

RedStitch

PRESENTS

20 JUNE - 16 JULY

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

by Clare Barron

SHHHH

RedStitch Premiere Australian Premiere

WELCOME

Welcome to Red Stitch Actors' Theatre,
Australia's leading actors' ensemble.

We exist to advance the vitality of theatre in Australia by nurturing artists and promoting integrity in our craft. The ensemble of actors and creatives who comprise our company endeavour to produce the best in contemporary playwriting from around the world, to enrich the craft of acting and script development in this country, and to sustain a unique organisational model – one that puts artists at the centre of its practice. Established in 2002, we perform contemporary Australian plays and award-winning new writing from around the world.

We also play a vital role in the development and presentation of new Australian works through our unique INK playwriting program, and offer opportunities for theatre-makers at all stages of their careers to hone and develop their craft.

With a national reputation for the quality of our work, Red Stitch remains at the forefront of contemporary Australian theatre practice.

We at Red Stitch acknowledge and pay our respects to Australia's First Peoples and Elders past and present, and offer our gratitude to the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation, on whose unceded lands we work.

Cover photo by Robert Blackburn,
Black Photography

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RED STITCH ACTORS' THEATRE PRESENTS

SHHHH

BY CLARE BARRON

20 June -16 July 2023

CAST

Jessica Clarke Shareen
Hayley Edwards Francis
Caroline Lee Witchy Witch
Jess Lu Sandra
Peter Paltos Kyle
Sunanda Sachatrakul Preeya

CREATIVES

Emma Valente Director
Romanie Harper Set & Costume Design
Giovanna Yate Gonzalez Lighting Design
Emma Valente Composition & Sound Design
Noemie Huttner-Koros Production Dramaturg

PRODUCTION

David Bowyer Production Manager
Jemma Law Stage Manager
Sophie O'Donovan Assistant Stage Manager

THANKS

Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Tiger Corp,
Bethany J Fellows & Onion, Natalie Petrellis,
Lindsay Templeton, Renata Zanini-Sassani



Playwright

CLARE BARRON

Clare Barron is a playwright and performer from Wenatchee, Washington. Her play DANCE NATION recently received its world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in May 2018 and subsequently its UK premiere at the Almeida Theatre in London. It is the recipient of the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and The Relentless Award established in honor of Philip Seymour Hoffman. Other plays include: YOU GOT OLDER (Page 73; Steppenwolf) which received an Obie Award, Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Play, and was a Susan Smith Blackburn finalist; I'LL NEVER LOVE AGAIN (The Bushwick Starr); and BABY SCREAMS MIRACLE (Clubbed Thumb; Woolly Mammoth). She is the recipient of a Whiting Award for Drama, the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award at The Vineyard, and the Page 73 Fellowship; and is a member of New Dramatists.



Director

EMMA VALENTE

EMMA VALENTE is a freelance director, dramaturg, lighting designer and occasional trouble maker. She is the Co Artistic director and Co CEO of feminist theatre company THE RABBLE.

Emma is the recipient of the Creators Fund grant from Creative Victoria, a Sidney Myer Fellow, a Curator at Large (performance) at The SUBSTATION and received a Life Time Achievement award for Technical Achievement from The Green Room Awards.

Emma has directed works that have been performed at Malthouse Theatre, Arts Emerson (Boston), Dublin Fringe Festival, Wuzhen Festival (China), Vitalstatistix, Arts House, St Martins, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Dark MOFO, Brisbane Festival, Belvoir Theatre, MTC, The Substation, Theatre Works, CarriageWorks and La Mama.

Emma has been the dramaturg for artists including Nicola Gunn, Wang Chong, Liv Satchell, Eryn Jean Norvill Emma McManus, Rachel Perks, Alison Croggon, Angus Cerini, Zoey Dawson, Bridget Mackey, Daniel Schlusser, Andrea James, Elise Hearst and Meg Wilson. Emma's essay on Dramaturgy and Silence was published by the centre for Dramaturgy and Curation.

Emma is also an award-winning Lighting Design and has worked for many major theatre companies across the country.

