

## EDGE ENSEMBLE PROFILE

### AMARACHI OKOROM

Amarachi is an aspiring actress who was born in Nigeria. She grew up in Auckland, New Zealand, where she spent 14 years of her life. In July 2013, she moved to Melbourne, where she studied and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree of Technology in 2017. When she's not performing, she enjoys attending meetings with the Youth crew at the Wyndham City Libraries and being involved in Western Edge Youth Arts' Wyndham Edge workshops as a facilitator and participant. Outside of her commitments, she perfects her communication skills by writing stories. Amarachi has performed her poetry at multiple events such as The SistaHood Picnic 2017 and Africa Day event at Latrobe University 2017. Amarachi joined the Wyndham Edge Ensemble in 2017, where she performed in *At First Glance*. She joined the Edge Ensemble in 2018 and plays Miranda in *Caliban*.

### CRAIG GUNGUTA

At age 21 Craig is already carving a unique path for himself, being a dancer, actor, musician and education facilitator. He is a creative powerhouse who believes he is here for a reason. As a teenager who grew up in Zimbabwe, Craig was involved in making Zimdancehall music. Since moving to Australia in 2014, he has continued to develop his creative practice through dance and theatre, while maintaining his love for music. Craig who has been a member of Western Edge Youth Arts' Geelong Ensemble since its inception, has co-created two major productions and toured schools in the Geelong region with an interactive educational theatre work. Craig joined the Edge Ensemble in 2018 and plays Ferdinand in *Caliban*.

### EBONY MCGUIRE

Ebony McGuire is a proud Noongar woman who graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. In 2014, she performed at The Blue Room as Alison in *What Do They Call Me?* Ebony also worked as a workshop facilitator in the *Culture 2.0 | Respecting Yourself | Respect Your Culture* program with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, and worked with a team of artists in developing the *Shakespeare Sonnets in Noongar* workshop program in 2015. She performed in the 2015 Yirra Yaakin Production of *The Fever and the Fret*, directed by Kyle Morrison. In 2017, Ebony played various roles for the *Coranderrk National Tour* with Ilbijerri Theatre Company, she then went in to work with wit incorporated, playing the roles of Irene Adler/Sally Barak in *A Scandal in The Weimar* and Lou in *Outside In*. Ebony was inspired to work with WEYA after seeing *Six Hours in Geelong*, and joined the Edge Ensemble in 2018. She plays Steph in *Caliban*.

### NATALIE LUCIC

Natalie is an actress and an education facilitator who hails from Werribee, Victoria. Her parents opened a pizza shop the day she was born, founding her love for pizza. Natalie has always enjoyed entertaining and being in the spotlight. She started acting professionally at age 15 with Moving Theatre, where she performed in various shows including a season at La Mama Courthouse Theatre. In 2013, she attended film acting school at ITM studios. In 2014, Natalie joined the Western Edge Youth Arts' Edge Ensemble, where she co-created and performed in *Iago* (2015) and *Caliban* (2016). Currently, she is teaching with Western Edge Youth Arts where she works with schools and communities, and loves every second of it. Natalie plays Prospera in *Caliban*.

## **PIPER HUYNH**

Piper is a theatre-maker driven by untold stories. She has worked extensively in community engagement, access arts and independent theatre focusing on stage/production management, performance and facilitation. She has worked extensively with Western Edge Youth Arts as an artist and performer, devising projects such as *Chronicles: Searching for Songlines*, *Beagle Bay Chronicles*, *Iago* and *Caliban*. She recently graduated from Footscray Community Arts Centre's Emerging Cultural Leaders Program and is an avid Playback Theatre practitioner facilitating workshops in Asia. Her recent stage/production management credits include *4<sup>th</sup> National Gathering of Theatre of Friendship* (Sri Lanka), *Agni* (Apollon Studios), *Ode to Man* (Melbourne Fringe Festival), *My Ancestral Roots* (Gertrude Street Projection Festival), *Surprise Party with Jem and Dead Max* (La Mama Theatre) and *Salt* (She Said Theatre). Piper plays Ariel in *Caliban*.

## **ROR AKOT**

Ror is a 20-year-old hip hop artist and poet born in South Sudan. In 2005, he immigrated to Australia with his mother, brothers and sisters. Ror's music speaks of the hardships and triumphs he has experienced in his young life, and his music is continually evolving through his powerful lyrics and live performances. As well as performing extensively for his local community, Ror has also performed at Peace Pallet, a benefit for South Sudan, 'Bring It' Festival at the Melbourne Arts Centre, and the Boston Leadership Course U.S.A. Ror's professional acting talent was also recently showcased in SBS crime drama series, *Sunshine*. Ror joined the Edge Ensemble in 2018 and plays Caliban in *Caliban*.

## **DIRECTOR - PENNY HARPHAM**

Penny Harpham is the Associate Director at Western Edge Youth Arts and is also co-founder and co-Artistic Director of She Said Theatre. She has worked across Australia, South Korea and Germany as a director and performer and is a graduate of the University of Queensland (Bachelor of Drama/ Journalism), University of Melbourne (Post Graduate Diploma in Arts and Cultural Management) and the Victorian College of the Arts (Directing). Her other theatre directing credits include the multiple award-winning *HART* for She Said Theatre (Australia and New Zealand tours); *The Way Out* for Red Stitch Actors Theatre; *Fallen* for Sport for Jove/She Said Theatre/Seymour Centre; *Salt* for She Said Theatre/La Mama Courthouse; *Bock Kills Her Father* for She Said Theatre/La Mama Courthouse; *Slut* for VCA One Act Play Season; *Laika and Wills* and *Breaking* for She Said Theatre/Melbourne Fringe. Her assistant directing credits are *Antony and Cleopatra* (Bell Shakespeare) and *Rust and Bone* (Dan Clarke). Her most recent theatre performance credits include *Virgins and Cowboys* (Griffin Theatre), *You Got Older* (Red Stitch Actors Theatre), *Now More Than Ever* (Elbow Room) and *Six Women Standing in Front of a White Wall* (Little Dove Theatre Art). Upon graduating from the VCA Penny was awarded the Barbara Manning Scholarship for Excellence and the Global Atelier Scholarship for Overseas Travel. Penny has both received and been nominated for a Green Room Award, received three Melbourne Fringe Awards, an Adelaide Fringe Award, and was the 2015 recipient of the Ian Potter Cultural Trust Award.

Penny has also worked extensively with children and young people as a Workshop Facilitator at La Boite Theatre Company, Footscray Community Arts Centre and as a Teaching Artist and director at Western Edge Youth Arts.