RUTH FINGRET

Writer

Director

Producer

ruth@ruthfingret.com

mobile: 0412 881 182

BIOGRAPHY

Ruth Fingret has worn many professional hats over the years working in industries ranging from IT to the not-for-profit sectors.

Ten years ago she pursued writing as hobby – since then studying with The Writers Studio and many others. She now writes and directs for theatre, and has received two commissions for full length plays in 2013 for Future Classic Theatre. Her play Asylum was produced by Brave New Word theatre company in 2017 to critical acclaim. Her commissioned play Dismissed raised over $50,000 for Lou's Place, a refuge for homeless women.

Education

She has studied directing with Kate Gaul, Sarah Giles, Jonathon Wald, and LaMama Umbria from New York where worked directly with the following international artists:

Figure 1 Charity Case

- Tina Landau. Viewpoints author, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Landau
- Stephan Koplowitz. Specialising in site specific theatre and choreography. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephan_Koplowitz
- Claudia Castellucci, a founding member of Socìetas Raffaello Sanzio, and author of Sect. School of dramatic technique [Setta. Scuola di tecnica drammatica] (Quodlibet, 2015), which contains theoretical texts on theatre and acting, as well as numerous exercises.
- Master Oh Tae-Suk, Mokhwa Repertory Theatre Company. He specialises in Korean Shakespeare

Full Length Directing Credits

- In 2023 she directed *The Stoned Ape* by Ian Leete
- In 2019 she wrote and directed *Dismissed*
- In 2018 she directed Margaret Fulton: Queen of the Dessert for the Bondi Theatre Company
- In 2017 she directed Motherhood the Musical for the Bondi Theatre Company
- In 2016 she directed *The Naked Truth* for ACT IV Productions.
- In 2014 she directed *Arthur's Place* by Ben Eadie at the TAP Theatre.
- She has produced and directed 4 revues for Ascham School

Short + Sweet Directing Credits

- 2022 her play *Riya* was a **Gala finalist**
- 2019 her play *Your Call is Important* won the People's Choice award for the festival and was a **Gala Finalist**.
- 2018 her play *This Too Shall Pass* placed second in heat.
- 2016 her play *Chemistry Test* won the **finals** for Crash Test Drama (winning both audience and judges vote). It then went on to the **Gala Finals in 2016 Short+Sweet**
- 2015 wrote and directed *Charity Case* 2014 (**1st Audience Vote, 2nd Judges Choice**, selected for **Gala Variety Show**, Seymour Centre)
  - 2014 directed *Grace* by Alex Broun; directed *The Last Three Blondes*, by Paul McDonald
  - 2013 wrote and directed *Why We're Here*, (**2nd in audience vote, 3rd in judges**)
  - 2012 Wrote and directed *Downsizing,* (**2nd Place Judges and Audience**); directed *Pet Envy* (**2nd place audience vote**)
  - 2011 wrote and directed *You Used to Call me Pattycakes,* (**1st in audience vote**)

Figure 2 Charity Case

Figure 3 Roadworks in Six Movements

She is a volunteer Chair on the board of Actor's Anonymous – a not for profit organisation that **assists writers to bring new scripts to the stage.** She **directs public moved readings and performs script assessments for them monthly**.

She currently coaches aspiring novelists through her work with The Writer's Studio.

As a writer and director she is obsessed with discovering the truth in a story.

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Ruth-Fingret-Playwright-Director-and-Producer-361879547163572/

CURRICULUM VITAE AND HIGHLIGHTS

2024 PLANNED

- Re staging Asylum with Olga Tamara directing

2023

- Directed The Stoned Ape by Ian Leete
- Directed You Don't have to be Jewish by Bob Booker

2022

- Wrote and directed Riya for Short and Sweet. Judge's finalist

2019

- Wrote and directed full length production verbatim theatre, Dismissed
- Current dramaturg on Bondi High, the Musical
- Working on a commission involving verbatim theatre with homeless women for Lou's Place
- Wrote and Directed Your Call is Important winning place in Gala Final

2018

- Directs Margaret Fulton: Queen of the Dessert, the musical for Bondi Theatre Company
- Writes and direct This Too Shall Pass for Short and Sweet. Wins 2nd place in judge's award

2017

- January write and directs Not Toilet Trained for Short and Sweet
- July direct Motherhood the Musical for Bondi Theatre Company
- November: Asylum by Brave New Word Theatre company.

