

# Dinner

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PREMIERE

14  
MAR  
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29  
MAR

HEATH  
LEDGER  
THEATRE

BLACK SWAN STATE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS



BY MOIRA BUFFINI

STATE THEATRE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**DURATION** Approx 1 hr 45 mins [no interval]  
**WARNING** Dinner contains adult themes, coarse language,  
smoke effects and smoking of herbal cigarettes



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# 2015

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by Moira Buffini  
14 – 29 MAR

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by David Mamet  
23 MAY – 14 JUN

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**BLITHE SPIRIT**  
18 JUL – 9 AUG

**EXTINCTION**  
by Hannie Rayson  
19 SEP – 4 OCT

**THE RED BALLOON**  
by Albert Lamorisse  
Stage Adaptation by Hilary Bell  
1 – 17 OCT

**NEXT TO NORMAL**  
Music by Book & Lyrics by  
Tom Kitt Brian Yorkey  
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## Featuring

Sian  
Mike  
Hal  
The Waiter  
Lars  
Wynne  
Paige

Director  
Set & Lighting Designer  
Costume & Props  
Sound Design/Composer  
Voice Coach  
Fight Director  
Designer of Paige's dress,  
worn by Tasma Walton  
Designer of Wynne's dress,  
worn by Alison van Reeken  
Designer of Sian's dress  
worn by Rebecca Davis  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Set Construction

REBECCA DAVIS  
STUART HALUSZ  
GREG MCNEILL  
KENNETH RANSOM  
STEVE TURNER  
ALISON VAN REEKEN  
TASMA WALTON

KATE CHERRY  
TRENT SUIDGEEST  
INDIA MEHTA  
ASH GIBSON GREIG  
LUZITA FERADAY  
ANDY FRASER  
ALVIN FERNANDEZ, AE'LKEMI

SHEREE DORNAN, LOVE IN TOKYO

MICHELLE TINDALE, TINDALE

PETER SUTHERLAND  
CLAUDIA BLAGAICH  
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Theatre Company, visit  
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# Synopsis

LARS JANSSEN HAS JUST RELEASED HIS MAGNUM OPUS—A SELF-HELP BOOK ENTITLED *BEYOND BELIEF*. IN ORDER TO CELEBRATE THE WARM RECEPTION THE BOOK HAS RECEIVED BOTH COMMERCIALY AND CRITICALLY, LARS' WIFE, THE CAUSTIC SOCIALITE PAIGE, HAS PREPARED A DINNER PARTY IN LARS' HONOUR, INVITING ONLY THE SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL ELITE, AS WELL AS A MYSTERIOUSLY SILENT WAITER.

But with Paige, nothing is ever as simple as it seems. The guests are treated to meals that are more artistic statements than fine cuisine. Some dishes remind the guests of their own insignificance, some force them to question their morality. None are fit for human consumption.

The activities Paige has planned are equally sinister, forcing the guests to confront their darkest secrets and their own self-perception. All of the guests

have something to hide, and Paige plans on forcing them to confront their demons at the dinner table. From seduction to suicide, nothing is off limits, and no one is safe.

After a disgusting dessert, no one particularly feels like staying for coffee. But Paige has yet to reveal her piece de résistance, the final ingredient that will ensure this dinner from hell stays with the guests forever.

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## Acknowledgments

Black Swan State Theatre Company would like to acknowledge the Wadjuk people from the Noongar nation who are the traditional owners and custodians of this land. We pay respect to the Elders; for they hold the history, the cultural practice and traditions of their people. It is a privilege to be together on Noongar country.

Black Swan would like to thank Steve Scaffidi from Sentinel Bar and Grill, Brian Heller and the Arts Angels, Cathy Penglis, Jordan Phoebe, Nathan Fry, Rohin Best, Ruby Smedley, Brendon Parnell, Mal and Jamie Luker, Martin Roth and ABC Studios Perth.

We would also like to thank the team at the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia for their support and assistance.

### Playwright MOIRA BUFFINI



Photo by: Janey Airey

Moira Buffini was born in Carlisle, England and studied English and Drama at Goldsmiths College, London University before training as an actor at the Welsh College of Music and Drama. She

was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Comedy for *Dinner*; which was commissioned by National Theatre before moving to the West End.

Other plays of Moira Buffini include *Handbagged* for the Tricycle Theatre (West End transfer and Olivier Award winner for Best Off West End play); *Welcome To Thebes* for the National Theatre; *Dying For It* (adapted from Nicolai Erdman's *The Suicide*) and *Marianne Dreams*

(adapted from Catherine Storr's book for the Almeida; *A Vampire Story* for NT Connections; *Loveplay* for the Royal Shakespeare Company; *Silence* for Birmingham Rep (Susan Smith Blackburn Prize winner); *Gabriel* for Soho Theatre (LWT Plays On Stage Award winner and the Meyer Whitworth Award winner); *Blavatsky's Tower* for the Machine Room; and *Jordan* with Anna Reynolds for The Gate (Writers Guild Award winner for Best Fringe Play).

Screenplays include *Tamara Drewe* directed by Stephen Frears, *Jane Eyre* directed by Cary Fukunaga, and *Byzantium*, adapted from her play *A Vampire Story*, directed by Neil Jordan. Next up is *Mrs Pretty*, filming in 2015. Moira recently directed her first short film, *Father*.

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# A Note from the Director

DINNER HAS AS MUCH PATHOS AS IT DOES LAUGHTER.

It's hard to talk about this play without giving away its secrets, suffice to say the way that they unfold delights and horrors.

It seems a good time to offer this play to all of you - a play that appears to be about a difficult dinner party about the chattering class of England, unfolds to reveal questions that concern us all: the nature of truth, intergenerational conflict, and the defining choices we make carelessly when we are young, only to be staggered by the consequences when we are middle aged.

