

OFF THE WALL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Ladies Who Wait

Written by Yvette Wall



Directed by Gino Cataldo

SUBIACO ARTS CENTRE - 180 Hamersley Rd, Subiaco

August 15 (Preview), August 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26 at 7:30pm & August 20 at 2pm

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Playwright's Note

As the playwright of *Ladies Who Wait*, it brings me great joy to see my work finally on stage. This black comedy was born from my fascination with the Tudor period and admiration for Henry VIII's six wives, particularly Anne Boleyn. It began as a 10 minute piece at Short+ Sweet Perth 2022 and after receiving recognition at the festival, soon developed into two acts and spanned a timeframe of some 20 years.

These tragic and tumultuous Tudor times were certainly defined by political and cultural upheaval. The abuse of power was everywhere; a theme that speaks loudly in this piece and one that still resonates today. These brave, royal Tudor women had a challenging time, being at the mercy of Henry's whims and survived as best they could. They did what they had to do. I have twisted history ever so slightly to portray their battles and have added a touch of comedy, but I trust the injustice has a voice of its own.

Producing this play independently without arts funding (and we did try!) has had its magic moments as well as challenges. What's important is that we are in the arena no matter what the outcome. I am so very grateful to be surrounded by such a talented, inspiring, and brave team of local creatives who have helped bring this show to life. I have been most overwhelmed by the generous community theatre groups and individuals who have given their assistance. This truly is a collaborative effort. To you, the audience: thank you so much for supporting theatre. In the words of the late and great Augusto Boal, "theatre is the art of looking at ourselves."

Yvette Wall
PLAYWRIGHT

Directors Note

As a theatre director, I enjoy working on new plays that delve into timeless issues. My main focus is casting the right actors and collaborating with the creative team to bring the words to life. Yvette Wall has brilliantly captured a glimpse of the Tudor period in this dark comedy, offering us shades of realism and humour. This is a wonderful play that explores themes of torment, jealousy, ambition, betrayal and courage whilst still making us laugh.

With all the recent anxiety we've endured instigated by global isolation, lost incomes and unsettling news, finding ways to take a break from the tension is essential. Laughter has been called the best medicine and the shortest distance between two people. Finding a reason to laugh daily can be a lifesaver in these challenging times.

This fantastic cast have embraced this script with adult professionalism and childlike 'play'. They have developed characters you'll warm to or perhaps relate to, in a story with heart and humour told through witty dialogue.

Enjoy.

Gino Cataldo

DIRECTOR

Act 1

1536.

Tower of London.

It's execution day for Anne Boleyn and she's got some visitors. Throw in her unlikely ladies in waiting, Alice and Agnes, and it's a rather unconventional final morning for the soon-to-be-late Queen Anne...

There will be an interval of 20 minutes.

Act 2

1558.

St James's Palace.

Twenty-or-so years later, Queen Mary 1 has ascended the throne and is pretty sure she's in labour. Agnes and Alice are there to deliver and her sister, Elizabeth, arrives to stir the sectarian pot.

No photography or video recording is permitted during this performance.

Cast

Anne Boleyn: Emily Howe

Alice: Colleen Bradford

Agnes: Fiona Forster

Catherine of Aragon: Jennifer McGrath

Roger: David Wall

Jane Seymour: Maree Cole

Queen Mary 1: Jennifer McGrath

Lady Elizabeth: Maree Cole

Production Team

Director: Gino Cataldo

Stage Manager: Aleesha Wall

Producers: Yvette Wall, David Wall

Lighting Design: Virginia Moore Price

Tech Operator: Simeon Brundell

Set Design: Virginia Moore Price, David Wall

Set Construction: David Wall, Jon Skipworth

Set Artwork: Ursula Kotara

Costumes: Hustle and Bustle Costumes

Costumes for Alice and Agnes: Colleen Bradford

Crown: Living Horus Designs

Poster/Program: White Mouse Design

Publicity/Photography: Curtain Call Creatives

EMILY HOWE

Anne Boleyn

Classically trained at Mountview Theatre School, London, Emily Howe has over thirty years' experience on both stage and screen. She studied for three years with Ivana Chubbuck, mastering the Chubbuck Technique and appearing in various productions including the Academy Award winning, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, opposite Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett and directed by David Fincher.

