

A NOTE FROM THE Artistic Director

Summer is always a busy time in Perth, and this year was no exception. The 2015 Fringe World Festival was yet another great season of theatre and entertainment. Our production, *Venus in Fur*, knocked the socks off of a lot of people – with a sell-out season in the Studio Underground.

Also in January, we held public readings to showcase the works of our Emerging Writers Group. The group of six talented writers spent the year writing, editing and honing, to produce some truly exciting and vibrant scripts. Three playwrights were awarded prizes of funding and future support. I believe this emerging talent is so important to nurture so we have dynamic and innovative theatre for years to come.

I'm currently in the rehearsal room with the cast and designers of *Dinner*. Between giving notes, learning lines and designing the space, we're all being given a crash course on how to throw a fabulous dinner party. I can't wait to throw my next party – hopefully with a different ending than this show!

Due to some scheduling conflicts, we started on *Glengarry Glen Ross* before *Dinner*. Damian Walshe-Howling joined us in Perth

for early rehearsals. He so enjoyed exploring our city and is looking forward to coming back for more rehearsals and the show. And I can't tell you how much I enjoyed being in the rehearsal room with this strong, all-male cast. What a different dynamic!

But I must say that I'm most looking forward to another upcoming show, *Extinction*. Australia's beloved playwright, Hannie Rayson, best known for classics *Hotel Sorrento* and *Life After George*, wrote this heartfelt drama. Hannie visited our office a couple of weeks ago with so many ideas and so much excitement. She and Associate Director Stuart Halusz are proving to be a great team, and this production will definitely shine.

I was wondering if our faithful subscribers would support our 2015 season, in all its diverse glory, and the answer is a resounding yes! I'm so pleased that you've embraced these stories – wonderful,

amusing, fantastical, thrilling and moving stories. Stories worth telling, and stories worth seeing.

As it is the first edition of *On Cue* for 2015, I would like to say a warm welcome to our new subscribers, sponsors, donors and other members of the Black Swan family. I can't thank you enough for your support. And to our long-term supporters, welcome back and thank you for returning to us, time and time again. I can't wait to go on another journey with you this year.

Speaking of subscribers, I'm pleased to announce that Black Swan subscriber Sharan Kraemer will be enjoying a trip for two to Paris, thanks to our Airline Partner Singapore Airlines! Sharan subscribed before 31 December, 2014 and so went into the

draw to win some prizes. But don't worry, there are still two more prizes to be drawn with deadlines until June.

Back to the rehearsal room I go! I'll see you in the theatre soon.

Kate Cherry
Artistic Director



inside



Catwalk designs on stage



Raucous real estate



Smoking on stage



A (whip) crackin' good time

Dinner 14 - 29 March

Open Dress Rehearsal: Saturday
14 March, 2.30pm (free)

Rio Tinto Pre-show talk: Thursday
19 March, 6.45pm (free)

Post-show Q&A: Thursday 26 March,
after the 7.30pm performance (free)



After Dinner Party

If you are attending **Dinner** on Wednesday 25 March, you can also attend the After Dinner Party at The Standard! To celebrate the Eat Drink Perth food and wine festival, Black Swan has teamed up with The Standard to provide you with a unique show and party package: experience the dinner party from hell on stage, then join us and some of the cast for a celebratory drink and a selection of canapés at The Standard on Roe Street, Northbridge.

If you've already purchased your **Dinner** tickets for Wednesday 25 March and want to attend this special event, simply call our office on 6212 9300 to purchase these event tickets for an additional \$40.



Glengarry Glen Ross 23 May - 14 June

Subscriber Briefing: Monday 18
May, 6.15pm (free)

Rio Tinto Pre-show talk: Thursday
28 May, 6.45pm (free)

Post-show Q&A: Thursday 4 June,
after the 7.30pm performance (free)

Blithe Spirit 18 July - 9 August

Subscriber Briefing: Monday 13 July,
6.15pm (free)

Rio Tinto Pre-show talk: Thursday
23 July, 6.45pm (free)

Post-show Q&A: Thursday 30 July,
after the 7.30pm performance (free)



Casting Update

These actors have joined our 2015 casts:



Matt
Dyktynski



Steve
Turner



Ben
Mortley

Matt Dyktynski (*Day One, A Hotel, Evening, Boundary Street*) joins Hannah Day, Sarah McNeill and Myles Pollard in **Extinction**.

Steve Turner (*Dinner, As You Like It*) has joined the all-male cast of **Glengarry Glen Ross**.

And Ben Mortley (*The Seagull, Dust*) is the first announced cast member of **The Red Balloon**.

