

5 MAY – 10 JUN
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

ENS
THEATRE
MBE
FOR EVERYONE



BY LYNN NOTTAGE

CLYDE'S

DIRECTED BY DARREN YAP

WELCOME

Lynn Nottage's *CLYDE'S* is one of those wonderful plays that makes you think while laughing at the smart and fabulous characters the writer has created. It can be a challenge for previously incarcerated individuals to make a fresh start. Places like Clyde's truck stop diner may offer an employment opportunity but at what cost to their wellbeing. Perhaps the hope of building a new way of life is in the interaction with similar people in a similar situation.

I am thrilled this amazing team of cast and creatives has the marvellously talented Darren Yap at the helm, bringing us a real treat in the best of storytelling theatre. Enjoy.

MARK KILMURRY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WRITER'S NOTE

On a nondescript stretch of road, in Berks County, Pennsylvania, traveled by those looking for shortcuts, detours or merely escape, sits a sandwich shop called Clyde's. It is a strange, liminal space occupied by a motley group of folk down on their luck and looking for a second chance at life. Frequented by truckers and the occasional local, Clyde's like many small businesses in post-industrial America is trying hard to carve out space in a rapidly evolving landscape. But what Clyde's has going for it is a group of diverse, driven, and endearing characters, who despite having made some serious mistakes in their lives are still determined to find beauty, meaning, and humor in the simple business of living. At its heart, it is a dramedy about creativity, resilience, mindfulness, community, and the healing power of delicious food. The marvellous thing about a sandwich is the delightful ways ordinary foods can be combined to create extraordinary culinary outcomes. Two pieces of bread, a sliced tomato, a protein, a bed of lettuce, and a condiment... these ingredients on their own aren't so special, but when combined with intention, love, and craft, they become more than the sum of their parts. Savory and sweet, dissonant and harmonious.

LYNN NOTTAGE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"*CLYDE'S* is a story about creativity. It's about the way in which we can look at the tools that we have right in front of us and figure out how with very little, we can assemble all of those ingredients in order to build a life that perhaps needs resuscitation." (Lynn Nottage, *VOGUE* interview)

When Mark and Claire asked me to direct *CLYDE'S*, I remember my heart burst with joy. The play has dark themes of incarceration and America's shocking poverty, but somehow the light shines through the cracks in this story. *CLYDE'S* is a conversation about healing.

This story is fundamentally about community and kindness. It's about forgiving yourself. On a universal level it warns us to be cautious, not to condemn people; that we don't have the right to marginalise people.

Even though these people have all broken the law, we know their stories; they have been driven to 'crime' because of their personal circumstances. Somewhere in a

truck stop diner in Pennsylvania they come together in this grimy kitchen. Through the simple act of sandwich making, they learn to rebuild their lives.

Thank you Simone, for creating this deliciously detailed kitchen. We had so much fun. I've been fortunate to collaborate with these beautiful theatre-makers; Max, Roger, Morgan, Lauren, Ayesha, Jessica, Monica, Nigel, Linda, Claire, Romy and Paisley. Every step of the way they've brought their skill and passion to realise *CLYDE'S*.

Finally, from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU Nancy, Ebony, Aaron, Gabriel and Charles for imprinting your souls onto these extraordinary people, and breathing life into this story.

If there is a message we can take from *CLYDE'S* it's that we are not bound by our mistakes. We can re-build a life. We are worthy of love. We can have a second chance.

DARREN YAP

SYNOPSIS

On a long stretch of highway, in the middle of here and there, Clyde's truck stop diner sizzles with the aroma of possibility and redemption. Between slinging grilled cheese and tuna melts, the formerly incarcerated kitchen staff at Clyde's dream of creating the perfect recipe. Led by sandwich sensei Montrelous, can the team juggle customer orders, dark pasts and their boss' incessant mind games to avoid having their aspirations burnt to a crisp?

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner (for RUINED and SWEAT) Lynn Nottage layers ripe wit, flavourful characters and surprises in this poignant story of sandwiches and second chances. Ensemble presents the Australian premiere of this Tony Award nominated 2021 Broadway play, one that will leave you satisfied long after you've left the theatre.

