

WORLD PREMIERE



2021 **SYD
FEST**

**15 JAN –
27 FEB**



WELCOME

I am so thrilled we can bring KENNY to the stage! It was one of those 2am eureka moments; 'I wonder if KENNY has ever been a theatre show?' Thankfully the film writers, Clayton and Shane Jacobson, were very supportive and here we are. Of course the two creatives who immediately sprung to mind to help realise this vision were Stevie Rodgers as adaptor and Ben Wood as Kenny. As soon as the idea of a Ted Talk with Kenny developed we knew we were up and running and able to bring a much loved character to life in a new form. Kenny is the eternal optimist, and in these trying times we need a little bit of Kenny's enthusiasm for life. It is so wonderful to open our doors again and thank you for being a huge part of our recovery. Here's to a sparkling 2021... enjoy!

Mark Kilmurry

Artistic Director



A NOTE FROM STEVE RODGERS

When Mark Kilmurry came to me with the idea of adapting Kenny for the stage I immediately went back to my response to the film and the impression that still remained fourteen years later. And writ large in my memory was mostly - character. Kenny is at once open, unpretentious, self-deprecating, loyal, hard-working, with a colourful turn of phrase. He does a job not many of us could do and he does it with heart. Through comedy he asks some big questions about dignity and work, and what we truly value. He's an unlikely hero, in an age where still too many essential jobs in our communities are underpaid and undervalued. And finally, after a 'shit' of a year, he allows us to laugh.

Steve Rodgers

Adaptor

Ensemble Theatre proudly 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.



SYNOPSIS

Welcome to the International Portable Sanitation Convention, Sydney, 2021. This year's key note speaker is a passionate plumber with over 20 years' experience in the industry and has many toilet tales to tell. Please join us in giving a warm Ensemble Theatre welcome to our knight in shining overalls, Kenny Smythe.

Expect an insightful education in sanitation delivered in true Kenny style. Despite his

dad's harsh criticism and ignorant members of the public taking him for granted, dedication to his trade has earned Kenny the title of SPLASHdown's No.1 employee.

The eternal optimist manages to look for the best in every situation – even when his job is literally down the toilet. He's the fearless Aussie plumber with a big heart, a big wrench and a bucket full of laughs.

CAST

BEN WOOD KENNY

DIRECTOR **MARK KILMURRY**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **WARWICK DODDRELL**

ADAPTOR **STEVE RODGERS**

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **SIMONE ROMANIUK**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **DAMIEN COOPER**

COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER **NATE EDMONDSON**

VIDEO DESIGNER **MIC GRUCHY**

STAGE MANAGER **ERIN SHAW**

COSTUME SUPERVISOR **RENATA BESLIK**

NIDA SECONDMENT **ELIF AKGUL**

SOUND DESIGN SECONDMENT **EMILY CLEMENT**

RUNNING TIME

APPROX. 80 MIN NO INTERVAL

SPECIAL THANKS

Alan Plumb

Peter Bartlett & Lyn Rowland, Pier Productions

Gareth Walsh, Formit Services

Sulabh International

David Williamson, Caravan

Voiceover Artists: Dorje Swallow, Felicity Jurd &

Warwick Doddrell

Saxophonist: Jeremy Rose

Ensemble Choir

SPLASHdown Corporate Bathroom Rentals

Production images by Prudence Upton





CLAYTON JACOBSON SCREENWRITER

Clayton is an award winning Producer/Director/Writer/Actor whose experience spans across commercials, documentaries, online content, music videos

and feature film. His debut comedy feature KENNY was a highly acclaimed box office hit winning the 2006 IF Awards for Best Feature Film and Best Script, and the Film Critics Circle of Australia Award for Best Original Screenplay. It also holds a 100% Rotten Tomatoes rating. His follow up Feature Black Comedy BROTHERS' NEST has also experienced world-wide festival award acclaim. Clayton is held in high regard for his distinct directorial style and commitment to feature film, television and the world of branded entertainment. Clayton helmed two episodes of the critically acclaimed Comedy/ Drama series MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES, ABC's comedy showroom episode MOONMAN starring Lawrence Mooney and most recently the 2nd Block of MR BLACK a comedy series starring Stephen Curry for the Channel Ten network. While best known as a director, Clayton has also acted for many years in short films and features, including the beloved Aussie crime film ANIMAL KINGDOM and

Jane Campion's internationally acclaimed TV series TOP OF THE LAKE – CHINA GIRL, where he played a major role. He has recently appeared in BLUMHOUSE'S sci-fi title UPGRADE and the Aussie Comedy THE VERY EXCELLENT MR CROCODILE DUNDEE. Those who have worked with Clayton know his deep love of film, style and technique filter into every detail of his inspired body of work.



