

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS WITH
DAVID
WILLIAMSON



WELCOME

As a director, it is a privilege to be involved with living writers' work and a thrill to be part of the process from page to stage. It is doubly exciting when the writer in question is legendary, not only for putting the spotlight on the Australian psyche but for a legacy of gripping drama.

David Williamson, 50 years in the business of writing plays, has given voice to the larrikin, the rogue and the underclass, as well as the high flyer, the angst ridden mid-lifers and many more.

Reading David's plays is like journeying through city landscapes, from a

contemporary society of outspoken males to ruminations on life and death from middle class urban dwellers. His writing gives us hope with his optimistic outlook on change, tolerance and togetherness.

This evening is not only a celebration of the enduring legacy of David Williamson's work but also a thank you and a tribute to an artist and a humane interpreter of where we live now.

Thank you David!

Enjoy.

MARK KILMURRY
Artistic Director

Ensemble Theatre proudly acknowledges the Cammeraiagal people of the Eora nation as customary custodians of the land on which we stand and share our stories.

In harmony with the land and water, its seasons and cycles, the Cammeraiagal people practiced their culture for thousands of years and the connection continues to this day. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

**"I'VE HAD 50 YEARS
OF THE WONDERFUL
PRIVILEGE OF SEEING
MY PLAYS CONNECT
WITH AUDIENCES.
I THINK I'VE DONE
MY STINT, THERE ARE
PLENTY OF YOUNGER
WRITERS WHO CAN
TAKE OFF AND SET
THE WORLD ALIGHT."**

David Williamson AO

At Ensemble Theatre we're passionate about developing new talent, both on the stage and off. Our development initiatives provide a creative hub where seeds are sown, sparks ignite and creative conversations unfurl.

Beyond the mainstage, through dedicated programs we focus on developing new voices, creative mentorships, education opportunities and community outreach.

Ensemble's Literary Program is where emerging talent is nurtured, and new Australian plays commissioned, developed and showcased. We need your support to give voice to the next generation of Australian writers.

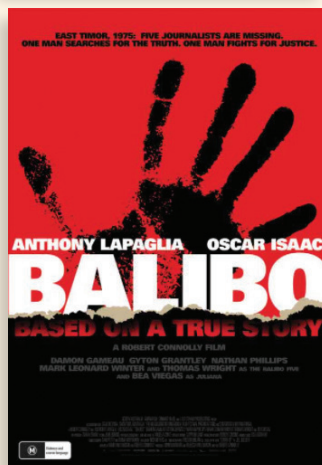
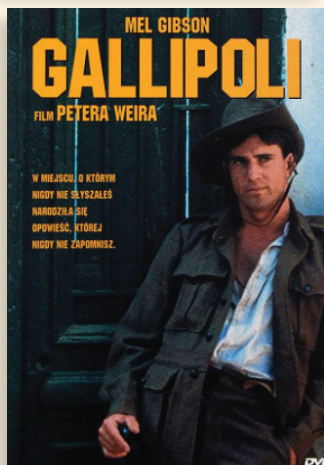
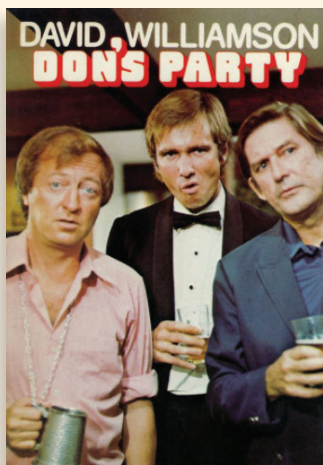
Please consider a tax-deductible* multi-year pledge to support Ensemble to continue to create and share extraordinary stories and to make theatre for everyone.

**All donations greater than \$2 are tax-deductible and will go towards enabling and enriching the lives of current and future generations.*

For more information,
please contact:

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Philanthropy & Partnerships
Manager
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**THANK
YOU**



DAVID WILLIAMSON FILMS

"It has been a great privilege to work with such an iconic Australian writer and empathetic human being."

- Actor Mark Lee

Stork (December 1971)
Petersen (October 1974)
The Removalists (October 1975)
Don's Party (November 1976)
Eliza Fraser (December 1976)
The Club (September 1980)
Gallipoli (August 1981)
Duet for Four (February 1982)
The Year of Living Dangerously (December 1982)
Phar Lap (August 1983)
Travelling North (June 1987)
Emerald City (December 1988)
Sanctuary (1995)
Brilliant Lies (August 1996)
Balibo (July 2009)
Face to Face (May 2011)



DAVID WILLIAMSON AO

David Williamson is the most produced playwright in the history of Australian theatre. For over fifty years his plays have continued to attract strong audiences for many theatre companies across the country, not least the Ensemble Theatre where 19 world premieres of his plays have been presented. Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1983, David has also been named one of Australia's Living National Treasures.