After graduating from Mountview, Emily worked in theatre in the UK before returning to Australia to continue her training in Sydney. She has also trained as a model with Jemma International, receiving their award for best newcomer on graduating, and subsequently working in commercials in Australia, New Zealand, and the UK before moving to Los Angeles.

A multilingual actor, Emily has performed in both French and Italian. She has performed in numerous productions worldwide including *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Savoy, West End), *Teatrino* (Rai TV, Italy), *Seven Ten Split* (Tommy Reid/ Sony Pictures), *Chasing Chance* (Redler/Spleen), *The Seagull*, *Pericles & Richard III* (Judy Dench Theatre/ CESS), *The Balance of Power* (UBS films), *Mark* (ABC), and the Australian series, *A Difficult Woman* (ABC), *Murder Call* (9 NW) and *Water Rats* (9 NW).

Emily has now returned to Perth and most recently was nominated for a Finley Best Actress award for her performance as Jackie in the 2022 production of *My Mother Said I Never Should* (Playlovers). She is a member of SAG, Equity and MEAA.



COLLEEN BRADFORD

Alice

Colleen made a return to Perth theatre in 2015 after being away for 25 years. She had experience as a young adult singing, dancing and acting with Garrick Theatre and Wanneroo Repertory. Since returning to Perth, she has continued to perform in a variety of productions and has been a Garrick Theatre committee member for the last 5 years.

Her achievements include an Adjudicator's Certificate for dedication to her art in 2019, awards for her work as a costumier in 2019 and 2020, a Best Supporting Actress Award for *Natural Causes* – Wanneroo Repertory (2019) and the Ken Smith Merit Award - Garrick Theatre (2020). In 2021 she was a part of the cast of *The Naked Truth* at Kalamunda Amateur Dramatic Society that won an in-house Best Ensemble award and recently played Alice in *Ladies Who Wait*, that placed People's Choice runner-up production at Short+Sweet Perth 2022.

Colleen is delighted to be performing in *Ladies Who Wait* written by the superb Yvette Wall, under the direction of the talented Gino Cataldo with a wonderful cast and crew.



FIONA FORSTER

Agnes

Fiona has been acting with Garrick Theatre since 1989, apart from a sojourn in the UK where she spent many a Christmas touring children's pantomimes in the Northwest of England. Having appeared in too many shows to remember, a few notable favourites include *And Then There Were None* (2016), *Shock* (2016), *Puss in Boots* (2019), *Treasure Island* (2021) and *Dracula* (2022) at Garrick Theatre. Also *Natural Causes* (2019), *One for the Road* (2021) and *Pack of Lies* (2022) at Wanneroo Repertory.

Last year she played Agnes in the ten-minute version of *Ladies Who Wait* at Short+Sweet Perth that was awarded Runner-Up People's Choice.

Fiona's accolades include Norma Standing Award for Best Characterisation - *Panic Stations* (2013) and *Treasure Island* (2021), Best Supporting Actress – *Puss in Boots* (2019) and Best Female Actor in a Major Role – *Natural Causes* (2019). Last year Fiona shared in the Best Ensemble Award at the 2022 Robert Finley Awards for *Pack of Lies*.



DAVID WALL

Roger

David was a chartered accountant for 40 years until semi-retiring in 2022. In his spare time, he has worked alongside his wife, Yvette, as stage manager, set builder and props maker for many years.

David has a keen interest in the Arts. He has a voluntary position as Treasurer on the board of Regional Arts WA and is also a member of the Stirling Players Management Committee.

On this production of *Ladies Who Wait* David is co producer and set builder and has a walk-on role that he hopes will project him to stardom. He has worked extremely hard to learn all his lines and has engaged in method acting for this role, that is drinking ale and eating strawberry tart.