A fog that obscures and has a sense of vague threat looms around the boundaries of the play. Lars has created a civilised world of sophistication, control and sterility, where

there is no chaos, where you can eradicate anything that does not fit. Can Lars' philosophy survive the strange fog looming outside, beautiful in chaos and mystery? And who is the strange waiter also looming as a witness?

We asked a collection of exciting WA fashion designers to create the costumes. India Mehta, a recent WAAPA graduate, coordinated the women's designs and designed the men's costumes as well as the props for a sumptuous feast. Trent Suidgeest designed the set and lighting. We are delighted to welcome home Tasma Walton. The woman from Geraldton has been away too long.

*Kate Cherry*, DIRECTOR

Kate Cherry DIRECTOR



**BLACK SWAN:** *Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Seagull, A Streetcar Named Desire, Shrine, The Importance of Being Earnest, Arcadia, The White Divers of Broome, Rising Water, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Boundary Street, Madagascar, Much Ado About Nothing, The Glass Menagerie, The Year of Magical Thinking.* Black Swan/Sydney Theatre Company: *Signs of Life.* Black Swan/Queensland Theatre Company: *Other Desert Cities, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Clean House.* Black Swan/Melbourne Theatre Company: *The Swimming Club.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Melbourne Theatre Company: *Flora, Take Me Out, Honour, The Glass Menagerie, Humble Boy, The Goat or Who is Sylvia?, Cloud*

*Nine, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Sweet Bird of Youth, The Duchess of Malfi, Three Days of Rain, Betrayal, Death of a Salesman, Art and Soul, All My Sons, The Clean House, Burnt Piano, The Woman in the Window, Life After George,* as well as its national tour. Queensland Theatre Company: *The Female of the Species.* Playbox: *The Sick Room, The Tempest, Miracles, Spring Awakening.* Queensland University Theatre: *Our Country's Good.* Geelong Performing Arts Centre: *Art Day.* Victorian Arts Centre: *Electra.* WAAPA: *Cloudstreet, Three Sisters.* **OTHER THEATRE (INTERNATIONAL):** American Conservatory Theatre: *Romeo and Juliet.* Shakespeare and Company: *Cymbeline.* California Shakespeare Festival: *Pericles.* As an inaugural member of Lincoln Center's Director's Lab, Kate was invited to direct *Speaking in Tongues* and *The Bay at Nice* (American premiere) for the Lab. She has also directed *The Love of the Nightingale, Fen, Statements Made After an Arrest, Capoeira,* and *White Trash in Love* (the musical). **OPERA:** NZ Opera: *Madame Butterfly.* Victorian Opera: *The Turn of the Screw, The Coronation of Poppea.* Opera Australia: *Brundibar.* **POSITIONS:** Artistic Director of Black Swan State Theatre Company. Her previous roles include Associate Director at Melbourne Theatre Company 1995-2005; Artistic Associate at Playbox; and Professor of Directing at University of California and Colorado College. **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:** Kate received a Helpmann and a Green Room Award for *Life After George.* Her achievements in the US include New York Drama League Directing Fellow and the Gielgud Award for Best Emerging Director of the Classics. **TRAINING:** Kate received her MFA from UCLA and a B.A. in English Literature from Bard College.

# A Note from the Set & Lighting Designer

I STARTED THE PROCESS OF DESIGNING THE WORLD OF *DINNER* BY IMAGINING HOW WE COULD PRESENT THE ENVELOPING FOG OUR GUESTS STRUGGLE THROUGH TO REACH THE DINNER PARTY.

I was particularly taken by the theatricality of the smoke and fog effect. How immediate and unpredictable it is. A live ingredient, creating a fiercely mysterious and dangerous backdrop for our characters to emerge from and disappear into.

We are also influenced by Japanese architecture, the sense of the rice paper screening, where it can be difficult to determine what is an internal or external door. So that our guests can become disorientated, unable to discern which direction the fog is coming from; it becomes a blurry space of confusion.

On a practical level, with a good portion of the play being set around a dinner table, putting the action onto a revolve seemed to

be a natural device for allowing the audience to access the dialogue, without forcing any characters to be turned away for extended periods of time.

Adding to that, I wanted to play with the motif that the dinner guests are served up on one large plate, and Paige spends the night devouring each of them. Also, giving off a 'Lazy Susan' quality, where the table keeps spinning, only stopping when we get to a juicy bit...

Overall I wanted to keep the entire design elegantly minimalistic. It's a hard, controlled space; the antithesis of warm and inviting. Like our host.

*Trent Suidgeest*, SET & LIGHTING DESIGNER



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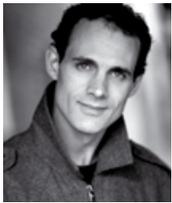
# Cast

## Sian REBECCA DAVIS



**BLACK SWAN:** *The Seagull, Other Desert Cities, The Importance of Being Earnest, Arcadia, Boundary Street, Madagascar, The Memory of Water.* Black Swan/Queensland Theatre Company: *Other Desert Cities.* Black Swan/Onward Production: *Seven Deadly Sins, Four Deadly Sinners.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Onward Production: *Singular Women.* Perth Theatre Company: *The Big Picture, The Vagina Monologues.* Deckchair Theatre: *As You Like It.* Brainbox Project/His Majesty's Theatre: *The Mercy Seat.* Barking Gecko: *Skylab.* Agelink Theatre: *The Greatest Women in the World, Dear Heart, Airswimming.* Red Ryder Productions: *A Moment on the Lips.* Australian Shakespeare Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* EHJ Productions: *Lady Chatterley's Lover.* Performing Arts Productions: *Anne of Green Gables, Miles Franklin.* Lookout Theatre: *In Lambeth.* Shakespeare Globe Theatre: *King Lear.* **TV:** *Lockie Leonard (Series II), Sleepover Club (Series II), State Coroner, Murder Call.* **FILM:** *The Reckoning, The Mystery of Natalie Wood, Victim.* **OTHER:** Proud member of Equity since 1983. Rebecca is a Company Director of Big Sky Entertainment. **AWARDS:** 2008 Equity Guild Award for Best Actress for *The Greatest Woman in the World.* **TRAINING:** 2001 Inaugural International Artistic Fellowship to Shakespeare Globe Theatre, London.