CAST

CHARLES ALLEN MONTRELOUS
GABRIEL ALVARADO RAFAEL
NANCY DENIS CLYDE
AARON TSINDOS JASON
EBONY VAGULANS LETITIA

CREATIVES

PLAYWRIGHT
LYNN NOTTAGE
DIRECTOR
DARREN YAP
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
AYEESHA ASH
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER
SIMONE ROMANIUK
LIGHTING DESIGNER
MORGAN MORONEY

COMPOSERS & SOUND DESIGNERS
MAX LAMBERT & ROGER LOCK
DIALECT COACH
LINDA NICHOLLS-GIDLEY
INTIMACY, MOVEMENT & FIGHT DIRECTOR
NIGEL POULTON
STAGE MANAGER
LAUREN TULLOH
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
JESSICA LAW
COSTUME SUPERVISOR
MONICA SMITH
COSTUME ASSISTANT
ALEXIS WORTHING

RUNNING TIME
90 MINS NO INTERVAL
REC. AGES 14+
STRONG LANGUAGE
ADULT THEMES

The Assistant Director position for CLYDE'S is proudly supported by Mark Kilmurry & Jacqui Taffel

World Premiere by the Guthrie Theater. Originally commissioned by Joe Dowling and produced by Joseph Haj, Artistic Directors Broadway Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2021 Carole Rothman, Artistic Director, Khady Kamara, Executive Director

SPECIAL THANKS

Chef Johnny Ageletos, FLOUR DRUM CAFE Newtown.
Sous Chef Ian Paul Aguilar Alarcon, BAYLY'S BISTRO, Ensemble Theatre.

Ensemble Theatre proudly acknowledges the Cammeraiagal people of the Eora nation as customary owners of the land on which we work & share our stories. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Rehearsal images by Prudence Upton



LYNN NOTTAGE
PLAYWRIGHT

Lynn Nottage is a playwright and a screenwriter, and the first woman in history to win two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama. Her

plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. Recent work includes the book for MJ THE MUSICAL (Broadway), the libretto for the INTIMATE APPAREL OPERA (LCT), and CLYDE'S (Broadway, 2ST, Goodman Theater), and co-curating the performance installation THE WATERING HOLE (Signature Theater). Past work includes SWEAT, RUINED, the book for THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES; MLIMA'S TALE; BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK; INTIMATE APPAREL; FABULATION, OR THE RE-EDUCATION OF UNDINE; CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY; LAS MENINAS; MUD, RIVER, STONE; POR'KNOCKERS; and POOF!. She has also developed THIS IS READING, a performance installation in Reading, Pennsylvania. Ms. Nottage is a member of the Theater Hall of Fame, and the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship (among other awards). She is also an Associate Professor at Columbia University School of the Arts, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild.



DARREN YAP
DIRECTOR

In 2022 Darren directed critically acclaimed THE LAST FIVE YEARS for La Boite and the award-winning YONG, which will remount in June at the Sydney Opera House. He also directed JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT in Tokyo; NEXT TO NORMAL for NIDA; the re-mount of JESUS WANTS ME FOR A SUNBEAM for The National Theatre of Parramatta at Belvoir Street; DOUBLE DELICIOUS for The Sydney Festival and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) and THE ONE for Ensemble. Later

this year he will direct the World Premiere of TIM based on Colleen McCollough's novel and adapted by Tim McGarry.



AYEESHA ASH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Ayeesha Ash is a proud Māori (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Koura) and Grenadian woman raised in Meanjin. She is the Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed creative arts company, Black Birds. As well as directing, Ayeesha is also a writer, actor and podcaster. A graduate of WAAPA (Acting) and UTS (BA Communications). She has been published in: BuzzFeed Oz, Pedestrian, Sydney Morning Herald, Audrey Journal and more; and made work for FBi Radio, Cement Fondu, Sydney Fringe Festival, Next Wave Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art, Festival Fatale and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Ayeesha was the recipient of the 2022 All About Women of Colour Mentorship. Her Black Birds show RECLAIM won the 2020 FBi Radio SMAC Award for Best on Stage.



CHARLES ALLEN he/him
MONTRELLOUS

Charles made his Australian stage debut in 2012 with the La Boite and Griffin Theatres' joint production of A HOAX. He has also appeared on the Australian stage in OF MICE AND MEN (Sport for Jove) and DEATH OF A SALESMAN (Queensland Theatre). Additionally, he worked as cultural consultant for Sydney Theatre Company's 2022 production of A RAISIN IN THE SUN. Last year, he made his theatre directorial debut with the WAAPA production of FIRES IN THE MIRROR. Some of his film and television credits include MISTLETOE RANCH, A PERFECT PAIRING, REEF BREAK, and ELVIS.





GABRIEL ALVARADO he/him
RAFAEL

Gabriel is Chilean, born and raised in Sydney's Hills District. Gabriel discovered his love for acting after several years of playing football.

