

WORLD PREMIERE
22 JUL – 27 AUG 2022

ENSE
THEATRE
MBE
FOR EVERYONE



THE ONE

BY VANESSA BATES | DIRECTED BY DARREN YAP



WELCOME

I am so thrilled we are finally able to present Vanessa Bates' very funny play, THE ONE, on the Ensemble stage. After a few years germinating, then the covid break, I was fearful it would never happen! But here we are with a fabulous cast, the wonderfully talented Darren Yap directing, and a terrific look at the cultural and traditional clash of strong personalities within the family unit. A huge part of my job is the joy in watching a play develop on its journey to the stage and then being able to sit back, watch with an audience, and thoroughly immerse myself in the story and the play. With the combination of Vanessa and Darren and this exciting cast, I know this is going to be a fun night in the theatre for everyone. Enjoy!

MARK KILMURRY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I remember when I was seven, a man told my mum to 'go back to where you come from', she replied 'what Melbourne?' I was so embarrassed by mum! I only realised years later this was mum's truth. She was Australian. More than Chinese....and so for me one of the themes THE ONE digs into is the idea of: where do you belong? I have lived this truth all my life. Still not quite sure where I fit in.

I love Vanessa's play because some of my hardest conversations with my dad, brother or sister have been in our local Chinese restaurant. Nick Fry (designer) and I have had such a great journey (and yummy Chinese meals) creating Jim's Oriental Restaurant and Milk Bar. Thank you Nick for the fun and the evocative world to play in.

Along the way, I've been so lucky to collaborate with these beautiful theatre makers; Michael Tan, Verity Hampson, Sarah, Lauren, Sophie, Claire, Romy and Paisley. Every step of the way, they have brought their skill and passion to realise THE ONE.

Tonight you will witness the extraordinary talents of Angie, Shan-Ree, Damien, Gabby and Aileen. All of whom have made the rehearsal room a joy to be in. We have shared many stories of being Asian-Australian. I dedicate THE ONE to my brother's kids; Noa, Chile, Jaz and Jaga. They are Eurasian. They are Australian. And they belong to the world.

DARREN YAP

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.

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WRITER'S NOTE

'Writer's notes' are funny things; part memoir, part confession, part joyous outburst: yay, it's a play! With an audience! In a pandemic!

Two Eurasian siblings, Mel and Eric, Malaysian and Australian, feeling both and neither. Mel's memory of childhood is not the same as Eric's even though they are siblings who experienced similar childhood upbringings. Penang of the past seems a magical place; Mel faced a baby cobra, Eric thinks he remembers a shop full of paper clothes, they both remember the incense smoke. But the past is a tricky thing and opening the door ushers in early memories of Australia too, ballroom dancing trophies yes but also a family fracturing, casual and not so casual racism, bullying and abuse.

THE ONE is a story of being Asian Australian, we people who occupy the liminal space, with one foot rooted heavily here in Australia and the other delicately poised across an ocean. Blending identity, culture and family make a potent soup, and so it is for all with our feet in two worlds, tasting 'chunks neither chicken nor corn'.

VANESSA BATES

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SYNOPSIS

Mel's got a lot on her plate. Between the anxiety inducing return of her mother from their old home in Malaysia, her brother Eric's mysterious double life and the pressure of caring for her mother's prized poodle, Mel is hungry for more simplicity. In the world premiere of this new and eccentric family comedy, award winning playwright Vanessa Bates colourfully unravels the complexities of what it means to be Eurasian in contemporary Australia. Energetically funny and affectionately provocative, THE ONE is a sizzling hotpot of food, culture and identity.

RUNNING TIME

2HR 5MINS (INCL. INTERVAL)

REC. AGES 14+

SOME STRONG LANGUAGE

COMMISSIONED BY

ENSEMBLE'S LITERARY FUND

CAST

HELEN **GABRIELLE CHAN**

MEL **ANGIE DIAZ**

JESS **AILEEN HUYNH**

CAL **DAMIEN STROUTHOS**

ERIC **SHAN-REE TAN**

UNDERSTUDIES

SAM O'SULLIVAN, MONICA SAYERS &

GARETH YUEN

CREATIVES

DIRECTOR **DARREN YAP**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **SOPHIE KELLY**

DRAMATURG **SARAH ODILLO MAHER**

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **NICK FRY**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **VERITY HAMPSON**

COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

MICHAEL TAN

STAGE MANAGER **LAUREN TULLOH**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER **DREW REDDY**

COSTUME SUPERVISOR **RENATA BESLIK**

CHOREOGRAPHER **ANGIE DIAZ**

SET AND COSTUME DESIGN SECONDMENT

MADALEINE COOPER

MAKEUP ARTIST, HAIR & WIG STYLIST

LINDSEY CHAPMAN



VANESSA BATES

PLAYWRIGHT

Vanessa Bates is an award-winning playwright and screen-writer.