## Mike STUART HALUSZ



**BLACK SWAN:** *Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Importance of Being Earnest, The White Divers of Broome, Rising Water, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, The Memory of Water, Far Away, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?.* Black Swan/Melbourne Theatre Company: *National Interest.* Black Swan/Big Sky Entertainment: *Shakespeare Shenanigans.* **DIRECTOR:** *The House on The Lake.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Red Ryder Productions: *Loveplay.* Perth Theatre Company: *The Big Picture, Taking Liberty, Marmalade and Egg, Skin Tight, Noble Rot for Uncut Gems.* Deckchair Theatre: *Taking Liberty, The Modern International Dead, The Comedy of Errors, As You Like It.* Shakespeare Globe Centre: *King Lear, Sonnet Stroll.* Australian Shakespeare Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Agelink Theatre: *Dear Heart, As Ships Pass By, Here to Stay, Christmas Spirit.* Belvoir Street Theatre: *Essington Lewis: I Am Work.* Performing Arts Productions: *Homme Fatale – The Joey Stefano Story, Lady Chatterley's Lover, Anne of Green Gables.* Ensemble Theatre: *Dags.* Downstairs at the Maj: *Pinter's People.* **TV:** *The Great Mint Swindle, Cloudstreet, The Great Escape, Air Australia, CNNNN, The Secret Life of Us, Blonde, Blue Heelers, Thunderstone, Big Sky, Fallen Angels.* **FILM:** *The Reckoning, Victim.* **DIRECTOR:** Midnite Youth Theatre: *Troilus and Cressida.* WA Youth Theatre Company: *Romeo and Juliet.* Maelstrom Productions: *On A Day in Summer in A Garden.* **OTHER:** Proud member of Equity since 1995. **AWARDS:** 2000 Narrator of the Year Award. **TRAINING:** WAAPA, The Inaugural International Artistic Fellowship to Shakespeare Globe Theatre, London and SA FDi Intermediate Stage Combat.

## Hal GREG MCNEILL



**BLACK SWAN:** *Gasp!, The Seagull, As You Like It, The White Divers of Broome, The Damned, Madagascar, The Crucible, The Year of Living Dangerously, Money and Friends.* Black Swan/Queensland Theatre Company: *Managing Carmen.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Perth Theatre Company: *The Removalists, An Oak Tree, Baby Boomer Blues, Cargo, Soulmates, Welcome to Dullsville, Face to Face, Covert, Cox Four, Speaking in Tongues, Third World Blues, Siren, A Passionate Woman, Dead Funny, Lockie Leonard Human Torpedo.* Ensemble Theatre Sydney: *A Conversation.* State Theatre Company of WA: *Antony and Cleopatra, The Country Wife, Orpheus Descending, The Season at Sarsaparilla, Away.* Deckchair Theatre: *Taking Liberty, Sweetown.* Shakespeare in the Park: *Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew.* Effie Crump Theatre: *Conjugal Rites, Rattle Of A Simple Man, The Wee Small Hours, Livingstone, Home Open, Bedfellows, Going Bananas.* Hole In The Wall: *Death of a Salesman, Rusty Bugles.* Independent: *Macbeth, To Have and To Hold, Troilus and Cressida, A Strong Left Hand.* **TV:** *The War That Changed Us, Cloudstreet, Foreign Exchange, The Shark Net, Murder x 3, FastTracks, Bay City, Ship to Shore, Clowning Around.* **FILM:** *Drift, Japanese Story, Justice, Teesh and Trude, Boxed In, Pink Pajamas.* **DIRECTOR:** *Talk About the Passion.* **OTHER:** Proud member of Equity since 1989. **AWARDS:** WA Equity Guild Award: 2011 Best Leading Actor for *Madagascar.*



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The Waiter **KENNETH RANSOM**



**BLACK SWAN:** *The House on The Lake, The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Boundary Street, Twelfth Night, The Sapphires, Much Ado About Nothing.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Ensemble Theatre: *McReele.* Company B Belvoir: *Stuff Happens.* Queensland Theatre Company: *The Female of the Species.* Melbourne Theatre Company: *Boy Gets Girl, Take Me Out, Metamorphoses, Twelfth Night, Measure for Measure, The Duchess of Malfi, Macbeth, Hamlet Explorations.* Shakespeare & Co: *As You Like It, The Tempest, Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Comedy of Errors.* Mark

Taper Forum: *Julius Caesar, Life Without Men.* **OPERA:** Opera Australia: *The Abduction from the Seraglio.* Theatreworks: *Rigoletto.* **TV:** *Childhood's End, Nightmares & Dreamscapes, Scooter Secret Agent, Code III4, Counterstrike, The Secret Life of Us, Border Patrol, Crash Zone, Backberner, China Beach, Hotel, Fame.* **FILM:** *Gods of Egypt, Voodoo Lagoon, Crocodile Hunter – Collision Course, Crocodile Dundee in LA, Dead End, There Goes My Baby.* **OTHER:** Proud member of Equity since 1996.

