



# Di and Viv and Rose

by Amelia Bullmore

## Education Mini-Pack

12 AUGUST – 16 SEPTEMBER

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

### About the Play

From different classes, from different places, with different experiences and expectations, Di, Viv and Rose would never have crossed paths if they hadn't shared a flat all those years ago at uni. For a while, the laughs bound them together. But surely time, which delivers triumph, disaster and change so unpredictably, will slowly draw these three friends apart?

### About the Playwright

Amelia studied Drama at Manchester University. She started out as an actor and began writing professionally in 1994. She continues to do both. Her first play, *Mammals*, directed by Anna Mackmin, had an extended sell-out run at The Bush in 2005 and went on a national tour in 2006. The play was staged in Los Angeles in 2009. Her adaptation of Ibsen's *Ghosts*, also directed by Anna Mackmin, had a sell-out run at The Gate in 2007 and has since been produced at The Citizens Theatre, Glasgow. She and Mackmin collaborated again for the Old Vic's 24 Hour Plays in 2009. Her recent work includes the play *Di and Viv and Rose*, originally produced at the Hampstead before transferring to the West End. The play has since been performed in Israel, Poland, Germany and New York.

### Cast

**Di** Nadine Garner

**Viv** Belinda McClory

**Rose** Mandy McElhinney



Turn the page for activities, and discussions.

### Production

**Director** Marion Potts

**Set & Costume Designer** Dale Ferguson

**Lighting Designer** Paul Jackson

**Composer & Sound Designer** Kelly Ryall

**Voice & Dialect Coach** Geraldine Cook-Dafner

**Assistant Director** Stephen Nicolazzo

**Set Designer Secondment** Matthew McLaughlin

**Lighting Secondment** Rachel Rui Qian Lee

**Stage Manager** Christine Bennett

**Assistant Stage Manager (Rehearsals and Performance Season)** Benjamin Cooper

**Assistant Stage Manager (Performance Season)** Millie Mullinar

**Rehearsal Photographer** Deryk McAlpin

**Production Photographer** Jeff Busby

### Genre

Contemporary drama comedy

### Running Time

Approximately 2hrs including 20min interval

### Attendance Information

This production contains coarse language, mature themes and references to sexual violence.

## Before the show



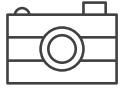
The three main characters in *Di and Viv and Rose* met as university students in 1983 and shared a house together. We then follow them through the years up until 2010, and discover how their friendship has evolved. How have your friendships evolved over time? What other flatmates stories have you seen on television? How do you expect the friendships in this story to change?

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'Well, firstly, it passes the Bechdel test,' said Director Marion Potts when asked what it was about *Di and Viv and Rose* that made her want to direct the play. 'It sheds a different kind of light on friendship, opportunity, maturity, human values – subjects that affect us all.' What is the Bechdel test, why is it important, and what other plays or films pass this test?

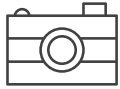
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See the *Di and Viv and Rose* team prepare for the show in our rehearsal gallery at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage)

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## Post-show Activities



How did the costumes in the play help tell the story? What iconic style elements from past decades were recreated on stage? Which costumes do you think were bought, and which ones were made by the MTC Wardrobe department? Refresh your memory of the costume design with our production photo gallery at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage)

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- Have a class discussion based on this moment from the play (Act One, Scene 3):

ROSE: When a person cares, they come at you hard or they come at you soft, they never just come at you normal.

Which moments in the play does this make you think of? Which moments in your life?

- Recall moments from the play where you think characters behaved poorly, or did not meet the needs of their friends. Compare these to other moments where characters helped each other through terrible ordeals, or supported each other. Think about the way playwright Amelia Bullmore has constructed this narrative. Who do you care about most in this play? Why?
  - What role did music play in this production? Were there specific scenes where music was an integral part of the story? What role does music play in your life? Do you have certain songs tied to vivid memories?
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- Think about the set design by Dale Ferguson, and the way the central house structure was used to create different locations. Create a simple model with folded cardboard, then take photos of it to create a storyboard that shows how the set moved during the performance
  - Compare and contrast *Di and Viv and Rose* with other stories of flatmates and friendships, such as *Friends* (TV series), *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon, or *The Shape of Things* by Neil LaBute. Examine the themes, characters, and style.
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Playwright Amelia Bullmore says 'I wanted to write a play about friendship and I wondered if I could catch what it's like to know and love people for a long time, in an hour and a half.' Listen to the full conversation at [mtc.com.au/MTCTalks](http://mtc.com.au/MTCTalks)

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Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukitj Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the Traditional Owners of the land on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand, and we pay our respects to Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors past and present, and to our shared future.



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MTC Education

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