

ON CUE



L-R: Emma Jackson, Jason Klarwein, Adam Sollis (front). Adam Booth and Toni Scanlan (back). *Once in Royal David's City* (2017). Image by Philip Gostelow.

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A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



When the Von Trapps hid from the Nazi troops, all around the theatre banners with swastikas unfurled and then, on the balconies and behind us in the dress circle bugles called out: clear and crisp and thrilling.

And suddenly, I was completely in the world that I had just been watching on stage. Just like the family I wanted to run and hide, I felt under threat. I had, in a single moment, been transported to wartime Austria. As a member of the audience I was no longer sitting mollified in the dark, I inhabited the world. I was participating in the story. I was an active audience.

I share this story because I believe it's the reason I'm directing theatre today. In that moment, as an eight-year-old, the power and possibility of theatre to transfix and transport

My first theatre memory: It was 1983 when my Mum took me to the theatre. We saw *The Sound of Music*. And I loved it. I loved the music, the choreography, the characters and their relationships and of course the story, but there was one moment that made me feel absolutely electrified.

us was deeply understood. I know all of us have a similar story – a moment that electrified, a moment that got you hooked.

For thousands of people in the last 25 years that moment happened during a Black Swan production.

I feel very fortunate to have started my journey with Black Swan in its 25th year because it has been a time for all of us to reflect on the legacy of the company and the enormous cultural and social impact that has been forged. Black Swan is nationally recognised as being at the vanguard of Aboriginal theatre and a leader in cross cultural collaborations between Australia and Asia.

The jewels in the Black Swan crown include *Bran Nue Dae*, *The Sapphires* and *Red Dog*, all of these stories – made world famous by feature films, began right here at Black Swan.

I've been in a love affair with theatre from the age of eight, and I know that Black Swan and I are a perfect match. Across my career, I have been referred

to by some as a gamechanger. But I'm not about to share with you a vision for radical change. Dynamic change, yes, but I strongly believe that the key to our flourishing future is well and truly in the DNA of Black Swan.

THE VISION...

Black Swan is built on collaboration. We will continue to build our community of artists and audiences. We endeavour to inspire empathy and compassion at every turn. We promise to entertain. There will be cultural diversity on our stages and we will hear a rich range of Aboriginal voices. We will achieve gender parity.

We will electrify and activate our audiences and encourage complex conversations. And we will proudly speak with our quintessentially West Australian voice. We will take our work to the world. We will be audacious. We will be ambitious. And we will always be authentic. And we're going to have fun doing it. The kind of fun that's infectious.

I believe Black Swan is a visionary gamechanger right

now, just as it was when it began. I thank you for being part of the journey as we take the best of Western Australia to the rest of the world. We want Black Swan State Theatre Company to match the beauty and boldness of the state that we live in. And when we next meet in the foyer, I invite you to share your first theatre memory with me...the moment that got you hooked.

Clare Watson
Artistic Director

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE LIGHTHOUSE GIRL

Post-show Q&A:

Tue 9 May, after the 6.30pm performance (free)

ENDGAME

Subscriber briefing:

Mon 22 May, 6.15pm (free)

Rio Tinto pre-show talk:

Thu 1 June, 6.45pm (free)

Post-show Q&A:

Tue 6 June, after the 6.30pm performance (free)

SUBSCRIBER MOVIE NIGHT

The Talented Mr. Ripley

Wed 14 June at 6.30pm

Black Swan would like to acknowledge the passing of our former Deputy Chair, Andrew Drayton. Andrew was a much loved member of the Black Swan family and a wonderful contributor to the company as a board member from 2009-2015, a time of enormous growth and change. Our thoughts and love go out to his family at this difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION



BLACK SWAN SNIPPETS

AWARD NOMINATIONS

We are pleased to share that several artists have recently been acknowledged as leaders in their field! Director Adam Mitchell (*Clinton The Musical*, *Next to Normal*) was a 2017 winner in the Business News 40under40 Awards program. Rising talent Emily Weir won Best Supporting Female Actor and the Bille Brown Award for Best Emerging Artist in her Black Swan debut of Molière's *Tartuffe*.