2016

- June Wins best Director at Crash Test Drama for *Pineapples*
- April Direct full length play *The Naked Truth* by Dave Simpson for Act IV productions in April. Blood Moon Theatre
- February Short + Sweet – wrote and directed *Chemistry Test* GALA Finalist
- March Short + Sweet – wrote and directed *Catastrophising is NOT a Word*!
- Script assessor and regular writer and director for Script-in-Hand

2015

- September Wrote and Directed 'Chemistry Test' for Crash Test Drama - Winner judges and audience vote
- July Attended Directors Symposium La Mama Umbria, Spoleto Italy.
- March Directed *Grace* by Alex Broun
- January Directed *The Last Three Blondes* by Paul McDonald
- Winner Crash Test Drama 2015

2014

- Wrote and Directed "*Charity Case'* Short and Sweet' 2014
  - 1st Audience Vote, 2nd Judges Choice,
  - Selected for Gala Variety Show, Seymour Centre
- Directed full length *'Arthur's Place'* by Ben Eadie at TAP Gallery in May

- Write and Direct "*It's a Matter of Form*" for Vivekenanda Festival in June

2013

- Commissioned to write two Full Length play by FutureClassic Theatre - one still playing on Sydney Harbour. www.pirateattack.com.au
- Directed for Gun Control Action Theatre
- Wrote and Directed *Why We're Here*, Short and Sweet 2013.
  - 2nd in audience vote, 3rd in judges
- Directed moved reading of Arthur's Place by Ben Eadie

2012

- Wrote and Directed Charity Case Bordello Theatre
- Directed *Lakeside Villa* written by Lisa Kelaher Bordello Theatre
- Directed *Pet Envy* 2nd place audience vote
- Wrote and Directed *Downsizing*
  - 2nd Place Judges and Audience

2011

- Directed *Maria's Confession*
- Wrote and Directed *You Used to Call me Pattycakes*.
  - 1st in audience vote 2010
- Shortlisted for Short and Sweet with Truth Spell

Figure 4 Downsizing

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Writing Coach for The Writers Studio, Bronte.

VOLUNTEER

Chair of Actors Anonymous

I regularly direct public moved readings that are part of a monthly show produced by Actors Anonymous.

EDUCATION

Directors Symposium, La Mama Umbria, Spoleto Italy. - 2015

Directing for Theatre - Sarah Giles - 2014

Directing For Theatre by Kate Gaul - 2013

Directing for Film by Jonathon Wald, Metro Screen 2012

Writing Short Plays - Alex Broun 2011

2008 Novel writing 1st and 2nd draft with The Writers Studio (both one year courses)

2008 Unlocking Creativity, The Writers Studio

2007 Sydney University Creative Writing (8 weeks)

B Comm, UNSW

CONTACT DETAILS

ruth@ruthfingret.com

Mobile: 0412 881 182

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Ruth-Fingret-Playwright-Director-and-Producer-361879547163572/?fref=ts

2023 REVIEWS

https://www.smh.com.au/culture/theatre/dopey-drug-comedy-is-high-on-its-own-shock-value-20230403-p5cxjp.html

Black comedy is notoriously difficult to pull off, and director Ruth Fingret has clearly prioritised clarity of plot, even if it sacrifices intention or tonal cohesion, a safe choice with a script that needs work and a production on a shoestring budget.

2022 REVIEWS

https://www.theatretravels.org/post/review-short-sweet-gala-final-and-awards-2021-at-the-tom-mann-theatre

Written and directed by Ruth Fingret and performed by Jyotsna Sharma, Riya holds us spellbound as she courageously displays her traumatic decent from displacement to sexual servitude then slavery, signposted by violence and torment with her only 'relief' in anonymous homelessness. Riya is funny, fierce and heartbreaking, her story tragically common. Powerfully unsettling and told with sensitive respect, Riyas' voice sears through systems of silence.

https://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/short-and-sweet-sydney-2021-judging-gala-final-april-2022/

Female monologue drama in two voices. Controlling domestic violence episodes, real-life fully explored, and based on a true story. Perfectly cast and superbly directed by Ruth Fingret.

