

**EDWARD
ALBEE'S
WHO'S
AFRAID
OF
VIRGINIA
WOOLF****MEDIA RELEASE****DIRECTOR: IAIN SINCLAIR****SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER: MICHAEL HANKIN****ASSISTANT SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER: JEREMY ALLEN****LIGHTING DESIGNER: SIAN JAMES-HOLLAND****WARDROBE COORDINATOR: RENATA BESLIK****CAST: DARREN GILSHENAN, GENEVIEVE LEMON,
CLAIRE LOVERING, BRANDON McCLELLAND**

In Edward Albee's superb masterpiece, academic couple **George (Darren Gilshenan)** and **Martha (Genevieve Lemon)** have invited their new colleagues **Nick (Brandon McClelland)** and **Honey (Claire Lovering)** over for drinks. It's a seemingly innocent occasion, but there's a hidden agenda at play. As the booze flows, the night gets darker and so does the conversation, until the drama spirals towards its explosive and cathartic conclusion. With award-winning writer Albee's razor-sharp script, a stunning cast and Iain Sinclair's impeccable direction, this will be a night of unmissable theatre.

This is **Iain Sinclair's** directorial debut for Ensemble Theatre. Highlights of Iain's career include critically acclaimed productions of *Our Town* for STC at the Opera House, his own translation of Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, *The Beast* by Eddie Perfect and *Of Mice and Men* which received a record ten Sydney Theatre Award nominations and won 3, including Best Director.

Darren Gilshenan last appeared at Ensemble Theatre in *Absent Friends*. His other theatre credits include *Tartuffe* for Black Swan, *Machu Picchu*, *Loot*, *Tot Mom*, *The White Guard* and *Our Town* for STC and *Strictly Ballroom The Musical*. On television Darren is best known for his ongoing roles in *Here Come the Habibs!* and *A Moody Christmas*, he's also appeared in *Devil's Playground* and *Rake*.

Genevieve Lemon has most recently appeared in the films *The Dressmaker* and *Holding the Man*. She appeared in *Tribes* last year at Ensemble and has decades of theatre, tv and film credits to her name including TV's *The Secret River* and *Redfern Now*. She won both a Helpmann Award and Sydney Theatre Award for Best Actress for her role as Mrs Wilkinson in the musical *Billy Elliot* which she toured nationally and played in the UK.

Claire Lovering is a WAAPA graduate who recently appeared in the TV series *Hyde and Seek* and *Wonderland*. Her theatre credits include *The Importance of Being Ernest* for Sport for Jove, *River* at Old 505 and *Detroit* for Darlinghurst Theatre Co. She has also worked for Black Swan in Perth, MTC and QTC.

Brandon McClelland is a NIDA graduate who recently appeared in the film *Truth* and the STC production *The Present*, which also toured to Broadway. He's also appeared in *Suddenly Last Summer* and *The Golden Age* for STC. His television credits include *Here Come the Habibs!*, *Love Child*, *Return of the Devils Playground* and *ANZAC girls*.

"A wry and electric evening in the theatre... punctuated by comedy and laughter shot through with savage irony... wildly and humanely hilarious... brims over with howling furies that do not drown out a fierce compassion." The New York Times (original review)

"A masterpiece." The New York Times

SEASON DETAILS: EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

VENUE: Ensemble Theatre, 78 McDougall St, Kirribilli, NSW, 2061

DATES: Previews from 11 May, 2017, opening night Wed 17 May, season to Sun 18 June, 2017.

PERFORMANCE TIMES: vary check website: <http://ensemble.com.au/whats-on/plays/whos-afraid-of-virginia-woolf>

PRICES: \$42-\$71 (booking charges may apply) **BOOKINGS:** 02 9929 0644 or www.ensemble.com.au

RUNNING TIME: Approx 3 hrs including interval. Some strong language and adult themes. Recommended for ages 15+

FURTHER INFORMATION / INTERVIEWS / IMAGES please contact: Merran Doyle, (02) 8918 3434, merran@ensemble.com.au or 0419 999 607