

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



BY CYRIL GÉLY

DIPLOMACY

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY JULIE ROSE

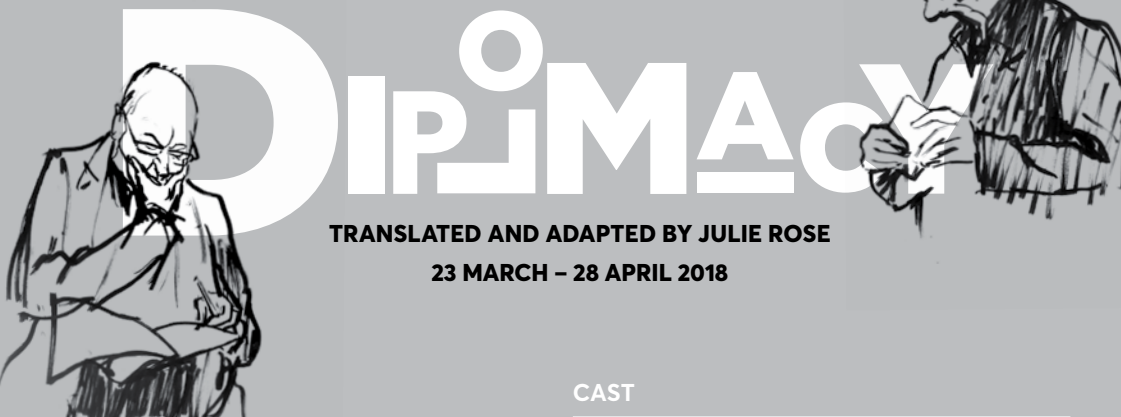
23 MARCH – 28 APRIL 2018

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THEATRE
MLE

THEATRE FOR EVERYONE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

BY CYRIL GÉLY



TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY JULIE ROSE

23 MARCH – 28 APRIL 2018

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 blow the French capital up, 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 Spiroza,
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 **DANI IRONSIDE**
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER **ERIN SHAW**
COSTUME SUPERVISOR **RENATA BESLIK**

RUNNING TIME APPROX. 80 MINS
NO INTERVAL

Special Thanks: Liz Gordon, Alex Stuart at Sydney Theatre Company Props, Margaret Gill, Steven Vella, Paul Britton - PBA Group & NIDA
Rehearsal observers: Liz Gordon, Madeleine Humpreys & Rebecca Scott.



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



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 was nominated for a Globe de Cristal (award given by the French press) and both actors were 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 award-winning literary translator whose translations from the French include Racine's PHEDRA and Victor Hugo's LES

MISÉRABLES. 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 has translated fiction from Emile Zola and Alexandre Dumas, père to André Schwarz-Bart and Catherine Rey, as well as literary non-fiction including many works by philosopher-urbanist Paul Virilio, and writers and thinkers Jacques Rancière, Hubert Damisch, Bruno Latour, André Gorz and Chantal Thomas. Her latest translation is Philippe Pacquet, SIMON LEYS: NAVIGATOR BETWEEN WORLDS. She was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des arts et des lettres in 2016.



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 5, RICHARD 3, 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. 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 two Helpmann Awards for Best Actor (RICHARD 3, 2002 & Jaques in AS YOU LIKE IT, 2015), 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.



Joseph Raggatt



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.



James Lugton



JOHN GADEN
RAOUL NORDLING

John 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, recent highlights include Belvoir's THE WILD DUCK performances in Sydney, Perth, London, Vienna and Amsterdam, as well as SEVENTEEN, HAMLET and CLOUDSTREET (National and International tours). For Sydney Theatre Company, he was seen in ORLANDO, MACBETH, ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD, FACE TO FACE, THE WAR OF THE ROSES and COPENHAGEN. John performed in Melbourne Theatre Company's STRAIGHT WHITE MEN, as well as appearing in their production of OTHER DESERT CITIES, in PERICLES for Bell Shakespeare and in the State Theatre Company of South Australia's KING LEAR in the title role. He recently performed in the Ensemble Theatre's production of THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR and the Seymour Centre's 2071. John's most celebrated performances include 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. This year, John was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia.



