

A NOTE FROM THE Executive Director

Thank you for joining us in 2016, our 25th anniversary year!

We have just completed our 2015 Annual Report and it has been wonderful to look back on the previous year – it feels so long ago already! In 2015 we took on new challenges, new initiatives and new territory. We ventured into family programming with *The Red Balloon* and into musical territory with *Next to Normal*; we partnered with the Awesome Festival and Fringe World Festival, and secured our international collaboration

with the National Theatre of China; and we broke box office records with our production *Venus in Fur*.

In 2016, we hope our 25th year will be just as exciting and full. Much has happened already and the remainder of the year will continue to be very busy for us, not just with the wonderful season that Kate Cherry has put together but also our various touring and education plans.

We recently welcomed four Chinese artists to Perth as the National Theatre of China and Black Swan come together to bring to life *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* in July. You may have heard quite a bit about this show from us over the past months, and for good reason. This project, the jewel in our 2016 season crown, marks our first international collaboration.

We have toured to Asia before – our production of *The Sapphires* was performed in South Korea in 2010 – but this project is on a different scale, and we couldn't be more excited.

In addition to the international stage, we are focusing on national and WA regional touring, with discussions taking place about the possibilities of productions like *Venus in Fur*, *Tonsils + Tweezers* and *The Red Balloon*, touring across Australia and WA. I'll keep you updated on those plans – should they come to fruition, we'll be thrilled to share more of our work with the rest of the state and country.

And locally, we're heading outside the State Theatre Centre to metro and regional schools and regional community centres with our education production, *Shadowboxing*. We're proud of this little show that has already had a successful tour last year, with great feedback from children and adults alike about how interesting and relevant it is to their lives today. More information on the 2016 tour in the following pages.

A big change is on the horizon for Black Swan: Artistic Director Kate Cherry will be leaving us at the end of the year. Kate's impact on the company and WA theatre has been remarkable. Under her leadership, the company has been successfully re-shaped and re-positioned as one of Australia's foremost theatre companies. We will be very sad to see her go, and offer our heartfelt thanks for all she has done for us. I am very pleased to welcome Clare Watson as our Artistic Director Designate, who will take over the reins from Kate at the beginning of 2017. You can read more about Clare on page 2.

Our 25th year is a full one, and we wouldn't have it any other way. I hope you take advantage of our various offerings this year – in the theatre, in Perth and beyond. Thank you for your support.

Natalie Jenkins
Executive Director



inside



Angels and Politics



Side show designs



Good Play Club



On the Road

Dates For Your Diary



▲ 28 May - 19 June

Subscriber Briefing:

Monday 23 May, 6.15pm (free)

Open Dress Rehearsal:

Saturday 28 May, 2.30pm (free)

Rio Tinto Pre-show talk:

Thursday 2 June, 6.45pm (free)

Post-Show Q&A: Thursday 9 June, after the 7.30pm performance (free)



▲ 30 June - 17 July

Post-show Q&A: Thursday 14 July, after the 8.00pm performance (free)



▲ 30 July - 14 August

Rio Tinto Pre-show talk:

Thursday 4 August, 6.45pm (free)

Post-show Q&A: Thursday 11 August, after the 7.30pm performance (free)

Black Swan Snippets

ON THE RADIO

Congratulations to Matt Dyktynski on his new job as presenter on Mix 94.5's breakfast show, Clairsy, Matt and Kymbal! You may remember Matt from Black Swan shows like *Extinction*, *Day One*, *A Hotel*, *Evening* and *Boundary Street*. Check him out on the radio then come see (and hear) him later this year in **Clinton: The Musical**.

PICA DISCOUNT

Black Swan subscribers receive members' prices for all 2016 ticketed performances and events at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA). Bookings via PICA on 9228 6300 quoting Black Swan subscriber number or in person presenting Black Swan subscriber card. Not valid with any other discount offers.

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.

WELCOME

Welcome to our 2016 Interns: Libby Bevis, Isa Cammarano, Samuel Cox, Madeleine Jolly-Fuentes and Caitlin Oakley. These interns will assist in a variety of ways across several departments. We thank you for your help and support, and hope you enjoy your time with us!

Welcome Clare Watson!

Following the announcement in late 2015 that Artistic Director Kate Cherry will leave Black Swan at the end of 2016 after 9 years in her post, we are delighted to announce Clare Watson as Kate's successor from 2017.

After spending her early years in Perth, Clare comes to Black Swan from Melbourne, where she is currently Artistic Director of St Martins Youth Arts Centre, as well as freelance directing for companies such as Melbourne Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, State Theatre Company of South Australia and Belvoir St Theatre.

