

ON CUE



L-R: Kelton Pell and Geoff Kelso, *Endgame* (2017). Image by Daniel James Grant

INSIDE



OPERATION PILBARA



OPEN DAY



GEM OF A SHOW

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We have had an extraordinary start to the year, with three shows under our belt, along with numerous events that have coincided with our production season. Following a very successful run in both Perth and Brisbane, of our co-production with Queensland Theatre of *Once in Royal David's City*, we presented *The Lighthouse Girl* our first Black Swan Lab offering for 2017. And what a success this world premiere was!

We premiered the play in Albany, the birthplace of this ANZAC story, in the wonderful Albany Entertainment Centre, before bringing the show

Thank you to our loyal subscribers for your support of the first half in this year of new horizons – you are the very reason that we continue to do what we do!

to Perth for a sold out and extended season. This uniquely Western Australian story was a record-setting production. The Perth season broke all box office records for our Studio Underground productions and we extended the season with three additional shows, including an extra Auslan interpreted performance. We could not be prouder of the superb team of talented artists that brought this fully Western Australian production to life. I'd like to thank the Albany Entertainment Centre, Perth Theatre Trust, the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund, for their special support of this production.

Between productions, we have also been busy with many other activities. We celebrated Open Day at the State Theatre Centre of WA, proudly supported by City of Perth. Open Day was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with our fellow

resident companies with a broad range of free activities here at the State Theatre Centre. We look forward to future opportunities such as this, to share and enjoy our creative city with new and existing audiences. We also hosted senior representatives from our business, philanthropic and government partners for our annual Chair's Dinner, to thank them for their support of our 2017 season. Our Chair, Mark Barnaba AM spoke to guests about the importance of their support and of a thriving arts sector for the Western Australian community, and Artistic Director Clare Watson shared her exciting vision for the company's future. Thank you to our partner Beaumonde Catering for hosting the event at their wonderful new venue, Beaumonde on The Point.

Our current production, *Endgame* by Samuel Beckett, has received remarkable reviews – no doubt due to the combined talents of the

distinguished cast and our Founding Artistic Director Andrew Ross' superb direction of this outstanding team of artists. We have enjoyed sharing this classic work with our audiences, while adding an unique Western Australian flair! Over the coming months, we look forward to presenting our winter offerings to you - *The Eisteddfod*, *Coma Land* and *Switzerland* are all works by Australian playwrights. We are excited to share a combination of new and award-winning productions with you this winter season. Thank you for your continued support in celebrating great Western Australian theatre.

See you at the theatre!

Natalie Jenkins
Executive Director

BLACK SWAN SNIPPETS

AWARDS

Congratulations to actor, director, mentor and cultural adviser of indigenous theatre and film Lynette Narkle who was a recipient of the Australia Council for the Art's Red Ochre Award. She was honoured for her outstanding lifetime contribution to Aboriginal arts nationally and internationally in a career that has spanned five decades. Lynette was presented with the award on 27 May, which marked the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and the 25th Anniversary of the Mabo decision, as part of the 10th National Indigenous Arts Awards (NIAA), Sydney Opera House. Lynette, appeared last year in Black Swan's collaboration with the National Theatre of China's production of Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

2017 EMERGING WRITERS GROUP

We are delighted to announce the 2017 Emerging Writers Group led by Associate Director Jeffrey Jay Fowler. The newly-formed group includes rising talents: St John Cowcher, Geordie Crawley, Isabelle McDonald, Andrea Fernandez, Tyler Jacob Jones, and Freida Lee. EWG is one of many artist development programs run by Black Swan, offering the playwrights year-long support including discussion and mentoring, with the aim of developing their story and script writing skills. We look forward to seeing the culmination of this group's work.