2018 REVIEWS

MARGARET FULTON: QUEEN OF THE DESSERT

http://www.stagewhispers.com.au/reviews/margaret-fulton-queen-dessert-0

> *Director Ruth Fingret is the ringmaster of this swirl of story, songs and dance and she nails it by keeping up a cracking pace, adding a pinch of sadness, a dollop of happiness and a big serving of energy and excitement*.

http://sydneyscoop.com/arts-entertainment-features/margaret-fulton-queen-of-the-dessert/

> *A spirited all singing and dancing cast of six, delightfully glide you through effortlessly at the direction of Ruth Fingret, an epic tale of adventurous living and determination that is the story of Margaret Fulton.*

https://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/margaret-fulton-queen-of-the-dessert-2/

> *Whilst chronological biographies can become tedious, the colour, music, acting, and richness of her life ensured that this did not happen here. The choreography kept the show bopping along and the audience readily joined in the last number. It appeared that **Ruth Fingret**, Director who is also an accomplished writer, had a bright ensemble to direct.*

THIS TOO SHALL PASS

THIS TOO SHALL PASS was an audience favourite on opening night, the perfect comedy cast, with two fully costumed pirates, Graham Yates (Batholomew, the sadistic Ship's Surgeon) versus Joel Semande (Thomas, the despicable Pirate). A medical problem to be brutally solved, so will the blockage finally pass? Writer, Director: Ruth Fingret

http://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/shortsweet-theatre-top-80-wk4/#more-48834

2017 REVIEWS

ASYLUM Written by Ruth Fingret, Produced by Brave New Word Theatre Company

http://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/asylum-personal-responses-political-power/

> *ASYLUM is 'big picture' theatrical thinking … Big picture politics painted with intimacy ….Observing and listening, I see each audience member touched differently as they chatter and confer while leaving the space. Not just by the intelligent and driven text by* ***Ruth Fingret*** *or the focussed, close up performances of the cast but the director* ***Richard Hilliar*** *has gently nudged each viewer's thinking forward by providing theatre that works on multiple levels.*

https://lisathatcher.com.au/2017/11/16/asylum-a-built-house-closed-off-to-the-other-to-others-theatre-review/

> *This strong, young production company have … really hit their stride with Asylum, claiming an excellent writer with an outstanding text. This is a marvellous production, one of those joyful moments where the right director and production company find the best writer for their creative expression. Asylum is a great night of theatre and not to be missed.*

http://grungechildren.blogspot.com.au/2017/11/theatre-2-see-in-sydney-asylum.html

> *"This work deals with the issues of disconnection, miscommunication, dishonesty and how whilst battling these issues all people just want to protect themselves and what's important to them. The stylistic edgy, clean cut, fast-pace approach to these stories was juxtaposing, but intoxicatingly empathising to building these characters blackout by blackout. …..some of the best, newest, freshest, contemporary Australian theatre staged right now.* ***The work of Ruth Fingret could be performed in a cardboard box and it would make an audience 'feel' something****."*

http://www.stagewhispers.com.au/reviews/asylumbravenewword

> *Asylum is a powerful and emotional night of theatre.*

MOTHERHOOD THE MUSICAL:

http://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/sue-fabischs-motherhood-musical-bondi-pavilion/

> *Recommended, really this is pretty much a sure thing as far as mainstream entertainment goes.*

NOT TOILET TRAINED

> *Superb cast choices selected by director Ruth Fringret. Delicious dementia comedy, quickly builds effective back stories into each character, via music lyrics used as dialogue. The undeserving absent son Greg, returns home to visit his quite elderly parents. Sandra Campbell (Mum) urgently needs help managing her husband, Valentino Arico (Dad) however their ungrateful son Lewis Scamozzi (Greg) and is not accepting of any of the challenges, of the dementia related life lessons, now unfolding.*

http://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/short-sweet-2017-top-80-week-seven-depot-theatre/