Congratulations to Ash Gibson Greig on his Green Room Award (Composition) with J. David Franzke (Sound Design) for their work on *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, our co-production with Malthouse Theatre last year. Ash and fellow colleague Matt Scott, winner Best Lighting Design in the Opera category for *The Pearl Fishers* are currently both working on *Once in Royal David's City*. We are also excited for Mark Howett who won Best Lighting Design: Theatre category for *The Secret River*, who will be in rehearsal very soon for *Endgame*.

LIVE BROADCAST

For the past six years Black Swan has shared an annual Live Broadcast with audiences from all over Western Australia. Thanks to the generous support of Lotterywest we'll be bringing you a seventh! On Friday 1 September audiences can watch a high-definition live performance of Joanna Murray-Smith's *Switzerland* beamed directly from the State Theatre Centre of WA into community resource centres, living rooms and regional and metro venues across the state.

WA & QLD: OUR HISTORY OF CO-PRODUCTIONS

We commenced this season with the WA Premiere of *Once in Royal David's City* directed by Queensland Theatre's new Artistic Director Sam Strong and written by Queensland Theatre's former Artistic Director Michael Gow. Strong's directorial debut with *Black Swan* also marks a new age of collaboration between our companies. *Black Swan* has proudly co-presented exceptional work with Queensland Theatre since 2009.

We have much to look forward to in this year of New Horizons including celebrating memorable co-productions that contributed to our success. Our first collaboration with Queensland Theatre was *God of Carnage* (2009) in the beloved The Playhouse Theatre. Its success led to *The Clean House* (2010); and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (2011) welcomed our move into the State Theatre Centre of WA.

The cracking comedy *Managing Carmen* (2012) was directed by cultural leader, and then Artistic Director, Wesley Enoch, a performance of which was also Live Broadcast across regional WA. From 2012 to 2016, Wesley and our then Artistic Director Kate Cherry, alternated directing co-productions

between them – *Other Desert Cities* (2013) directed by Kate; *Gasp!* (2014) directed by Wesley; and most recently Justin Fleming's adaptation of Molière's *Tartuffe* (2016) presented as Kate's outgoing directorial piece.

With *Black Swan* and Queensland Theatre both welcoming new Artistic Directors to the fold, we look forward to further cross-country collaborations in years to come. Sam Strong said "I'm thrilled to be continuing the partnership between Queensland Theatre and Black Swan State Theatre Company with our co-production of *Once in Royal David's City*. Kate Cherry and I have a long history of directing the same plays at different companies and Clare Watson and I grew

up together on the Melbourne independent scene. Both of our companies are interested in using unforgettable theatrical experiences to transcend the geographic challenges of making work in Australia.

We're both passionate about ensuring that the wonderful creative talent in Brisbane and Perth is seen all over Australia."



Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (2001)

From Passion Comes Vision

Launch of the Black Swan Production Fund.

An inaugural Philanthropy Gala Dinner was held at Wildflower, Como The Treasury on Thursday evening 16 March. Organised by the Black Swan Philanthropy Committee chaired by Mrs Michela Fini, the event launched the establishment of the Black Swan Production Fund – a future fund to provide long term security for the company and enable the company to continue to develop works of exceptional quality.

"We are extremely grateful to the donors of the Production Fund and all our financial stakeholders that enable us to bring Black Swan's vision to create theatre that matches the boldness and beauty of the state we live in to life," the Chair of the Board of Directors, Mark Barnaba AM said.

The fund was assured when Andrew and Nicola Forrest's Minderoo Foundation offered to match every donation made on the night by generous donors, including Angela Roberts, Tim Roberts Giving, Mimi and Willy Packer and Michelle and Tony Grist. Those in attendance on the evening included Black Swan's Founder Janet Holmes à Court AC, Founding Director Andrew Ross, Artistic Director Clare Watson, Dr Richard Walley OAM and Australian film icon Jack Thompson AM.

SUPPORT BLACK SWAN BY GIVING!