GIFT VOUCHERS

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



THE EISTEDDFOD
22 JUNE- 09 JULY 2017

Post-show Q&A: Tuesday
4 July, after the 6.30pm
performance (free)



COMA LAND
20 JULY - 06 AUGUST 2017

Post-show Q&A: Tuesday
01 August, after the 6.30pm
performance (free)

**Don't forget you can
buy additional tickets
at subscriber prices.**

OPERATION PILBARA

Actor and musician, Joel Jackson, reflects on his time with Operation Pilbara 2005, a joint project between The Australian Theatre for Young People (aytp) and Black Swan, sponsored by Pilbara Iron (a member of the Rio Tinto Group). This project aimed to give the youth of the Pilbara an opportunity to experience high quality theatre and drama skills training.

Joel is best known for his role as Charles Bean in *Deadline Gallipoli* and Peter Allen in *Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door*. For both roles, he was nominated for and won the 2015 AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama.

I can't remember how old I was when Operation Pilbara came to my small town (at that stage) of Karratha. But it was the first time it felt like something that had everything I was interested in or curious about had found me. Headed by the great Phil Thomson and his talented team; including a hilarious

and passionate clown, Craig Williams, it was an experience in all things theatre and the power of your own creativity. We wrote songs, made skits, explored dance and different movement techniques. At the end of it all we put on a show to what seemed like a huge audience, but to us it wouldn't have mattered. We were kids from the bush; Newman, Dampier, Tom Price and Karratha, who were champing at the bit to stretch our creativity, we were in our element.

My fond memory of that time is that it didn't instil in me that I had to become a performer,

it wasn't a pressured learning environment with an expectation of an outcome. It was a safe haven for kids to craft their natural, untethered ability and expand upon it.

Working with other like-minded youngsters, we consolidated our talents and collaborated to make something fun that also gave us a huge burst of confidence. After all, we were living in a region of the country where theatre and the arts was not a huge part of the local community tapestry. This has since changed with three participants, of the Operation Pilbara group I was part



Image by Peter Brew-Bevan

of, going on to study at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts and West Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

The opportunity that Operation Pilbara afforded us as young would be performers is not lost on me now, but back then it was the best school holiday we ever had. My thanks to all who were involved with it and I hope you continue to give the next generation the opportunity and confidence you gave me.

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 bsstc.com.au 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!*

CELEBRATING A 20 YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH RIO TINTO

Supporting

20 YEARS
of theatre
in Western Australia



146 PLAYS
as Principal Partner

1 new **TICKET**
SUBSIDY scheme
(Rio Tinto \$20
Tickets) launched
– the first kind in WA!

74% 
of Rio Tinto **\$20 TICKET** patrons
attending Black Swan for the first time

30 
Pre-show **TALKS**
presented

193 
THEATRE PROFESSIONALS
through artist development programs

 **30**
WOMEN in
leadership positions

40 towns visited over
135  **TIMES**
in Western Australia

19 Rio Tinto Black Swan
Commissions
DEVELOPED



Commissioned plays
PRESENTED

 **black swan** | **RioTinto** 

CHAIR'S DINNER

Black Swan recently hosted representatives from our business, philanthropic and government partners at the wonderful new venue, Beaumonde On The Point for our annual Chair's Dinner.

Black Swan's Chair, Mark Barnaba AM thanked them for their support of our 2017 Season and Artistic Director, Clare Watson shared her vision for 2018 which generated great excitement for next year.

Thank you to Beaumonde on the Point, Macquarie Private Bank, Big Sky Entertainment, Amelia Park Wines, and Boston Brewing Co. for their support of the event.

Photos by Rebecca Mansell



Olman Walley



Clare Watson



Justin Scerri, Chris Batini, Steven Davies and Stacey Turic



Craig Yaxley, Katie Valentine, Li O'Sullivan and Mark Clements



Mark Barnaba, Saffron Solomon, Morgan Solomon and The Hon David Templema

COULD YOUR BUSINESS BENEFIT FROM A BLACK SWAN SPONSORSHIP?

With the help of our business sponsors, Black Swan continues to be a leading Australian theatre company, creating meaningful theatre experiences that celebrate and excite our community.

- expose your brand to our audience
- strengthen stakeholder relationships
- connect with other business partners and donors
- demonstrate your commitment to the community
- engage your employees.

