

La Boite and QUT Creative Industries Present

**PROGRAM**

**LYSA**

**AND**

A new play by Claire Christian

THE  
**FREEBORN**  
DAMES

21 JULY  
— 11 AUGUST

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY AND QUT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
21 JULY – 11 AUGUST 2018 AT THE ROUNDHOUSE THEATRE

## CAST

PETA.....	CLEMENTINE ANDERSON
GRANT.....	JACKSON BANNISTER
KEN .....	MORGAN FRANCIS
CHORUS .....	BARBARA LOWING
MYRA.....	SAMANTHA LUSH
CHORUS .....	ROXANNE MCDONALD
ESME .....	TATUM MOTTIN
MALCOLM .....	HUGH PARKER
CHORUS .....	HSIAO-LING TANG
LYSA.....	TANIA VUKICEVIC

## CREATIVES

WRITER .....	CLAIRE CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR .....	SANJA SIMIĆ
ASSISTANT CREATIVE/DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER.....	MADDIE NIXON
DRAMATURG.....	SAFFRON BENNER
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER.....	ANTHONY SPINAZE
LIGHTING DESIGNER .....	KATIE SFETKIDIS
SOUND DESIGNER.....	GUY WEBSTER
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER .....	NJ PRICE

## PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER .....	CANADA WHITE
TECHNICAL MANAGER .....	BRANDON DUNCAN
SET BUILDERS .....	ANDREW MILLS, JAMIE BOWMAN
STAGE MANAGER.....	PETER SUTHERLAND
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER .....	ERIN HANDFORD
PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN/ LIGHTING OPERATOR.....	TIM GAWNE
SCENIC ARTIST .....	SHAUN CAULFIELD
DRESSMAKER .....	LEIGH BUCHANAN
COSTUME ALTERATIONS .....	OSCAR CLARK
TECHNICIANS ....	EMMA HEALY, JAKE COOK, SAM MAHER, BAILEY MCINTOSH
ILLUSTRATION & GRAPHIC DESIGN .....	KYLE GRIGGS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

AT LA BOITE WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE COUNTRY ON WHICH WE WORK, AND THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND – THE TURRBAL AND JAGERA PEOPLE. WE GIVE OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS PAST, PRESENT, AND EMERGING. WE HONOUR THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE, THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS, WHOSE LANDS, WINDS AND WATERS WE ALL NOW SHARE, AND THEIR ANCIENT AND ENDURING CULTURES. THIS COUNTRY WAS THE HOME OF STORY-TELLING LONG BEFORE LA BOITE EXISTED, AND WE ARE PRIVILEGED AND GRATEFUL TO SHARE OUR STORIES HERE TODAY.

## SPECIAL THANKS

TIM BRENNAN, YIPPY WHIPPY, PHOEBE PARADISE, RACHEL BURKE, ELLA FENCE, AMY INGRAM, SHURTUP, JERICHO ROAD, ALEX CUMMINS, STEVE PIRIE, LYN EDWARDS, DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY, KADY CAPEWELL @ FANCY SCHMANCY, QUEENSLAND THEATRE, PETER SANDS, DANIEL MADDISON, TONI GLYNN, NAT RYNER, LYNNE PICKETT, KAREN FOX, JULIA BATES, SASIVIE PINYOWIT, SUE BENNER.

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COVER IMAGE BY ..... KYLE GRIGGS  
REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY ..... DYLAN EVANS  
ADDITIONAL HEADSHOTS BY..... BARBARA LOWING



# WRITER'S NOTES

– CLAIRE CHRISTIAN



*We have always told stories. We will always tell stories. I think stories can change the world.*

I wanted to tell this story as a reflection, and a response, to the incredible moment in history we find ourselves in right now. I wanted to take these big, and vital ideas, and conversations we're currently having about gender and equality and place them in a very real context, into one night, in one place, and look at politics-in-action in Australia in 2018.

Young people had to tell this story, because young people are at the core of our evolving political landscape, and they are already leading in ways that are forcing us to have conversations about change and possibility. Plus, young people are fucking rad.

