

16 JUN - 22 JUL

ENS
THEATRE
MBE
FOR EVERYONE



BY MICHAEL FRAYN

BENEFACTORS

DIRECTED BY MARK KILMURRY



WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I'm so thrilled to be finally working on *BENEFACTORS*, Michael Frayn's extraordinary playful comedy drama from 1984. I first saw this play as a television version and was intrigued by the blending of social commentary and comedy. Rereading the play all these years later I was struck by its relevance, the subject matter in terms of housing being as much of a concern today as when it was set. The relationships of course are timeless, and the beauty of the play is in the recognition of ourselves. I am very excited to be working with such wonderful actors and creatives who have made, and continue to make, working on this play such a joy. Enjoy.

MARK KILMURRY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



SYNOPSIS

David, a determined architect, strives to improve the quality of urban housing but his futile attempts lead to chaos when the high-rise boom goes bust and close friends are caught in the crossfire.

Writer Michael Frayn, creator of international hits COPENHAGEN and NOISES OFF, explores what it is to be human in a statistically driven world, in this Olivier Award-winning comedy set in the late 1960s.

CAST

GARETH DAVIES DAVID
MEGAN DRURY SHEILA
MATT MINTO COLIN
EMMA PALMER JANE

CREATIVES

Director
MARK KILMURRY
Assistant Director
MARGARET THANOS

Set & Costume Designer
NICK FRY
Lighting Designer
MATT COX
Sound Designer
DAVID GRIGG
Dialect Coach
LINDA NICHOLLS-GIDLEY
Stage Manager
ISABELLA KERDIJK
Costume Supervisor
RENATA BESLIK

RUNNING TIME
2 HRS 20 MINS (WITH INTERVAL)
REC. AGES 14+

SPECIAL THANKS

LINDSEY CHAPMAN Hair Stylist

Ensemble Theatre proudly acknowledges the Cammeraiagal 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.

Rehearsal images by Jaimi Joy





MICHAEL FRAYN
PLAYWRIGHT

Michael Frayn was born in London in 1933 and began his career as a journalist on the Guardian and the Observer. He has written seventeen plays, including NOISES OFF, COPENHAGEN, and DEMOCRACY, translated Chekhov's last four plays, and adapted the first as WILD HONEY. His screenplays include CLOCKWISE, and among his eleven novels are THE TIN MEN, TOWARDS THE END OF THE MORNING, HEADLONG, SPIES, and SKIOS. Non-fiction: THE HUMAN TOUCH and MY FATHER'S FORTUNE. Most recent: three collections of short entertainments, MATCHBOX THEATRE, POCKET PLAYHOUSE, and MAGIC MOBILE. He is married to the writer Claire Tomalin.



MARK KILMURRY
DIRECTOR

Mark is the Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre. Recent directing credits include: RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA, BOXING DAY BBQ, A DOLL'S HOUSE, THE WOMAN IN BLACK, OUTDATED, KENNY, 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's feature film; BEING GAVIN, co-directed with Owen Elliot, and starring Catherine Moore and Jamie Oxenbould, is playing as a finalist in many international festivals and has American distribution. Mark is the recipient of many awards and recently the North Sydney Community Award. Mark recently illustrated Tracey Trinder's children's

book CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS which has been published by Popcorn Press/Fairplay Publishing, with all proceeds going to the Northern Beaches Community Cancer Charity, which helps people living with cancer on Sydney's Northern Beaches.



MARGARET THANOS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Margaret Thanos is an award-winning Cypriot-Australian director and performer, based across London and Sydney. In 2022,

Margaret directed the Australian premiere of LABYRINTH at Flight Path and the world premiere of A GRAIN OF SAND at KXT, both to rave reviews. She is the co-artistic director of Meraki Arts Bar on Oxford Street and her debut short THROUGH THE WINDOW THEY CAME is currently in post-production. Margaret is one of Plan International's advocates and her production company Queen Hades works to find the intersections between activism and art. Margaret is one of the 2023 recipients of Ensemble's Sandra Bates Director's Award.