Gabriel furthered his creative education and completed a Diploma of Acting at Sydney Theatre School in 2018, along with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting from NIDA in 2021. At NIDA his stagework included: LOVE AND INFORMATION, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, UNCLE VANYA and THE WINTER'S TALE. Since graduating, Gabriel has starred as Stein in the 25a Belvoir production of DESTROY, SHE SAID (dir. Claudia Osborne) and makes his first television debut in the upcoming SBS series APPETITE (dir. Mohini Herse and Neil Sharma).



NANCY DENIS she/her
CLYDE

Nancy Denis is a multidisciplinary artist and began her career early in ANNIE THE MUSICAL. Since then she has appeared on TV

and Film such as ABC's CLEVERMAN, Netflix's 600 BOTTLES OF WINE and Baz Luhrmann's THE GREAT GATSBY. Nancy debuted with Sydney Theatre Company in 2022 with BLITHE SPIRIT followed by STC's A RAISIN IN THE SUN as Mrs Johnson. Nancy wrote a play with songs, MA'P BOULÉ in collaboration with Utp which debuted in 2022 at Darlinghurst Theatre. MA'P BOULÉ is debuting at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival this June and at the BLEACH Festival in August this year. Nancy continues to grow within the arts expanding into Visual Arts with an Artist in Residency with Red Rattler Theatre.



AARON TSINDOS he/him
JASON

Born in the USA and raised in Australia, Aaron comes from a proud Greek (Cypriot, Ithacan), Jewish (Ashkenazi) family. A WAAPA

graduate, Aaron's theatre credits include THE TEMPEST, NO PAY? NO WAY!, MURIELS WEDDING, and ROSANCRANTZ AND GULDENSTERN ARE DEAD for Sydney Theatre Company. SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE for Melbourne Theatre Company. DUBBO CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG, and SPAMALOT at the Hayes. THE OVERCOAT at Belvoir. MAN WITH FIVE CHILDREN for Darlinghurst Theatre Company. SHAKESPEAREALISM, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST and LOVE'S LABOURS LOST (Sport for Jove), THE HISTORY BOYS (Sydney Opera House), and Stephen Sondheim's ASSASSINS. His screen credits include; WELLMANIA, TOTAL CONTROL and GROWING UP GRACEFULLY, and features MARY THE MAKING OF A PRINCESS. SPIN OUT, NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY and CROSSING PATHS. Aaron has been a member of MEAA since 2009.



EBONY VAGULANS she/her
LETITIA

Ebony graduated from NIDA in 2016. Her television credits include the lead role of Madison Feliciano in the hit Acorn TV series MY

LIFE IS MURDER alongside Lucy Lawless, DOCTOR DOCTOR (Nine Network) and THE LETDOWN (ABC). Ebony made her feature film debut in THE FURIES, directed by Tony D'Aquino. Ebony's theatre credits include DIVING FOR PEARLS (Griffin), for which she was nominated for Best Newcomer at the 2017 Sydney Theatre Awards; LUNA GALE (Ensemble), for which she was nominated for Most Outstanding Performance by a Newcomer at the 2018 GLUGS Awards; FLIGHT PATHS (NToP) and EURIDICE (Redline Productions).



SIMONE ROMANIUK
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Simone Romaniuk is a live performance designer for theatre, opera and festivals. For Ensemble Theatre she has designed HONOUR,

KENNY, THE LAST WIFE, LUNA GALE, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, CASANOVA and FRANKENSTEIN. Her work has been seen around Australia, New Zealand and the UK with companies including Queensland Theatre, State Opera South Australia, Opera Queensland, Sydney Theatre Company and Brisbane Festival. She was resident designer with Queensland Theatre in 2012 and also also an affiliate artist with the company. From 2015 - 2019 she was Creative Director of Adelaide Festival Centre's award winning OzAsia Festival. She holds design degrees from QCA and NIDA. Her work can be seen at simoneromaniuk.com



MAX LAMBERT
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Max was the musical director on the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of THE XXVII

OLYMPIAD, THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (2002) and THE ASIAN GAMES (2006). Max was Musical Supervisor on HAIRSPRAY, FAME, KING KONG LIVE and STRICTLY BALLROOM – THE MUSICAL. The revival of Max's musical MIRACLE CITY was remounted at the Sydney Opera House. Recently, Max has composed music (with Roger Lock) on the critically acclaimed productions LADIES DAY (Griffin), LETTERS TO LINDY (Merrigong), THE LITERATI (Bell/Griffin), DIVING FOR PEARLS (Griffin) and BERNHARDT/HAMLET (QTC). His musical DARLINGHURST NIGHTS was critically acclaimed for its season at the Hayes Theatre.



ROGER LOCK
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Guitarist, composer and producer, Roger has worked on 15 recording studio titles. In 2012, Roger's band Roger Vs.

