

LA MAMA

THREE
BIRDS
THEATRE

The Shift Theatre

GARAGE GIRLS



REGIONAL
ARTS
VICTORIA

Touring 2024

GARAGE GIRLS

Created by Carolyn Bock, Helen Hopkins (The Shift Theatre) and Candace Miles, Madelaine Nunn & Anna Rodway (Three Birds Theatre)

Written by Candace Miles, Madelaine Nunn and Anna Rodway

Directed by Janice Muller

Cast & Creatives:

ALICE ANDERSON: Madelaine Nunn

MAGGIE/ELLEN MARY/ENSEMBLE: Carolyn Bock

RUTH/JT/ENSEMBLE: Helen Hopkins

FLEURY/FRANKIE/ENSEMBLE: Candace Miles

MARIE/JESSIE/ ENSEMBLE: Anna Rodway

SWING/COVER: Yvette Turner and Sophie Lampel

Set & Costume Design by Sophie Woodward

Lighting Design by Gina Gascoigne

Sound Design & Composition by Rachel 'Stoz' Stone

Stage Management Dawn Holland

Set Construction by Jacob Battista

Production Dramaturgy by Janice Muller

Image credit: Tony Rive

The creators acknowledge the inclusion of poems from The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam and Helen Truesdell.

Creators' Notes

'Garage Girls' is a theatrical imagining of the life of Alice Anderson: the pioneering, trail-blazing, go-getting founder of Australia's first all-girl garage.

'Garage Girls' explores the story of a remarkable woman who was ahead of her time. An iconic figure of 1920s Australia, Alice Anderson stood at the intersection of debates around gender, culture and politics during her tragically short life. Stories of women in Australian history remain hugely unknown or under-researched. The immediacy and intimacy of theatre allows for unique possibilities in bringing these stories to the forefront.

The Shift Theatre and Three Birds Theatre came together with enthusiasm, to discover how best to realise Alice's world for the stage. Our research took us on a deep dive into The University of Melbourne archives, State Library documents and the public records of Victoria. We visited the Historical Society, pored over the 'Dyke's Automobile Encyclopedia', met members of the Veteran Car Club of Australia, visited Gippsland Vehicle Collection in Maffra, spoke to members of Alice's family (a surreal experience) and were inspired and enthralled by the seminal biography, 'A Spanner in the Works: The Extraordinary Story of Australia's First All-Girl-Garage' by Loretta Smith.

We were so fortunate to share the story of Alice Anderson and the Kew garage at La Mama Courthouse in 2023, and thrilled to return once again in 2024 (included on the VCE Education Playlist for Drama and touring as part of Regional Arts Victoria's program).

One hundred years on since Alice Anderson operated 'Miss Anderson's Motor Service' from a light-filled garage in Cotham Rd Kew, we now hope you see her magic living on in 'Garage Girls' and feel inspired to discover more about Alice for yourself.

Heartfelt thanks to the following people and organisations who have been an integral part of this journey:

Loretta Smith

La Mama Theatre

Regional Arts Victoria

City of Melbourne

Creative Victoria

Auspicious Arts Projects

Nati Frinj

Maffra Motor Museum

1st Vic Sea Scouts Hall, Albert Park

NIDA Melbourne

Our creative team

Our families

Alice Anderson



CAROLYN BOCK

CREATOR & PERFORMER

CAROLYN BOCK is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts; her career over 30 years has encompassed dance, theatre, television and film both nationally and internationally with many performance credits. In 2022 Carolyn was nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Performer in the independent Theatre category for her role in Jim Daly's 'Katyn'. Co-founder of The Shift Theatre she has co-written two plays 'The Girls In Grey' and 'Hallowed Ground- Women Doctors in War'.

HELEN HOPKINS

CREATOR & PERFORMER

HELEN HOPKINS is co-founder of The Shift Theatre with a long career in film and theatre, including many La Mama productions. She has co-written, produced and performed in 'The Girls in Grey' (published by Currency Press) and 'Hallowed Ground-Women Doctors in War' traveling to regional Victoria, N.S.W., S.A., W.A and Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Helen appeared in the Green Room Award winning In 'Angel Gear' and Green Room Award nominated ensemble for 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'.

CANDACE MILES

CREATOR & PERFORMER

CANDACE MILES is a theatre-maker, actor and graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts. She is a co-founder of Three Birds Theatre and has co-created original works to critical acclaim. Candace also performs as a singer and voice-artist. Her musical work 'Vanishing Act' was awarded Best Cabaret of Melbourne Fringe 2016, as well as being Green Room Award nominated in multiple categories. Alongside her career as an artist, Candace proudly manages arts & education programs for NIDA Open in Melbourne.

MADELAINE NUNN

CREATOR & PERFORMER

MADELAINE NUNN is an award-winning actor, writer, and three-time AWGIE nominee who has worked across theatre, film and radio since graduating from the VCA in 2015. Madelaine is the founder of Mad Nun Productions, co-founder of Three Birds Theatre, and Artistic Director of Rollercoaster Theatre. She has won The Martin Lysicrates Prize, The Rebel Wilson Scholarship, The ATYP Commission and The Jopuka Commission. She has been shortlisted for the Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award three times and longlisted for the Griffin Award.

