



PEACH PRODUCTIONS
as part of Sydney Fringe 2018
presents:

WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA STORIES OF COURAGE



1 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

SYDNEYFRINGE.COM



PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH

264 PITT STREET, SYDNEY

Week 1

Preview	12 September	7pm-8.30pm
	13, 14 September	7pm-8.30pm
	15 September	2pm-3.30pm
		7pm-8.30pm

Week 2

19 September	7pm-8.30pm
20, 21 September	7pm-8.30pm
22 September	2pm-3.30pm
	7pm-8.30pm

PROGRAM

The program is comprised of 8 plays with a running time of approximately 10-15 minutes each. Rating: PG

<i>Nurse Peggy</i>	Written and directed by Margaret Fitzgerald
<i>Eliza</i>	Written by Colleen Henry and directed by Maggy Franklin; Music: <i>Six Ribbons</i> by Jon English
<i>There's always Blessings</i>	Written by Elizabeth Routledge and directed by Victoria Rowland
<i>Do Ability Divas</i>	Devised by Holly Craig, Uma Kali-Shakti and Madeleine Stewart and directed by Uma Kali-Shakti
Interval	
<i>Coming to Dinner*</i>	Written by Elaine Laforteza and directed by Meili Bookluck
<i>Island Journey</i>	Written and directed by Uma Kali-Shakti
<i>Got You</i>	Written by Kel Vance and directed by Katharine Babatzanis
<i>Louisa, the Dawn and the Vote</i>	Written and directed by Margaret Fitzgerald
OR <i>Collision at a Bus Stop</i>	Written and directed by Ria Yudasin

*Mild coarse language

Nurse Peggy is based on research by Laurie Chater Forth, published in her book: *Margaret Catchpole: Her Life and her Letters* - © Laurie Chater Forth (2012)

Reference for *Louisa, the Dawn and the Vote* - Brian Matthews: *Louisa*, Penguin Australia 2012

PERFORMERS



DEIRDRE CAMPBELL (Margaret Catchpole – *Nurse Peggy*) - Since coming to acting relatively late in life (2016), Deirdre has performed in several roles in both theatre and film, and has worked with professionals both on stage and behind the scenes. She has played major roles in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, *Are You Being Served*, *The Secret Garden* and *Stepping Out*. Deirdre has also created new characters in original plays by some renowned Australian playwrights - *How I Met My Mother* (Brenda Gottsche), *The Last Cuppa* (Allan West), *Resolution* (Luke Holmes), and *I Love You* (Sage Godrei).



such as Essie Davis.

BORONIA CLARK (Tilly – *Nurse Peggy*; FOH, Costume/Props Assistant/First Aid) - Boronia has been performing since the age of 4 and has studied acting, dance and singing. She has a Diploma in Music Theatre from The Australian Institute Of Music. Boronia has appeared in many community theatre musicals including *The Little Mermaid* and Manly Musical Society's *Grease* as well as in multiple TV commercials for companies such as Apple and Toyota. Movies and television series include *Rake*, *Home and Away* and *Peter Rabbit*. More recently, she has been working as a stand-in alongside actors



GEOFF CORDER (Thomas Crossing – *Eliza*) - Geoff has appeared in a host of TV shows and commercials. A highlight includes an episode of *Naked: Stories of Men* starring a young Simon Baker. He has recently won a number of screen roles and has achieved a long-held dream of playing Juror No. 8 (the role made famous by Henry Fonda) in Gosford Theatre Company's 2017 production of *12 Angry Men*. Major screen credits include lead roles in several short films (*The Disassociate*, featured in the 2017 Fringe Festival), and in a short-listed entry for Tropfest 25.



HOLLY CRAIG (Co-deviser and Diva – *Do Ability Divas*) - A theatre maker and performer with vision impairment, Holly makes and performs work which explores social issues. In 2016 she created *Dignity of Risk*, which won a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Production for Young People; and collaborated with Dinda Timperon to create *The Art of Being* supported by PYT Fairfield. Holly has participated in Dirty Feet's choreographic lab program; and at Sydney Dance Company she collaborated on research exploring how blind or vision-impaired people learn dance.



