

A NOTE FROM THE Artistic Director

We have had an amazing start to the year at Black Swan. Currently I am in the rehearsal room for *A Streetcar Named Desire* working with fight choreographer Andy Fraser, movement choreographer Chrissie Parrott and Assistant Director Lawrie Cullen-Tait, along with some of the finest actors in the country working to create a savage *Streetcar* where physical and psychological violence rip through a tiny New Orleans apartment.

Set in the steamy, sexy world of the French Quarter, *Streetcar* is about an epic struggle between Stanley and Blanche for domination of Stella. As we rehearse I gaze at the doors we are using in the scene. Nathaniel Dean as Stanley walks into the room and kicks the door with his work boots. The door no longer shuts, Sigrid Thornton as Blanche hurls a chair at Stanley and puts a hole in the other door. She hurls the chair again and puts another hole in it. We also break three chairs and that is in one afternoon's rehearsal. We practice smashing a bottle and watch the sugar glass fly everywhere. It looks and sounds fantastic. Now we have to make it safe as well. Smashing plates looks like it will be fun. I am glad I have game actors and clever, insightful movement directors as we explore bursting open all the aspects of the story telling. It is savage, tender, vicious and heartbreaking—not for the fainthearted. We stop and tell jokes in foreign accents, just to remind ourselves to have fun,

have a cup of tea and a birthday cake and go back to Stanley and Blanche's attempts to destroy each other. At the end of the day, time has flown by, and the actors are racing off to learn lines, do voice coaching and discover what new delights await them in the Cultural Centre.

Kristin Linklater was with us for nearly 3 weeks. Kristin is one of the most acclaimed voice teachers in the English-speaking world. She was here to do a research project with Black Swan and the Centre for Emotion at UWA exploring *Othello*—very timely because it meant Kristin and Joseph Colaneri from WA Opera could discuss the merits of *Othello* (the opera) and *Othello* (the play). I have known Kristin most of my life, and am delighted we were able to bring her to WA to expose her work to WA artists. While she was here, Kristin conducted voice workshops with over 100 actors and spent a day with the acting students at WAAPA who she thought were completely delightful, talented and open.

Our strong ties with WAAPA continued throughout the month because they also helped us host Greta Scaachi, visiting us to see the Heath Ledger Theatre and to talk through *The Seagull*. Fiona Bruce found time in between planning her lovely wedding to design the set and costumes so we spent a full day looking at designs and talking through that beautiful play. What a year to contemplate!

I am so proud of the Black Swan Lab initiative. Chris Isaacs' play *Flood* generated enthusiastic audiences and lively debate. Chris took a big risk telling a story that is neither likable nor resolvable. The point of the play is that there is no resolution. At the moment we can only explore the arguments of all sides of the debate about how to integrate Australia's violent past with an optimistic future. The optimistic act on stage is to attempt to understand a diversity of opinions by giving them voice. There are no easy answers. Chris is a gutsy, determined writer with

a keen understanding for his own vernacular and a passion to represent his own demographic on the main stage. I know he learnt much about his own work by watching and talking to audience members at *Flood* and I can't wait to see what he does next.

Kate Cherry
Artistic Director



inside



Streetcar Sneak Peek



Student Ambassadors



Casting Update



Enter the Forest

***A Streetcar Named Desire*****15 March – 06 April**

Special events: Attend the Wednesday 26 March performance at 11.30am or the Thursday 3 April performance at 7.30pm for a Post Show Q&A with cast and creatives. A Rio Tinto Pre-Show Talk will be held on Wednesday 26 March at 6.45pm. All these events are free.

High Tea

A special High Tea at 1.00pm will be held prior to the 2.15pm performance of ***A Streetcar Named Desire*** on Saturday 22 March. A High Tea for ***As You Like It*** will be held on Saturday 24 May at 1.00pm. To attend either of these special events, please contact Rob on 6212 9300. Tickets are \$44.

***As You Like It* 17 May – 01 June**

Special events: Attend the Wednesday 28 May performance at 11.30am or the Thursday 29 May performance at 7.30pm for a Post Show Q&A with cast and creatives. A Rio Tinto Pre-Show Talk will be held at 6.45pm on Wednesday 22 May at 6.45pm. Both these events are free.

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR ADMISSION: ONE SHILLING**

In this extraordinary musical and theatrical collaboration, award-winning actress Patricia Routledge and international concert pianist Piers Lane tell the extraordinary story of Myra Hess and her famous wartime National Gallery concerts. In Dame Myra's own words — compiled by her great-nephew, composer Nigel Hess — and with piano music by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Schumann and Chopin, we hear how the 'great adventure' of these 1,600 lunchtime concerts began, and how it continued while bombs rained down on London. This uplifting story about the healing power of music is directed by Christopher Luscombe.

