

**ENS**  
THEATRE  
**MLE**

FOR EVERYONE



DAVID WILLIAMSON'S

# THE BIG TIME

18 JANUARY – 16 MARCH 2019

WORLD PREMIERE

# WELCOME

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is always a pleasure working on a new David Williamson play and particularly one that deals with issues underlining the make it or break it world of entertainment. **THE BIG TIME** has at its core loneliness, desperation, jealousy, ambition and betrayal while creating a world of likable characters that make us laugh. Quite an achievement given the themes. The play also has a sense of hope, struggling to make itself heard over the noise of ego. David is very good at finding the heightened essence of the world, at once allowing us to laugh and sympathise while recognising the truths of who we are. I feel my job as director is to do two things; cast really well and secondly; let the words fly. David Williamson has, as ever, done the hard work already. I hope you enjoy **THE BIG TIME** and here's to a wonderful 2019!

**Mark Kilmurry**  
Artistic Director

## SYNOPSIS

Celia and Vicki were best friends at drama school, but the game of life has dealt them very different hands. Celia is a high profile soap star earning ridiculous amounts of money and the requisite harbourside views. Meanwhile Vicki is scraping by in gritty, critically acclaimed roles in independent theatre. When Vicki proposes they collaborate on an ambitious new film project, it could be a big opportunity for both of them to prove their mettle in the industry. But are Vicki's motives as well-intentioned as they seem, or will jealousy rear its ugly head?

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### CAST

VICKI FIELDING **CLAUDIA BARRIE**  
NELLI BROWNE **ZOE CARIDES**  
CELIA CONSTANTI **AILEEN HUYNH**  
NATE MACKLIN **MATT MINTO**  
ROHAN BLACK **JEREMY WATERS**  
ROLLY PIERCE **BEN WOOD**

### CREATIVES

DIRECTOR **MARK KILMURRY**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **FELICITY NICOL**  
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **MELANIE LIERTZ**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER **NICHOLAS HIGGINS**  
SOUND DESIGNER **MARC Ee**  
STAGE MANAGER **BRONTE SCHUFTAN**  
COSTUME SUPERVISOR **RENATA BESLIK**

SPECIAL THANKS TO  
**GEOFF MORRELL**

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RUNNING TIME APPROX 2HRS INCLUDING INTERVAL

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PROGRAMS: \$2 which helps enormously with the cost of printing.

Ensemble Theatre acknowledges the Cammeragal 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.



## WRITER'S NOTE

In the entertainment industry there's only one place all the hopefuls want to be. The Big Time. If they make it, they become wealthy, but perhaps even more importantly they are finally treated with respect.

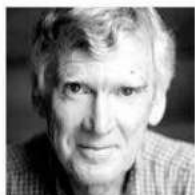
If you're a struggling writer or actor who hasn't made The Big Time no one reads your scripts, no one asks you to audition, or if they do you get to say two or three lines before you're moved on. Being near the bottom of the entertainment ladder is one of the most miserable existences on earth.

That's why the competition to make The Big Time is so fierce. Beneath the surface of the friendly smiles actors exchange with each other, lies the realisation that only one of them is going to get the role.

Given that I've inhabited this world for nearly fifty years now, and that two of my sons are NIDA acting graduates, my daughter was an actors agent, and my wife was a drama teacher and a theatre critic, I know that in the industry that creates fictional drama, the real life drama can be intense.

And that's what made it irresistible to write about.

**David Williamson**



## DAVID WILLIAMSON PLAYWRIGHT

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David Williamson is Australia's best known and most widely performed playwright. Some of his more than fifty produced

plays include THE REMOVALISTS, DON'S PARTY, THE CLUB, TRAVELLING NORTH, THE PERFECTIONIST, SONS OF CAIN, EMERALD CITY, MONEY AND FRIENDS, BRILLIANT LIES, DEAD WHITE MALES, AFTER THE BALL, THE JACK MANNING TRILOGY, THE GREAT MAN, UP FOR GRABS, SOULMATES, SCARLETT O'HARA AT THE CRIMSON PARROTT, NOTHING PERSONAL, WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY, MANAGING CARMEN, CRUISE CONTROL, RUPERT, DREAM HOME, JACK OF HEARTS, ODD MAN OUT, SORTING OUT RACHEL and most recently NEARER THE GODS. His plays have been translated into many languages and performed internationally, including major productions in London, Los Angeles, New York and Washington (THE CLUB in 1979 and RUPERT in 2014 at the Kennedy Centre as well as a season at the Theatre Royal, Sydney). UP FOR GRABS went on to a West End production starring Madonna in the lead role. David's screen adaptations of his own plays include THE REMOVALISTS, DON'S PARTY, THE CLUB, TRAVELLING NORTH, EMERALD CITY, along with his original screenplays for feature films including LIBIDO, PETERSEN, GALLIPOLI, PHAR LAP, THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY, and BALIBO (as co-writer) and for television he adapted ON THE BEACH. Some of 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. David has been named one of Australia's Living National Treasures.



