

The Effect

By Lucy Prebble

Directed by Pippa Grandison

Acknowledgement of country

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Fremantle Theatre Company acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Sponsors

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FTC received funds from Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund for this production.

A message from the Chair of the Board

Michelle Prater

Welcome to Fremantle Theatre Company's *The Effect*.

We are extremely proud to present Lucy Prebble's *The Effect*. Continuing our tradition of providing nurturing opportunities for all in the world of theatre, FTC is delighted to welcome, in her directing debut, Pippa Grandison. Pippa hails from WA and after decades on the East coast we have benefited from her decision to relocate home. This is our third independent director to join forces with us to provide, as always, visceral theatre that sparks conversation and reflection. With the appointment of our Composer, Arranger, Sound Design & Performer in Anna Sarcich, we are thrilled to provide this unique opportunity to yet another WA talent. Anna's music arrangement and performance will transport you into the world imagined by Lucy Prebble. And a huge thank you to our wildly talented cast and dedicated crew, who bring to life this challenging story.

FTC has produced works that have challenged and entertained over 6000 people (not including this performance) and given over 233 weeks of employment in the 22/23 season. We have travelled the countryside and witnessed firsthand, the joy that live theatre brings to people of all generations. It has been a privilege to personally witness this and it continued to cement for me the reasons why we do what we do.

This is the final production in our *Wind in our Sails* 2022/23 season and we hope you have all enjoyed the journey this year.

As always, this production is entirely thanks to the support of our amazing sponsors and donors who have shared the journey with us, giving us the financial ability to keep creating theatre and sharing stories with Perth and the regions. They literally are the 'wind in our sails'!

We thank them sincerely and invite you to join us while we contemplate the compelling question, what is love?

Michelle Prater



Chair

Director's Note

Pippa Grandison

I really didn't know what to write in a director's note. I looked at examples. I scribbled pages of attempts at smarty pants crap. None of it felt right. I'm not an intellectual. I'm not a wordsmith. I do know a good play when I read one though and Lucy Prebble's *The Effect* is a cracker. It poses questions rather than forcing an agenda on the audience and I love it for that. It creates a space in which we can observe richly drawn, relatable characters in an intense situation, leading us into self-exploration - if we dare. It asks us how we feel about love, how we feel about depression, how we feel about drugs and arguably most importantly - how we as human beings affect each other.

I'm not going to drop any spoilers by waxing lyrical about the plot. You're here (thank you btw) and no doubt you'll draw your own conclusions. I will say though that I am so thrilled this brave new company, the FTC, have trusted me with this production and that the fantabulous (that's a word) cast and creative crew I have been blessed to go on this journey with have made my debut as a theatre director a treat better than sex. Well...almost.

Thank you for coming out to support live theatre. Please sit back, open your hearts and turn off your electronic devices

Cheers, Pip



Pippa Grandison

Director

Pippa's stellar stage and screen career spans over thirty years. Her TV credits include: *Anyone's Daughter*, *Frayed* (seasons 1 & 2), *Here Come the Habibs!*, *Home & Away*, *Mr & Mrs Murder*, *Underbelly: Razor*, *Magical Tales*, *All Saints*, *Balmain Boys*, *South Pacific*, *Twisted Tales*, *Water Rats*, *E Street*, *GP*, *Brides of Christ*, *A Country Practice*, *Come in Spinner*. Film appearances include: *Book Week*, *Broke*, *Akoni*, *Mr Accident*, *A Change of Heart*, *Hotel de Love*, *Dating the Enemy*, *Over the Hill* and *Muriel's Wedding*. Theatre includes: Black Swan's 2022 production of *Barracking for the Umpire*, playing 'Judith Durham' in *Georgy Girl - The Seekers' Musical* (world premiere) for Farrelly Productions, 'Cinderella' in *Into the Woods*, and 'Anne' in *A Little Night Music* for Sydney Theatre Company, 'Betty Heslop' in *Muriel's Wedding: The Musical* for Global Creatures, 'Celimene' in *The Misanthrope* and 'Lucy' in *The Threepenny Opera* for Belvoir Street, 'Mrs Banks' in *Mary Poppins* for Disney/Cameron Mackintosh, 'Elphaba' in *Wicked* for GFO, 'Scaramouche' in *We Will Rock You* for Michael Coppel, 'Mrs Braddock' in *The Graduate*.

