

# AS YOU LIKE IT



ALL THE  
WORLD'S A STAGE  
AND ALL THE MEN  
AND WOMEN  
PLAYERS: THEY HAVE  
THEIR EXITS AND THEIR  
ENTRANCES, AND ONE BY ONE  
IN HIS TIME PLAYS SEVERAL  
PARTS, HIS SEVERAL  
BEING SEVERAL  
AGES.

**Shakespeare in the Vines**  
**An Essential Theatre Production**

**20**  
YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY

essential  
theatre 

# Welcome!

## It's our 20th anniversary tour!

We still can't believe we are celebrating such a huge milestone. When we think back to our first Shakespeare in the Vines tour we never would have imagined being here 20 years later. But here we are and it's thanks to you, our audience, our venues and all of the amazing creatives who have worked with us over the years.

In our 20 years of independent theatre making we have put on 26 productions, including 458 performances across 88 locations, including Scotland and New Zealand. We have also employed 204 artists and 58 other creatives over this time.

Not bad for a couple of bright eyed acting students who met at drama school 24 years ago!

While so many arts organisations weathered postponements and cancellations, we have survived. We certainly haven't let the last 2 years get us down - in fact we're the busiest we've ever been. Maybe it was the realisation that we may never get to share Shakespeare with you that had us more focused to find ways to be hopeful & creative.

Our 20th anniversary year is huge. Not only do we have As You Like It touring

the country we have The Dream Laboratory, an immersive theatrical experience running in Geelong throughout January. And if that's not enough to keep us on our toes we're presenting the Australian Premiere of the smash hit London production Emilia by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm at Arts Centre Melbourne in November 2022. Be sure to follow us to keep up to date with all that we're doing.

For now welcome back to Shakespeare in the Vines. More than ever we realise the gift of live theatre, and what it is to share this collective experience - share the heartbeat. With so many of us confined to our 4 walls in recent months we can now share this communal experience - that is the beauty and magic of live theatre.

With heartfelt gratitude we thank you for being a part of this 20th anniversary celebration.

## Amanda and Sophie

 [@essentialtheatreaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/essentialtheatreaustralia)

 [@essentialtheatre](https://www.facebook.com/essentialtheatre)

 [@essentialtheatre](https://www.twitter.com/essentialtheatre)

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

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

# Essential Theatre

## 20 years of independent theatre making.

We hope you enjoy our online program.

If you would like to contribute please follow the link below.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

### \$2

as a gold **coin**  
**donation** toward  
program costs

### \$20

if you're **feeling**  
**generous**

### \$50

if you'd like to be a  
**solid supporter** of  
independent theatre

**SUPPORT US**



# 'All the world's a stage'

## The Tale

Rosalind has had a big day. She's seen her first wrestling match, fallen in love with the winner - who is then banished from court - and then her jealous uncle, Duke Frederick, banishes her from court too! Disguised as a boy, she sets forth into exile with her best friend, Celia, to find her father, the former Duke, and her new love, Orlando, in the wild and wondrous Forest of Arden. Along the way, they meet a motley crew of characters and use the freedom of disguise to test the strength of "love at first sight".



Rosalind in disguise (Freya Pragt)

## Director's Notes

Love is merely a madness...

This is what I keep coming back to again and again with *As You Like It*; the central theme of love. And not just the romantic kind that flickers and dies like a struck match, but the eternal kind that survives and even thrives in spite of adversity;

The love of a daughter for her absent father.  
The love of brothers despite circumstances driving them to hate.

The love of sisters in a world that tells women to just be pretty and silent or be dead.

Love for a leader even when they've been deposed.

Love for chaos and anarchy.

Unrequited love.

Sacrificial love.

Even the simple love of a shepherd for his sheep...

There's never been a better time to be reminded of love in all its forms and the ways in which it throws us around, makes us really uncomfortable, and can lead to some strange capers.

I hope you have fun. I hope you laugh and smile, drink and be merry, revel in the shared experience of live theatre again (huzzah!), and enjoy this beautiful land we gently tour upon. Live art is a gift. We have devoted our lives to the sharing of great and powerful stories - as well as silly love tales - so that you can connect with your heart and with each other while we play.

