



# Soulmates

By David Williamson

WYONG DRAMA GROUP INC.

DIRECTED BY DARLENE COLE

April 2007

## About the Playwright



David Williamson, AO, gained a Bachelor of Engineering at Monash University in 1965 before briefly working as a Design Engineer at General Motors Holden and in 1966 he began lecturing in thermodynamics and social psychology at Swinburne

Technical College. Mr Williamson began writing and performing plays in 1968 with La Mama Theatre Company.

*The Removalists* and *Don's Party* established him as Australia's best-known playwright and established his reputation overseas on the stages of Europe and America.

His success in films is notable, having written the screenplays to *Don's Party* (1976), *The Club* (1980) and *Phar Lap* (1982), as well as collaborating with Peter Weir to make *Gallipoli* (1980) and *The Year of Living Dangerously* (1982). Mr Williamson has won four AFI awards and the Australian Writers' Guild AWGIE award 11 times. Over 30 years, his work has encompassed almost 30 plays and numerous films and television productions. He has received honorary doctorates of Literature from the University of Sydney (1988), Monash University, and Swinburne University of Technology (1996).

## A note from the Director



After several years on stage and behind the scenes of local theatre, I finally figured I should try my hand at this thing they call directing... I enjoyed the process so much with a couple of one act plays (*The Donahue Sisters*, *Mother & Son – The Last Straw*) in 2006 and having the honour to produce and direct the first ever production on the Central Coast of *The Vagina Monologues* earlier this year, it made perfect sense that I should keep the ball rolling!

My gratitude goes to WDG for affording me the opportunity to get *Soulmates* on stage and eternal thanks to this amazingly talented and hard-working cast and crew.

Australia is blessed to have some of the finest playwrights in the world and as arguably our country's most prolific and popular playwright, it seemed a natural choice to share with our audiences the contemporary, witty, brave and satirical work that is David Williamson's *Soulmates*.

I invite you to share this intriguing voyage into the literary world and keep your eyes and ears open to the twists, turns and fabulous characters that truly are themselves befitting of a literary masterpiece... or at the very least a "chick-lit" page turner!

## Proudly supporting 2007 MS Readathon



It is my passionate belief that the Arts, especially theatre, can make a significant and positive contribution to our communities. With great pleasure, this production of *Soulmates* encourages you to learn more about Multiple Sclerosis and to take action by getting yourself – and the children you love – involved with 2007 MS Readathon!

– Darlene Cole

For more info on MS, visit:

[www.msaustralia.org.au](http://www.msaustralia.org.au) and [www.msreadathon.org.au](http://www.msreadathon.org.au)



MS Readathon: Inspiring Aussie Kids to Read to Change the Lives of Australians Living with Multiple Sclerosis.

**"Australia is still a very jugular society. We don't mince words."  
- David Williamson. March 29, 2002.**

## GLOSSARY / REFERENCES

**V.S Naipaul** Born 1932. Critically lauded for the extraordinary vision that marks his writing. Perhaps due to his status as rootless wanderer, as a man without a heritage to hold sway over him, Naipaul consistently knocks down idealized views of the places he journeys to in favor of a more complex, bitter, sometimes even contradictory truth.

**Dostoevsky** (1821-1881) Considered one of the greatest writers in world literature. Best-known for his novel *Prestupleniye i nakazaniye* (1866; *Crime and Punishment*), he attained profound philosophical and psychological insights which anticipated important developments in twentieth-century thought, including psychoanalysis and existentialism.

**James Joyce** (1882-1941) "I've put in so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries arguing over what I meant, and that's the only way of insuring one's immortality". - James Joyce.

**Proust** (1871-1922) Best known for *À La Recherche du Temps Perdu* (*Remembrance of Things Past*), his novel told mostly in a stream-of-consciousness style. The work collected pieces from his childhood, observations and recollections of the closed world, where the author never found his place. In his own lifetime the merit of the novel was debated by those who perceived its brilliance and those who claimed it was unreadable. Today it is recognized as one of the major literary works of French expression.