Pippa's first foray into directing was a production of *Heathers* for Palm Studios in NSW.

She then went on to assist director Kate Champion on the musical *Evie May* for the Hayes Theatre in Sydney, and was invited by WAAPA to direct another production of *Evie May* on her return to WA last year.

Cast



Carla Bonner

Dr Lorna James

Carla Bonner is an Australian entertainment industry veteran who stepped into the homes and hearts of viewers in 52 countries across the world in 1999 where she spent 19 years playing Steph Scully in Australia's longest running serial drama *Neighbours*.

Carla's theatre credits include: 'Cinderella' in the *Cinderella Pantomime* for Kudos Productions at the Alban Arena UK; 'Jess' in *A Second of Pleasure* (Neil Labute) TurtleLab Inc - Paola Unger; 'Emma' in *Stupid F**cking Bird* (Chekhov adaptation by Aaron Posner) Lightning Jar Productions/Peter Blackburn; and *Bloodties*- Annie Phelan, Melbourne - Parliament Stairs.

Carla's television credits include: *Superwog* for the ABC; *Ready For This* for ABC / Blackfella Productions; *Wentworth* with FremantleMedia; and *The Claremont Murders* for the Seven Network.



Oliver Wenn

Dr Toby Sealey

Oliver is a graduate of NIDA. His notable appearances include an international tour as the lead male on *The Sapphires* with Black Swan and Belvior Theatre companies, the lead in Martin McDonough's *Pillow Man* and Edward Albee's *Zoo Story*. He has also worked for Deck Chair Theatre, Performing Lines, & Griffin Theatre Companies. His television appearances include *Home & Away*, *Packed To The Rafters*, *Power Games*, *Rake*, *Top Of The Lake: China Girl*, *Peter Allen : Not The Boy Next Door*, and *The Secret Daughter*. In film Oliver has recently appeared in *I Met A Girl*, *How To Please A Woman* and *Escape & Evasion*. Oliver was the co-lead for a SBS funded short, *Tribunal* and appeared in *Mystery Road Origins* and *True Colours* both

Caitlin Ashley Thompson

Connie



Caitlin trained at the Groundlings school and Berg Studios in the US. Caitlin was cast as 'Maggie' in the Netflix series *Scream*. Subsequently she played 'Sunny Harrington' in the WarnerBros/CW's popular show, *Supernatural*. Caitlin cut her teeth on stage as a graduate of John Curtin College of the Arts and WAYTCO. She had been accepted in Vancouver Theatre Arts program before Covid hit and she returned to Australia. In 2023 Caitlin worked on a show for Network Nine. She is thrilled to be taking on the incredible role of 'Connie' in *The Effect* for Fremantle Theatre Company.



Adam Sollis

Tristan

Born and bred a stone's throw from Fremantle, Adam received his high school education at John Curtin College of the Arts before being accepted into the prestigious Acting program at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, graduating in 2014. For the past 8 years Adam has called Sydney home, but late last year returned to the West.

Adam's television and film credits include *Cloudstreet* [Screentime], *Stormworld* [Great Western Entertainment], *Angelfish* and *Boldly Go* [AFTRS], *Dance Academy: The Movie* [Werner Film Productions], *Riot* [ABC] and more recently *Home and Away* for the Seven Network.

Adam's theatre credits include *Tonsils and Tweezers* (Black Swan State Theatre Company) written and directed by Will O'Mahony, *Once In Royal David's City* (Queensland Theatre/BSSTC) directed by Sam Strong, *Hit and Necrophilia* (JackRabbit Theatre Company) written and directed by Lincoln Vickery, *WRATH* (KXT/Bakehouse) and *Shepherd* (Belvoir 25A) written and directed by Liam Maguire, and most recently the sold out season of *Never Closer*, another Belvoir 25A production, written by Grace Chapman and directed by Hannah Goodwin.

Creatives and Crew



Anna Sarcich

**Composer, Arranger, Sound
Design and Performer**

Born and raised in a family of classical musicians, it was only a matter of time before music became a major part of Anna's life. An initial attempt at the violin proved unsuccessful, and the move to cello opened up a whole new world of music making and love. From then on, Anna flourished on the instrument and within a few short months had gained entry into the WA Youth Orchestra and never looked back.

