

MAXINE MELLOR

playwright

biography | work | reviews
www.maxinemellor.com



BIOGRAPHY

Maxine Mellor is a thirty year old award-winning Queensland playwright who has authored over twenty plays in a career spanning a decade, with work produced throughout Australia and internationally.

She won the 2014 Max Afford Playwright's Award for *The Silver Alps*. In 2012 she was announced winner of Inscription's Edward Albee New York City Scholarship, and won the 2012/2013 Queensland Premier's Drama Award for *Trollop*.

Mellor has been an associate writer with Queensland Theatre Company; a World Interplay festival delegate; an alumnus of the Australian Theatre for Young People's writing program; a Playlab Lab Rats writer; and Resident Writer at La Boite Theatre Company.

Recent productions include *The Wizard of Oz* (a collaboration with the Danger Ensemble for La Boite Theatre Company and the Brisbane Festival), *Trollop* (Queensland Theatre Company), *Anna Robi & The House of Dogs* (Under the Radar), and *Sleeping Horses Lie* (Terrapin Puppet Theatre). Mellor's work is published through Playlab and the Australian Script Centre.

The dark recesses of human behaviour and our sublime connection with nature serve as her inspiration. She strives to challenge our sympathies in work spanning black comedy to absurdist to magic realism.

For more information, visit www.maxinemellor.com

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

"Maxine is an emerging playwright of exceptional talent. Her writing reflects an intelligence and political awareness. Her work is delightful for its irreverence. Her plays are unique and unusual. They have been widely acclaimed in production in Australia."

Lachlan Philpott, 2009

"Max explores uncharted territory. She is this sophisticated, well-educated, lovely girl but she opens a window onto things that most writers don't have the guts to examine."

Iain Sinclair, 2010

"Maxine is a sensitive, generous and vivacious writer. She responds well to, and encourages vigorous discussion about her work, and reciprocates with equal fervor. I believe she is one of Australia's most exciting young playwrights with a bold and distinctive voice."

Fraser Corfield, 2011

LIST OF WORK

Human Remains in an Alpine Environment
The Fledglings
The Wind in the Willows
The Silver Alps
The Wizard of Oz
Trollop
Awkward Anthem
An Alleyway in Two Parts
Sleeping Horses Lie
Anna Robi & the House of Dogs
Little Red Hiding Hood
Wornwolf
Desiree Din & the Red Forest
The Timely Death of Victor Blott
Maxine Mellor's Mystery Project
Polly Pocket is no Princess
The Shakespeare Channel
The Night Reader [My Night with Harold]
Last Days of the New Theatricals
Remains
Under the Chicago Moon
Gunther Grim & The Halfway Town
Handicraft
My Mother's Machines
The Cicada Movement
Magda's Fascination with Wax Cats
Little Hitler's Ode to an Austrian Bentwood
Blood Red High Heels Dancing on the Street
Boy Slaughter

SELECTION OF PRODUCTION SHOTS & REVIEWS

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Devised in collaboration with contemporary performance makers, The Danger Ensemble, this incantation of *The Wizard of Oz* is a fairytale for the modern age that explores the dangerous desperation of chasing your dreams.

Mellor reveals a compellingly dark parable of the much-loved Judy Garland fantasy, populated by a trailer-trash cast

...
*Bold, infuriating, outrageous,
and utterly energised.*

The Australian, 2013

*Textured, sensationalist,
funny, this is shot through with
emotional and physical
pratfalls.*

*This zany romp is gloriously
intense with a spiky undertow.
It's refreshing entertainment
with a razor sharp edge.*

The Courier Mail, 2013



TROLLOP



Clara is uncomfortably numb. Cocooned in her white house, untouched by a recent flood, her eyes are pinned to the TV set awash in images of disaster.

Her relentlessly upbeat partner, Erik tries to inspire her to make a book. But what she ends up making, secluded in the study, is something far more terrifying.

Ms Mellor writes beautifully and her play is brave, fascinating and an ultimately shocking piece of theatre which melds form and content pretty much seamlessly.