HOPE DISHER (Deb – *Got You*) - For as long as Hope can remember, she has had a passion for acting. She completed her Certificate IV in Music Theatre at the Actors College of Theatre and Television (ACTT) in 2008 and has recently graduated with an Advanced Diploma from the Academy of Film, Theatre and Television. Some of her credits include *100 Reasons for War* (2018), *The Blacksmith* (2017), *Much Ado about Nothing* (2017), *Reasons to be Pretty* (2017), and *Into the Woods* (2017)



HAPPY FERAREN (Lettie – *Coming to Dinner*) - Happy has been practising improv theatre for over a decade. She has performed in over 500 improvised shows and has performed at different international improv festivals in Chicago, New York, Hong Kong, and Amsterdam. She also has experience acting in films, presenting on television, and voice acting for radio and TV commercials. Happy recently moved from Manila to Sydney where she continues to practise and teach improv theatre. This is her theatrical debut in Sydney.



RUSSELL GODWIN (Henry Lawson – *Louisa, the Dawn and the Vote*; Safety Officer/First Aid) - Originally from Canberra. now an Eastern Suburbs boy with a passion for acting, Russell has appeared as "Nick Bottom" in *A MidSummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare).and as Euripides in *The Tyranny Within* by Jim Searle, both at the Guild Theatre in Rockdale.



COLLEEN HENRY – ASSISTANT PRODUCER – WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA – STORIES OF COURAGE; PLAYWRIGHT – *Eliza*; (Julia – *Eliza*)

Following her graduation from The Actors Centre Australia in 2005, Colleen performed her first role in community theatre as Dawn in the hilarious Australian play *It's my party and I'll die if I want to* (Chester Street Theatre Epping). Then followed Sybil in *Fawlty Towers* and other roles for Pymble Players, Genesians, etc. Colleen has also been involved in Sydney's Short+Sweet Festival for many years as an actor, writer and director.

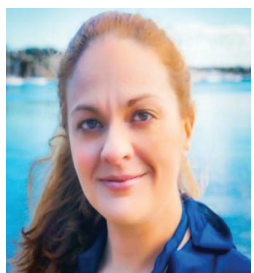


TINO IHEME (*Collision at a Bus Stop*) - Tino received his acting training between 2005 and 2007 in Nigeria. He performed with the National Theatre in Lagos, in a leading role in the production of *Cinderella*. In Australia he has acted in several short films, and was featured in three featured films, including a supporting role in the 2017 screen production of *Survive or Die*. In the same year he performed in the Eastern suburbs theatre production of *Salome*.



UMA KALI SHAKTI (Co-deviser/Director and Diva - *Do Ability Divas*; Writer/Director - *Island Journey*) fell in love with Shakespeare at high school, and studied Drama & Theatre at University in the 70s. Uma is a writer/director/producer/stage-manager/filmmaker and has performed in many festivals, theatres, independent films, television and web series in Australia and Internationally for over 40 years. She has also been involved in Short+Sweet Festivals since they began. Uma sees herself as South Asian-South Pacific - being a Kiwi of Fiji-Indian descent; and an adopted member of the Jerrinja Clan of the Wadi Wadi Nation (South Coast Koori).

She is a Human Rights & Social Justice activist and identifies as a Black Disabled Dyke.



MELINDA LATSOS (Mrs Fulton – *Nurse Peggy*) - Melinda is a regular on the Sydney theatre scene, having acted and directed in the Short+Sweet Festival and for Actors Anonymous at the Blood Moon Theatre. Her love of television means you may also catch her in appearances on shows such as *Rake*, *Home and Away*, *Doctor Doctor* and *Love Child*. This is Mel's first time participating in The Sydney Fringe Festival.



ROWENA McNICOL (*Eliza Crossing – Eliza*) - Rowena trained at the Academy Drama School in London and has performed throughout the UK in both Shakespeare and children's pantomime. In Australia credits include *Mothers*, (Tap Gallery) *The Diary of Anne Frank* (New Theatre) *The Importance of Being Earnest*, (Outa Town Productions), *Away* (Lane Cove Theatre Company) and *Emma* (Genesian Theatre). In Short+Sweet, Rowena performed in the People's Choice winning play, *Therapist* and was a People's Choice Finalist in *The Last Cuppa*.



DOMINIQUE PURDUE (Naz – *Got You*) Dominique has trained at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, the New York Film Academy, Actors Centre Australia, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art London, and Improv Theatre Sydney. She is also trained in ballet, contemporary and jazz dance. She has performed in Manila as well as at the Genesian Theatre and in the Short+Sweet Festival in Sydney. Dominique has appeared in several films in Manila, New York, London and Sydney. She will be seen in *The Laramie Project* at the Seymour Centre in November and is represented by Suzie Steen Management.