CAST



JESSICA CLARKE

SHAREEN

Jessica is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). For feature film: *The Menkoff Method*, *The Moon And The Sun* and *2:22*. For television: *The Beautiful Lie*, *Home And Away*, *Harrow*, *Neighbours*, *Offspring*, *Sisters*, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Blue Heelers* and more. For Red Stitch: *Iphigenia In Splott*, *Caught*, *The Cane*, *Pomona*, *Rules For Living*. Other Theatre: *Therese Raquin* (Critical Stages), *Please Continue*, *Hamlet* (Melbourne International Arts Festival), *Good, Die Young* (Sydney Fringe Festival), *Starchaser* (Arena Theatre Company), *Waltzing the Wilarra* (Yirra Yaakin), *Heaven* (La Mama) and more. Jessica won Most Outstanding Performance for *Iphigenia In Splott* at the 2021 Green Room Awards, and was nominated for Best Ensemble for *Pomona* at the 2019 Green Room Awards.



HAYLEY EDWARDS

FRANCIS

Hayley Edwards (they/she) is a non-binary actor living and working between Naarm/Melbourne and Gadigal Land/Sydney. They hold a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the VCA where they were awarded the Irene Mitchell Award for Excellence in Acting.

In 2022 Hayley proudly became a Graduate Actor with the Red Stitch Actors' Theatre, where they took part in multiple developments and readings and was a swing on the Green Room Award Nominated show *The Amateurs* (dir. Susie Dee).

Other recent credits include being a swing on *Let The Right One In* for Darlinghurst Theatre Company (dir. Alex Berlage), leading in *Lemon Tree on Dreg Street* and *Trash Pop Butterflies Dance Dance Paradise* for Theatre Works, as well as making their professional screen debut as Annabelle in *The Clearing* for Disney+.

Hayley also has a background in professional opera and music theatre and has a developing interest in writing, directing, producing and casting for both stage and screen.



CAROLINE LEE

WITCHY WITCH

Caroline is based in Melbourne, Australia, and has worked

professionally as a theatre, television, film and voice actress for over thirty years. She has worked with the Malthouse, Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare, Back to Back Theatre, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, Chamber Made Opera, MKA, Finucane and Smith, HeLD Productions, Hildegard, Playbox and La Mama, as well as developing a strong reputation for her work in one-woman shows.

Caroline has received four Green Room Awards and an OAM for her work in the theatre.

Caroline has narrated over 150 audiobooks, including a number of best-selling titles including; *Big Little Lies* and *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty, and *The Shifting Fog* and *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. She has received three AudioFile Earphones Awards, including Best Audiobook of the Year 2021 for *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty.

Film and television appearances include a supporting cast role in *The Newsreader* and *The Newsreader 2*, a main cast role in *Bogan Pride*, and roles in *Miss Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries*, *The Dressmaker*, *Tangle*, *Winners and Losers*, *Satisfaction*, *Stingers*, *MDA*, *Halifax fp*, *Blue Heelers*, *Neighbours*, *Holidays on the River Yarra* and *Dogs in Space*, as well as a number of smaller film projects with independent producers.



JESS LU

SANDRA

From Cavanbah to Naarm, Jess Lu is a non-binary Malay-Chi-

nese/Australian actor and creative, educated at the Victorian College of the Arts. They've featured across film and television, including Jenny in feature film *Of an Age* (2023, Goran Stolevski), Stan original *Bad Behaviour* (2023, dir. Corrie Chen) and multiple award nominated short *Snapshot* (2022, dir. Becki Bouchier), including support roles in *Neighbours*, TikTok series *Scattered* and biopic *Better Man*.

In theatre they've played Helen in *Machinal* (dir. Daniela Farinacci), Janney in *promiscuous/cities* written by Lachlan Philpott (dir. Alyson Campbell), Number 1 in *Slutnik's* Adelaide Fringe season (dir. Tansy Gorman), 2 in the Edinburgh Fringe season of *How to be a Person When the World is Ending* (dir. Meg Dunn), and has worked with the Melbourne Theatre Company for their *First Stage* writer's festival (dir. Tasnim Hossain).

