

ON CUE

BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY



Above: Laila Bano Rind, Adriane Daff, Katherine Tonkin, Harriet Marshall in *Xenides* (2018). Photo by Dana Weeks.

INSIDE



CELEBRATING WA TALENT



HOME GROWN ARTISTS



PLAY YOUR PART

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



What an exhilarating year in the theatre 2018 has been here at Black Swan. I'd like to thank all of you who joined us for *The Conversations*.

Julia Hales commanded the stage in her biographical work *You Know We Belong Together*. Adam Mitchell's production of *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* was alive with beauty, integrity and heart-breaking performances. Zoe Pepper's production of *Hir* was fast, furious and funny. I'm still singing the tunes from *Assassins* and working with so many remarkable choirs during *The Events* was a highlight of the year for me. The young actors in *Skylab* stole my heart, the doctor in *The Vibrator Play* gave me the giggles and I bow down to the talent of the women in *Xenides*. During the year we heard insights from the remarkable Dr Anne Aly about extremism and gun violence, we talked about the impact of FIFO work, we discussed the power and importance of music and we heard the power of feminism on the lives of three incredible women. And for those of you who joined us for The Doll dinner event, I'm sure you'll agree, it was a

magical night of great food, great music and great company.

2019 is fast approaching and we are looking forward to another year full of fun, big ideas, stunning talent and fresh perspectives. We kick off the year with a production of Thornton Wilder's classic *Our Town* presented in the State Theatre Centre Courtyard as part of the Perth Festival. Our professional cast are joined by members of our community in a host of roles – we are working with doctors, professors, journalists, students, funeral directors, delivery drivers, the team at Chi Cho Gelato and with the Rhythmos choir. Across the season we will collaborate with almost one hundred community members so that the play *Our Town* will truly reflect our town, Perth. I hope you'll come and join us under the stars for this night of theatre that reminds us how truly glorious it is to be alive.

Collaboration is at the heart of making theatre and in 2019 we've got some exciting

collaborations to share with you. We remount the previously sold-out season of *You Know We Belong Together*, a collaboration with DADAA and Perth Festival; present a forgotten classic *The Torrents*, a Sydney Theatre Company co-production; share a new adaptation of *Medea*, a collaboration with WA Youth Theatre Company and present *Fully Sikh*, a world premiere created with Barking Gecko Theatre.

The 2019 season *Where the Heart Is* will explore the Australian family in all its forms. We continue to create theatre experiences that are timely, topical and relevant. There will be stories of love, hope and belonging; featuring some of the best and brightest talent Australia has to offer.

We'd love to see you at the theatre again in 2019.

Clare Watson
Artistic Director

OUR TOWN: PREMIUM EXPERIENCE

The Pulitzer award-winning *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder celebrates the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. This will be a one-of-a-kind theatre event, staged in the Courtyard at the State Theatre Centre. A unique Perth Festival offering that speaks to us on the urgent necessity of living in the here and now.

Featuring Abbie-Lee Lewis, Ian Michael, Shari Sebbens and everyday Perth citizens. Premium Experience is on sale now.

Experience an exclusive dining opportunity for *Our Town* and upgrade to 'Balcony – Dinner + Show' to indulge and really make a night of it.

Your upgrade includes access to our birds-eye balcony seating area with cocktail style high tables and chairs, and savoury and sweet dining served throughout the event by our catering partner, Beaumonde Catering. Drinks will be available from the Heath Ledger Theatre bar. This exclusive dining experience is valued at \$49.00 per person with only limited seats available. Full menu available on our website (gluten free and vegetarian options available).



Above: *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* dining experience. Photo by Rebecca Mansell

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



OUR TOWN
8 – 23 FEB



YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER
20 – 31 MAR



WATER
9 – 26 MAY



THE TORRENTS
15 – 30 JUN

SKYLAB ON TOUR



Photo by Dana Weeks.