Share our vision to further develop theatre in WA and make it sustainable and accessible. With your help we can enhance the cultural vibrancy of WA and develop future artists. Visit our website www.bsstc.com.au/support to make your donation now.

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

GIFT VOUCHER

Give the gift of theatre with Black Swan's gift vouchers – the perfect present for the theatre lovers in your life. Purchase gift vouchers in any amount on our website at bsstc.com.au or call us on (08) 6212 9300.

SAVE THE DATE

STATE THEATRE
CENTRE OF WA

OPEN DAY

*Proudly presented by
City of Perth.*

*Supported by
Perth Theatre Trust*

SATURDAY 6 MAY

Get to know your State Theatre Centre and what goes on inside. Experience a range of **FREE** activities including: workshops with artists, play readings, kids crafts, theatre design presentations and backstage tours. The Open Day is a unique community showcase of the venue's three resident companies - Black Swan State Theatre Company, Barking Gecko Theatre Company and Co:3

The full Open Day schedule will be available soon.

WELCOME TO SHOW BUSINESS: INTRODUCING OUR NEW PARTNERS IN 2017



We love what we do at Black Swan but we simply couldn't do it alone. We'd like to introduce our new partners for 2017:

**HOTHOUSE
COMPANY**
AN ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE ARTS INITIATIVE

THE HOTHOUSE COMPANY from All Saints College will host our Emerging Writers Group new play readings and connect their students with Black Swan artists.

BN
BUSINESSNEWS
ENGAGING BUSINESS PEOPLE

BUSINESS NEWS will help spread the word about our exciting productions and increase Black Swan's profile in the business community.

Adina
apartment hotels

ADINA APARTMENT HOTELS will become a home away from home for our visiting artists.

**BOSTON
BREWING
CO.**

BOSTON BREWERY will ensure guests are well equipped to celebrate a night at the theatre.

**PAINTED DOG
RESEARCH**

PAINTED DOG RESEARCH will help us understand our markets better and really pinpoint the social and economic impact of what we do.

**LOT
TWENTY**

LOT TWENTY will host theatre-goers to enjoy a special pre-show dinner menu or post-show tippie.

For more information on how you can support Black Swan head to <http://www.bsstc.com.au/support/>.

JUST FOR YOU – SUBSCRIBER OFFERS FROM OUR PARTNERS

ACCOMMODATION

Why not make a night of your theatre experience and book a hotel room at our new partner, Adina Apartment Hotels. Receive a 10% discount on the best available rate at all TFE Hotels. Better yet, the offer is valid for all TFE Hotels around Australia! Head to Black Swan's website to access the special link or use the code TH9391961 when booking.

CAR HIRE

Black Swan subscribers can receive 10% OFF any vehicle rental from Thrifty WA. Special discount is available by calling (08) 9464 8800 or email reservations@thriftywa.com. Please quote promo code BSSTC. Excludes Perth Airports, Perth City, Broome and Kununurra.

CASTING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our Artistic department has been busy continuing casting for our 2017 productions. Here are a few new announcements:



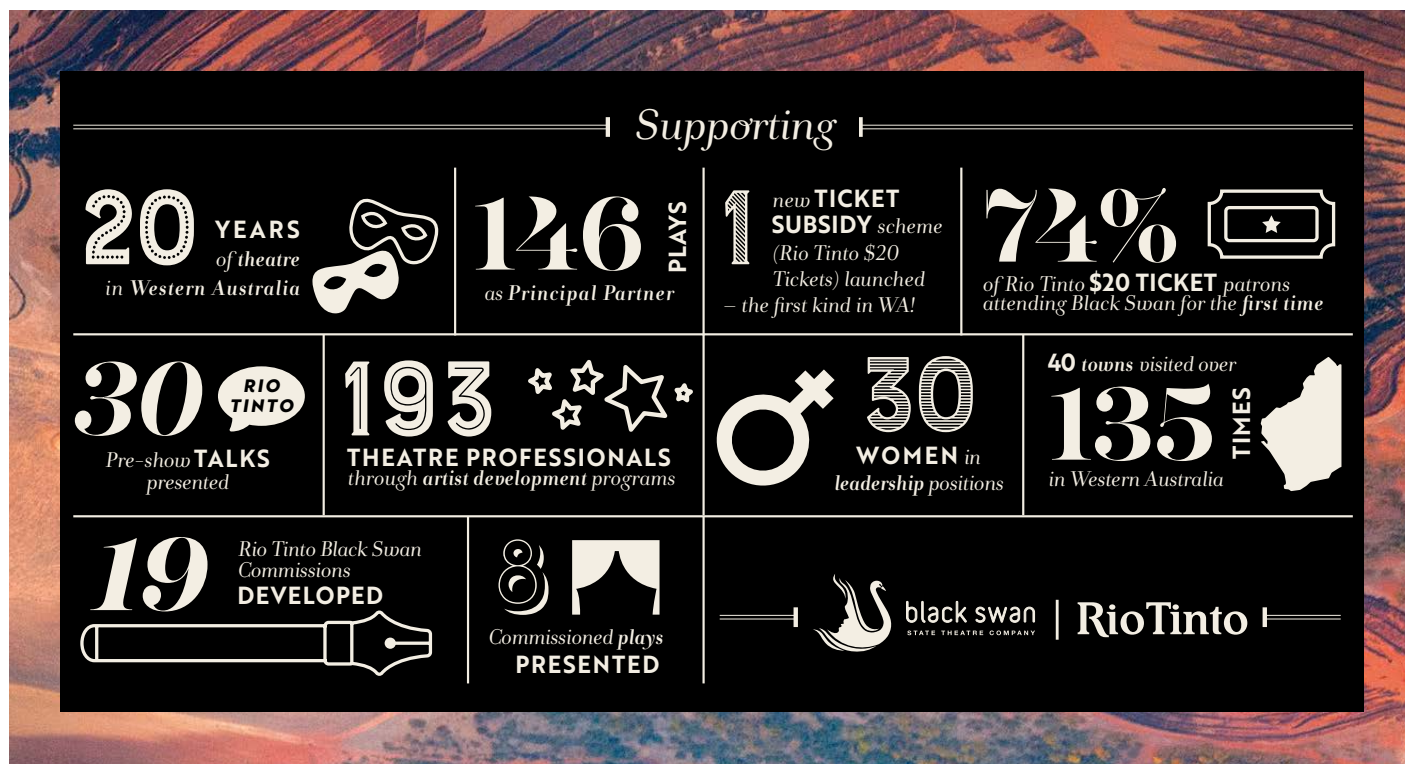
Finalising the cast for World Premiere *Coma Land* is Kirsty Marillier as Boon.



Giuseppe Rotondella joins Jenny Davis in the role of Edward for *Switzerland*.

RIO TINTO 20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

This year Black Swan will celebrate an incredible 20 years of partnership with our Principal Partner Rio Tinto. Many of our achievements have been possible thanks to the support of Rio Tinto.



Artistic Director Clare Watson recently travelled to the Pilbara as a guest of Rio Tinto. Clare said “It was such an amazing visit. I was blown away by the Burrup rock art in this ancient landscape and excited to visit the site for the new performing arts centre and speak with community leaders on how their state theatre company can engage with the Pilbara community.”

On Tour: *Picnic at Hanging Rock*



Picnic at Hanging Rock (2016)

The classic and haunting Australian tale of *Picnic at Hanging Rock* was our first main stage production for 2016, a co-production with Malthouse Theatre. The production made its European premiere at the iconic Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh (13-28 January) and was extremely well received by audiences. We hope to continue sharing our stories on more international stages in the future!

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT AROUND WA

Which productions are schools excited about in our 2017 season?

Teachers were fast to start preparations for their year of theatre this season with nearly 1500 students already booked in before the school year had even commenced. The most popular production is not surprising, with *Endgame* and *Once in Royal David's City* clear winners with Drama teachers and *The Lighthouse Girl* popular with English teachers and primary schools. The school matinee has already sold out for this and as a result we have scheduled a second school matinee in the season.



