

Gasworks Arts Park and Melbourne Writers' Theatre present

Beachside Stories

13 - 22 June

The Secret Dreams, Fears and Ambitions of 5 people You Thought You Knew

Local Stars

DICK GROSS

Dick is a married man with three adult children. He is 63 and not divorced almost 41 years after his first pash with his wife. Dick was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the environment and local government in 2010. He was a Writer in Residence at Bayside in 2015, has written six books and was the author of a record-breaking blog for *The Age* on unbelief from 2011 to 2014.

REV. CORALIE LING

Coralie lives in vibrant St Kilda, near the Botanic Gardens. She is active in the community and as a retired Uniting Church Minister. Coralie was the first woman to be ordained as a minister in the Methodist church in 1969. As a minister she worked in six parishes in the country and the city. Coralie also worked with the World Council of Churches and the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual. She is especially interested in ecofeminist theology and the human rights of all people.

PETER LOGAN

Peter is a former City of Port Phillip Councillor and deputy mayor. He's father to three good kids and best friend of wife Joan. He is a life member of the South Melbourne Athletic Club, was the second Australian to complete 100 marathons and still competes well at age 71. He is a vice-president, researcher and fact checker for Save Albert Park. Peter has exposed misleading and deceptive claims made by the Australian Grand Prix Corporation and repeated by government and in the media, particularly the *Herald Sun*.

MELISAND BOX

Melisand is 15 and is in Year 10 at Albert Park College. She has loved performing arts since the first time she was asked to stand on a box and speak. She has competed in dance eisteddfods since 2011 and received her first acting role as the Sultan in her primary school production of *Aladdin*. Since then she has performed in every student production and in many music concerts on the cello. She is thrilled to be a part of *Beachside Stories*.

TONY MANAGO

Tony was born in 1970 and has an Italian background. He has worked as an owner butcher for more than 30 years. Tony commenced opera singing at the age 38, and has completed eight master classes in Rome and Sicily. He has sung at a range of Italian clubs, at La Camera Restaurant, and with the Melbourne City Opera chorus. Tony is widely known as 'The Singing Butcher' of South Melbourne Market.

Actors

ALEC GILBERT Performing with **Dick Gross**

Alec's acting credits include, for TV: *Tomorrow Tonight*, *Ex-PM*, *It's A Date*, *City Homicide*, *The Secret Life of Us*, *Stingers*, *Blue Heelers*, *Elephant Princess*, *Marshall Law*, *Crash Burn*, *Neighbours*, *Fergus In Hell* and numerous TVCs. Theatre: *Stark*, *Dark Albert Park*, *Melbourne Monologues*, *Sidelined*, *Suicide Row*, *St Kilda Stories*, *Six Degrees In Melbourne*, *Wuthering Heights* (ASC), *Trash Goes Down The River*, *Dark Summer* and *Look Out*. Films: *True Love* (2018) and *Melbourne After Dark* (2018). Training: Uta Hagen, HB Studios NYC.

EMMA COX Performing with **Coralie Ling**

Emma has a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts - Acting from the University of Ballarat Arts Academy. She made her debut as Rosalind in *As You Like*, and since then has performed in plays including Andrew Bovell's *Speaking In Tongues* (Valerie/Jane), Neil Simon's *Chapter Two* (Faye), Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending* (Lady Torrance), David Williamson's *The Removalists* (Kate) and Clare Mendes' *Trash Goes Down The River* (Melody). Her latest short film *Are You Ok* (Kylie) won 18 awards including Best Short Film at the 2018 EIFA.

GIOVANNI PICCOLO Performing with **Peter Logan**

Giovanni has been active in the Melbourne theatrical scene since 2010, when he performed in the Heidelberg Theatre Company's production of *The Judas Kiss*. Since then, he has collaborated with both independent and professional companies across Victoria, including Out Cast Theatre, Melbourne French Theatre and Opera Australia. Giovanni has both stage and screen acting training, and is an experienced singer and dancer. His role in *Beachside Stories* is his first production for Melbourne Writers' Theatre.