Clare's work has been presented at numerous major Australian Festivals and she has received a number of awards and nominations including Best Director at The Helpmann Awards, Greenroom Awards and the inaugural Best Director award at the Melbourne Fringe.

Clare will commence working with Black Swan as Artistic Director Designate in a part-time capacity, focusing on programming the 2017 season, together with Kate Cherry. She will re-locate permanently from Melbourne in October of this year, and will officially take over the reins from Kate Cherry on 1 January 2017.

We extend a warm welcome to Clare Watson and look forward to her commencement with the company later this year.



Black Swan Sponsorships

Help us entertain and enrich the Western Australian community.

Making theatre for our community is an expensive undertaking. Did you know that Black Swan is a not for profit organisation and revenue from our ticket sales cover only 32% of the cost to produce theatre?

We invite sponsorships from the business sector to help keep our ticket price affordable. That way, more people in our community can experience the theatre we produce.

In return, we provide a range of sponsorship benefits including brand exposure, corporate hospitality and networking opportunities. Each sponsorship is unique, tailored to achieve the objectives of the businesses that support us.

To discuss how sponsoring Black Swan can help you do business, contact Monique Beaudoire, Partnerships Manager on (08) 6212 9305 or monique@bsstc.com.au

Angels in America: Politics and Roy Cohn

Angels in America, Part One may have been written over 25 years ago, but we are feeling the impact of one of its characters still today. Roy Cohn, a main character in *Angels*, is actually a real person, someone who influenced politics then - and seemingly now.

Roy Cohn is once again in the news as a major influencer and mentor of current American Presidential candidate, Donald Trump. Cohn passed away in 1986 but The Guardian recently published an article on his history with Trump, and what Trump might have learned from him. Here are some excerpts from the article:

Cohn, a notoriously harsh lawyer who rose to prominence in the mid-1950s alongside the communist-baiting senator Joseph McCarthy. His tactics would often land him in the papers, but Cohn was unafraid of being slimed by the press – he used it to his advantage.

His careful manipulation of negative attention is something that Trump noticed immediately when the two met in 1973. Trump and his father had just been sued for allegedly discriminating against black people in Trump's built-and-managed houses in Brooklyn, and sought out Cohn's counsel. This was the beginning of a long and close relationship. Trump relied on Cohn for most of the legal matters during a particularly tricky decade.

In fact, if you're familiar with Cohn's history at all, their friendship starts to seem an even greater influence on Trump than any other. Cohn made himself visible. He wanted to be front and center, even when the press turned on [him]. He befriended gossip

columnists and used the tabloids. Shamelessness was, in fact, Cohn's defining trait. And it was a shamelessness that Trump picked up and ran with.

Trump has been fiercely mocked in the media since the 1980s. But Trump learned from someone to let all the mockery roll off his back, that the negative publicity was still publicity.

Veteran actor John Stanton, well known from his roles in *Black Swan's Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Death of a Salesman* as well as TV's *The Dismissal*, *Homicide*, *Division Four* and more, takes on the role of Roy Cohn for the second time in his career. "I was 20 years too young for the role [for Sydney Theatre Company's production in 1993], which didn't seem to matter because I'd never heard of Roy Cohn at the time, and I'm 10 years and a bit too old for it now but that doesn't matter either," John Stanton told Medical Forum. "When Roy Cohn died at the age of 59 he was ravaged by AIDS and looked 20 years older than he was. So I figured who cares, it's such a great role to play."

Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches is at the Heath Ledger Theatre from 28 May to 19 June. Tickets on sale now through Ticketek.

Excerpts from Medical Forum and The Guardian.



Casting Update

We are happy to announce several additional artists that are working with us in 2016:

James Sweeny and Alex Malone join the cast of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*

Lisa Adam, Luke Hewitt, Megan Kozak and Clare Moore join the cast of *Clinton: The Musical*

We are also pleased to announce that Frances Danckert will be the Set Designer and Lynn Ferguson the Costume Designer for *A Perfect Specimen*, and David Young will be the Musical Director for *Clinton: The Musical*.

Designing A Perfect Specimen



Black Swan's own Wardrobe Manager, Lynn Ferguson is taking the reins and designing the costumes for *A Perfect Specimen*, our upcoming Studio production. Directed by Stuart Halusz, this world premiere play by Nathaniel Moncrieff examines our obsessions with beauty and the grotesque.



Set in the late 1800's within a traveling sideshow, the costumes are elaborately detailed in the style of circus performers and entertainers. Most of the characters will appear 'world worn' and eclectic; having travelled widely their dress will be made up of clothing and adornments they've collected along the way. Lynn says, "We want the audience to feel like they could smell the sweat and dirt these people carry with them, as they travel from town to town, with little facility or desire to wash themselves or their clothing. Therefore most of the costume will be heavily broken down and weathered."

