

ANTHROPOCENE PLAY COMPANY
PRESENTS

THE WORLD PREMIERE

7 CAPTIVA ROAD

BY ANDREA CIANNAVEI



CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL
23 FEB - 3 MAR 2024



City of
STONNINGTON

CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

APC

ANTHROPOCENE PLAY COMPANY

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

CATHY HUNT

PLAYWRIGHT

ANDREA CIANNAVEI

PRODUCERS

MIKHAELA EBONY

BRONWEN COLEMAN

CATHERINE MORVELL

SET DESIGNER

ISABELLA EDWARDS

COSTUME DESIGNER

JESSAMINE MOFFETT

LIGHTING DESIGNER

TOM VULCAN

CAST

MAX GARCIA UNDERWOOD

LYNDAL CHARTERIS

BRONWEN COLEMAN

SEBASTIAN GUNNER

MIKHAELA EBONY

TIMOTHY CLARKE

CLARE LARMAN

PIA OMEADHRA

HELEN DOIG

ANI PRIYO

SOUND DESIGNER

JESS KEEFFE

OPERATOR

LARA GABOR

INTIMACY CONSULTANT

ISABELLA VADIVELOO

PUBLICITY

ELEANOR HOWLETT SASSY RED PR

PRODUCTION

PHOTOGRAPHER

GREG ELMS

PROGRAM DESIGN

SOPHIE MUCKART



DIRECTORS NOTES



On a hot August night in Massachusetts, a family is gathering at the home of their matriarch, who is just barely breathing. For some of the family, this is their childhood home. For others, it's the home of their beloved Grandmum – the woman whose death has drawn them there.

To quote Andrea Ciannavei, the writer – ‘Everyone is pretty comfortable shooting their mouth off about a bunch of things... (their grievances against others in the family) but when it comes to the real meat of their conflict they avoid it. They can't apologise or be accountable or forgive... This is how the toxic stew is made in the family. Over time things stack up.’ The veneer of toughness on top of hidden sensitivity means quick sparks towards conflagration. As their beloved Grandmum gets closer to letting go of life, perhaps on the very same day the Virgin Mary was taken up to heaven, the strange silencing effect which her presence exerted over them, starts to dissolve, letting that toxic stew bubble up.

Directing this play has been time-travelling back to 2004, a time that is somehow (how exactly?!) 20 years ago this year. It's been deeply satisfying to work on a new play that is also a mature work and collaborate with a writer of Andrea's calibre to shape it, through workshopping and questioning with this deeply committed and talented cast. I'm honoured that Bronwen Coleman (APC Artistic Director) asked me to come on board for the premiere production of such a worthwhile work. It's been a wild ride, but hopefully one that makes you feel more alive to experience. As one of the characters says “Better to be looking down at the daisies than up at the roots, right?”

CATHY HUNT

Cathy Hunt is a director and dramaturg, who trained at the VCA. Her practice involves collaborating to make work pushing beyond what theatre currently is. Her work is feminist and unexpected, exploring vulnerable subjectivities and heightened states. Directing includes *Little Brother, Big Sister & She Wrote The Letter* (La Mama); *Phantasmagoria* (Theatre Works); *What Every Girl Should Know* (Brunswick Mechanics); *Love/Chamberlain* by Bridget Mackey (Theatre Works); and site-specific works, *Her Father's Daughter* by Keziah Warner (Pahran Council Chambers); and *Steppe* by Grace Pundyk (Newport railyards).

Cathy created & performed (in their backyard) *I'm Going to Die In This Bracket* with Shannon Loughnane, which was nominated for Best Theatre, Melbourne Fringe, 2020. As alter ego 'Beige Brown' Cathy co-created & performed *Ms Beige Brown Goes Beyond* for MICF. She also co-created *Super Queer Murderess Show* with Luisa Hastings-Edge & Nate Gilkes for Melbourne Fringe. She was Assistant Director on *Lorelei*, *Vic Opera*, and Associate Artist on *Dybbuks*, *Chamber Made*. Cathy was dramaturg for *LuNa* by Keziah Warner, which won the Patrick White Playwright's Award. *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*, which she directed for Lyric Opera was given a Green Room award for 'Contribution to Development of Opera in Victoria'.

