

14 OCT – 19 NOV 2022

ENS
THEATRE
MBE

FOR EVERYONE



BY HAROLD PINTER

THE CARETAKER

DIRECTED BY IAIN SINCLAIR

WELCOME

'I'd have teal blue, copper and parchment linoleum squares...!' so says Mick in his marvellous incongruous ruminating dream for the future of a shabby room. When I was a young(er) actor in the mid-eighties I played Mick in THE CARETAKER starting a continuing fascination with Harold Pinter's plays and language. The muscle of the words seep into you as an actor, and remains, connecting to something dreamlike in the imagination. I can still quote chunks of the dialogue, not just Mick's, but Davies and Aston's sparkling interplay, so powerful is the use of Pinter's imagery and words. I have long wanted to do the play at the Ensemble and I am thrilled we have such a matching talent for Pinter in director Iain Sinclair, Darren Gilshenan as Davies and Anthony Gooley, Henry Nixon as Aston and Mick. With this cast and creative team I know we'll be revisiting the play, the imagery and the characters, long after it has finished in the theatre. 'Who would live there?' 'I would. My brother and me.' Fabulous.

Enjoy!

MARK KILMURRY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Aston: Where were you born then?

Davies: (Darkly) What do you mean?

Max Stafford Clark who ran The Royal Court Theatre in UK taught me the most important lesson I have ever learned in directing and he used the above two lines from THE CARETAKER to do so.

You can feel the potential brimming out of these two short lines. The universe of experience between them. Trauma in the past, danger in the future and the unbearable moment between the two. Also, lurking in the wide gap between Pinter's text and subtext is a joke wrapped in an unmistakable sense of threat, most particularly the threat of being tagged with an identity.

It's the director's job to help actors best implement a playwright's dramatic code and Harold Pinter's is the best. We have followed it to the letter. It has been a lifelong dream to work on this particular play with actors of the calibre of Darren, Anthony and Henry ... and Harold. I'll leave the interpretation to you.

Besides, what would I know? I am just a...

Pause

Long silence.

Iain Sinclair

Ensemble Theatre proudly acknowledges the Cammaeraigal 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

In Harold Pinter's extraordinarily mischievous comedy, Aston asks down-and-out Davies to be a live-in caretaker. Davies leaps at the chance to change his fortunes, but the trouble is he doesn't know what a caretaker should do, especially in a room filled with junk. When Aston's manipulative brother Mick shows up, the power struggle begins. Why does Aston collect all this stuff? Will Davies ever get a pair of decent shoes? And who will fix the drip in the ceiling?

RUNNING TIME

2 HRS 45 MINS
INCL. 2 X 15 MIN. INTERVALS

REC. AGES 14+

This play contains historical language that audiences may find offensive.

SPECIAL THANKS

Bruce Williams

REHEARSAL IMAGES BY PRUDENCE UPTON

CAST

DARREN GILSHENAN DAVIES
ANTHONY GOOLEY ASTON
HENRY NIXON MICK

UNDERSTUDIES

LAURENCE COY
TIM WALTER

CREATIVES

DIRECTOR
IAIN SINCLAIR

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
DANIELLE MAAS

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER
VERONIQUE BENETT

LIGHTING DESIGNER
MATT COX

SOUND DESIGNER
DARYL WALLIS

STAGE MANAGER
LAUREN TULLOH

COSTUME SUPERVISOR
RENATA BESLIK

DIALECT COACH
LINDA NICHOLLS-GIDLEY

COMBAT DIRECTOR
SCOTT WITT



HAROLD PINTER
PLAYWRIGHT

Harold Pinter was one of the most influential modern British dramatists with a career spanning more than 50 years. He was born in

London in 1930 and lived with Antonia Fraser from 1975 until his death in 2008. He wrote 29 plays including: THE BIRTHDAY PARTY, THE DUMB WAITER, A SLIGHT ACHE, THE HOTHOUSE, THE CARETAKER, THE COLLECTION, THE LOVER, THE HOMECOMING, OLD TIMES, NO MAN'S LAND, BETRAYAL, A KIND OF ALASKA, ONE FOR THE ROAD, THE NEW WORLD ORDER, MOONLIGHT, and ASHES TO ASHES. He directed 27 plays including: EXILES, OLEANNA, CELEBRATION, and THE ROOM. He wrote 21 screenplays including: THE PUMPKIN EATER, THE SERVANT, THE GO-BETWEEN, THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN, and SLEUTH. Awards include the Nobel Prize for Literature (2005), the Companion of Honour, the Legion D'Honneur, the European Theatre Prize, the Laurence Olivier Award and the Moliere D'Honneur.