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Each year Black Swan invites Drama teachers to nominate students suitable for our Student Ambassador Program. In its fifth year, the program continues to encourage students to attend the theatre independently of their school, whilst being mentored by their nominating teacher. Four teachers and the student they nominated are selected each year to receive two tickets each for every production in our season and are also invited to attend other opportunities to connect with the company and our artists. The 2017 high school Student Ambassadors are: Brindy Donovan - Comet Bay College, Adam Di Tullio - Christ Church Grammar School, Brianna Linto-Smith - Lumen Christi College, Emily Klonowski - Peter Moyes Anglican Community College.

REGIONAL AMBASSADORS

Now in its seventh year, our Regional Ambassador Program allows a two-way line of communication between regional communities and their state theatre company through passionate individuals who engage their community to experience the arts. In late 2016 we welcomed a new ambassador, teacher Meredith McCormack in Margaret River.

AUSLAN SIGNED PERFORMANCES OF THE LIGHTHOUSE GIRL

Black Swan are committed to providing accessible opportunities across our yearly programs and in 2017 we will provide two Auslan signed performances for *The Lighthouse Girl*. The 1:30pm matinee and 7pm evening performances on Saturday 13 May will both be Auslan signed, allowing families with hearing impaired members to all enjoy a theatre experience together. Tickets for these performances can be accessed through Ticketek Group Bookings by emailing groups.perth@ticketek.com.au or by calling on 1300 364 00.



First Time Read – Emerging Writers Group 2016

★★★★

"An intrinsic and intense display of emotion and intrigue."

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

L-R: Bill Scheggia, Kirsten Thomson, Clare Testoni, Ian Sinclair, Jessica Messenger and Andrew Sutherland. Photo: Daniel James Grant.

Molière's *Tartuffe: The Hypocrite*: 'an absolute joy to watch'



Once in Royal David's City: 'rich with heart and character'



Seen on Scene

If you have seen yourself on this page and would like the photo, email cdyball@bsstc.com.au.
For more social pics visit Black Swan's Facebook page.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS, DONOR EVENT AT THE STANDARD

Photos by Rebecca Mansell



Bradley Van Luxemborg, Ben Carter, Irene Jarzabek and Jane Bell



Pam Cresswell, Toni and Lloyd Houthuysen and Philippa Packer



Leigh Cathcart, Shane Colquhoun and Rob McKenzie

PHILANTHROPY GALA DINNER – BLACK SWAN PRODUCTION FUND LAUNCH AT WILDFLOWER, COMO THE TREASURY



Sande McKinlay and Thurston Saulsman



Tim Moore, Michelle Grist, Rose Moore and Tony Grist



Sarah D'Onofrio, Janet Holmes à Court AC and Natalie Jenkins



Mimi Packer and Angela Roberts

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY OPENING NIGHT IN THE HEATH LEDGER THEATRE



Hannah Younger and Bronte Younger



David Pinches, Mae Cardaci and Alec Coles



Denise McComish, Shaun Day, Helen Day and Craig Yaxley



Max Kay, Lesley Gilmour and Norma Kay

BLACK SWAN STATE THEATRE COMPANY THANKS OUR PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

RioTinto
Celebrating 20 years of partnership

GOVERNMENT PARTNER



Black Swan State Theatre Company is supported by the State Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts.



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

EDUCATION AND REGIONAL PARTNER



BLACK SWAN LAB PARTNER



PROJECT PARTNERS



PRODUCTION PARTNER



BUSINESS ADVISORY PARTNER



OPEN DAY PARTNER



AIRLINE PARTNER



NEWSPAPER PARTNER



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



REGIONAL PARTNERS



CATERING PARTNER



SEASON PARTNERS



SEASON PARTNERS



ACCOMMODATION PARTNER



ENTERTAINMENT PARTNER



WINE PARTNER



BEER PARTNER



FOUNDATION PARTNERS



PATRONS CLUB

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

GIVING CIRCLES

Encore! Donors
Local Larrikins
White Swans
Wild Swans

COMPANY PARTNER

Lot Twenty