It shouldn't be a political act to have two queer, fat, women as a writer-director team on an Australian theatre project in 2018. But it is.

It shouldn't be a political act to see six young actors play young characters on an Australian theatre stage, alongside four amazing professional artists, who collectively have over one hundred years' experience in this sector. But it is.

It shouldn't be a political act when the number of straight white men on a project are outnumbered by women; women of colour, women over the age of fifty, and queer women. But it is.

The very existence of this work, made by this group of people, in this moment in time, is a political act. And for that I am beyond grateful and infinitely proud of this company, this collaboration, this project and this creative team.



*Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* explores many things, but at its heart are these three:

1. Legacy.

I wanted to honour the women, and the stories, that have come before. To think about the things that are entirely possible in our lives because of the long line of women who have fought hard to make these extremely privileged lives we lead possible.

2. Fighting.

I wanted to honour that we have never, and will never, exist in a time where we won't fight for equality. We have always fought. We always will. And so we should.

3. Change.

I wanted to honour the very real possibility of

changing things for the better. Bit by bit. That every single one of us has the potential, and capacity, to do good and make things better for others.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for sharing in this story with us. I really, truly hope you have a bloody ball at the 98th War Weekender!

**LOVE,  
CLAIRE**



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

– SANJA SIMIĆ



*I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.*

– Audre Lore

*We're all building our world, right now, in real time. Let's build it better.*

– Lindy West

*Don't let the bastards grind you down.*

– Margaret Atwood

This production of *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* takes place on the eve of the biggest night of the year for a small Australian town, somewhere in regional Queensland, as preparations begin for the annual football game. It's hot, it's messy, and it's about to get political up in the local (footy) club.

Led by a powerhouse chorus of three senior women, whose insights and personal narratives anchor the work in lived experience, the play focuses on Lysa King – a young, queer woman, whose hunger for justice lands her in some hot water that very same evening. Flanked by an ex-lover, a local cop, and her two best friends, Lysa's faced with some difficult decisions – torn between her own burgeoning politics and a very real (very loud) crisis.

Inspired by the power of women globally over the last 18 months, *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* is our personal call to action to men, women, non-binary individuals, and allies everywhere: it's time to make some noise. This is our very own, fury-fuelled, deliberate political act.



In 411BC Aristophanes thought it was hilarious that women might have the power to stop a war – in 2018, we are taking great pleasure in subverting the politics of the original *Lysistrata* and presenting a work that celebrates, empowers, and represents women in all of their complex glory.

*Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* brings together a raft of things that both Claire and I love, including new Australian writing, powerful women, dick jokes, bold choices, and an immense appreciation for the authenticity and power of young people. I am forever indebted to Claire, for her implicit trust and brilliant words, and the cast, the creative team, and our tireless production team for all that they have done to realise this work.

I am both fortunate and grateful to work for a company that privileges stories like this one, and voices like Claire's, on the main stage – thank you, La Boite, you are brilliant.

It is my great pleasure to invite you along for this ride. Thank you so much for coming. Now strap in, babes, it's about to get real.

**YOURS,  
SANJA**







FROM THE COLLECTION OF MARION BOYCE

# THE BOWERBIRD & THE BRIDE

12 JULY – 19 AUGUST

Old Government House | [www.ogh.qut.edu.au](http://www.ogh.qut.edu.au)



## **CLAIRE CHRISTIAN**

*Writer*

Claire Christian is a storyteller – a writer, youth arts facilitator and theatre maker. In 2016 she won the Text Publishing Text Prize for her debut Young Adult Novel *Beautiful Mess* which was released in August 2017. It has been long listed for the 2018 Australian Book Industry Awards, the Children's Book Council of Australia and the Inky Awards. Claire is a passionate youth arts and community cultural development facilitator who has worked with young people for over fourteen years. She was the lead artist on Queensland Theatre's Logan Youth Ensemble project *TRACTION* from 2014-2017. In 2017 she directed Michelle Law's acclaimed season of *Single Asian Female* at La Boite Theatre Company and in 2018 she directed the Belvoir Street Theatre remount in Sydney.

