



ENSEMBLE THEATRE SCHOOL RESOURCES KIT 2018 SEASON

From world class performances and interactive workshops, through to Q&A sessions with leading Australian directors, creatives, cast and crew members. We can work with you to find the right educational experience for your class.

Book your school group now for an Engaging. Exciting. Eclectic. EnsembleEd experience.



THEATRE FOR EVERYONE

TERM 2 2018

03 MAY - 09 JUNE

SHIRLEY VALENTINE

By Willy Russell

Something's about to change for Mrs Shirley Bradshaw, mother of grown children and confidence eroded housewife. After decades of dull married life, mince dinners every Thursday and talking to the kitchen wall, her former self – the fearless Shirley Valentine – is fizzing to get out. And she's ready to change everything. Even the wall.

First performed in 1986, Willy Russell's comic monologue SHIRLEY VALENTINE opened to awards and rave reviews and was made into an Oscar nominated film. Three decades later its message that 'it's never too late to be yourself' manages to kick off any clichés with a story that is engagingly human and warmly sympathetic.

From the playwright of EDUCATING RITA.

Playwright | Willy Russell **Director** | Mark Kilmurry

Cast | Sharon Millerchip

Approx. running time 2 hours (with interval)

Recommended for ages 14+

STRONG LANGUAGE AND SEXUAL REFERENCES.

RECOMMENDED FOR STAGES 5 & 6

THEMES & CURRICULUM LINKS

Family | Belonging and identity | Comedy | Intercultural understanding | Personal and social capability

STAGE 5 | DRAMA, ENGLISH

STAGE 6 | DRAMA, ENGLISH, PRELIMINARY DRAMA



RECOMMENDED DATES

DATES	TIMES
MAY	
Fri 4	8.15pm
Tue 8	11am 7.30pm
Thu 10	8.15pm
Fri 11	8.15pm
Tue 15	11am
Wed 16	8.15pm
Thu 17	11am 8.15pm
Fri 18	8.15pm
Tue 22	7.30pm
Wed 23	8.15pm
Thu 24 1	11am 8.15pm
Fri 25	8.15pm
Wed 30	11am 8.15pm
Thu 31	11am 8.15pm
JUNE	
Fri 1	8.15pm
Tue 5	11am 7.30pm
Wed 6	8.15pm
Thu 7	11am 8.15pm
Fri 8	8.15pm

*Q&A

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

TERM 2 2018

15 JUNE - 21 JULY

MARJORIE PRIME

By Jordan Harrison



Marjorie is 85 years old. Some days she feels as sharp as a whip while others are a foggy blur. Since the loss of her husband she finds it a challenge to eat a spoonful of peanut butter and struggles to remember the fine details of her life.

Marjorie has help in the form of a handsome new companion who's programmed to feed the story of her life back to her. But is this 30-year-old man real – or imagined? In this Pulitzer Prize nominated drama, Jordan Harrison questions whether technology could provide a welcome relief to loneliness — or is it actually a dangerous window into the past? MARJORIE PRIME is a thought-provoking play with a powerful emotional core.

Playwright | Jordan Harrison **Director** | Mitchell Butel
Cast includes | Maggie Dence & Richard Sydenham

Approx. running time 80mins (no interval)

Recommended for ages 14+

RECOMMENDED FOR STAGES 5 & 6

THEMES & CURRICULUM LINKS

Family | Contemporary Drama | Belonging and Identity
| Memory | Technology | Intercultural understanding |
Personal and social capability

STAGE 5 | DRAMA, ENGLISH

STAGE 6 | DRAMA, ENGLISH

DATES	TIMES
JUNE	
Tue 26	8.15pm
Thu 28	8.15pm
Fri 29	11am 6pm
JULY	
Tue 3	11am
Wed 4	11am 6pm
Thu 5	11am 6pm
Fri 6	8.15pm

*Q&A



WORLD PREMIERE

TERM 2 2018

22 JUNE - 21 JULY

UNQUALIFIED

By Genevieve Hegney and Catherine Moore

It's not every business partnership that begins with an escape from the Department of Human Services after an attempted pen stabbing, but then again there's nothing conventional in Genevieve Hegney and Catherine Moore's very funny UNQUALIFIED.

Joanne hasn't been having the best run lately. Her TV star husband has bolted to Bali with his new girlfriend and she's out of work. During a visit to Centrelink she meets Felicity, whose oddball dad wants her to take over the family butchery and speaks to her mother's ashes in an urn. If they ran an employment agency themselves they might make a little money and save some face. The problem is a lack of employees. But maybe, just maybe, they can stretch their own qualifications to fit...

Playwrights | Genevieve Hegney and Catherine Moore

Director | Janine Watson

Cast | Genevieve Hegney and Catherine Moore

Approx. running time 90mins (no interval)

Recommended for ages 15+

VERY STRONG LANGUAGE, SEXUAL REFERENCES, ADULT THEMES.