To receive \$10 off the A Reserve price, simply use the password PIANO when booking through Ticketek.

Admission: One Shilling runs at His Majesty's Theatre from 29 -31 May.

GREETINGS FROM THE General Manager

Welcome to my first On Cue newsletter as Black Swan's new General Manager. I am thrilled to be a part of this special company and to be helping steward Black Swan into the future, together with Kate Cherry and the team.

**Black Swan Snippets**

Black Swan State Theatre Company is a significant company in both Western Australia and Australia. We are one of five state theatre companies and one of 28 major performing arts companies around Australia. In WA, we sit alongside our other three major performing arts companies — WA Opera, WA Ballet and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, as well as a number of exciting performing arts companies and festivals. Australia has such a diverse number of vibrant performing arts companies and Black Swan is privileged to be counted as one of them.

We have had an extremely busy start to the year with our Fringe World production, ***Flood*** taking place in the Studio Underground as part of our new Black Swan Lab, a South West tour of ***Midsummer [a play with songs]*** (stay tuned for details of a North West tour later this year), professional development workshops with world renowned voice teacher, Kristin Linklater, schools touring, our community theatre project WA Stories taking place in Carnarvon in conjunction with the Gascoyne Arts Council, and our production of ***A Streetcar Named Desire*** in the final stages of rehearsals. It's a big year so far and it's only the beginning of March!

Over the past six weeks I have been meeting with all our key stakeholders, including staff, board, funding bodies, sponsors, donors, audience members and industry colleagues both in WA and nationally. I have been overwhelmed with the level of support and passion there is for Black Swan within all these groups. It has been truly inspiring to see how much the Company is valued and to understand its position in the theatre scene. I am very pleased to be one of the Black Swan family and look forward to meeting more of our subscriber family as the months go on!

Natalie Jenkins
General Manager

FAREWELL SHONA

After many years with Black Swan, our lovely marketing and sponsorship extraordinaire Shona is leaving the Company. Shona is moving to Sydney to further her study and career. We wish her all the best in the big move!

FOLLOW US ONLINE

You can follow Black Swan on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to see rehearsal images, opening night photos, production information and other exciting news! Our social media details are listed on the front page.

GO GREEN WITH EMAIL

Did you know you can choose to go paperless and receive our subscriber newsletter via email? To begin receiving the newsletter to your email please contact Rob at rob@bsstc.com.au to update your details.

SHENANIGANS IN BUSSELTON

Shakespeare Shenanigans will be touring to the inaugural 2014 Fringe Festival of Arts in Busselton. The festival will take over Busselton's Cultural Precinct for March 14 and 15. We can't wait to share our production with the community!

SISTERS OF Streetcar



Behind the Scenes with Sigrid Thornton and Jo Morris

We can't wait to see the chemistry between acclaimed actress Sigrid Thornton and local favourite Jo Morris as they play troubled Southern sisters Blanche and Stella in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. On Cue caught up with Sigrid and Jo to talk about the rehearsal process and what audiences can expect from Kate Cherry's production.

SIGRID

Welcome to Black Swan! We are thrilled to be working with you. How are rehearsals going?

I am so delighted to be working here at Black Swan on this wonderful piece. Rehearsals are intense, exciting and a little terrifying, but we are having a ball.

Blanche DuBois is a seminal character in theatre, how do you feel taking on the role? What attracted you to the character?

Streetcar is a masterpiece and Blanche is indeed an iconic figure. This of course makes her irresistible to any actress. She comes with all kinds of preconceptions and expectations. My job is to take this beautiful script and interpret Blanche in my own way, preferably without fear or favour.

What is it like working with the rest of the cast?

It is sheer hell ... No actually I am so privileged to be working with this wonderful talented group.

Are you enjoying your time in Perth?

I love Perth but I do have to say that I haven't had much of a chance this time to explore beyond the rehearsal room!

What can audiences expect from this production?

Our *Streetcar* is a classical production which is being guided by a superb creative team with Kate Cherry as our director. Williams is a particular specialty of Kate's so we are in extremely safe hands. I hope we will take our audience on an extraordinary and memorable journey.

JO

What is your favourite thing about working on *A Streetcar Named Desire*?

Attempting to do justice to a character like Stella. I am a bit in love with her, and right now I am having such a blast trying to find and capture all her nuances and richness. And then there is Sigrid! It is such an honour to work alongside such a fearless and incredible actress. She is a real inspiration.

