

RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENTS  
THROWING SHADE THEATRE COMPANY  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THEATRON

# THE CARETAKER

BY HAROLD PINTER

THE WICKEDLY FUNNY PSYCHOLOGICAL PLAY



21 – 23 FEBRUARY



theatrongroup

RIVERSIDE

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# THE CARETAKER

by Harold Pinter

The wickedly funny psychological play

## CAST

**Mick** Alex Bryant-Smith

**Aston** Yalin Ozucelik

**Mac Davies** Nicholas Papademetriou

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Writer** Harold Pinter

**Co-Directors** Alex Bryant-Smith and Nicholas Papademetriou

**Associate Producer** Andrew Langcake

**Set and Costume Designer** Stephanie Howe

**Lighting Designer** Sophie Pekbilmli

**Sound Designer** Glenn Braithwaite

**Assistant Stage Manager** Maddison Huber

**Dialect Coach** Amanda Stephens Lee

## THANKS

Alice Livingstone, Bronwyn Edinger, Elieen Camilleri, Phillip Graham John Pryce-Jones, The New Theatre, Juri Woan, Laura Lucas

A big thanks to Robert Love, Catherine Swallow, Sanja Vukelja and all the team at Riverside Theatres.

## ABOUT THE SHOW

*The Caretaker* is set in 1960 and takes place over two weeks in September in the attic room of an old West London terrace. Davies - an old tramp - is given shelter by the vulnerable and disturbed Aston who lives alone in the attic. When Aston's volatile brother, Mick, enters the picture, a battle of menace and wit ensues that will change their lives forever.

## RUNNING TIME

**Written in 3 acts, tonight's performance is in two parts.**

**Part I** (set over two days) approximately 80 minutes.

**Part II** (two weeks later) approximately 35 minutes.

Including a 20 minute interval

## FROM THE DIRECTORS

When Riverside Theatres & Glen Street Theatre offered Throwing Shade and theatrongroup the opportunity to mount a new production of *The Caretaker*, we decided to go back to scratch and use Harold Pinter's original setting/stage directions as specified in his brilliant text. It was liberating to have this strong blue print as our basis, upon which we could add a new set & lighting design, and a fuller soundscape. It was liberating to have this strong blue print as our basis, upon which we could add a new set & lighting design, a fuller soundscape and cast a new actor as Aston.

The play is certainly of its time, but potently resonates with contemporary society. It's about loss of identity and isolation; about ageing; about failed connections; about manipulation and power play. It is the play that brought Pinter to theatrical prominence and for which the term *Pinteresque* was coined. It remains one of Pinter's most famous and often performed works and still has an enduring ability to disturb and amuse at the same time; as The London Observer noted: "*this marvelous drama makes you reconsider it every time it is produced.*" It's an absolute honour and pleasure to bring to life this mesmerising plight of the three lost souls that inhabit the world of *The Caretaker*.

# THROWING SHADE THEATRE COMPANY

Throwing Shade Theatre Company has made a name for itself producing critically acclaimed shows that are dynamic, compelling and entertaining. The company's vision is to engage and collaborate with a culturally diverse collective of artists to provide exciting, challenging and unique theatre experiences. Past productions include *Down An Alley Filled With Cats*, *Disco Pigs*, *Blackbird*, *Hell Is Other People*, *No Exit* and *Vincent River*. This new production, co-produced with theatrongroup, will be the second production of *The Caretaker*. The first was in 2017 where it was hailed as a triumph by critics and audiences alike.

## THEATRONGROUP

Nicholas Papademetriou founded theatrongroup in 1986 when he produced the Australian premiere of Mike Leigh's *Abigail's Party* at Wharf II. The production sold out a 7 week season and was nominated for a Best Production Award by Sydney Theatre Critics Awards. Since then, the company has presented a number of highly acclaimed productions (many of which directed by Nicholas) including *Anna in the Tropics* and *Greek Tragedy* (Belvoir Downstairs); *Radio Swell* (Stables Theatre), *The Ghost and Mrs Muir & Now*, *Voyager* (PIB Players) and co-produced *The Importance of Being Earnest* & *Lady Windermere's Fan* 'which he also directed' (at Darlinghurst Theatre).