Anna has studied with many teachers, Dr Suzanne Wijsman (UWA) from high school to the end of her Bachelor Degree, Raphael Wallfisch (internationally acclaimed soloist) and Moray Welsh (ex-Principal Cellist LSO) in London, Michael Goldschlager (internationally acclaimed soloist) and Rod McGrath (WASO Principal Cellist) in Perth.

She maintains a freelance career alongside teaching the cello in Perth. This has led her to be well-versed in many areas of music making, not just classical music. She is a casual member of the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, Perth Symphony Orchestra and has been seen performing/touring with rock artists like Steve Kilbey from The Church and appearing in the contemporary theatre production *If I Drown I Can Swim* (a Corazon De Vaca and Yirra Yaakin production). At the beginning of 2017 she also had the great pleasure of touring with the UK band London Grammar as they headlined the Falls Festivals across Australia. She has also performed with the renowned Australian artist Lior. She loves the opportunities to perform in Musical Theatre, and has performed in Perth touring seasons of *Annie*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Mary Poppins*, *Les Miserables*, *Georgy Girl*, *The Sound of Music*, *Matilda*, *Aladdin* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *An American In Paris* and *Moulin Rouge*.

Anna is cellist, founder and manager of the group Flamingo Strings, an educational string quartet that visits schools to inspire and engage young minds through the power of classical music and live instrumental performance.



Renato Fabretti

Designer

Renato is FTC's Artistic Director and is very proud to have seen the company build from the midst of a pandemic panic. He is pleased to be supporting Pippa Grandison in her first theatre directing role and to be designing this outstanding play.

FTC kicked off with a wonderful debut show in *The Other Place* with the incomparable Kate Walsh and a stellar cast and crew of Fremantle's finest. And then on to the savagely political and funny Australian and International debut of *Meat* by Gillian Greer.

Renato directed the highly successful season of the rebooted Bankwest Shakespeare in the Park with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that toured to Leeuwin Estate, Bunbury and Albany before doing 2 weeks in Kings Park in 2021/22. Audiences were treated to a wonderful cast who really brought the play, with all its absurdity, to life.

In the 2022/23 season, Renato designed the *Last Train to Freo* as well as going on stage as an understudy and rehearsing other understudies into roles when the show was impacted by a COVID outbreak. Renato directed *Twelfth Night* for the Shakespeare in the Park season that again toured regionally, played in Kings Park and then performed at the Joondalup Arts Festival.

A graduate of WAAPA and NIDA, Renato has consistently worked as an Actor, Producer and Director - never knowing a time cushy enough to enjoy just the one role. As actor, he has appeared in theatre for companies like STCSA and Deckchair, in TV on shows like *Underbelly* and *All-Saints MVU*, on the web in *Single Ladies* and *Zac & Me*, and on the cinema screen, as most recently as 2021's *Greenfield* and the award-winning *Edward & Isabelle*. As director & producer, he's most enjoyed delivering killer shows to Perth like the best production winner *Motortown*, *Punk Rock*, *DNA*, *October* and new Aussie work *The Dreaming Hill*.

Renato believes WA is full of talent and has spent a great deal of his time supporting local artists, proving that notion - as a mentor for sky-rocketing stand-out local actors, and as the previous Artistic Director of vital youth arts organisation WAYTCO. This is something he hopes to continue at FTC. Providing real jobs, for real artists, in their hometown. And real access to top quality live performance throughout WA.



Tayah Lee-Traub

Assistant Producer

Tayah has previously worked as a Gallery Coordinator for FORM; managing exhibition openings, venue programming and operations, sponsors, artists and member relationship management and retention.

She consulted and coordinated the launch of Spinifex Hill Project Space in South Hedland, providing gallery operations training, implementing venue procedures and overseeing the initial Project Space launch and exhibition opening.

Tayah works with Fremantle Theatre Company as an Assistant Producer on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Last Train to Freo*, and *Twelfth Night* and added the role of Tour Manager for this year's Shakespeare in the Park.



Ellick Higson

Mechanist

Ellick has worked in the arts and entertainment industry as a technician (mainly mechanist/flys) for over 10 years, mostly in theatre but also on festivals and outdoor events. He has worked on operas, ballets, and plays for His Majesty's Theatre, Perth Festival seasons, Awesome Festival seasons, and many other events and venues that need lifty-buildy/boot force services. When he's not on a season he spends his time trying to regenerate bushland on a country block in Woodanilling that he bought several years ago, learning and thinking about whatever has caught his interest at the time, and throatsinging. Ellick has worked on all of FTC's productions except for *The Other Place*.



