ENSEMBLE THEATRE

FOR EVERYONE



BY KATE HENNIG

THE LAST WIFE

30 AUG – 29 SEP 2019



WELCOME

Kate Hennig's extraordinary play bridges the gap between a historical drama with contemporary relevance. The characters in THE LAST WIFE suddenly spring to life with real thoughts, feelings, ambitions, humour. We are in the prescience of real people surviving not just politically and royally, but within a family circle. The danger of Kate Parr's drive is not just to negotiate a way forward but to instinctively learn to read her husband, King and ruler. I am thrilled to have been transported to this world with this wonderful cast and marvel at the ways we haven't changed much in the last 500 plus years.

Mark Kilmurry Artistic Director

SYNOPSIS

Through a richly provocative contemporary lens, witness the reimagining of the dangerous sparring between Henry VIII and Katherine Parr. This obligatory marriage is rife with the threat of danger and lure of deceit; Kate's secret liaisons with Thom, her husband's former brother-in-law; and devotion to the education and equal rights of Henry's daughters could lead to her becoming another statistic on the infamous King's growing list of dead wives. Does Kate follow her heart and risk her life to stand for her convictions, or will she succumb to the might of Henry's increasing paranoia?



CAST

EDDIE
EMMA CHELSEY
BESS
EMMA HARVIE
THOM
SIMON LONDON
KATE
NIKKI SHIELS
MARY
BISHANYIA VINCENT
HENRY
BEN WOOD

ACT ONE & ACT TWO
A royal household

CREATIVES

DIRECTOR
MARK KILMURRY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ADAM DEUSIEN
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER
SIMONE ROMANIUK
LIGHTING DESIGNER
NICHOLAS HIGGINS
STAGE MANAGER
LAUREN TULLOH
COSTUME SUPERVISOR
ALANA CANCERI
MAKEUP
PEGGY CARTER
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONSULTANT
NICK CURNOW

Rehearsal Images Prudence Upton

RUNNING TIME APPROX. 2 HOURS 50 MINS INCL. INTERVAL

SPECIAL THANKS Kimberley Morris & Lisa Mimmocchi
THE LAST WIFE is staged by arrangement with Emma Laird, Gary Goddard Agency, garygoddardagency.com
THE LAST WIFE was originally produced by the Stratford Festival of Stratford, Ontario, and premièred there on August 14, 2015. Antoni Cimolino, Artistic Director & Anita Gaffney, Executive Director.

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

Ensemble Theatre acknowledges the Cammeraigal 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.















KATE HENNIG
PLAYWRIGHT

Kate is a Canadian actor, playwright, teacher and director. THE LAST WIFE premiered at the Stratford Festival in 2015 and has had many productions across Canada and the United States, before making its Australian premiere. THE VIRGIN TRIAL premiered at Stratford, won the Carol Bolt Award for Best New Play 2017, and was short-listed for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. MOTHER'S DAUGHTER premiered at the Stratford Festival in June 2019 and is now enjoying a sold out run. Kate's translation and adaptation of CYRANO DE BERGERAC is now playing at the Shaw Festival. Kate is the Associate Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. She will be directing HOLIDAY INN for the Shaw winter season in 2019.



MARK KILMURRY
DIRECTOR

Mark is the Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre. Recent directing credits include: 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's recent acting credits include: Sherlock Holmes/Ridley Jones – MURDER ON THE WIRELESS, 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: THE SOLITARY CYCLIST by Arthur Conan Doyle (MURDER ON THE WIRELESS), 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 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.



ADAM DEUSIEN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Adam is a director with over 12 years' experience in creating new work and adaptations of canonical texts based in Bathurst, NSW. He is a graduate of Charles Sturt University's MA - Directing for the Stage and NIDA's inaugural cohort of the MFA – Cultural Leadership. Adam is Artistic Director of Lingua Franca, presenting work in regional Australia, nationally and internationally, including RIGHT BEHIND YOU, UNSUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOUR and MIGHTY. As a freelancer, Adam has adapted and directed LYSISTRATA, THE BACCHAE, THE TROJAN WOMEN and THE FOX, as well as working as assistant/ rehearsal director for Griffin Theatre, Stalker Theatre and Siren Theatre Co. Adam was the 2016 CreateNSW Regional Arts Fellow and in 2018 he was appointed Artistic Director of ARTSTATE, New South Wales' regional arts festival.