"We would like to create atmosphere - the audience should feel unsettled visually - and one way we hope to do this is by having the characters developed with a macabre, stylised make up. Think pale face and darkened eyes - with the exception of Julia. The people surrounding Julia are ugly in their nature and motives, whilst she is pure without malice or need to use others for gain."

Lynn and her Wardrobe team have already done a lot of work on these costumes, all being built in-house - and more still to do! We look forward to seeing the final products on stage.

A Perfect Specimen is at the Studio Underground from 30 June to 17 July. Tickets on sale now through Ticketek.



Rio Tinto \$20 Tickets Success Continues

Black Swan launched a new audience development initiative in 2015, thanks to our Principal Partner, Rio Tinto. We are happy to report that **Rio Tinto \$20 Tickets** is back in 2016 and still going strong!

Designed to get even more people into the theatre, the Rio Tinto \$20 Tickets initiative is a low cost ticket subsidy scheme, sponsored by Rio Tinto and modelled on similar schemes at Sydney Theatre Company and the National Theatre in London. Both of these have proved extremely successful in attracting new audiences to the theatre by providing a limited number of low cost tickets, subsidised directly by a corporate partner.

Rio Tinto \$20 Tickets kicked off in 2016 with *Picnic at Hanging Rock* and sold out within 1.5 hours! Since 2015, on average 74% of patrons who accessed these tickets were completely new to the company. We look forward to welcoming new patrons and spreading the love of theatre!



THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE: Meet the Actors

The Caucasian Chalk Circle is a huge production for Black Swan – a large cast, a huge artistic endeavour, and a collaboration on an international scale. We chatted to actor Adam Booth, who you may remember from *Venus in Fur*, *Blithe Spirit* and *The Seagull* and soon to be seen in *Angels in America*, to see what it's like from his point of view and what he is looking forward to.



Q. Adam, what is it that drew you to this production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*? What are you most looking forward to?

A. When do you get an opportunity to work in a production like this? To work on a great play, by one of the great playwrights, with an amazing creative team that includes artists from the National Theatre of China? This is 'once in a lifetime' stuff. There's mystery in this project - I'm most looking forward to learning, adapting and offering what I can. I don't know where we'll end up.

Q. Most of the actors in this production will be wearing masks. Is this a new challenge

for you? Are you expecting to change or increase other facets of your performance to compensate?

A. The closest I've come to the technical challenge of performing in mask, in a sense, has been performing in 'lyric' style theatres that hold 2,000+ audience members. A good third of the audience can't actually make out your face - you're just a body with a voice! The little experimentation I've done with mask was at drama school. I remember feeling the influence each particular mask can have on physical and vocal qualities. The mask can trigger an unlikely imaginative response and lead you to the

character. So hopefully the masks will unlock more doors than they close.

Q. You met with Director Dr Wang during one of his visits to Perth. What was that like, especially considering the language barrier?

A. I remember being invited to meet with Dr Wang. I was told that I didn't need to prepare an audition piece, but come for a discussion - this was a first for me. On my way into the audition room, I bumped into another actor and said I was strangely more nervous than usual because I was "an OK actor, but just a rubbish person." Turns out it was probably the most pleasant audition

experience I've had. Through an interpreter we talked about the play and I shared some of my experiences in the theatre, in life. Dr Wang asked questions regarding my interpretation and sense of the play and offered his own views. Communicating through the interpreter distilled the conversation, allowing more room for reflection and a thoughtful, considered response.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle is at the Heath Ledger Theatre from 30 July to 14 August. Tickets on sale now through Ticketek.

Good Play Club

Together with the Blue Room Theatre, Black Swan recently began a new initiative for artist and sector development. The Good Play Club, the brainchild of Black Swan Artistic Director Kate Cherry and Associate Director Jeffrey Jay Fowler, invites the artists of Perth to come together and stand on the shoulders of giants.

Intended for theatre makers and professional and professionally emerging writers, the Good Play Club seeks to foster conversation about the origins of our art form, and how it has led to contemporary practice. The year has begun with plays from Ancient Greece and is now criss-crossing the theatrical canon.

Jeffrey Jay Fowler with emerging writer Finn O'Branagain



The Hon John Day MLA, Black Swan Executive Director Natalie Jenkins, Black Swan Chair Mark Barnaba

Chair's Dinner

Recently we hosted senior representatives from Black Swan's business, philanthropic and government partners at our annual Chair's Dinner to thank them for their support of our 2016 Season. It was a delightful evening and great opportunity to share how their investment impacts the Western Australian community. Thank you to those that attended!

