



Ballarat  
national  
Theatre

Patron  
Jackie Weaver

*Much Ado*  
**ABOUT  
SHAKESPEARE**

*Directed by Alexandra Meerbach*

April 7, 8, 12, 13 - 8pm

April 9 - 2pm

*The Courthouse Theatre,  
Lydiard St Sth, Ballarat*

P.O. Box 324 Ballarat



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Ballarat National Theatre Inc  
[bltnat.theatre@gmail.com](mailto:bltnat.theatre@gmail.com)

# Much Ado ABOUT SHAKESPEARE

## SYNOPSIS

### ACT ONE

#### *Living With Lady Macbeth*

Everybody thinks Lily Morgan is very ordinary and rather dull. They are all dead wrong.

Lily's preparation to audition for the part of Lady Macbeth sets everybody on edge. Nobody, including her unimaginative boyfriend or preoccupied mother, believe that someone as reliable and nice as Lily would stand a chance at getting the lead role. Only Lily's best friend, Mon, stands by her and begins to realise the lengths Lily is willing to go to in order to be heard!

### ACT TWO

#### *Macbeth*

A brave Scottish general named Macbeth receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and takes the Scottish throne for himself.

## INTERVAL

### ACT THREE

#### *Wherefore Are Thee*

Made up of four linked monologues — Diana reveals everything from the upcoming auditions for the community theatre's next production, to casting drama with the cast during rehearsals and the reviews on opening night!

### ACT FOUR

#### *Romeo & Juliet*

A long standing feud exists between the Veronese families, the Montagues and Capulets. This bitter conflict causes tragic results for the newly love struck teenagers, Romeo and Juliet. The events contrast hatred and revenge with love and a secret marriage, forcing the young lovers to grow up quickly and die tragically in despair.



Shakespeare has been an incredibly  
 challenge. Linking the four distinct pieces  
 Shakespeare thread, whilst maintaining  
 took a bit of ingenuity and some  
 sessions. I believe the strength of  
 measured by the willingness and  
 effective by the willing and all actively  
 vision. Thank You to the cast of Much  
 re and the BNT members involved who  
 unusual vision to life.

a BA in Performing Arts in 1999,  
 appeared on screen; participated  
 al shows as either, writer,  
 costume or mask designer and has  
 various theatre styles, particularly  
 and immersive theatre.

a cofounder Mary-Rose McLaren,  
 singing choir (as part of Mad Swan  
 performed in BNT's *Who Remembers*  
 her events. Mad Swan then  
 engaged production *Chatroom* in  
 City of Ballarat grant.

has performed in *The Female of*  
*Boy's War*. She assistant directed  
*Chatroom* and co-directed *Who*  
*War?* Last year, Alexandra directed  
 en.

## CAST

### *Living With Lady Macbeth* IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Lily	Rachael Shelton	Lorraine Ferguson	Emily Baker
Monica	Quinn Muller	Caroline Pritchett	Lily Theodore
Ms Bewis	Zoe James	Gail Beutley	Veronica Rogers
Mollie	Jennifer Montgomery	Macbeth	Angus Drain
Barry	Harrison Baker	Mr Crabtree	Laura Hudson
Alex	Sam Drew	Instructor	Emily Nimmo
Stephanie Boyce	Ruby Penhall	Lennie	Lisa Hill
Suzanne Porter	Lucy Walter		

### *Macbeth* IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Witch 1	Ruby Penhall	Lady Macbeth	Liana Skewes
Witch 2	Rosa Varga Miller	Messenger, Apparition 1	Lucy Walters
Witch 3, Seyton	Lily Theodore	Porter	Zoe James
King Duncan	Elizabeth Krieg	Macduff	Tim Harris
Prince Malcolm	Harrison Baker	Second Murderer, Apparition 2	Serena Rushton
Prince Donalbain		Third Murderer, Apparition 2	Veronica Rogers
Young Siward	Emily Nimmo	Fleance, Macduff's Son	Sam Drew
Sergeant, First Murderer	Emily Baker	Lady Macduff	Mary-Rose McLaren
Boss	Laura Hudson	Doctor	Rachael Shelton
Macbeth	John Daykin	Gentlewoman, Siward	Hannah Connell
Banquo	Lisa Hill		
Lennox	Angus Drain		