Directly after the Perth season, the *Skylab* cast featuring Laila Bano Rind, Gary Cooper, Liani Dalgetty, Juliette Laylan, Alan Little, Rayma McGrath Morrison and Benjamin Narkle, toured to Karratha and performed at Red Earth Arts Precinct (REAP) on Wed 5 September, as part of PAC Australia's 32nd annual Performing Arts Conference, Making Space and the National Performing Arts Exchange (PAX).

The two events saw more than 400 delegates, including artists, arts managers, programmers and industry professionals converge in Karratha. This was the most remote location the event has been held in its 32-year history, relating to both the value placed on regional venues

and tours; and the central themes of the conference - how place informs art and how art reflects and connects communities.

Artistic Director Clare Watson and Executive Director Natalie Jenkins travelled to Karratha for the conference. Natalie said it was a very different type of show for the

company to share with Karratha. "We have welcomed and attracted new and diverse audiences because of the production and the company looked forward to performing in Karratha again and bringing another unique WA story, a sci-fi comedy, to the Pilbara." Earlier in the year, Black Swan toured

The Lighthouse Girl to REAP as part of the ANZAC Centenary commemorations.

Skylab, was written by Melodie Reynolds-Diarra and developed in partnership with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and was inspired by the landing of NASA's Skylab space station near Esperance in 1979.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



James Garces
Secondary Student Ambassador, 2018

It was a truly amazing experience to feel involved with the Company.

I already had an appreciation for the Theatre and Drama, as I've personally been slowly wading my way through the acting world since performing in a production of *The Wizard of Oz* back in the UK when I was 6 years old. I have truly appreciated the opportunities presented to me through the Student Ambassador position this year, by coming to panel discussions, being involved in *FITTER. FASTER. BETTER.* at the end of last year, spreading the word to people around me and those that otherwise wouldn't be interested in going to the Theatre.

Most importantly, I found attending all the productions gave me an authentic experience of the industry, increased my love for Drama and the Theatre tenfold and honestly helped cement my dream to become an actor, to tell stories and make people experience things for a living, which I can't thank any one person enough for.

After graduating school now and beginning my adult life where I can focus on my passions, I'm thrilled to be continuing to work and advocate for the company as a tertiary ambassador.



Isabella Donatelli
Student Secondment (Wardrobe) 2018

Isabella is a Curtin University graduate (Fashion Design Major) who completed a secondment with Wardrobe Manager Lynn Ferguson and the Black Swan Wardrobe team. The productions she worked on included costumes from *In the Next Room*, or *The Vibrator Play* and *Xenides*. Congratulations to Isabella on winning the 'Sericin Silk Textile Design Award' and the 'Urban Couture Masterclass' award at the recent Curtin University Paradigm Showcase.

"Being able to help out on *In the Next Room*, or *The Vibrator Play* as well as *Xenides*, is an experience I will never forget. I learned so much during my placement at Black Swan, and it was an amazing opportunity to be able to help out with a variety of different and unique shows."



PLAY YOUR ROLE IN HELPING NATURE

Climate change is real. So, this summer, give the performance of a lifetime and help WA save water in the garden and around the home.

NATURE KNOWS BEST

Fresh Water Thinking

WATER

CELEBRATING WA TALENT: JOANNA LAMB

As champions of local talent, we’re thrilled to collaborate with celebrated WA artist, Joanna Lamb for the 2019 season artwork.

Through the practice of painting, printmaking, collage and sculpture, Joanna Lamb’s hard-edged and refined geometric compositions depict suburban and urban spaces as an ongoing exploration of place.

Her work was included in Parallel Lives: Australian Painting Today, TarraWarra Biennial, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria in 2006. In 2007 Lamb was highly commended at the ABN Amro Emerging Artist Award, and was voted one of Australia’s 50 Most Collectable Artists by Australian Art Collector. Her work has been shortlisted for several prizes including

National Works on Paper Art Prize at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Geelong Contemporary Art Prize and Bankwest Contemporary Art Prize. She has had solo shows in Australia and Singapore.