2016 REVIEWS

CATASTROPHISING IS NOT A WORD! – Comedy on a grand scale with Josie the hyper-active hypochondriac teenager, blessed with a google android telephone, supplying her with all the wrong answers, and each answer providing her with brand new illnesses. How many diseases can one person have, and yet somehow easily manage to survive? ITC: Seat of the Pants

Productions, Writer: Ruth Fingret, Director: Ruth Fingret, Assistant Director: Jennifer Shames, Cast: Hilary Park (Josie), Mel Ryan (Google Help – VOICEOVER)

Ref: http://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/short-and-sweet-theatre-2016-top-80-week-8-depot-theatre/

CHEMISTRY TEST – Internet dating for the un-dateable. Ross (Dudley Levell) is a wolf who always fails to learn why he is female un-friendly. Carol (Lisa Hanssens) is a vixen who prefers first dates, because she never gets a second date. Both create internet dating profiles that are completely full of clever lies. With so many very funny dating lies, this delicious comedy, was an audience favourite. ITC: Crash Test Drama Sydney Winner, Writer + Director: Ruth Fingret, Cast: Lisa Hanssens (Carol), Dudley Levell (Ross)

Ref: http://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/short-and-sweet-theatre-2016-top-80-week-5-depot-theatre/

DIRECTORIAL REVIEWS OF *THE NAKED TRUTH*

Broadway World

The Naked Truth highlights one of the key components missing from contemporary theatre in Sydney: politic. In a field driven by the support of "emerging talent" and high production values, it was refreshing to see a show that was all heart. … incredibly earnest in its delivery, opting toward humour and emotion … Melinda Ryan who drove every moment home, …. given every ounce of silly sweetness by Kaitlin DeLacy, …. Jeannie Gee giving the highlight performance of the piece as a complete natural. ….. More theatre like this, that tackles issues and emphasises the perspective of women, is needed and congratulations are due to Act IV Theatre for beginning unapologetic and unbridled efforts to do so.

Ref: http://www.broadwayworld.com/sydney/article/BWW-Review-THE-NAKED-TRUTH-Gives-You-Heart-and-Body-at-Blood-Moon-Theatre-20160410

Sydney Arts Guide

… His play is well served by Ruth Fingret's production which features bright, well orchestrated performances. The cast's comedic timing is good and the show's many zingy one liners are delivered well.

In its program note, the Company say, 'we don't take ourselves too seriously. We just want to go to the theatre and have a bloody good laugh, maybe shed a tear and celebrate female friendship. This is what we hope The Naked Truth delivers.'

The Company's hope is fulfilled with this production which delivers a good, old fashioned, fun night out at the theatre.

Ref: http://www.sydneyartsguide.com.au/act-iv-theatre-company-presents-the-naked-truth-blood-moon-theatre-kings-cross/

YOUTUBE LINKS TO MY THEATRE WRITING AND DIRECTING

I include here links to my YouTube channel where three of my award winning Short + Sweet plays are shown.

1. *Chemistry Test* Short + Sweet Finalist 2016 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6RGNZ5Xpmw This play dramatizes the world of internet dating in an unusual and creative way.
2. *Charity Case*, Short + Sweet Finalist 2014 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmjC8P4Dji8 This play is a poignant piece about the similarities between people who seem very different. Directorially it is a very truthful piece with incredible performances from very believable characters.
3. *Why We're Here*, Short + Sweet People's Choice Finalist 2013 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Qd9l4F5VNE This play is a comedy dramatizing the demise of a marriage in the modern day world of technology. It is fast pace and comedic.