How do you approach a character like Stella?

When you start looking a little deeper, you discover that Tennessee Williams has left so many clues about his characters in the play...tiny little details that build layer upon layer until eventually you have a fully dimensional human being who is beautiful and full of flaws, and completely honest. He actually

does so much of the work for you, and so I spent some time prior to rehearsals commencing just extracting these little clues about my character, and compiling them, and dreaming. I love having time to just dream about who this woman might be.

A lot of your past Black Swan performances like, *Death of a Salesman*, *The White Divers of Broome* and *The Crucible*, have all been set in the past, but what does the future hold for you?

I'm incredibly excited to work with a bunch of very funny people later in the year on *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* - another Black Swan show by Neil Simon. And I have a couple of my own projects on the burner that I hope to see come to life, one a new work commission by Finegan Kruckemeyer, one of my favourite contemporary Aussie playwrights which I will co-produce and perform in and am incredibly excited about.

What can audiences expect from this production?

Bravery, lots of it! Sex, heat, music, passion, incredible drama, complex relationships, and hopefully they will recognise themselves in each of the characters, and in doing so feel the tragic nature of the play resonate ever more deeply.

To read the full interview with Jo Morris, head to the blog on our website.



BLACK SWAN Nominated for PAWA Awards

The team at Black Swan is thrilled to be up for thirteen awards at the 2014 Performing Arts Western Australia Awards (PAWA). Formerly the Equity Guild Awards, the PAWA's celebrate the best of Western Australia's professional performing arts community.



Black Swan has been nominated in the following categories:

BEST ACTOR

Humphrey Bower for *Day One, a Hotel, Evening*
Austin Castiglione for *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*
Kenneth Ransom for *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*

BEST ACTRESS

Rhoda Lopez for *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

James Hagan for *Boy Gets Girl*
Michael Loney for *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Steve Turner for *Boy Gets Girl*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Vivienne Garrett for *Other Desert Cities*
Caroline McKenzie for *Death of a Salesman*

BEST DESIGN

Fiona Bruce for Set and Costumes – *Boy Gets Girl*
Bryan Woltjen for Set and Costumes – *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*

BEST DIRECTOR

Adam Mitchell for *Boy Gets Girl*; *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*

BEST PRODUCTION

Boy Gets Girl

The Awards will be announced on Monday 24 March 2014.
Congratulations to all nominees!

MIDSUMMER [a play on tour]

Those of you who were lucky enough to laugh your way through our 2013 production of *Midsummer* [a play with songs] will be glad to know that we've taken the knockout comedy on a regional tour!

This was the first leg of the *Midsummer* regional tour, with the northern leg kicking off in June. Actors Georgina Gayler and Brendan Hanson also hosted performance workshops with community members in several of the towns and we were thrilled to see our workshop participants in the audience at the shows, some even travelling several hundred kms to make the show!

The tour went to seven venues – Mandurah, Bunbury, Margaret River, Merredin, Kalgoorlie, Moora and Geraldton – and was seen by 1,095 people, plus 71 workshop participants. A great result!

Thank you to all our regional venues for hosting Black Swan and to the audiences for welcoming us with such open arms.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Australian Government through the Australia Council, The Department of Culture and the Arts, The Department of Regional Development, our Principal Partner Rio Tinto, Education & Regional Partner Chevron and our Associate & Regional Partners Water Corporation and Virgin Australia

Stay tuned for more details about the northern leg including venues and performance dates.



Workshops in Bunbury



The cast and crew having a well deserved celebration dinner at the end of the tour!

Student Ambassadors

In 2013 Black Swan introduced a Student Ambassador Program for students entering Year 12, and Tertiary students. Our student ambassadors are representatives of Black Swan in their communities and schools. They promote Black Swan and encourage awareness and engagement with our workshops and productions.

They also have the opportunity to take part in artist talks, behind-the-scene tours and table read-throughs. Welcome to our 2014 ambassadors:

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Georgia Carter	Alysha Curran
Madeleine Jolly-Fuentes	Madison Gracie

TERTIARY STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Sara Dyce	Nicole Pearce
Claire Mouchemore	Jess Russell

We look forward to working with all our ambassadors during the year and seeing them around the theatre.