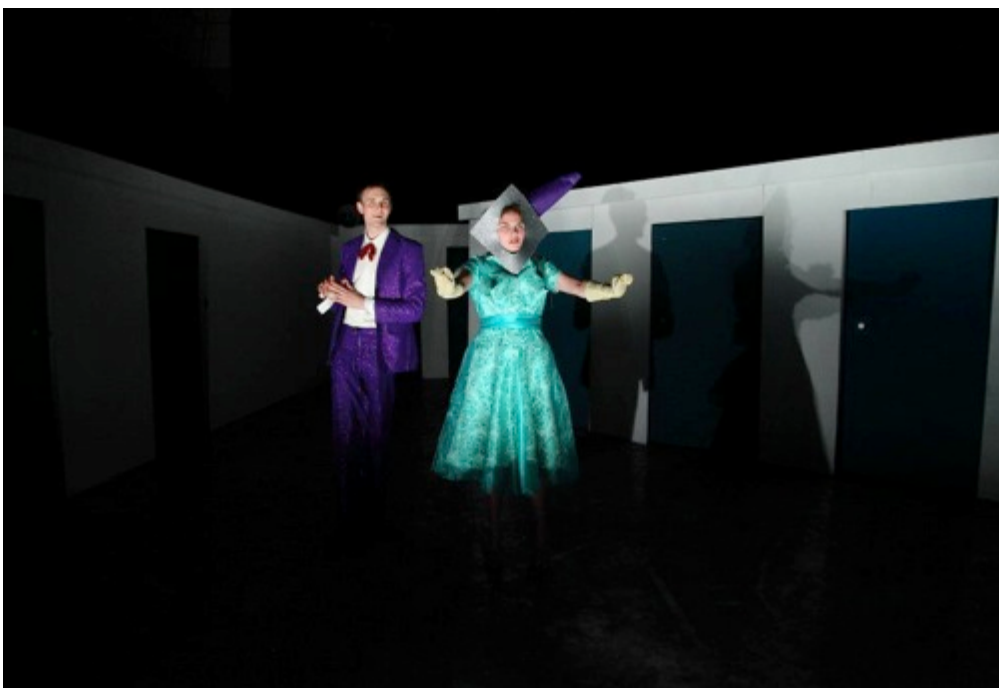
...
This is not a comfortable play designed to provide a cosy night in the theatre nor easy answers to the dilemmas it poses. It probes psychic fault lines and has wicked fun in exposing them.

Greenroom, 2013



It's strange and savage, and a little bit sadistic. It's a shock to the senses, and perhaps to your sensibilities.

XS Entertainment, 2013



AWKWARD ANTHEM

Maxine Mellor's AWKWARD ANTHEM about a diamond-headed girl trying to fit in at a cocktail party (the devil on her shoulder a sadistic compere in a purple-sequined suit is like a more sentimental Lynch of steroids.

Sydney Morning Herald, 2013

ANNA ROBI & THE HOUSE OF DOGS

Maxine Mellor is an audacious talent with an apparently boundless imagination and will to explore the nooks and crannies of humanity.

Stage Noise, 2010



She is one of the most remarkable writers of this generation – brutal, brave and authentically, unapologetically unique.

Augusta Supple's Blog, 2010

The writing here is quite marvelous, and it is not difficult to see why Mellor is considered one of the bright rising stars of Australian Theatre.

Media Culture, 2012

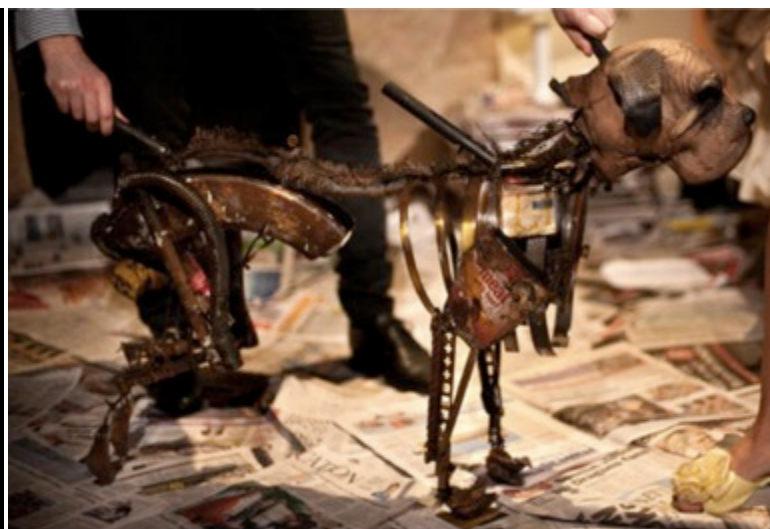
The script is cruel, coarse, sexually blatant and darkly funny and does not flag as both mother and daughter trade blow for blow in what seemed at times a newly minted, female version of the old English classic comedy Steptoe and Son.