WELCOME TO Black Swan's new partners!

Welcome to all our new partners who have joined with Black Swan to support our 2015 season.

Thank you Associate Director Partner Murdoch University, Associate Partner APN Outdoor, Season Partners Beaumonde Catering and AvantCard, and Company Partners The Standard and No Mafia. Welcome also to all our returning partners, including Principal Partner Rio Tinto who has renewed their support of Black Swan for another three years. Thanks to all our partners for your support!



Black Swan Snippets

GO GREEN

If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know by contacting us on (08) 6212 9300 or information@bsstc.com.au.

FRINGE WINNERS

Not only was *Venus in Fur* nominated for the Theatre Award and The West Australian Arts Editor Award at the Fringe World Awards, but actor Felicity McKay jointly won the WA Emerging Artist Award, and *Venus in Fur* lighting designer Joe Lui won the Spirit of the Fringe Award.

STAY THE NIGHT

The night doesn't have to end after the show. You can book a stay at Hyatt Regency Perth and receive 10% off when you quote 'Black Swan'. To book your stay, simply call 13 1234. Terms and conditions apply. Subject to availability.

EMERGING WRITERS

Our Emerging Writers Group recently held public readings of the plays they've been working on, and 3 winners were selected. Congrats to Will O'Mahony, Gita Bezard and Joe Lui, who receive funding and support to get their plays to the stage!

From catwalk to stage

In Moira Buffini's *Dinner*, socialite Paige Janssen hosts a glamorous dinner party at her home, artfully inviting an eclectic mix of guests. Costume and Props Stylist, India Mehta decided to work with local WA designers to create gowns for the women at the dinner party. This collaboration was a new experience for us at Black Swan, and a fairly unusual relationship in the theatre world. So we asked India and designer Sheree Dornan of Love in Tokyo, about the collaboration and the designs.

Sheree Dornan, Love in Tokyo

Costume design is an area that I've long been interested in, and I've often thought I'd like to design for ballet or theatre, so I was absolutely delighted to be asked to design an outfit for Alison van Reeken's character, Wynne in *Dinner*.

Working with India and Black Swan Wardrobe Manager, Lynn Ferguson has been a pleasure and great experience. The design brief and character outline they provided was so descriptive I could visualise from the first time I read it, the style and colours that Wynne would wear.

Many who wear my designs tend to be from creative industries, so Wynne could and would possibly be one my clients. I don't usually design and make to order as each garment I create is individual and unique, the end result can change from my initial concept. I start by draping on a mannequin without patterns and work until I feel it's complete. They are more a form of soft sculpture than the traditional method of producing garments. I design and produce small collections that I show at exhibitions or runways shows which are then displayed and offered for sale in my shop Love in Tokyo, in Fremantle.

This has been an amazing opportunity - one of my highlights in fact!



Sheree Dornan concept// for Wynne

Wynne's look: Warm, gold, earthy/ rust tones Dress: silk velvet tunic dress, we are exploring the idea of having panels of different types of fabric throughout the dress, adds texture and depth like example below:

Silk Velvet embellished kimono: This would be worn over the dress. Wearing a antique antique necklaces, bangles, rings, boots

Fabric samples right hand bottom corner silk devore, silk velvet, silk



garment concept for Wynne



India Mehta, Costume and Props Stylist

Collaborating with people in other industries has always been on my list of things to do, so when stepping into my first design meeting with director Kate Cherry and hearing her speak about 'what if we could merge theatre and fashion', I jumped at the idea and absolutely ran with it!

From day one Kate and I have been on the exact same page, it's all about the silhouette, texture and form these characters take on, embracing the excessiveness and heightened world around them.

Once we established the foundations of where we wanted the costumes to head I put the call out to a few people in the fashion industry, including our much loved fashion stylist Hannah Etchells. Hannah was extremely helpful, as she understood the importance of finding

the correct designer to match our characters.

Realising quite early on these three designers were the most down to earth people and a perfect representation of designers leading the way for Perth Fashion right now, so it's been an absolute privilege to be able to collaborate with them.

It was all about meeting with the designers individually, talking through the project brief and allowing them to have time to absorb the information and let them do what they do best!

My role in this whole process has been about curating, collaborating with the individuals and making sure the overall look and feel stays true to the beautiful world Set & Lighting Designer Trent Suidgeest has created.

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS: Brass balls, bribery and burglary

Are you sitting comfortably? Perhaps enjoying a nice mug of coffee? Well put it down, pal! Coffee is for closers! *Glengarry Glen Ross* is the beloved cult-classic written by David Mamet and the subject of an acclaimed film starring Alec Baldwin and Al Pacino, and it demands your full attention.