Lars **STEVE TURNER**



**BLACK SWAN:** *As You Like It, A Streetcar Named Desire, Boy Gets Girl, Arcadia, When The Rain Stops Falling, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, The Glass Menagerie, The Crucible, The Carnivores, On Our Selection, To Whom It May Concern.* Black Swan/Happy Dagger Theatre: *Cyrano de Bergerac.* Black Swan/Bunuba Films: *Jandamarra.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Kay & McLean Productions: *The Graduate.* Perth Theatre Company: *Speed-the-Plow, The Turning, Tango, Talk About The Passion, Weekend Breaks, Molly Sweeney.* Effie Crump Theatre: *Relatively Speaking, Below, Signal Driver, President Wilson in Paris.* WA

Theatre Co: *Italian American Reconciliation.* Deckchair Theatre: *The Fremantle Candidate, The Modern International Dead, Grace, Much Ado About Nothing, The Comedy of Errors, Twelfth Night, Bell in the Storm.* company M: *The Gun, Luv Struk, Bone Dry, Road Train, Jeepers Creepers, Windows.* The Blue Room: *October, Killer Joe.* The Regal Theatre: *Allo Allo.* Performing Artists: *Lady Chatterley's Lover.* The Artisan Collective: *Requiem for Dalinka.* SWY Theatre Co: *Teachers, Under Milkwood.* Hole in The Wall Theatre: *Twelfth Night, Rusty Bugles.* **OTHER:** Proud member of Equity since 1987. **AWARDS:** 2007 WA Equity Guild Award Members Choice for *The Crucible*, 2002 WA Equity Guild Award for Best Actor for *Below* and the 2001 WA Equity Guild Award for Best Actor for *To Whom It May Concern.*

Wynne **ALISON VAN REEKEN**



**BLACK SWAN:** *Dust, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat, Boy Gets Girl, When The Rain Stops Falling, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Female of the Species, Life x 3, The Crucible, Woyzeck, The Carnivores, A Man with Five Children.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Onward Production: *The Deep Blue Sea, Seven Deadly Sins, Four Deadly Sinners.* Kay & McLean Productions: *The Graduate.* Perth Theatre Company: *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit, An Oak Tree, The Turning, Charitable Intent.* Red Ryder Productions: *Dying City, A Moment on the Lips.* Class Act: *Twelfth Night.* Renstar: *She Told Me So.* Darlinghurst

Theatre: *Five Stories High, The Treatment, Etta Jenks.* Old Fitzroy Theatre: *Dogs Barking, Paradise.* Belvoir St Theatre Downstairs: *Chambres, An Idiot Amongst Us, Edmund.* **TV:** *Three Acts of Murder, The Sleepover Club, Murder Call, All Saints, Water Rats.* **FILM:** *These Final Hours, George Jones and the Giant Squid, Middle Children, All the Way.* **PRODUCER:** *Dealer's Choice, The Mozart Faction, Loveplay, Looming the Memory, Dying City, Fat Pig.* **AWARDS:** Best Actor (Female) 2011 Equity Guild Award for *The Deep Blue Sea* and Best Supporting Actor (Female) 2006 Equity Guild Award for *The Carnivores.* **TRAINING:** Diploma of Performance Studies (Theatre) from WAAPA and Curtin University. **OTHER:** Proud member of Equity since 1996.

Paige **TASMA WALTON**



**BLACK SWAN:** *Live Acts on Stage.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Valhalla Theatre: *The Vagina Monologues.* Ensemble Theatre: *Men of Honour.* Phoenix Theatre: *The Marriage Of Figaro.* New Theatre Company: *Six Degrees Of Separation, Jigsaws.* **TV:** Many television credits including *It's a Date, Blue Heelers, Little Oberon, City Homicide (Series 2 & 3), The Secret Life Of Us, The Postcard Bandit, Blackjack, McLeod's Daughters, Sea Patrol, Home and Away, White Collar Blue, Stupid, Stupid Man.* **FILM:** *Looking for Grace, Mystery Road, Dreamland, Blessed, Roll, Subterano, Virtual Nightmare, Fistful of Flies.* **AWARDS:** Logie Award for Best New Talent for *Blue Heelers.* Best Actress award at the 4th International Soschi Film Festival, Russia for *Fistful of Flies.* **TRAINING:** Trained at NIDA.

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# Creatives

## Set & Lighting Designer TRENT SUIDGEEST



**BLACK SWAN:** *Shrine, Death of a Salesman. LIGHTING DESIGNER:* *Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Dust, The House on The Lake, Midsummer [a play with songs], The Importance of Being Earnest, The Motherf\*\*ker With The Hat, Boy Gets Girl, Arcadia, The White Divers of Broome, When The Rain Stops Falling, Ninety, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (with Graham Walne). Black Swan/Belvoir: *The Sapphires*. Black Swan/Queensland Theatre Company: *Gasp!, Other Desert Cities, Managing Carmen*. Black Swan/Melbourne Theatre Company: *National Interest*. The HotBed Ensemble: *pool (no water), The Dark Room. OTHER*

**THEATRE:** Sydney Festival: *I Am Eora*. Barking Gecko: *The Rabbits, Jasper Jones, Duck, Death and the Tulip, The Amber Amulet, Fatty Wombat*. Yirra Yaakin: *Waltzing The Wilarra*. The Production Company: *Kismet, The King and I*. Perth Theatre Company: *An Oak Tree*. Steps Youth Dance Company: *Try Hard, Compact Dance, Moonwebs & Scorched Thongs*. Strut Dance/Alice Lee Holland: *Tiny Little Tragedies*. Aimee Smith: *Borderline, Wintering*. Buzz Dance: *Genie(us)*. **SET AND LIGHTING DESIGNER:** Steps Youth Dance Company: *Fights & Flights*. **INSTALLATIONS:** Jackman Furness Foundation of Performing Arts Launch. Perth Festival Gardens 2012–2015. **POSITIONS:** DCA Young People and the Arts Funding Panelist 2009–2012, WAAPA Board 2007–2008. **GRANTS:** 2010 Artstart Grant, 2014 Australia Council Creative Professionals, 2015 DCA Young People Fellowship, 2015 Mike Walsh Fellowship. **TRAINING:** 2008 WAAPA graduate.