RECOMMENDED FOR STAGES 5 & 6

THEMES & CURRICULUM LINKS

Contemporary Australian Drama | Belonging and Identity | Personal and social capability | Comedy

STAGE 5 | DRAMA, ENGLISH

STAGE 6 | DRAMA, ENGLISH



RECOMMENDED DATES

DATES	TIMES
JUNE	
Tue 26	11am 6pm
Wed 27	8.15pm*
Thu 28	11am 6pm
Fri 29	8.15pm
JULY	
Tue 3	8.15pm
Wed 4	8.15pm
Thu 5	8.15pm
Fri 6	11am 6pm
*Opening night	*Q&A



NEW IN 2018

FIRST IN, BEST DRESSED

Ensemble Theatre Dress Rehearsals

The stage is set: after weeks of rehearsing, lines have been learnt, characters have come to life and the set, lighting and soundscape have been woven together to create a magical world. The actors wait in the wings with anticipation. All they need is an audience! Come behind the scenes to see a dress rehearsal performance. Be a part of the creative process and share in a unique experience as one of the first audience members to witness our productions.

Special offer to see final dress rehearsals for only \$17 per person! (Teachers free ratio 12:1)



DATES

TERM 2

SHIRLEY VALENTINE: Thursday 3 May 2pm

MARJORIE PRIME: Friday 15 June 2pm

UNQUALIFIED: Friday 22 June 2pm

TERM 3

THE WIDOW UNPLUGGED: Thursday 26 July 2pm

LUNA GALE: Friday 7 September 2pm

TABLE MANNERS: Friday 19 October 2pm

We are also opening up our Boatshed Projects program for students

DIRECTOR AT WORK

Ideal for STAGE 5 & 6 students, particularly IB students

Limited to 10 places, these sessions sell out fast!

3pm-5:30pm

TERM 1

Thurs 1st March DIPLOMACY – **SOLD OUT**

TERM 2

Thurs 24th May MAJORIE PRIME – **SOLD OUT**

Thurs 7th June UNQUALIFIED – meet Janine Watson & team

TERM 3

Thurs 13th Sept THE NORMAN CONQUESTS – meet Mark Kilmurry & team



ABOUT ENSEMBLE THEATRE

Based in Kirribilli, on the edge of Sydney Harbour, Ensemble Theatre is committed to performing and presenting the best of international plays, well-loved classics and new Australian works. Each season we pride ourselves on delivering powerful, memorable and engaging live theatre of the highest standard.

Founded in 1958, Ensemble Theatre is the longest continuously running professional theatre in Australia.



OUR MISSION

Our mission at Ensemble Theatre is to create diverse, accessible live theatre of the highest quality that entertains, educates, enlightens and challenges. We create theatre for everyone.

VISION STATEMENT

Our productions appeal to a broad audience of all ages. Each year we present a season that includes the best new international plays alongside classics and brand new Australian works ranging from laugh-out-loud comedies to riveting dramas. We are theatre for everyone. Ensemble Theatre's Artistic Director Mark Kilmurry writes: "Ensemble Theatre has always been a place to share stories and my aim is to continue this tradition while matching those stories with the best creative talent from our vibrant theatre scene."

HISTORY

On May 11 in 1958, a group of talented theatricals, who had been studying acting with American expatriate actor Hayes Gordon, assembled to present the first of two Sunday night performances in Cammeray Children's Library under the banner 'Variations on Similar Themes'. The invitations to their premiere performance of a selection of Tennessee Williams' works one of the actors noted, "We haven't a name yet. Yes, we admit to training - Strasbergian, Stanislavskian, Meisnerian, Gordonian etc and we emphasise what might be referred to as the 'ensemble' values in production".

In 1960, the company moved to the current premises in the old boatshed at Careening Cove. The boatshed was converted by the members of the company into a theatre in the round and for 20 years presented theatre in this format. During the early 1980's the venue underwent a major refurbishment during which time the company moved its base of operations to the Playhouse, Sydney Opera House which was being used as a cinema at the time. The Ensemble's refurbished venue was re-opened in 1984 and the company celebrated 40 years in its Kirribilli home in the year 2000 with an extended season of 16 plays presented at four venues across Sydney.

Founding Artistic Director Hayes Gordon, who ran the theatre for its first 27 years, appointed Sandra Bates as Artistic Director in January 1986, a position she held for 30 years until January 2016. Sandra stands as the longest serving Artistic Director of any theatre company in the country and she led the theatre through uncertain economic times to establish it as one of the most successful theatre companies in Australia with the third largest subscription base in the country. In 2011, Sandra invited Mark Kilmurry to share the role of Artistic Director. Mark Kilmurry took over as sole Artistic Director in January 2016.