As a playwright Claire has been recognised both nationally and internationally including being shortlisted for the Griffin Theatre Award (2009) and studying at the Royal Court Theatre Young Writers Program (2009). Her play *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* will be staged at La Boite in July 2018. Her plays *Hedonism's Second Album*, *The Landmine is Me* (both with David Burton) and *Talking to Brick Walls* are available through Playlab. Claire is currently the part-time Youth and Participation Producer at La Boite. She was previously the Youth Program coordinator at Queensland Theatre (2013-2014) and the Youth Arts Director at the Empire Theatre in Toowoomba (2011-2013).

Claire has over seven years' experience in the Education sector, as a high school teacher in both Australia and the United Kingdom. In 2013 she completed an Australia Council of the Arts JUMP Mentorship with Windmill Theatre's Artistic Director Rosemary Myers. She has a Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing [QUT], a Graduate Diploma in Experiential Arts Therapy [MIECAT], and a Bachelor of Education [Griffith University]. In 2013 she was selected as one of the YWCA Queensland's 125 Leading Women.



## **SANJA SIMIĆ**

*Director*

Sanja Simić is a theatre director and creative producer. As a theatre director, she has created work for Tamarama Rock Surfers, PACT Theatre, Brisbane Festival, Griffin Theatre Company, Merrigong Theatre Company, Sydney and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, NovemberISM, and Shopfront Theatre. As Co-Artistic Director of Bodysnatchers, she has directed Mark Rogers' *Plastic* (Old 505, 2017), Kirby Medway's *Encounter* (La Mama 2016, Adelaide Festival 2014, Woodcourt Art Theatre 2013), Mark Rogers' *Blood Pressure* (Old Fitz, 2012), Mark Rogers' *Soothsayers* (Brisbane Festival, Under the Radar 2012), and Dennis Kelly's *Debris* (2011).

Other directing credits include Timberlake Wertenbakers' *The Grace of Mary Traverse* (2016), Bernard Marie Koltes/Martin Crimp's *Roberto Zucco* (2012), and Howard Barker's *Wounds to the Face* (2010). Previously, Sanja has held positions with the Australia Council for the Arts (International Projects), as well as Performance Space in Sydney. She is currently the Creative Producer at La Boite Theatre Company.



## **SAFFRON BENNER**

*Dramaturg*

Saffron Benner is a dramaturg with over twenty years experience collaborating with writers and artists to create new performance work.. She has worked with award-winning writers Daniel Evans, Marcel Dorney, Maxine Mellor, Rebecca Meston, David Burton, Claire Christian, Finegan Krukemeyer, and Tom Holloway. Theatre companies she has worked with include Queensland Theatre, La Boite Theatre, Tasmanian Theatre Company, Australian Theatre for Young People, Backbone Youth Arts, and many independent companies. She is the former Executive Director of Playlab (2008 – 2010) and was the National Arts Education Editor and feature writer for Lowdown Magazine (2008-2010).



## **GUY WEBSTER**

*Sound Designer*

Guy is a composer, sound designer, sound artist and music producer working across the mediums of theatre, dance, circus, sound art, installation and new media.

His broad body of work has featured in theatres, festivals and galleries throughout Australia, Japan, Europe, UK, USA and China. As a live performer he has shared the stage with the likes of Beth Orton, Ed Harcourt, Powderfinger, The Cruel Sea, Mad Professor and Sarah Blasko.