KARISSA TAYLOR Performing with **Melisa Box**

Karissa is a Melbourne-based actor and multi-hyphenate creative academic. She studied a Bachelor of Performing Arts with Honors at Monash University and has undertaken further study at both Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). Karissa has recently had her written work on trauma recovery and intimate partner violence published in the *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research* journal in California. She is delighted to be performing new work for MWT.

SARAH HAMILTON Performing with Tony Adams, who is playing 'Tony Manago'

Graduating from VCA Musical Theatre in 2004, Sarah's stage credits include *Tribe*, *The Wild Blue*, *Some of Our Favourite Things* (Anthony Crowley), *The Legend of Ned Kelly* (About Face Productions), *Dirty Pictures* (Tony Reck), *Dark Angels* (Allen Wilde), *Sad Bird Boy* (Robert Reid), *Charlie and Lola - AUS/Asia* (MEI, Sydney Opera House, AKA), *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (West End/UK/Dubai & Bahrain), *Wind in the Willows - London* (ASC), *Sarah & Duck* (MEI, Sydney Opera House) and *Six Degrees in Melbourne* (MWT).

TONY ADAMS Performing as 'Tony Manago'

Tony started acting in his 40s and has since worked extensively across theatre, film and television. Having trained with the NIDA Actors' Studio and Verve Studios' Professional Actors Studio ensembles, Tony's recent stage credits include *Electronic City* (NIDA), *The Weekend* (Essendon Theatre Company), *The Bacchae* (Moreland Theatre Company), *As You Like It* (ARDEN Productions) and *I2* (Verve Studios). Tony is excited to be working with Melbourne Writers' Theatre for the first time.

Writers

BRUCE SHEARER

‘Only Ghosts Can Second-Guess’

Uncovering Dick Gross

Bruce has written a number of plays that have been performed and published in Australia and overseas. His works for the stage include *Esla and Frinz Go Partying*, *The Absolutely Awesome Giant*, and *Everything and The Big Bang*. His monologues ‘Waiting for Kooglhoupf’ and ‘Seagulls Dream of Red Hot Chips’ featured in *St Kilda Stories* (Melbourne Fringe 2017) and his piece ‘Darke’s Ark’ appeared in *Stark, Dark, Albert Park* (Melbourne Fringe 2018). Bruce has written prolifically for MWT, with his plays appearing in many of their annual seasons of new writing.

CLARE MENDES

‘Rhapsody in Purple’

Pondering Coralie Ling

Clare is the author of a string of novels, a handful of radio plays, a short story or two, and more scripts for *Neighbours* than she cares to divulge. As a playwright, her credits include *Little Impurities* (Monologue Soiree 2014), *The Agreement* (2015), *Trash Goes Down The River* (2017), *Big Dipper* (St Kilda Stories, 2017) and *Invisible Petition* (Stark. Dark. Albert Park, 2018). She is currently writing two plays. Clare loves poetry, boxing, pisco sours and producing striking new shows for Melbourne Writers’ Theatre, where she has been Company Manager since 2015.

ALISON KNIGHT

‘Logan’s Run’

Reliving Peter Logan

Formerly an English teacher, Alison is now active in community theatre. Her work has been performed at Peridot and Hartwell theatres, the Board Shorts Festival at 1812 Theatre, Bendigo TC’s Tenx10 series, the Melbourne Writers’ Theatre, the Madwomen Monologues, and the Legends of the Skies series. Alison has also published two novels, *Peter Stone* and *The Close*, along with an anthology of short stories. She has won a number of awards and commendations for her stories.