## Costume & Props INDIA MEHTA



**BLACK SWAN: SET & COSTUME DESIGNER:** *The House on The Lake, Flood. ASSISTANT SET & COSTUME DESIGNER:* *A Streetcar Named Desire, As You Like It. OTHER THEATRE:* Jo Morris & TheMOXYcollective: *Those Who Fall in Love Like Anchors Dropped Upon The Ocean Floor*. Tim Solly & Steamwork Productions: *The Dirty Cowboy*. Yirra Yaakin: *King Hit*. Renegade Productions: *The Tribe*. Happy Dagger Theatre: *The Boat Goes Over The Mountain*. Gilbert and Sullivan Society WA: *The Land of Smiles*. John Curtin College of the Arts: *Cloudstreet. COSTUME*

**DESIGNER:** *The Burning Kiss. EVENT DESIGNER:* Jackman Furness Foundation Launch. Janet Holmes à Court Birthday. **OTHER:** India designed and performed in *2011 Prague Quadrennial: Street Stories* in Prague Czech Republic. **AWARDS:** Blue Room Theatre Awards: 2014 Best Design Award, Best Production Award, Members Choice Award, Best Performance Award for *Those Who Fall In Love Like Anchors Dropped Upon The Ocean Floor*. 2013 Best Production for *The Boat Goes Over the Mountain* & Best Production Team for *The Tribe*. 2011 David Hough Award for Design. **TRAINING:** 2011 WAAPA Live Production for Theatre and Events (Design).

## Sound Design/Composer ASH GIBSON GREIG



**BLACK SWAN:** *The Seagull, As You Like It, Day One, A Hotel, Evening, The Importance of Being Earnest, Arcadia, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, The Memory of Water, The Messiah, The Lady Aoi*. Black Swan/Queensland Theatre Company: *The Clean House. OTHER THEATRE:* Malthouse: *The Trial*. The Last Great Hunt: *Falling Through Clouds*. ThinIce: *The Red Shoes, Bed, The Gathering, The Visit*. Barking Gecko: *Storm Boy, The Amber Amulet, Aesop's Fable, Gogo Fish, The Troll From the Bowl, Hidden Dragons. TV:* *Who Do You Think You Are* (Australia), *The*

*War That Changed Us, The Lloyd Rayney Story, Dream House, Boom Town, Murdoch, Yagan, Singapore 1942, Jandamarra's War, Desert War, Leaky Boat, Ned's Head, Desperately Seeking Doctor, Time Trackers. FILM:* *Frackman, Big Mamma's Boy. AWARDS:* 2014 AACTA Award Best Sound in a Documentary for *Desert War*, 2014 WA Screen Award Best Music Long Form and Best Music Short Form, 2013 WA Screen Award Best Music Long Form for *Desert War*, 2009 WA Screen Award for Excellence in Craft (Composition), 2007 APRA/AGSC Awards for Best Music for a Short Film, *Iron Bird*.

## Voice Coach LUZITA FERADAY



**BLACK SWAN:** *The Damned, Glengarry Glen Ross. OTHER THEATRE:* Barking Gecko Theatre Company: *Jasper Jones, ONEFIVEZEROSEVEN, Driving Into Walls*. Two Left Feet Productions: *Annie, The Musical*. The Blue Room Theatre and Nest Ensemble: *Joey: The Mechanical Boy*. WAAPA: *Great Expectations, The Berkoffs, The Bacchae, The Greeks, Beauty and the Beast, The Laramie Project, Violet, Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Blood Will Have Blood. DIRECTOR:* Luzita's directing credits include work for John Curtin College of the Arts, WA Youth Theatre Company and the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. **ACTOR:**

Royal Shakespeare Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Man in the Moon: *Edmond*. Channel Theatre Company: *Jack and the Giant Killer*. Hackney Empire: *Taking Liberties*. Almeida Theatre: *Surrender Dorothy/Paca Mamas Blessing*. Bloomsbury Theatre: *Blood Wedding. TV:* *Firm Friends, Minder. FILM:* *Sister, My Sister. OTHER:* Luzita has taught Voice Fundamentals to Bachelor of Performing Arts students at WAAPA, Curtin University, Notre Dame University, The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (CSSD). **TRAINING:** Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) Acting graduate 1992, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (CSSD) Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Theatre 2007. Luzita is about to complete her Masters by Research at Edith Cowan University (WAAPA) on Accent and Dialect Training for Actors.

## Fight Director ANDY FRASER



**BLACK SWAN:** *Venus in Fur, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Seagull, Dust, As You Like It, A Streetcar Named Desire, Flood, Midsummer [a play with songs], Death of a Salesman, The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat, Signs of Life, The White Divers of Broome, Ninety, Boundary Street, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, The Web, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Female of the Species, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, The Crucible, The Carnivores, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline*. Black Swan/Queensland Theatre Company: *Other Desert Cities*. Black Swan/Big Sky Entertainment:

*Shakespeare Shenanigans*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Perth Theatre Company: *The Removalists, The Haunting of Daniel Gartrell, Speed-the-Plow, Hamlet, Talk About the Passion*. Yirra Yaakin: *King Hit, Waltzing the Wilarra, Mother's Tongue, The Honey Spot, Muttacar Sorry Business*. Deckchair Theatre: *The Danger Age, Mimmie le Blanc, Love, Prayer to an Iron God*. Onward Production: *Private Lives, The Deep Blue Sea*. Shakespeare in the Park: *As You Like It, Comedy of Errors, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet*. Barking Gecko: *Jasper Jones, Trains of Thought*. **OPERA:** West Australian Opera: *Otello, Tosca, Carmen, Don Giovanni*. **TV:** *Lockie Leonard Human Torpedo, The Shark Net*. **FILM:** *Teesh & Trude*. **TRAINING:** Fully certified Fight Director and Stage Combat Instructor holding accreditation from the Society of Australian Fight Directors and the British Academy of Dramatic Combat.