**Elizabeth Jolley** (1923-2007) One of Australia's most celebrated writers, with a formidable international reputation. She won The Age Book of the Year Award on three separate occasions (for *Mr Scobie's Riddle*, *My Father's Moon* and *The Georges' Wife*) and she won the Miles Franklin Award for *The Well*, as well as many other awards.

**David Malouf** Born 1934. Has been described as a post-colonial author. He looks at Australia not from an outside point of view but from within society. In his writing he points to the problems of indigenous and immigrated people, shows the limits of traditional languages to fit a new environment and also indicates the relationship between cultural centres and peripheries which is closely combined with a strong sense of being antipodean.

**Emily Brontë** (1818-1848) Perhaps the greatest writer of the three Brontë sisters - Charlotte, Emily and Anne. Emily Brontë published only one novel, *Wuthering Heights* (1847), a story of the doomed love and revenge. The sisters also published jointly a volume of verse, *Poems By Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell*. Only two copies of the book was sold.

**Don De Lillo** Born 1936. "I became a writer by living in New York and seeing and hearing and feeling all the great, amazing and dangerous things the city endlessly assembles. And I also became a writer by avoiding serious commitment to anything else." --DeLillo to Jonathan Bing, 1997

**Phillip Michael Ondaatje** Born 1943. Canadian/Sri Lankan Novelist and Poet best known for his Booker Prize winning novel adapted into the Academy Award winning film *The English Patient*.

**Salman Rushdie** Born 1947. Anglo-Indian novelist, who uses in his works tales from various genres - fantasy, mythology, religion, oral tradition. Rushdie's narrative technique has connected his books to magic realism, which includes such English-language authors as Peter Carey, Angela Carter, E.L. Doctorow, John Fowles, Mark Helprin or Emma Tennant. Salman Rushdie was condemned to death by the former Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on February 14, 1989, after publishing *Satanic Verses*.

**John Updike** Born 1932. American novelist, short story writer and poet, internationally known for his novels *Rabbit, Run* (1960), *Rabbit Redux* (1971), *Rabbit Is Rich* (1981), and *Rabbit At Rest* (1990). They follow the life of Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, a star athlete, from his youth through the social and sexual upheavals of the 1960s, to later periods of his life, and to final decline.

**Postmodernism: Noun.** Any of a number of trends or movements in the arts and literature developing in the 1970s in reaction to or rejection of the dogma, principles, or practices of established modernism.

# "CHAPTERS"

## ACT ONE - SCENES

1. Heather & Danny's House  
Parkville, Melbourne. 2001.
2. Manhattan. Upper West Side.  
Some weeks later.
3. Manhattan. Hotel Room.  
Midtown. A week later.
4. Katie & Gordon's.  
Upper West Side. That evening.
5. Melbourne. Greg & Fiona's.  
Some months later.
6. Heather & Danny's. Much later that night.
7. Katie & Gordon's. Manhattan.
8. Katie & Gordon's. Next day.
9. Katie & Gordon's. A few nights later.
10. Katie & Gordon's. Next evening.
11. Katie & Gordon's. Next morning.

Act One will be followed by an interval of 20 minutes. Please enjoy the refreshments provided and join us for the raffle, drawn 5 mins prior to the commencement of Act Two.

**Don't forget to pick up your registration booklet for 2007 MS Readathon!**

## ACT TWO - SCENES

1. Café. Fitzroy St., Melbourne.
2. Greg & Fiona's. Nth Fitzroy, that night.
3. Nth Fitzroy Hotel. Some days later.
4. Heather & Danny's. That night.
5. The Bahammas. A week later.
6. Katie & Gordon's. Manhattan.
7. Katie & Gordon's. Later that night.
8. Greg & Fiona's. Melbourne. Morning.
9. Dean & Deluca's. Manhattan.
10. Dean & Deluca's. Some days later.
11. Dean & Deluca's. Next day.
12. Hotel. Nth Fitzroy. Melbourne.
13. Greg & Fiona's. Some days later.
14. Hayman Island. Some weeks later.
15. Katie & Gordon's. New York.
16. Hotel. Nth Fitzroy. Melbourne.
17. Literary forum. Melbourne.
18. Hotel. Nth Fitzroy. Melbourne.
19. Heather & Danny's. That night.
20. Katie & Gordon's. Six months later.