Jess seeks the weird, wonderful and fantastical. They love nature, and cold water swimming. Jess is keenly interested in consuming and making queer, intersectional art for all communities. They're keenly invested in the future of the arts in Australia, and have been immersed in as many aspects as possible, including producing for independent theatre and co-founder of live-action roleplay podcast *The Dirty Twenty Podcast*.



PETER PALTOS

KYLE

Peter is an actor and contributing artist to the development of new Australian works.

Theatre credits include: *8/8/8: WORK* (Rising Festival); *Home I'm Darling, Gloria, Minnie & Liraz* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *Lord Willing and the Creek Don't Rise, The Sovereign Wife* (Melbourne Theatre Company NEON); *Calpurnia Descending* (Sydney Theatre Company & Malthouse Theatre); *Salomé* (Malthouse HELIUM); *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (TheatreWorks); *The Audition* (Outer Urban Projects); *Merciless Gods* (Griffin Theatre); *The Economist* (Brisbane Powerhouse & Edinburgh Fringe Festival).

Film/television includes: *The Taverna* (Rescued Films); *Paper Champions* (Saliba Pictures/Exile Entertainment); *Rebooted* (Latenite Films); *Holding the Man* (Screen Australia).

Peter is a Greenroom award nominee (Best Supporting Actor - MainStage 2019) and winner (Best Ensemble - Contemporary & Experimental Performance 2023; Best Ensemble - Independent Theatre 2014).



SUNANDA
SACHATRAKUL
PREEYA

Sunanda is a performer/creator who was nominated for

Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Best Newcomer in 2022 for their show, *Sunanda Loves Britney*. They also won the Best Supporting Actor award from Sydney Web Fest 2022 for their role in the award-winning web series *Pivot*. Sunanda has also voiced the character of Dusty McCoy in the queer comedy series podcast, *StarShip Q Star*, which has hit #1 in comedy fiction podcasts in over 50 countries including Australia, the UK, South Africa, and more.

Sunanda also devises and performs with the award-winning Melbourne based queer theatre groups, PO PO MO CO and The Wholesome Hour for both adults and children.

Sunanda was born in New Delhi, raised in Bangkok and lived in both Los Angeles and New York City before moving to Melbourne for love in mid 2019. When they're not writing and performing, they're still performing... for children in hospitals as a Clown Doctor with The Humour Foundation.

CREATIVES



Set & Costume Design

ROMANIE HARPER

Romanie Harper is a designer from Naarm/ Melbourne working across theatre, dance and experimental performance.

Recent design credits include *Nosferatu* (Malthouse); *8/8/8:WORK* (Rising Festival); *Hercules* (Arts House), *The Cherry Orchard*, *Packer and Sons* (Belvoir St Theatre); *What Am I Supposed to Do?*, *Equinox* (Deep Souful Sweats); *Australian Realness*, *Trustees*, *Good Muslim Boy*, *Little Emperors*, *Turbine* (Malthouse); *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You* (MTC); *Die! Die! Die! Old People Die!*, *We All Know Whats Happening*, *Never Trust A Creative City* (Arts House); *Contest and Moral Panic* (Darebin Speakeasy, 2018), *Runt*, *This Is Eden*, *Resident Alien* and *Triumph* (fortyfivedownstairs) and *M+M* (Daniel Schlusser Ensemble).



Lighting Design

GIOVANNA YATE GONZALEZ

Giovanna Yate Gonzalez is a Colombian professional dancer who has expanded her skill set in Australia through the production bachelor at VCA in Lighting Design. She has worked in dance performances such as *Siren Dance* by Lilian Steiner at not only Dance House but also Sydney Dance Company and Homo Novus Festival, *Snow White* at the National Theatre directed by Damian Smith, *Rhythmics Fictions* by Siobhan McKenna at the Darebin Art Speakeasy and *Pictures and Ghosts* solo by Belle Frahn-Starkie in at Dance House. Furthermore, she has been able to design theatre productions like *Nora: A Doll's House* at the Union House Theatre, *Fast Food* at Red Stitch and *Slutnik TM* presented at Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, all productions being spread across 2022. In 2023, She was able to Design the show *Queers of Java* with Lengger artists from Indonesia (Rianto Manali) for the Sydney Dance Company. Moreover, Giovanna is one of the five placements for 2023 of the Besen Artistic Program at Malthouse as Lighting Designer.



