

# KING LEAR

## CAST

Lear	David Ritchie
Regan	Abigail Austin
Goneril	Angela Bauer
Cordelia/Oswald	Scarlett Ritchie
Edgar/Cornwall/Burgundy	Lee Jones
Edmond/Kent/France	James Lugton
Gloucester/Albany	Barry French
Fool/Narrator	Mémé Thorne

## PRODUCTION

Director	David Ritchie/Gertraud Ingeborg
Set / Lighting Design	Tony Youlden
Front of House	John Calvi, Johannes Swaton
Sound Operator	Ruth Horsfall
Lighting Operator	Meridy Kershaw Johannes Swaton
Stage Manager	John Calvi
Asst. Stage Mgr.	Rhianne Evelyn-Ross Meridy Kershaw

## THANK YOU

Phil Carrick, Synergy Percussion, Meredith Brooks, Jeff Gray.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Shakespeare was first and foremost a popular dramatist; he has an exuberant and irreverent theatricality which is often undervalued in the disproportionate focus on his colossal dramatic ability – (especially and ironically in the English-speaking world). We try to value both his drama and his theatricality. But we don't use gimmicks – the theatricality in our productions derives from Shakespeare's texts.

Great drama is based more on unsettling questions, than on comfortable answers. In the eye of the storm the question is asked 'Is man no more than this?' – a poor, bare, forked animal. Just as searching is the implicit question 'what is woman?' in a play of two fathers and five children, where mothers are significant by their absence the final stage image poses the most disturbing question – what future has a land where the young women are all dead, all childless?

Like a vast symphony King Lear plays variations on 'nothing', and ends in the utter bleakness of the echoing 'never'. The wastelands inflicted on the wretched of the earth by callous and incompetent fools is on our television screens nightly.

Episode 1 : The Kingdom and Houses Divided.

Episode 2 : Into the Storm.

Episode 3 : The Edge of the Abyss.

## ABIGAIL AUSTIN

Abigail completed her training at UWS Nepean at the end of 2004. Whilst at Nepean her credits included Pentecost, Julius Caesar, The Visit, and Crave. More recently she has performed in the Bareskin production of Friday Night Drinks and Gumption Uber Theatre's production of Howard Barker's The Europeans as a part of Darlinghurst Theatre's In the Raw festival. After playing Regan in the 2006 Harlos production of King Lear she appeared in two shows at the New Theatre; playing the lead role of Southern American Writer, Carson McCullers, in Singing The Lonely Heart directed by Alex Galeazzi, followed by a portrayal of 12yr old Milena in the Serbian play, Family Stories: Belgrade directed by Nicholas Pickard. She has just finished playing the role of 'Harper' in New Theatre's production of Angels In America, directed by Alex Galeazzi.



## ANGELA BAUER

Since graduating from UWS Nepean Angela's theatre credits include 7 Stories (Ensemble Theatre), African Gothic (Old Fitzroy), Over Exposed (Kantanka) He Died with a Felafel In His Hand (Slem Productions), Dip Me In Honey And Throw Me To The Bees (Stables), and I Am The Maestro (Lookout Theatre). For Sydney Art Theatre: The Mother, The Malady of Death, Macbeth and Under Milkwood. For Harlos Productions: Isolde and Tristan, Othello, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, King Lear and Hamlet, in which Angela played the title role. Most recent credits are Splendour for Queensize Productions (Old Fitzroy) and Pugilist Specialist for Flightpath Productions (Darlinghurst Theatre).



## MÉMÉ THORNE

Mémé Thorne began her career in physical theatre in 1980 with the International Research Theatre Group Kiss in the Netherlands. Between 1984 and 2000 she co-created, choreographed and performed in most of Sidetrack Performance Group's performance works. In 1991 and 1992 Mémé studied in Japan with Tadashi Suzuki of the Suzuki Company of Toga and is an accredited teacher of the Suzuki Method of Actor Training. She has taught for Ausdance, Tasdance, Dance South, Zootango, Theatre of the Deaf, Sidetrack, Stalker, Frumpus, Urban Theatre Projects and other independent groups. Her solo works include Flossing the Bride, Burying Mother; Nobody's Daughter and The Spider Witch written for her by John du Feu and directed by Jean-Pierre Voos (co-collaborators in KISS).

