When classical meets country, sparks fly



An Ensemble Theatre Original Production

Production Partne











Queensland Theatre acknowledges the Jagera and Turrbal people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, and their unique relationship with the lands, seas and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.









Daniel EvansArtistic Director

Love and Music have always been soulmates.

Together they have summoned symphonies, inspired poetry, struck emotional chords ... and (more often than not) hit their fair share of bung notes. This dissonance is the premise for tonight's finely wrought play from one of Australia's finest playwrights.

Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica feels like something of a Limited-Edition David Williamson. We know David for his biting social satire, for taking a swipe at politicians, academia, corporate culture, and sports, but here he zooms in on two ordinary people and plays us a tune full of wit, heartache and yearning.

David says it's one of his personal favourites - and when your catalogue of work is over 50 plays - that's a big call. After tonight: we hope you'll agree.

Ten years ago, Georgie and Glenn's cracker chemistry turned this play into an instant hit. Some years later, the duo re-staged a portion of the show for David's 50th Birthday celebrations, only to discover the fireworks between Monica and Gary still exploded like Brisbane's own Riverfire. Director Mark Kilmurry - who is also the Artistic Director of Sydney's Ensemble Theatre - had the brilliant idea to remount the play ... and now it's relocated to Queensland with a couple of 2025 refurbishments.

Like an old flame, this play returns looking better than it has a right to and making our hearts beat even stronger. Georgie and Glenn - and their fictional counterparts - find themselves later in their lives ... and so the stakes of the play and the melancholy at its heart reveals itself in new and fuller ways.

When Monica speaks of the pain of being a classical musician or Gary half-jokes about time running out, you realise that this story is less about a kitchen restoration and more about human restoration. We are our own DIY projects. We are all writing our own love songs in our own key.

We are so excited to welcome not just Georgie (last seen with us in 1995) and Glenn (in his Queensland Theatre debut) but also the stellar team from Sydney's Ensemble Theatre. Director Mark Kilmurry, Designer Véronique Benett and Composer and Sound Designer Daryl Wallis are all making their QT debut, while some familiar faces behind the scenes - Lighting Designer Ben Hughes and our Stage Management Grant Gravener and Tia-Hanee Cleary - are back with us!

Also back is our brilliant partner: BDO. They are the Kenny to our Dolly - ready to harmonise with us on another David Williamson after working together on 2023's *Family Values*. BDO lets us bring you The Golden Records of Theatre: thank you.

This team, these national treasures working inside the world of tonight's particular Williamson with You - it's a match made in heaven. Cue the music - make it something a bit classic, with a little bit of country and just a touch of rock-and-roll ...

Hit it.

- Dan

28 MAY - 21 JUN 2025 BILLE BROWN THEATRE

DAVID WILLIAMSON'S RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA

Directed by Mark Kilmurry With Glenn Hazeldine Georgie Parker

Two screen stars reunite in a Williamson firecracker.

Odd couples don't come much odder than Gary and Monica in this comedic gem from national treasure David Williamson, where double Gold Logie-winner Georgie Parker (*Home and Away*) and Glenn Hazeldine (*Colin From Accounts*) reprise their performances 15 years after its debut.

When a cultured inner-city aesthete hires a knockabout true-blue tradie to renovate her kitchen, she gets more than she bargained for. The pair argue about everything, including the kitchen sink, but when the witty banter turns to music, things heat up faster than Monica's new six-burner cooktop!

She's an embittered former classical violinist who loves Mahler more than life itself. He's a glib former Country and Western singer now spinning tracks as DJ Rhinestone Rex. They have nothing in common except that they're both middle-aged and single. But as the arrows fly and the digs land, will this duo discover they're accidentally harmonising on their own sweet duet?

David Williamson (Don's Party, Emerald City, Family Values) returns to Queensland Theatre with this up-close and highly flammable two-hander that sparks with the spitfire comedy we've come to love from this legend of Australian theatre.