Sarah Dyce and Harry McGrath with Peter Rowsthorn

"One of my favourite aspects of being an ambassador was the show read-throughs, which were incredible. We saw the initial design pitches and sketches, so that when we saw the actual performance with all of its elements together it was something outstanding; it truly made me appreciate every aspect of the performance not just the actors, but the set, lighting, costumes and everything else." SARAH DYCE, 2013 STUDENT AMBASSADOR



KAILIS
AUSTRALIAN PEARLS

Available at Kailis King Street, Fremantle and Broome.

kailisjewellery.com.au



Performing with depth and breadth across Western Australia and beyond

Jackson McDonald are committed to playing an active role in the Western Australian community. That's why we are proud to sponsor Black Swan State Theatre Company as a Production Partner.

Jackson McDonald
Legal Depth | Breadth | Presence

www.jacmac.com.au

WILD SWANS:

Rising Stars of the Arts World

Black Swan State Theatre Company is very appreciative of the support received from various donors and private giving circles.

With your help Black Swan is able to bring vibrancy to Perth's cultural scene, as box office sales cover 40% of our costs, government funding covers 35%, and we rely on the generous support of sponsors and donors for the remaining 25%. We value people getting involved any way they can, as it costs a lot more than the price of a ticket to bring a production to the stage.

The rising stars leading the way are the Wild Swans private giving circle. They attended the opening night of *Flood* and trialled the new digital theatre project, which is being supported by the group. The digital theatre project looks to extend the experience of theatre, giving more depth to the story taking place on the stage. Guests were able to listen to recordings from the cast before and after the show, immersing audiences further into the world of *Flood*.

Flood was also the first production produced as part of the Black Swan Lab. The Black Swan Lab provides a platform for new contemporary, edgy performances in the Studio Underground.

The Wild Swans are a private giving circle for Perth's emerging business leaders and patrons of the arts with a focus on building their knowledge of the arts, enjoying theatre and social opportunities with established business leaders in our state.

If you would like to discuss Wild Swans further, please contact Andree McIntyre, Black Swan Philanthropy Manager on 0417 187 025 or email andree@bsstc.com.au.



Above: Jane McEvoy

Above Right: Natalie and Stephanie Lunt

Right: Brooke Silcox, Kelly Rabbitt and Jo Dunn



Casting Update



James Stewart



Andrew McFarlane

We've certainly been busy in our casting department. Check out some of the faces you'll be seeing on our stages this year:

Caroline McKenzie, recently nominated for her heartbreaking portrayal as Linda Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, has joined the cast of the world-premiere production of *Dust*. She is joined by Ben Mortley who has just finished *You Once Said Yes* for Perth International Arts Festival.

Also seen in *You Once Said Yes* was Adam Booth who will join the cast of *The Seagull* as Medvedenko. *Packed to the Rafters* star James Stewart will play writer Trigorin and screen and stage favourite Andrew McFarlane who tore up the stage in *Arcadia* will play Dorn.

In the Studio Underground, Marthe Rovik will join Kenneth Ransom for the thrilling *The House on The Lake*.

A NEW YEAR FOR THE
Emerging Writers Group

This year Black Swan's Emerging Writers Group is undergoing a major transformation.

The group has been refined down to only six members, each of whom displayed a unique artistic vision and a track record for getting out there and putting their work on the stage.

The members of the EWG will be offered weekly dramaturgy sessions with Black Swan Associate Director Jeffrey Jay Fowler, as well as monthly group meetings in which the playwrights will challenge and support one another in the creation of their new plays.

Black Swan is thrilled to announce the group for 2014: Gita Bezard (*One Night Echo*), Will O'Mahony (*Great White*), Joe Lui (*The Tribe*), Nate Doherty (*House of Fun*), Liz Newell (*The Intersection of Sound and Sunk*) and James Marzec (*A Raging Election*).

The Emerging Writers Group is supported through the Malcolm Robertson Foundation and we thank them for their continued support of Western Australian artists.

THERE'S PLENTY TO LOVE ABOUT *As You Like It*!

All the world's a stage

It won't be long before we join Celia, Rosalind and Touchstone as they flee into the Forest of Arden, navigating the trappings of love and hidden identities with hilarious consequences in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

It's love-at-first-sight when Orlando lays eyes on the beautiful Rosalind but they are ripped apart and forced to flee into the forest to avoid persecution and embarrassment.

Orlando loves Rosalind. Rosalind loves Orlando. That much is clear, but here is where it gets confusing.

Rosalind is disguised as Ganymede. Ganymede counsels Orlando. Celia loves Oliver. Oliver is searching for Orlando. Celia is disguised as Aliena. The Duke is hunting for Celia. Oliver falls in love with Aliena. Meanwhile, Phebe loves Ganymede. Silvius loves Phebe. Touchstone loves Audrey. Audrey loves Touchstone. William loves Audrey. Touchstone makes it very clear to William what will happen if he doesn't leave Audrey alone.

