

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta presents

LAUNCHPAD

THE SORRY
MUM PROJECT

By Pippa Ellams

&

LET ME KNOW
WHEN YOU GET HOME

By Miranda Aguilar



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CURIOUS
WORKS

Riverside Theatres, Parramatta

18 - 20 March, 2021

RIVERSIDE
NATIONAL THEATRE
OF PARRAMATTA



Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta presents

LAUNCHPAD

The Sorry Mum Project

Performer

Pippa Ellams

Playwright Pippa Ellams

Directors Hannah Goodwin and Tasha O'Brien

Let Me Know When You Get Home

in association with CuriousWorks

Performers

Gloria Demillo

Brooke Lee

Rose Maher

Tommy Misa

Jemma R Wilks

Playwright Miranda Aguilar

Director Valerie Berry

Launchpad Creative Team

Set and Costume Designer Melanie Liertz

Lighting Designer Benjamin Brockman

Composer and Sound Designer Me-Lee Hay

Production Manager Cara Woods

Stage Managers Hannah Crane and Anastasia Mowen

LAUNCHPAD opened Thursday 18 March, 2021 at Riverside Theatres, Parramatta.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Darug people.

RIVERSIDE
NATIONAL THEATRE
OF PARRAMATTA
PUTTING THE NATION ON STAGE



A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

THE SORRY MUM PROJECT

Initially I wrote a few stories about all the strange things my Mum has cried over. I thought it was funny and sometimes it was, but sometimes it really wasn't. It got me thinking about my relationship with my Mum and how we'd made it through the rough years and pretended nothing had happened. But it did happen and sometimes I see the cracks of what I did to her over the years appear and I need her to know I am sorry.

It's strange but often after Mum and I argued, instead of comforting her I would think 'It's okay because one day I'll do a big show or something and apologise all at once'. Which is what every Mum wants right? To be ignored and mistreated and then 'SURPRISE here's a show all about how I mistreated you and by the way I'm sorry!'

It's really not the best method and I acknowledge that now. I'm still doing the show though and that's because my Mum loves it. There are also Mums I see in the audience that I hope know that they are loved and grown-up children in the audience that consider giving their Mum a call. That's all I want from this show, for someone to call their Mum/Mother figure and ask how they are.

This show is for Barbara, I love you, no matter what.

Pippa Ellams



A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU GET HOME

Growing up queer, Filipinx and isolated, it never helped me to hear adults say that 'it gets better.' I didn't want to wait until I escaped the suburbs and was able to move to Sydney, Melbourne, San Francisco or some other seemingly mythical queer utopia. I just wanted to feel less lonely.

I wrote *Let Me Know When You Get Home* as a coming-of-age story for young folks that understands how out-of-reach 'escaping' your racist, homophobic and transphobic community can be. I wanted a work that didn't say, 'it gets better,' but instead tells young people, 'I know it sucks right now, so I'm going to stay here with you.'

So, for every queer person who has been told they need to 'escape' Western Sydney: I wrote this for you, no matter whether you left, stayed, or came back. Everyone deserves to feel safe, loved and accepted. I hope this work feels like home to you.

Miranda Aguilar

The Sorry Mum Project



PIPPA ELLAMS
Playwright and Performer
She/Her

Pippa is a writer/performer from Western Sydney. Her first play *The Carousel* was shortlisted for the Rodney Seaborne Playwrights Award in 2015. *The Carousel* went on to have multiple seasons (produced by Shopfront Arts Co-op, performed at Belvoir St Downstairs theatre, produced and performed at both Merrigong X and bAKEHOUSE's Step up Festival at KXT). Pippa's monologue *#nofilter* was published and performed as part of ATYP's *Intersection 2018: Chrysalis*. In 2018 Pippa wrote, performed and toured her first solo show *The Sorry Mum Project* (Bondi Feast Festival 2018, Adelaide Fringe festival 2019). She recently presented an excerpt of her latest play *Band-aid Boy* as part of Old 505's Rapid Reads. Alongside her collaborator/director Hannah Goodwin, Pippa was a resident artist at both Shopfront Arts Co-op and Q Theatre. Pippa was also selected for various creative programs including ATYP's 'National Studio' and 'Fresh Ink program', Q Theatre and ATYP's 'Propel initiative' and National Theatre of Parramatta's 'Creative Futures' program. Pippa is a founding member of Pip and Han Inc. a company dedicated to creating dynamic new Australian works.