EMMA CHELSEY
EDDIE

Emma Chelsey is an acting graduate of WAAPA. She has also studied acting at the Conservatoire National Superieur d'Art Dramatique in Paris and has trained extensively with Howard Fine in Los Angeles. She made her professional theatre debut in PORNOGRAPHY at The Malthouse Theatre and has performed in a number of Sport for Jove Theatre productions playing roles such

as Hermia in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and Betty Parris in THE CRUCIBLE as well as many other productions around Sydney. She has appeared in various feature films and shorts including ZELOS and the award winning documentary THE HEART THIEF and on TV in shows such as COMEDY INC and HOME AND AWAY. Currently based in New York, Emma is pursuing theatre and screen opportunities. She is also a voice over artist and dog trainer. Emma is thrilled to be making her Ensemble Theatre debut!



EMMA HARVIE
BESS

Theatre credits include: RAUSCH & SPORTSPLAY at NIDA, ASYLUM for Apocalypse Theatre Company, ORFEO ED EURIDICE for Spectrum Now Festival in the Art Gallery of NSW, THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL for New Theatre, UNEND for Never Never Theatre Company, THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISSOCIA for The Kings Collective, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, A CHEERY SOUL, THE HARP IN THE SOUTH PARTS 1 & 2 for Sydney Theatre Company, TAKING STEPS for Ensemble Theatre, THE WOLVES for Redline Productions and Belvoir, THE HYPOCHONDRIAC for Darlinghurst Theatre Company, WRATH for KXT/JackRabbit, THE ASTRAL PLANE for Belvoir 25A. Film credits include: LADYLIKE, and THIS TIME, MAYBE. TV credits include: THE LETDOWN SEASON 2 for ABC/Netflix and DIARY OF AN UBER DRIVER for ABC. Emma is a graduate from the Actors Centre Australia and has studied at The Atlantic Acting School in New York. She was a Bell Shakespeare Player in 2017 and is a proud Equity member.



SIMON LONDON
THOM

Previously with Ensemble, Simon bounded up and down TAKING STEPS, directed by Mark Kilmurry. Recent Australian theatre includes the Auckland and Singapore tour of 1984 for GWB & STCSA, THE JUDAS KISS for Redline, and THE PRIDE for Darlinghurst Theatre Co. Recent New Zealand theatre includes RENDERED for Auckland Theatre Co and WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING for Silo Theatre. Feature films include THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG, THE HOBBIT: BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES, MY WEDDING AND OTHER SECRETS, SHOCK ROOM and THERE'S NO I IN THREESOME. Simon was co-creator of THE GENERATION OF Z, which stormed New Zealand, the Edinburgh Fringe and London and he's recently completed filming his short film THE CALF with funding from the New Zealand Film Commission.



NIKKI SHIELS
KATE

Nikki is a VCA graduate. She has appeared for Sydney Theatre Company in CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, A CHEERY SOUL and THREE SISTERS. For Belvoir in THEY DIVIDED THE SKY, THE SUGAR HOUSE, THE ROVER and TWELFTH NIGHT. For Malthouse Theatre, PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK, NIGHT ON BALD MOUNTAIN; THE DRAGON and ELIZABETH – ALMOST BY CHANCE A WOMAN. Other theatre credits include THE UNSPOKEN WORD IS 'JOE' for Griffin/La Mama; THE DREAM for Bell Shakespeare; THE CHERRY ORCHARD, TRUE MINDS, TOP GIRLS, DON PARTIES ON for Melbourne Theatre Company; JOAN for The Rabble; M + M for Melbourne International Arts Festival; THE DOLLHOUSE, PEER GYNT for Daniel Schlusser Ensemble; MADELEINE for Black Sequin Productions/Arts House. Nikki's screen credits include the Logie award winning BLOOM, HOUSE HUSBANDS, CHILDHOOD'S END, RUSH IV and THE EYE OF

THE STORM. In 2018, Nikki won Best Female Actor in an Independent Production in the Sydney Theatre Awards. This is Nikki's first production with Ensemble Theatre.