Previous works with La Boite: *Blackrock, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Tragedy of King Richard III, As You Like It, Ruben Guthrie, I Love You Bro, The White Earth, Kitchen Diva, Summer Wonderland, The Narcissist, Last Drinks, Urban Dingoes.*

Other Theatre: *Constellations, The Seagull, Brisbane, Venus In Fur, Kelly, Orphans* (QLD Theatre); *The Effect* (QTC/STC); *Dracula, George's Marvelous Medicine, Wuthering Heights, Revolting Rhymes* and *Dirty Beasts, Tequila Mockingbird, 1984, Animal Farm, Out Damn Snot* (Shake & Stir Theatre Co); *Hotelling, Quiet By Nature, Shifting Sands, Fish Out Of Water* (Bleach Festival); *Welcome To Sameville, Locked In, Viral* (Shock Therapy Productions); *Blue Bones* (Playlab), *Here We Are All Assembled, Bastard Territory, The Salt Remains* (Jute Theatre), *Sugarland* (ATYP); *Water Wars* (Umber Productions); *The New Dead: Medea Material* (Stella Elekrika); *Paradise – The Musical* (Backbone Youth Arts); *The King and The Corpse, 1347* (Matrix Theatre).

Dance & Circus Works: *The Rising* (Circus Corridor); *Torrent* (Lisa Wilson/Dance North); *The Pipe Manager, The Pineapple Queen* (Lisa O'Niell).

Installation Works: *Interferometer* (solo), *Intimate Transactions, Transact, Liquid Gold, Transit Lounge* (Transmute Collective), *Shifting Intimacies* (ICA, London), *Cherish* (QPAC's Out Of The Box Festival), *I Cherish This...* (QLD State Library).



## **ANTHONY SPINAZE**

*Set & Costume Designer*

Anthony Spinaze is a Brisbane-based set and costume designer and artist. He studied design at NIDA, where he was the recipient of the William Fletcher Foundation award for emerging artists. Before studying at NIDA Anthony completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production) at QUT. In 2016 Anthony was the resident Designer at Queensland Theatre, where he designed several shows for the 2016/2017 season.

Previous credits include, **As Designer:** La Boite Theatre: *Blackrock*; Queensland Theatre: *St. Mary's in Exile*, *Riley Valentine and the Occupation of Fort Svalbard*, *Love & Information*, *Switzerland*, *Constellations*; Jute Theatre/Powerhouse: *Joh For PM*; Matt Ward Productions/Powerhouse: *Rent*; NIDA: *Spring Awakening*, *Capricornia*, *Le Portrait de Dorian Gray*. **As Costume Designer:** La Boite Theatre: *The Mathematics of Longing*; NIDA: *Not Who I Was*; Brevity Theatre: *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Space Cats*. **As Design Assistant:** Opera Australia: *Aida*; Queensland Theatre: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet*. **Film:** As Designer: TRIPLE J: *Loose Change's Grown Up*. As Costume Designer: AFTAS: *An Easy Death*. As Costume Assistant: ABC: *Riot*. **Awards:** Matilda Awards 2016 – Best Set Design (nominated) *Switzerland*; Matilda Awards 2017 – Best Costume Design (nominated) *Joh For PM* and *Rent*; APDG Awards 2016 – Best Emerging Artist (nominated); 2015 William Fletcher Foundation Award for Emerging Artists.



## **KATIE SFETKIDIS**

*Lighting Designer*

Katie Sfetkidis is a Melbourne based lighting designer and co-artistic director of Little Ones Theatre Company. She has worked across both main stage and independent theatre in Melbourne and Brisbane. This is her first show with La Boite. Credits include: Little Ones Theatre: *The Nightingale and the Rose*; *Merciless Gods*; *The Happy Prince*; *Dracula*; *Dangerous Liaisons*; *Salome*; *House of Yes*; *Psycho Beach Party*; Melbourne Theatre Company: *Abigail's Party*; *Happy Ending*; Malthouse Theatre: *Meme Girls*; *Calpurnia Descending* (co-production with Sydney Theatre Company); Belvoir: *Kill the Messenger She Said*; *Hart Sisters Grimm*; *Summertime in the Garden of Eden*; *The Sovereign Wife*, *Little Mercy* (Melbourne season).

Katie also has a solo practice as contemporary performance and installation artist and has shown work at Brisbane Festival, Underbelly Arts Festival, Sydney and the Festival of Live Art, Melbourne as well as a number of artist run spaces including !Metro Arts. Recently she performed as part of the "Feminist Colour-In" as part of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Arts's exhibition "*Unfinished Business: Perspectives on Art and Feminism*".