A WORD FROM THE AD



I first encountered this play in New York, where I was fortunate enough to work with John Ortiz' and Phil Seymour Hoffman's theatre company LAByrinth. At the time, our playwright Andrea was the literary manager of LAB, and we did a reading of the play at the company's intensive – which was a kind of extended summer camp upstate in which they seeded and developed new work. I never forgot the play, and when I was invited to submit an application for the New Ground Commission Program at Bunjil Place last year – to develop a work from the prompt "Borders & Boundaries" – 7 Captiva Road immediately sprang to mind.

We, like LAB, are an independent theatre company, and are in an on-going state of seeking funding for our work. If you like what you've seen, or believe in our mission to create feminist, inclusive, sustainable theatre that provokes action and conversation around the significant issues of our time, please consider donating via the link below.

Bronwen Coleman, APC Artistic Director

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THANK YOU

PRODUCERS NOTES

Life is a series of choices. We can choose to stay silent, or we can choose to use our voice. The idea of what people choose and how we make our choices fascinates us. When presented with the opportunity to produce 7 Captiva Road and share a piece of theatre that everyone can connect to in some way, it was a 'no brainer'. More importantly, it was the opportunity to tell a pivotal story and be part of much needed discussion. No matter what family you come from or your upbringing, there will be something in this show that you will connect with. We hope you choose to use your voice. Never stay silent.

Mikhaela, Bronwen & Cat

If tonight's performance raised difficult issues for you and you need support, please reach out.

Lifeline - 24 hour crisis support - 13 11 14

Beyond Blue - Mental health support services - 1300224636

1800RESPECT - Counselling and support around issues of violence and abuse

Bravehearts - for support and advice regarding child sexual abuse - 1800 272 831

CAST APC ENSEMBLE MEMBERS



MIKHAELA EBONY FRANCINE, CO PRODUCER

Mikhaela is a seasoned performer, creator & producer. She joined the APC in 2020, and celebrated a sellout extended season of Daniel Nellor's 'IGNIS' at Toorak Manor 2022, receiving 4-star reviews stating "The cast was stellar. 10 of Melbourne's finest actors" (Milkbar Mag). She has performed, directed & produced for the last sixteen years, creating her own works for MIFC & MFF and taught acting to both youth and adults at The National Theatre in St.Kilda & Burrinja Arts & Cultural centre. She has worked in casting with Chameleon, and travelled overseas to perform and entertain children all over the New York Tri-state area. In 2019 she completed the Part Time acting course at Howard Fine Studios and has been part of several TVC's & short films. Most recent credits, Into the Spotlight, By Rima Das (Released 2024), Dark Traders, By Darren Vukasinovic (Released 2023).



HELEN DOIG OLIVIA

Helen is a WAAPA, Edith Cowan & Curtin Universities graduate. She was on the board of The Melbourne Workers Theatre for seven years and one of their Rapid Response Street Theatre performers. She was also a founding member of The Wallace Co-op, a company specialising in Grand Guignol. Melbourne productions include: Bring on The Talent; The Elephant's Tusk; Little Time Bombs; one woman show, That Was Then; Shirley vs the Possums; Tennessee Williams's, Summer and Smoke; the Austrian Punk classic Holy Mothers; In The Mirror; Brecht's The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui and most recently, Uncle Vanya, for the APC. Perth highlights include: Summer of the Seventeenth Doll; an all-female version of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, and Agnus in Tracey Letts' Bug. TV credits include: Ship to Shore; Blue Heelers; MDA; Streetsmartz, and Cloudstreet and Feature films: Dingo; Mallboy; OtherLife and Some Happy Day.



BRONWEN COLEMAN GABRIELLE, CO PRODUCER

Bronwen coleman is the Artistic Director of the APC and a proudly neurodivergent actor, director and writer based in Melbourne. Acting credits include: Pretty Chin Up (Public Theatre, NYC); Mrs Barry's Marriage (SoloNova Arts Festival/45th Street Theatre, NYC); Proof (Bristol Riverside Theatre, PA), Capote (Sony Pictures Classics); Law and Order Criminal Intent (NBC Universal), & Law and Order (NBC Universal). Bronwen is a life member of the Actors Studio New York. Directing credits include: Dirt by Angus Cameron – winner Frank Ford and Critics Circle Awards (Adelaide Fringe 2021), Best Theatre Fringeworld Perth 2022, & nominated for two Green Room awards 2023; Naomi by Patrick Livesey – winner Best Theatre and Mindshare Mental Health Award (Adelaide Fringe 2022); Cavemxn by Angus Cameron – Chapel off Chapel 2022; Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov – Theatre Works 2023. Bronwen is a graduate of VCA and the Actors Studio Masters Program, New York.