IAIN SINCLAIR
DIRECTOR

Iain holds a Masters degree from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and King's College London and is Head of Acting at 16th

Street Actors Studio in Melbourne. For Ensemble Theatre: WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? by Edward Albee, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE by Arthur Miller. For STC: MOJO by Jez Butterworth, BLOOD WEDDING by Federico Garcia Lorca (translation by Iain Sinclair), OUR TOWN by Thornton Wilder. For QTC: BRISBANE by Matthew Ryan. For Belvoir: THE SEED by Kate Mulvany, KILLER JOE by Tracey Letts, BEYOND THE NECK by Tom Holloway, MY ARM by Tim Crouch. For MTC: BERLIN by Joanna Murray Smith, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE by Arthur Miller, THE BEAST by Eddie Perfect. For the Eternity Theatre: ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller, GOOD WORKS by Nick Enright. For NIDA: LOST ILLUSIONS by Alana Valentine, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare. For Sport for Jove: OF MICE AND MEN. For 45 Downstairs: BOTTOMLESS by Dan Lee.



Iain has won four Canberra Critics Circle awards, A Matilda Award, three Sydney Theatre Awards and the 2020 Melbourne Green Room Award for best director (A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE). Iain has been assistant director to Max Stafford Clark and Cate Blanchett and resident dramaturg at Playwriting Australia.



DANIELLE MAAS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Danielle's recent directorial credits include BREAKING GLASS (Carriageworks, 2020) and WHAT THE BUTLER SAW (New Theatre, 2018). Danielle

is the Associate Director of the Australian production of AMERICAN PSYCHO (2019 & 2021), which won all nine awards that it was nominated for at the Sydney Theatre Awards. As an Artistic Associate of Sydney Chamber Opera, Danielle has assisted directors Kip Williams, Adena Jacobs, Janice Muller and Sarah Giles. She also assisted Kip Williams on CLOUD NINE (Sydney Theatre Company, 2017). In 2015, Danielle graduated with a Masters of Advanced Theatre Practice (Distinction) from the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama.



DARREN GILSHENAN DAVIES

Darren graduated from NIDA in 1988. Select theatre credits include WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? (Ensemble Theatre); STRICTLY BALLROOM directed by Baz

Luhrmann; MOTHER AND SON national tour. TARTUFFE (Black Swan) ELLING, DON PARTIES ON (MTC); LOOT and OUR TOWN (STC). Recent television Credits include Matchbox Pictures' JOE VS. CAROL for NBC, Cordell Jigsaw Productions; DARBY AND JOAN, TROPPO for Playmaker/EQ Media/Beyond, HOW TO STAY MARRIED for Network Ten 1, 2 & 3, STATELESS, HARROW 1, 2 & 3 for ABC TV Film credits include Dancing Road Productions' Carnifex, A FEW LESS MEN, the AACTA nominated WOMEN

HE'S UNDRESSED and SAVE YOUR LEGS. Awards -2020 AACTA Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama Series for STATELESS. Best Actor Helpmann Award for THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS. Nominated-2017 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Actor in WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? and at the 7th AACTA Awards for Best Performance in NO ACTIVITY. He also won Equity Ensemble Awards for THE MOODYS and A MOODY CHRISTMAS as well as multiple Green Room, Sydney Critic and Glug Award nominations.