In October this year David looks forward to a stay with Yvette at Hever Castle, Kent UK, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.



JENNIFER MCGRATH

Catherine of Aragon/Queen Mary 1

Jennifer has worked diversely across multiple mediums of theatre from naturalistic to extreme physical performance. Jennifer also holds qualifications in drama teaching and performance with Trinity Guildhall, London. Her Irish theatre credits include Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, directed by Neil Jordan. Since moving to Australia, Jennifer has worked with Darlinghurst Theatre Co and Newtown Theatre, Sydney. In Perth she has worked with many well-known theatre companies, both independent and community based.

Jennifer's recent acting credits in Perth include playing the out-spoken Fury in Garrick Theatre's most recent production of *When Dad Married Fury* directed by Lynne Devenish (2022) and Adriana in GRADS' production of *Comedy of Errors* directed by David Cotgreave (2021). Prior to this she has played the roles of Laura Thursby in *Wife After Death* at Melville Theatre Co (2014), Pearl in *Summer of the 17th Doll* at Old Mill Theatre (2015), Celia in *Calendar Girls* at Stirling Players (2015), Lulu in *Kalamunda Here I Come* at Irish Theatre Players (2016), Catherine in *Memory of Water* at Playlovers (2016), Beth in *Snakes and Ladders* at KADS (2017), Ginny in *Relatively Speaking* (2017) and Charity Star in *100 Lunches* (2018), both performed at Garrick Theatre and Karen Weston in August: *Osage County* at Playlovers (2019). She also undertook the mammoth task of playing 35 characters, in the Irish production of *Dear Frankie* (2018) performed at Kidogo Art House, Fremantle under the direction of Frank Murphy.



MAREE COLE

Jane Seymour/Lady Elizabeth

Maree has extensive experience nationally in a variety of performance mediums including musicals, plays, operas, film, devised work, music, and performance art. Before completing her acting degree at NIDA in 2015, she trained in classical voice at WAAPA and has continued to sing and perform professionally since graduating in 2008. Maree also has an education degree and is a passionate teacher. She has taught music, dance and drama at multiple high schools, primary schools, and private institutions across Australia.

Credits include: Co-creator/performer - *Las Hormigas/The Ants* (PICA gallery space), Theseus - *Fairy Queen* (Breaksea), Aimee - *Stranger I am* (NIDA) dir. Craig Illott with original music by iOTA and Caitlin Park, *Tonight: Lola Blau* (NIDA - one woman cabaret) dir. Andrew Ross, *Clytemnestra - The Greeks trilogy* (NIDA) dir. John Sheedy, *Not Who I Was* (NIDA) dir. Kate Champion, Dot - *Sunday in the park with George* dir. Joseph Restubog, Janet - *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Seymour Centre) dir. Rob Hartley, Signora Nacarelli - *The Light in the Piazza* (NIDA) dir. Roger Hodgman, *Youth + Destination* dir. James Raggat (Kings Cross theatre), Fantine - *Les Miserables* and Nellie - *South Pacific* dir. John Milson, Ado Annie - *Oklahoma* dir. John Senczuk, Jane/Valerie - *Speaking in Tongues* dir. Dalip Sondhi.



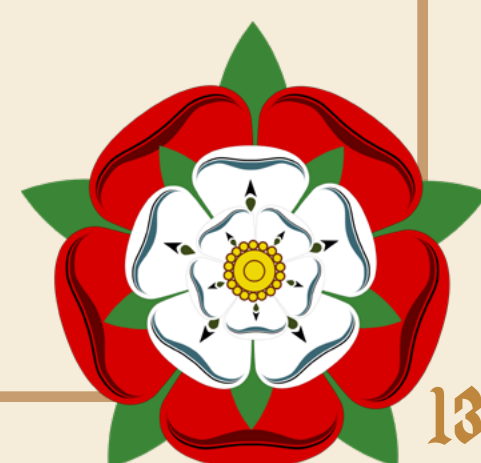
YVETTE WALL

Playwright

Yvette Wall is an award-winning Western Australian playwright and theatremaker. She is at the helm of Off the Wall Productions that has been active since 2009. For the past 20 years or so Yvette has worked with communities making theatre and nowadays her main focus is playwriting. A highlight of her career to date has been her involvement in the WAAPA New Works Program in 2022.