## NOTE FROM THE PRODUCERS

In 2017 Throwing Shade Theatre Company presented its first production of the caretaker at the Actors Pulse Studio, Redfern.

The production you will see today is a new one (in collaboration with theatrongroup) and should not be confused with the 2017 production.

The collaboration between these companies brings with it an entirely new concept as well as new direction, a new actor and a complete change of creative team.

Throwing Shade and theatrongroup apologise for any misunderstanding arising from earlier promotional material which they incorrectly linked aspects of this production to the 2017.

We hope you enjoy the show.

# BIOGRAPHIES



## HAROLD PINTER Playwright

Harold Pinter was born in London in 1930. He lived with Antonia Fraser from 1975 until his death on Christmas Eve 2008. (They were married in 1980). After studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Central School of Speech and Drama, he worked as an actor under the stage name David Baron. Following his success as a playwright, he continued to act under his own name, on stage and screen. He last acted in 2006 when he appeared in Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* at the Royal Court Theatre, directed by Ian Rickson.

He wrote twenty-nine plays including *The Birthday Party*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *A Slight Ache*, *The Hothouse*, *The Caretaker*, *The Collection*, *The Lover*, *The Homecoming*, *Old Times*, *No Man's Land*, *Betrayal*, *A Kind of Alaska*, *One For The Road*, *The New World Order*, *Moonlight and Ashes to Ashes*. Sketches include *The Black and White*, *Request Stop*, *That's your Trouble*, *Night*, *Precisely*, *Apart From that* and the recently rediscovered, *Umbrellas*. He directed twenty-seven theatre productions, including James Joyce's *Exiles*, David Mamet's *Oleanna*, seven plays by Simon Gray (one of which was *Butley* in 1971 which he directed the film of three years later) and many of his own plays including his last, *Celebration*, paired with his first, *The Room* at The Almeida Theatre, London in the spring of 2000.

He wrote twenty-one screenplays including *The Pumpkin Eater*, *The Servant*, *The Go-Between*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and *Sleuth*. In 2005 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature. Other awards include the Companion of Honour for services to Literature, the Legion D'Honneur, the European Theatre Prize the Laurence Olivier Award and the Moliere D'Honneur for lifetime achievement. In 1999 he was made a Companion of Literature by the Royal Society of Literature. Harold Pinter was awarded eighteen honorary degrees.



## ALEX BRYANT-SMITH Mick

Alex trained at Actors Centre Australia and has worked extensively as an actor across stage, screen, voiceover and radio. In the last two years his practice has expanded into directing and making theatre. Alex's recent directing credits include *August: Osage County* (New Theatre/Assistant) and *Next Lesson* (New Theatre). His acting credits include the feature *Chocolate Oyster*, which premiered at the 2018 Sydney Film Festival, and C.A.M for Sterling Pictures. Theatre: *That Eye The Sky*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hamlet* (New Theatre), *ASYLUM* (Apocalypse), *As You Like It* (Shakespeare On The Green), *Singled Out* (Seymour Centre), *Romeo & Juliet* (Impulse), *World Creates Itself* (MayDay 2013), *The Case Of Katherine Mansfield* (Brokebliss), *A View From Moving Windows* (Riverside), *C.H.I.C.O.M.* (Brand Spankin' New), *Zetland* (Sydney Fringe), *The Merchant of Venice*, *Bash*, *Sunrise*, *A Doll's House* (Actors Centre), *Our Town and Property of the Clan* (NSW State Drama Company), *Kinderspiel* (ATYP), *Brokenville* (ATYP/ National Theatre, London). *Shorts: Bad Jesus*, *Struggle*, *Heron's Story*, *Denouement*, *Sunday*, *Home Movies* and *The Future*, winner of several international awards for Best Film and Best Comedy. TV: *Deadly Women*, *Boxed*, *All Saints*, *Home & Away*, *Out of*

*the Blue* and numerous TVCs. Proud member of Equity and MEAA since 2007.