Production Dramaturg

NOEMIE HUTTNER-KOROS

Noemie Huttner-Koros is a queer Jewish performance-

maker, writer, dramaturg and community organiser based on the Wurundjeri country of the Kulin nation. Noemie's practice engages with sites and histories where ecological crisis, queer culture and composting occur. Their work has taken place in theatres, galleries, alleyways, dinner parties and blanket forts and includes *Mother of Compost* (M1 Singapore Fringe Festival) and *Democracy Repair Services* (The Blue Room Theatre). *The Lion Never Sleeps* was nominated for 4 Performing Arts WA awards and was named in Australian Book Review's 'Arts Highlights of 2019'. They were the winner of the 2020 Venie Holmgren Environmental Poetry Prize & 2021 West Australian Young Environmentalist of the Year.

As a dramaturg & performance-maker, they have worked with Mammalian Diving Reflex, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, DADAA, Theatreworks She Writes program, La Mama Victorian Seniors Festival and with playwrights, dancers & performance artists across Boorloo (perth) and Naarm making/thinking a lot about process, ethics and ecosystem thinking in performance. They were the Creative Coordinator of 2022 KickstART Festival Youth Week WA at Propel Youth Arts WA and regularly speak and write about the intersection of art & climate justice.

If this play has raised anything for you, you can contact:

Lifeline 13 11 14

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636

Q Life 1800 184 527

MensLine 1300 78 99 78

1800 Respect, National Sexual Assault, Family & Domestic Violence Counselling service 1800 737 732

Victoria Sexual Assault Crisis Line 1800 806 292

Thank you to the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, CASA House, Centre Against Sexual Assault, Headspace Elsternwick & Lifeline Melbourne for providing the resources in the foyer.

You can find more information about their work at:

- Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

<https://www.mshc.org.au/>

- CASA House, Centre Against Sexual Assault

<http://www.casahouse.com.au/>

- Lifeline Melbourne

<https://melbourne.lifeline.org.au/>

- Headspace Elsternwick

<https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/elsternwick/>

SHHHH DRAMATURGS NOTES

Dear Audience,

Thank you for coming to experience this strange and wonderful world of *Shhhh*; for bringing your own vulnerable, complex and generous bodies full of stories and memories to these flawed characters. This play is so much about our fragile bodies and attempting to navigate what is it to be and have a fleshy, awkward, confusing body amidst this capitalist hellscape and the patriarchal conditioning of our society. Sometimes your body doesn't behave the way you expect it or want it to; it's unruly, messy, smelly, overflowing the bounds of polite conversation. Sometimes two bodies meeting each other breaks some fundamental trust or respect, and we are left wounded and traumatised (physically, emotionally, psychically). And sometimes, two or more bodies meeting each other with open-ness, compassion, a willingness to admit your mistakes, can be a profound, deeply revelatory and pleasurable encounter.

This play sits within and around these tensions and challenges. Six characters in the midst of figuring out, realising, processing and coming to terms with moments where they have had their consent and agency ignored, rejected or received, or done so to someone else. What it is to ask and be listened to. To have your desires heard and respected. And through all of this, there is tenderness, humour, radical intimacy, pizza, magic, potions and maybe some healing.

It has been so inspiring to witness the care and generosity of this entire team and the possibilities for what safer and braver rehearsal spaces might look and feel like. Throughout this process, we have had many conversations about how trauma manifests in the body, what affirmative consent can be and our complex responsibilities to one another as ethical beings in the world. We've drawn on artists and advocates like Michaela Coel and Saxon Mullins, the activism of restorative justice and abolition, and so many people whose names we will never know, but whose labour and courage have undeniably helped to shift these conversations forward.

I hope that *Shhhh* opens up some of these questions for you, and can show us how we might hold and care for one another, to fumble with the words but keep trying anyway, to get better at asking questions.

And if this play has raised any difficult things for you, please reach out to the services listed in this program.