Previous plays include A GHOST IN MY SUITCASE

(the play), TRAILER, EVERY SECOND, THE MAGIC HOUR, PORN.CAKE, CHECKLIST FOR AN ARMED ROBBER, DARLING OSCAR, and most recently SMALL HARD TRUTHS. Vanessa has been produced at The Sydney Opera House, Victorian Arts Centre, Malthouse Theatre, Barking Gecko, Sydney Theatre Company, Darlinghurst Theatre, Black Swan Theatre, Griffin, Deckchair, Theatre@Risk, atyp, Tantrum and many others. For her plays she has won Australian Writers Guild Awards and a NSW Premiers Literary Award and been nominated for the Griffin and Patrick White Awards. Most of Vanessa's plays have been published. In 2021 several short scripts were included in two anthologies: THE CURVE and SHARP DARTS (both by Currency Press). THE ONE is Vanessa's second play produced by the Ensemble, her first play was LIGHT BEGINS TO FADE written as part of THE ANZAC PROJECT in 2015.



DARREN YAP DIRECTOR

Darren returned early this year from DUBAI WORLD EXPO 2020 where he staged cultural shows at Al Wasal Plaza for Artists in Motion. In April 2022 he directed JOSEPH AND

HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT in Tokyo and his production of THE LAST FIVE YEARS for La Boite Theatre, Brisbane, opened to acclaim in June. In August, Darren will direct a new Australian work YONG for Monkey Baa Theatre. In 2020-2021 Darren directed NEXT TO NORMAL for NIDA; the re-mount of JESUS WANTS ME FOR A SUNBEAM for The National Theatre of Parramatta at Belvoir Street and DOUBLE DELICIOUS for The Sydney Festival and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP). Darren is a Director who has worked in the Australian and overseas industry for more than 30 years.



SOPHIE KELLY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Sophie is a recipient of the 2022 Ensemble Theatre Sandra Bates Director's Award. This year for Ensemble

SPECIAL THANKS

Minnie Cooper (Aaron Farley), Janet Hine, Jane Phegan, Julia Robertson, David Yap, Kian Voon Yau, Bell Shakespeare Company, NIDA

Ensemble Theatre's commission of THE ONE was made possible thanks to the generous support of Jane Tham and Philip Maxwell.

REHEARSAL IMAGES BY JAIMI JOY





Theatre she worked as the Understudy Director on *A DOLL'S HOUSE*, and later this year will also work as Assistant Director on *PHOTOGRAPH 51*. Outside of Ensemble, Sophie most recently directed Andy Griffith's *JUST MACBETH!* as a co-production for Bell Shakespeare and the NSW Arts Unit. Her other directing credits include: *JUST ROMEO AND JULIET* for Bell Shakespeare's Players (2019-21 national tours); the highly acclaimed ATYP National Writer's Studio production, *INTERSECTION: ARRIVAL* (Griffin Theatre) and the Australian premiere of ATYP's Foundation Commission play, *WONDERFLY*. Sophie is also an Artist in Residence with The Sydney Opera House Creative Leadership in Learning Program. She is a graduate of VCA (Bachelor of Performing Arts (Acting)) and the University of Sydney Law School (LLB).



SARAH ODILLO MAHER DRAMATURG

Sarah is Literary Manager at Ensemble Theatre. She holds a master's degree in Writing for Performance (NIDA) and has worked as a script consultant, script editor and researcher for Screentime Pty Ltd, Shine Australia, Endemol Southern Star; and Southern Star John Edwards on a number of dramas including *RUSH*; *PETER ALLEN: NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR* and *CATCHING MILAT*. She wrote *WHEN THE DEAD AWAKEN* for theatre collective The Revolt and her short films include *DIRECTIONS* (Adelaide Film Festival) and *ANGEL* (Definition Digital Media, UK). She has written for *Celebrity Speakers Australia* and was Special Projects Manager for the Australian Writers' Guild.