Contact Partnerships Manager, Monique Beaudoire on (08) 6212 9305 or monique@bsstc.com.au to discuss how a Black Swan sponsorship can help you do business.



Image by Daniel James Grant

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PROUD SPONSOR
OF BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

OPEN DAY AT THE STATE THEATRE CENTRE OF WA PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY CITY OF PERTH



Photos by Rebecca Mansell



Last month we celebrated a vibrant Saturday in our creative city with OPEN DAY at the State Theatre Centre of WA, proudly supported by City of Perth. With fellow resident companies, Barking Gecko Theatre Company and Co:3 Australia, we enjoyed showcasing our art forms while the State Theatre Centre opened its doors for the ever popular behind-the-scenes tours.

It was a fun-filled day including robot workshops, play readings, design presentations and panel discussions. WAAPA graduate and rising star Tyler Hill shared a design presentation on his inspiration for *Endgame* and *The Eisteddfod*; while Black Swan actors shared a WA first read of *Bela Kiz*, a new play by Hellie Turner. Meanwhile, black swans performing on stilts roved the venue and brought some music to the afternoon.

Some of Perth's finest cultural leaders sparked discussion on what makes a great creative capital including our Associate Director

Jeffrey Jay Fowler, Co:3 and Barking Gecko's Artistic Directors Raewyn Hill and Matt Edgerton. Following this, theatre-maker Adam Mitchell hosted a series of interviews with local Perthonalities. We are excited to release a set of podcasts of these interviews, with unique perspectives on Perth from a box office manager, a disability advocate, a poet and many more.

We look forward to further collaborations like this that create engaging and accessible theatre experiences for our community.

PATRONS CLUB

Black Swan's Patrons Club giving circle was started in 2014 in conjunction with the establishment of the Black Swan Lab, a new development program designed to assist in activating the Studio Underground and offering a platform for new work and more daring productions. Janet Holmes à Court, Michela and Adrian Fini, Tim and Chris Ungar, Stan and Jean Perron and the Simon Lee Foundation are all passionate Black Swan supporters who believe in our vision to develop new and younger audiences, create new work and utilise the Studio Underground in a more dynamic way.

Thanks to the generous support and vision of the Patrons Club, Black Swan has been able to produce sell-out productions such as *Venus in Fur* and *The Lighthouse Girl*. We have been able to offer unique opportunities for emerging artists to collaborate and work alongside of experienced artists and learn from them along the way. Many talented Australian writers, including emerging Western Australian writers, have seen their work come to life on stage for the first time through this initiative; *Flood*, *The House on the Lake*, *The Red Balloon*, *A Perfect Specimen*, *Girl Shut Your Mouth*, *Tonsils* and *Tweezers* and *The Lighthouse Girl*.

Since 2014, the Black Swan Lab and the productions presented in the Studio Underground space has grown and developed, from 2 productions in 2014 to 4 productions in 2017, demonstrating our audiences appetite for these engaging works. In 2018, we look forward to revealing the plans Artistic Director Clare Watson has for the Studio Underground and its further development. We would like to thank the Patrons Club for their ongoing support of Black Swan, without their passion these incredible milestones would not be possible.

The Black Swan Lab is supported by the Patrons Club and Wesfarmers Arts.



Adam Booth and Felicity McKay, *Venus in Fur* (2015). Image by Gary Marsh

ON THE ROAD WITH BLACK SWAN

Education & Community Access Manager Alena Tompkins hit the road in early April visiting Community Resource Centres all over our vast state. These community consultation visits form part of the community engagement for our annual Live Broadcasts. This year we embarked on a mission to visit as many of the smaller towns as possible that have the capability of receiving our Live Broadcasts. Alena has penned a few words below in reflection of her travels so far.

Starting in early April, Jess Knight our Project Coordinator and myself met with the teams that provide Live Broadcast experiences for their communities at Community Resource Centres (CRC's), shires, businesses and schools in Toodyay, York, Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Bruce Rock, Quairading, Beverley, Mt Barker, Denmark and Albany.