Memories, people, places; a unique imprint of belonging exists in each of our hearts and minds. While some yearn to find home, others forever run from it. In the end, we all share the journey in the search for our identity. What does belonging mean to you? What happens when home isn’t what we imagined it to be, and how do we influence others’ sense of it? Join us in 2019 as we explore **‘Where the Heart Is’**.



Our Town: ‘Pleasantville 02’ 2002 Acrylic on canvas 160 x 200cm



Fully Sikh: ‘House 032017’ 2017 Acrylic on paper 45 x 78.5cm



The Torrents: ‘Interior 2a’ 2011 Acrylic on canvas 106 x 129.5cm



You Know We Belong Together: ‘House 042016’ 2016 Acrylic on canvas 166 x 150cm



Medea: ‘Suburban House 04’ 2014 Acrylic on canvas 122 x 180cm



Water: ‘Exterior 15 Colours No.2’ 2013 Acrylic on canvas 115 x 155cm



Black is the New White: ‘Interior 15 Colours No.2’ 2013 Acrylic on canvas 160 x 160cm

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WA ARTISTS



Ian Michael
Ian performs in *Our Town* 8 – 23 February

Kaya, I’m Ian Michael.

Clare Watson asked if I would be interested in moving back home while we were working together on *Let the Right One In* and talking to Clare about what her vision was for the company and Perth arts community - I couldn’t say no, her fierceness and passion for theatre is infectious. My role as a Resident Artist has varied depending on what Conversation we are in at the time, I get the chance to sit in rehearsal rooms and company runs, host post show discussions, read plays and be part of the programming discussion, meet artists and attend functions with donors and sponsors. I was also given the opportunity as Assistant Director to Kyle Morrison on *Skylab*, being an actor and seeing the work that goes into a production from a development room, to the first read

and to closing night is eye opening and has given me even more appreciation for all of the people who work on the other side of the stage - it was truly special to part of the first collaboration between Yirra Yaakin and Black Swan.

Let the Right One In was my first major role on the main stage and I couldn’t have asked for a more perfect role and rehearsal room to be a part of. It was challenging, we laughed a lot, cried, there were many hugs and it was a room that felt safe to fail and pick yourself up again - it’ll be a time in my life I’ll never forget. When Clare was thinking about programming *Our Town* for the season next year, I read the play and couldn’t stop thinking about it, especially the part of the Stage Manager who I’ll get to play next year, it’s a play that asks so much about life and not taking for granted the time and people you have - I hope the

audience are moved by it as much I am, it’s going be a very exciting production to be part of and Clare and the creatives are going to create something very unique.

I’ve also been commissioned with Chris Isaacs (*Flood*) to write a new work which we hope will hit the Black Swan stage in the very near future - a piece about ghosts from the past and present - and a piece that questions what stories are told and who gets to tell them.

My time as a Resident Artist at Black Swan has been a homecoming, a challenge, inspiring and a real turning point in my career. Black Swan is a place that I’m very proud to be a part of - for what it stands for and is evolving into.

The theatre geek inside me has been very spoiled this year.

Julia Hales

Julia performs in *You Know We Belong Together* 20 – 31 March

In March 2018, the play *You Know We Belong Together* opened to rave reviews at the Perth Festival. Co-creator and story of the production Julia Hales gives us a behind-the-scenes look at how she created this beautiful story about her life and her community.

My name is Julia Hales. I am 38 years old and still single and looking for love. I am an actress. My biggest dream for the longest I can remember is to be an actress on *Home and Away*.

In 2015 DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts, Australia) supported me to apply for the Australia Council for the Arts SYNC Leadership program. I was successful, and they made me work hard on my vision and goals for my career as a performer, writer and leader. I wanted to make a difference in the world.

When I got back, I went back to DADAA and I started interviewing people on camera with support from their digital program. The resulting film with three interviews appealed to a lot of people in the arts. Because of DADAA’s partnership with the Perth Festival, I was able to speak with Artistic Director, Wendy Martin, who loved my filmed interviews.

