

Friday 29 June 2018

Cast update for *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*

- **Caroline Brazier to replace Jane Turner**
- **Julie Forsyth also joins the all-female cast which includes Amber McMahon, Susie Youssef, Annie Maynard and Bessie Holland**

Acclaimed Australian actress Caroline Brazier will replace Jane Turner in the role of the Superintendent in the Sydney Theatre Company production of *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* at the Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House this September. Jane Turner has had to leave the production due to a change in her family circumstances. Her husband, John Denton, has taken up a new job as Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the family will relocate to Paris.

It was also announced today that Julie Forsyth - who STC audiences will remember from her hilarious turn in the 2017 production of *The Popular Mechanicals* - will replace Sacha Horler in the role of Inspector Bertozzo. Caroline and Julie join the all-female cast which includes Amber McMahon, Susie Youssef, Annie Maynard and Bessie Holland.

"I am beyond thrilled that Caroline and Julie have joined the team for *Anarchist*," said director Sarah Giles. "Caroline's performance in Imara Savage's *Dinner* last year blew me away - I mean, everyone knows that Caroline is one of the finest dramatic actors around, so it may surprise you that she is also a brilliant clown as well. My god, her take on the Superintendent has to be seen to be believed; she is a comedic genius!"

"And then to have the inimitable Julie Forsyth join us to play Bertozzo - how lucky are we? I've been obsessed with Julie since I first saw her on stage when I was 14; she is true theatre royalty. To see where she takes this character has me bursting at the seams with excitement. And we get to hang out and rehearse in a room with all the other demented, crazy, brave and whip smart ladies in the cast? Pinch me. I must be dreaming."

Written by Nobel Laureate Dario Fo in 1970, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* is a farce with a political sting in its tail which has become an absurdist classic. A man has fallen to his death from a police station window. Did he jump or was he pushed? The cops want a cover up, but first they have to contend with an unlikely detective – a certified lunatic with a knack for impersonation. In a first for this play, director Sarah Giles has amped up the

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energy with an all-female cast led by some of the country's funniest comedians. This is a smart and subversive new adaptation, created by Giles with co-adaptor Francis Greenslade (ABC's *Mad as Hell*). It's a glorious battle of the individual against the establishment, of underdog against overlord, of anarchy against tyranny.

Director Sarah Giles. **Designer** Jonathon Oxlade. **Lighting Designer** Trent Suidgeest. **Composer & Sound Designer** Stefan Gregory. **Assistant Director** Heather Fairbairn.

With: Caroline Brazier, Julie Forsyth, Bessie Holland, Annie Maynard, Amber McMahon, Susie Youssef

#ENDS#

Caroline Brazier is one of Australia's most accomplished actors working extensively across film, television and theatre, since graduating from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). Caroline is currently filming a leading role in the highly anticipated Netflix original series *Tidelands*. She is most recognisable for her roles portraying Wendy Greene, the long suffering ex-wife to Richard Roxburgh's Cleaver on ABC's *Rake* to the quirky Chrissy Merchant on the Seven Network's *Packed to the Rafters*, or the wonderful Shanti on Network Ten's *Offspring*. Caroline's lead roles extend across a wide range of high profiled television series including *Water Rats*, *City Homicide*, *Legend of the Seeker*, *Parallax*, *Wild Boys*, *Terra Nova*, *Miss Fishers Murder Mysteries*, *Dripping in Chocolate*, *Deep Water* and *Home & Away*. Caroline's theatre work is equally high profiled, including the lead role of Paige in the Sydney Theatre Company's smash hit production of *Dinner* along with lead roles in *Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Caesar* and *Anthony and Cleopatra* all for Bell Shakespeare company, *Ray's Tempest*, *Enlightenment* and *Jumpy* for Melbourne Theatre Company, *Don's Party* for Sydney Theatre Company, *Gasp!* for Queensland Theatre Company/Black Swan Theatre Company, *Europe* for La Mama Theatre, *The Incredible Here and Now* for the National Theatre of Parramatta and *The Literati* for Griffin Theatre Company. Caroline's feature film work includes lead roles in Greg McLean's thriller *Rogue*, the sci fi fantasy *Pulse* and Ben Elton's comedy *Three Summers*.

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Julie Forsyth's most recent theatre credits include *The House Of Bernarda Alba* (MTC), *The Real and Imagined History of the Elephant Man* (Malthouse Theatre), *The Popular Mechanicals* (State Theatre Company SA), *Endgame* (MTC), *The Dream* (Bell Shakespeare), *Night On Bald Mountain* (Malthouse Theatre), *Private Lives* (MTC), and *The Book of Everything* (Company B Belvoir St). Other theatre includes: *Romeo & Juliet* (STC), *Phèdre* (Bell Shakespeare), *Elizabeth* (Malthouse Theatre), *Happy Days* (Malthouse Theatre), *Exit The King* (Company B Belvoir/Malthouse Theatre), *Moving Target*, *Babes in the Wood*, *The Ham Funeral* (Malthouse Theatre); *The Small Poppies*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Cloudstreet* (Company B Belvoir St); *The Visit*, *The Tempest*, *The Chairs*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Cheery Soul*, *Great Expectations* (MTC); *The Metamorphosis*, *The Miser* (STC). Julie was also a core member of Anthill Theatre, Melbourne, for whom she performed in more than thirty productions.

Her film credits include *Holding The Man*, *Three Dollars*, *Stan and George's New Life* and *Feathers*, and television appearances include *Wentworth (Series 2)*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and *Dead Gorgeous*. Julie has received Helpmann Awards for Best Female Actor in a Play for *Happy Days* and Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play for *Exit The King*, and a Green Room Award for Best Actress for *Kids' Stuff* (Anthill Theatre). She was the recipient of the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award's 2009 Individual Award.

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