Recent roles include: Salome and Herodius in Jean-Pierre Voos' award winning production of Oscar Wilde's Salome in Townsville; Alex for Griffin Theatre's production of Songket at the Studio, directed by Ros Horin; the lead role in 'The Empress of China' by Ruth Wolff, directed by Joseph Uchitel for Belvoir Street's B Sharp; Goneril in Harlos Production's King Lear in 2005; Old Ning in William Yang's Emma's Dynasty for Jigsaw Theatre Company in 2007 For television, Mémé was a presenter for Here's Humphrey and the Curiosity Show in the 70s and has appeared in guest roles for Above The Law, Wildside, Murder Call, All Saints, Love My Way and numerous TV



advertisements, corporate videos and short films with AFTRS and SAFC. She has been a recipient of three grants from the Australia Council and was invited to participate as an advisor on the Dance Fund (1997) and the Theatre Fund (2000). Mémé is a proud member of Actors' Equity since 1978.

## RUTH HORSFALL

Ruth's theatre credits include Sound Operator for Corpus Christi and Rainbow Collection (New Theatre 2008), Stage Manager for Hamlet, James & the Giant Peach (New Theatre 2008), Oh, What a Lovely War, Mate! & Badjelly the Witch (New Theatre 2007) and Into the Woods (BLOC Seymour Centre 2007). She has also performed in Traitors (new theatre 2007) and the moved reading of Dead White Males (New Theatre 2008). Ruth is a member of MEAA.



## GERTRAUD INGBORG

Gertraud has been working for the stage as an actress, producer and director since 1986. She has many leading roles to her credit, working here as well as overseas. Her directing credits include Siberia, (Lookout Theatre), The Bald Prima Donna (George Moore Theatre), Punch & Judy (Sidetrack Theatre, George Moore Theatre), 610 Bedford Drive (Lookout Theatre), Laundry & Bourbon (A Full House Production), The Dog Logs (Darlinghurst Theatre) and Lunch with Ludwig (New Theatre).



## LEE JONES

Lee is a graduate of Theatre Nepean 2003. Productions included A Winter's Tale, Tales from the Couch, Road and the Jungle. Other credits include Gumption Uber Theatre's The Europeans Darlinghurst Theatre, Our Town' and The Tempest' - New Theatre, Baby with the Bathwater Sidetrack Theatre, La Musica' - Newtown Theatre, Siren Theatre Company's Duck' for B Sharp, Titus The Murder Ballads Musical Darlinghurst Theatre, The Tempest Harlos, Merchant of Venice B Sharp Ride on, The Busy World is Hushed Ensemble Theatre. Films include My Audition, Gunadoo Bakery, Kreig, Street Football- Yoram Gross/Flying Bark..



## JAMES LUGTON

James has most recently appeared in I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change for Salamanda Theatre, Pugilist Specialist for Flightpath/Darlinghurst, and The Greatest Show On Earth for the Queensland Music Festival. Other stage appearances include The Golden Ass (Flightpath/B Sharp), The Frail Man (Lightbox/Darlinghurst Theatre), Romeo & Juliet (Alchemy Theatre), A Midsummer Night's Dream and Much Ado About Nothing (Nightsky Productions), Bottom in Tony Taylor's production of The Popular Mechanicals (Two-Way Productions), In The Blood (Queensize/ B Sharp), Hamlet and Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead (in rep for Harlos) and Christopher Johnson's Backpacker and Barnsey, The Harbour and You (Darlinghurst Theatre). TV and film appearances include Home and Away, All Saints, Water Rats, Garage Days, Queen of the Night, and BMX Bandits. James played Edmond/Kent for Harlos' King Lear last year and is pleased to be back for a second shot at it! He really will behave this time.