Set in the cut-throat world of Chicago real estate, the play follows the lives of four down-on-their-luck salesmen under tremendous stress, threatened with losing their jobs if they don't make enough sales. The twist? They only have access to most undesirable properties and the most unwilling buyers. The pressure is on, and the guys will do anything they can to move the properties, from bribery to burglary and everything in between!

Positively sizzling with acerbic dialogue and razor-sharp wit, **Glengarry Glen Ross** has been showered with awards since its premiere on Broadway in 1984, including a Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. As if that weren't enough, the film version was nominated for a Golden Globe and an Oscar.

Coming to the Heath Ledger Theatre from 23 May to 14 June, this is the perfect story for everyone that works for a living and dares to dream of more. Tickets on sale now through Ticketek.



Proud supporters of

Black Swan State Theatre Company



At Murdoch University we support our students in discovering their potential. Our School of Arts provides a platform to explore a broad range of courses in *creative arts, media and communication, social sciences and humanities* at undergraduate and post graduate level.

We understand the value of the arts in people's lives and are thrilled to support **Black Swan** as Associate Director Partner in 2015. By working alongside Black Swan, we enhance our students' studies and skills, giving them an insight into how a professional theatre company creates its wonderful productions.

To learn more about Arts at Murdoch University visit:
www.murdoch.edu.au/School-of-Arts

From the Archives

A quick look at past Black Swan productions



Red Dog, 2006

Black Swan presented the world premiere of **Red Dog** at the Playhouse Theatre. Devised and directed by Neill Gladwin, this production used a puppet-like dog as the main character.

HOW DO THEY DO IT? Theatre Tricks & Secrets

Smoking is not an uncommon occurrence in plays, especially in older classics like *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Seagull* and *Death of a Salesman*. But how can actors smoke on stage without risking their health, or the audiences?

Black Swan's policy is that real tobacco cigarettes are not to be used in rehearsals or on stage. Instead, herbal honey rose cigarettes are used as a substitute – an all-natural, tobacco and nicotine free, herbal cigarette.

Smoking is used only within the contexts of the play and the artistic vision of the director, not to glamorise cigarettes. A few theatre companies across Australia have the same policy, while others will use both tobacco and herbal cigarettes.

Some people may find the herbal smoke slightly irritating, similar to a perfume that bothers your nose. But you can relax and enjoy the show knowing that it is completely natural and not at all a detriment to your health!



Join the Legacy Leaders

Join Black Swan's Legacy Leaders and help lead the way to ensure the Western Australian theatre industry remains sustainable for generations to come. By joining the Legacy Leaders you will become part of a special group of donors leading the future of Black Swan. Your bequest will cement a legacy in your memory and will mark a meaningful bond with theatre and belief in Western Australian art and culture.

Give a gift that is truly enduring and ensure that younger Western Australians are able to experience the thrill of stage performance in future!

To learn more about leaving a bequest, please contact Andrée McIntyre at andree@bsstc.com.au or on 0417 187 025.

And the Award goes to...

At the 2015 Performing Arts WA Awards held recently in February, Black Swan was honoured to receive 15 nominations – at least one in every single award category.

We are pleased to say that Lauren Ross won Best Design for *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Chris Isaacs jointly won Best Script for *Flood*, together with *Elephants* by Black Swan Associate Director, Jeffrey Jay Fowler. Jo Morris won Best Actor (Female) for *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Igor Sas won Best Actor (Male) for *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*.

Congrats to all of the nominees and winners, and to all artists who work so hard to bring fantastic theatre to Western Australian audiences!

All About The Artists

A critical component of Black Swan's longterm vision and creative agenda is to support and foster emerging and established artists, including high potential directors, designers, writers, composers and actors. We have two programs to help achieve this, the Emerging Artists Program and the Resident Artists Program.

The Emerging Artists Group aims to provide professional pathways for emerging artists, where we can support 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. You'll see them or their work on stage this year - the 2015 Emerging Artists are:

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

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

PATRONS CLUB: Supporting Emerging Artists

Black Swan's Patrons Club members help to implement essential development programs for artists in Western Australia. In 2015 the Patrons Club is supporting the Black Swan Lab productions *Venus in Fur* and *The Red Balloon*. The highly successful and well received season of *Venus in Fur* was proof that supporting collaborations between emerging and experienced artists, and taking risks, ensures the WA theatre industry remains vibrant and sustainable. The generosity of our Patrons Club members helps to make these productions possible and we thank them for their continued support and passion!