In 1970 David's first full-length play, *THE COMING OF STORK*, premiered at the La Mama Theatre in Carlton, Victoria. Two years later *THE REMOVALISTS* was the co-winner of the coveted George Devine Award, the first time it had been given to a writer from outside the UK. The play also won two Australian Writers' Guild AWGIE Awards for best stage play and best script. David went on to scoop up ten more AWGIE Awards throughout his prolific career.

A revival of *EMERALD CITY* in 1995 sparked Ensemble Theatre's strong and enduring relationship with David Williamson, going on to stage 29 seasons of his plays and producing three national tours. In 2014 Williamson had a record eight plays professionally produced across Sydney alone, including *THE JACK MANNING TRILOGY* presented by Ensemble Theatre at The Concourse in Chatswood and a sell-out season of *CRUISE CONTROL* here at our harbourside venue.

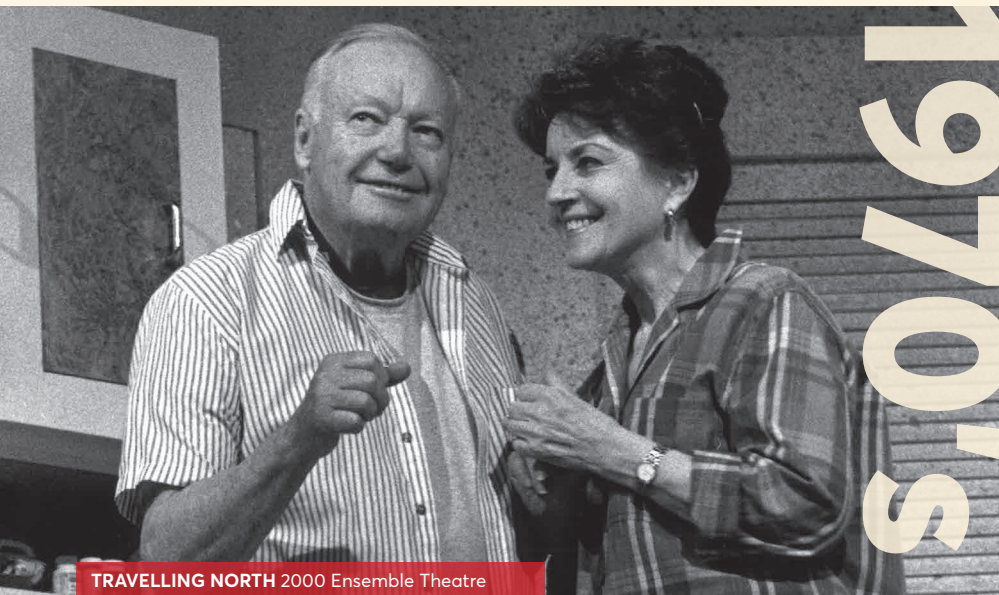
David's plays have been translated into many languages and there have been major productions in London, Los Angeles, Washington and New York – where *The New Yorker* hailed him as 'Ibsen in the Antipodes'. With a number of his stage works adapted for screen, David soon began to write movie scripts earning himself five Australian Film Institute Awards and receiving a nomination for best screenplay from the Writer's Guild of America.

This year Ensemble Theatre is proud to present the iconic writer's play *NEARER THE GODS* and looks forward to continuing to stage classic Williamson plays for future generations.

"Whether it was the late, great Ron Haddrick tearing strips off Drew Forsythe in THE CLUB, Peter Sumner anguishing Peter Carroll in A HANDFUL OF FRIENDS, or Frank Wilson swapping one-liners with Henri Szeps in TRAVELLING NORTH, the laughs came full-bellied and right on cue every time."

- Actor & Director John Bell

SELECTED PLAY PREMIERES



TRAVELLING NORTH 2000 Ensemble Theatre
Production Charles 'Bud' Tingwell & Lorraine Bayly

*"David Williamson has
been, and forever will
be a playwright for us
all to aspire to."*

- Playwright Melanie Tait

THE COMING OF STORK

La Mama, Melbourne **1970** (Film 1971)

DON'S PARTY

Pram Factory, Melbourne **1971** (Film 1976)

THE REMOVALISTS

La Mama, Melbourne **1971** (Film 1975)

JUGGLERS THREE

Melbourne Theatre Company **1972**

WHAT IF YOU DIED TOMORROW?