## MARK KILMURRY DIRECTOR

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Mark is the Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre.

Recent directing credits include: 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's recent acting credits include: Frank in EDUCATING RITA, Richard in RICHARD III, Hamlet in HAMLET; Otto in THE ACT; Angus in THE DRAWER BOY and Serge in ART. Mark's recent plays and adaptations include; RICHARD III (with Patrick Dickson); HAMLET (with John Trutwin); THE BIG DRY (based on the novel by Tony Davis); CASANOVA (based on the TV series by Russell T Davis); DIARY OF AN OLYMPIC CABBIE (based on the book by Anthony Sharwood); MERCY THIEVES; HAPPY AS LARRY & VIV and ONE SHOT. Mark is the recipient of two Norman Kessel 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.



**FELICITY NICOL**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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Felicity is an award-winning Performance Director and Artistic Director of Spark Youth Theatre. A graduate of NIDA, she has gone on to

work with some of the most prominent artists around the world, including Ontroerend Goed (BEL), Punchdrunk & Gecko Physical Theatre (UK), Illutron (DEN) and Mammalian Diving Reflex (CAN). Felicity holds a particular interest in working with young people, specifically queer young people & young people experiencing mental health issues. This interest has led her to working with Australian Theatre for Young People (AUS), Mit Ohnes Alles (GER), The Torontonians (CAN) and Company3 (UK). Felicity's mission as an artist is to interrupt people's assumptions about the world and the people we share it with in order to bring these assumptions into question. She does this through humour, debate, gaming, dramaturgy and play. These take their forms through a combination of social media, projection, drag (dress-ups), physical theatre and dialogue. Her favourite career highlights include directing at The Sydney Opera House, creating a one-on-one performance for audiences in a moving car, and directing a non-verbal performative memorial via clowning, beer and a slide-show.



**CLAUDIA BARRIE**  
VICKI FIELDING

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Claudia graduated with a Bachelor of Performance from the University of Western Sydney's Theatre Nepean in 2004. She

is the Artistic Director of Mad March Hare Theatre Company. Acting credits for theatre include; A MOMENT ON THE LIPS (Old Fitz), TOP GIRLS and VERNON GOD LITTLE (New Theatre), BABY WITH THE BATHWATER (MMH/ Sydney Fringe Festival), TITUS: THE ULTIMATE MURDER BALLAD MUSICAL (Gumpton Uber Theatre), and DOLE DIARY (Boreskin Productions). Television and film credits include; HOME AND AWAY, HEADLAND, and the feature

THE TAIL JOB (2016 Slamdance film festival / Jury Award Winner; Best Film at the CATE film festival). As a director Claudia's credits include: EURYDICE, BELLEVILLE, BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO (MMH/Red Line Productions- Old Fitz), THE MARTIN LYSICRATES PRIZE, (Griffin Theatre), TIME STANDS STILL (Tap Gallery), YOU GOT OLDER, (MMH/ KXT), DNA (L.O.S.T- KXT), DRY LAND (MMH/ Outhouse -KXT) THOSE WHO FALL IN LOVE LIKE ANCHORS DROPPED UPON THE OCEAN FLOOR (Loud Mouth-Tasmania) SHIVERED (MMH-PACT) and SLUT-THE PLAY (ACTT Graduates). She received a Sydney Theatre Award nomination for Best Direction of an Independent Production for DRY LAND in 2017. In 2019 she is directing THE GIRL IN THE MACHINE for the National Theatre of Parramatta and THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN for the Old Fitz.