BISHANYIA VINCENT
MARY

Bishanyia trained at The Oxford School of Drama. Theatre Credits: THE DISMISSAL for Squabbalogic, SPAMALOT and EVIE MAY at the Hayes, THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE for Darlinghurst Theatre, NELL GWYNN for New Theatre, STARFISH & GALILEE for Sydney Opera House-Griffin Theatre, ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST for Sport for Jove, A CHRISTMAS CAROL for KXT, HIV MONOLOGUES for Queer Fringe, THE WIND IN THE UNDERGROUND and WHERE DO LITTLE BIRDS GO? for Old Fitz, LIGHTEN UP for Griffin Theatre, HARVEST, TOP GIRLS for New Theatre, THE RIVALS for Theatre Royal Haymarket, PRIVATE RESISTANCE for Eastern Angles, AFTER THE FALL for Hampstead Theatre, AS YOU LIKE IT at Blenheim Palace Gardens. TV Credits: THE TWIST, BEATBUGS, MOTOWN MAGIC, STRANGE CHORES, JAYS JUNGLE, #7DAYSLATER. Bishanyia is a proud member of MEAA.



BEN WOOD
HENRY

Ben studied at the Australian Theatre for Young People (atyp). His theatre credits include THE BIG TIME for Ensemble, TALK for Sydney Theatre Company, THE BLIND GIANT IS DANCING, TWELFTH NIGHT for Belvoir, RUPERT for Daniel Sparrow Productions, HENRY 4, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI for Bell Shakespeare, THE ALIENS for Redline Productions, GHOST STORIES at Sydney Opera House. His film credits include HITCHHIKER, THE KANGAROO GUY, THE TROPHY THIEF, FATHER'S DAY, MY MINDS OWN MELODY and he has just finished shooting alongside Bill Nighy on the upcoming feature BUCKLEY'S CHANCE. His television credits include ALL SAINTS, UNDERBELLY 3: THE GOLDEN MILE, PACKED TO THE RAFTERS, HOME AND AWAY, DOCTOR DOCTOR, TOP OF THE LAKE: CHINA GIRL and HARROW. Ben is a proud member of Equity.



SIMONE ROMANIUK
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Simone Romaniuk is a live performance designer who works extensively across theatre, opera, festivals and immersive events in Australia and the UK. Selected set and costume designs include: Ensemble Theatre: THE LAST WIFE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, LUNA GALE, FRANKENSTEIN, CASANOVA. State Opera South Australia: BOOJUM!, THE MIKADO. Unicorn Theatre, London: THE HUNTING LODGE. RNCM, Manchester: LA VIE PARISIENNE. Queensland Theatre: MACBETH, VENUS IN FUR, KELLY, HEAD FULL OF LOVE, ELIZABETH: ALMOST BY CHANCE A WOMAN, BOMBSHELLS, FRACTIONS, THE REMOVALISTS, WAITING FOR GODOT, RUBY MOON, EATING ICE CREAM, BECKETT X 3, THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED. Opera Queensland: THE MAGIC FLUTE, THE MERRY WIDOW, SPACE ENCOUNTERS, THE MIKADO. Sydney Theatre Company: THE CRUCIBLE, THYESTES. Resident designer at Queensland Theatre in 2012, Simone's awards include four Matilda Awards for Outstanding achievement for Design. She holds design degrees from NIDA and QCA. Simone is currently Creative Director of OZASIA FESTIVAL, the annual international arts festival at Adelaide Festival Centre.





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 here!



LAUREN TULLOH
STAGE MANAGER

Lauren's passion is to create the magic of theatre for the audience; as a young girl she was enthralled by many theatrical and musical productions. However, it wasn't until her final year in high school that she discovered her local musical societies. This led to three years of skills development in Stage Management before attending NIDA, completing a Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Production) in 2009. Lauren has worked as a Stage Manager for many theatre companies on many different productions. These include for Ensemble Theatre THE LAST FIVE YEARS, MARJORIE PRIME which also toured to Noosa Alive! Festival, THE PLANT and BETRAYAL. For the Hayes Theatre Company: AMERICAN PSYCHO, HIGH FIDELITY, ASSASSINS, THE FANTASTICKS, VIOLET and CALAMITY JANE which also toured to Belvoir St Theatre, Comedy Theatre Melbourne, Canberra Civic Centre, Arts Centre Melbourne, IPAC Wollongong, Orange Civic Centre and Parramatta Riverside Theatres. For Griffin Theatre: LIGHTEN UP. For Chapel off Chapel: SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD and VIOLET. For Sydney Opera House: CHARLIE AND LOLA's EXTREMELY NEW PLAY. Lauren also stage managed THE GRUFFALO and THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD for Christine Dunstan Productions which toured extensively in Australia and New Zealand, and THE GRUFFALO: SONGS FROM THE SHOW for Tall Stories UK which toured to Singapore.