GENEVIEVE LEMON
FRAU MAYER

In theatre Genevieve was most recently seen in the Hayes Theatre production of MELBA. Her numerous theatre credits include, 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; for Melbourne Theatre Company PIAF, SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL; for Ensemble Theatre WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? (for which she was nominated as Best Actress at the 2017 Sydney Theatre Awards), TRIBES, BROKEN GLASS; for Griffin THE HOMOSEXUALS OR 'FAGGOTS', THE BIG PICTURE; for Belvoir St Theatre THE BLIND GIANT IS DANCING, THE COSMONAUT'S LAST MESSAGE, DEATH OF A SALESMAN, SEVENTEEN; for Sydney Theatre Company and Queensland Theatre SUMMER RAIN; for Queensland Theatre BRILLIANT LIES and THE VENETIAN TWINS. Genevieve was in the London and Sydney seasons of Working Title's production of BILLY ELLIOT, for which she received the Helpmann Award for Best Female Actor in a Musical, the Sydney Theatre Critic's Judith Johnson Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Musical, the Colleen Clifford Memorial Glugs Award for Best Actress in a Musical and the Green Room Award for Female Actor in a Leading Role. Genevieve's television credits include: AFTER THE BEEP, HEARTLAND, NEIGHBOURS, PRISONER, RAKE, REDFERN NOW, THE SECRET RIVER, THREE MEN AND A BABY GRAND, and TOP OF THE LAKE, for which she received the Equity Ensemble Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Telemovie or Mini-Series. Genevieve will next be seen on HOME AND AWAY in an extended special guest star role. Film credits include: THE DRESSMAKER, BILLY'S HOLIDAY, HOLY SMOKE, THE PIANO, SOFT FRUIT, SUBURBAN MAYHEM, THE WATER DIARY and SWEETIE, for which she was the recipient of the Australian Film Critics Award for Best Actress. Genevieve has sung on cabaret stages the world over, and released a live album of her Sydney Opera House concert, ANGELS IN THE CITY.



JAMES LUGTON
EBERNACH



Theatre Credits: This is James' first appearance at Ensemble Theatre.

For Bell Shakespeare:
RICHARD 3, OTHELLO,

for Sport For Jove: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, CYRANO DE BERGERAC, HAMLET, THE TEMPEST, TWELFTH NIGHT, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (Sydney Theatre Award – Best Actor in an Independent Production 2012), MACBETH, THE LIBERTINE, AS YOU LIKE IT, ROMEO & JULIET and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM; for Version 1.0: the MAJOR MINOR PARTY; for Monkey Baa Theatre: THURSDAY'S CHILD (Helpmann Award – Best Presentation for Children 2010); for Darlinghurst Theatre: THE YOUNG TYCOONS, MISS JULIE, tHe dYsFuNcKshOnalZ, PUGILIST SPECIALIST, AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN, GOD BOTHERERS; MACBETH (Wildfire Theatre); HER HOLINESS (Bakehouse); THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH in Longreach for the Qld Music Festival. Film and TV credits: RAKE (Essential Media), DOCTOR DOCTOR (Nine Network), HACKSAW RIDGE, JOE CINQUE'S CONSOLATION, FIGHTING SEASON (Goalpost Pictures), MARY- THE MAKING OF A PRINCESS (Network Ten), HOME & AWAY (7 Network), WONDERLAND (Channel 10), CLEO – PAPER GIANTS (ABC), THE CUT (ABC), TOUGH NUTS (Foxtel), ALL SAINTS (Channel 7), HOME AND AWAY (Channel 7), WATER RATS (Channel 9), QUEEN OF THE NIGHT, and BMX BANDITS.



JOSEPH RAGGATT
HANS BRENSDORF

Joseph is a recent graduate of 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 played the title role of Doctor Frankenstein in TheatreiNQ's FRANKENSTEIN, directed by Terri Brabon. He is proud to be making his Ensemble Theatre debut in DIPLOMACY.



MICHAEL
SCOTT-MITCHELL
SET DESIGNER

Michael is regarded as one of the most outstanding designers and educators in Australia. His extensive credits in opera, theatre and special events, include set design of the State Opera of South Australia's production of WAGNER'S RING CYCLE, WORLD YOUTH DAY – STATIONS OF THE CROSS and the CAULDRON & CEREMONIAL STAGE FOR THE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES. Recent and upcoming designs include DR ZHIVAGO on Broadway for which he won the 2015 APDG (Australian Production Design Guild) Award, STORM BOY, ARMS AND THE MAN, ARCADIA, SWITZERLAND and STILL POINT TURNING for Sydney Theatre Company; TOSCA, LÉLISIR D'AMORE and CARMEN for Opera Australia; THE MERRY WIDOW for Opera Conference; and FREEZE FRAME for Debbie Allen Dance Academy in LA and at the Kennedy Centre, Washington DC. At NIDA, he was Head of Design (2008-2017), Director Undergraduate Studies (2011-2017) and Deputy Director/CEO (2016-2017). In 2017 he was appointed Adjunct Professor of UNSW.





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. Her design work focuses on the character and the actor as the starting point, placing the designer/actor collaboration at the forefront of her costume design process. In 2016, she undertook a placement on the set of ALIEN: COVENANT by renowned director Ridley Scott, assisting in both art department, and wardrobe. She was also awarded the William Fletcher Foundation Grant for the development and advancement of talented young Australian artists. In 2017 Genevieve co-designed the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's HANDEL'S MESSIAH and was costume designer on The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's BITTERSWEET OBSESSIONS, a new Opera combining the works of Monteverdi and Bach. In 2017 Genevieve was production designer on NIDA's production of EURYDIKE AND ORPHEUS, a new Australian work, part of NIDA's Nick Enright season. She was also production designer on NIDA's production of FRATERNAL, a new Australian play, and she has just completed her Master's thesis paper on the 'Collaboration Between the Designer and the Actor in the Development of Character'. In December 2017 Genevieve won the APDG award for Best Production Design for an Emerging Designer for her work on EURYDIKE AND ORPHEUS.