On the Road Again: Shadowboxing

Due to its success in 2015, we will reprise our education and community production, *Shadowboxing* by Ella Hetherington and take it back out on the road in 2016!



Shadowboxing is the second production created by Black Swan to specifically tour to schools and regional Western Australia and is aimed at Years 7-12 (ages 12-17). It has been designed to accommodate a wide range of communities and is aligned to current social issues, particularly social media.

We'll start around Perth, touring metro schools and local communities in July and again later in August, including Mosman Park, Applecross, Dianella, Murdoch University, Girrawheen, Melville, Willetton, Wanneroo and Mount Lawley.

And in early August we'll head out to the regions, Mandurah, Bunbury, Margaret River, Merredin, Kalgoorlie and Eaton.

We look forward to visiting schools and communities, both local and regional, to share **Shadowboxing** and the thrill of theatre!

From the Archives

A quick look at past Black Swan productions

A Midsummer Night's Dream (2011)

This is a well-loved production, largely due to the wonderful direction of Kate Cherry and the fantastic set designed by Christina Smith. With a large cast of 17 actors, this seminal story was brought to life in the Heath Ledger Theatre on a stage of purple and blue in May 2011.



CITY of PERTH
WINTER
ARTS
FESTIVAL
JUNE - AUGUST 2016

visitperthcity.com/arts

singaporeair.com



PROUD SPONSOR
OF BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY


SINGAPORE
AIRLINES
A great way to fly

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Picnic at Hanging Rock: jump out of your seat theatre

★★★★

"...Impressive theatrical inventiveness and formal, though often harsh, beauty. The achievement of the production is the transformation of Lindsay's faux-historicity and the soft-focused erotic mystery of Weir's film into an all-stops-out horror story."

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN



"Absolutely amazing performance, very well done and at times extremely frightening! Well worth seeing."

DENISE, PATRON

"This production of Picnic at Hanging Rock is not quite the classic you remembered – it's better. Questioning identity, society, propriety, life and death, and the universe itself, the rock will draw you in. You will leave this Gothic delight feeling slightly uneasy, asking – did it really happen, or was it all just a dream?"

THE AUSTRALIAN

★★★★★

"A heart stopping experience which left me not only on the edge of my seat, but sometimes jumping out of it...It will leave you speechless and craving more."

PERTH NOW



"Refreshingly terrifying, perfectly composed and the right amount of creepy. Must see! Fab female cast!"

MAGDALENA, PATRON

Picnic at Hanging Rock Opening Night in the Heath Ledger Theatre



Esther Davis, Linda Savage, Sandy Honey and Kate Cherry



Saliba and Yvonne Sassine with Rob and Felicity McKenzie



Laura and Darren Best with Rachel and Richard George

If you have seen yourself on this page and would like the photo, email kerry@bsstc.com.au. For more social pics visit the Watch & Listen pages at www.bsstc.com.au or visit [f](#)

Black Swan State Theatre Company thanks our partners

Principal Partner

Government Partners



Government of Western Australia
Department of Culture and the Arts



Educational & Regional Partner



Black Swan Lab Partner



Government Project Partners



Opening Night Partner



Production Partners



CITY OF PERTH
The Caucasian Chalk Circle



Angels in America

University Partner



Business Advisory Partner



The Caucasian Chalk Circle

Cultural Exchange Partner



Australia China Business Council
澳大利亚中国工商业委员会

Airline Partner



Associate & Regional Partner



Picnic at Hanging Rock

Newspaper Partner



Angels in America

Associate Partners



Tartuffe



Picnic at Hanging Rock

Regional Partner



Season Partners



Season Partners



Company Partners

Gerard Daniels
No Mafia
The Precinct
Sentinel Bar & Grill

Foundation Partners



Patrons Club

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

Private Giving

Encore! Donors
Local Larrikins
White Swans
Wild Swans

ENCORE! GIVING PROGRAM - DONATION FORM All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible

I wish to join the ENCORE! giving program by donating \$_____ ☐ Tick here if you wish for your gift to remain anonymous

My Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Email: _____

Payment Options

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

Card no: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____

Expiry date: ____ | ____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Preferred method of contact (please tick)

☐ Post ☐ Telephone ☐ Email

Cheque: Please make payable to Black Swan State Theatre Company

Return this form to Black Swan Post PO Box 337, Northbridge 6865
Email andree@bsstc.com.au Or call Amber on (08) 6212 9320 with your credit cards details

**Thank you for your
generous gift!**

Terms and Conditions Gifts of \$50 and above will be recognised under our private giving program ENCORE! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.