

MEDIA RELEASE  
Tuesday 7 April 2015

# THE WAITING ROOM

by Kylie Trounson

WORLD PREMIERE



Cast **Kate Atkinson, Brett Cousins, Belinda McClory, William McInnes, Sophie Ross, Greg Stone**  
Director **Naomi Edwards**  
Set Designer **Dayna Morrissey**  
Costume Designer **Chloe Greaves**  
Lighting Designer **Richard Vabre**  
Sound Designer **Russell Goldsmith**  
AV Designer **Michael Carmody**

**'An intrinsically Melbourne story.'**  
The Age

**'Naomi Edwards is a formidable talent with a light touch, bold ideas and the courage to follow them through.'**  
Stage Noise

**'Dr Trounson is not just a great thinker. He's a can-do scientist.'**  
ABC Radio

**Venue**  
Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio

**Season dates**  
Friday 15 May – Saturday 27 June 2015

**Opening night**  
8pm Thursday 21 May 2015

**Production Briefing**  
6pm Monday 11 May 2015

**Tickets**  
from \$73, Under 30s from \$36

**Bookings**  
Southbank Theatre Box Office  
03 8688 0800 or [mtc.com.au](http://mtc.com.au)  
Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183  
or [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

#mtcWaiting  
@MelbTheatreCo  
[mtc.com.au/Waiting](http://mtc.com.au/Waiting)

A true Australian story that grapples with the nature of conception, the science of creation and humanity's drive to leave its own imprint, **The Waiting Room** by **Kylie Trounson** celebrates the development of IVF in Melbourne from a uniquely personal perspective. First performed to a rapturous response as part of **Melbourne Theatre Company's** 2014 Cybec Electric play readings, and now receiving its world premiere on the mainstage, **The Waiting Room** opens at **8pm, Thursday 21 May at Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio.**

Kylie Trounson was a child when her father Alan made breakthrough after breakthrough in fertility research. It was 1970s Melbourne and society was divided: was he a hero? Or a mad scientist playing God? The controversy swirled so close to her, yet she was far too young to understand how much was at stake. But now she can see it plain: that when we speak about conception we speak of the most profound things, of family and faith, our lives and our mortality, and our uncertain place in nature.

Created in collaboration with director **Naomi Edwards**, **The Waiting Room** stars award-winning actor **Greg Stone** as Australian pioneer of IVF, Emeritus Professor Alan Trounson, **Sophie Ross** as Kylie and **Belinda McClory** as a woman going through IVF, both in the 1970s and today. **Kate Atkinson, Brett Cousins** and **William McInnes** complete the cast of this multi-layered play.

Playwright **Kylie Trounson** said, '**The Waiting Room** is about legacy – what we strive to leave behind in the face of mortality, be it our own biological child, a scientific breakthrough, a work of art, or an understanding of God. I started writing a play about the development of IVF, which then became a play about my family, and then about other families, parenthood, relationships, sacrifice and how we fit in the lifecycle of the universe.'

**Kylie Trounson's** works include *The Hyacinth Project* (La Mama), *Uninvited Guests*, *Hotel*, *Eavesdropping* (St Martins Youth Arts Centre), *The Man with the September Face* (Arts Centre Melbourne), *The Lost Story of the Magdalene Asylum* (Peepshow Inc), *Divine* (Peepshow Inc) and *Love Letters* (St Martins, Arts Centre Melbourne). Kylie was writer-in-residence for Red Stitch Actors Theatre in 2010–11 where she wrote *Merman*, which was shortlisted for the 2011 Patrick White Playwright's Award.

Director **Naomi Edwards** makes her MTC mainstage debut with this production. Recently appointed as Artistic Director of Patch Theatre in South Australia, she has directed for MTC's Lawler Studio, Sydney Theatre Company, Opera Australia, Arena Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare, La Mama, Milkcrate Theatre, St Martins Youth Arts Centre, RADA, VCA, Victorian Opera, Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne and many more. Her directing work spans children's theatre and community theatre. Her production of *Cautionary Tales for Children* for Arena Theatre Company received a Helpmann nomination for Best Presentation for Children in 2013. In 2012 she received the Gloria Dawn/Gloria Payten and Mike Walsh Scholarships. Edwards was selected to take part in MTC's inaugural Women Directors' Program in 2014.



Kate Atkinson



Brett Cousins



Belinda McClory



William McInnes



Sophie Ross



Greg Stone

Please note: Aaron Pedersen withdrew from this production due to a film offer.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