Wendy then organised for me to meet with Clare Watson from Black Swan State

Theatre Company. Clare decided she wanted to work with me to direct my play for the 2018 Perth Festival!

Through DADAA I received two grants from the Australia Council for the Arts and the Blue Room LOFT initiative to creatively develop my work.

It has been such a great experience to work with Finn O’Branagáin who collaborated with me on the research and writing of *You Know We Belong Together*.

Finn was able to take me further than I’ve gone before with my research and writing. We made it into a script and after we finished in November last year, we handed it over to Black Swan State Theatre Company.

I am so lucky to work with Clare Watson. Clare took my play to a bigger level for the Perth Festival and it was the first play in Black Swan State Theatre Company’s 2018 program.

When I worked side by side with Clare every day, she encouraged me to go forward and to follow my dream. As part of the play, Clare helped me get to my favourite TV show in Sydney, *Home and Away*!

She is the most wonderful person and she really inspired me, and I am so grateful to work with her. She always made sure that I didn’t break down and was always on top of



everything. She has taken me to more levels than I’ve gone before in my acting. Clare gave me a chance to go back to acting again.

My experience in the Perth Festival was amazing because I got to see my photo in the program and I had lots of fun. They helped me to grow into a Celebrity!

Apart from this, they made it possible to employ another six artists/performers with Down syndrome at MEAA (Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance) rates. It felt great to have the opportunity to tell their

stories as part of mine.

The people from Perth Festival welcomed me. I got to meet new people I hadn’t met before from the media and Black Swan State Theatre Company.

I am so blessed to have the opportunity to present my work and look forward to continued support from Black Swan State Theatre Company, Perth Festival and DADAA.

Source Voice, Aug 2018 Down Syndrome, Australia



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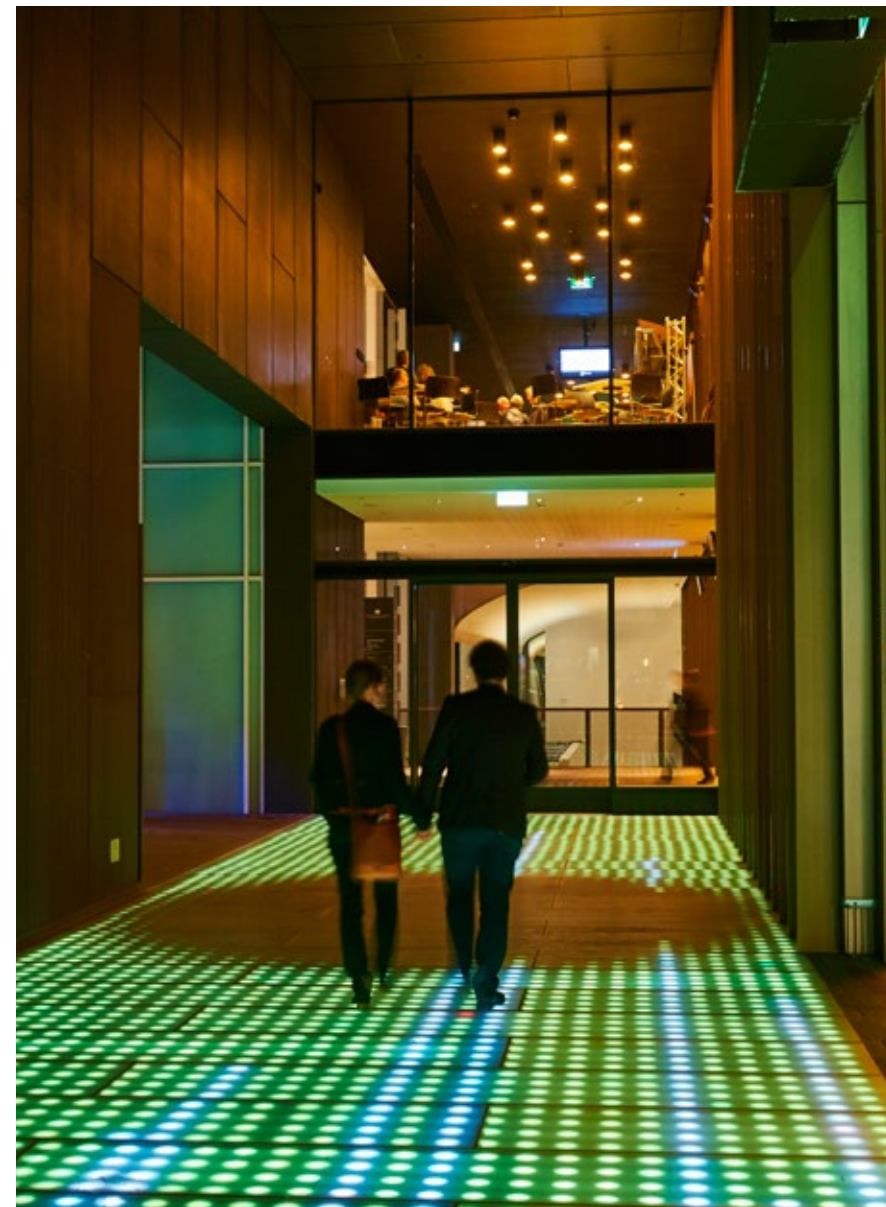
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Contact us today to find out how your business can benefit from a Black Swan sponsorship monique@bsstc.com.au or **(08) 6212 9300** or visit bsstc.com.au/support