## **CLEMENTINE ANDERSON**

*Peta*

Clementine Anderson is a third year acting student (BFA) at the Queensland University of Technology. She has previously been a student at the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries and The American Academy for Dramatic Arts (New York). She has also studied with The Danger Ensemble and Zen Zen Zo Physical

Theatre Company.

While at QUT Clementine was awarded the Babette Stephens award for Best Emerging Talent. Theatre credits Include: Alex/Sophie in *The Landmine is Me* (Dir. Todd MacDonald, Queensland Theatre), Masa in *The Fledglings* (Dir. Lucas Stibbard, Queensland Theatre), Debbie in *Face Divided* (Dir Susan Prior, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York), Rodica in *Mad Forest* (Dir. Andrea Moore, QUT), Tatiana in *Enemies* (Dir. Michael Futcher, QUT), Paulina in *The Winters' Tale* (Dir. Michael Futcher, QUT), Dunja/ Karolina in *3 Winters* (Dir. Andrea Moore, QUT), Margret in *Good People* (Dir. Sean Mee, QUT). *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* is Clementine's La Boite debut.



## **JACKSON BANNISTER**

*Grant*

Jackson Bannister is a current second year BFA Acting student at the Queensland University of Technology. Jackson was born in Brisbane and graduated from Sheldon College. Initially a sports player, Jackson found his passion for acting through performing musical theatre in High School. *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* is

Jackson's debut at La Boite.

QUT Acting Credits Include: *I3*, 2018 and *Ivanov*, 2018.



## **MORGAN FRANCIS**

*Ken*

Morgan is currently in his third year of studies at QUT and will be making his debut performance at La Boite with *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames*. Performance credits with QUT include *Mad Forest* (Priest and Student), *Enemies* (Zakhar Ivanovich), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Demetrius), *The Winter's Tale* (Florizel), *Three Winters*

(Karl Slobodan) and most recently *Spike Heels* (Andrew).

Previous to his studies at QUT, Morgan trained in musical theatre at Harvest Rain Theatre Company and performed in their production of *The Wizard of Oz* (2012).



## **BARBARA LOWING**

*Chorus*

Barbara was the first Queensland graduate of The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). Since her graduation in 1986, she has worked all over Australia and internationally. She has worked with the Queensland Theatre Company, the Melbourne Theatre Company, The Hole in the Wall Theatre Company, The State Theatre Company of South Australia, Griffin Theatre Company, JUTE Theatre Company, St John's Cathedral, Restaged Histories Project, La Boite Theatre Company, The Empire Theatre, The Queensland Arts Council, The Dead Puppet Society, Shake and Stir Theatre Company, Bello Creative and The Performers Independent Theatre Company and has been affiliated with the Sydney Theatre Company.

Barbara has contributed to the creation of over 60 new works for the Australian stage. Her television credits include *Secrets and Lies*, *Stringers*, *Medivac*, *Tidelands* and *Mako Mermaids*. Barbara has directed for The University of Southern Queensland and Expressions Dance Company and as regular tutor with The Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts. She is also a voice over artist for radio advertisements and award winning documentaries that have been screened the world over, through Gulliver Media.

In 2007 Barbara won a Theatre Critics Matilda Award for Best Actress and two MEAA/Equity awards for Best Actress and Best Ensemble Cast for *Away*, and a Goldie Award for Best Commercial Voice Over Artist, Queensland. In 2013 Barbara won the Gold Matilda award for her body of work. Barbara has been a proud Equity/MEAA member since 1987.



## **SAMANTHA LUSH**

*Myra*

Samantha Lush is currently completing her final year at the Queensland University of Technology studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting. *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* is Samantha's debut at La Boite. QUT Acting Credits include: *Mad Forest* (Dir. Andrea Moor) *Enemies* (Dir. Michael Futcher) *Breaking the Code* (Dir. David Bell), *The Winter's Tale* (Dir. Michael Futcher), *3 Winters* (Dir. Andrea Moor 2018), *Rapture Blister Burn* (Dir. Mark Ravan).