GABRIELLE CHAN HELEN

Gabrielle has been performing Chinese opera for over 20 years in Australia and internationally. Recent theatre productions include *HALF TIME* (Hayes), *I'M WITH HER* (Darlinghurst), *GOLDEN SHIELD* (MTC),

AUSTRALIAN GRAFFITI, *CHIMERICA* (STC), *THE QUIET BROTHER* (Belvoir) and *SILENCE* (LaMama). Feature films: *ACCIDENTAL GET AWAY DRIVER* (USA), *FIVE BLIND DATES*, *HERE OUT WEST*, *JASPER JONES*, *THE HOME SONG STORIES*; Television productions include *EXPATS* (USA) opposite Nicole Kidman, *WELLMANIA*, *THE TWELVE*, *DOCTOR DOCTOR*, *HERE COME THE HABIBS*, *THE SECRETS SHE KEEPS*, *THE COMMONS*, *HUNGRY GHOSTS*, *RAKE*, *CITY HOMICIDE*, *MAXIMUM CHOPPAGE* and *KICK*. Gabrielle won the Outstanding Performance Award 2016 at the 25th Sydney Film School Festival, *KIJO*, and in 2021 was an ensemble recipient of the Australian MEAA Screen Awards for Best TV Drama Ensemble, *HUNGRY GHOSTS*.



ANGIE DIAZ MEL/ CHOREOGRAPHER

Angie Diaz, raised in Darwin on Larrakia Country, is a graduate of WAAPA. An actor, dancer, choreographer and director. Angie's career thus far has been as diverse as the cultural melting pot of her hometown. Recent Performance credits include, *PARADISE LOST* with Poetry in Action, and *CATS CRADLE* with Legs on the Wall and Dance Theatre work *AWKWARD*, directed by Cadi McCarthy. Screen credits include *NINE PERFECT STRANGERS*, *HEART BREAK HIGH*, *HOME & AWAY*, *UNDERBELLY BADNESS*, *THE UNLISTED* and the Pink Power Ranger in *POWER RANGERS MYSTIC FORCE*. For choreography in 2021 Angie was the Artistic Director of *Yadhaba Ngura* for Naisda Dance College. Angie has choreographed for *Flipside*, *Catapult Dance* and completed residencies at *Catapult Choreographic hub*, *Newcastle*, and *Critical Path* for her work *HYSTERIA*. Angie holds a BA Dance with Honours. She is a founding member of *LINK Dance Company*. *THE ONE* will be Angie's choreographic debut with Ensemble Theatre.



AILEEN HUYNH JESS

Aileen is an acting graduate from WAAPA and The University of Wollongong. She was last treading the boards with Ensemble for David Williamson's world premiere of *THE BIG TIME* and is very excited to be returning for *THE ONE*. Other recent theatre credits include *THE MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE* (Sydney Festival), *GLORIA* (MTC), *FLIGHT PATHS* (NToP), *4000 MILES* (Critical Stages) and Performing Lines' *HELLO GOODBYE & HAPPY BIRTHDAY*. In 2019 she made her directorial debut with Sam Wang's comedy stage show *SKYDUCK: A CHINESE SPY COMEDY* with Belvoir 25a. Her screen credits include *BETTER MAN*, *NEIGHBOURS*, *THE COMMONS*, *SIGNIFICANT OTHERS* and as mad scientist Everick in series 1&2 of *CLEVERMAN*.



DAMIEN STROUTHOS CAL

A WAAPA graduate of 2012, Damien has worked extensively across television, film and theatre for over a decade. Film credits include; *I AM WOMAN* (Dir. Unjoo Moon), *TRANSFUSION* (Dir. Matt Nable), *PETER RABBIT 1&2* (Dir. Will Gluck), as well as the Western Australian Screen Academy shorts, *THE DOOR* and *CHOICES* for which

he won Best Actor in 2012 at the WASA Awards. Damien recently wrapped on the Easy Tiger/ Warner Brother production *THE TWELVE* as a series lead. Damien also appeared in *THE TOURIST* (HBO Max/BBC), *WONDERLAND* (Network 10), *HOME AND AWAY* (7 Network), *FRAYED* (ABC), and the Netflix Original series *PIECES OF HER*.