HANNAH GOODWIN
Co-Director
She/Her

Hannah is a theatre director. Hannah's work as a director includes *The Carousel* by

Pippa Ellams (Shopfront Arts Co-op,

Downstairs Belvoir, Merrigong X and Kings Cross Theatre), *A Girl in School Uniform* (Walks into a Bar) by Lulu Raczka (Kings Cross Theatre) and *The Sorry Mum Project* by Pippa Ellams (Bondi Feast, Adelaide Fringe). Hannah's work as an assistant director includes *Stop Girl* by Sally Sara (Belvoir, dir. Anne-Louise Sarks), *My Brilliant Career* adapted by Kendall Feaver (Belvoir, dir. Kate Champion), *Packer and Sons* by Tommy Murphy (Belvoir, dir. Eamon Flack), *Love* by Patricia Cornelius (Darlinghurst Theatre Company, dir. Rachel Chant) and *Dresden* by Justin Fleming (Kings Cross Theatre, dir. Suzanne Miller). In 2019 Hannah was awarded the ATYP Rose Byrne Leadership Scholarship, recognising her as an emerging arts leader. She is the current Andrew Cameron Fellow at Belvoir Street Theatre.



TASHA O'BRIEN
Co-Director
She/Her

Tasha O'Brien is a University of Wollongong graduate. She co-devised and directed *Hot Mess* as part of Old 505's FreshWorks FEMME season in 2019 and *Hot Mess* will be having a mainstage season at Kings Cross Theatre in June 2021. As an actor her theatre credits include: *Playlist* (PYT Fairfield/Sydney Opera House), *The Gaslight Project* (PACT) and *The Carousel* (Shopfront Arts Co-op, Downstairs Belvoir, Merrigong X and Kings Cross Theatre). *Playlist* was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Visual or Physical Theatre Production 2019. Throughout 2020 she was part of the *Playlist/Bersama* cultural exchange collaboration. She is a proud member of the Ninefold Ensemble.

Let Me Know When You Get Home



MIRANDA AGUILAR
Playwright
They/Them

Miranda Aguilar is a writer, filmmaker and creative producer. Their work includes being a lead writer and showrunner of the webseries *Las Rosas*, and producing the short film, *Prone to the Drone*. Their other screen credits include *Tip of My Tongue*, *Calendar*, *The Shadow's Clock*, *Tiger Cops* and *Riz*. The development of *Let Me Know When You Get Home* has been supported by CuriousWorks, Australian Plays Transform (formerly Playwriting Australia), Blacktown Arts, Q Theatre, Sydney Fringe and the Australia Council of the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body. This is Miranda's first full-length play.



VALERIE BERRY
Director
She/Her

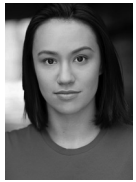
We are pleased to welcome back Valerie after Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta's inaugural production of *Swallow*. Valerie is an actor and performance maker. Throughout her practice, she has focused on collaborative and interdisciplinary processes. She has worked with, CAAP for Sydney Festival and Asia Topa, 2020 (*Double Delicious*), Yana Taylor (*Leading is Following is Leading*), National Theatre of Parramatta (*Swallow*), CuriousWorks, Polyglot Theatre (*Paper Planet: Sydney and Norway*), Theatre Kantanka, Urban Theatre Projects, Belvoir, Branch Nebula, Performance Space, Sydney Theatre Company, Performing Lines (Tour Germany and Adelaide Festival, *Ur/Faust*; and National tour of *The Folding*

Wife). In Adelaide, Valerie has worked with, ActNow Theatre as a facilitator and performer of *Theatre of the Global Majority*, Vitalstatistik (*Game of I-Lands*) Adhocracy 2020, (*Border Crossers*) Adhocracy 2017 and with OSCA for the *SUE Project*. Valerie has an ongoing collaborative partnership with multimedia artists, Anino Shadowplay Collective (Manila) and Paschal Daantos Berry, since 2005: *The Folding Wife*; *Within and Without*; *Arkipelago* (Jakarta); *Arkipelago2: Intima-sea* (Yogyakarta, Indonesia), and *This here. Land*, for Performance Space's Liveworks Festival 2017. *Let Me Know When You Get Home* is Valerie's directorial debut.



