

PRESS RELEASE: JANUARY 2018



**March 2018, Pre-Cursor and Fundraiser performances for NOOSA alive!**

**NOOSA alive! proudly presents the QLD Premiere performances of David Williamson AO' most recent triumph – his latest play**

### **SORTING OUT RACHEL**

**Tickets on sale NOW January, 2018**

**Buy Tickets: [www.noosaalive.com](http://www.noosaalive.com)**

Coming to **Noosa** direct from the World Premiere of **SORTING OUT RACHEL** at the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney, **NOOSA alive!** Australia's foremost regional community performing arts and culture festival proudly presents four 'only' exclusive fundraising performances, taking place at **The J Theatre**, in Noosa on Wednesday 21 March 2pm (matinee) & 7.30pm, Thursday 22 & Friday 23 March, 7.30pm.

**SORTING OUT RACHEL** opened in Sydney on Wednesday, January 24 to resounding success with the Sydney season already close to totally sold! By all accounts this show is not to be missed! With only four performances in Noosa (with no possibility of extension), we urge you to book quickly to avoid disappointment.

These performances of **SORTING OUT RACHEL** honour **David Williamson AO**, the most produced playwright in the history of Australia (amongst his many other accolades across literature, theatre, film and television).

A fierce believer in 'giving back' and in the importance of culture to community, David has generously donated royalties from **SORTING OUT RACHEL** to **NOOSA alive!**

*'Culture needs to be supported and encouraged by community, without it we risk being an empty shell. The greatest fun of all is to get involved and to create 'occasion'. The Festival, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year is something for Noosa to be proud of. It's the only festival of its kind in Australia and it has been delivering the very best of culture and performance to the Noosa community for a very long time. It's great to see the recognition it gets and the calibre of performer, local and visiting, that the festival attracts and showcases. Jump on board to support the Festival's future – You will have a great time doing something truly valuable for our community!'* **David Williamson AO.**

Named as one of Australia's living national treasures, David is no stranger to Noosa, in fact he and wife Kristin are synonymous with Noosa having lived locally for many years and remain founding Patrons of **NOOSA alive!** (formerly the Noosa Long Weekend Festival).

**To get involved, please contact the NOOSA alive! office E: [admin@noosaalive.com](mailto:admin@noosaalive.com)  
P: 07 5473 0989**

## **SORTING OUT RACHEL** by David Williamson AO

Director: **NADIA TASS**, Designer: **TOBHIYAH STONE FELLER**, Lighting & AV Design: **CHRISTOPHER PAGE**, Sound Design: **DANIEL NIXON**

Cast: **CHENOA DEEMAL** (Tess), **GLENN HAZELDINE** (Craig), **JOHN HOWARD** (Bruce), **JENNA OWEN** (Rachel) & **NATALIE SALEEBA** (Julie)

In this Queensland premiere production, David Williamson cements his place as one of Australia's most masterful storytellers with a brand new social comedy about legacy, entitlement and making good on past relationships.

When it comes to business, **Bruce (John Howard)** knows what to do. You've got to out-bite the sharks and twist a good deal before you get screwed. But as the years go by and his legacy starts to loom, his thoughts turn to his exasperated daughter **Julie (Natalie Saleeba)**, her social climbing husband **Craig (Glenn Hazeldine)** and his granddaughter, **Rachel (Jenna Owen)** who unfortunately takes after him. Perhaps it's time to make amends. Can Bruce solve his family issues without giving away a long-held secret? **Chenoa Deemal** makes her debut in a Williamson play as **Tess** – how does Tess fit into the picture? The plot thickens!

### **DIRECTORS NOTES BY NADIA TASS**

I have always loved David Williamson's work, the issues he concerns himself with, and the careful balance he creates between gravity and humour.

Williamson insists that issues he resents, cannot be shelved or ignored, so he orchestrates situations that are strange, uncomfortable and grittingly real. And it is within those situations our characters are forced to confront the issues, even if they are potentially detrimental to their personal lives.

Each of the characters in **SORTING OUT RACHEL** is facing a mammoth personal dilemma. And each of these dilemmas mirrors the prevailing social issues in Australian society. One has too little money, another too much: and the question is – how is that money best used for the greater good of the community? (please see extended notes attached)

Multi award winning film director **NADIA TASS** (69 awards so far) directs her very first Williamson play. She has directed for MTC and QTC as well as many other theatre companies in Australia and in London. Nadia's best known films include: **MALCOLM**, **RIKKY AND PETE**, **THE BIG STEAL**, **URE LUCK**, **MR RELIABLE**, **AMY**, **MATCHING JACK**, **FATAL HONEYMOON** and **THE MIRACLE WORKER**.