## **ROXANNE MCDONALD**

*Chorus*

Roxanne's career began 28 years ago in a production called *You Came To My Country and You Didn't Turn Black* for the Queensland Museum. Her other theatre credits include: *The Cherry Pickers*, *Black Shorts*, *Goin' To The Island*, *Skin Deep*, *The Luck Of The Draw*, *It Seems Like Yesterday*, *Yarnin' Up*, *Bitin' Back*, *Nunjul The Sun*, *Whispers Of This Wik Woman* (Kooemba Jdarra), *Murri Time* (Kite Theatre), *Coriolanus* (Fractal Theatre), *Fountains Beyond*, *Radiance*, *The Sunshine Club*, *The Skin Of Our Teeth*, *The Tragedy Of King Richard The Second*, *Mother Courage & Her Children* (QTC), *The Taming Of The Shrew*, *Oodgeroo Bloodline to Country*, *Romeo and Juliet* (La Boite), *The Battle Of Waterloo* (Sydney Theatre Company), *Parramatta Girls*, *The Man From Mukinupin*, *Windmill Baby* (Belvoir), *It All Begins With Love* (Creative Regions), *A Life Of Grace & Piety* (Jute Theatre), *The Story Of The Miracles at Cookie's Table* (Bungaburra Productions/Griffin Theatre). Short films include *Grace*, *My Country*, *Welcome To Country*, *Blackbuster*; Feature film: *Australia Day*; TV Movie: *Mabo*; TV Series include *Reef Doctors*, *8MMM Aboriginal Radio*, *Grace Beside Me*.



## **TATUM MOTTIN**

*Esme*

Tatum Mottin is in her 3rd year studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting at QUT. Before studying at QUT, she was a member of the Queensland Theatre Youth Ensemble, where she studied and performed with various professionals.

Performance credits include: *The Land Mine is Me* (Queensland Theatre), *Mad Forest* (QUT), *Enemies* (QUT), *Breaking the Code* (QUT), *The Winter's Tale* (QUT), *3 Winters* (QUT) and *Good People* (QUT). This is her debut at La Boite Theatre Company.

## **HUGH PARKER**

*Dad*



With twenty years experience in the world of professional acting, RADA-trained Hugh Parker has an extensive resume in television, film and theatre. His early career in the UK saw him appear in programmes including *Black Books*, *The Office*, *I'm Alan Partridge*, *Eastenders* and *Casualty*.

After moving to Australia, Hugh found success with roles in the movies *Crooked Business*, *Sinbad & The Minotaur*, *My Mistress*, *Fatal Honeymoon* and *Bullets For The Dead*. There were also roles in TV shows *Sea Patrol*, *The Strip*, *Mabo*, *Secrets & Lies*, *Gallipoli*, *The Killing Field*, *The Family Law*, and *Rosehaven*.

Hugh's theatre productions include, for Queensland Theatre, *Twenty Five Down*, *The Clean House*, *Betrayal*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Fractions*, *The Pitch*, *Kelly*, *Brisbane*, *The Seagull*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Tartuffe*, *Noises Off*, *Scenes From A Marriage* and *The 39 Steps*. For La Boite, *Julius Caesar*, *Pale Blue Dot*, *A Doll's House* and *Straight White Men*. For Shake and Stir, *1984*.

Hugh has held teaching positions with QTC, NYFA and is one half of GHProductions. Hugh received Matilda Award nominations for his roles in *Betrayal* and *A Doll's House*, and won the Equity Ensemble Award for his role in *The Family Law*. Proud member of Actor's Equity since 1995.



## **HSIAO-LING TANG**

*Chorus*

Hsiao-Ling is so pleased to be back at La Boite for *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames*. Her past theatre credits include *First Asylum*, *Single Asian Female* for La Boite Theatre; *Rice*, a Queensland Theatre and Griffin Theatre co-production, which won the QLD Premier's Drama Award in 2016. *Professor Burton's Travelling Federation Show* for QLD Arts Council Touring; *After China*, *Single Asian Female* for Belvoir and *Shattered Jade* at the Seymour Centre.