GLORIA DEMILLO
Performer – Val
They/Them

Gloria Demillo (they/them) is a poet, performer and multidisciplinary creative based in Sydney, Australia. They have worked closely with Word Travels for Australian Poetry Slam, Bankstown Poetry Slam, Red Room Poetry, CuriousWorks, and Radio Skid Row. They are the host of *Titas and Tea*, a podcast for Filipinx-Australian diaspora. The podcast features Philippine artists and creators, and the show explores topics like politics, history, racism, relationships, and community building. Gloria's most notable contributions include the Harana Poetry Tour for the Art Gallery of New South Wales; published works with Cordite Poetry Review, Bankstown Poetry Slam, UNSweetened, Red Room Poetry; and poetry performances at Sydney International Women's Poetry and Arts Festival, Wollongong Writers Festival, Australian Poetry Slam, and the Bankstown Poetry Slam Olympics.



BROOKE LEE
Performer – *Thi*
They/Them

Brooke Lee is an Acting BFA graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts. Brooke has performed in *Hello, World!* (Malthouse), *Slaughterhouse* (Belvoir), *The Echo of The Shadow* for Melbourne Festival (Teatro de los Sentidos), *Puffs or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years At A Certain School Of Magic And Magic* (Life Like Touring), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (VCA), *Peter Pan* (VCA), *Henry V* (VCA), and co-created *Mamasquito* for Melbourne Science Gallery (Gesundheit). Brooke is a passionate collaborator of new Australian work, particularly in the representation of Asian diaspora and the complex identity politics that come with it. In April Brooke is excited to be collaborating as Assistant Director for *Yellow Face* at KXT.



TOMMY MISA
Performer – *Prince*
They/Them

Tommy Misa is a Fa'afafine actor, writer and performer living on Gadigal country. Tommy has performed on stage in *Skin Deep* (NAS, Sydney Mardi Gras), *They Took Me to a Queer Bar* (Flying Nun), *Betty Breaks Out* (Kings Cross theatre), *Te Molimau* (Belvoir) and *Originate* (QTheatre) Tommy has collaborated on performance works for the Sydney Biennale, Cuban Biennale, Art Gallery of NSW and First Draft Gallery and for many Sydney Mardi Gras. Tommy's recent screen credits include *Liberty St* (Corinthian collective), *Ding Dong I'm Gay* (Screen Australia/ Wintergarden Pictures), *The Unusual Suspects* (SBS), *Standing With You- Guy Sebastian* (Sony Music), *A Viral Series* (I.C.E and Pacifica Film Festival) and *I Am Woman* (Goalpost Pictures). As a writer they have had residencies with PACT, Belvoir, Brand X and Performance Space

and regularly writes and performs sketch comedy for BuzzFeed. Tommy is currently developing their first TV series and various theatre works.



ROSE MAHER
Performer – *Dakota*
She/Her

Originally from Canberra, Rose Maher is an Illawara based actor, performance maker, teaching artist and producer. Rose began her training in Creative Arts (Theatre & Performance) at the University of Wollongong. Rose has continued training notably with the Shakespeare & Company (Massachusetts) and Ecole Philippe Gaulier (France). Professional credits include *Grace Under Pressure* (2017), *The Big Think Festival* and a national tour of *Quite Faith* (2018). Rose has practiced in residencies with Shopfront Theatre and most recently a Digital Artist Residency with Merrigong Theatre & Performing Lines. Rose is continuing the development of this work as part of MerrigongX 2021. Rose was a recipient of the Ian Potter Culture Trust grant (2018) which took her to France and lead to employment with Ministry of Education. While in Europe, Rose joined The Wonder Jam at the Edinburgh Fringe, and the international clown collective The Lost Cabaret producing late-night cabaret shows in Paris. Rose is thrilled to be invited into LMKWYGH having been part of development back in 2018.