SHANE JACOBSON SCREENWRITER

Shane Jacobson is one of Australia's most loved actors and presenters. Best known for his work in film, television and theatre, he's

also a song and dance man, author, screen writer, creative director, producer, executive producer, plus an ambassador for many worthy charities and organisations. The Aussie blockbuster KENNY brought Shane world-wide recognition, as well as an AFI Award for Best Lead Actor. He has gone on to feature in other popular films including CHARLIE & BOOTS, THE BOURNE LEGACY, ODDBALL, THE DRESSMAKER, THE BBQ and LADIES IN BLACK.



STEVE RODGERS ADAPTOR

Steve trained at Western Sydney University and has worked as an actor for thirty years. As a writer his play RAY'S TEMPEST had seasons at both Belvoir Street and the MTC.

Steve's second play SAVAGE RIVER played at The Griffin, MTC and The Tasmanian Theatre Company. Subsequently his play FOOD was a co-production between Belvoir St and Force Majeure and toured Australia. His adaptation of the Peter Goldsworthy novel JESUS WANTS ME FOR A SUNBEAM won the 2015 Lysicrates Prize and had seasons at NTOP and Belvoir St. Steve's most recent play KING OF PIGS premiered at The Old Fitz and is also set for a national tour by Critical Stages. Steve is currently under commission to Belvoir and is the co-writer with Jub Clerc of the feature film SWEET AS that is set for production in 2021.



MARK KILMURRY DIRECTOR

Mark is the Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre. Recent directing credits include: CRUNCH TIME, THE ODD COUPLE, THE LAST WIFE, 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 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. Join Mark as host of our digital series ENSEMBLE CONVERSATIONS to catch up with actors and creatives throughout the season.



WARWICK DODDRELL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Warwick is an award-winning director creating intimate, visceral and energetic productions. With a BA (Film Production) and Masters in

Directing from NIDA, he trained in London with the New End Theatre and has staged works in

Perth, Melbourne, London and Sydney. Warwick created site specific work for the Fremantle Whalers Tunnel and St George's Cathedral, and workshopped a new musical of DOT AND THE KANGAROO with VCA. Warwick has interned with Opera Australia, Michael Cassel Group, MonkeyBaa and The Ensemble Theatre and has directed for Nate Butler Studio, Central Coast Opera, New Theatre, Old 505 Theatre and the KXT. He is directing the Australian Premiere of ZOMBIE THOUGHTS for the National Theatre of Parramatta.



BEN WOOD KENNY

Ben studied at the Australian Theatre for Young People (atyp). His theatre credits include: THE LAST WIFE, THE BIG TIME (Ensemble), 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 (Redline Productions), GHOST STORIES (Sydney Opera House). His film credits include: HITCHHIKER (dir: Damien Power), THE KANGAROO GUY (dir: Joel Loxton), THE TROPHY THIEF (dir: David Edwardz), FATHER'S DAY (dir: JJ Winlove), MY MINDS OWN MELODY (dir: Josh Wakely) and will soon appear alongside Bill Nighy on the upcoming feature BUCKLEY'S CHANCE (dir: Tim Brown). His television credits include: TOP OF THE LAKE: CHINA GIRL, ALL SAINTS, UNDERBELLY 3: THE GOLDEN MILE, PACKED TO THE RAFTERS, HOME AND AWAY, DOCTOR DOCTOR, and HARROW. Ben also appears in the pilot EMBARRASSING PARENTS ANONYMOUS (dir: Josh Anderson), for which he was awarded Best Actor (Comedy) at the prestigious SeriesFest - an international festival and marketplace for the best Independent TV Pilots. Ben is a proud member of Equity.



SIMONE ROMANIUK SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Simone Romaniuk is a live performance designer for theatre, opera and festivals. Ensemble Theatre designs include: THE LAST WIFE, LUNA GALE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, FRANKENSTEIN and CASANOVA. She has designed for numerous performing arts companies including State Opera South Australia, Opera Queensland, Queensland Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company and Brisbane Festival. She was resident designer with Queensland Theatre in 2011-2012. From 2015-2019 she was Creative Director of Adelaide Festival Centre's OZASIA FESTIVAL. OZASIA FESTIVAL won Best Major Event in the South Australian Tourism Awards 2019 and was shortlisted twice for event design in the APDG Awards. Simone has won four Matilda Awards for Queensland Theatre productions and was a Manchester Theatre Awards design finalist in 2017. She holds design degrees from QCA and NIDA. Simone's designs can be seen at simoneromaniuk.com



