

WORLD PREMIERE
5 DEC – 15 JAN 2023

ENS
THEATRE
MLE
FOR EVERYONE



BOXING DAY BBQ

BY SAM O'SULLIVAN | DIRECTED BY MARK KILMURRY

COMMISSIONED BY ENSEMBLE'S LITERARY FUND

WELCOME

What a thrill to be working on a new Australian play by Sam O'Sullivan. Boxing Day has always been the odd day coupled to Christmas, filled with sport and activity to give it meaning after the excess of the day before. A hot Christmas sits awkwardly with the origins of Christmas tradition – or does it? What do Christmas and Boxing Day actually mean? These questions were the springboard for discussion with Sam, and I'm very pleased to say it has been an absolute delight working on the resulting Boxing Day BBQ. This cast and creative team further the thrill – almost like all my Christmases have come at once! Enjoy.

MARK KILMURRY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WRITER'S NOTE

Ensemble Theatre has been an important part of my life ever since I moved to Sydney. My first job was in their subscriptions department and since graduating from drama school, I have appeared in multiple Ensemble productions. When I was asked to work on a new play for them, this time as a writer, I was thrilled.

My first instinct when writing this play was to go back to the true origins of our Christmas traditions and trace their evolution to the present. Tradition is often used as a reason for doing something, but if we apply this

way of thinking to all aspects of life – if we hold on to old ways of thinking without questioning why, we risk becoming stuck in patterns that no longer serve us, our loved ones, or the planet. The journey that this play has taken me on, with Mark and a wonderful cast of actors by my side, has been fascinating and joyful. I hope you enjoy watching Boxing Day BBQ as much as we enjoyed creating it.

SAM O'SULLIVAN

Ensemble Theatre's commission of BOXING DAY BBQ was made possible thanks to the generous support of Jenny and Guy Reynolds AO.

SYNOPSIS

It's Sydney. It's Boxing Day. And it's stinking hot. Grandad Stephen was the family's BBQ king and his adult children have gathered to honour his memory. Wine snob Peter and cynical Connie reluctantly get the clan together for round two of festivities – they've survived the chaos of Christmas but Boxing Day is set to pack a punch. In raising a toast to Stephen's memory, old grudges and family tensions sizzle to the surface. Surely they'll be able to stop grilling each other for one day.

RUNNING TIME
APPROX. 125 MINS
INCL. INTERVAL (FOR 6.15PM SHOWS
ONLY: 105 MINS, NO INTERVAL)

REC. AGES 12+

CAST
DANIELLE CARTER CONNIE
HARRIET GORDON-ANDERSON JENNIFER
AILEEN HUYNH VAL
BRIAN MEEGAN PETER
JAMIE OXENBOULD MORRIS

COMMENTATORS
SAM O'SULLIVAN JOSEPH HART
LAURENCE COY CLARENCE VON STRAUSS

UNDERSTUDIES
CHLOE BAYLISS
LAURENCE COY

CREATIVES
DIRECTOR
MARK KILMURRY

UNDERSTUDY DIRECTOR
SOPHIE KELLY

SET DESIGNER
AILSA PATERSON

COSTUME DESIGNER
GENEVIEVE GRAHAM

LIGHTING DESIGNER
MATT COX

SOUND DESIGNER
DAVID GRIGG

STAGE MANAGER
ISABELLA KERDIJK

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
NIAMH PERCY

COSTUME SUPERVISOR
EVELYN EVERAERTS-DONALDSON

SOUND DESIGN SECONDMENT
JESSICA PIZZINGA

SPECIAL THANKS

ELOISE SNAPE VOICE OVER

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 PRUDENCE UPTON



SAM O'SULLIVAN
PLAYWRIGHT

Sam is an award-winning writer and actor and has worked with the likes of Ensemble Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir

St. Theatre, Darlinghurst Theatre, Griffin Independent and Sport for Jove. 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 and BLACK COMEDY, among others. As a writer he has received commissions from the Australian Theatre for Young People, Redline Productions, Poetry in Action and now, Ensemble Theatre. His plays include THE BLOCK UNIVERSE, THE WIND IN THE UNDERGROUND, CHARLIE PILGRIM and YOU'RE NOT SPECIAL. He is a recipient of ATYP's Foundation Commission and has been shortlisted for several other awards including the Philip Parsons Fellowship and the Silver Gull.