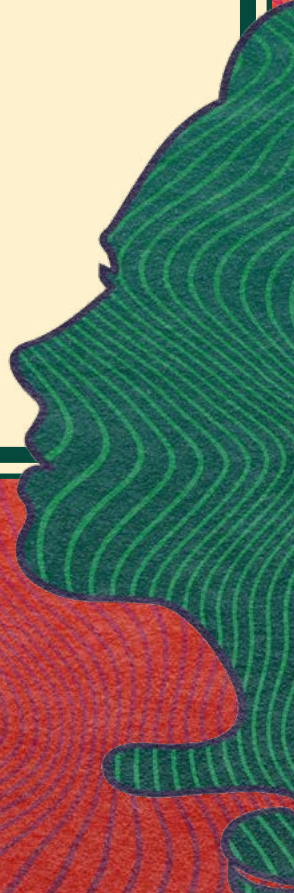
All the world's a stage indeed.  
What will you do on yours?

## Creative Team

<b>Director</b>	Sharon Davis
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Benjamin Nichol
<b>Designer</b>	Zoe Rouse
<b>Producing Company</b>	Essential Theatre
<b>Production Managers</b>	Amanda LaBonté & Sophie Lampel
<b>Tour Managers</b>	Helen Hopkins & Mia Landgren
<b>Production Photography</b>	Theresa Harrison

## Cast

<b>Emma Choy</b>	Le Beau/Silvius/Audrey
<b>Louis Corbett</b>	Oliver/Amiens/Sir Oliver Martext
<b>Grant Foulkes</b>	Jaques/Charles the Wrestler/William
<b>Helen Hopkins</b>	Touchstone/Phoebe
<b>Mia Landgren</b>	Celia/Adam
<b>Joshua Monaghan</b>	Orlando
<b>Cameron Moore</b>	Duke Senior/Duke Frederick/Corin
<b>Freya Pragt</b>	Rosalind



GEELONG AND  
THE BELLARINE  
**GREATER  
> THAN**  
STAYING HOME  
ALONE.



**CHEERS TO EASED RESTRICTIONS AND FUN WITH FRIENDS.**

Now's the time to catch up with the people you've missed, and there's loads of ways to do that in Geelong and The Bellarine. It's greater than the sum of its parts, and greater with the people you love.

NEED INSPIRATION ON WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO?  
HEAD TO [WWW.VISITGEELONGBELLARINE.COM.AU](http://WWW.VISITGEELONGBELLARINE.COM.AU)

GEELONG AND  
THE BELLARINE  
**GREATER  
> THAN**  
THE SUM OF  
ITS PARTS.



CRITTENDEN ESTATE®



## MORNINGTON PENINSULA'S ICONIC CRITTENDEN ESTATE

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1982

*As one of the Mornington Peninsula's oldest wineries, we are passionate about making quality cool climate wines that reflect this incredible winemaking region.*

*Sustainable and regenerative viticultural practices are at the heart of our family's success. These practices were initiated in the mid 2000s and have continued to evolve and elevate our wines to a new level.*



CRITTENDEN ESTATE  
25 HARRISONS ROAD  
DROMANA VIC 3936  
5987 3800

JOIN US IN THE RECENTLY RENOVATED CRITTENDEN WINE CENTRE

*Exemplary customer service provided by our knowledgeable and friendly team ensure you will leave with a new favourite wine or two in hand.*

OPEN DAILY, BOOKINGS (ONLINE) ARE RECOMMENDED.

WWW.CRITTENDENWINES.COM.AU

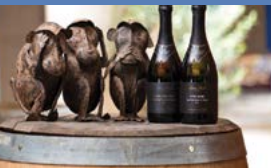




# Leura Park

**sensational wines in a funky, rustic chic setting**

- AWARD WINNING WINES • GUIDED TASTINGS
- STUNNING PIZZAS & PLATTERS
- LIVE MUSIC SUNDAYS 60'S, 70'S, 80'S
- FINGERFOOD FUNCTIONS & WEDDINGS



*Leura Park*  
ESTATE

premium cool maritime climate wines

*Life is Short. Celebrate well!*

**LEURA PARK ESTATE 1400 PORTARLINGTON RD CURLEWIS 03 5253 3180**

**E:** [functions@leuraparkestate.com.au](mailto:functions@leuraparkestate.com.au) [www.leuraparkestate.com.au](http://www.leuraparkestate.com.au) FOLLOW US ...   

**OPEN THURSDAY – SUNDAY & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 11:00AM–5PM, OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.**

# Emma Choy



Emma Choy has for the past 25 years worked extensively in Australia and the UK. Her screen highlights include Australian feature "Darklands", directed by Scott Major, "Speed Dating" (Buena Vista Films) and "The Vanguard" (Lionsgate), and for stage, the Green Room Award Winning "Mr Burns: a post electric play" and cult West End hit "Saucy Jack & the Space Vixens". Her early training began after she won a scholarship to St Martin's Youth Theatre, from there she went on to study Musical Theatre at WAAPA and is an ongoing student of Howard Fine. Emma is beyond excited to now be playing in the vines with Essential Theatre!

