



Education Mini-Pack

18 NOVEMBER – 23 DECEMBER

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

About the Play

Liz and Ben have been mates with Cynthia and Evan for years, and would never let anything get in the way of their friendship. Except when both couples set their sights on buying the same house – that’s different. Forget friendship, forget respect, forget human decency: this is the Australian property market. Not even the imminent collapse of civilisation itself could stop the zombie-like single-mindedness of buying the perfect house.

About the Playwright

Eddie Perfect’s stage credits include Baz Luhrmann and Global Creatures’ *Strictly Ballroom*, *Shane Warne: The Musical*, and Opera Australia’s *South Pacific*. His solo music comedy shows have received several awards and toured internationally, and his first play *The Beast* was a commercial and critical hit. Eddie’s current projects include writing a musical adaptation of *Beetlejuice* for Warner Bros. Theatrical Enterprises in New York.

Cast

Holly/Consultant/Rachel Gillian Cosgriff

Güüs/Brenda Virginia Gay

Ben Brent Hill

Liz Verity Hunt-Ballard

Martin/Harvey Keegan Joyce

Evan Ben Mingay

Cynthia Christina O’Neill

Ensemble

Sian Crowe, Manali Datar, Majella Davis, Jake Gardner, Lauren Goetz, Juan Gomez, Chloe Honig, Hamish Johnston, Sarah Krndija, Ayesha Madon, James Majoos, Nicholas Mayer, Jessica Monk, Olivia Morison, Callum O’Malley, Tomas Parrish, Matthew Prime, Joseph Spanti and Lisa Thomas.

The Ensemble has been made possible with support from VCA Music Theatre at the University of Melbourne and the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance.

Production

Director Dean Bryant

Set Designer Owen Phillips

Costume Designer Tim Chappel

Lighting Designer Ross Graham

Sound Designer Russell Goldsmith

Musical Director/Orchestrator James Simpson

Assistant Director Sarah Kriegler

Choreographer Andrew Hallsworth

Associate Choreographer Natalie Gilhorne

Movement Director Lyndall Grant

Associate Movement Director Kyle Davey

Creature Designer A Blanck Canvas

Vocal Consultant Debbie Phyland

Stage Manager Whitney McNamara

Deputy Stage Manager Julia Smith

Assistant Stage Manager Jess Maguire

VCA Stage Management Secondment Julia Orlando

VCA Design Secondment Nathan Burmeister

Sound Design Attachment Kellie-Anne Kimber

VCA Sound Secondment Caiden de Win

Rehearsal Photographer Deryk McAlpin

Production Photographer Jeff Busby

Genre

Contemporary satire

Running Time

Approximately 2hr 35min with interval

Attendance Information

Contains gunshots, loud and dynamic sound effects, haze and smoke effects, blood, violence and very coarse language.



Turn the page for activities, and discussions.

Before the show



Vivid White is a satire with songs. Satire is a genre where shortcomings are ridiculed, often with the intent to shame society into improvement. Read comedy writer Michelle Law's reflection on Australia's tradition of tackling complex issues through satire at mtc.com.au/backstage



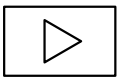
After reading Michelle Law's article, discuss the various satires she mentions. Which are familiar to you? How have they influenced your perception of the world? What would you write a satire about? Knowing that *Vivid White* is about the property market, predict what you might see on stage.

Look at the list of roles in the creative team. Choose one you are less familiar with, and research what this person might have done during rehearsals for *Vivid White*.



Eddie Perfect says 'satire is best served without a wink or a nudge'. To learn more about his experience writing satire, listen to our MTC Talks podcast series at mtc.com.au/MTCTalks

Post-show Activities



Vivid White shines a floodlight on the complacency that runs rife in middle-class suburban Australia. Recall the songs in *Vivid White* and discuss what aspects of society they're skewering. Watch a music video for 'Soft Close Drawers' at mtc.com.au/backstage



Think about the costume designs by Tim Chappel, and discuss how Tim used colour in his designs. See the costumes in detail in the photo galleries at mtc.com.au/backstage



Think about the character of Güüs. How was this character revealed as the play unfolded? What does this character represent? Do some detective work and research online for what might have been Eddie Perfect's inspiration for Güüs.

Compare and contrast *Vivid White* with other satirical texts, such as *The Club* by David Williamson or the TV series *Kath & Kim*. Examine the characters, writing style, and actor-audience relationship.



Think about the set design by Owen Phillips, and discuss how the set transformed throughout the play. Research the actual Underbelly venue at Edinburgh Fringe, as depicted in the play. Read more about Owen's designs and the inspiration behind them at mtc.com.au/backstage

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.



@melbtheatreco #mtcVividWhite



MTC Education

MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