Wishing you love and conversations charted with care,
Noémie

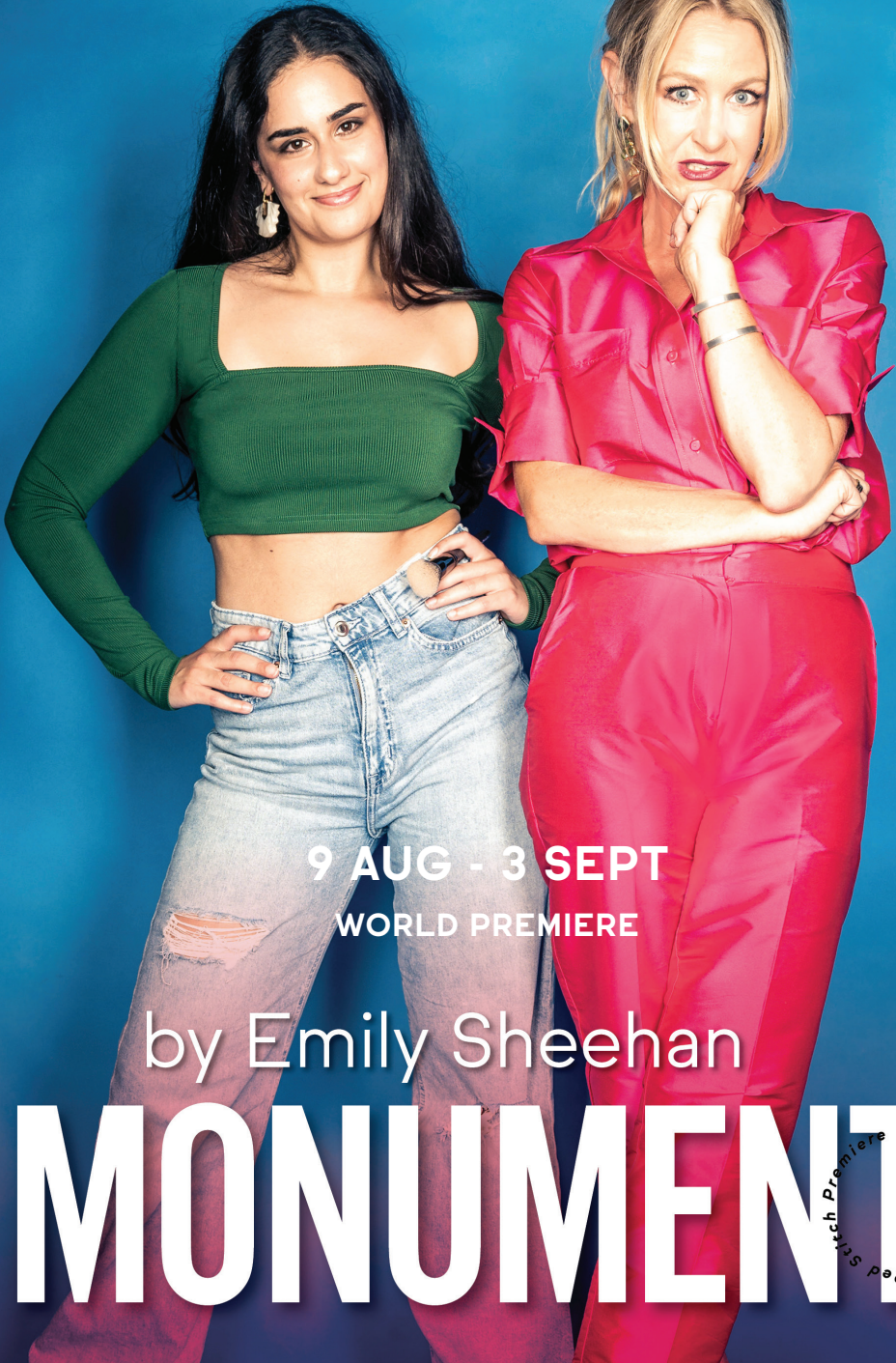
Noemie Huttner-Koros



RedStitch

THE
ACT OF
THEAT

PRESENTS



9 AUG - 3 SEPT

WORLD PREMIERE

by Emily Sheehan

MONUMENT

RedStitch Premieres Ink World Premiere

CREW



Stage Manager

JEMMA LAW

Jemma Law is a Naarm-based Stage Manager having graduated from Monash University majoring in Theatre and Performance. Jemma has gone on to focus heavily on performing, creating and producing new queer and exciting work, especially those that seek to challenge and bring joy. She seeks to engage with theatre to produce joy, as a mechanism through which to teach, learn, grow, and create with people.