Realtime Arts, 2011

Anna shares a bed with her mother in a house overridden with inbred dogs.

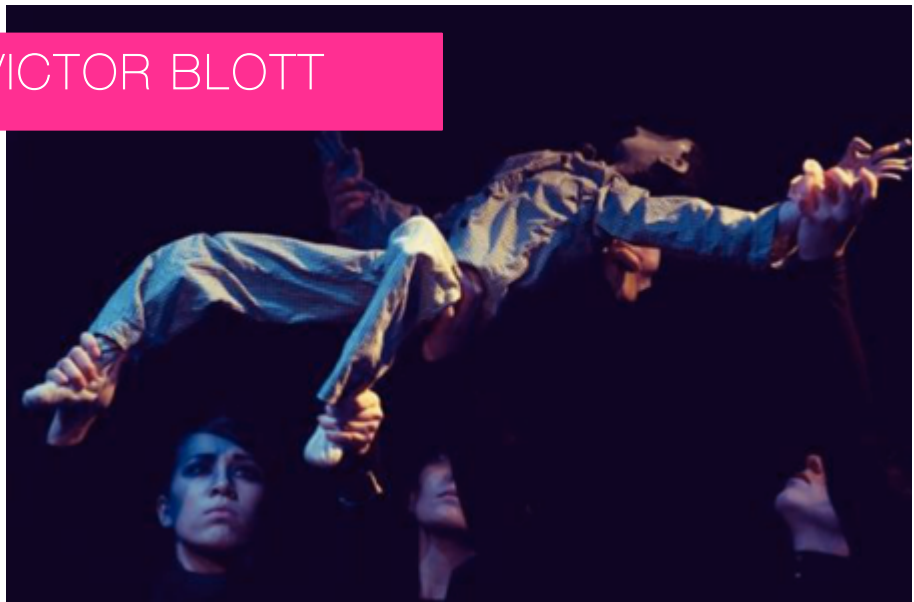
She's fallen in love with a man on the telephone and wants nothing more than to spend a night with him.

But how do you lose your virginity when you share a bed with your mother?



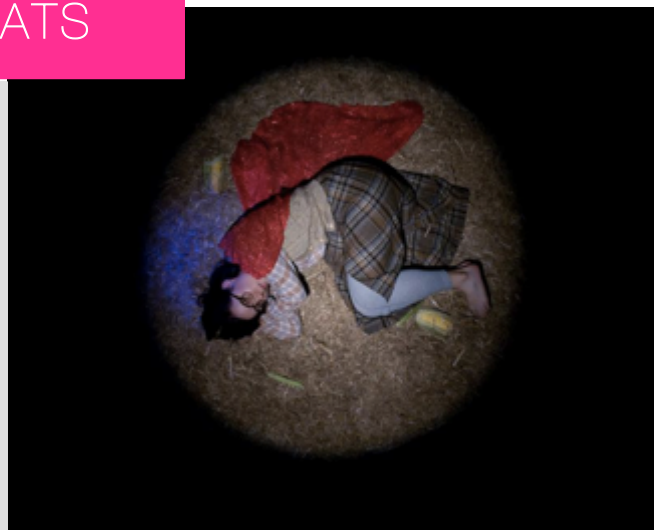
THE TIMELY DEATH OF VICTOR BLOTT

Funny and endearing one moment, utterly horrifying the next. Gothic in atmosphere but contemporary in its staging. An equal mix of the most dreadful parts of human nature and the most beautiful.
Australian Stage, 2010



MAGDA'S FASCINATION WITH WAX CATS

A beautifully rich and satisfying one hour of theatre, evocative of Dylan Thomas's UNDER MILKWOOD ... Mellor's script is a beautiful snapshot of an awful day. Her language bristles and shoots sparks, painting pictures and evoking landscapes and people.
Brisbane News, 2008



Mellor's writing is rich and rhythmic
Sydney Morning Herald 2006

LITTLE HITLER'S ODE TO AN AUSTRIAN BENTWOOD



A one-hour lunatic presentation with more surprises than a wet knife in a socket. Surreal, hilarious, depraved and delightful ... Something very special and hands-down the most original piece of theatre you're likely to see this year, in Brisbane or anywhere else.

Timeout Brisbane, 2005

The subtlety, variety and sharp intelligence of her writing are astonishing and belie her age.

The Courier Mail, 2005