Sydney Theatre Company **1973**

THE DEPARTMENT

South Australian Theatre Co **1974** (TV 1980)

A HANDFUL OF FRIENDS

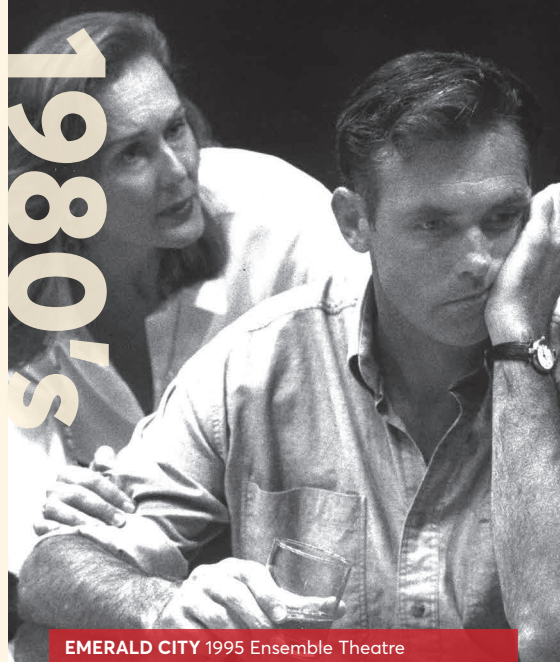
South Australian Theatre Co **1976**

THE CLUB

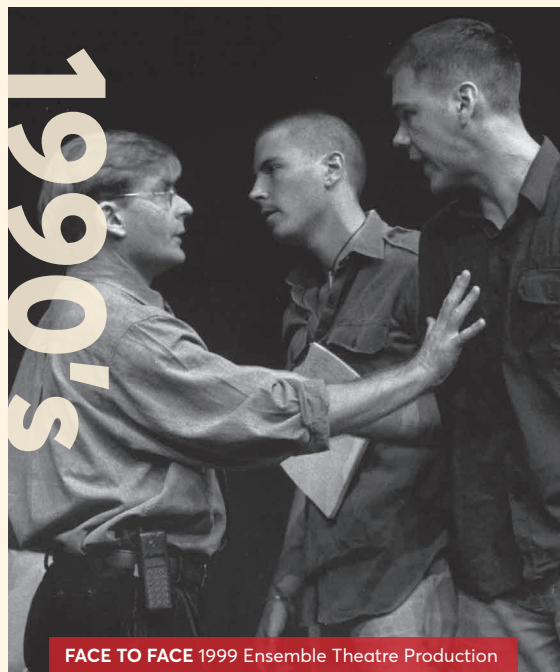
Melbourne Theatre Company **1977** (Film 1980)

TRAVELLING NORTH

Nimrod Theatre, Sydney **1979** (Film 1987)



EMERALD CITY 1995 Ensemble Theatre
Production Lenore Smith & Andrew McFarlane



FACE TO FACE 1999 Ensemble Theatre Production
Geoff Cartwright, Amos Szeps & Duncan Young

CELLULOID HEROES

Nimrod Theatre, Sydney **1980**

THE PERFECTIONIST

Sydney Theatre Company **1982**
(Film 1985)

SONS OF CAIN

Melbourne Theatre Company **1985**

EMERALD CITY

Sydney Theatre Company **1986**
(Film 1988)

TOP SILK

Seymour Centre, Sydney **1989**

SIREN

Sydney Theatre Company **1990**

MONEY & FRIENDS

Royal Queensland Theatre Co **1991**

BRILLIANT LIES

Royal Queensland Theatre Co **1993**
(Film 1996)

SANCTUARY

Playbox Theatre, Melbourne **1994**
(Film 1995)

DEAD WHITE MALES

Sydney Theatre Company **1995**

HERETIC

Sydney Theatre Company & Tour **1996**

THIRD WORLD BLUES

Sydney Theatre Company **1997**

AFTER THE BALL

Queensland Theatre Co & Tour **1997**

CORPORATE VIBES

STC & QTC Collaboration **1999**

FACE TO FACE ★

Ensemble Theatre **1999** (Film 2011)