GARETH DAVIES DAVID

Recent credits include Theatre STC: LIFESPAN OF A FACT, HOME, I'M DARLING, THE TORRENTS, HOW TO RULE THE WORLD, SAINT JOAN. MTC: HAY FEVER, THE

CHERRY ORCHARD. QTC: BERNHARDT/HAMLET. Griffin Theatre Company: THE LITERATI, FEATHER IN THE WEB. *Bell Shakespeare*: AS YOU LIKE IT. Belvoir: THE ROVER, PETER PAN, AS YOU LIKE IT, THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR (with Malthouse Theatre), CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, THE SEAGULL, AND THEY CALLED HIM MR GLAMOUR, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Ensemble Theatre: NEARER THE GODS. The Hayloft Project: THE ONLY CHILD, THE SUICIDE, 3XSISTERS. Windmill Theatre: HANS + GRET. Black Lung: RUBEVILLE, AVAST I & II, DOKU RAI, I FEEL AWFUL. Redline: MASTERCLASS,





MASTERCLASS 2: FLAMES OF THE FORGE. Film: ELVIS, PETER RABBIT, LITTLE MONSTERS, THE DAUGHTER, I AM WOMAN. TV: WOLF LIKE ME, ROSEHAVEN, FRAYED, THE LETDOWN, HUNTERS, THE ELEGANT GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO KNIFE FIGHTING.



EMMA PALMER JANE

A 2007 NIDA graduate, Emma's theatre credits include, CRUNCH TIME (Ensemble Theatre); MACBETH, JULIUS CAESAR, TWELFTH NIGHT (Sport For Jove); THE GODS THE GODS (Wright&Grainger); A MIDNIGHT VISIT (Broad Encounters); SWALLOW (NTofP); RUBEN GUTHRIE (Belvoir); TATTOO (Griffin); LOVE'S TRIUMPH (Darlinghurst); CLOSER (The Street Theatre, Canberra). Megan's screen credits include: feature film THE SCHOOL; television series' FIGHTING SEASON, UNDERBELLY III: THE GOLDEN MILE, PACKED TO THE RAFTERS, RESCUE SPECIAL OPS, COPS L.A.C., ALL SAINTS, HOME AND AWAY. Megan has also worked as: Co-Director TAMMANY HALL (NYC); Assistant Director THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (SFJ, Syd); Creative Associate ETERNITYLAND (Dancing Giant, Syd); Associate Artist / Dance Captain A MIDNIGHT VISIT (Perth/Melb).



MEGAN DRURY SHEILA

Matt's theatre credits include RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA, THE BIG TIME, ODD MAN OUT, CRUNCH TIME: Ensemble Theatre; ANGELS IN AMERICA PARTS ONE AND TWO: Silo Theatre; EVERYTHING AFTER: Q Theatre, COCK: Auckland Live; RABBIT: Circa Theatre; THE PRIDE: Darlinghurst Theatre; COCK: Red Line productions; TWELFTH NIGHT: Bedlam Theatre Edinburgh. TV and film credits include THE BAD SEED, THE BLUE ROSE and SHORTLAND STREET; South Pacific Pictures; HOME AND AWAY: Seven Network; INFINI: Storm Alley Entertainment.



NICK FRY

Set & Costume Designer Nick is a Scenic 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. For Ensemble Theatre: Set and Costume Designer for THE ONE. 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 Opera Australia/Cameron Mackintosh: Design Associate for MISS SAIGON.



MATT MINTO COLIN

Nick is a Scenic Designer specialising in Theatre, Opera and Live Events. Nick holds both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Masters of Fine Arts in



MATT COX
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Since arriving in Sydney in 2003, Matt has designed numerous theatre productions including for Bangarra Dance Theatre:

WARU JOURNEY OF THE SMALL TURTLE, DUBBOO, ONE'S COUNTRY, OUR LAND PEOPLE STORIES, BLAK, BELONG. for The Hayes Theatre Company: SHE LOVES ME. for Ensemble Theatre: A CHRISTMAS CAROL, BOXING DAY BBQ, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, A BROADCAST COUP, THE CARETAKER, NEARER THE GODS, DIPLOMACY, MURDER ON THE WIRELESS for Bell Shakespeare: THE MISER, HAMLET, ROMEO AND JULIET. for Monkey Baa: EDWARD THE EMU, POSSUM MAGIC, THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, DIARY OF A WOMBAT. for STC: WHARF REVUE 2020, 2019, 2018, and RUBY MOON. for William Zappa: THE ILIAD OUT LOUD. for Sport for Jove: THE LIBERTINE, OTHELLO, ANTIGONE, THE RIVER AT THE END OF THE ROAD, THE TEMPEST. for Red Line Productions: THIS MUCH IS TRUE, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE. for Sydney Festival: THE FAMOUS SPIEGELTENT, THE AURORA SPIEGELTENT, as well as for Carriageworks, Siren Theatre Co, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Musica Viva and the Sydney Chamber Opera.