## YALIN OZUCELIK Aston

Yalin is a graduate of NIDA and has worked extensively in the theatre.

He most recently played Norman in the trilogy *The Norman Conquests* for the Ensemble Theatre. He was nominated for Best Actor in a Mainstage Production by the Sydney Theatre Awards for this role. His other recent work includes the 2017 national tour of *1984* (Headlong, State Theatre Company of South Australia). Selected theatre credits include: *Othello*, *Henry 4*, *King Lear* (Bell Shakespeare); *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Vere[Faith]*, *Gross Und Klein*, *Blood Wedding*, (Sydney Theatre Company); *Sami in Paradise*, *The Great Fire*, *Ivanov*, *The Kiss*, *Baghdad Wedding* (Belvoir); *Measure for Measure*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Sport for Jove), receiving a Sydney Theatre Award for playing the titular role; *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Brink Productions); and the Helpmann Award-winning *Reflections on Gallipoli* with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Yalin recently featured in two television series, *Gallipoli* and *Deadline Gallipoli*. He helped voice the computer game *Rome: Total War* and is also the central character in award-winning independent comic *Burger Force*.



**NICHOLAS  
PAPADEMETRIOU  
Mac Davies**

Nicholas graduated from WAAPA in 1984 and since

then has worked extensively in film, television and theatre. Screen credits include the lead in the series *Stringer*, principle roles in; *Cyclone Tracy*, *Jessica*, *A Difficult Woman*, *Stark & Grass Roots*; films *MI 2*, *Death in Brunswick*, *The Veiled*, *Past Midnight*. He has also directed an award winning short film *Swinger*. Theatre credits include work for all the major companies including STC, MTC, Company B Belvoir & Black Swan. Highlights include his one man show *SNAG* (national tour, New York, Edinburgh); working with theatre legend Mike Leigh in *Greek Tragedy* (London); directing & acting in *Anna in the Tropics* (B Sharp); the national tour of *12 Angry Men*; George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (GRK Theatre), the national tour of *Thomas Murray and the Upside Down River* and Freud in *Freud's Last Session* (Seymour Centre). Directing credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Darlinghurst Theatre); *The Taming of The Shrew* (Sidetrack) and *Ivanov* (WAAPA). This season of *The Caretaker* continues at Glen St. Later in the year Nicholas will play the title role in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (KXT Theatre) & appear in *The Odd Couple* at *The Ensemble*.



**ANDREW LANGCAKE  
Associate Producer**

Andrew has worked extensively for the last 20 years as an actor, director

and producer, kicking off with The Adelaide Advertiser Newcomer of the Year Award (1997) for his performance in *Hotel Sorrento*. Acting credits include *The Crucible*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Twelfth Night* and *Aston* in the first production of *The Caretaker* in 2017. He founded his producing company - Throwing Shade Theatre Company - in 2016 and has also directed a number of the productions Throwing Shade has presented.



**STEPHANIE HOWE  
Set and Costume  
Designer**

Stephanie is an artist and designer who works

across theatre, dance, circus and gallery spaces. She is a design graduate from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) as well as an arts graduate from the Australian National University (ANU). She has always been drawn to the performing arts because of its collaborative nature, its immediacy to audience, and its capability for powerful storytelling. She is particularly drawn to works of a political nature that question and challenge who we are as individuals in society. Recent works include costume design for *If We Got Some More*



*Cocaine I Could Show You How I Love You* (KXT), set & costume design for Stephen Sewell's new work *Perpetual Frustration Machine* (Theatreworks), *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* (Holden St Theatres & Old 505), *Le Sacre* (National Institute of Circus Arts), *Puss In Boots* (Sydney City Recital Hall) and *Empty Bodies* (Provocare Festival). She is currently working on designs for the Shakespeare classic *The Tempest* and *Diaspora*, a physical theatre piece dealing with human displacement.