Above: Photo by Rebecca Mansell.

FANCY YOURSELF A LARRIKIN?

In 2011 our Founding Patron Janet Holmes à Court AC established the Local Larrikins, to bring Australian stories to life on stage, through the power of collective giving.

Since then, the Local Larrikins have enabled us to create wonderful theatre including *Rising Water* (2011), *Signs of Life* (2012), *Shrine* (2013), *Dust* (2014), *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (2015), and *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (2018).

Larrikins are lovers of theatre who are passionate about engaging young people in theatre and seeing Australian stories on stage. Each year, they donate \$2,000 to Black Swan, and their combined donation is invested into an Australian theatre production. In 2019, Larrikins’

collective donation will support *The Torrents*, a play set right here in WA, in the 1890s Goldfields. Becoming a Larrikin takes you behind the scenes, sharing your love of theatre with like-minded people.

Fancy yourself a bit of a Larrikin? Contact us today to find out how you can join the Local Larrikins giving circle, and donate as part of a collective to make a bigger difference **(08) 6212 9300** or donate@bsstc.com.au or visit bsstc.com.au/support



Above: Cast of *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (2018). Photo by Philip Gostelow.

Assassins:
“wonderful testament to WA talent.”



Photo by Philip Gostelow.

The Events:
“emotional, thought provoking and heartfelt.”



Photo by Daniel James Grant.

Skylab:
“a magnificent play of dreaming.”



Photo by Dana Weeks.

In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play:
“delightfully quirky and playful.”