APPENDIX: PHOTOS OF PRODUCTIONS AND POSTERS

Figure 6 The Last Three Blondes

Figure 5 Grace

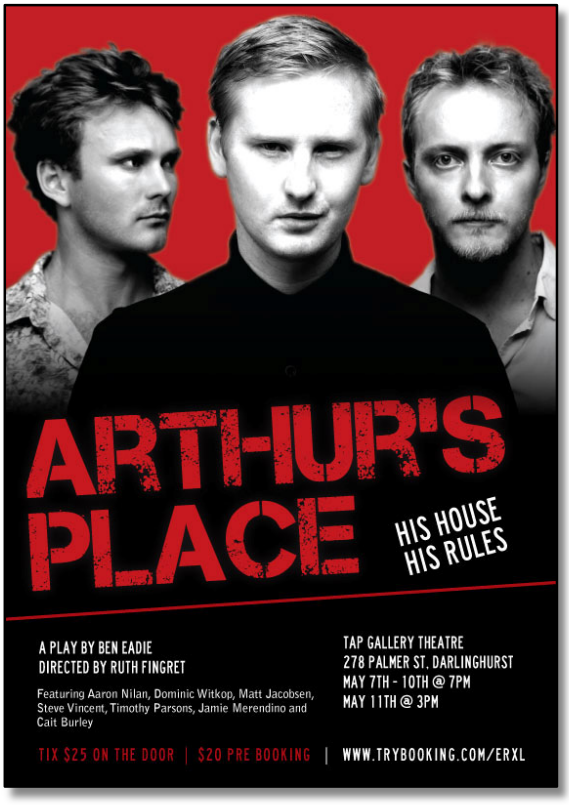
Figure 8 Chemistry Test

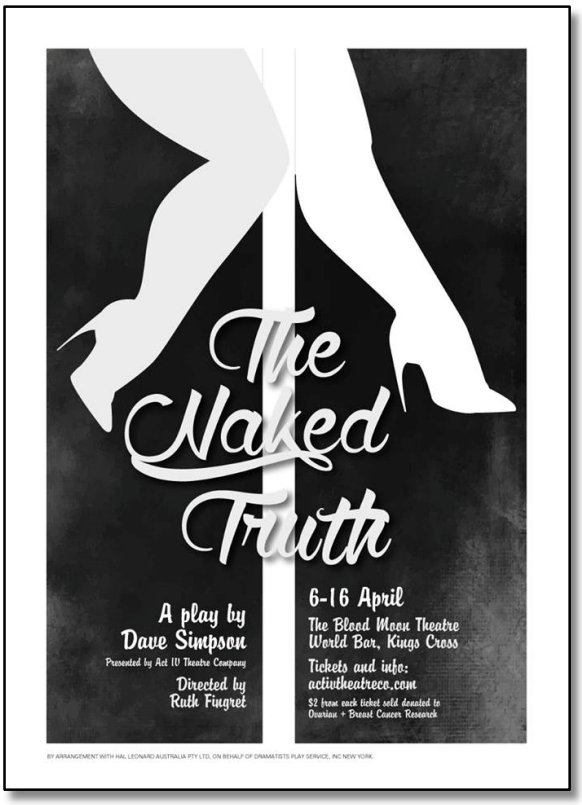
Figure 7 Vivekenanda Festival

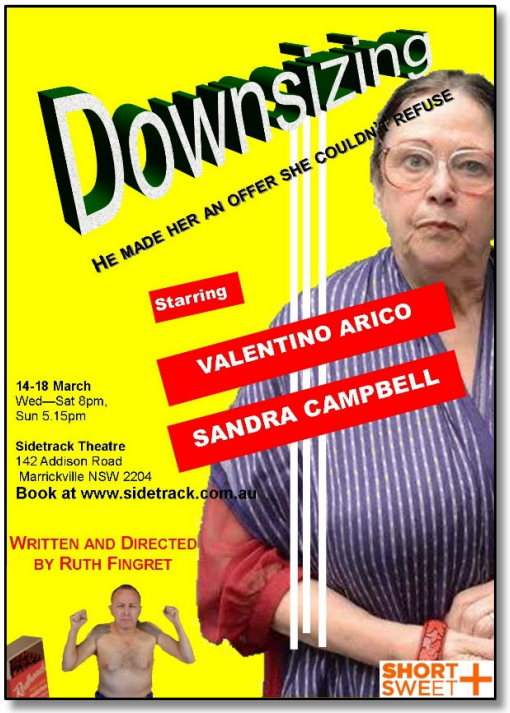
Figure 9 The Naked Truth 2016

Figure 10 Arthur's Place, 2014

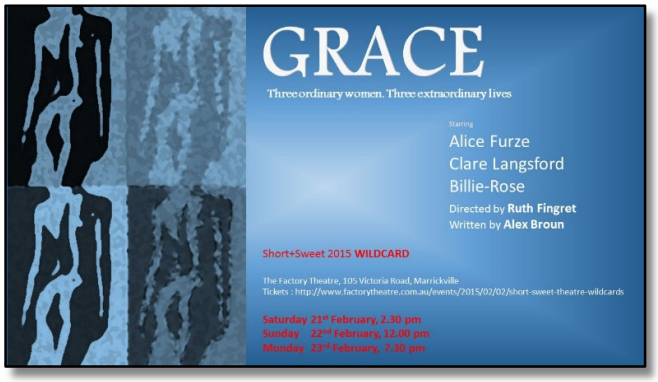
POSTERS

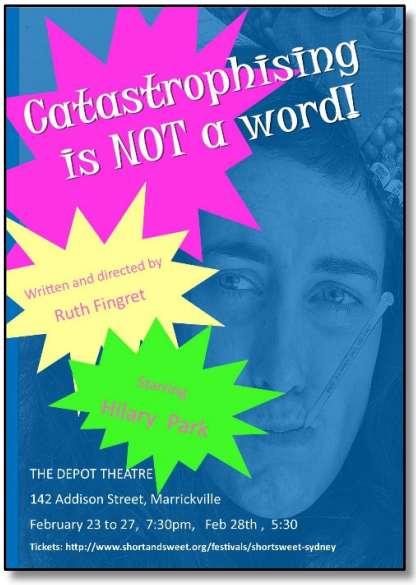

ARTHUR'S PLACE
HIS HOUSE HIS RULES
A PLAY BY BEN EADIE
DIRECTED BY RUTH FINGRET
Featuring Aaron Nilan, Dominic Witkop, Matt Jacobsen, Steve Vincent, Timothy Parsons, Jamie Merendino and Cait Burley
TAP GALLERY THEATRE
278 PALMER ST, DARLINGHURST
MAY 7TH - 10TH @ 7PM
MAY 11TH @ 3PM
TIX $25 ON THE DOOR | $20 PRE BOOKING | WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/ERXL


The Naked Truth
A play by Dave Simpson
Presented by Act IU Theatre Company
Directed by Ruth Fingret
6-16 April
The Blood Moon Theatre
World Bar, Kings Cross
Tickets and info:
activtheatreco.com
$2 from each ticket sold donated to Ovarian + Breast Cancer Research


Downsizing
HE MADE HER AN OFFER SHE COULDN'T REFUSE
Starring
VALENTINO ARICO
SANDRA CAMPBELL
14-18 March
Wed—Sat 8pm,
Sun 5.15pm
Sidetrack Theatre
142 Addison Road