Nadia has assembled a stellar cast including **JOHN HOWARD** who's film credits include **MAD MAX: FURY ROAD**, **LAST CAB TO DARWIN**, **THE MAN WHO SUED GOD**, **A MAN'S GOTTA DO** and **JINDABYNE**: his television credits include: **WARRIORS**, **SOUL MATES**, **JANET KING**, **CROWNIES**, **SEACHANGE**, **ALL SAINTS**, **ALWAYS GREENER**, **PACKED TO THE RAFTERS** and **CHANGI**.

**NATALIE SALEEBA** plays Bruce's daughter Julie. Natalie spent the last 5 years appearing in **CH 9'S HOUSE HUSBANDS**.

**GLENN HAZELDINE** plays Julie's husband Craig, **SORTING OUT RACHEL** is Glenn's 16<sup>th</sup> David Williamson play. Glenn most recently appeared in Sydney Theatre Company's **THE FATHER** with John Bell which also toured to Melbourne.

Newcomer **JENNA OWEN** plays Bruce's granddaughter Rachel, of the play's title. Jenna appeared in the television remake of **PUBERTY BLUES** and this year appeared in **ABC-TV'S FRESH BLOOD**. She has performed in the Sydney Fringe and Sydney Comedy festivals.

**CHENOA DEEMAL** recently appeared in the one woman show 7 STAGES OF GRIEVING which she toured nationally then performed in London at ORIGINS: FESTIVAL OF FIRST NATIONS. Chenoa's other theatre credits include productions at QTC and Darlinghurst Theatre.

'Australia's most enduringly popular social comedy writer.... Keenly observant and satirical.' SMH (for Operator)

'His genius has been to define for us, in advance of our own recognition, the qualities which make up the Australian character.' The Australian

**Cast & Crew Headshots: (If you can't open this link, please contact Giorgi)**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/56qw8n579y92j2e/AAATowBNGWDtxlAG5nOM3WOEa?dl=0>

**SORTING OUT RACHEL rehearsal shots: (If you can't open this link, please contact Giorgi)**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oljamyabbxir90n/AADQKGlk1Abw1OI28T-ym4bta?dl=0>

**To watch preview video click on this link and cursor down menu - Note this is the Ensemble Theatre website so dates are not relevant to Noosa** <https://www.ensemble.com.au/shows/david-williamsons-sorting-rachel/>

**To watch rehearsal video click on this link and cursor down menu - (If you can't open this link, please contact Giorgi)** <https://www.ensemble.com.au/shows/david-williamsons-sorting-rachel/>

**To check Cast and Crew Bios click on this link and cursor down menu - (If you can't open this link, please contact Giorgi)** <https://www.ensemble.com.au/shows/david-williamsons-sorting-rachel/>

## Fast Facts

- This production of **SORTING OUT RACHEL** is proudly presented by **NOOSA alive!** in association with the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney
- These are special fundraising performances for NOOSA alive! David Williamson has donated SOR royalties in support of a sustainable festival.
- Writer, David Williamson AO – <http://www.davidwilliamsonplaywright.com>  
To read more about Williamson's work and life, grab a copy of his biography 'Behind the Scenes' penned by his wife of 43 years, Kristen Williamson
- Multi award winning film director **Nadia Tass** (69 awards so far) directs her first Williamson play
- Star studded cast including: **Chenoa Deemal, Glenn Hazeldine, John Howard, Jenna Owen & Natalie Saleeba** (see bio link above, headshots and production shots available upon request)
- Performances: 4 Performances only (no extension possible)  
Wednesday 21 March 2pm (matinee) & 7.30pm, Thursday 22 & Friday 23 March, 7.30pm.
- Ticket Price: Matinee \$57.50 (all seats), Evening \$62.50 (all seats)
- Duration: 2 hours including interval
- Please Note: Some strong language, Recommended for ages 12+
- Hashtags: #Noosaalive! #TheWorldsBestFestivals #AustralianFestivals #ArtsandCultureFestivals #Festivals #Noosaisthebest #Ensembletheatre #DavidWilliamson #JohnHowardactor #NadiaTass #ChenoaDeemal #GlennHazeldine #JennaOwen #NatalieSaleeba #TheJTheatre #visitnoosa #visitsunshinecoast

**BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPOINTMENT** [www.noosaalive.com.au](http://www.noosaalive.com.au)

Telephone\* (07) 5329 6560 – The J Theatre Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm. (Booking fee applies).

Counter sales – The J Theatre Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm - Address: 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Heads.

**For further information or interview requests, please contact Giorgi Ciot, National Publicist E: [giorgiciot@gmail.com](mailto:giorgiciot@gmail.com) M: 0413583373**