Yvette's diverse writing includes fractured fairytales, dramas focusing on complex family connections, historical pieces and pantomimes. Yvette has been obsessed with all things Tudor since her childhood days and is delighted that the full length version of *Ladies Who Wait* is finally up on stage, brought to life by an incredible team.

Yvette's accolades include: The Beryl Silvester Award for Best New Writing – *The Broken Slipper* - Dramafest 2014, Best Original Script – *Cracked* - Hills Festival of Theatre 2015, Third Place Best Script – *Little Angels* - Noosa Arts Theatre National One-Act Playwriting Competition 2019, Third Place Best Script and Audience Award – *Ashes to Dust* - Edythe Brook Cooper Playwriting Competition 2020, Script Finalist – *Paper Alley* - Short+ Sweet Perth 2021, Second Place Best Local Script – *Ladies Who Wait* - Short+Sweet Perth 2022, Script on Shortlist – *Ladies Who Wait* - Short+Sweet Hollywood 2022 and Short+Sweet Sydney 2022, The Beryl Silvester Award for Best New Writing – *Pulling Weeds* – Dramafest 2022.



GINO CATALDO

Director

Gino embarked on his acting journey at Patch Theatre in 1973. While working as a DJ in Perth, he pursued acting and voice-over studies in Sydney. In 1980, he co-founded Chimera Acting School. After a hiatus, he made a comeback and has been delighting Perth audiences for twelve years.

Throughout his career, Gino attended PAC Screen Workshops, acted in numerous theatre productions and received Best Actor recognition for *A Conversation*, *Ninety* and *The 39 Steps*. Notably, he portrayed Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* and Juror 8 in *Twelve Angry Men*, the latter winning Best Play at the Finley Awards in 2014.

Gino's talents extended beyond acting; he directed *'night, Mother*, earning high praise at the Old Mill Theatre in 2018. He also won Best Actor at the Hills Festival of Theatre for *A Ticket to Paradise* in 2019.

Beyond the stage, Gino has appeared in various film projects including *The Unemployed Thief* and *Harold the Plumber*, an IMDb approved comedy. He has embraced opportunities in feature films and TV commercials, enriching his artistic journey. In 2021/22, Gino showcased his acting skills in *Twice* and *The Almost Completely Terrible Tale of Felicity Footin*. He was also awarded runner-up Best Director at Short+Sweet Perth in 2022 for the ten minute version of *Ladies Who Wait*.

Gino's career leaves a lasting impact, earning acclaim for exceptional acting and directing.



ALEESHA WALL

Stage Manager

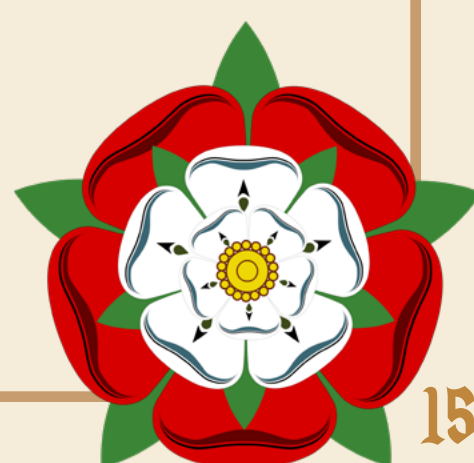
Aleesha has a creative streak, having taken singing lessons for many years. At the end of 2022 she suddenly found herself as the Assistant Stage Manager of a pantomime at Irish Theatre Players with a cast of 22 performers. And it was there that her passion for working backstage began. Aleesha is very excited to be involved in this production.