Stage Manager **PETER SUTHERLAND**



**BLACK SWAN:** *The Seagull, As You Like It, Midsummer [a play with songs], A Streetcar Named Desire*. Black Swan/Belvoir: *The Sapphires*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Queensland Theatre Company (QTC): *Black Diggers, Venus in Fur, Kelly, Elizabeth, No Man's Land, Faustus, Grimm Tales, Betrayal, The Crucible, The Female of the Species, Rabbit Hole, The August Moon, Molly Sweeney, Buried Child, Dirt, Fred, Fountains Beyond, The Skin of Our Teeth*. QTC/Bell Shakespeare: *Faustus, The Alchemist, The Tragedy of Richard III, Anatomy Titus Fall of Rome: A Shakespeare Commentary*. QTC/Belvoir: *Summer of the Seventeenth*

*Doll*. QTC/QPAC: *The School of Arts*. QTC/Playbox: *The Fortunes of Richard Mahony*. Bell Shakespeare: *Henry IV, King Lear, The Government Inspector, Macbeth, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Measure for Measure, Wars of the Roses, Hamlet, Richard III*. Sydney Theatre Company: *Blacked Up, Stones in His Pockets, Barrymore*. Griffin Theatre Company: *Wicked Sisters*. Melbourne Theatre Company: *Dumb Show, The Herbal Bed, A Little Night Music*. Legs On The Wall: *Eora Crossing, Flying Blind*. Darwin Theatre Company: *The Winter's Tale, Così, Diving for Pearls, Emma*. **OPERA:** Sydney Conservatorium of Music: *The Beggar's Opera*. Queensland Conservatorium of Music: *Orpheus in the Underworld*. **TRAINING:** NIDA Bachelor of Dramatic Arts, Technical Production.

Assistant Stage Manager **CLAUDIA BLAGAICH**



**BLACK SWAN:** *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. **STAGE MANAGER:** *Venus in Fur*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Louise Wither and Associates: *A Murder is Announced* [Perth season]. **PRODUCTION MANAGER:** ICW Productions: *The Mikado*. **EVENTS:** Right Angle Events & Accolade Event Management: *White Night Melbourne 2014, Tom Hoard Cup International Water Polo Tournament 2012*. Spirit Entertainment: *Oz Concert 2011*. City of Perth: *Christmas Nativity 2011*. **FILM:** ABC Raw Nerve Funding: *Tartan* (Associate Producer). **AWARDS:** 2012 Hawaiian award for Stage Management. **TRAINING:** 2012 WAAPA graduate in Stage Management. 2013 WASA graduate in Producing.

# Deadly Dishes and Infamous Invitees

BY SARAH NELSON

DINNER PARTIES HAVE BEEN A SOCIAL TRADITION FOR CENTURIES, TRACING BACK AS EARLY AS THE LAST SUPPER - ARGUABLY THE MOST FAMOUS DINNER PARTY IN HISTORY. HOWEVER, LIKE THE OUTRAGEOUS DINNER PARTY IMAGINED BY MOIRA BUFFINI IN HER PLAY *DINNER*, SOME OF THESE SOCIAL GATHERINGS HAVE MADE THE LIST AS THE MOST INFAMOUS - OR EVEN DEADLIEST - DINNER PARTIES IN HISTORY. HERE ARE A FEW THAT WE BELIEVE TO BE NOTABLE MENTIONS:

## SIBLING RIVALRY

In 55 A.D, the young Britannicus was murdered the day before his 14th birthday by the jealous hands of his stepbrother Nero, the Roman Emperor. Nero had ordered a poison to be added to his stepbrother's drink, which caused him to pass away immediately after the first sip. Interestingly, the assassin who was hired to do the evil deed was the same woman hired to take Britannicus' father's life a year earlier.

## A POISONED PROFIT

After their victory over the Jewish settlement Khaibar in 659 A.D, Muhammad and his men enjoyed a meal of secretly poisoned lamb that is said to have been prepared by a Jewish woman from the settlement. According to scholars, upon his death 3 years later, Muhammad blamed the poison for his untimely death. The poison was given by the Jewish woman as revenge against Muhammad and his men for the killing of her family and people.

## CLASSICS IN THE MAKING

Though no one was maimed or murdered at this party - it is definitely one for the list! In the summer of 1816, a handful of literary kings and queens of the decade (Byron, Polidori and Shelley to name a few) were gathered for a dinner at Villa Diodati in Switzerland. The group drank wine

and used laudanum (liquid opium) and spent the night sharing horrifying ghost stories and plots. It was from this drug-fuelled atmosphere that Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Monster was born!

## THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T DIE

According to legend, the healer and mystic Grigori Rasputin was lured to a dinner party in 1916 by a group of noble men who wished to end his influence over Tsar Nicholas II. At the dinner, Rasputin was served poisoned cakes and wine that contained enough cyanide to kill 5 men. Much to the noble's dismay, Rasputin survived! The noble men then resorted to shooting him four times and beating him, but still he would not die. As a final attempt to eradicate the healer, they dumped his wounded body into an icy river, where he finally met his end.