*Music played within the dramatic context of Soulmates and during House Lights is under license with Australian Performing Right Association Limited (APRA). Our thanks to the songwriters, original artists & publishers!*

**Soul mate: Noun. A person with whom one has a strong affinity.**

## CAST – In order of appearance

### Christine Vale

Heather McFarlane



Christine has been involved in numerous musicals, pantomimes and plays over the years (polite cough).

Since moving to the Coast a couple of years ago she's appeared in the WDG productions of *The Donahue Sisters*, *Blithe Spirit* and *Heaven Can Wait* and for WWLT she's had roles in *It Runs in the Family*, *Absent Friends* and *Funny Money*. In February she was one of the fabulous group of women from the Coast on stage in *The Vagina Monologues* for V-Day 2007. In *Soulmates* she returns to the stage with her 'on-stage sister', Ruth Jordon, from the award winning *Donahue Sisters* also directed by Darlene Cole.

### John Czernecki

Danny O'Loughlin



John has appeared in many roles for WDG, as well as other theatre companies including GMS, WWLT, Fringe Theatre and The Genesians.

His most recent performances were as Claude in *Bedfull of Foreigners*, Capitano Alberto Bertorelli in *Allo Allo*, Terry in *Fawlty Towers*, and Jonathon in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. This is the first time John has been involved in a David Williamson play, and is loving the challenge of working with a great script, cast and director.

### Laszlo Weidlich

Gordon Uffler



Laszlo was last seen as that despicable, dastardly dentist, Robert, in *Mother and Son* and as a small (but quite well-formed) palette of characters in *Fawlty Towers*.

In *Soulmates* he is yanked into the present and to New York as the movie-(but quite successful)-producer husband of Katie.

"The literary world is full of Conan the Grammarians; academics who've been at University so long they've got ivy growing up the backs of their legs and what they've graduated in is Advanced Smugness. Believe me, to be a literary critic you must be born with Condescension Chromosome."

- **Kathy Lette. Popular novelist.**

**Ruth Jordon**  
*Katie Best*



Ruth's membership of Wyong Drama Group spans two centuries. In that time she has appeared in many productions, including *The Donahue Sisters*, *Shades of Gray*, *Noises Off!*, *Stepping Out*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Hotel Sorrento*. When she's not treading the boards, she's behind the scenes, busily coordinating Central Coast Theatrefest, an annual festival of one-act plays which is hosted by Wyong Drama Group.

**Peter Santangelo**  
*Greg Carter*



Peter has been involved with Woy Woy Little Theatre since 1999 when he played a small role in *Daisy Pulls It Off*. The attraction of the stage then had him performing, for WWLT, in *You Can't Take It with You*, *Run for Your Wife*, *The Anniversary* and *Murdered To Death*, *Habeas Corpus* and *Funny Money*. He also had a momentary foray with the Wamberal Theatre group in Tom Stoppard's play, *After Magritte* and this is his first role with a Wyong Drama Group production.

**Cathy Stone**  
*Fiona Massey*



Cathy has been involved in amateur theatre on the Central Coast over the past 8 years and has appeared in a number of Woy Woy Little Theatre productions, including *Habeas Corpus*, *Funny Money* and *The Unexpected Guest*. She also appeared as Ruth in WDG's 2004 production of *Blithe Spirit*. Cathy has performed in two other David Williamson plays (both WWLT productions) - *After the Ball* in 2003 and, most recently, *Influence*, staged earlier this year. Cathy is delighted to be performing in another Williamson play and also to have the opportunity to work with Wyong Drama Group once more.