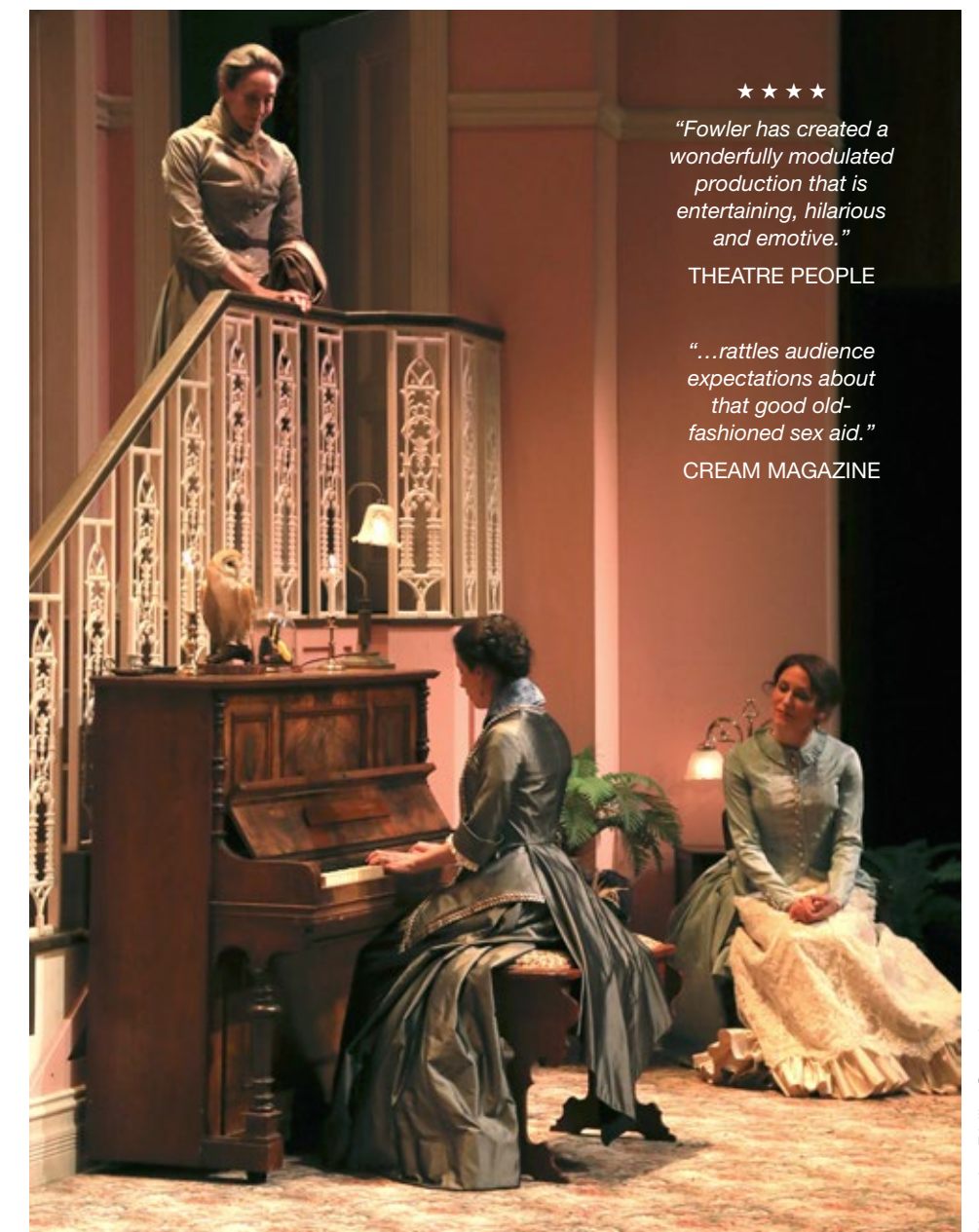


Photo by Philip Gostelow.

Xenides:
“several shades of brilliant.”