DAMIEN COOPER LIGHTING DESIGNER

Damien is a lighting designer working in theatre, opera and dance. In 2019 Damien designed MADAMA BUTTERFLY (Opera Australia), NEON AETHER (Sydney Dance Company), OSCAR AND LUCINDA (Sydney Chamber Opera) COUNTING & CRACKING and THINGS WE KNOW TO BE TRUE (Belvoir). Damien's career highlights include Neil Armfield's productions of THE RING CYCLE (Opera Australia) and EXIT THE KING (Malthouse Theatre and Belvoir) on Broadway starring Geoffrey Rush and Susan Sarandon; Graeme Murphy's SWAN LAKE (Australian Ballet); Australia's most successful subsidised-theatre show ever KEATING THE MUSICAL (Belvoir); and BIRDBRAIN (Australian Dance Theatre) which played over 60 venues around the world. Damien has won three Sydney Theatre Awards, four Green Room Awards and two APDG awards.



NATE EDMONDSON COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Nate is an international, multi-award winning composer and sound designer for stage and screen. His scores have been heard across the world, including multiple Off-Broadway and West End runs of THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW, and PADDINGTON GETS IN A JAM (Rockefeller Productions), which have reached a global audience of more than one million people. Locally, he has worked on many critically acclaimed productions, including THE HARP IN THE SOUTH, BLACKIE BLACKIE BROWN, and CLOUD NINE (STC); MARK COLVIN'S KIDNEY, and SEVENTEEN (Belvoir); THE TEMPEST (Bell Shakespeare). Nate was awarded the 2016 and 2015 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Score / Sound Design of an Independent Production; the 2018 and 2016 Broadway World Award for Best Score / Sound Design of a Play; the 2014 Brian Dyer Trophy for Best Score / Sound Design [UK] for ALL MY SONS. In 2019, Nate was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Sound Design for his work on THE HARP IN THE SOUTH. Nate has previously worked with Ensemble on DIPLOMACY, FULLY COMMITTED, and BABY DOLL. nate-edmondson.com



MIC GRUCHY VIDEO DESIGNER

Mic works across stage, screen and video art. He is a pioneer of Video Design for Theatre, designing shows for all the major companies and festivals around Australia for more than 30 years. He has produced projections on the Sydney Opera House and video designs for theatre, opera and dance around Australia, in London's West End, across Europe and Asia. His shows have won Helpmann Awards and he was awarded an Australia Council Established Artist's Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Practice in 2012. He has edited feature films, TV, documentaries and his video artworks are in collections and museums around the world. Commissioned works include installations for the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Olympic Park and the Biennale of Sydney.



ERIN SHAW 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); stage manager on LITTLE BORDERS (The 505), MOTH (ATYP), LOVE, ME (The 505), FOLK (Ensemble Theatre), DIPLOMACY (Ensemble Theatre and Tour), AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH PAUL CAPSIS (Ensemble Theatre) and ECHOES OF THE JAZZ AGE (Tour); and assistant stage manager on DIPLOMACY (Ensemble Theatre), BLISS (Belvoir), THE WIDOW UNPLUGGED OR AN ACTOR DEPLOYS (Ensemble Theatre), THE NORMAN CONQUESTS (Ensemble Theatre), BABY DOLL (Ensemble Theatre) and A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN (Belvoir). 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 graduated from NIDA in 2007 with a bachelor's in Costume Production. Costume supervising credits include: BETTY BLOKK-BUSTER (Sydney Festival) CRUNCH TIME, BABY DOLL, FULLY COMMITTED, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, THE BIG TIME, LUNA GALE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, DIPLOMACY, THE KITCHEN SINK, BUYER AND CELLAR, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, ODD MAN OUT, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, BETRAYAL, A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS (Ensemble Theatre), A DELICATE FIRE, FARNACE, THE RETURN OF ULYSSES, ARTASERSE, ATHALIA, THE CORONATION OF POPPEA, RAMEAU: ANACREON AND PIGMALION, THEODORA (Pinchgut Opera), FANGIRLS (Belvoir) HENRY V, THE WINTER'S TALE, MACBETH (Bell Shakespeare) THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR, STAY HAPPY KEEP SMILING, THE TEMPEST, WOYCECK, A LIE OF THE MIND, PORT, THE THRESOME (NIDA). Renata is also an accomplished costume maker and milliner.

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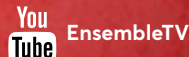
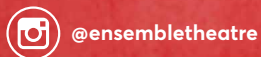
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