**Graham Vale**  
*Max Van Niekerk*



Graham's last on stage appearance for WDG was as Gray in *Shades of Gray* and he was musical director for *Heaven Can Wait*. For WWLT he was the obnoxious Paul in *Absent Friends*. He followed that up with Henry, the "mild mannered accountant" in the Ray Cooney farce, *Funny Money* and as David the philandering doctor in *It Runs In The Family*. He claims that playing Max is a real challenge because he is nothing like him ... really!

# The Crew



Director  
 Production Manager  
 Stage Manager  
 ASM/Props Manager  
 Prompt  
 Stage Hands  
  
 Set Construction Manager  
 Lighting & Sound Designer

Darlene Cole  
 Robyn Weidlich  
 Kahli Meredith  
 Cheryl Wells  
 Karen Ractliffe  
 Marc Calwell, Sharon Deane,  
 Pam Campbell, Robert Donohoe  
 Hagen Heinrich  
 Bernie O'Brien

Lighting & Sound Tech  
 Wardrobe Manager  
 Make-Up Artist  
 Front of House  
 Set Construction  
 Kitchen  
 Publicity Designer  
 Publicity Officer  
 Soulmates Soldier

Paul Ractliffe & Paul Karton  
 Wendy Potter  
 Helen Schumann  
 Robyn Weidlich & WDG Members  
 Hagen Heinrich & WDG Members  
 Millie & Barrie Sampson  
 Darlene Cole  
 Rose Cooper  
 Julie Young



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COMING SOON!



# Central Coast Theatrefest 2007

A festival of one-act plays by various groups  
Hosted by Wyong Drama Group Inc  
**June 22, 23 & 24**

Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave Wyong  
For more information phone 4353 4353  
Session Tickets \$10 / Full Weekend \$25

AUGUST 2007 • WYONG MEMORIAL HALL  
WYONG DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS

## COMMUNICATING DOORS

by ALAN AYCKBOURN  
directed by CHRISTINE VALE

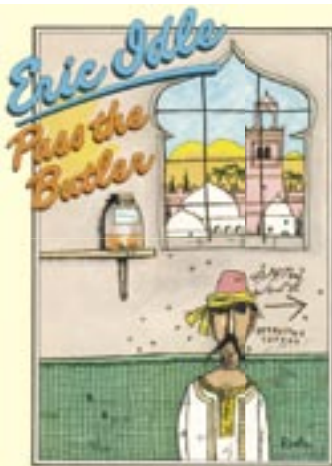
A London "sex specialist" from the future stumbles into a murder plot that sends her, via a unique set of connecting hotel room doors, travelling back in time to prevent two murders.

"Like a magic conjurer, Alan Ayckhourn keeps pulling evermore rabbits out of the hat. *Communicating Doors*, his 46th play, manages to take us by surprise by being a mixture of pastiche *Psycho* and time-warp comedy ... Ayckhourn is at his most devilish ingenious" said Michael Billington of the Guardian.

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### *Coming in November*

Eric Idle's first stage play, *Pass the Butler*, is a triumph of outrageous logic and death-defying ingenuity, as might be expected from the author of *Hello Sailor* and *The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book*.

As the action of the play moves forward inexorably from breakfast to sherry and what follows, it becomes rapidly clear that all within the country home of Sir Robert Charles, Minister of Defence, is not as it seems. And not only is Sir Robert no longer an active force in politics, his inactivity has become a well-nigh insoluble problem. Furthermore, the relationship between his daughter Annabelle and the butler, Butler, is mysterious to say the least. And after what follows sherry it seems that life in the Charles household will never be the same again. By the time the denouement is reached hardly any of our worst suspicions have been left unconfirmed.

*Pass the Butler* is a very funny, savagely elegant play, which opened in London in January 1982.

NOVEMBER 2007 • WYONG MEMORIAL HALL



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**Come and Join us ...**

As you see, as well as acting and directing, there are many other roles to fill. If you are interested in joining our friendly group, call 4353 4353. Check out our new website, for lots of interesting info about Wyong Drama Group, past and present, as well as coming shows - [www.wyongdramagroup.com.au](http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au)