ALANA CANCERI
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Alana trained at Ultimo TAFE where she received Diplomas in Costume for Performance, Fashion Design & Technology and Printing & Graphic Arts. She has worked as a





Costume Supervisor for Ensemble Theatre on shows including THE NORMAN CONQUESTS, TAKING STEPS, NEVILLE'S ISLAND, THE PLANT, THE RASPUTIN AFFAIR, TWO, e-baby, THE BIG DRY, TRIBES, GOOD PEOPLE, JACK OF HEARTS, BLOOD BANK, MY ZINC BED, THE BOOK CLUB, MOTHERS AND SONS and THE ANZAC PROJECT. Other theatre credits include MACBETH, ROMEO & JULIET and THE MISANTHROPE for Bell Shakespeare. Credits for Musical Theatre include ASSASSINS and GYPSY for Hayes Theatre Co., MURIEL'S WEDDING THE MUSICAL for Sydney Theatre Company/ Global Creatures. Other credits include CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL for City of Sydney, DUBBOO and 30 YEARS OF SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND for Bangarra Dance Co.



PEGGY CARTER
MAKEUP

Peggy trained at Artransa Film Studios, London BBC – Thames TV, then in special effects at Universal Studios in LA. Throughout her distinguished career Peggy has worked with Robin Williams, Jack Nicholson, Sydney Pollack, Denzel Washington, Danny De Vito, Jeff Goldblum, Hugo Weaving, Garry McDonald, Ruth Cracknell, Greta Scacchi, Bryan Brown, Barry Humphries, Jacki Weaver, Judy Davis, Toni Collette, Barry & Miranda Otto, Googie Withers, Gordon Chater, José Carreras, Carl Malden, Zsa Zsa Gabor and Lauren Bacall. She has designed the make-up for many productions at Ensemble Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company and The Song Company. Other theatre credits include NEVILLES ISLAND, LIP SERVICE, THE BIG DRY, RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN, FRANKENSTEIN, SEASON BROCHURES (Ensemble Theatre) CATS, KING LEAR (RQTC), JOSEPH, HELLO DOLLY, 42ND STREET, ST JOAN, HERETIC, COMEDY OF ERRORS, SHOWBOAT, CYRANO DE BERGERAC & RENT. For Television, THE LOVE BOAT, CIRCUS OF THE STARS, RACE RIOTS. Other film credits include The GREAT GATSBY, LILLIAN'S STORY, MOULIN ROUGE, MATRIX, HOWLING II, AGE OF CONSENT, WALKABOUT, DON QUIXOTE, SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY and CADDIE. Peggy has taught Masterclasses at NIDA. In 1999 she won the Makeup Award for KING LEAR (Bell Shakespeare) and in 2000 a National Makeup Award for overall contribution to the industry.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you for your generous support and ensuring our future is bright

Spotlights $10000+
Charlene & Graham Bradley AM
Jinnie & Ross Gavin
Ingrid Kaiser
Estate of Leo Mamantoff
Jeannette & Graham McConnochie
Neilson Foundation
Carolyn & Peter Lowry
Victoria & Ian Pollard
Jenny & Guy Reynolds AO
Diana & George Shirling
'Supporting the next generation in theatre'
Diana & John Smythe
Jane Tham & Philip Maxwell

Bright Lights $5000 - $9999
Ellen Borda
David Z Burger Foundation
Chrysanthemum Foundation
Merryn & Rod Pearse
Ruth & Mark Sampson
Catherine & John Taylor

Shining Lights $1000 - $4999
Anonymous x 3
Michael Adena & Joanne Daly
Margaret Barnes
Anna Bligh
Anne Clark
Jan & Frank Conroy
Darren Cook
Debby Cramer & Bill Caukill
Jayati & Bish Dutta
Gail Giles-Gidney
Wendy & Andrew Hamlin
Roger Hewitt
The Hilmer Family Endowment
Emma Hodgman
Kim Jacobs
Margaret Johnston
Victoria Krisie
Helen & Michael Markiewicz
Peter E J Murray
John Nethercote
Barbara Osborne
Liane Potok
Owen Sherrard
Karen & Max Simmons
Russell Stewart
Sue & Bob Taffel
Christine Thomson
Lynn & Tony Tonks
Judy Moore & Marcelle Trenoweth
Wendy Trevor-Jones
The Shirley Ward Foundation
Laura Wright