MARK KILMURRY
DIRECTOR

Mark is the Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre. Recent directing credits include: 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. Mark is the recipient of many awards and recently the North Sydney Community Award.



SOPHIE KELLY
UNDERSTUDY DIRECTOR

Sophie is a recipient of the 2022 Ensemble Theatre Sandra Bates Director's Award. This year she worked as the Understudy Director

for A DOLL'S HOUSE, and Assistant Director/ Understudy Director on PHOTOGRAPH 51 and THE ONE. 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).



DANIELLE CARTER
CONNIE

Danielle is a graduate of NIDA and has appeared for the Ensemble Theatre in: THE NORMAN CONQUESTS, E-BABY, MY ZINC BED,

RICHARD THE THIRD, THE GINGERBREAD LADY, MY WONDERFUL DAY, ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR, FACE TO FACE, THE QUARTET FROM RIGOLETTO. For STC: AWAY, for Theatre Works & OSC: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, STILL (Malthouse), FURY (Red Stitch) the national tour of DAG'S. Some TV credits include; OFFSPRING, HOUSE HUSBANDS, MR. AND MRS. MURDER, PAPER GIANTS, SOMETHING IN THE AIR, UNDERBELLY, MAL.COM, CITY HOMICIDE, SATISFACTION, STINGERS, HALIFAX F.P, MEDIVAC as well as the US series LOST WORLD, TALES OF THE SOUTH SEAS and SALEM'S LOT.

Films include; NOTHING BETTER, THE LEGEND MAKER, REASON TO SMILE, LAST DANCE, KNOWING, EUSTICE SOLVES A PROBLEM, THE BLUE LADY and RIP TIDE. In addition, her voice is widely sourced for the Narration of Audio Books and she is a proud member of MEAA.



HARRIET GORDON-ANDERSON
JENNIFER

Harriet is a Sydney Theatre Award, Green Room Award, and Performing Arts WA Award nominated actor.

She is a graduate of WAAPA, and a proud member of MEAA. Her theatre credits include the titular role in HAMLET (Bell Shakespeare), IN A NUTSHELL (Bell Shakespeare), THE MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE (Sydney Festival), ULSTER AMERICAN (Outhouse), THE MISER (Bell Shakespeare), PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK (Malthouse / Black Swan, The Royal Lyceum Edinburgh, The Barbican London), KINDERTRANSPORT (Darlinghurst), YOU GOT OLDER (KXT), LEAVES (KXT), and LIFESTYLE OF THE RICHARD AND FAMILY (Next Wave). Her film and television credits include THE GREENHOUSE (Netflix), AMAZING GRACE (Nine), MR INBETWEEN (Fox Showcase), LOVE CHILD (Nine), THE SECRET DAUGHTER (Seven), and MIKKI VS THE WORLD (ABC).



AILEEN HUYNH
VAL

Aileen is an acting graduate from WAAPA. She was last treading the boards with Ensemble for Vanessa Bate's world premiere of THE ONE.

Other recent theatre credits include THE BIG TIME (Ensemble Theatre), 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 which has a New Zealand tour in 2023. Her screen credits include BETTER MAN, NEIGHBOURS, THE COMMONS, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS and as mad scientist Everick in series 1&2 of CLEVERMAN.



BRIAN MEEGAN
PETER

Brian graduated from WAAPA in 1984. Since then, he has worked extensively within the theatre industry including HAMLET, HENRY IV, OTHELLO AND ANTHONY AND CLEOPATRA for Sydney Theatre Company. Other theatre credits include THE ODD COUPLE, THE NORMAN CONQUESTS TRILOGY, TWO, A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS, ABSENT FRIENDS, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH and FRANKENSTEIN for Ensemble; COCK for Red Line Productions; A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and THE GRASS WIDOW for The Hole in the Wall Theatre Company; MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING for Shakespeare in the Park; ULSTER AMERICAN for Outhouse Theatre Company. Brian also co-wrote his own show, THE BOYS GOTTA BONK which toured major Australian cities. Selected television credits include RAKE, UNDERBELLY:BADNESS, SEA PATROL, WATER RATS, ALL SAINTS, STINGERS, BLUE HEELERS and BLUE WATER HIGH. Brian's film appearances include the CHILDREN OF THE CORN, THE INVISIBLE MAN, BEING GAVIN and PRIME MOVER.