MAX GARCIA UNDERWOOD CHRISTOPHER

Max Garcia-Underwood is an actor and musician. He has worked for various theatre companies including State Theatre Company of South Australia, Rumpus Theatre, House of Sand and Actnow Theatre. His work with these companies spans contemporary Australian works and children's theatre, having toured regionally and interstate. In addition, Max has worked on various short films, web series and transmedia exhibition projects. An acting graduate of the Adelaide College of the Arts, his current screen projects include Screen Australia supported Rules to Being a Fuckgurl (Dir. Nelya Valamanesh) and Chip Packet Day (dir. Oscar Axel Thorborg). Passionate about contemporary Aussie stories and new voices, Max has worked extensively with female and non binary directors and is thrilled to be working with the APC.



PIA OMEADHRA JOANNE

Pia is a professionally trained actor with 10 years of experience in stage and film. Recent credits include; Rose in The Cave of Spleen (Theatreworks, 2023), Elena in Uncle Vanya (Theatreworks/APC, 2023), Amy in Ignis (Melbourne fringe, 2022), Grace in Something Unspoken (Melbourne Fringe, 2018) and Medea in Medea (Film adaptation, 2019). Pia completed her undergraduate in acting from Adelaide College of the Arts in 2015. She furthered her training in Melbourne at 16th Street Actors Studio, graduating from their full-time intensive program in 2017. Pia has been trained and professionally directed by industry legends including N.Y Actors Studio faculty chair and mentor Elizabeth Kemp, N.Y Actors Studio life member and multi-award winning director Bronwen Coleman, Meisner guru Justin Lehmann and award winning Political Theatre director Paulo Castro.



SEBASTIAN GUNNER ENZO

A lifetime in performing arts as an actor, writer, teacher, and director, Sebastian went straight from high school to VCA acting. He has performed in TheatreWorks, La Mama, Why Not Theatre Company, and with numerous other independent theatres and spaces, in addition to film and television projects. An advocate of training and practice, his ongoing development includes workshops & techniques with Susan Batson, Larry Moss, Ellen Burstyn, Elizabeth Kemp and others. Theatre credits; Allan Ball's All That I Will Ever Be, 5pound Theatre Rep Season - 5 plays in 5 weeks, The Container, Air Oceania - Flight AO11, Shining City (Connor McPherson), & Ignis & Uncle Vanya with the Anthropocene Play Company.



ANI PRIYO MAUREEN

Ani is a Melbourne-based actress. In 2015, she completed a Meisner Acting Intensive course in NYC with the Ward Acting Studio. She was a lead in the national ad campaign for International Women's Day, '50 Shades of No', which gained a nomination for a glass Lion award at Canne Film Festival. She also performed as the lead in the award-winning short, 'Pirouette', which was featured in the lineup for Monsterfest 2020 also screening at Panic Fest in the city of Kansas City, USA. Recently she performed as the lead in the horror short, 'Mary's Garden', which premiered in the Melbourne shorts collection at the 2023 Monsterfest. Ani is also a writer and was published in an independent art journal called, 'Tenderness', in 2015. In 2022, Ani completed a Diploma in Film at SAE, where she wrote & directed, and her first thriller short, 'Are You A Winner...?'. Currently, she is studying for an Advanced Diploma in Professional Screenwriting at RMIT.



TIM CLARKE BOB

Tim Clarke is a graduate of the National Theatre Drama School and has also trained at the Rehearsal Room and Howard Fine Studios. Tim has performed in Crossroads Café, Judy and Punch and Sunrise Sunset (all Barnstorm Theatre Company); The Lion in Winter and Hamlet (ASC); and The World According to Timothy Cross. He has performed with Melbourne Writer's Theatre in A Constant Lover, Six Degrees in Melbourne and The Metropolis Monologues. He has previously worked with the APC in Ignis in 2022. His TV credits include High Country, The Doctor Blake Mysteries, The Secret River, Gallipoli, Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, Killing Time, The Mystery of the Handsome Cab, Flying Doctors and Neighbours.