SHAN-REE TAN ERIC

Shan-Ree last appeared at the Ensemble Theatre in March 2022 as Robert Hooke, Isaac Newton's nemesis, in the Sydney premiere of David Williamson's *NEARER THE GODS*. He received the 2021 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Performance in a Leading Role in an Independent Production for his role as DHH in David Henry Hwang's *YELLOW FACE* for Dinosaurs Productions and Kings X Theatre in May 2021. Other theatre credits include *AS YOU LIKE IT* (Sport for Jove); *WIT* (Clock & Spiel); *PYGMALION* and *NELL GWYNN* (New Theatre); and *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT* (Secret House). He was born in Sydney and has lived and studied in Malaysia and the United States. He is a graduate of Columbia University (BA), UNSW (LLB) and the Australian Film Television and Radio School (Producing & Screen Business).



SAM O'SULLIVAN UNDERSTUDY

Sam is a NIDA graduate and has worked with the likes of Ensemble Theatre, Belvoir St. Theatre, Darlinghurst Theatre, Griffin Independent, Mophead Productions, Sport for Jove and Pantsguys. He was nominated for Sydney Theatre Awards for his performances in *PUNK ROCK* and *JOURNEY'S END*. His screen credits include the feature film *CROSSING PATHS* and television series *CLASS OF '07*, *AMAZING GRACE*, *ON THE ROPES*, *BLACK COMEDY*, *WONDERLAND*, *PACKED TO THE RAFTERS* and *FAST TRACKS*. Sam is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. His plays include *THE BLOCK UNIVERSE*, *THE WIND IN THE UNDERGROUND*, *CHARLIE PILGRIM*, *YOU'RE NOT SPECIAL* and *BOXING DAY BBQ*, which will premiere at Ensemble Theatre in late 2022.



MONICA SAYERS UNDERSTUDY

Monica Sayers is an Actors Centre Australia and National Institute of Dramatic Art graduate. Monica's main theatre highlights are *DEAD CAESAR*, *CHIMERICA*, *AUSTRALIAN GRAFFITI*, *THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI* and *CHEERY SOUL* (Sydney Theatre Company) *HAY FEVER* (Melbourne Theatre



Company) *KASAMA KITA* (Belvoir 25A) *THE HYPOCHONDRIAC* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company) *VISITING HOURS*, *HIS MOTHER'S VOICE* (Bakehouse Theatre Company) *DR WHO'S SYMPHONIC SPECTACULAR* (Sydney Opera House) *HALF TIME* (Hayes Theatre), *BREATHING CORPSES* (KXT), *POMONA* (KXT), *MOON RABBIT RISING* (25A Belvoir). Television highlights are *RAKE*, *LOVE MY WAY*, *ALL SAINTS*, *UK'S THE ROYALS*. She has featured in countless commercials, corporate videos, short films and voiceovers. Feature film work includes *HARMONY* (Harmony Productions). Monica is a proud Australian born Chinese artist and is in the midst of developing the story of her cabaret singing parents in the 1970s around the Sydney club circuit.



GARETH YUEN UNDERSTUDY

Gareth Yuen's career spans theatre, film, radio and television across Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Early TV credits: *HEADSTART* for ABC/Foxtel; *'HOP SING' IN PONDEROSA* (US Cable TV's prequel to *Bonanza*), *ROUND THE TWIST*; *NEIGHBOURS*; *KATH & KIM* and many others. He then took a three year hiatus from the industry to attend NIDA. Since graduating, he's been seen on *UNDERBELLY*; and globally as the 'Blue Ranger' in the inimitable U.S. action series,

POWER RANGERS: OPERATION OVERDRIVE, and in the acclaimed feature film, THE JAMMED. Gareth has regularly performed and developed new work with Melbourne Theatre Company. As Director, Gareth won best play in the inaugural Collingwood 24-hour Play Festival. More recently: Malthouse Theatre's adaptation of Lars von Trier's MELANCHOLIA, and the pilot reboot of L.A. CONFIDENTIAL for CBS (USA). Currently he can be seen in HUNGRY GHOSTS on SBS.



NICK FRY
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Nick is a Set and Costume Designer specialising in Theatre, Opera and Live Events. Nick holds both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Masters of Fine Arts in Design for Performance from the National Institute of Dramatic Art. Recent design credits include: For Artists in Motion: Set Designer for Daily Productions at DUBAI EXPO 2020. For Betty Productions: Associate Production Designer for 48TH UAE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. For Opera Australia: Design Assistant for MADAME BUTTERFLY. For NIDA: Set and Costume Designer for NEXT TO NORMAL. Nick is also a lecturer at NIDA and has worked for major theatre and events companies in Australia and internationally as a designer and draftsperson.