JAMIE OXENBOULD
MORRIS

Recent theatre credits include: for Griffin Theatre – FAMILY VALUES; for Bell Shakespeare – THE MISER; for Bell Shakespeare & Griffin Theatre – THE LITERATI; for Opera Australia – ERNANI, LA TRAVIATA ; for Outhouse Theatre – TREVOR; at The Old Fitz – EURYDICE, THE VILLAGE BIKE; for Apocalypse Theatre company – THE DAPTO CHASER; for Darlinghurst Theatre Company – GOOD WORKS, THE HYPOCHONDRIAC; for the Ensemble Theatre – WOMAN IN BLACK, BABY DOLL, CHAPTER TWO, CASANOVA, FULLY COMMITTED, LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, DIARY OF AN OLYMPIC CABBIE, THE SPEAR CARRIER, WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY; and for Sydney Theatre Company – THE TEMPEST, MACBETH. His screen credits include: for ABC– MY PLACE, PLAYSCHOOL, SECRET CITY 2; BEING GAVIN (feature) and many animated series including FLIPPER & LOPAKA, GASPI, OH YUCK. He is a proud member of MEAA.



CHLOE BAYLISS
UNDERSTUDY

Chloe Bayliss is a Helpmann Award Nominee and Heath Ledger Scholarship finalist. TV and Film credits: DOCTOR DOCTOR (S1-5). LOVE CHILD, REEF DOCTORS, DANCE ACADEMY and DEADLY WOMEN. BACKTRACK (Tribeca Film festival) starring alongside Adrian Brody, DRIFTWOOD DUSTMITES (Berlin Film Festival) and MUMLIFE, which premiered at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival- La Cinef competition. Theatre credits: Gloria for Griffin Theatre Company, Ensemble Theatre's THE GOOD DOCTOR, CHARITABLE INTENT, RAPTURE BLISTER BURN and CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION. An Assorted

Few's HOME INVASION and Red Line Productions' THE WHALE. She's also a published author having released her memoir EN POINTE in 2019.



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.



AILSA PATERSON
SET DESIGNER

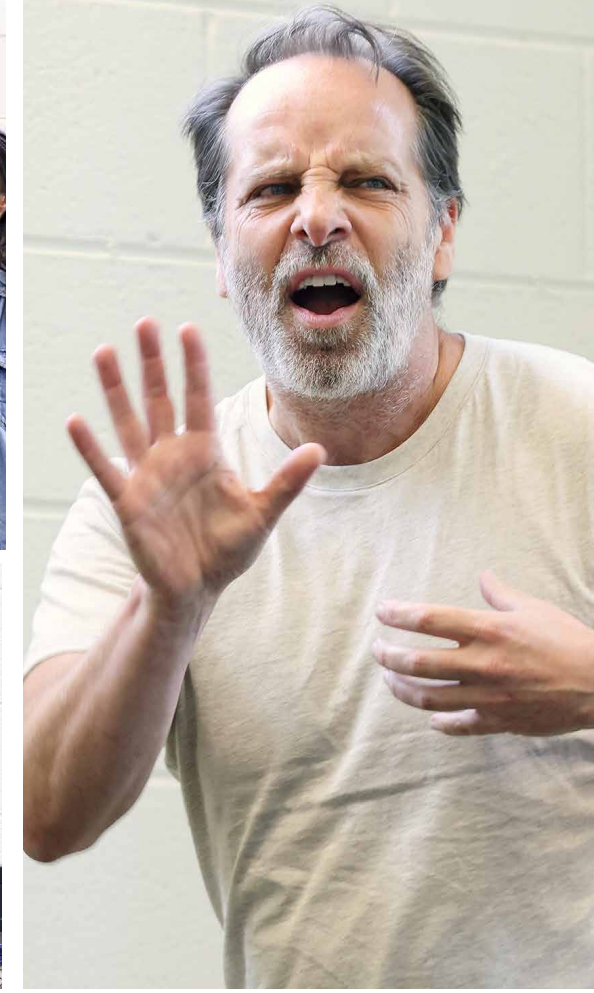
Ailsa graduated from NIDA in 2003. Design credits include CHALKFACE (STC), WATERSHED (Adelaide Festival), WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF (Sydney Festival, QT), SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE, GIRLS AND BOYS, RIPCORD, GASLIGHT, THE 39 STEPS, JASPER JONES, END OF THE RAINBOW, CREDITORS, SENSE AND SENSIBILITY, SWITZERLAND, THE 39 STEPS, BECKETT TRIPTYCH, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, HEDDA GABLER, IN THE NEXT ROOM OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY, WAR MOTHER, THE HAM FUNERAL, THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED), THE PRICE, THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN, BETRAYAL, A DOLL'S HOUSE, THINGS I KNOW TO

BE TRUE, LITTLE BIRD, THE SEAGULL and THREE SISTERS (State Theatre Co of SA), OTHER DESERT CITIES, SEMINAR and SKYLIGHT (Ensemble).