## SCARLETT RITCHIE

Scarlett graduated from Theatre Nepean in 2004. Her final credits included 'Julius Caesar' and 'Pentecost'. She has also worked as stage manager and light and sound operator for Harlos Productions. She recently returned from overseas. Whilst travelling she worked in theatre production in Cape Town and London. Scarlett also played Cordelia/Oswald for Harlos' Productions in last year's production of King Lear.



## TONY YOULDEN

Tony's involvement with the theatre spans over forty-five years. Tony has worked as a freelance designer for most of Australia's performing arts companies. He has lit over four hundred theatre, opera, and ballet productions. He has just retired as Technical Director from NIDA where he worked for over sixteen years. His association with Harlos Productions includes being Lighting Designer for King Lear and many productions over the past eighteen years. In addition Tony has acted as a theatre consultant advising on the re-development of the Capitol Theatre, the Broadwalk Studio at the Sydney Opera House, and the new NIDA Stage II complex, as well as many educational theatres.



## BARRY FRENCH

Most recently appeared in Hamlet at the New Theatre after doing set design for The Beauty Queen of Leenane (Wildfire Productions) and Short and Sweet 2008. Had a busy 2007 with Directing - Tango Masculino and Traitors (New Theatre), Set design and performing in City for Sale (Darlo) and Oh, What a Lovely War, Mate! (New Theatre). Shakespearean credits include: Hamlet, King Lear, Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew, Comedy of Errors, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night. Barry has a BA (Dramatic Art) majoring in acting and design, several years experience working in Theatre in Education, and is a member of Equity.



## DAVID RITCHIE

This year David has played Dr. Cornelius in Wolverine (starring Hugh Jackman) ; Ray Churchill in Out of the Blue (BBC/ Southern Star) & Claudius in Hamlet (New Theatre). He was also the main reader in a new experimental series on ABC Classic FM, The Lyric Voice, which offered a mixture of poetry, prose & classical music, devised & produced by Phil Carrick, as well as voicing Mawson on the feature-length documentary Mawson, Life & Death in the Antarctic (Channel 4/ABC TV).



Last year he also directed Getraud Ingeborg & Abigail Austin in the premiere of Angelika Fremd's play Belle of the Cross, & played Prospero in The Tempest for Harlos Productions at the Bondi Pavilion (directed by Damien Millar), & directed King Lear at the same venue with Maeliosa Stafford in the title rôle. Screen work last year included the Magnus in the feature film Disgrace (starring John Malkovich), Stupid Stupid Man, & Chandon Pictures for Fox TV.

## HARLOS PRODUCTIONS

Since 1986 Harlos Productions has brought outstanding new European plays to Australian audiences starting with Edward Bond's The Fool and Tom Stoppard's Dog's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth (Bondi Pavilion) followed by Franz Xaver Krötz's Stallerhof (1989 Belvoir St Downstairs), Heiner Müller's Quartett (1990 Adelaide Festival & Seymour Center) and many more. The excellent reviews and audience responses to these productions have continued as the company's director, Gertraud Harlos, has been involved in innovative and contemporary Shakespearean productions. Harlos has co-produced Othello (2000), King Lear (2001) and produced King Lear (2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007), Hamlet and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (2003) and The Tempest (2007) at the Bondi Pavilion. The company has also been involved in developing and staging new Australian works: Punch & Judy by Frank Gauntlett, Pandora's Garden by Cameron Sharp and Belle of the Cross by Angelika Fremd. Last year Harlos together with Queensize Productions staged 'Splendour' by Abi Morgan at the Old Fitzroy which received excellent reviews.

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# PROGRAMME



## HARLOS PRODUCTIONS

[www.harlos.com.au](http://www.harlos.com.au)

Our next show:

**Hamlet**  
by William Shakespeare  
**Bondi Pavilion Theatre**  
2009