"Oodles of wit

— ArtsHub

"Georgie Parker and Glenn Hazeldine are irresistible."

- Sydney Arts Guide

Creatives

Writer David Williamson AO
Director Mark Kilmurry
Designer Véronique Benett
Lighting Designer Ben Hughes
Composer & Sound Designer Daryl Wallis

Stage Manager Grant Gravener **Assistant Stage Manager** Tia-Hanee Cleary

Cast

Gary Glenn Hazeldine Monica Georgie Parker

Original Production Credits

Lighting Designer Trudy Dalgleish

Location

Bille Brown Theatre Queensland Theatre 78 Montague Road, South Brisbane

Duration

2 hours, including a 20-minute interval

Warnings

Recommended for ages 14+.

This production contains mild sexual references and occasional mild coarse language.

An Ensemble Theatre Original Production



Production Partner



This production of Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica was originally produced by Ensemble Theatre in 2023.



David Williamson AO Writer

Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica was actually based on a real story.

I'd heard of a well-known woman in the arts who had renovated her house and eventually fallen in love with the guy who came to do it even though they hadn't exactly hit it off when they first met. I loved the feel of the story, but as in most love stories, it's never love at first sight.

In my fictional case they very much dislike each other's musical tastes. Gary, AKA Rhinestone Rex, was a minor country and western star having been nominated for a golden guitar once at Tamworth. Or that's his story. Monica on the other hand was a top-ranking classical violinist who played in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra until tendonitis of the shoulder recently cut short her career.

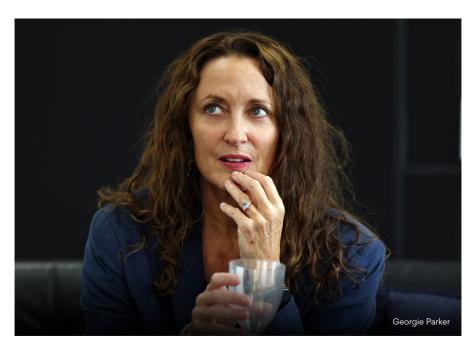
When Gary starts renovating Monica's kitchen with his Bluetooth speaker belting out his favourite country tracks, a showdown is inevitable. But as the story develops what you see is not what

you get. Gary and Monica turn out to be more complex than they seemed, both of them much more vulnerable than it first appeared.

When lonely people find each other, it always tugs at the heartstrings and the play turned out to be one of my personal favourites. What made it extra special for me was that two of my favourite actors of all time, Georgie Parker and Glenn Hazeldine, made my two characters come achingly and lovingly alive under the direction of one of my favourite directors Mark Kilmurry, so it's a great thrill for me to be see the play remounted by Queensland Theatre with the original cast and director.

I hope it will do for you what good theatre always does, cause us to reflect on what a strange, complex and everfascinating species we are.

- David









Mark Kilmurry Director

Opposites attract, eventually perhaps.

I have often mused on the idea of not being able to have a relationship with someone who has the complete collection of Michael Bolton albums (apologies MB fans) and how popular taste, while seemingly insignificant at first, can become a huge chasm as a relationship grows.

David Williamson's clever play explores this idea and piles on the comedy and charm with two engaging, forthright, and articulate characters, locked in a battle of wit and opinions. Who is right? What is musical taste? What are the underlying factors that recognise good taste or bad taste? Why does someone feel their choice is the right choice? And what, ultimately, does it say about our personalities? Wars have started for less.

But of course, David's play digs deeper than just musical taste and throughout Monica and Gary's journey we come to understand their life choices. It's a clever conceit and one that has lasted the ages; opposites attract, eventually perhaps.

This romantic comedy is a dream for our two fabulous actors Glenn Hazeldine and Georgie Parker and with this wonderful creative team, I am thrilled we have an opportunity to bring it to Queensland audiences.