JEMMA R WILKS
Performer – *Maria*
She/Her

Jemma is an Australian actress of Filipino, Spanish and Indian descent. She began her professional career early as a dancer in an independent and professional dance ensemble, 78 Tourette. Her theatre

credits include *The Cockroach Opera* (Belvoir), *Sydney Stories* (STC), and *The Information* (Belvoir); as well as musical theatre productions *South Pacific* (Gordon Frost) and *Chess - The Musical*. Her TV mini-series debut, *Singapore Sling*, gained international viewing through HBO. Other Screen credits include US series *Code 111-4*, as well as Australian productions *Sea Patrol*, *All Saints* and *East West 101*. Feature film credit includes *The Wannabes*. Jemma has starred alongside Ben Mendelson in SBS produced short film *Sell-ebriety Sell-ection*. Proudly representing the Asian community, Jemma was chosen as the MC for the Inaugural cross-cultural event "OzAsia Festival" in Adelaide. Jemma's honoured and excited to be part of this wonderful project.



MELANIE LIERTZ
Set and Costume Designer
She/Her

Melanie is a designer and maker for theatre, film, dance opera and circus. Design highlights include *The Return of Ulysses and Athalia* (Pinchgut Opera), *A Midnight Visit* (Broad Encounters), *HMS Pinafore* (Hayes Theatre Co.), *Romeo and Juliet* (Bell Shakespeare), *Good Cook. Friendly. Clean* (Griffin Theatre), *Funatorium- Captain Hook's Pirate Party* and *Mad Hatters Tea Party* (Sydney Opera House), *Alice in Wonderland* (Sydney Festival), *No End of Blame* and the critically acclaimed production of *Antigone* for Sport for Jove. For the Q Theatre in Penrith - *Frankenstein* and *The Ugliest Duckling* and for Australian Theatre for Young People - *The Trolleys*, *Between Us* and *Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. Melanie was nominated for two Sydney Theatre Awards for *HMS Pinafore* last year (Hayes Theatre Co.). She received an APDG award nomination for *Athalia* (Pinchgut Opera) in 2016 and was the winner of two Sydney Theatre Awards for *Antigone* (Sport for Jove) the same year. She graduated from

The Victorian College of the Arts in 2001 with a Bachelor of Creative Arts.



BENJAMIN BROCKMAN
Lighting Designer
He/They

We are pleased to welcome back Benjamin after Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta's production's of *Lady Tabouli*, *Girl in the Machine*, *The Girl/ The Woman*. Ben's lighting design credits include: Legs on the wall: *Cat's Cradle*, *The Raft Development*, *Waters Edge*; Shaun Parker & Company: *In the Zone*, *King*; for Griffin Theatre Company: *Family Values*, *Splinter*, *Replay*, *Diving For Pearls*, 2016 Season Launch, 2018 Season Launch; For Ensemble Theatre: *Tribes*, *The Big Dry*, *The Plant*, *Neville's Island*; For Darlinghurst Theatre Company: *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Broken*, *Detroit*, *Mother Fucker With a Hat*, *Tinder Box*; For Pinchgut Opera: *Farnace*; For Apocalypse: *Metamorphoses* (Winner of Sydney Theatre Awards - Best Lighting Design for an Independent Production 2018), *Angels In America part 1 and 2*; For Mad March Hare: *Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Eurydice*. *You Got Older*, *Bengal Tiger at Baghdad Zoo*, *Belleville*, *Dark Vanilla Jungle*, *Shivered*; For Bakehouse Theatre Company: *Coram Boy* (Nominated of Sydney Theatre Awards - Best Lighting Design for an Independent Production 2019), *Dresden*, *Visiting Hours*, *The Laden Table*, *Jatinga*, *Straight*; For Bontom: *Chamber pot Opera* (Sydney Adelaide Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe Festival); For Squabbalagic: *Good Omens the Musical*, *Herringbone* (Nominated of Sydney Theatre Awards - Best Lighting Design for a Independent Production 2019), *Grey Gardens The Musical*, *Mystery Musical*, *Man of La Mancha*; For Spark Youth Theatre; *Political Children*, *Haunted*; For Hayes Theatre Company: *Razorhurst*, *Carmen Alive or Dead*.



ME-LEE HAY
*Composer &
 Sound Designer*
She/Her

We are pleased to welcome back Me-Lee after Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta's production of *White Pearl*. Me-Lee Hay is a graduate of AFTRS in Screen Music Composition, is represented by the Australian Music Centre and is currently the Vice President of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers. She writes music for film, TV, dance and theatre. Theatre credits include composer and live musician for Noelle Janaczewska's *Yellow Yellow Sometimes Blue* (The Joan, Penrith) supported by CreateNSW, composer and associate sound designer for the co-production of *White Pearl* by Sydney Theatre Co. and NToFP as well as composer and live musician for *Eating Pomegranates* (Wentworth Falls School of Arts). Off the screen, her compositions have been heard on SBSOne, Channel TEN and the feature film *A Second Chance: Rivals!* which screened nationally in cinemas in Australia and New Zealand. She was awarded an APRA Screen Music Award for the Academy award qualifying short film *Last Tree Standing*.