GENEVIEVE GRAHAM
COSTUME DESIGNER

Genevieve graduated from The National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2017 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Design for Performance), and a Masters of Fine Arts (Design for Performance). Her work focuses on the character as the starting point, placing the designer/actor/director collaboration at the forefront of her design process. In 2017, Genevieve received the APDG award for 'Best Emerging Designer', for her production and costume design for EURYDIKE AND ORPHEUS, performed at the NIDA parade theatre, directed by Priscilla Jackman. That same year, Genevieve was the costume designer for The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's BITTERSWEET OBSESSIONS, a new Opera. Straight after graduating, Genevieve was appointed costume designer for series 2 of Channel Seven's television program DROP DEAD WEIRD. Since then she has designed costumes for multiple theatre shows including DIPLOMACY directed by and starring John Bell, and THE APPLETON LADIES' POTATO RACE directed by Priscilla Jackman. In 2019, Genevieve designed the costumes alongside director Kim Carpenter for The Theatre of Image's BRETT AND WENDY - A LOVE STORY BOUND BY ART. Last year Genevieve was the senior costume buyer for the Australian Netflix hit HEARTBREAK HIGH, and since then, she's designed the costumes for two new television mini series: APPETITE on SBS, and THE DISPOSABLES on ABCme.





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 Ensemble: THE CARETAKER, NEARER THE GODS, DIPLOMACY, MURDER ON THE WIRELESS. for Bell Shakespeare: THE MISER, HAMLET, ROMEO AND JULIET. 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 Sport for Jove: THE LIBERTINE, OTHELLO, ANTIGONE, THE RIVER AT THE END OF THE ROAD, THE TEMPEST.



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 is also a sound design mentor for NIDA, and works full time for Sydney Opera House. David's sound design credits include designs for Ensemble Theatre, Hayes Theatre, 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.



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, 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 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: RAINMAN, THE RUBY SUNRISE; for Legs on the Wall: BUBBLE; for LWAA: THE MOUSETRAP (Australia/New Zealand Tours); for Spiegelworld: EMPIRE.



NIAMH PERCY
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

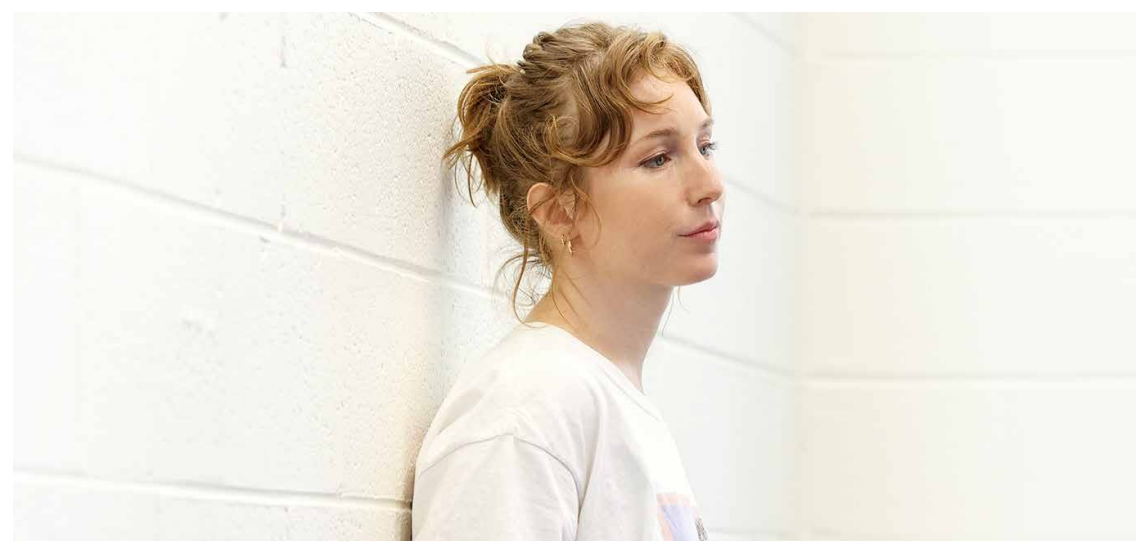
Niamh is a stage manager and producer from the UK who has worked across several areas of theatre and performance including children's theatre, pantomime, contemporary dance, comedy, and fringe festivals. Notable UK companies that Niamh has worked with include Company Wayne McGregor, Theatre Royal Stratford East and The Wardrobe Ensemble. Since arriving in Australia, Niamh has stage managed THE DEMON, a co-commission by Sydney Opera House and OzAsia Festival.