Mark











Creatives

David Williamson AO

Writer



David Williamson AO is Australia's best known and most widely performed playwright. Some of his 56 produced plays over the last 50 years include The Coming Of Stork, The Removalists, Don's Party, The Club, Travelling North, Money &

Friends, Dead White Males, The Jack Manning Trilogy, Up For Grabs, Soulmates, Nothing Personal, When Dad Married Fury, Rupert, Cruise Control, Dream Home, Odd Man Out, Sorting Out Rachel, Nearer the Gods, The Big Time and Crunch Time.

Most recently in 2024, *The Puzzle* enjoyed a successful run with the State Theatre Company of South Australia and *The Great Divide* held its soldout, world premiere season at the Ensemble Theatre. In 2025, Melbourne Theatre Company mounted an acclaimed revival of *The Removalists*, and his brandnew play ARIA broke the all-time box office record at the Ensemble Theatre.

His plays (also in translation) have been performed internationally, including in London, Los Angeles, New York and Washington.

David has adapted many of his plays into feature films to great acclaim and his many original feature screenplays include *Gallipoli*, *Phar Lap*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, *Balibo* (as co-writer) and *On The Beach* (adapted for television).

David's many awards include 12 Australian Writers' Guild Awards, 5 Australian Film Institutes' Awards for Best Screenplay and, in 1996, the United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Award.

Mark Kilmurry

Director



Queensland Theatre: Debut.
Other Credits: Ensemble
Theatre: The Lover & The Dumb
Waiter, McGuffin Park, Uncle
Vanya, The Great Divide,
Midnight Murder at Hamlington
Hall, Benefactors, David
Williamson's Rhinestone Rex

and Miss Monica, Boxing Day BBQ, A Doll's House, The Woman in Black, Outdated, Kenny, Crunch Time, The Last Wife, Murder on the Wireless,

The Big Time, The Norman Conquests, Shirley Valentine, Taking Steps, Neville's Island, Two. Odd Man Out, Relatively Speaking, Barefoot in the Park, Betrayal, Good People, My Zinc Bed, Educatina Rita, Absent Friends, Other Desert Cities, The Anzac Project, Richard III, The Glass Menagerie, Frankenstein, Managing Carmen, Red, The Spear Carrier, Hamlet; Griffin Theatre Company: What a Piece of Work: Downstairs at Belvoir: The Dumb Waiter; Sydney Theatre Company: Cyrano de Bergergc: Crossroads Live Australia: The Odd Couple. Film: Being Gavin; Passion; A Film for You. Television: White Collar Blue: CNNNN: Backberner; Home and Away. Training: 1985 Graduate of the Coventry Centre of Performing Arts. Positions: Artistic Director (2015-Present). Ensemble Theatre: Associate Director, Ensemble Theatre. Awards: Time Out (UK) Theatre Award. Independent Theatre Award, Norman Kessell Memorial Award for Best Actor - Hamlet, Japes; Hayes Gordon Memorial Award for Important Contribution to Theatre.

Véronique Benett

Designer



Queensland Theatre: Debut.
Credits: : As Lighting Designer:
Belvoir St Theatre: The Jungle
And The Sea, Tell Me I'm Here,
The Wolves; Circa: Sacre;
Darlinghurst Theatre Company:
Natasha, Pierre And The Great
Comet Of 1912; Ensemble

Theatre: The Great Divide, Ulster American (with set). Switzerland (with set): National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA): Alice: Mother Of Cinema. Machinal, Women On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown (with costume), Venus in Fur (with set); Griffin Theatre Company: The Smallest Hour; Hayes Theatre Co.: A Little Night Music, The Life Of Us; The Old Fitz Theatre: Burn Witch Burn, Happy Days. Chorus, Anatomy Of A Suicide, Permission To Spin, Howie The Rookie; Outhouse Theatre Co: A Case For The Existence Of God (with set), Ulster American (with set) John; Pinchaut Opera: Eternal Light, Pleasures of Versailles; Red Line Productions: The Bugalugs Bum Thief, Exit the King (with set), Happy Days; Sydney Theatre Company: Banging Denmark. As Set and Costume Designer: Ensemble Theatre: The Memory Of Water, David Williamson's Rhinestone Rex And Miss Monica, A Broadcast Coup, The Caretaker, A Doll's House; Red Line Productions: Our Blood Runs In The Street. As Costume Designer: Seymour Centre/Sydney