CLARE LARMAN BARBARA

With forty or so years in the Performing Arts as an actor, performance maker, writer, director, teacher and street artist, Clare has been fortunate to travel to Beacon NY, San Francisco and Belfast including many parts of Australia with her work as a solo artist both in theatre and film, and in a long collaboration with Maureen Hartley. She has a few TVC's under her belt, many short films, and was murdered in the last short film Tiny Darlings (Dir: Sebastian Bertoli). Clare has participated in Masterclasses & workshops with Graham Clark, Steven Berkoff, Lindsay Kemp, Lynne Ellis, Mike Alfreds, Bronwen Coleman & Elizabeth Kemp. Recent theatre credits include; Alison in Daniel Nellor's Ignis (Dir: Bronwen Coleman), Evelyn in Independence by Lee Blessing (Dir: Ruby Rees), Cornelia Scott in Tennessee Williams' Something Unspoken (Dir: Bronwen Coleman) and Marina in Anton Chekhov's Uncle Vanya (Dir: Bronwen Coleman).



LYNDAL CHARTERIS GRANDMUM

Lyndal Charteris trained at the National Theatre Drama School, (The National) in the '90s. Lyndal's theatrical experience has involved acting and directing.

CREATIVES

APC ENSEMBLE MEMBERS



ANDREA CIANNAVEI WRITER

Andrea Ciannavei is a writer, actor, teacher, producer, and political activist. TV: The Corps (Netflix/Sony), Mayans MC (FX Networks), The Path (Hulu), American Odyssey (NBC Universal), Copper (BBC America), Borgia (Canal Plus). Her pilot Life Support has been recently optioned by Universal TV with Danielle Brooks to star, Jesse Peretz to direct and Jessica Goldberg as showrunner. Plays: The Winstons, one-act play commissioned by Hangar Theater; Deep Trees; The Hard Sell; 7 Captiva Road; and Pretty Chin Up which received a development production at LAByrinth Theater Company (Artistic Directors: Philip Seymour Hoffman and John Ortiz) at The Public Theater. Publications: Pretty Chin Up (Playscripts, Inc.) Education: NYU's Tisch School of the Arts' Dramatic Writing Program and Juilliard's Lila Acheson Playwriting Fellowship 2008-2010. She is a Board member of the Writers Guild Initiative and Empower Survivors Now, serving formerly trafficked women. Proud member of the WGA.



CATHERINE MORVELL CO PRODUCER

Catherine Morvell is an actor, producer & graduate of 16th Street Actors Studio. She is a member of the APC, and has performed in previous productions such as Uncle Vanya (Theatre Works) and Ignis (Melb Fringe). This is her first time producing an Anthropocene Production.



ISABELLA EDWARDS SET DESIGNER

Isabella is a set and costume designer/maker with a passion for resourceful storytelling across multiple mediums. A VCA graduate, Isabella loves a creative challenge and the continued opportunity to explore and connect with her industry. She has an Advanced Diploma of Screen and Media (Film and Television) and studied creative writing at Swinburne University of Technology. After working in the UK across film and arts festival circuits, Isabella returned to reconnect with home-grown, Australian art, completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Production at VCA in 2022. Since graduating, Isabella has worked primarily as a scenic artist at The Australian Ballet, as well as Set Construction, All The Rest (Theatre Works 2024); Set and Costume Design, Fox (Melbourne Fringe 2023); Scenic Artist and Fabrication, Stars On Mars (A Blanck Canvas 2023); & Set Construction, Trash Pop Butterflies (Theatre Works 2023).



TOM VULCAN LIGHTING DESIGNER

Tom is a Naarm/Melbourne based production designer, lighting designer and technician. He has a keen interest in the manipulation of space and creation of bold aesthetics and recently completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production) at VCA. His work was recognised with the 2022 Lionel Gell Foundation scholarship for excellence. His VCA credits include Set and Costume Designer for devised theatre production 'Rarely' (dev. Theatre Making Cohort 2022) and 'Gesturing Weaving Unfolding' (chor. James Batchelor), and Lighting Designer for 'Heathers the Musical' (dir. Alister Smith). Other credits include Lighting Designer for 'MinusOneSister' (dir. Marni Mount) and 'Home Economics' (dir. Stephanie Lee).