EVELYN EVERAERTS-DONALDSON
COSTUME SUPERVISOR

Evelyn Everaerts - Donaldson is a NIDA costume graduate of 2019 with a production design background from the Design Centre Enmore. She has made couture and burlesque costumes for Australian fashion label Nicol & Ford, prop costumes for the Australian Chamber Orchestra as well as Disney's most recent

film THOR and FROZEN the Musical. Last year she supervised the wardrobe for Belvoir Street Theatre's production of MISS PEONY and THE CHERRY ORCHARD before moving on to become the Costume Supervisor for Darlinghurst Theatre Company's awaited production of A CHORUS LINE. Since then she has constructed costumes for Hayes Theatre Co. production of JEKYLL & HYDE as well as taking on the role as Costume Supervisor for Ensemble Theatre's production of A DOLL'S HOUSE.





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GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION THIS CHRISTMAS.

This holiday season, Ensemble is asking you to dig deep and support our Livestreaming platform that takes live productions directly into schools coupled with specially designed education resources that link the production to the curriculum. Help young people vulnerable to disadvantage, whether it be

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

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Thank you to the following people for bequests in their wills:
Joe Sbarro
Anonymous x 2

Ensemble Theatre supporters are recognised for 12 months from the dates of donation. Current at 8 November 2022.



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.

WORLD PREMIERE



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BY MELANIE TAIT | DIRECTED BY JANINE WATSON

SUPPORTED BY SYDNEY FESTIVAL

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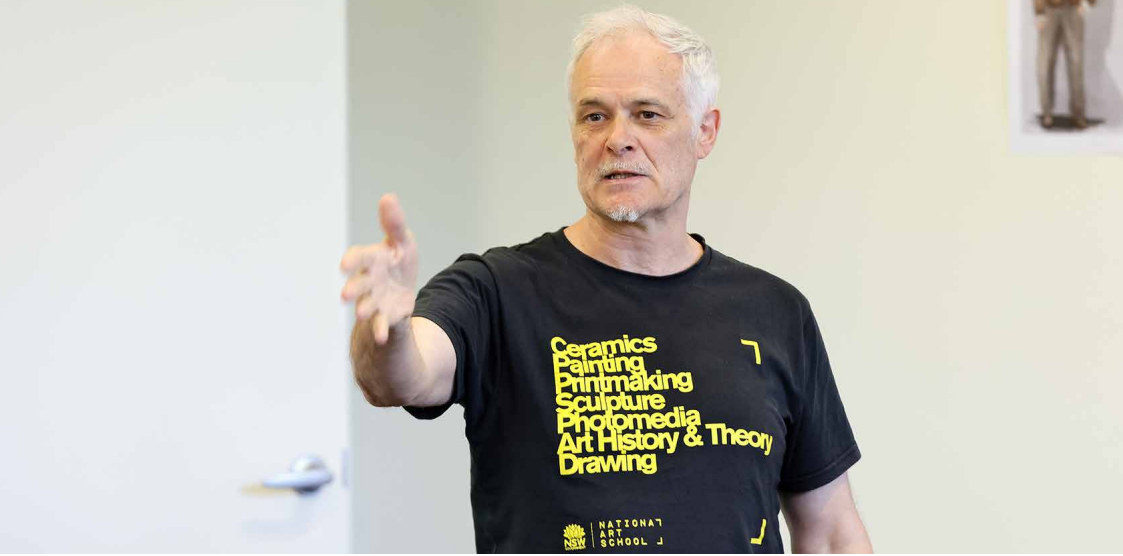
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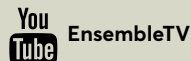
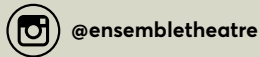


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