

The Creative Team

CLARE MENDES – Playwright & Producer



Clare's radio plays have been produced by ABC Radio National and for years she wrote TV scripts for *Neighbours*. *The Agreement*, her first stage play, was performed at La Mama Courthouse in October 2015 and her play *Trash Goes Down The River* premiered at Bluestone Church Arts Space in June 2017. *A Flower for Moses* was presented at Gasworks Arts Park in May 2021. 'Skating in the Clouds' was completed in June 2023. Clare is the Company Manager of Melbourne Writers' Theatre and produces MWT's theatrical seasons. On Nov 18 & 19 she will present the *The Stage Door Readings* at Theatre Works.

ELIZABETH WALLEY – Director & Dramaturg



Elizabeth is a Naarm-based actor, writer, director and dramaturge, and the Resident Director of Melbourne Writers' Theatre. Her original work *The Trauma Project* premiered at fortyfivedownstairs earlier in March 2021. For MWT, her directing credits include *The Melbourne Monologues* (2015 – 2018), *Stark Dark Albert Park* (2018), *The Best*, *The Fairest*, *The First* (2021), *Tales from the Jetty* (2022) and *How to Save a Tree*. Elizabeth was the director of Clare Mendes' first two plays *The Agreement* (2015) and *Trash Goes Down The River* (2017), and looks forward to directing 'Skating in the Clouds'.

DAVID SILVESTER – Lighting Designer



David holds a BPA in Lighting Design from Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts. Most recently he created the design for *How to Save a Tree* (22nd – 26th August 2023 at Gasworks Arts Park). Earlier this year he worked on *Where There's A Will* at La Mama HW. He has previously worked with Elizabeth Walley on *The Trauma Project* at fortyfivedownstairs. David has also worked with Cracked Actors Theatre on *In The Ghetto* and *Rain Falling* on the Abattoir. He also lit *Where's My Money* for 7th Floor Theatre at CAT in 2020.

JOHN JENKIN – Sound Designer



John Jenkin is a sound designer and artist. Recent productions include Ella Filar's *Covid Rat Kabaret* and MJ Wilson's *Cabaret Night Fever*, both presented at The Butterfly Club in the first half of 2023. John also created the sound for *How to Save a Tree* which was presented by MWT at Gasworks in August 2023. John's sound design has featured in film, theatre and apps, and his artwork has been shown and performed at venues and by organisations including West Space, Liquid Architecture and Make It Up Club.

Performers

MARNIE GIBSON

'Summer'



Marnie studied musical theatre at WAAPA and acting at VCA before training with David Mamet's Atlantic Theatre (NYC). She has appeared in stage productions including *Your Text Here* (Arts Centre), *Highway Ulysses* (VCA), *Taming of the Shrew* (Botanic Gardens), *Madwomen Monologues*, and the award-winning musical *The Wild Blue* and *True Love Travels on a Gravel Road*. TV credits include *Neighbours*, *Prank Patrol*, *Hawke*, *Bed of Roses* and *House Husbands*. Marnie performed in *Tales from the Jetty* for MWT in May 2022.

KRISTINA BENTON

'Autumn'



Originally from New Zealand, Kristina Benton is an actor, singer and composer who trained with the late Peter Oyston at the Monash Academy of Performing Arts. She has performed for nearly 30 years in theatre, film and television, and written music for theatre and film for 12 years. She has a passion for creating meaningful stories for the stage and screen, and is a co-host of the indie paranormal podcast *Ominous Nonsense*. Other credits include *The Other Place* (theatre), *After Nightfall* (web series) and *Sneakyville* (theatre).

ISABELLA GILBERT



'Being #1'

Isabella is a naarm-based actor, dancer and multidisciplinary performance artist. She graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) in 2020. Performance credits include *Kovid Rat Kabaret* (La Mama, 2023), *The Trauma Project* (fortyfivedownstairs 2021), *The Best, The Fairest, The First* (Gasworks 2021) and *Daring Dog Monologues* (Gasworks, 2019). Isabella will be presenting her solo work FLUSH at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre for Melbourne Fringe 2023.

BAILEY GRIFFITHS



'Being #2'

Bailey completed his studies in Music Theatre and Acting at Federation University. He began performing at the age of 14, appearing in an abundance of Shakespearean plays, and has also choreographed physical theatre pieces. He has worked with Ross Hall and Anthony Crowley on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Sentimental Bloke* respectively, and has performed in and created original work for a devised show *Exquisite Corpse*. Bailey also performed in the Australian premier of *Made in Dagenham*.