## HAVE A HEART!

Famous for his love of consuming strange and exotic meals, Dr William Buckland (1784-1856) hosted dinner parties famous for menus that would make even the most adventurous eaters nervous. His most famous meal occurred when he was presented with the heart of Louis XIV at an exhibit in Nuneham. It is said that Dr Buckland exclaimed, 'I have never eaten the heart of a king before', and, before anyone could stop him, he gobbled it up!

# About Black Swan

FOUNDED IN 1991, WE ARE WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S FLAGSHIP THEATRE COMPANY, EARNING CRITICAL AND POPULAR ACCLAIM FOR OUR WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTIONS AND HIGHLY DISTINCTIVE RE-INTERPRETATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL THEATRE CLASSICS.

Landmark productions under Kate Cherry's artistic leadership include: *A Streetcar Named Desire* which broke box office records; three world premieres by Tim Winton – *Shrine* (Perth, Albany and Centenary Festival in Canberra), *Rising Water* (Perth, Albany and Melbourne Theatre Company) and *Signs of Life* (Perth, Albany and Sydney Opera House); *The Sapphires*

(Perth, Canberra, London and Korea); and *Boundary Street* (Perth and Brisbane Festival).

Black Swan produces an annual season of exceptional theatre, as well as an extensive education and regional engagement programs, commissions program and artist development program.

## KEY PROGRAM AREAS

### EDUCATION

We are committed to supporting educators in developing an appreciation of the performing arts, with selected performances, workshops, quality resources and value adding experiences that support and complement the Western Australian and Australian curriculum. Heavily subsidised student ticket prices and school subscription packages are offered in addition to work experience internships and high school and tertiary student ambassador programs.

This year's, special in-school and regional touring is *Shadowboxing* by local artists Ella Hetherington and Marko Jovanovic. *Shadowboxing* explores what happens when we define ourselves by the opinions of others rather than who we are. In a digital landscape full of answers to unasked questions – *Shadowboxing* offers questions truly worth contemplating.

Suitable for ages 11-17 years, *Shadowboxing* will tour schools and regional areas in Western Australia in 2015.

### REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Black Swan aims to develop long-term, reciprocal relationships with regional and remote Western Australia, embed theatre in the lives of all Western Australians, regardless of location, and support vitality, pride and strength in communities.

Underpinning this strategy is the appointment of regional ambassadors, who act as a conduit between the company and their communities in the delivery of live broadcasts, regional tours and other community engagement activities. The 2015 Live Broadcast will be Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit* in late July.

### RIO TINTO BLACK SWAN COMMISSIONS

This program, supported by our Principal Partner Rio Tinto, enables Black Swan to commission Australia's leading playwrights to develop new works. These works will reveal to Western Australians, stories about ourselves and showcase our work to the world. In 2015, we will present another commission in the adaptation of *The Red Balloon* by Hilary Bell.

### BLACK SWAN LAB

We have programmed two exciting and ambitious artistic collaborations as part of our second year of the Black Swan Lab. *Venus in Fur* by David Ives, part of the FRINGE WORLD Festival 2015 and *The Red Balloon* by Albert Lamorisse, with a stage adaptation by Hilary Bell, part of the 2015 AWESOME Festival. The Black Swan Lab allows emerging artists to work with us in a comprehensive and supportive environment.

It also allows us to develop works that may be suitable for future regional touring.

*Supported in part by the Patrons Club.*

*Venus in Fur supported in part by Wild Swans.*

### EMERGING ARTISTS

A critical component of our creative agenda is to provide professional pathways for emerging artists, including high potential directors, designers, writers, composers and actors. Black Swan supports them as they work towards establishing themselves on the national stage. This program provides access to training, mentoring and state-of-the-art theatre practice, to facilitate professional development within the realms of a state theatre company. It gives emerging artists the opportunity to work with Artistic Director Kate Cherry and our experienced creative teams, who mentor them throughout the year.

The Emerging Artists for 2015 are:

- Shannen Alyce
- Hannah Day
- Ella Hetherington
- Joel Horwood
- Patrick Howe
- Marko Jovanovic
- Joe Lui
- Felicity McKay
- India Mehta
- Brett Smith

*The Emerging and Resident Artists Programs are supported in part by the McCusker Charitable Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation.*

### RESIDENT ARTISTS

The Resident Artists Program targets a range of experienced artists, including directors, designers, writers and composers, looking to advance their careers. The program provides opportunities for mentoring and interaction with Artistic Director Kate Cherry and our artistic team, as well as significant profiling and showcasing opportunities. Resident Artists also provide support and mentoring to the emerging artists. The Resident Artists for 2015 are:

- Jon Buswell
- Ben Collins
- Andy Fraser
- Brendan Hanson
- Chrissie Parrott
- Hellie Turner

### EMERGING WRITERS GROUP

Black Swan's Emerging Writers Group will guide a group of playwrights who display determination, promise and originality through a one year script development program with the aim of creating scripts of an international standard. The program will equip emerging playwrights with the skills, networks and techniques to foster their own careers and give them the ability and confidence to manage their works and rights effectively.

The group is led by Black Swan's Associate Director Jeffrey Jay Fowler. The playwrights are encouraged to develop a clear understanding of Black Swan's creative vision, audience demographics and style. Black Swan will provide sustainable pathways for emerging writers wanting to produce work for the stage that can be considered in the future for Black Swan programming.

*Supported in part by the Malcolm Robertson Foundation.*

# Giving to Black Swan

Founding Patron, **Janet Holmes à Court AC** has played a significant role in the development of Black Swan's artistic development and education programs. Her generosity has provided a platform for future development of arts and culture in Western Australia.

The generous contribution of **Andrew and Nicola Forrest** to Black Swan is assisting our future development and security as Western Australian's State Flagship Theatre Company.

Thanks to Patron **Sam Walsh** and **Leanne** for their support and leadership that has been a significant factor in Black Swan's successes.