MATT COX
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Matt's career in theatre has spanned 15 years designing lighting in both Australia and the UK. During his time in

London, Matt worked with student directors attending the Royal Academy of Dramatic

Art (RADA), the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and John Stahl's solo show BLINDMAN. Since returning to Sydney he has designed numerous theatre productions including for Bangarra Dance Theatre: OUR LAND PEOPLE STORIES, BLAK, BELONG, Carriageworks: LAKE DISAPPOINTMENT, Siren Theatre Co: THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY, the Australian Chamber Orchestra: REFLECTIONS ON GALLIPOLI, Musica Viva: GOLDNER STRING QUARTET, Bell Shakespeare: HAMLET, ROMEO AND JULIET, Monkey Baa: THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, Sydney Theatre Company: RUBY MOON, Louise Withers and Associates: THE MOUSETRAP, and A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED, Company B: THE SEED, Legs on the Wall: SYMPHONY, Sport for Jove: THE LIBERTINE, OHELLO and ANTIGONE, Sydney Festival: THE FAMOUS SPIEGELTENT (2016), THE FAMOUS SPIEGELTENT (2015), THE AURORA SPIEGELTENT (2014), 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 film, television,

stage and advertising. Nate's theatre credits include: For STC: THREE SISTERS, CLOUD NINE, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, ROMEO AND JULIET. For STC / Force Majeure: NEVER DID ME ANY HARM. For Belvoir: MARK COLVIN'S KIDNEY, MORTIDO, SEVENTEEN, THIS HEAVEN. For Bell Shakespeare: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, THE TEMPEST, ROMEO AND JULIET, MACBETH, THE WINTER'S TALE. For Griffin: THE HAM FUNERAL, MINUSONESISTER, CARESS/ACHE, THE WITCHES, MUSIC, JUMP FOR JORDAN, RUST AND BONE, THIS YEAR'S ASHES. For Malthouse: SALOMÉ, LORD OF THE FLIES. For Darlinghurst Theatre: SAVAGES, GOOD WORKS, DAYLIGHT SAVING, ALL MY SONS, TORCH SONG TRILOGY, THE GREENING OF

GRACE, THE SEAFARER, THE PARIS LETTER. For Rockefeller Productions: THAT GOLDEN GIRLS SHOW! [US], THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW [Global]. For Sport For Jove: OF MICE AND MEN. For Street Theatre: ALL MY SONS [UK].



DANI IRONSIDE
STAGE MANAGER

Dani is a graduate from Charles Sturt University, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Design for Theatre and Television. Dani's Stage

Management credits with Ensemble Theatre include: TAKING STEPS, LIP SERVICE, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, ODD MAN OUT, e-baby, 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 include SAMSON for Belvoir, 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. Dani is also a Stage Management Mentor & Supervisor at NIDA and Technical Stage Manager at City Recital Hall – Angel Place. For television, Dani has worked on THE VOICE, THE VOICE- KIDS and SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE.



ERIN SHAW ASSISTANT
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) and stage manager on LITTLE BORDERS (The 505, 2017), MOTH (ATYP, 2017), and LOVE, ME (The 505, 2018). Erin feels privileged to have

worked with such an incredible team on this production and looks forward to the season.



RENATA BESLIK
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Renata is a costume supervisor, maker and milliner. She graduated from NIDA in 2007 with a Bachelor's degree in

Costume Production. Supervising credits include: THE KITCHEN SINK, BUYER AND CELLAR, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, David Williamson's ODD MAN OUT, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, BETRAYAL, A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS (Ensemble Theatre), THE CORONATION OF POPPEA, RAMEAU: ANACREON AND PIGMALION, THEODORA (Pinchgut Opera), HENRY V, THE WINTER'S TALE, MACBETH, INTIMATE LETTERS (Bell Shakespeare) THE TEMPEST, WOYCECK, A LIE OF THE MIND, PORT, THE THREESOME (NIDA). Design credits include: THE TEMPEST, ROMEO AND JULIET, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Sport for Jove). Costume making credits include: THE CRUCIBLE (Sport for Jove), KING KONG (Global Creatures), IN THE NEXT ROOM (STC), THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, LOVE NEVER DIES, and many Opera Australia productions. Millinery credits include: THE GREAT GATSBY (Bazmark), THE 7 SOPRANOS (Cre8tion), MY FAIR LADY, AIDA, CARMEN (Opera Australia).



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