### **SOPHIE PEKBILIMLI** **Lighting Designer**

Sophie graduated from Newtown High School of the Performing arts in 2010. She spent 4 years as an active member of the technical company designing dance, drama and circus performances. Since then she has designed many shows including *When Pigs Fly* (Aerialize Theatre, 2010), *The Promise* (EORA College, 2010). In 2012 and 2014 she designed for the Pacific opera *The Deluded Bridegroom/ La Boheme* and *The Gondoliers* (highlights). In 2015 she joined John Water's show team for *Lennon Through A Glass Onion* as their lighting designer and has designed their shows in UK, Canada and Japan. In 2017 she designed well known artist Agatha Gothe-Snape's *Rhetorical Chorus* during the Liveworks Festival.

In 2018 she designed *You & Me* and *Puss in Boots* both presented by City Recital Hall and recently designed *Revolt, She Said* (for House of Sand), *Air* by Joanne Erskine, *Lie With Me* by Liz Hobart, *Pramkicker* by Sadie Hasler and *Dancing with the Drips Poles* by Serena Weatherall.

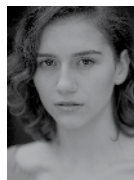


### **GLENN BRATHWAITE** **Sound Designer**

Glenn is a director and actor specializing in live stage performance. His major art training was at the prestigious Victorian College of the Arts, where he graduated with a Diploma of Dramatic Art in Directing. Glenn has most recently been a tutor at the Canberra Academy of Dramatic Art for which he has directed and designed *Ruthless the Musical*, *Those Who Fall in Love like Anchors Dropped upon the Ocean Floor*, *The Gallery*, *The Blood on Helmut Lange*, *United States of Mind*, *N.Y Love* and *Great American Dreaming* (a performance of selected scenes from 20th Century American playwrights), *110 Reasons for War*, *You Still Here*, *See Rock City* and *Other Destinations*, *The Sound of Musicals* and *Snapshots from Home*. In Tasmania his directing credits include *Beautiful Thing*, *La Serva Padrona*, *Big River*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Big Angst* and *Only Heaven Knows*. He was assistant director for Zootango's production of



*Cosi* and also for MTC's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Glenn has devised a number of productions for Tasmanian production companies and Canberra Academy of Dramatic Art. His acting credits include *Les Miserables*, *Into the Woods*, *Only Heaven Knows* and *Rainbows Egg*.



### **MADDISON HUBER** **Stage Manager**

Maddison is a director, writer and stage manager. She has written and directed her own show called *Something* (2018) and directed *Trojan Barbie* at Excelsia College (2018). Her technical highlights include ASM for *My Fathers Left Testicle* (2016). *The Poet and the Women* (2017). She was a crew member for *Legally Blonde* (2018) and ASM for *Eurydice* (2018). Most recently she was Stage Manager for *Metamorphosis* (2019) for Clock and Spiel Productions. She hopes to move and challenge her audience with the art she creates.



### **AMANDA STEPHENS-LEE** **Dialect Coach**

Amanda is a graduate of the MFA (Voice) program at NIDA. Recent Voice/dialect coaching credits include: *If We Got Some More Cocaine I Could Show You How I Love You* (Green Door/KXT Theatre), *You Got Older* (Mad March Hare), *The Rolling Stone* (Outhouse Theatre Company) and *Nell Gwynne* (New Theatre). Acting credits include *Four Places* (Outhouse Theatre), *Leaves* (Some Company, KXT Theatre), *On the Shore of the Wide World* (Griffin/pantsguys), *Macbeth* (Sport for Jove) and *Beautiful Thing* (Seymour Centre) and she recently directed *Metamorphosis* (Clock & Spiel). She has a busy private coaching studio, and teaches Voice and Acting at NIDA, AIM and Excelsia College

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