Hey, at least we're clear on something!

This production of *As You Like It* will be Black Swan's first production of this much-loved classic. Helpman-Award winning director Roger Hodgman will return to Perth following the hit touring production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* in 2013. Roger last directed a Black Swan production in 2010 when he brought *Twelfth Night* alive on the Playhouse stage. Roger is a powerhouse figure and one of Australia's most loved directors. He's even worked with Tennessee Williams himself!

It's well known that Shakespeare created a large number of words we commonly use, such as eyeball, addiction and even swagger! Keep an eye out for several common phrases and expressions in *As You Like It* that can all be traced back to Shakespeare, including *Too much of a good thing*, *Forever and a day* and *Neither rhyme nor reason*.

To add to the excitement, *As You Like It* will be performed by an entirely Western Australian cast!

As You Like It will enchant you with its wit, wisdom, warmth and a whole lot of love. You'll see what we mean when the play premieres in May.

Tickets are on sale through Ticketek. School and groups bookings can be made by calling the Ticketek Group Hotline.



FLOOD: showcasing our new talent

Flood was a pivotal production for Black Swan. Our first production for 2014, not only was it part of the Fringe World Festival but it also launched the Black Swan Lab to nurture new talent and foster relationships and collaboration between emerging and experienced artists.

We were blown away by the response to *Flood*, but also the overwhelmingly positive feedback to the Lab. Check out some of the comments from patrons and reviews below:

Nurturing new writing is one of the best investments a state theatre company can make. THE AUSTRALIAN

Just wonderful! PATRON

The mystery, isolation and potential danger of the vast Western Australian landscape is also captured well. PERTH NOW

Thought the set was amazing. Acting was top notch. PATRON



Flood Opening Night in the Studio Underground



Priscilla Kelly, Rose Riley and Jack Riley.



Gavin and Trish Pearce

Natalie Jenkins, Chris Isaacs
and Andrew Harding

Alan Holland and Sinead Managan



Jade and Stuart Salfinger



Anne and David Gee

If you have seen yourself on this page and would like the photo, email kerry@bsstc.com.au.
For more social pics visit the Behind the Scenes pages at www.bsstc.com.au or visit
Black Swan's Facebook page.

PLAY YOUR PART IN SUPPORTING OUR CREATIVE FUTURE!

BLACK SWAN GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS

Principal Partner

Government Partners



Black Swan State Theatre Company is
assisted by the Australian Government
through the Australia Council, its arts
funding and advisory body.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Culture and the Arts



Cast Partner



WorleyParsons
resources & energy

Opening Night Partner



Community Partner

Education &
Regional Partner

Production Partners



A STREETCAR NAMED
DESIRE



DUST



THE SEAGULL

Associate & Regional Partners



A STREETCAR
NAMED DESIRE



AS YOU LIKE IT



DUST



LAUGHTER ON THE
23RD FLOOR



THE SEAGULL



GASPI

Season Partners



Airline Partner



Hotel Partner



Print Media Partner



Radio Partner



Technology Partner



Wine Partner



Sparkling Wine Partner



Ad Hoc

Beer Partner



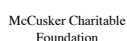
Hospitality Partner



Entertainment Partner



Foundation Partners



Private Giving Circles

Local Larrikins
White Swans
Wild Swans

ENCORE! GIVING PROGRAM - DONATION FORM

All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible

My Gift: I wish to join the ENCORE! giving program
(please tick your level of support)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ \$50 Tape for rehearsal room | ☐ \$500 A roll of fabric for new costumes |
| ☐ \$100 Coloured gel for lighting designs | ☐ \$1,000 A speciality prop for a production |
| ☐ \$250 A workshop for Emerging Artists | |

OR My Choice \$_____ The possibilities are endless!

☐ Tick here if you wish for your gift to remain anonymous

My Details

Name:	
Address:	
State:	Postcode:
Contact phone number:	
Email:	

Preferred method of contact (please tick)

☐ Post ☐ Telephone ☐ Email

Payment Options

Credit Card (please tick) ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

Card no: | | |

Expiry date: |

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cheque or Money Order

Please make payable to Black Swan State Theatre Company

Return this form to Black Swan State Theatre Company

Post PO Box 337, Northbridge 6865

Fax (08) 6212 9318 Email andree@bsstc.com.au

Phone Using your credit cards details, contact Rob on 6212 9300.

Thank you for your generous gift!