# Louis Corbett



Louis is a graduate of 16th Street Actors Studio and the Shakespeare Summer School at RADA. Recently, he was part of the original Melbourne cast of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, playing at the Princess Theatre. Other theatre credits include: Philtrum (North of Eight), Dragged (La Mama for Midsumma), Rising Water (MTC) and All My Sons (MTC). He has appeared on television in Wentworth (Foxtel), Romper Stomper (Stan), House Husbands (Nine), Blue Heelers (Seven) and We Can Be Heroes (ABC) and his film credits include The Dragon Pearl, Charlotte's Web and Macbeth.

# Sharon Davis

(She/Her)



Sharon is a graduate of The Victorian College of the Arts and works in both the commercial and independent theatre sector as an actor, director, dramaturg, and teaching artist. She has toured extensively with commercial stage productions such as Australia Day and Mother & Son as well as the highly popular and successful Shakespeare in the Vines tour for Essential Theatre. As You Like It is the first time she will be directing for Essential Theatre. Her critically acclaimed directorial debut of Katy Warner's Spencer garnered two Green Room Award nominations and highlighted her natural instinct for the development of new Australian writing. This led to her joining Lab Kelpie's artistic leadership team with a focus on the development of new Australian writing for the stage. Sharon is a fierce advocate for Australian artists and stories both in her artistic work and her active role as the Victorian President of Equity. She sits on the National Performers Committee and the Equity Wellness Committee ensuring performers and the wider industry are valued, informed, and protected in their work.

# Grant Foulkes



Grant graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (Acting) in 2007. His Shakespeare performances covers roles including Romeo and Mercutio (R&J), Benedick and Claudio (Much Ado), Horatio (Hamlet), Demetrius and Peter Quince (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Malvolio (12th Night), Macduff and Porter (Macbeth). He has worked and toured across Aus and NZ for companies including Complete Works, Shakespeare Australia, Bar'd Work, Arena Theatre (Australian Marriage Act), The Artisan Collective (Requiem for Dalinka), Jager Productions (Barassi), White Whale (Macbeth Re-Arises), Branch Theatre (Crazy Brave), New Theatricals (Boeing Boeing), The National Theatre of Great Britain/Global Creatures (Warhorse) and of course, Essential Theatre where this is Grant's seventh Shakespeare in the Vines tour.

# Helen Hopkins



Helen has previously performed with Essential Theatre as Feste in Twelfth Night, the title role in Julius Caesar for Melbourne, Adelaide and Edinburgh Fringe and in two separate productions of Romeo and Juliet playing Tybalt and most recently Friar Laurence. Co-founder of The Shift Theatre with Carolyn Bock, together they wrote, produced and performed in The Girls in Grey, about Australian army nurses during World War 1, which toured Victoria, N.S.W. and W.A. It is published by Currency Press. Their play Hallowed Ground - Women Doctors in War had a premiere season at La Mama and toured Victoria, Adelaide Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe where it received a Summerhall Lustrum Award. #NoExemptions and Garage Girls are new shows premiering for The Shift Theatre in 2022. Helen appeared in the Green Room Award winning In Angel Gear and Green Room Award nominated ensemble The Merry Wives of Windsor.

# Mia Landgren



Mia completed her acting degree in America at the New York Film Academy. She has since enjoyed a varied and exciting career performing Shakespeare in both Australia and New Zealand. Mia is proud to have performed and toured regularly with Pop-up Globe, Australian Shakespeare Company, Theatre iNQ and Essential Theatre. Other credits include the acclaimed Australian stage premiere of Margaret Atwood's THE PENELOPIAD and Australian feature film MUTT. Mia is thrilled to join Essential Theatre's 20th anniversary production of As You Like It.

# Joshua Monaghan



Joshua Monaghan is an actor and theatre maker who graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Theatre Practice) in 2015. Josh toured with Essential Theatre for the first time in 2021's 'Romeo and Juliet' and recently featured in Season 2 of Nine Network comedy series 'Metro Sexual'. In 2020, Josh featured in indie-comedy film 'Genre Confusion' which went on to win the Audience Choice Award for the Melbourne Lift-Off Film Festival. Joshua has appeared on some of Australia's most iconic TV series, including "Neighbours" and "Halifax: Retribution".