ANTHONY GOOLEY
ASTON

A NIDA graduate, theatre credits include A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, DEATH OF A SALESMAN (Ensemble Theatre),

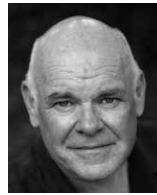
BERNHARDT/HAMLET, BOY SWALLOWS UNIVERSE (Queensland Theatre), THE GLASS MENAGERIE (STCSA), CALAMITY JANE (Belvoir), ASSASSINS (Sydney Opera House), REPLAY (Griffin Theatre) THE CRUCIBLE, ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, OTHELLO, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (Sport For Jove), GOOD WORKS, ALL MY SONS (Eternity Playhouse), THE LOST ECHO (STC). Feature film: BUCKLEY'S CHANCE (Blacklab Entertainment), VENUS AND ADONIS (Sport for Jove). Television: YOUNG ROCK, JOE VS CAROLE, UNDERBELLY, PACKED TO THE RAFTERS, SATISFACTION, HOME AND AWAY. Awards: Sydney Theatre Award, THE LIBERTINE (Sport For Jove). Nominations: Sydney Theatre Award nominations, INNER VOICES (Old Fitz), OF MICE AND MEN, A DOLL'S HOUSE (Sport For Jove).





HENRY NIXON
MICK

Henry Nixon is an award winning actor who has given memorable performances across stage and screen. He played a lead role in the critically acclaimed Tasmanian-noir THE KETTERING INCIDENT (Foxtel/Amazon Prime) for which he won the Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actor. His recent television work includes THE SECRETS SHE KEEPS (Paramount +), MR INBETWEEN (FX), WAKEFIELD (ABC/Showtime) and OPERATION BUFFALO (ABC). In 2023 he will appear in LAST KING OF THE CROSS (Paramount +) and THE PM'S DAUGHTER (ABC). He began his television career playing "Sterlo" on 52 episodes of the beloved hospital drama ALL SAINTS (Network 7) and later appeared in THE PACIFIC (HBO). He has roles in numerous critically acclaimed films including RIDE LIKE A GIRL, SOMERSAULT, SLEEPING BEAUTY and NOISE which premiered at Sundance and was a Grand Jury Prize nominee. The film won multiple awards and has since become an Australian classic. A NIDA graduate, Henry has also appeared in stage productions of LORD OF THE FLIES directed by Iain Sinclair, KNIVES IN HENS and, most recently, in Toby Schmitz's exploration of politics and power, DEGENERATE ART.



LAURENCE COY
UNDERSTUDY

As an actor on stage, Laurence has worked for all Australia's State Theatre Companies, Bell Shakespeare, Belvoir, Ensemble, Monkey Baa, Hayes Theatre Co, and many commercial and independent producers. His feature film credits include LADIES IN BLACK, SAN ANDREAS, THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER, FOOL'S GOLD, THE THREE STOOGES and DOING TIME FOR PATSY CLINE. On television he has appeared in DEVIL'S DUST, WILD BOYS, RAKE, CROWNIES and PAPER GIANTS: THE BIRTH OF CLEO. He is a graduate in Theatre Studies from UNSW, in Acting from WAAPA, in Directing from NIDA, and in Screenwriting from UTS.



TIM WALTER
UNDERSTUDY

Tim Walter has previously appeared in A DOLL'S HOUSE and CASANOVA for Ensemble Theatre. His other theatre credits include AS YOU LIKE IT (MTC); A FLEA IN HER EAR, PERPLEX, ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD (STC); KRYPTONITE (STC / STCSA); THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE (STCSA / Frantic

Assembly); HEDDA GABLER, AS YOU LIKE IT, BAGHDAD WEDDING (Belvoir); ROMEO AND JULIET, KING LEAR, MACBETH, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, WARS OF THE ROSES, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Bell Shakespeare); ANATOMY TITUS FALL OF ROME (QTC / Bell Shakespeare). Tim is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.