The Man released their debut album BLACK PEARL. Their CD launch concert at The Basement the group was reviewed as having "near-peerless musicianship and songwriting craft" (Lloyd Bradford-Skye, Daily Review). Roger's more recent studio credits include co-writing and producing Lindsey Nolan's debut album THE RABBIT & THE TIGER. Roger has collaborated extensively with Max Lambert producing music for eight theatre works including Katherine Thomson's DIVING FOR PEARLS (Griffin/ Merrigong), Justin Fleming's THE LITERATI and THE MISANTHROPE (Griffin/ Bell), and the Australian tours of Maryam Master's BILLIONAIRE BOY (CDP) and Alana Valentine's LETTERS TO LINDY (Merrigong). They have also performed together extensively including in Max's critically acclaimed musicals DARLINGHURST



MORGAN MORONEY
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Morgan Moroney (he/him) is a lighting and video designer working across theatre, opera, dance and installation. Growing up on Kurna

land, he currently lives and works primarily on Gadigal land. He brings a distinct multidisciplinary approach to his practice, with a particular fascination for integrated-media live performance. Training: NIDA. Awards: APDG Emerging Designer for Live Performance Award 2021, NIDA X Storytelling Futures Grant 2022. Recent Lighting & Video Design: COLLAPSIBLE (essential workers), CAMP (Siren Theatre); Lighting Design: THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (Opera Australia), ANATOMY OF A SUICIDE (Sugary Rum); Video Design: A LETTER FOR MOLLY and STILL UNQUALIFIED (Ensemble Theatre). morganmoroney.com



NIGHTS (Hayes Theatre) and MIRACLE CITY (Sydney Opera House).



LINDA NICHOLLS-GIDLEY
DIALECT COACH

Linda is a sought-after accent and dialect coach. Theatre coaching includes 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.



NIGEL POULTON
INTIMACY, MOVEMENT & FIGHT DIRECTOR

Nigel is an award-winning fight, movement and intimacy director. He is a Fight Master with the Society of

American Fight Directors, is a Certified Fight Director and past President of the Society of Australian Fight Directors Inc, and is a

Certified Intimacy Director with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, Australia. Nigel works with many producers across stage and screen including: The Australian Ballet, New York City Ballet, The Metropolitan Opera, Finnish National Ballet, Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre, Bell Shakespeare, Washington Opera Company, Opera Australia, Circus Oz, Belvoir Theatre, La Boite, Kooemba Jdarra and many more.



LAUREN TULLOH
STAGE MANAGER

Lauren is Ensemble's Resident Stage Manager and a NIDA graduate.

For Ensemble Theatre: A BROADCAST COUP, THE CARETAKER, THE ONE, A LETTER FOR MOLLY, 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 season). For the Hayes Theatre Company: REWIRED: MUSICALS REIMAGINED, AMERICAN PSYCHO, HIGH FIDELITY, ASSASSINS, THE FANTASTICKS, VIOLET and CALAMITY JANE which toured to the Comedy Theatre Melbourne, Belvoir & regional areas.



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JESSICA LAW
ASSISTANT STAGE
MANAGER

A stage manager and technician from Awabakal land (Newcastle), Jess has been part of multiple productions and now resides in Gadigal country (Sydney). She has been involved in shows such as: 9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL, LOOKING FOR ALIBRANDI, CARMEN ON COCKATOO ISLAND, SUN & SEA, CRUEL INTENTIONS: THE 90S MUSICAL, SYDNEY WORLD PRIDE and more in a variety of roles and is thrilled to join CLYDE'S as the assistant stage manager.



MONICA SMITH
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Monica's career has been characterised by a passion for theatre, dance and opera, as well as a dedication to excellence in her work in costume. This year, she has also coordinated at Sydney Theatre Company for the

production of HUBRIS & HUMILIATION, and previously worked at Opera Australia, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Sydney Dance Company and Belvoir St Theatre. She has worked with some of the most respected directors, designers and performers in the industry, showcasing her versatility in various productions. This year is Monica's first season with Ensemble Theatre and is looking forward to the upcoming productions.



COSTUME ASSISTANT
ALEXIS WORTHING

Alexis has recently graduated from Technical Theatre and Stage Management at NIDA. Primarily working in Stage Management, she has worked on NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT at Hayes Theatre, BELLS ARE RINGING with Neglected Musicals, M.ROCK at ATYP, as well as a number of NIDA productions including THE MAGIC FLUTE, FALSETTOS, JUST MACBETH, and WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING. She has also recently returned from working on The VAULT Festival in London.

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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.

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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

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BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER

DIRECTED BY SHAUN RENNIE

15 MAY – 10 JUN

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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.