She has also voiced characters for the ABC children's cartoon *Bluey*, an ABC radio play and presented numerous corporate videos. On TV she has guested on *All Saints*, *H2O Just Add Water* and *Sea Patrol*. She's performed in the film *Postcard Bandit* and the US-produced *Tempted* co-starring Virginia Madsen and Jason Momoa.

She has been involved in the development of *Squint Witch* and *White China* through Playlab, *Single Asian Female* via the La Boite HWY series, an early development of *Nearer the Gods* with Queensland Theatre and was part of the inaugural Lotus playwriting workshops with Playwriting Australia and CAAP. Hsiao-Ling is a graduate from QUT's BA Drama – Acting course.



## **TANIA VUKICEVIC**

*Lysa*

Tania Vukicevic is a current third year BFA Acting student at Queensland University of Technology. Before moving to Brisbane, Tania graduated from Campbelltown Performing Arts High School and was a member of NSW Public School's Drama Company from 2014 – 2015. *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* is Tania's acting debut at La Boite.

QUT Acting Credits include: *Mad Forest* (Dir. Andrea Moor) *Enemies* (Dir. Michael Fitcher) *The Winters Tale* (Dir. Michael Fitcher), *3 Winters* (Dir. Andrea Moor), *Rapture Blister Burn* (Dir. Mark Radvan). Other Acting Credits include: *Cyberbible*, Dir. Paul Viles 2014, *DNA* (Dir. Belinda Simon), 2015.





## **PETER SUTHERLAND**

*Stage Manager*

Pete Sutherland has had a career in Stage Management that spans over two decades. He has stage managed for most of the significant theatre companies in Australia and he has also worked internationally.

The directors Pete has stage managed for include Sanja Simić, Claire Christian, Jason Klarwein, Todd MacDonald, Kate Cherry, John Bell, Roger Hodgman, Wesley Enoch, Robyn Nevin, Neil Armfield, Michael Gow, Stephen Page, Andrea Moor, Judy Davis, Simon Phillips, Richard Wherrett, Peter Evans, Debbie Allan and Garry McDonald. Some highlights of Pete's career include stage managing John Bell's final show as Artistic Director of the Bell Shakespeare Company *The Tempest* 2015 and the tenth anniversary revival of David Page's award winning one-man-show *Page 8* 2014 for Bangarra Dance Theatre.



## **ERIN HANDFORD**

*Assistant Stage Manager*

Erin is a Brisbane based Stage Manager with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Technical Production from Queensland University of Technology.

Her credits include, As Stage Manager: *Supercell Dance Festival*; QPAC: *An Evening with Liz Callaway*; Metro Arts: *ENGLAND* by Tim Crouch; Ballet Theatre of Queensland: *Cinderella*. As Assistant Stage Manager: La Boite Theatre Company: *Blackrock*; Shake & Stir Theatre Company: *American Idiot*.

As Assistant Stage Manager Swing/ Props Swing: *Mamma Mia! The Musical* (Brisbane Season). Erin also held the position of Technical Coordinator for Queensland Performing Arts Centre during Brisbane Festival in 2017.



## **MADDIE NIXON**

*Assistant Creative/Dance Choreographer*

Maddie is a Brisbane based writer, dramaturg, stage manager and youth arts facilitator. Maddie is an Assistant Creative at La Boite Theatre Company for 2018, working on *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames*. Maddie is a board member for Ausdance Queensland.

Maddie's credits include, as Playwright: *Cooladdi* (La Boite Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre and ATYP), *Food Fight* (ATYP), *The Parable People* (FAST). As Contributing Writer: *The Children's Monologues* (Digi Youth Arts). As Co-Director: *Jane + Kel Go To Hell* (Sharehouse Theatre Company). As Dramaturg: *England* (Matt Seery, Nathan Booth and Metro Arts).