Starlight $500 - $999
Anonymous x 11
Melanie & Michael America
Heather Andrews
Fiona Hopkins & Paul Bedbrook
Nerida Bryce
Terry Buddin
Carolyn Burt
Joy & Nicholas Cowdery
Helen Creasey
Joanne Dan
Michele & Onofrio Ferrara
Nora Hinchen & John Flint
Elizabeth & Warren Gray
Rochelle & Michael Goot
Sue Gleave
Anna & Richard Green
Will Jephcott
Jill Hawker
James Henderson
Robin & Warwick Lewarne
Debbie & Garry Marriott
Dr David Millons AM
Jill & David Pumphrey
Peter Roach
Emine Sermet
Daniela & David Shannon
Sarah & Chris Smith
Holly Stein
Pam & Rob Stewart
Deborah Thomas
Scott Wilson







ENSEMBLE THEATRE TEAM

Artistic Director **Mark Kilmurry**
Chief Financial Officer **David Balfour Wright J.P.**
Executive Director **Loretta Busby**
Artistic Producer **Claire Nesbitt-Hawes**
Casting & Events **Merran Regan**
Literary Manager **Sarah Odillo Maher**
Accounts **Gita Sugiyanto**
Production Manager **Simon Greer**
Deputy Production Manager **Slade Blanch**
Marketing Consultant **Margo Weston**
Marketing Manager **Rachael McAllister**
Marketing Coordinator **Joey Demczuk**
Marketing Content Coordinator **Charlotte Burgess**
Marketing Assistant **Emma Garden**
Media Relations **Susanne Briggs**
Customer Relations & Sales Manager **Mireille Vermulst**
Ticketing Administrator **Holly McNeilage**
Box Office Team **Gloria Gonzales, Anita Jerrentrup, Bronte Kellam-Pearson, Kathryn Siely** & **Cheryl Ward**

Head Chef **Nathan Jackson**
Restaurant Manager **Vincent Ellena**
Front of House Manager **James Birch**
Front of House Supervisors **Cate Broomfield** & **Hannah-Rae Meegan**
Caretaker **Bing Barry**

ENSEMBLE LIMITED BOARD

Chair **Graham Bradley AM, Hamish Balnaves, John Bayley, Narelle Beattie, Mark Kilmurry, Anne-Marie McGinty, James Sherrard**

ENSEMBLE FOUNDATION BOARD

Chair **Deborah Thomas, Diane Balnaves, Graham Bradley AM, Joanne Cunningham, Ross Gavin, Emma Hodgman, Mark Kilmurry, Victoria Pollard, Guy Reynolds AO, Margo Weston**

CONNECT WITH US

Join our mailing list at ensemble.com.au to receive our monthly e-newsletter packed with news, what's on and special offers plus a handy pre-show reminder email with details about your upcoming show.

@ensemblesydney | **@ensembletheatre** | **@ensemblesydney** | **EnsembleTV**

(02) 8918 3400
ensemble.com.au
78 McDougall St, Kirribilli

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.

OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our partners for playing a vital role in our success

MAJOR PARTNER

THE BALNAVES FOUNDATION

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Clitheroe Foundation

KENNARDS HIRE

NEILSON FOUNDATION

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

AKCS www.akcs.com.au

AUDIO VISUAL EVENTS

Hungerford Hill

TIP TOP BAKERY

FOOD BANK FIGHTING HUNGER IN AUSTRALIA

KAY & HUGHES

SUPPORT US

ENSEMBLE THEATRE IS AUSTRALIA'S LONGEST RUNNING PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY AND YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE AND REALISE OUR AMBITIONS.

Play a role in our community of supporters by contributing to our education program, the development of artists and new work or by giving voice to the stories on our centre stage.

Your help will enrich our audiences' theatre experience and whatever you choose we thank you for your support. There are no small roles on our centre stage and your support large or small plays an invaluable role, providing theatre for everyone.

For more information contact:
David Balfour Wright
(02) 8918 3421 or
david@ensemble.com.au

REGISTERED CHARITY