Festival: Museum Of Modern Love; Sport for Jove: As You Like It. Training: Master of Fine Arts (Design for Performance), NIDA; Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Theatre and Stage Management), NIDA. Awards: Sydney Theatre Award nominations: Best Stage Design of an Independent Production Exit The King, Ulster American; Best Lighting Design of an Independent Production Happy Days; Best Lighting Design of an Independent Production John.

Ben Hughes

Lighting Designer



Queensland Theatre: Round The Twist The Musical, The Almighty Sometimes, The Sunshine Club, Return To The Dirt, Boy Swallows Universe, Triple X (with Sydney Theatre Company), Mouthpiece, Antigone, L'appartement, Twelfth Night, Let The Sunshine (co-

production with Melbourne Theatre Company). Other Credits: Sydney Theatre Company: Poison Of Polygamy (with La Boite Theatre), Black Is The New White (and national tour); Melbourne Theatre Company: 37; QPAC: Jersey Boys (with Prospero Arts), Is That You Ruthie? (with Oombarra Productions), Breaking The Castle; Brisbane Festival: Love Stories, Bananaland, Salamander; Opera Queensland: Don Giovanni, Mozart Airborne (with Expressions Dance Company and Natalie Weir); La Boite Theatre: Irl, The Last Five Years, Away, Naked And Screaming, The Neighbourhood, From Darkness; Prospero Arts: Singing In The Rain, Wizard Of Oz; Meryl Tankard: Two Feet (Adelaide Festival and Hong Kong Arts Festival); Australasian Dance Collective: Three 2.0, Forgery, Aftermath, The Dinner Party (The Host): Queensland Ballet: Bespoke, Strictly Gershwin, The Masters Series, Giselle; Dead Puppet Society: Holding Achilles, Peter and the Starcatcher. Awards: 2023 Matilda Award for Best Lighting Design Salamander; Australian Production Design Guild Award nominations Medea, Twelfth Night, Boy Swallows Universe; numerous Matilda Award nominations for Best Lighting Design including Boy Swallows Universe, L'appartement, Switzerland, Good Muslim Boy, The Crucible, John Gabriel Borkman, Mother Courage And Her Children and Best Set Design Caligula (co-design).

Daryl Wallis

Composer & Sound Designer



Queensland Theatre: Debut.
Other Credits: As Composer and Sound Designer: CIRCA: The Future Begins Now, Aura, One Beautiful Thing, Landscape With Monsters; Belvoir St Theatre: The Gates of Egypt; Griffith Theatre Company:

Wicked Sisters, Replay: Ensemble Theatre: The Great Divide, Rhinestone Rex & Miss Monica, Midnight Murder At Hamlington Hall, Mr Bailey's Minder, The Caretaker, A Doll's House; Merrigong Theatre Company: Camarilla, Valley Song, The Dapto Chaser, Charcoal Creek, Dead Man Brake, The Man Who Dreamt The Stars, The Outside Man, The Sirens' Return, Something That Happened, As Luck Would Have It; Monkey Baa Theatre Company: Fox, The Peasant Prince. As Pianist and Sound Designer: Sydney Theatre Company: Reclaimed Pianos; As Pianist: Belvoir St Theatre: Women of Troy, The Man From Muckinupin. As Musical Director and Pianist: Ensemble Theatre: A Christmas Carol, The Last Five Years; Ali & The Thieves: Leonard Cohen Koans, Flannelette, How Sweet It Is, Close To You. As Musical Director: Mitchell Butel: Killing Time, Excellent Adventure, And Now For The Weather, Croon Tunes; The Strange Bedfellows: Under the Covers, Bedlam, Prancer and Vixen; Jacqui Dark: Jacqui Dark Is Alive And Well And Living In Newtown, Take This Longing; Eliane Morel: Disenchanted, Carmen The Cabaret; Annaliesa Rose: Time Is A Traveller; Jenny Vuletic: Balken After Midnight, Corporate Piggery, Tennessee and Me. As Composer: The Aurobindo Project, The Hour Of Land. Television: As Composer: Heat In The Kitchen. Awards: Green Room Award - Best Musical Director The Stranae Bedfellows; Sydney Theatre Award - Best Score & Sound Design with Elana Kats-Chernin Frankenstein: First Prize 2012 Federation Bells Composing Competition.

Grant Gravener Stage Manager



Queensland Theatre: Round the Twist The Musical, Cost of Living, Family Values, As You Like It, The Appleton Ladies Potato Race, Othello. Other Credits: As Stage Manager: Sun Opera: The Nurses at Vung Tau (World Premiere Brisbane 2022): Opera

Australia: As Stage Manager Swing: The Phantom of the Opera (Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour 2022); Gordon Frost Organisation: As Venue Manager: Magic Mike Live (Sydney/Melbourne Tour 2021); Cirque du Soleil: As General Stage Manager: Corteo Arena Version (Montreal Restaging/North American and European Tours 2018–2020), Luzia (Montreal Creation/North American Tour 2016–2017); As General Stage Manager/Artistic Assistant: Corteo (North American/Japanese/European/South American Tours 2007–2015); As Assistant Stage Manager: Quidam (Asia-Pacific Tour 2005–2006).

Tia-Hanee Cleary

Assistant Stage Manager



Queensland Theatre: Pride and Prejudice, Drizzle Boy (Regional Tour), Medea, Tiny Beautiful Things, As You Like It, The Almighty Sometimes. Other Credits: As Lighting Operator: Brisbane Powerhouse: A Girl's Guide to World War, All Fired Up,

Diary of a Madman, Speed: The Movie The Play, Diehard: The Movie The Play, Titanic: The Movie The Play; Room to Play: The Eisteddfod. As Deputy Head of Props: Opera Australia: The Phantom of the Opera (2022/2023). As Props Assistant: GWB Entertainment: An American in Paris (Brisbane). As Assistant Stage Manager: Opera Queensland: Songs of Love and War, The Marriage of Figaro, Opera Under the Stars, Don Giovanni, A Flowering Tree, Peter Grimes; Troop Production: The Lonesome West. As Venue Technician: Brisbane Festival: Cassie Workman: Giantess, Orpheus, Eurydice. As Visual Graphic and Presentation Designer: Matilda Awards (2018 & 2019). Training: Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production), QUT.







Cast

Glenn Hazeldine

Gary



Queensland Theatre: Debut.
Other Credits: Sydney Theatre
Company: No Pay? No Way!,
Blithe Spirit, Away, Disgraced,
Arcadia, After Dinner, Perplexed,
Love and Information, Tot Mom,
Elling, The Pig Iron People, Julius
Caesar. Victory. Love for Love.