JESSAMINE MOFFETT COSTUME DESIGNER

Jessamine Moffett is a recent graduate from the VCA and is a Naarm (Melbourne) based, disabled designer with a passion for theatre, live performance, film & television. She has an Advanced Diploma in Professional Screenwriting from RMIT and won the award for Outstanding Student Performance. Wanting to further develop her skills in film she completed the Film Foundations at VCA. Through Foundations she worked on several short films which ignited her love for production design, costume & the art department. She then completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Production at VCA with a focus on set and costume design and costume construction. Since graduating, she has been working as an emerging costume designer in both indie theatre and at her old secondary school.



JESS KEEFFE SOUND DESIGNER

Jess Keffe, theatre-maker, multi-instrumentalist and composer enjoys a variety of musical and theatrical pursuits. Recent work includes Poona (Next Wave), The Human Voice (Periscope), What Every Girl Should Know (Brunswick Mechanics Institute), Unsuckle (La Mama), Disparate Scenes for Millennial Dreams (Periscope), All The Locks are Solid & Tight (La Mama Explorations), Nomnomnom at Testing Grounds (Roshelle Fong), RUR2020 (Playreactive), Her Father's Daughter (Hotel Now), Renae Shadler RESTORE (Winner: RAV Market Ready, nominated for Best Performance, Melbourne Fringe), The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui (Theatreworks), The Seagull (Black Apple Theatre), In the Dark (Metanoia), and In The Bleak Midwinter (as cellist, Malthouse, The Rabble). In 2016 she was selected for the MTC's inaugural Women in Theatre Program and seconded to John with Russell Goldsmith. She performs around Australia as a cellist and electronic artist under the name Tarsier.



LARA GABOR OPERATOR

Lara is a lighting & digital media designer and technician based in Naarm/Melbourne. Her upbringing in Singapore fostered a passion for multidisciplinary work which has flourished upon relocating back to Australia. In 2023, Lara completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Production at the VCA. Lara's credits include; Lighting and Vision Designer on Clare Barron's 'Dance Nation' (Dir. Emily Tomlins, 2023) and also devised contemporary work 'Gesturing Weaving Unfolding' (Chor. James Batchelor, 2023). In addition to technical roles such as Programmer and Operator on contemporary dance works; 'Theatrum Botanicum' (Dir. Gregory Lorenzutti, 2022) and Deputy Electrician, Programmer and Operator on 'Alter Kinetic' (Chor. Lucy Guerin, Ngioka Bunda-Heath, Julie Minaai, 2022).



ISABELLA VADIVELOO INTIMACY CONSULTANT

Isabella is a theatre director and intimacy director. She has trained with United States based organisation Theatrical Intimacy Education, with specialisations in trauma informed intimacy choreography and working with Global Majority artists at the intersection of intimacy and race. Recent intimacy direction work includes Meet Me at Dawn, 37, and I Wanna Be Yours (MTC), A Year of Dating, Promiscuous Cities, Variations or Exit Music, Last Time, and Reigen. Screen work includes ABC TV/Black Sheep Films series White Fever, & independent films The Latcher and Low Frequency. Isabella also works in the VCA Arts Theatre Department as a tutor and resident intimacy director.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Anthropocene Play Company and Theatre Works acknowledges First Nations' sovereignty and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities by traditional custodians of country throughout Australia.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures:
and to elders past and present.

We support and contribute to the process of reconciliation.
Always was. Always will be. Aboriginal Land.

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THANK YOU

Cate Crowley & Team (Chapel Off Chapel), Robin Batt, Grahame Coleman, Greg Elms, Sophie Muckart, Mark Diaco, Jeni Bezuidenhout, Nick Grant-Collins, Bunnings Hawthorn, Ismail Taylor-Kamara, Jalen Ong, Kevin Bourke, Ann Musat, Sarit Musat, Roe and Georgie, Howard Fine Studios, Gabby McDonald, Narelle Aspery, Jo Briscoe, Wendy and Alan Hunt, Eloise Kent, Shannon Loughnane.

20% of the profits from the sale of tickets for this show will be donated to Bravehearts:
An Australian child protection not-for-profit organisation, solely dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse.