DONNA RANDALL (Louisa Lawson – *Louisa, the Dawn and the Vote*) - This is Donna's first Fringe Festival performance. As women today continue to fight for equal rights, it's remarkable how much Louisa achieved in her time, not only as a driving force behind her son Henry, but also her influence over so many women at the end of the 19th Century. Donna has a history of playing strong female roles with recent performances as the feisty German, Gretchen in *Boeing Boeing* and Titania/Hypolita in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The Guild Theatre in Rockdale.



ELIZABETH ROUTLEDGE – PLAYWRIGHT - *There's always Blessings; (Mary Brownlee - There's always Blessings)* Elizabeth has been acting since 1985, and since moving to Bellingen has produced, directed and acted in many productions including *The Vagina Monologues*, *King Lear* and *The Glass Menagerie*. She has won the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup and the Peats Ridge Poetry Slam. Since 2011, she has been an MC at the Bellingen Readers & Writers' Festival. In 2014 Liz wrote *Flooded - Stories from a Small Town*. In 2016, Liz performed in Short+ Sweet and the Sydney Fringe Festival.



KIM SHAZELL (Dora - *Coming to Dinner*) - Kim came to Sydney at the age of 19 from Singapore where she was born to a Filipina mother and British father. Much of her early work centred on consolidating her cultural identity through performance and music. After undertaking formal studies in vocal performance, Kim went on to explore Southeast Asian History and Multimedia Performance Art at UNSW. Kim's performance in the 2011 Sydney Fringe Festival's *Aussies of the Magic Mike* and *Adobo Kind* has ensconced Kim in the select network of Sydney-based Fil-Aus actors.



MARTIN STA.ANA (*Carlo – Coming to Dinner; The Printer - Louisa, the Dawn and the Vote*) - Martin is a Filipino-born actor/comedian/writer. He is co-creator of the online comedy channel BT Dub Productions which features *Culture Kids*. He has a gymnastics/martial arts background and competed in the first season of *Australian Ninja Warrior*. Martin has worked on many films including *Bite Club*, *Papa's Promise*, the award winning *Hell's Paradise* and *The Family Law*, and will soon be seen in the independent feature film *Bad Influence* and GP2 Entertainment's latest film *Jiva*.



MADELEINE STEWART (*Co-deviser and Diva - Do Ability Divas*) - Madeleine is an actress and stand-up comedian. Known for her quick and charmingly wicked humour, she enjoys exploring the uncharted territories of disabilities and social norms. Madeleine has worked with comedians Adam Hills, Julia Wilson and Andrew Denton. She has performed in the Sydney Fringe and Sydney and Melbourne Comedy Festivals, as well as in various clubs throughout Wollongong and Sydney. She is also part of Shopfront's 'Harness' ensemble. Theatre and comedy allow Madeleine to reflect on being a one-armed girl living in an able-bodied world.



VEENA SUDARSHAN (*Island Journey*) - Veena grew up in Bangalore, the cultural hub of South India. She has performed in theatre for 20 years both in English and Kannada, a South Indian language. Veena has participated in many theatre workshops including the Urban Theatre Project (Bankstown Arts Centre) and the Picture Theatre workshop (Migrant Resource Centre). She is a founding member of 'Anivaasi' theatre group and has acted in lead roles for theatre and radio. Her film credits include *Oasis*, *My Beloved Charioteer*, *Reflection*, *Mukhamukhi* and *Innocent Killer*. She

is also a radio broadcaster for SBS.



DERYA THUNDERBOLT (*Collision at a Bus Stop*) Derya's most recent performance was with the Eastern Suburbs theatre production of *Salome*. She has featured in several short films and TV commercials in Australia, including the 2018 Qantas campaign. She studied acting from a young age, and enjoyed a successful career in Turkey, where she was cast in several featured films and lead roles in popular TV series.



RIA YUDASIN (Rose Scott – *Louisa, the Dawn and the Vote*; WRITER/DIRECTOR – *Collision at a Bus Stop*) Ria studied acting with the Australian Theatre for Young People, Actors Pulse, and the Actors Centre Australia. She has played Nina in *The Seagull* and has appeared in the Eastern Suburbs Theatre production of *Salome*. She has made several TV commercials, feature films and short films. Having developed her skills as a creative writer, Ria wrote the screen play for the concept film *Skin Deep*, and starred in the lead role.