**ZOE CARIDES**  
NELLI BROWNE

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Zoe Carides is an actress, singer, writer, and filmmaker, whose career has spanned

three decades. As an actor, highlights include the TV dramas PULSE, JANET KING, GP, GRASS ROOTS, PACKED TO THE RAFTERS, CROWNIES, HOME AND AWAY, and the Spielberg/ Hanks produced THE PACIFIC. Theatre includes CARESS/ACHE, BLACKROCK, THE SEAGULL, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, THE IDIOT, THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES, AWAY, TOT MOM, MURDERERS, INFLUENCE, LA DISPUTE, SPUR OF THE MOMENT, TARANTULA. Zoe has worked all around Australia in film, television, and for the major theatre companies, and also with international directors Mike Leigh and Steven Soderbergh. Feature films include DEATH IN BRUNSWICK, BRILLIANT LIES, THE BLACK BALLOON, NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN, BLINDER, MYSTERY ROAD, TERMINUS, THE LITTLE DEATH, ALEX AND EVE and EVENT ZERO. She sings regularly with her band, and has also written/directed three short films which have enjoyed festival screenings in Australia and overseas. Zoe is an AFI nominee and a Helpmann Winner.





**AILEEN HUYNH**

CELIA CONSTANTI

Aileen is a graduate from The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), and also holds a Bachelor of Creative

Arts in Performance from The University of Wollongong. Her theatre credits include her one-woman show, GOBBLEDYGOOK (BodySnatchers); MONKEY...JOURNEY TO THE WEST (Theatre of Image); FLIGHT PATHS (National Theatre of Parramatta); GLORIA (Melbourne Theatre Company) THE NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN TOURS OF 4000 MILES (Critical Stages) and HELLO, GOODBYE & HAPPY BIRTHDAY (Performing Lines). Television credits include BETTER MAN (SBS); NEIGHBOURS (Network 11); CLEVERMAN 1 & 2 (ABC) and BLACK COMEDY 3 (ABC). For Film - SPIN OUT (Sony Pictures) and THE CASTING GAME (JoyHouse Productions). She recently directed WRITERS ONSTAGE (NSW Department of Education).



**MATT MINTO**

NATE MACKLIN

Matt is a graduate of The Impulse Company London and the Actors Centre Australia.

Theatre credits

include Ensemble Theatre's 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 has recently played the lead role in the NZ series THE BAD SEED screening in 2019. Other screen work includes INFINI, HOME AND AWAY, I ROCK, BACK HOME, THE BLUE ROSE and SHORTLAND STREET.



## **JEREMY WATERS**

**ROHAN BLACK**

Jeremy is the Artistic Director of Outhouse Theatre Co. With Outhouse, he has produced and appeared in: THE FLICK,

THE ALIENS, FOUR MINUTES TWELVE SECONDS, BU21 and FOUR PLACES. He also produced THE ROLLING STONE and DRY LAND. In NYC: RIDE, MERCY THIEVES and THE BOYS. Other credits: DRESDEN (Bakehouse), A MAN WITH 5 CHILDREN (Darlinghurst Theatre Co), 5 PROPERTIES OF CHAINMALE (Griffin Independent), LOBBY HERO (Dudley St Prods), HARVEST, JERUSALEM and THE PILLOWMAN (The New Theatre). He has been nominated for Sydney Theatre Awards for JERUSALEM and THE ALIENS. Screen credits include JANET KING (Screentime), the acclaimed web series, JADE OF DEATH (Last Frame) and the feature films THE COMBINATION REDEMPTION (Pinnacle) and I AM WOMAN (Goalpost).

## **BEN WOOD**

**ROLLY PIERCE**

Ben studied at the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP). This is Ben's first show at Ensemble

Theatre, but his 3rd David Williamson, having appeared in THE REMOVALISTS and RUPERT. His theatre credits include TALK (Sydney Theatre Company), THE BLIND GIANT IS DANCING, TWELFTH NIGHT (Belvoir St), RUPERT (Daniel Sparrow Productions), HENRY 4, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI (Bell Shakespeare), THE ALIENS (Outhouse Theatre Co.), GHOST STORIES (Sydney Opera House), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, AS YOU LIKE IT (Sport for Jove), WHAT THE UMBRELLA DID NEXT, 17, 3 LITTLE FEARS, SKATE (atyp), LA DISPUTE, THE EUROPEANS, BAD JAZZ (Darlinghurst Theatre Company), THE REMOVALISTS, EMPIRE: TERROR ON THE HIGH SEAS & SOLDIER/THIEF (Rock Surfers). His film credits include HITCHHIKER, THE KANGAROO GUY, THE TROPHY THIEF, FATHER'S DAY, MY MINDS OWN MELODY,

FOOTY LEGENDS, WALL BOY and DREAM THE LIFE. His television credits include ALL SAINTS, UNDERBELLY 3: THE GOLDEN MILE, PACKED TO THE RAFTERS, RESCUE: SPECIAL OPS, A MODEL DAUGHTER, MY PLACE, REDFERN NOW, JANET KING, HOME AND AWAY, DOCTOR DOCTOR, DEEP WATER, TOP OF THE LAKE: CHINA GIRL and HARROW. Ben is a proud member of Equity.

