film and TV work includes UNDERBELLY, DISTANCE, SEA PATROL, and THE SLAP. Nick teaches for NIDA's Open Program, AFTT, Federation University, NSW Department of Education's Arts Unit, and regularly engages in private tuition with some of Australia's most well known and loved performers. More info at www.nickcurnow.com

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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.