CREATIVES

MARGARET FITZGERALD – PRODUCER – *Women in Australia: Stories of Courage*; PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR – *Nurse Peggy* and *Louisa, the Dawn and the Vote*

Margaret has written short stories and plays for many years. She studied writing for performance and film making at UTS and has written and directed several short films, supported by the Peach Productions team. For several years she has been part of Crash Test Drama, and Short and Sweet Sydney, writing and directing several plays. In 2017 Margaret produced her first longer play to be brought to the stage, *The Lady in the Barracks*, as part of Sydney Fringe 2017. In 2018 Margaret is producing a collection of short plays by women writers for Sydney Fringe 2018, to support women artists to develop new work.

KATHARINE BABATZANIS – DIRECTOR - *Got You*

Katharine made her directorial debut earlier this year with a short play called *Dummy*. at Sydney's 2018 Short+Sweet Festival which made it to the Gala Finals. Katharine is an actress who has studied both Theatre and Musical Theatre and completed courses at NIDA, Bell Shakespeare and the Actors Centre Australia. She is currently undertaking private voice lessons with NIDA's Katerina Moraitis. She has also produced *Simpson, J. 202* with Liverpool Performing Arts Ensemble (LPAE). Her past acting credits include Darling Brown in *The Story of Darling Brown* (Short+Sweet 2017), Angela Dixon in *Secret Bridesmaids Business* (LPAE/Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (CPAC)), Coral in *Away* (LPAE/CPAC) and Cookie in *Rumors* (Epicentre Theatre Company).

MEILI BOOKLUCK – STAGE MANAGER – *Women in Australia: Stories of Courage*; DIRECTOR – *Coming to Dinner*

Meili has been active in the Crash Test Drama & Short+Sweet circuit for the past three years as an actor, writer and director. She was Assistant Director and Stage Manager at the Arts Theatre Cronulla for the Australian premiere of *Coup De Grace*, written by Robin Hawdon and directed by Tom Richards. For the 22 performances, Meili was responsible for set construction, wardrobe, props and make up. She is also responsible for our promotional image.

MAGGY FRANKLIN – DIRECTOR – *Eliza*

Maggy Franklin has been involved in theatre and musical theatre in Sydney for many years. She has a teaching diploma in Speech and Drama, has attended Darlo Drama classes, acted and directed in Crash Test Drama, directed at Short+Sweet Sydney and is a regular judge for the Short+Sweet Festival. She reviews for the website Sydney Arts Guide and runs the large internet based social theatre group Theatre Time Sydney, which organises groups to attend and support independent theatre.

DR ELAINE LAFORTEZA – PLAYWRIGHT – *Coming to Dinner*

Dr Elaine Laforteza holds a PhD in Cultural Studies and teaches in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as well as for the Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation at the University of Technology Sydney. She is also the host for *Generation Women* (www.generationwomensydney.com/), a bimonthly intergenerational storytelling show. She is a published author and an emerging playwright. *Coming to Dinner* is her first play.

VICTORIA ROWLAND – DIRECTOR – *There's always Blessings*

Victoria has worked behind the camera in the film industry and on various TV productions including *The Sullivans*, *Cop Shop* and *Skyways* before trying her hand at acting. She has acted in a variety of film, television and theatre productions including: *Prisoner*, *Flying Doctors*, and the ABC's *The Magistrate*, and *Janus*. Victoria had her first taste of directing when she put Michael Leunig's cartoons into theatrical form for her thesis at the Victorian College of the Arts. She has worked with Elizabeth Routledge before in 2014 as director on *Flooded*. Victoria and Elizabeth have extended the monologue of *Mary Brownlee nee McNally* from that play for the Sydney Fringe Festival in 2018.

KEL VANCE – PLAYWRIGHT – *Got You*; FOH

With a passion for writing for both stage and screen, Kel Vance studied at UTS obtaining a Graduate Certificate in Screenwriting before completing her Masters in Creative Writing in 2013. Kel then made her directorial debut with the Short+Sweet Festival Sydney in January 2015 and each year since has written her own short plays for the festival, with two of these plays being selected and performed, not only in Sydney, but in Hollywood and Dubai.

CREW

KLAUBETTE DEDICATIONS	USHER
RACHEL FITZGERALD	FOH
ADDIE FOWLER	AUDIO/ASSISTANT LIGHTING/STAGE HAND
JULIUS LABAY	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
ELLEN O'CONNOR	PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
ETHAN TAYLOR	STAGE HAND
JAMES YU	FOH, USHER



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