## BLACK SWAN BOARD

Thank you for giving generously in many ways and showing outstanding leadership.

- Mark Barnaba AO
- Alan Cransberg
- Andrew Drayton
- Nicola Forrest
- Andrew Harding
- Rob McKenzie
- Kate O'Hara
- Vicki Robinson
- Linda Savage
- Craig Yaxley

## PATRONS CLUB

Patrons Club members give generously to support the Black Swan Lab to life and continue to create opportunities for the staging of new works. Thank you:

- Janet Holmes à Court AC
- Adrian and Michela Fini
- Ungar Family Foundation
- Stan and Jean Perron

## FOUNDATIONS

We thank you for nurturing the talents of Western Australian artists through our education, development and international programs.



McCusker  
Charitable  
Foundation



## WHITE SWANS

Michela Fini, Sandy Honey and Sallie Anne Manford have led this successful and innovative private giving circle to collectively help enrich WA's growing enthusiasm for the arts. Thank you:

- Jo & Ian Adamson
- John Bond & Linda Birmingham
- Katrina & Craig Burton
- Debbie & Peter Chappell
- Warren & Linda Coli
- Tracey & Charles Crompton
- Terri & Chris Dale
- Camillo & Joanne Della Maddalena
- Marco D'Orsogna
- Treffina & Graham Dowland
- Sally & Giles Everist
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- Annie & Brett Fogarty
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- Mimi & Willy Packer
- Shareen Truab & Peter Lee
- Lindsey & Peter Platt
- Ingrid & Mark Puzey
- Veronique Ramen
- Eric Ripper, Marijana Ravlich & Heather Lyons
- Linda Savage & Stephen Davis
- Carolyn Stewart
- Natasha & Ross Taylor
- Debbie & Joe Throsby
- Julie & Eddie Van Beem
- Anonymous (1)

## LOCAL LARRIKINS

Janet Holmes à Court created this giving circle continues to engage young Western Australians with theatre and ensuring new Western Australian focused works are brought to Black Swan audiences each year. Thank you:

- Janet Holmes à Court AC
- Bill Bloking
- Bernard Cresswell
- Diana & Peter Hammond
- Lloyd Houthuysen
- Garrod Keightley
- Judith Kozak
- Meredith & James McClements
- John McGlue & Sharon Dawson
- Kate O'Hara
- Stephen Scaffidi
- Simon & Alison Stewart
- Tim & Chris Ungar
- Terri-ann White
- Anonymous (2)

## WILD SWANS

Perth's emerging arts enthusiasts are collectively giving to drive a new generation of theatre. Thank you:

Committee:

- Belinda Buratto
- Rachel Huber
- Trina Mahon
- Jane McEvoy

Members:

- Tamryn Barker
- Leandro Cavalcanti
- Ashley Chan
- Catriona Della Martina
- John Drennan
- Michelle Kerr
- Belinda Lake
- Vincenzo Nici
- Samantha Rees
- Andrea Righetti
- Josh Starick

## ENCORE!

Thank you to the following people who have kindly donated to Black Swan's giving program Encore! to support the 2015 season.

## ENCORE! \$10,000 AND ABOVE

- Janet Holmes à Court AC
- Malcolm Robertson Foundation
- McCusker Charitable Foundation
- The Stan Perron Charitable Trust
- Linda Savage
- Sam & Leanne Walsh
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- In memory of Bern Ranford

## APPLAUSE \$5,000 TO \$9,999

- Rick & Carol Crabb
- Macquarie Group Foundation
- Kay Giogetta

## OPENING ACT \$2,500 TO \$4,999

- Warwick Helmsley & Melissa Parke
- Walter Millstead
- Delys Newman
- Dr Rob Larbalestier
- Michael & Helen Tuite

## FIRST CALL \$1,000 TO \$2,499

- Shane Colquhoun & Leigh Cathcart
- Andrew Crocker & Dianne Sunderman
- Kevin Daken
- Peter & Lesley Davies
- John Foster
- Lianne & Raymond Gianoli
- Nicola Iffla
- Jim & Freda Irenic
- Gordon & Nena Johnston
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- Thurston Saulsman
- Robyn Tamke
- Richard Tarala & Lyn Beazley AO
- Anonymous (1)

## BEHIND THE SCENES \$500 TO \$999

- David & Minnette Ambrose
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- Evans-Vanderboom Family
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- Francis Landels
- Megan Lowe
- Amanda Luke
- Deborah Luke
- Mary Ellen IM Kerensa
- Lee-Anne Raeside
- Gavin Toovey
- Joy Wearne
- Anonymous (3)

**\$50 TO \$499**

- Helen Ackroyd
- David Ambrose
- Graham Anderson
- Robin & Michael Beech
- John Blackwell
- Dr Sue Boyd
- Robert Brant
- Jan Cain
- Jennifer Carson
- Debra Carter
- Giovanni Cartoni
- Katherine Cheng
- Anita & James Clayton
- Dr Sue Colyer
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- Shirley Egan
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- Susan Fleming
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- Elizabeth Grindrod
- Lisa Hando
- David Hardie
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- Brigid Woss
- Christopher Wray
- Don Young
- Anonymous (33)

**LEGACY LEADERS**

Leave a legacy to ensure WA theatre remains sustainable for generations to come. A bequest cements a legacy in your memory and marks a meaningful bond with theatre and Black Swan.

*Thank you to our patrons who support Black Swan as donors or by leaving a bequest. To support Black Swan please contact Andree McIntyre, Philanthropy Manager on 0417 187 025 or andree@bsstc.com.au.*



# Black Swan State Theatre Company

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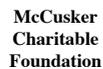
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(08) 6212 9305 to discuss how we can help you do business.



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