ANNA RODWAY

CREATOR & PERFORMER

ANNA RODWAY is a writer, theatre-maker and researcher. She holds a Master of English Studies from The University of Sydney, examining youth and aging in the interwar novels of Australian writer Eleanor Dark. She is the recipient of the 2024 Abbie Clancy Award and is commencing her PhD in Literature. With Three Birds Theatre, Anna has written, produced and toured five original works to critical acclaim – ‘Three Birds One Cock’, ‘LadyCake’, ‘Enter Ophelia’, ‘Will This Show Take Off?’ and ‘Garage Girls’.

YVETTE TURNER

SWING / COVER

YVETTE TURNER An award winning VCA graduate, Yvette's recent work includes the lead role of Pamela/Annabella/Margaret in 'The 39 Steps' (Hearth Theatre), offstage cover for Neil Armfield's 'Death of a Salesman' (Her Majesty's Theatre) and Elizabeth Proctor/Tilly Dunnage for 'The Crucible' & 'The Dressmaker' (Complete Works). For La Mama's 50th anniversary, she premiered David Williamson's work 'Credentials', and during 2023, performed in Hearth Theatre's acclaimed 'Death of a Salesman' Australian tour. For screen, Yvette's credits include 'Offspring' and numerous shorts and webseries.

SOPHIE LAMPEL

SWING / COVER

Well respected in the Performing Arts industry with over 25 years experience, SOPHIE LAMPEL is a highly skilled performer and producer. As the co-founder and artistic director of Essential Theatre, alongside Amanda LaBonté, Sophie has played a key role in shaping the theatrical landscape for two decades. The company is best known for their signature event, Shakespeare in the Vines. This outdoor theatre spectacle has garnered widespread acclaim, captivating audiences from Warragul to the Barossa Valley and Margaret River and even the international stage of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2017. Recent credits include the Australian Premiere of 'EMILIA' at Arts Centre Melbourne and Canberra Theatre Centre (2022), 'The Dream Laboratory' - an immersive theatre experience inspired by 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (2022) and 'Enter Ophelia' - a co-production with Three Birds Theatre (La Mama 2018).

GINA GASCOIGNE

LIGHTING DESIGN

GINA GASCOIGNE is a lighting designer with over 30 years of experience. She spent many years touring in Europe working with contemporary dance groups and physical theatre companies. In Australia she worked for Circus Oz alongside numerous companies and performers including Archie Roach, Susie Dee, Outer Urban Projects, Top Acts, Melbourne Festival, Adelaide Festival, La Fura dels Baus, NICA, Chamber Made Opera, Maude Davey, Castlemaine Festival, Union Theatre, Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Women's Circus, Westside Circus and Snuff Puppets.

DAWN HOLLAND

STAGE MANAGEMENT

DAWN HOLLAND has enjoyed and is very passionate about her career in the arts: she has been in the arts for over 40 years, working in sound design, stage management, production management and education and training. Dawn lectures in all technical aspects of music and theatre and has been involved with the early careers of many young people and the training of youth at risk. Dawn has recently completed her own training in Mental Health First Aid and is an advocate for Support Act and Entertainment Assist who are fighting very hard for the many people in our industry who are struggling due to the pandemic. Dawn's musical taste covers many genres including, classical, chamber, choral, jazz, soul, dance and electronic/digital composition, her other interests include building, travel and history of performing arts and gay culture.

JANICE MULLER

PRODUCTION DRAMATURGY

JANICE MULLER is a theatre/opera director who presents work at state theatre companies, major arts festivals and venues across Australia and overseas. She collaborates as a writer, dramaturg, producer and curator. Recent directing credits include: associate director 'La Traviata' (Opera QLD, SOSA and WA Opera), 'Good Muslim Boy' (Malthouse Theatre, Queensland Theatre), 'Revolt She Said. Revolt Again' (Malthouse Theatre), 'The Tribe', Utp/Sydney Festival /Belvoir/ Castlemaine Festival/The Substation and 'Lake Disappointment' (Carriageworks) , nominated for five Sydney Theatre Awards.

RACHEL 'STOZ' STONE

SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSITION

RACHEL 'STOZ' STONE is an energetic and empathic sound, set, and costume creative. They're process oriented with a focus on vibrant collaboration and creatively responsive work. Best known for sound designing 'Cactus' (Mad Nun Productions), and 'On/Off' (National Institute of Circus Arts), they also work as a casual mechanist and freelance artist. They were nominated for Outstanding Set Design on 'Ham13t' (Unspooled Theatre Collective) at the UMSU Theatre Awards 2022 and received the Adelaide Festival Centre Arts Award in 2020.

SOPHIE WOODWARD

SET & COSTUME DESIGN

SOPHIE WOODWARD is a Melbourne-based set and costume designer. Sophie graduated with a Bachelor of Production (Design) from VCA in 2010 winning the Beleura John Tallis Design Award in her final year. Sophie recently designed costumes for 'Death of a Salesman' (GWB Entertainment and Red Line Productions) and 'Come Rain or Come Shine' (Melbourne Theatre Company). Recent set and costume designs include 'Monument' (Red Stitch Actors Theatre) and 'The Plan' (and other plans) (HotHouse Theatre).

View Sophie's work at
sophiewoodwarddesign.com