BROOKE FAIRLEY

‘The True Imaginings of Melisand Box’

Exploring Melisand Box

Brooke has been involved in theatre since she was a kid. After graduating with a Bachelor of Theatre, she worked professionally as an actor in stage and screen. She has participated in many festivals as an actor, writer, producer and script assessor. More recently she studied Writing and Editing at RMIT-to fine tune her writing skills. Brooke was also the co-founder and co-director of a much loved and somewhat experimental independent theatre company named Pretty Penny Productions.

ADÈLE SHELLEY

‘The Singing Butcher’

Celebrating Tony Manago

Adèle is a passionate theatre-lover who has directed, acted, and written for theatre over many years. Her plays have been produced for the Melbourne Fringe Festival (*She’s My Baby*), The Dog Theatre (*Nothing to Lose*), *Madwomen Monologues* (*Fairytale Endings*), and Melbourne Writers’ Theatre (*Girls’ School Delights* and *Love is a Dish*). Adèle has also won People’s Choice Awards at a number of Short + Sweet Festivals for her short plays *The Bee Charmer* and *Weeing on a Stick*.

About Melbourne Writers’ Theatre

Melbourne Writers’ Theatre exists to support the creation of new Australian plays. Since 1982, we have consistently provided this city’s playwrights with the opportunities they need to develop their scripts, their craft and their careers.

Director & Designer

ELIZABETH WALLEY

A director, writer, actor and dramaturge, Elizabeth trained with Uta Hagen at the *HB Studios*, NYC and works across theatre, film, television and radio. Directing credits include: *The Madwoman Monologues* (The Butterfly Club, 2018), *Stark. Dark. Albert Park* (Melbourne Fringe 2018), *St Kilda Stories* (Fringe 2017), *Trash Goes Down The River* by Clare Mendes (Bluestone Church Arts Space, 2017), *Six Degrees in Melbourne* (La Mama Courthouse, 2017), *The World Without Birds* by Christine Croyden (La Mama Courthouse, 2016), *The Agreement* by Clare Mendes (La Mama Courthouse, 2015) and *The Melbourne Monologues* for MWT (2015 – 2018). Based in London for almost a decade, Elizabeth's original works for theatre include *Commodities* (Covent Garden Fringe, London, and The New End Theatre, Hampstead), *Louder Than Words* (Chapel Off Chapel and La Mama) and *The Trauma Project* (La Mama Explorations, 2017), with *Louder Than Words* the recipient of a Best New Australian Play Award. Elizabeth's acting credits include numerous roles for theatre, voiceovers and regular TV appearances. She is the Resident Director at the Melbourne Writers' Theatre, holds an MA (Creative Writing) and is completing a creative practice-led PhD (Playwriting) at RMIT University. Her research title is 'Writing the Unspeakable: Critical Autoethnography and a Theatre of Personal Trauma.'

Thank You!

Melbourne Writers' Theatre is immensely appreciative of the support provided by the following people and organisations, without whom **Beachside Stories** could not have sprung to life: Tamara Jungwirth, who had the Idea; Marisa Cesario, who helped it along; Alison McIntosh-Deszcz, who helped to promote it; Gasworks techs Paul, Ben and Imogen; MWT Writers-and-Actors-turned-Ushers: Darren Valentine, Mazz Ryan, Neil McGovern, Clare Larman, Amelia Mendes and Maree Collie; show photographer John Edwards; set assistant Ian Caincross; our tireless production assistant Maree Collie; and our versatile stage manager Melissa Pearson. **MANY THANKS** to our Local Stars, our Actors, our Writers and our Director for their energy and dedication to this production – during the planning stage, throughout rehearsals, and at each of the seven performances. And Thank You to the City of Port Phillip for its ongoing support of Gasworks Arts Park and shows like ours.

Tickets for *Beachside Stories* ?

Yes, your friends should definitely come and see this show. They can buy tickets online at gasworks.org.au or by calling Gasworks on **8606 4200** between 9.30am – 5pm (weekdays) or in person at the Gasworks office.