WILD SWANS GO WILD FOR *Venus in Fur*!

Black Swan's Wild Swans giving circle, for Perth's emerging business leaders and arts enthusiasts, toasted to a fantastic opening night of their supported production for 2015, *Venus in Fur*.

The Wild Swans enjoyed drinks and delicious pre-show nibbles, thanks to our company partner, The Standard. They are supporting the Black Swan Lab productions in the Studio Underground and this year's production of *Venus in Fur* was a great start to the year and enjoyed by all.



Above: Samson Stewart and Rachel Huber



Above: Vincenzo Nici and Rebecca Larson

Regional Ambassadors

In order to facilitate projects that involve collaboration with regional towns across WA, we have established a network of 'regional ambassadors' to encourage and strengthen the established links between Black Swan and the community.

The members chosen are diverse and skilled in a variety of areas, with a mix of local voices and community or government employees, in order to obtain a variety of viewpoints and knowledge.

We've had a few more people join us and we now have ambassadors in Busselton, Carnarvon, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Margaret River and Merredin.

These important supporters help keep the passion for theatre alive and well in their communities. They also are the link who can help connect us to bring about great projects, including the WA Stories project in Carnarvon, *The Burning* project in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, an Artist in Residence in Esperance, and more. They are our feet on the ground in these communities, the driving force that brings about some fantastic connections. We can't wait to see what our ambassadors help achieve in the future

MEET THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Stuart Halusz

Here at Black Swan we're lucky to have two very hardworking Associate Directors, Stuart Halusz and Jeffrey Jay Fowler, contributing to the artistic side of the company. In addition to this role, they both juggle a lot of other balls. We asked Stuart Halusz to tell us a bit about being an Associate Director and what that means.



Q. What does your role as Associate Director at Black Swan entail?

A. As Associate Director I perform many different roles, from speaking at corporate functions about Black Swan's programs; hosting subscriber briefings, pre-show sponsor functions and post-show Q&As; supporting Artistic Director Kate Cherry in various ways including season programming; and helping to coordinate the Resident Artist Program and the cross-overs with our Emerging Artists.

Q. What is the appeal for you, of being an Associate Director?

A. This role represents an enormous opportunity for me, to be immersed in

the workings of a major performing arts company and see how it all works from the inside, to get an understanding of the artistic and administrative side of theatre making as opposed to the creative work on stage. There is certainly a lot of professional, and personal, development and the role has opened up to me possibilities that hadn't been on my radar before. I have expanded my horizons as a result of being given that rare gift of someone else's belief in your abilities.

Q. What is your favourite part of your role as an Associate Director?

A. I really enjoy and value meeting our subscribers and chatting to them about

what theatre means for them, about which elements of our work they engage with and areas they would like to see expanded. I am learning so much from Kate, Natalie and all the team in the office and this too is a real buzz.

Q. In addition to Associate Director, you're also a director and actor. What's it like to switch between those roles?

A. I love the mix! A surprise benefit of wearing these different hats is that I'm experiencing the joy of one area influencing and informing the work in another - there are so many cross-overs. I've not really found it difficult to switch from one to another, although they are very

different roles which require different approaches and levels of attention. Playing a role is very concentrated and specific, it's not your job to worry about what anyone else is doing, but you need to know your own world intimately. Whereas the director needs to take everything into consideration and have that overview and strong creative vision, needs to be aware of the actors' detail but not prescriptive, needs to provide an environment where creativity is supported and all the elements are harnessed at the right time. When all this happens that's where the magic is, and whether you're inside as an actor or outside as director, it's tremendously invigorating.

Venus in Fur: a (whip) cracking start to the year

Our first Studio Underground and Black Swan Lab production of 2015, *Venus in Fur* was a no holds barred show, full of wit, whips and provocative ideas.



"Stellar performances ... breathtaking"
THE AUSTRALIAN

"Ives delivers top dialogue - witty, sexy, and nuanced - and he turns the screws on both characters with exquisite malice."
THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

"An intense, exhausting, tumultuous, captivating ride" GREAT ABOUT PERTH

"Simply outstanding ... will linger with you long after the final whip crack."
PERTH THEATRE REVIEWS

Venus in Fur Opening Night in the Studio Underground



Adele and Chris Tan



Amit, Ruth, Daniella, John Drennan



Jeffrey Jay Fowler, Damian Walshe-Howling and Balmik Soin



Kate O'Hara and Felicity Kingston



Robin and the Honourable Ken Baston



Stuart and Jade Salfinger

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

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

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