*Most of the cast also play  
 minor background characters.*

### *Wherefore Art Thou*

Diana	Christine Holmes
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### *Romeo & Juliet* IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Sampson, Watchman	Rachael Shelton	Romeo	Angus Drain
Gregory, Friar John, Watchman	Lily Theodore	Servant, Watchman	Emily Baker
Abraham, Balthasar	Ruby Penhall	Lady Capulet	Hannah Connell
Benvolio	Harrison Baker	Nurse	Mary-Rose McLaren
Tybalt	Zoe James	Juliet	Rosa Varga-Miller
First Citizen, Paris	Emily Nimmo	Friar Lawrence	Elizabeth Krieg
Second Citizen, Mercutio	Liana Skewes	Apothecary	Christine Holmes
Capulet	Tim Harris	Prince's Page	Serena Rushton
Montague	John Daykin	Capulet Servant	Veronica Rogers
Lady Montague	Laura Hudson		
Prince Escalus	Lisa Hill		

*Most of the cast also play  
 minor background characters.*

# CAST



## Emily Baker

Emily is delighted to be performing in *Much Ado About Shakespeare* and is looking forward to the diversity and challenge of playing several roles. Emily has been involved in Speech Art and Drama since she was 7 and also enjoys tap dancing, rowing and art. This is Emily's second BNT production, having played Jo March last year in *Little Women*.

## Harrison Baker

Harrison has recently performed with BNT in *Little Women* and with *Mad Swan* in the dynamic show *Chatroom*. He's excited to be a part of *Much Ado About Shakespeare*, playing a variety of characters. His favourite quote is from Barry, "It'll never work, Lil, no one would fall for it. It's gotta be a fit up". Harrison relates to Barry because of his sense of humour, because he's quite the joker himself.

## Hannah Connell

Hannah's been performing in theatre and dance for most of her life but never before in a Shakespeare production. She was first introduced to Shakespeare in high school where she studied *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Hannah is excited to now be performing in the plays she has been passionate about since high school. Hannah considers herself as a bit of a romantic and her favourite quote is "If music be the food of love, play on." from *The Twelfth Night*.

## John Daykin

After first studying *Macbeth* at high school, and then teaching it for more than ten years, John is "rapt withal" (to quote Banquo) to get the chance to play *Macbeth*. Having also taught R&J, it's an honour to don a mask in this most famous play. Last seen in BNT's popular 2016 production *Little Women*, John's favourite quote simply has to be the Bard's rumination on life and perhaps the theatre, "it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

## Angus Drain

This is Angus' second BNT production. Prior to *Much Ado About Shakespeare*, he appeared in *Honourable Mentions* during April 2016 which included a number of minor appearances. Other than these BNT shows Angus has appeared in various BCMA productions and has had successful runs at numerous South Street eisteddfods. Angus is delighted to take on the challenging role of Romeo.

## Sam Drew

Sam has previously acted in Shakespeare's *Mid-Summer Night's Dream* and a previous production of *Macbeth*. Sam's favourite quote is from *Macbeth*: "Thou liest, thou shag-haired villain". He loves that it is such a funny insult but in such a serious context. Sam has really enjoyed the fast pace of this abbreviated version of *Macbeth* as well as being able to develop several different characters within the play.

## Tim Harris

It has been a lifelong aspiration of Tim's to perform in a Shakespearean play, and he achieved this in February when The Bard in Buninyong staged *The Tempest*. No stranger to Ballarat National Theatre, Tim has performed at the courthouse for several years and is delighted to work with such a marvelous team of young performers so full of potential. Tim thanks you for your attendance at this show and your continuing support for performing arts in Ballarat.

## Lisa Hill

Lisa was once an extra in a Jackie Chan film. Her whole life is spent trying to recreate that high. Her main contribution to the Ballarat theatre scene has been managing, directing and writing for MAYTE Youth Theatre (alongside Tim Harris.) Hello to my family and close buddies who came along! THANK YOU to the director, fellow cast & crew and National for their hard work and for having me! 'Surely not everybody was kung fu fighting' - Shakespeare.

## Mary-Rose McLaren

Mary-Rose is rapt to be in *Much Ado* because she has taught Shakespeare for 40 years (including her current role at Victoria University) but never before acted in a Shakespeare production. At 15 Mary-Rose performed the nurse and Juliet scene on South Street – and identified entirely with Juliet. Now, playing the nurse is sheer delight! Her favourite quote in this production, though, comes from gutsy Lady Macduff: 'when our words are not, our fears do make us traitors.'