VERONIQUE BENETT
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

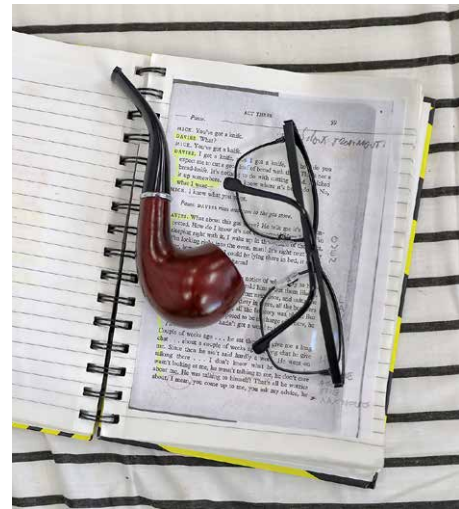
Veronique is a lighting, set and costume designer. As a lighting designer, Veronique's credits include: TELL ME I'M HERE (Belvoir), HAPPY DAYS, CHORUS (Red Line); SACRE (Circa); BANGING DENMARK (Sydney Theatre Company); WOLVES (Belvoir), NEARER THE GODS (Ensemble Theatre); THE SMALLEST HOUR (Griffin); JOHN (Outhouse Theatre Co.); THE LIFE OF US (Hayes). Veronique designed costumes for MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE (Seymour Centre/Sydney Festival) and AS YOU LIKE IT (Sport for Jove); set and lighting design for EXIT THE KING (Red Line) and ULSTER AMERICAN (Outhouse Theatre Co); set and costume design for A DOLL'S HOUSE (Ensemble Theatre); OUR BLOOD RUNS IN THE STREET (Red Line). Veronique has been nominated for four Sydney Theatre Awards. Veronique

completed a Master of Fine Art (Design for Performance) majoring in lighting and holds a Bachelor of Fine Art (Technical Theatre and Stage Management) from NIDA.



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 Carriageworks: LAKE DISAPPOINTMENT. for The Hayes Theatre Company: SHE LOVES ME. for Siren Theatre Co: THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY. for Ensemble: NEARER THE GODS, DIPLOMACY, MURDER ON THE WIRELESS. for the Australian Chamber Orchestra: HOW TO CATCH A STAR, REFLECTIONS ON GALLIPOLI. for Marrugeku: BURRBGAJA YALIRRA. for Musica Viva: GOLDNER STRING QUARTET, for Bell Shakespeare: THE MISER, HAMLET, ROMEO AND JULIET. for Monkey Baa: POSSUM MAGIC, THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, DIARY OF A WOMBAT. for Soft Tread: WHARF REVUE 2022 LOOKING FOR ALBANESE, WHARF REVUE 2021 CAN OF WORMS. for Sydney Theatre Company: WHARF REVUE 2020, WHARF REVUE 2019, WHARF REVUE 2018, RUBY MOON. for



William Zappa: THE ILIAD OUT LOUD. for Tinderbox Productions: DAVID SUCHET, POIROT AND MORE. for Louise Withers and Associates: THE MOUSETRAP, and A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED. for Michael Sieders Presents: ALICE IN WONDERLAND. for Company B: THE SEED. for Legs on the Wall: SYMPHONY. 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 (2016), THE FAMOUS SPIEGELTENT (2015), THE AURORA SPIEGELTENT (2014). for the Sydney Chamber Opera: HIS MUSIC BURNS.



DARYL WALLIS
SOUND DESIGNER

Daryl Wallis is a composer, sound designer, keyboard musician, vocal coach and musical director. He won the 2013 Sydney Theatre

Award for Best Score & Sound Design in a Mainstage Production with Elana Kats-Chernin for the Ensemble production of FRANKENSTEIN, and the Green Room award as musical director for THE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS. Current projects include the cabaret DISENCHANTED with Eliane Morel; THE HOUR OF LAND, a personal meditation and musical dialogue between Yosemite National Park and the Royal National Park in Sydney; and he will be the musical director for the upcoming A CHRISTMAS CAROL adaptation with John Bell.



LAUREN TULLOH
STAGE MANAGER

Lauren Tulloh is a NIDA graduate, completing a Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Production). For Ensemble Theatre: THE ONE, 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 PHOTOGRAPH 51. 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.





SUPPORT US



Thanks to the tremendous support of the Ensemble community and the generosity of the NSW Government through Create NSW, we were successful in securing the necessary funds to upgrade our theatre and house lights. We are pleased to announce that the upgrade has commenced and will be completed in January 2023.

If you'd like to assist Ensemble to continue doing what we do best (present live theatre for everyone), please contact Stephen Attfield, Philanthropy & Partnerships Manager on stephena@ensemble.com.au or via **02 8918 3400**. Alternately, you can donate online at <https://www.ensemble.com.au/support-us/>

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