HANNAH CRANE
Stage Manager –
The Sorry Mum Project
She/Her

We are pleased to welcome back Hannah after Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta's production of *Lady Tabouli* (2020). Hannah Crane is a stage manager and graduate of the University of Sydney (B.A.). While studying she was involved extensively with the Sydney University Dramatic Society (SUDS), in various roles including two terms on the executive team. In the past few years she has had the pleasure of

working with Apocalypse Theatre Company (*All My Sleep and Waking* (2018), *Angels in America I & II* (2019) and the Apocalypse-Green Door Theatre Company partnership for *Lady Tabouli* (2019) and *Omar and Dawn* (2019). Other indie credits include *The Serpent's Teeth* (2018, Hasemann, Ball & Radda dir. Kristine Landon-Smith) and *Curry Kings of Parramatta* (2019, Nautanki Theatre Co., dir. Kristine Landon-Smith), and stage manager and/or tech operator for many shows during the 2018 and 2019 Sydney Fringe and Sydney Comedy Festivals.



ANASTASIA MOWEN
Stage Manager –
Let Me Know When
You Get Home
She/Them

Anastasia Mowen is a graduand of the National Institute of the Dramatic Arts' Bachelor of Fine Arts Technical Theatre and Stage Management. They worked as the stage manager on multiple projects whilst at NIDA including *LOVE* (2019), *Marat/Sade* (2019) and *Pagliacci* (2019), as well as being the Production Manager for *Next To Normal* (2020). Outside of NIDA they worked as the Stage Manager for *Cendrillon* (Sydney Conservatorium of Music) and the Assistant Stage Manager on *New Breed* (Sydney Dance Company) in 2020.

THANK YOU

The Sorry Mum Project

Eli Badger, Bondi Feast, costumes4hire, Disco Turtles Production, Daniel Donaghy, Bronte Ellams, David Ellams, Alex Francis, Kings Cross Theatre, NToFP, Nick Price, Q Theatre, Mark Rogers, Shopfront Arts Co-op, Solomon Thomas, The Look, Oliver Trauth-Goik, Christie Woodhouse and of course our mums, especially Barbara Easton.

Let Me Know When You Get Home

Ines Aguilar, Jaime Aguilar, John Aguilar, Marilen Alladin, Janet Anderson, Eunice Andrada, Nick Atkins, Zaya Barroso, Annie Brockenhuss-Schack, Bee Cruse, Lena Cruz, CuriousWorks, Leila Enright, Brian Fuata, Rizcel Gagawanan, Kate Gaul, Carlos Gomes, Guido Gonzalez, Tasnim Hossain, Monica Kumar, Kenneth Moraleda, Caitlin Newton-Broad, Sophea Op, Jules Orcullo, Teik-Kim Pok, S. Shakthidharan, May Tran, Maria Tran, Emele Ugavule.



ABOUT RIVERSIDE'S NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARAMATTA

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta based in Sydney's geographical heart, launched in November 2015, reflects the diversity of Australia today through contemporary and bold performances, education programs and its audiences. As the producing arm of Riverside Theatres, NTofP is raising the profile of performance and engaging the imagination and creative ideas that resonate in Western Sydney and beyond and is *Putting the nation on stage*.

As a principal arts organisation based in Western Sydney, NTofP contributes to Sydney's vibrant artistic community by fostering the creation of new works and building capacity in the arts.

THE TEAM

RIVERSIDE'S NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARAMATTA

**Executive Producer,
National Theatre of Parramatta**
Joanne Kee

Associate Producer - Production
Cara Woods

Company Coordinator
Sarah Mott

Project Officer
Leigh Russell

RIVERSIDE THEATRES

Director
Robert Love AM

Operations Manager
Mike Brew

**Executive Producer,
National Theatre of Parramatta**
Joanne Kee

Commercial and Business Consultant
Craig McMaster

Marketing & Communications Manager
Henri Marron

Program Manager
Catherine Swallow

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