As Production Manager: *Supercell Festival of Contemporary Dance*, *Cargo Club* (Metro Arts and Centre for Australasian Theatre). As Stage Manager: *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek* (Playlab, La Boite Theatre Company), *Blue Bones* (Playlab), *The 7 Stages of Grieving* (Grin + Tonic, Queensland Theatre), *The Voice in The Walls* (Imaginary Theatre). As Assistant Stage Manager: *Medea* (La Boite Theatre Company), *Black Diggers* (Secondment – Queensland Theatre).



## ABOUT LA BOITE

La Boite holds a unique place in the hearts and minds of artists and audiences across Australia. Based in Brisbane, for more than 90 years La Boite has represented the adventurous and alternative. With a strong focus on development of new work and artists, we collaborate with some extraordinary people to stretch theatrical, physical and musical boundaries. Across contemporary circus, opera, classical text, the theatrical and extraordinary international talents, we aim to enliven and inspire audiences through the magic of live performance – in Australia’s only purpose-built theatre-in-the-round. [laboite.com.au](http://laboite.com.au)

## ABOUT QUT

QUT deeply values the opportunity to engage our actors in this ‘real world’ experience, working with some of Australia’s most cherished actors and a team of the county’s most inspiring creatives. This initiative exemplifies the value that QUT Acting places on industry engagement and we thank the cast and creatives and the team at La Boite for providing such meaningful mentorship.

## LA BOITE BOARD

**Julian Myers** (Chair), **Vivienne Anthon** (Deputy Chair), **Graham Bethune**, **Gina Fairfax**, **Kevin O’Brien**, **Lynn Rainbow Reid AM**, **John Scherer** and **Jessica Simpson**.

## LA BOITE STAFF

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Executive Director **Katherine Hoepper**

Creative Producer **Sanja Simić**

Youth & Participation Producer **Claire Christian**

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Duty Managers **Jess Bunz**, **Rory Killen**, **Mikaela Sanders**

Front of House Staff **Kayla Cahill**, **Natalie Callaghan**, **James Gatling**, **Rosie Hazell**, **Maddie Little**, **Cillian McDonald**, **Nathan Mills**, **Aleea Monsour**, **Bonnie Mullins**, **Jaime Ng**, **Natasha Papertnaya**, **Steve Pirie**, **Nick Seery** and **Ellen Tuffley**

## LA BOITE VOLUNTEERS

La Boite thanks all of our hardworking volunteers:

Claire Agente, Jessie Anema, Lewis Atkinson, Brooke Austen, Gene Banyard, Olivia Batchelor, David Bentley, Linda Bulloch, Cath Carkeet, Ric Carthew, David Casey, Kerrel Casey, Adam Charlton, Russell Cockerill, Tony Cole, Tony Costantini, Rhumer Diball, Evie DuNuan, Sho Eba, Georgia Eysers, Abbey Faulkner, Shane Fell, Liesl Filippi, Bruce Finlayson, Léonie Flood, Matt Gaffney, Owen Green, Tahlya Grennan, Jessica Gould, Jessica Haack, Declan Hale, Emma Healy, Lauren Howlett, Rebecca Hull, Greg Johnson, Albina Karami, Anne Kelley, Sharon Laycock, Billie Letts, Jeannie Lloyd-Apjohn, Mary Massey, Shirley Markie, Ashley Mcgregor, Tait Mcgregor, Racheal Missingham, Mary Murphy, Isabella O'Connor, Brooklyn Pace, Steve Pager, Jane Paterson, Paige Purvey, Livio Regano, Lara Rix, Elia Roehrs, Sophie Sassman, Brodie Shelley, Sascha Shipley, Evey Skinner, Brenton Smith, Estelle Snowball, Damian Tatum, Jack Trippick, Jordan Tselepy, Tanith Underwood, Alycia Warner, Shellie Ward, Kat Waisel, Alycia Warner, Cassandra Waterford, Georgia Weddell, Emma Windress, Josie Wivell, Shez Wright, Vittorio Yun, Bri Zammit.





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BY JULIA-ROSE LEWIS  
COMPOSED BY GILLIAN COSGRIFF



LA BOITE  
THEATRE COMPANY



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