# Cameron Moore



Graduating from the VCA School of Drama in 2007, Cameron is an actor, teacher and dramaturg based in Melbourne, Australia. In 2013 he participated in the International Actors Fellowship at Shakespeare's Globe in London, going on to play Antonio in the Merchant of Venice, directed by Bill Buckhurst. He has toured wineries around Australia and NZ with Essential Theatre as Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet, Malvolio in Twelfth Night, and Don Pedro/Watchman #2 in Much Ado About Nothing, and has taught and toured nationally for Bell Shakespeare as Macbeth (Macbeth Undone), Friar Lawrence (Romeo and Juliet), and Bottom (Midsummer Madness). In 2018 he performed with the Pop-Up Globe in Auckland and Sydney, and his most recent TV credits include Wentworth, Preacher and Halifax: Retribution.

# Benjamin Nichol



Benjamin Nichol is a writer, actor and director, holding a BFA (Acting) and a MFA (Writing) from the VCA. He has had writing commissioned for development with the Melbourne Theatre Company, City of Melbourne, Darebin Speakeasy, ATYP and Theatre Works. In 2021 his writing/directorial debut 'kerosene' premiered to critical acclaim and an extended season. He teaches regularly with the Fresh Theatre for Social Change and has directed 7 productions with their Ringwood branch. He is currently Chantilly Studio's Artist in Residence.

# Freya Pragt



An acting graduate from the VCA, Freya's practice gravitates towards the comedic, explored through heightened physicality, collaborative theatre making and puppetry. Freya toured the country for a number of years playing Jill in the theatre adaptations of the best selling books, The 26- 78- and 91 Storey Treehouse. Select recent credits include: 4 Days Sober (feature film 2021); Skull Squires (A Blanck Canvas 2021); Mara KORPER (Theatreworks 2021) and Dinosaur Zoo (Erth Visual & Physical / WA Museum 2021). She was recently awarded an international residency in Snæfellsnes, Iceland, for the award nominated Purgatorio. Freya is occasionally described as funny.

# Zoe Rouse

(She/Her)



Zoe is a freelance set, costume and textile designer, maker and stylist. Based in Melbourne, she is a Victorian College of The Arts Production School alumni and a recent graduate of Textile Design at RMIT. Some of her theatre design credits include normal.suburban, planetary.meltdown (Stage: Malthouse Theatre), The Retreat ( Stage/Screen: Western Edge Youth Arts), The Sky is Well Designed (Stage: Fabricated Rooms), Grief and the Lullaby (Stage: Fabricated Rooms), Ground Control (Stage: Double Water Sign), Company by Stephen Sondheim (Stage: Watch This), We Get It (Stage: Elbow Room), Motion of Light in Water (Stage: Elbow Room), Now More Than Ever (Stage: Elbow Room), Menagerie (Stage: The Daniel Schlusser Ensemble), I am the Wind (Stage: Turtle Lab), Limbo(Stage: Strut and Fret) and many more.



# AS YOU LIKE IT – TOUR DATES

## VICTORIA

***Preview Thursday 13th January***

Williamstown Botanic Gardens

***Saturday 15th January***

Greenstone Vineyards, Yarra Valley

***Saturday 29th January***

Fowles Wine, Avenel

***Sunday 30th January***

Delatite Wines, Mansfield

***Thursday 10th February***

Portland Botanic Gardens

***Friday 11th February***

Leura Park Estate, Bellarine Peninsula

***Saturday 12th February***

Leura Park Estate, Bellarine Peninsula

***Sunday 13th February***

Brighton Town Hall Gardens

***Sunday 20th February***

Moira Arts & Culture, Byramine  
Homestead

***Saturday 26th February***

Gapsted Wines, Myrtleford

***Sunday 27th February***

Civic Park, Warragul

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

***Friday 21st January***

Deviation Road, Adelaide Hills

***Saturday 22nd January***

Seppeltsfield Wines, Barossa Valley

***Friday 4th February***

Sevenhill Cellars, Clare Valley

***Saturday 5th February***

Sevenhill Cellars, Clare Valley

***Sunday 6th February***

Coriole Vineyards, McLaren Vale

## NEW SOUTH WALES

***Saturday 5th March***

Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens,  
Batemans Bay

***Sunday 6th March***

Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens,  
Batemans Bay

***Saturday 12th March***

Winehouse, Hunter Valley

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

***Friday 18th March***

Voyager Estate, Margaret River

***Saturday 19th March***

St Aidan Wines, Ferguson Valley

**For bookings visit**

[www.essentialtheatre.com.au/whats-on](http://www.essentialtheatre.com.au/whats-on)

Thank you to the  
Hobsons Bay City  
Council