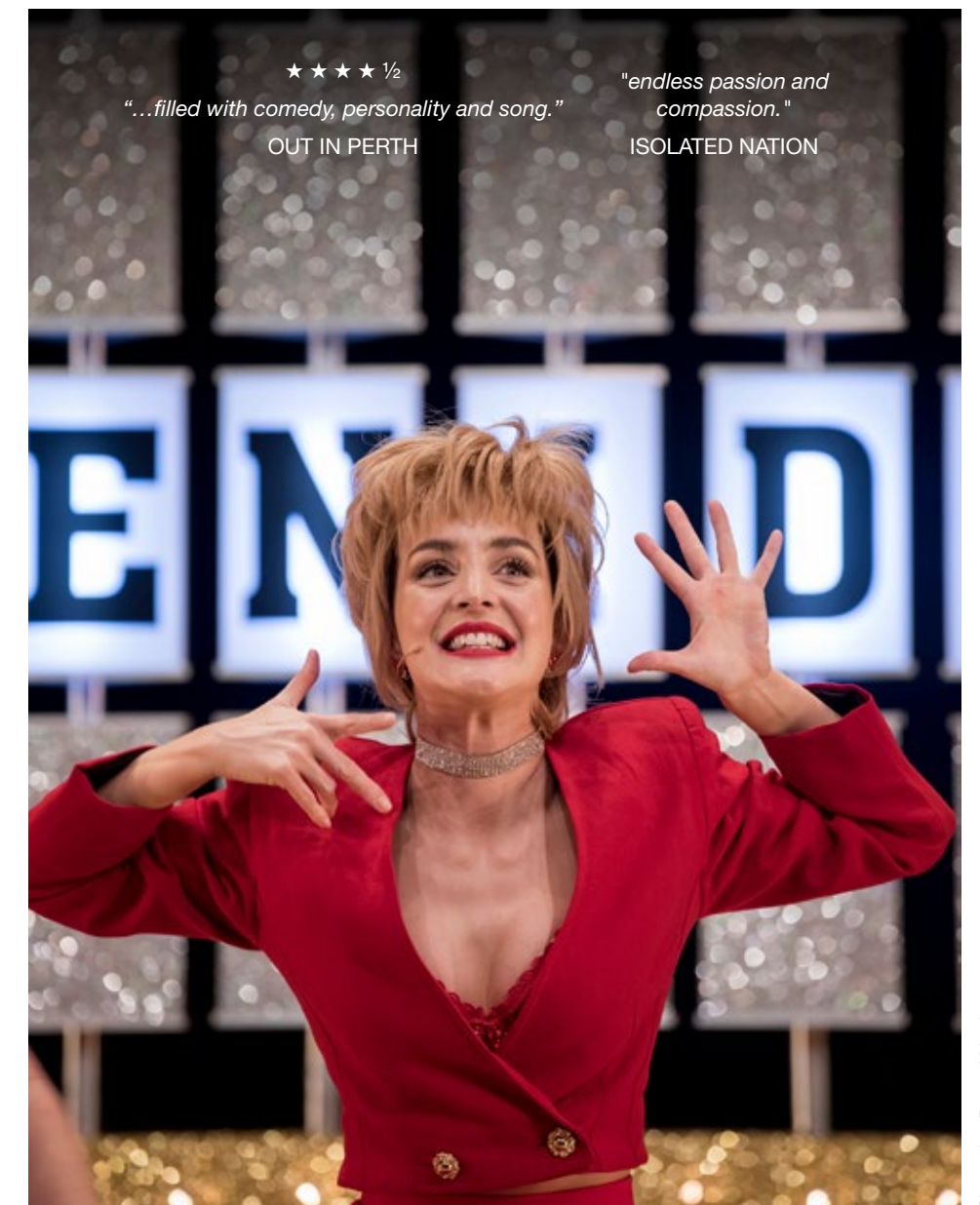


Photo by Dana Weeks.

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.

ASSASSINS/THE EVENTS OPENING NIGHTS

Photos by Rebecca Mansell



Kevin Nguyen, Edzelle Abrio, Hannah Kruger, Crystal Nguyen, Tiana Hetebry, Dominic Depiazzi, Suthish Rathakrishnan, Claire Gil



Ian Michael, Shari Sebbens



Ben Wyatt, Tonya and Malcolm McCusker, Craig Yaxley, Alan Cransberg.

SKYLAB OPENING NIGHT IN THE STUDIO UNDERGROUND



Stefan Smith, Felicity and Rob McKenzie



Kyle J Morrison, Ali Martin, Ryan Taaffe, Peter Kift



Child company of Skylab



Laila Bano Rind, Melodie Reynolds-Diarra

THE VIBRATOR PLAY/XENIDES OPENING NIGHTS



Stefan Smith, Felicity & Rob McKenzie.



Saffron and Morgan Solomon, Helen Cook.



Jackie Walsh, Jackie Bakkers



Adam McGlashan, Melissa Mailey, Emma Watton, Shenelle Manwaring

THE THEATRE WE CREATE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

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GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries



Black Swan State Theatre Company is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.



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

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