VERITY HAMPSON
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Verity's lighting designs for theatre include: A DOLL'S HOUSE, BABY DOLL, FULLY COMMITTED (Ensemble Theatre); CITY OF GOLD (with BSSTC), GRAND HORIZONS, 7 STAGES OF GRIEVING, HOME, I'M DARLING, BLACKIE BLACKIE BROWN, HAMLET: PRINCE OF SKIDMARK, MACHINAL, LITTLE MERCY (Sydney Theatre Company); WAKE IN FRIGHT (Malthouse); DEATH OF A SALESMAN (Queensland Theatre); TITUS ANDRONICUS, JULIUS CAESAR, A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT

DREAM (Bell Shakespeare); WINYANBOGA YURRINGA, AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, SAMI IN PARADISE, FAITH HEALER, IVANOV, THE BLIND GIANT IS DANCING, THE DROVER'S WIFE (Belvoir); LIZZIE (Hayes); GHOSTING THE PARTY, ORANGE THROWER, DOGGED, SUPERHEROES, A STRATEGIC PLAN, TURQUOISE ELEPHANT, THE BLEEDING TREE, MUSIC, BEACHED, THE BULL, THE MOON AND THE CORONET OF STARS, THE FLOATING WORLD, THE BOYS (Griffin); DUNGARRI NYA NYA (Dancenorth). Verity is a recipient of the Mike Walsh Fellowship; three Sydney Theatre Awards; a Green Room Award; and an APDG Award for Best Lighting Design.



MICHAEL TAN COMPOSER
& SOUND DESIGNER

Michael Tan is an Australian composer, producer, and musical director. He has composed soundtracks to numerous international events, including the WORLD EXPO IN DUBAI (2021), and the OPENING CEREMONY OF THE XXI COMMONWEALTH GAMES (2018). The latter included a composition performed by Queensland Symphony Orchestra, composed for the arrival of the Queen's Baton received by Prince Charles. Michael has also composed TV Theme Songs for Dreamworks and Nickelodeon, and produced the soundtrack to the feature I AM WOMAN, which was subsequently awarded Best Original Soundtrack at the 2020 ARIA awards.



LAUREN TULLOH
STAGE MANAGER

Lauren Tulloh is a NIDA graduate, completing a Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Production). For Ensemble Theatre: A LETTER FOR MOLLY, LOVE LETTERS, KILLING KATIE, THE WOMAN IN BLACK, THE APPLETON LADIES' POTATO RACE (2021 regional tour), OUTDATED, THE LAST WIFE, THE

LAST FIVE YEARS, MARJORIE PRIME, THE PLANT and BETRAYAL. For National Theatre of Parramatta: QUEEN FATIMA, THE THINGS I COULD NEVER TELL STEVEN and JESUS WANTS ME FOR A SUNBEAM (Belvoir return season). For the Hayes Theatre Company: REWIRED: MUSICALS REIMAGINED, AMERICAN PSYCHO, HIGH FIDELITY, ASSASSINS, THE FANTASTICKS, VIOLET and CALAMITY JANE which also toured to the Comedy Theatre Melbourne, Belvoir & regional areas. For Christine Dunstan Productions: THE GRUFFALO and THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD for which toured extensively in Australia & New Zealand. For Tall Stories UK: THE GRUFFALO: SONGS FROM THE SHOW which toured to Singapore.



RENATA BESLIK
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Renata graduated from NIDA in 2007 with a Bachelor in Costume Production. She has supervised costumes on over twenty shows for Ensemble Theatre most recently NEARER THE GODS. Other supervising credits: ORONTEA, PLATEÉ, APOLLO AND DAFNE, A DELICATE FIRE, FARNACE, THE RETURN OF ULYSSES, ARTASERSE, ATHALIA, THE CORONATION OF POPPEA, RAMEAU: ANACREON AND PIGMALION, THEODORA (Pinchgut Opera); BETTY BLOKK-BUSTER (Sydney Festival); FANGIRLS (Belvoir); HAMLET, 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 THREESOME (NIDA). Renata is also an accomplished costume maker and milliner.





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We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Ensemble community for all the incredible support you give us.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters to the 2022 EOFY campaign and with matched by the NSW Government, we have raised the funds needed to upgrade the lights in our theatre.

An improved lighting system will reduce our climate footprint; increase safety for audiences; and provide flexibility and greater capacity for creativity and artistry. A win-win scenario for all who work at, and visit Ensemble.

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Joe Sbarro

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2 SEP - 8 OCT
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 BY ANNA ZIEGLER



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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.