DAVID GRIGG
SOUND DESIGNER

David is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and sound engineer from Sydney, Australia. He creates a sound ranging from

ambient/electronic to heavy/cinematic. He mixes live sound for Sydney Opera House, and is currently a sound design mentor at NIDA. David's sound design credits include designs for Ensemble Theatre, Hayes Theatre Co, Josh Robson Productions, Michelle Guthrie Presents, New Musicals Australia, National Theatre of Parramatta, Bloom Creative Productions and Packemin Productions. David is passionate about

experimentation, sound textures and space. He believes that new colours, rhythms and textures can be found in the infinite possibilities that sound design can bring to classical tone and instrumentation. He also values silence, as the place that allows sound to exist, that resets our awareness.



LINDA NICHOLLS-GIDLEY
DIALECT COACH

Linda is a sought-after accent and dialect coach. Theatre coaching includes CLYDES, SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER, PONY, BEAUTIFUL

THE MUSICAL, BREAKING THE CASTLE, THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, CINDERELLA, 9 TO 5, THE CARETAKER, PHOTOGRAPH 51, AN AMERICAN IN PARIS, JAGGED LITTLE PILL, GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY, A CHORUS LINE, ONCE, COUNTING AND CRACKING, HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON, SHREK, SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, THE BODYGUARD, and DIRTY DANCING. Film and Television includes SHANTARAM, WELLMANIA, YEAR OF, GORGON, MARY: THE MAKING OF A PRINCESS, THE CHASE AUSTRALIA, JUNGLE, THE HOLLOW, and VINCENT. Linda discusses accents on her podcast SAY YOU SAY ME, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, BRADY'S HUNCH and DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC.



ISABELLA KERDIJK
STAGE MANAGER

Isabella graduated from the production course at the National Institute of Dramatic Art in 2008. She has worked as a stage manager and

assistant stage manager on many shows, including: for Griffin: AND NO MORE SHALL WE PART, GREEN PARK, REPLAY, SEX MAGICK, THE SMALLEST HOUR, THIS YEAR'S ASHES, UGLY MUGS, WHITEFELLA YELLA TREE, WICKED SISTERS; for Belvoir: AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, THE DOG/ THE CAT, THE DROVER'S WIFE, EVERY BRILLIANT THING, FANGIRLS, GIRL ASLEEP, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, HIR, JASPER



RENATA BESLIK
COSTUME DESIGNER

Renata graduated from NIDA in 2007 with a bachelor in Costume Production. She has supervised costumes for twenty-six shows at

Ensemble Theatre with the most recent being RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA. Other supervising credits includes twelve operas for Pinchgut Opera most recently being MEDÉE, DARKNESS (New Theatricals), FANGIRLS (Belvoir St), BETTY BLOKK-BUSTER RE-IMAGINED (Sydney Festival), 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 for films like THE GREAT GATSBY.

JONES, KILL THE MESSENGER, MOTHER, MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN, MY NAME IS JIMI, STORIES I WANT TO TELL YOU IN PERSON (National Tour), THE SUGAR HOUSE, THYESTES (European Tours), WINYANBOGA YURRINGA; for Sydney Theatre Company; BLITHE SPIRIT; for Circus Oz: CRANKED UP; for Darlinghurst Theatre Company: FOURPLAY, RIDE, SILENT NIGHT; for Ensemble Theatre: BOXING DAY BBQ, RAINMAN, THE RUBY SUNRISE; for Legs on the Wall: BUBBLE; for LWAA: THE MOUSETRAP (Australia/New Zealand Tours); for Spiegelworld: EMPIRE.