## **MELANIE LIERTZ**

**SET & COSTUME DESIGNER**

Melanie is a freelance designer and maker for theatre, film, dance, opera and circus. Recent

designs include A MIDNIGHT VISIT (Broad Encounters), ROMEO AND JULIET (Bell Shakespeare), ATHALIA (Pinchgut Opera), GOOD COOK. FRIENDLY. CLEAN (Griffin Theatre), FUNATORIUM- CAPTAIN HOOK'S PIRATE PARTY (Sydney Opera House), ALICE IN WONDERLAND (Sydney Festival), NO END OF BLAME and ANTIGONE (Sport for Jove), OEDIPUS DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE and DIGNITY OF RISK (ATYP), FRANKENSTEIN (Q Theatre). Melanie received an APDG award nomination for ATHALIA (Pinchgut Opera) this year and two Sydney Theatre Awards for ANTIGONE (Sport for Jove) in 2016. She graduated from The Victorian College of the Arts in 2001 with a Bachelor of Creative Arts. [www.theloop.com.au/melanieliertz](http://www.theloop.com.au/melanieliertz)

## **NICHOLAS HIGGINS**

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Nick has lit many shows with Ensemble, LUNA GALE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, e-baby, BLOOD BANK and MY

ZINC BED to name a few, THE BIG TIME being the latest. Nick also works for a number of theatre companies all around the country. He lives in the NW of Tasmania and commutes to the mainland when necessary. Whilst in Tasmania, he runs a small video & photography production company: Cape Studios.



**BRONTE SCHUFTAN**  
STAGE MANAGER

Bronte graduated with a Bachelor of Performance in Dramatic Arts, and in addition to working as a stage manager, she also

has a background in performance, dramaturgy, design, and is a published playwright. Bronte's production credits include THE OVERCOAT (25A - Belvoir), THE MAIDS (25A - Belvoir), THEY DIVIDED THE SKY (25A - Belvoir), THE READERS (25A - Belvoir), A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE (Red Line Productions, The Old Fitz; Sydney Theatre Award for Best Independent Production 2017), THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS (Sport for Jove), MEASURE FOR MEASURE (Sport for Jove), THE NIGHT ALIVE (The Old Fitz), CYRANO DE BERGERAC (Sport for Jove), VICTOR EGO: THE BRAINSTORM (O'Punksky's Theatre Company), CHEROPHOBIA (Antidote; The Opera House), DEADHOUSE: THE TALES OF SYDNEY MORGUE (Blancmange Productions), LOTUS PROGRAM & NATIONAL SCRIPT WORKSHOPS (Playwriting Australia), MISTERMAN (Siren Theatre Co.), GOOD WITH MAPS (Siren Theatre Co.), HENDRICKS GIN - AWAKENING (Siren Theatre Co.), THE CRUCIBLE (The Acting Experience; Riverside Theatres Parramatta), THE LADY IN THE BARRACKS (Peach Productions; Sydney Fringe Festival). Earlier in the year Bronte was a part of the national tour of SENIOR MOMENTS with Return Fire Productions, which travelled to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart, and Perth.



**RENATA BESLIK**  
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

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

Supervising credits include: LUNA GALE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, DIPLOMACY, THE KITCHEN SINK, BUYER AND CELLAR, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLF?, 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 (Pinchgut 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). Design credits include: THE TEMPEST, ROMEO AND JULIET, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Sport for Jove), BEING GAVIN (76 Pictures). Renata has made costumes and millinery for Opera Australia, Sport for Jove, Sydney Theatre Company and for the feature film THE GREAT GATSBY (Bazmark).







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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.

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**For more information contact:**

David Balfour Wright  
(02) 8918 3421 or  
[david@ensemble.com.au](mailto:david@ensemble.com.au)