Monarels, Historia, Two Weeks with the Queen, Dead White Males: Ensemble Theatre: David Williamson's Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica. Jack Manning Trilogy, A Conversation, Sanctuary, Managing Carmen, Happiness and Sorting Out Rachel. Also, Rapture Blister Burn, The Ruby Sunrise, Tuesdays with Morrie, A View from the Bridge, All My Sons, Ten Unknowns, Act One; Red Line Productions: Amadeus. Death of a Salesman: Merrigong Theatre Company: As Luck Would Have It, Letters to Lindy; Belvoir St Theatre: The Judas Kiss; Seymour Centre: Museum of Modern Love, Transparency; Melbourne Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre Company: Cosi, The Father, Don's Party; Daniel Sparrow Productions: Rupert; Darlinghurst Theatre Company: Every Second, Lawrence and Holloman: La Boite Theatre and Griffin Theatre Company: A Hoax; Griffin Theatre Company: Porn.Cake; Bell Shakespeare: As You Like It. Film: Little Monsters, Last Cab to Darwin, The Little Death, Last Train to Freo, Drippina in Chocolate. Television: Colin from Accounts. The Twelve, House of Bond, A Place to Call Home. ANZAC Girls. The Moodys, Redfern Now. The Elegant Gentleman's Guide to Knife Fighting, Water Rats, All Saints, Training: 1994 National Institute of Dramatic Art Graduate (NIDA). Positions: NSW President of Actors Equity, Deputy Chair of Actors Benevolent Fund NSW.

Georgie Parker

Monica



Queensland Theatre:
The Threepenny Opera.
Other Credits: Ensemble
Theatre: The Great Divide,
David Williamson's Rhinestone
Rex and Miss Monica, Murder
On The Wireless, Luna Gale,
Barefoot in the Park. Rapture

Blister Burn, Let The Sunshine, Rabbit Hole, They're Playing Our Song, Chapter Two; Footbridge Theatre and National Tour: How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, Nunsense; Marion St Theatre: Wait Until Dark, Here Comes Showtime; Sydney Theatre Company: Scenes From A Separation, All In The Timing: Theatre Royal: Crazv For You; Sydney Entertainment Centre and National Tour: Man from Snowy River, Love Letters (Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne). Film: 13th Summer, The Stranger (Short Film), Santa's Apprentice (Animation), Irresistible, Danger Down Under, Young Einstein, The Reprisal, The Boy Who Had Everythina. The 13th Floor. **Television:** Home And Away, Play School, City Homicide, Scorched, Emerald Falls, Stupid Stupid Man, Stepfather of the Bride, The Society Murders, All Saints, Fire, Over The Hill, Acroplis Now, GP, All Together Now, A Country Practice, Rafferty's Rules, Barlow And Chambers.

Georgie has been nominated for a Logie Award 11 times and won 7, two of them Gold, for her television work.



Ensemble Theatre is the longest continuously running professional theatre company in Australia, dedicated to collaborating with outstanding playwrights, directors, and performers to present the finest international plays, modern classics, and bold new Australian works. Its acclaimed touring history includes award-winning productions such as *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks, Frankenstein, The Appleton Ladies' Potato Race* and *Black Cockatoo*. In 2025, Ensemble embarks on a multistate tour of Melanie Tait's *The Queen's Nanny* and is thrilled that David Williamson's *Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica* will be staged by Queensland Theatre. Ensemble inspires audiences nationwide through artistic excellence, innovation, and storytelling that connects communities.



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At BDO, we take pride in our long-lasting partnership with Queensland Theatre and our support for the arts in Queensland. Our approach is centred around people, and we deeply value the arts community's role in uniting individuals, fostering connections, celebrating our rich cultural heritage, and sparking innovation.

For more than 100 years, our Brisbane office has been dedicated to assisting Queensland organisations. Leveraging our extensive knowledge of the State's market and the strength of our global network, our team provides clients with trusted insights, guiding them on their journey, no matter where it leads.

Whether you are an individual, a business owner, or a leader in a major corporate or government and public sector organisation, our team of 99 Partners and over 900 staff across Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast is committed to understanding your needs, delivering exceptional service, and achieving outstanding results.

We hope you enjoy the performance!



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JULIA

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3 SEP — 13 SEP

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— Cathy Hunt, WOW (Women of the World) Festival

A Belloo Creative production

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Directed by Caroline Dunphy
Original Concept by Matt Scholten

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