Marrickville NSW 2204
Book at www.sidetrack.com.au
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RUTH FINGRET
SHORT SWEET

SHORT SWEET
Sometimes it's really not clear who is the
Charity Case
Sandra Campbell as Olive
Christine Greenough as Rose
Ruth Fingret Writer / Director
0412 881 182


GRACE
Three ordinary women. Three extraordinary lives
Starring
Alice Furze
Clare Langsford
Billie-Rose
Directed by Ruth Fingret
Written by Alex Broun
Short+Sweet 2015 WILDCARD
The Factory Theatre, 105 Victoria Road, Marrickville
Tickets : http://www.factorytheatre.com.au/events/2015/02/02/short-sweet-theatre-wildcards
Saturday 21st February, 2.30 pm
Sunday 22nd February, 12.00 pm
Monday 23rd February, 7.30 pm


Catastrophising is NOT a word!
Written and directed by
Ruth Fingret
Starring
Hilary Park
THE DEPOT THEATRE
142 Addison Street, Marrickville
February 23 to 27, 7:30pm, Feb 28th , 5:30
Tickets: http://www.shortandsweet.org/festivals/shortsweet-sydney

riya
SHORT SWEET SYDNEY
2022
JUDGES
FINALIST
ACTORS
CIRCLE
NOMINATION
STARRING JYOTSNA SHARMA
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RUTH FINGRET
TOM MANN THEATRE, SURRY HILLS 2 APRIL, 7:30 PM
SHORTANDSWEET.ORG/SYDNEY-TICKETS

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