Her professional stage management credits include *The Door in Question* (2021) with Stargazed Productions at MC-Showroom, *When the Rain Stops Falling* (2021) with Iron Lung Theatre at Theatreworks, Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* (2022) as produced by Monash University's Student Theatre, *Measure of a Moment* (2022) by Charles Mercovich at La Mama Courthouse, *Owl and the Albatross* (2022) written by Paris Balla at Theatreworks, *Medea: Out of the Mouth of Babes* (2022) and *Big Ben versus The Void* by Callum Cheah at Motley Bauhaus (2023). She is thrilled to be working with RedStitch on *Shhhh* and hopes that audiences allow themselves to be taken in by the text and reconsider their relationship with consent, power and sex - and their role in it.



Asst. Stage Manager

SOPHIE O'DONOVAN

Originally from Nipaluna/Hobart, Sophie O'Donovan is a Naarm/Melbourne based Assistant Stage Manager. Since starting her professional career with Arts Centre Melbourne in 2019, she has done work for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, RISING Festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival, Melbourne Fringe Festival and Adelaide Fringe Festival. Sophie has a background in theatre, film and comedy, and was a co-writer and producer of the short film *Knowing Death* (dir. Djuna Gladanac) in 2021. Sophie will be working with Assembly at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival later in 2023.

ENSEMBLE

Ella Caldwell (AD)	Olga Makeeva
Richard Cawthorne	Dion Mills
Jing-Xuan Chan	Georgina Naidu
Jessica Clarke	Christine O'Neill
Kate Cole	Dushan Philips
Brett Cousins	Tim Potter
Ngairé Dawn Fair	Joe Petruzzi
Daniel Frederiksen	Ben Prendergast
Emily Goddard	Tim Ross
Laura Gordon	Kat Stewart
Kevin Hofbauer	Sarah Sutherland
Justin Hosking	Andrea Swifte
Khisraw Jones-Shukoor	David Whiteley
Darcy Kent	Harvey Zielinski
Caroline Lee	
Chanella Macri	

STAFF

Artistic Director
Ella Caldwell

Interim General Manager
Jennifer Barry

Production Manager
David Bowyer

Front of House Manager
Penelope Thomson

Finance
Retinue Accounting

Marketing Coordinators
Darcy Kent
David Whiteley

Administrator
Cecelia Scarthy

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Andrew Domasevicius-
Zilinskas
Belinda Locke
Michael Rich
Sandra Willis

2023 HANSEN GRADUATES

Damon Baudin - **Acting**
Keegan Bragg - **Directing**
Shontane Farmer - **Acting**
Noemie Huttner-Koros - **Dramaturg**
Natalie Petrellis - **Design**

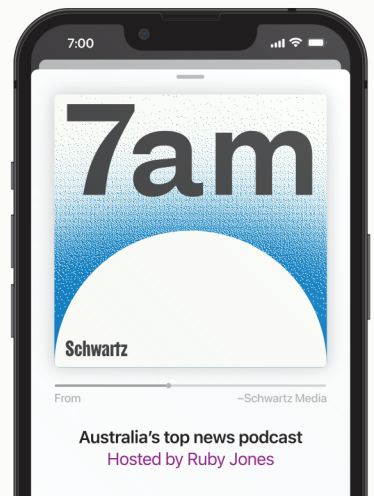


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Schwartz



Kindred

The Red Stitch Ensemble wishes to thank our generous Kindred donors.

Ruby (\$20,000+)

Andrew Domasevicius & Aida Tuciute
Carrillo Gantner AC & Ziyin Gantner
Jane Hansen AO
Maureen Wheeler AO & Tony Wheeler AO

Burgundy (\$10,000+)

Peter Bartholomew
John Haasz
Graham & Judy Hubbard
Abraham James

Auburn (\$5,000+)

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Simone Clancy
The Neff Family
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