SELECTED PLAY PREMIERES

THE GREAT MAN

Sydney Theatre Company 2000

UP FOR GRABS

STC & MTC Collaboration & Tour 2001

A CONVERSATION ★

Ensemble Theatre 2001

CHARITABLE INTENT

La Mama, Melbourne 2001

SOULMATES

Sydney Theatre Company 2002

BIRTHRIGHTS

Melbourne Theatre Company 2003

AMIGOS

Sydney Theatre Company 2004

FLATFOOT ★

Ensemble Theatre 2004

OPERATOR ★

Ensemble Theatre 2005

INFLUENCE

Sydney Theatre Company 2005

STRINGS UNDER MY FINGERS

La Boite Theatre, Noosa 2006

LOTTE'S GIFT

Ensemble Theatre 2007

SCARLET O'HARA AT THE CRIMSON PARROT

Melbourne Theatre Company 2008

LET THE SUNSHINE ★

Ensemble Theatre 2009

RHINESTONE REX AND

MISS MONICA ★

Ensemble Theatre 2010



OPERATOR

2005 Ensemble Theatre Production
Henri Szeps & Rory Williamson



LOTTE'S GIFT

2007 Ensemble Theatre Production
David Williamson & Karin Schaupp



RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA

2010 Ensemble Theatre Production
Georgie Parker



NOTHING PERSONAL

2011 Ensemble Theatre Production
Greta Scacchi



JACK OF HEARTS

2016 Ensemble Theatre Production
Chris Taylor & Craig Reucassel



THE BIG TIME

2019 Ensemble Theatre Production
Ben Wood and Jeremy Waters

DON PARTIES ON

Melbourne Theatre Company **2011**

AT ANY COST? ★

Ensemble Theatre **2011** (Co-written)

WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY

Metcalfe Playhouse, Perth **2011**

NOTHING PERSONAL ★

Ensemble Theatre **2011**

MANAGING CARMEN

Queensland Theatre Company **2012**
(Film 2012)

HAPPINESS ★

Ensemble Theatre **2013**

RUPERT

Melbourne Theatre Company **2013**

CRUISE CONTROL ★

Ensemble Theatre **2014**

DREAM HOME ★

Ensemble Theatre **2015**

JACK OF HEARTS ★

Ensemble Theatre **2016**

ODD MAN OUT ★

Ensemble Theatre **2017**

CREDENTIALS

La Mama, Melbourne **2017**

SORTING OUT RACHEL ★

Ensemble Theatre **2018**

NEARER THE GODS

Queensland Theatre Company **2018**

THE BIG TIME ★

Ensemble Theatre **2019**

FAMILY VALUES

Griffin Theatre Company,
Sydney **2020**

CRUNCH TIME ★

Ensemble Theatre **2020**

★ Ensemble Premieres

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS WITH DAVID WILLIAMSON – 14 MARCH 2022

GALLIPOLI

Film excerpt

Mark Kilmurry

CRUNCH TIME

Filmed scene performed by **Diane Craig** and **John Wood**

DON'S PARTY

Film excerpt and monologue performed by **Genevieve Hegney**

Jacki Weaver Message from New York

THE REMOVALISTS

Performed by **Laurence Coy** and **Sam O'Sullivan**

Bruce Spence Message from Melbourne

THE CLUB

Film excerpt

Jack Thompson

TRAVELLING NORTH

Performed by **Laurence Coy**, **Emma Diaz**, **Mabel Li** and **Kate Raison**

Bruce Beresford Message from London

Mel Gibson Message from Los Angeles

Craig Reucassel and **Chris Taylor**

John Bell

EMERALD CITY

Performed by **Felix Williamson** and **Rory Williamson**

Sandra Bates

CRUNCH TIME

Performed by **Guy Edmonds** and **John Wood**

RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA

Performed by **Glenn Hazeldine** and **Georgie Parker**

Glenn Hazeldine

David Williamson AO

Mark Kilmurry

Please join us for wine and canapés in Bayly's Bistro

OUR PARTNERS

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

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VICTORIA AND IAN POLLARD

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Executive Director **Loretta Busby**
Chief Financial Officer **David Balfour Wright J.P.**
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Casting & Events **Merran Regan**
Literary Manager **Sarah Odillo Maher**
Artistic Coordinator **Anna Williamson**
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Box Office Team **Alexandra Chambers, Angus Evans, Anita Jerrentrup, Kathryn Siely & Sarah Taylor**
Accounts **Gita Sugiyanto**

Front of House Manager **Jim Birch**
Front of House Supervisors **John Allen, Megan Cribb, Hannah-Rae Meegan & Isabella Wellstead**
Head Chef **Nathan Jackson**
Restaurant Manager **Emma Baker**
Sous Chef **Ian Paul Aguilar Alarcon**
Maintenance Coordinator **Paul Craig**
Caretaker **Bing Barry**
Cleaner **Devi Sharma Upadhaya**

ENSEMBLE LIMITED BOARD

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

ENSEMBLE FOUNDATION BOARD

Chair **Paul Clitheroe AM, Diane Balnaves, Graham Bradley AM, Joanne Cunningham, Ross Gavin, Emma Hodgman, Mark Kilmurry, Victoria Pollard & Margo Weston**

ENSEMBLE AMBASSADORS

Todd McKenney, Brian Meegan, Georgie Parker & Kate Raison

EVENT SUPPORT

This evening has been made possible by the generous support of the following event partners.



Softdrinks supplied
by **DRINKSCENE**

CONNECT WITH US

Join our mailing list at ensemble.com.au to receive the latest news.



(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.