Pippa Davis

General Manager / Producer

Pippa has too many year's experience in the performing arts ranging across the artistic and management spheres. Initially she made and produced works for theatre and television with her company Scene Stealers WA. She designed and built scenery, worked backstage and provided technical, production and company management for clients. Since then she has managed a dance company, worked in diverse areas of venue design, venue management, local government and venue operations. Currently Pippa is focussed on bringing to life Fremantle Theatre Company and its season of works that challenge audiences and bring the community together.



Matthew Erren

Lighting Designer

Matthew Erren is an emerging Perth/Boorloo based Lighting Designer, graduating from WAAPA majoring in Lighting Design, with a passion for collaborating and making interesting art with Light. Matthew has spent much of his professional career designing for Theatre, Dance and Exhibitions.

This includes *Catch 22* (Contemporary Dance), *Hell is Other People* (Theatre), *Dinosaurs of Patagonia* (Exhibition), *Pursuit* (Contemporary Dance), *Hello, Asteroid* (Musical Theatre), *Virtual Realms* (Exhibition), *Re-Imagined* (Contemporary Dance), *Elliot's Big Nose* (Childrens Theatre), and many orchestral productions with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra at the Perth Concert Hall.



Krista Barker

**Assistant Producer, Tour
Manager**

Krista is WA born and a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts stage management program.

After her training at WAAPA she booked her first gigs here at home working with a series of local production companies including BSX, Black Swan Theatre's youth initiative, Deckchair Theatre and Perth Festival..

Following a successful touring UK show at the Edinburgh Festival, Krista took up residence in London and worked in the West End for the better part of a decade.

Home in Australia once again, she is thrilled to be working in Fremantle with old friends and colleagues, and on this fantastic production.



Steph Power

Intimacy Director

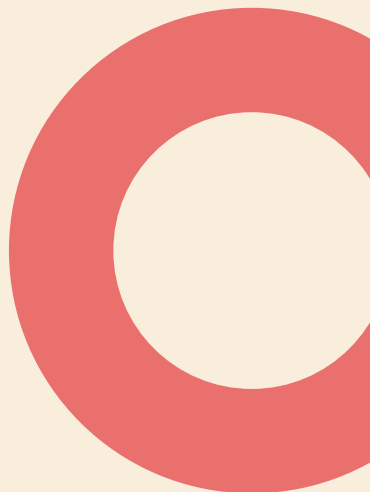
Steph Power is an Entertainment Industry Welfare specialist who launched Australia's first Performance Welfare practice in 2017, and first Intimacy Coordination service in 2018. Steph has been a leader in global change towards better performer care, on and off set, and in the training of young performers and directors within the education sector. Steph has launched initiatives for industry stakeholders such as MEAA and WIFT Australia, been a key advisor for the Production Portal, is Co-Founder of The Australian Intimacy Coordinators Network, has run courses for The National Theatre Drama School, JMC Academy, Opera Australia Scholars, Stage School Australia, Curtin University, was a key speaker at the St Kilda Film Festival on Diversity & Inclusion, and a key writer for SPA for Australia's COVID Safe-Set Guidelines.

A WAAPA trained Actor-Director and qualified Psychotherapist, Steph's credits as an INTIMACY COORDINATOR are extensive and include: *5 Bedrooms for Paramount +*, *Itch 2* for ABC, features *Girl At The Window* with Rahda Mitchell and *Petrol* for Arenamedia, plays *Hungry Ghosts* for MTC, *Traps* for La MAMA Theatre, and *Gruesome Playground Injuries* for St Martin's Theatre.

Board - Michelle Prater (Chair),
Rikki Burns, Al Donald, Michela Fini,
Lindsay Lovering, John Prevost,
Rod Hamersely

Staff - Renato Fabretti (Artistic
Director), Pippa Davis (General
Manager), Tayah Lee-Traub
(Production Assistant), Thom
Stewart (Intern), Mahala Parkins
(Front of House Manager), Jane
Fraser (Volunteer Usher).

Social Media - Taylor Stevens of
Function Labs



The Effect