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This year, we're celebrating an amazing 65 years. Your support is key to our ongoing success, creating exceptional theatre that you have come to expect from Ensemble. Help us continue to engage the best actors, directors, and designers in the country. A gift of any size makes a huge difference to Ensemble Theatre. So this End of Financial Year, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Let's keep Ensemble here for the next 65 years and beyond! You can donate at ensemble.com.au/support-us/play-your-part or by calling Stephen Attfield on 02 8918 3400. We thank you in advance.



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Philip Maxwell & Jane Tham
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George & Diana Shirling

LEAVE A LEGACY

We would like to thank the following Estates for their generous donations:
Estate of Freddie Bluhm
Estate of Helen Gordon
Estate of Leo Mamontoff
Estate of Dimitry Nesteroff
Estate of Margaret Stenhouse

ENCORE CIRCLE

Thank you to the following people for bequests in their wills:
Mark Midwinter
Joe Sbarro
Anonymous x 5

SHINING LIGHTS \$1000 - \$4999

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Ensemble Theatre supporters are recognised for 12 months from the dates of donation. Current at 29 May 2023.



COMMISSIONERS' CIRCLE

Since 2016, Ensemble has commissioned 14 new Australian plays and premiered 16, with another 5 new productions to premiere by the end of 2023. We've commissioned playwrights such as Joanna Murray-Smith, Steve Rodgers, Hilary Bell, Melanie Tait, Geoffrey Atherden and Vanessa Bates to name but a few.

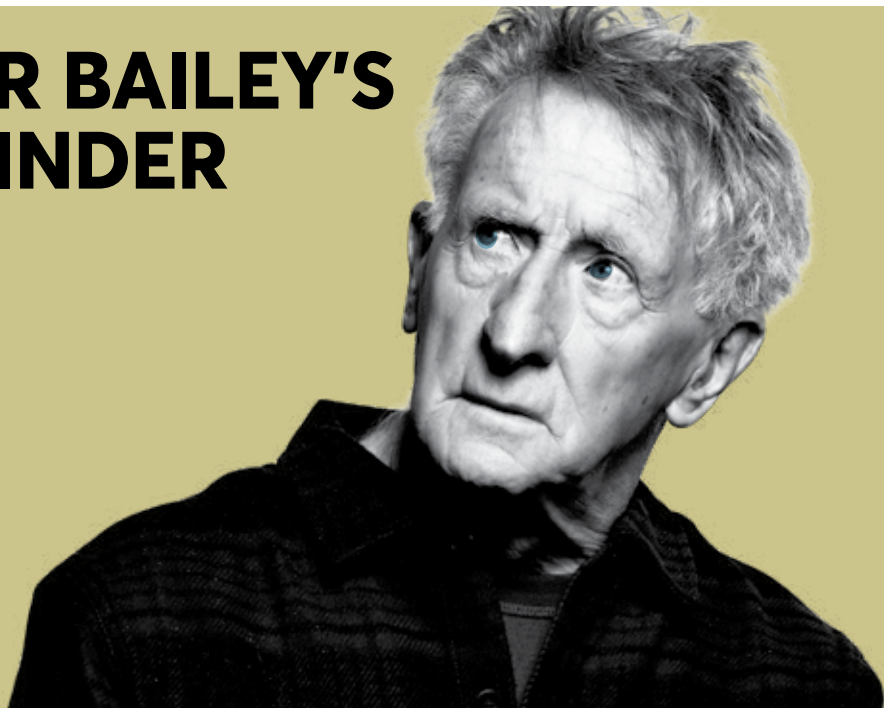
The Commissioners' Circle comprises a group of likeminded Ensemble supporters who are passionate about storytelling and supporting artists to create new work for our stage.

What does it take to be involved?

A belief and passion for new Australian plays. To join this community, please contact Stephen Attfield, Philanthropy & Partnerships Manager, on **02 8918 3400** or email stephena@ensemble.com.au

IN RECENT YEARS UNDER THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORSHIP OF MARK KILMURRY, ENSEMBLE HAS CHAMPIONED ESTABLISHED, NEW AND EMERGING TALENT WITH A FOCUS ON DEVELOPING PLAYWRIGHTS WHO REFLECT CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY ON THE STAGE.

MR BAILEY'S MINDER



BY DEBRA OSWALD | DIRECTED BY DAMIEN RYAN

28 JUL – 2 SEP

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

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LY'S**
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