## Jennifer Montgomery

This is Jen's first foray onto the stage, unless you count being in the background chorus at high school over 35 years ago! She can certainly relate to the character of Lily in wanting to do something unexpected and outside the ordinary: She finds it equally exciting and terrifying to be involved with many talented actors.

## Quinn Muller

*Much Ado About Shakespeare* is Quinn's first show with Ballarat National Theatre and she is pleased to be a part of this production. Quinn has been performing since she was three years old and is not one to shy away from an opportunity that will get her up on stage. Quinn is in Year 11 at Metro College and has performed in shows such as *Chatroom*, *Wonderland*, and *West Side Story*.

## Emily Nimmo

Emily is thrilled to be a part of the *Much Ado About Shakespeare* cast. She has previously been a member of BCMA's *Wonderland* drama production, so this will be her second time appearing on stage! Her favourite quote from this production is said by the 3<sup>rd</sup> witch: "By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes". Emily is delighted with the opportunity to sword fight which she hasn't done before!

## Ruby Penhall

This is Ruby's second show with Ballarat National Theatre, and after the success of 2016's 'Little Women' in which Ruby played Meg, she is jubilant to share with you this compilation of two of Shakespeare's most notorious works and two contemporary plays. Ruby is currently in year 11 at Damascus College, where her favourite subject is drama. She also enjoys singing and played the role of 'Jan' in Damascus College's 2016 production of 'Grease'.

## Veronica Rogers

Veronica has been in a few full drama performances, but many musicals. She feels privileged to be in her first BNT performance. Her favourite Shakespeare show was *Romeo and Juliet*, as it was the only one she had seen, but now, it is *Macbeth*. And it is from *Macbeth* that she gleans her favourite quote 'But now I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in to saucy doubts and fears.'

## Serena Rushton

Serena is very excited to be involved in '*Much Ado About Shakespeare*.' This is Serena's first show with BNT and her first foray into Shakespeare. Serena loves the atmosphere of live performance and has learnt a lot from being around such dedicated and talented people. Serena is grateful for this opportunity. Her favourite line from Shakespeare is "Farewell Ancient Lady, Farewell" and you will understand why when you see it!

## Rachael Shelton

Rachael Shelton had been involved in theatre since the young age of 3, much like her character Lily, she tried most of the dance and singing classes but realised they weren't for her (she doesn't have much hand eye coordination). Finally she found acting and hasn't let anyone forget about that since. Rachael is excited to act with such an experienced cast and hopes to work with BNT in future productions.

## Liana Shewes

Liana is excited to perform in this performance of Shakespeare both because she's always wanted to see what she would look like with a beard and because her late grandmother taught her *Macbeth* to introduce her to the bard's work. This is Liana's second time working with Alexandra Meerbach after playing Hannah in *Little Women* in 2016.

## Lily Theodore

This is Lily's first show with Ballarat National Theatre, though it isn't her first experience on the stage. She has performed in school musicals and shows, South Street competitions and was involved in BCMA's *Wonderland* last year. She is both happy and excited to be apart of *Much Ado About Shakespeare* and cannot wait for the show to start. Her favourite Shakesperian insult is 'I'll beat thee, but I would infect my hands.'

## Rosa Varga-Miller

Rosa is a year 10 student at Mount Clear College. She has been attending drama and dance classes before BCMA for the last six years and has been involved in multiple of their end of year shows. She has appeared in *Just Macbeth*, *Goblin Market*, *Directly Past Go* and *Wonderland*. Rosa has also completed in several Trinity College Speech and Drama exams and this year she will complete grade 7 along with competing at South Street.

## Lucy Walters

Lucy is excited to be part of the *Much Ado About Shakespeare*'s cast. While this is only her second time performing with BNT, she's no stranger to the stage, performing since she was three (with BCMA). Lucy hasn't had much experience with Shakespeare but is ready for the challenge and delighted with the opportunity. Lucy thinks the quote "What's done cannot be undone" from *Macbeth* is hugely relevant to performing.

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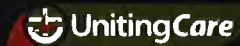
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FALL  
from  
GRACE  
G

# GRACE

Written by Hannie Rayson

Directed by Peter Nethercote

July 8, 12, 13, 14 - 8pm  
July 9, 15 - 2pm

The Courthouse Theatre, Lydiard St South, Ballarat

Bookings Majestic - 53335888  
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P.O. Box 324 Ballarat 3353