Being on the road is one of my favourite past times and I feel truly blessed to call it work. Taking on management of the Live Broadcast Project since our first broadcast in

2011 has meant I get to travel all over our beautiful state visiting communities that I may ordinarily never get to visit. Thanks to our Regional Partner Thrifty Car Rental, driving around has been made so much easier. I'm overwhelmed by the beauty of our country side and the people that welcome me warmly to their towns.

As I write this, my solo trips have so far seen me visit Serpentine, Pinjarra, Waroona, Harvey, Brunswick Junction, Augusta, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole, Franklin River, Manjimup, Greenbushes,

Bridgetown, Donnybrook, Nannup, Boyup Brook, Kojonup, Tambellup, Gnowangerup, Ongerup, Bremer Bay, Jerramungup, Katanning, Wagin, Williams, Boddington, Wandering, Gingin, Lancelin, Jurien Bay, Dongara, Kalbarri, Mullewa, Morawa, Coorow, Dalwallinu, Moora, Wongan Hills, Goomalling, Dowerin, Tom Price.

Next week I visit Karratha, Roebourne and Wickham. In the weeks following I'll get to Southern Cross, Kalgoorlie, Kambalda, Norseman, Menzies, Leonora, Denham

and Kununurra. Come the end of June I would have been on the road somewhere each week, returning home only on the weekends. There is something remarkable about driving around our state that makes you want to remember what you see and savour the feeling it gives you. Cameras can't possibly capture everything but I'll particularly remember these travels fondly. Being able to bring Black Swan to the regions is an incredible aspect of my job. I can't wait to share this year's Live Broadcast of Switzerland with communities both near and far.

The Lighthouse Girl: 'a sweet, moving little gem of a show'

★★★★

"Will McNeill and Giuseppe Rotondella as Jim and Charlie were intimate and emotive."

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

"...Charming production, complete with sun bleached Edwardian furniture and linen costumes designed by Lynn Ferguson."

THE AUSTRALIAN

★★★★

"...not your average war-genre work; it is emotionally stirring, thought-evoking and an unpretentious classic... incredibly moving production eloquently portrayed one of the most pivotal times in Australia's history."

THE THEATRE DIARY



Image by Lee Griffith

Endgame: 'Australian-fied take on the classic'

"It's glorious work, trapping a mesmerised audience into the rhythm of Beckett's irregular, futile repetitions."

THE AUSTRALIAN

★★★★ ½

"Ross...returns for a valedictory production, knows this material intimately and directs it with sure intelligence."

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

"...plays like this move you to view life, and the world, from a different perspective..."

ISOLATED NATION



Image by Daniel James Grant

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.

THE LIGHTHOUSE GIRL OPENING NIGHT IN THE STUDIO UNDERGROUND

Photos by Rebecca Mansell



Ivan Vella, Natalie Vella, Vicki Robinson and Robyn Ferguson



Linda Ager, Tony Krsticevic MLA and Natalie Jenkins



Peter Watson MLA, Janine Freeman MLA and The Hon David Templeman MLA

ENDGAME OPENING NIGHT IN THE HEATH LEDGER THEATRE



Judy Kozak and Bev Lange



Simon Walsh, John Parker and Mark Patterson



Ella Worth, Lucy Leech and Emma Munshi



John, Kelton and Charmaine Pell

CASTING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Finalising the cast for the Australian Premiere of *Let the Right One In* is Angus McLaren, Steve Turner and Alison van Reeken. The final production of 2017 also marks Artistic Director Clare Watson's directorial debut with Black Swan.

BLACK SWAN STATE THEATRE COMPANY THANKS OUR PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER  <i>Celebrating 20 years of partnership</i>		GOVERNMENT PARTNER  Department of Culture and the Arts 		GOVERNMENT PARTNER  Australia Council for 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  Department of Communications and the Arts 	
PRODUCTION PARTNER 		BUSINESS ADVISORY PARTNER 		OPEN DAY PARTNER  City of Perth	
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