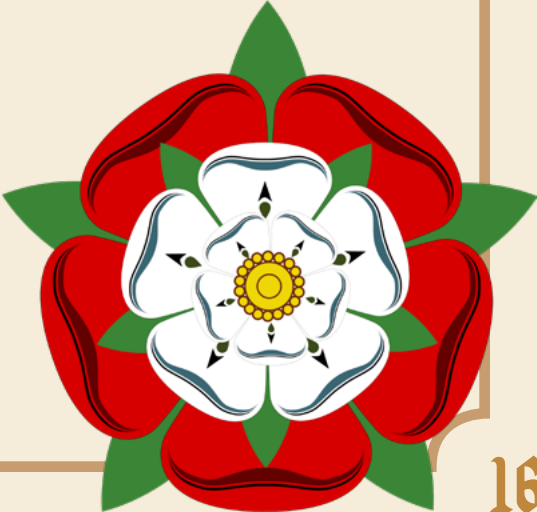
VIRGINIA MOORE PRICE

Lighting Designer

Virginia is passionate about all things lighting and graduated from WAAPA in 2007 with an Advanced Diploma in Lighting. Since then she has been involved in professional and community theatre as a lighting designer/operator, actor and director. Her work has included lighting design/operation for performing artists such as Brian McFadden (2008), Pseudo Echo (2009) and Cyndi Lauper (2011). She also worked in the capacity of lighting operator for the Perth production of *Wicked* in 2011.

Over the past few years Virginia has been engaged as a lighting designer/operator for *Shrine* (2019) at Melville Theatre, *Yes Prime Minister* (2020) at Kalamunda Amateur Dramatic Society, *Sound of Murder* (2022) at Old Mill Theatre and the pantomimes, *Cinderella* - the slightly deviated version (2021) and *Snow White — the off-white version* (2022) at Irish Theatre Players. Virginia also co-directed *Snow White — the off white version*. Recently Ginny lit up the stage for a production of *No Exit* (2023) at Kalamunda Amateur Dramatic Society, as well as adapting the script and directing the production.



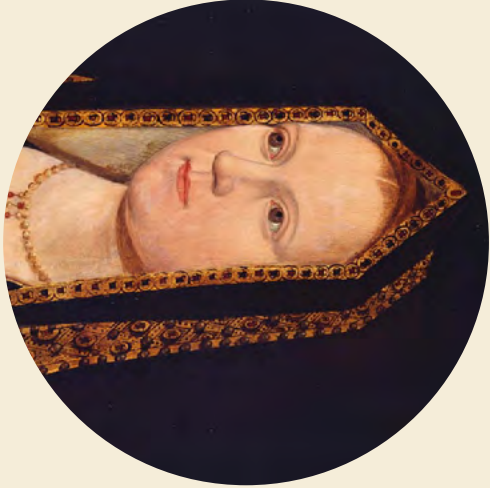


House of Tudor

1485 - 1603



Henry VI
1457 - 1509
👑 1485 - 1509



Elizabeth of York
1466 - 1503

MARRIED



Catherine of Aragon
1485 - 1536



Mary I
1516 - 1558
👑 1553 - 1558



Anne of Boylen
1501 - 1536



Elizabeth I
1533 - 1603
👑 1558 - 1603



Jane Seymour
1508 - 1537



Henry VIII
1491 - 1547
👑 1509 - 1547



Anne of Cleves
1515 - 1557



Catherine Howard
1520 - 1542



Catherine Parr
1512 - 1548



Edward VI
1537 - 1553
👑 1547 - 1553



Acknowledgements

A big THANK YOU to...

Garrick Theatre for rehearsal space and the loan of furniture.

Stirling Players for rehearsal space and the loan of costumes and props.

Primadonna Productions for the loan of furniture.

Ursula Kotara for her generosity and brilliant artwork.

Jon Skipworth for his time and expertise on our set construction.

Wollaston Theological College and Rev Dr Raewynne J Whiteley for the beautiful replica prayer book.

Virginia Moore Price for her time, generosity, illumination and expertise.







Thank you so much for supporting
this local and entirely independent
theatre production.

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www.yvettewall.com

