THE HANGING OF JEAN LEE

ANDRÉE GREENWELL, JORDIE ALBISTON AND ABE POGOS

Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall Sat 7 – Sun 8 December 2013 80 minutes

artshouse.com.au andreegreenwell.com This production has been made possible with the generous support of The Robert Salzer Foundation, Arts Victoria, the New Music Network and the City of Melbourne through Arts House. The development of **The Hanging of Jean Lee** and its premiere production were assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; the Sydney Opera House Producers Unit; Arts NSW; the Myer Foundation; and the City of Sydney. A Green Room Music Production.







new music network





The Hanging of Jean Lee

Thirty songs about the last woman hanged in Australia

Based upon the verse biography, *The Hanging of Jean Lee*, by Jordie Albiston (Black Pepper)



Poet's Notes

Jean Lee was both victim and perpetrator. In my poetry collection based on her life, I always endeavoured to remain impartial regarding my interpretation of the facts. While it would have been easy to take the feminist polemic point of view and paint Lee as a mistreated, manipulated female in a man's world, my understanding of her story became more and more complex as my research continued. I therefore hope to have achieved some kind of balance between sympathy and judgement. I believe Andrée Greenwell's music reflects this stance without conflict, and with assurance and true beauty. *Jordie Albiston*

Composer's Notes

The Hanging of Jean Lee was a few years in the making, and it has taken more years again to see this production in Melbourne, as part of the unique artistic community that is Arts House. I would like to thank the many wonderful colleagues, friends and arts organisations who have encouraged and supported this work, in both incarnations. Thank you all for your time and advice. Most importantly, I wish to acknowledge the incisive and courageous writing of Jordie Albiston. Andrée Greenwell

The CD *The Hanging of Jean Lee*, recorded with the generous support of the ABC Radio National Music and Drama Units, is available for purchase at andreegreenwell.bandcamp.com/ merch/the-hanging-of-jean-lee

Creative Team

Artists and Production

Composer/Image Director: Andrée Greenwell Poet/Librettist: Jordie Albiston Librettist/Dramaturge: Abe Pogos Production: Neil Simpson Costumes: Annemaree Dalziel Text Rehearsals: Abe Pogos Stage Manager: Sarah Hall Audio Engineer: Michael Hewes Producer: Andrée Greenwell, Green Room Music Auspicing: Selene Bateman, Auspicious Arts

Projection Credits

Image Concept: Andrée Greenwell, Janet Merewether Producer, Live Film Shoots: Anna Messariti Stills/Super 8: Janet Merewether Cinematography: Steve Macdonald Additional Photos and Super 8: James Manché Animation: Katerina Stratos Footage Set Dresser: Eduardo de Macebo Make-Up Artist, Re-Creation Still of William Kent: Jen Lamphee Digital Image Post-Production: Shawn Seet

Vocalists

Jean Lee: Max Sharam

Robert David Clayton, Policeman, Warden, the Hangman, Narration, Chorus: **Hugo Race** William 'Pop' Kent, Judge, Morris 'Morrie' Dias, Warden, Narration, Chorus: **Jeff Duff** Norman Andrews, Policeman, Charles Wright, Journalist, Teacher, Narration, Chorus: **Simon Maiden**

Musicians

Violin: Andrea Keeble Trumpet: Shane Gillard Woodwind: Lachlan Davidson Piano: Harry Cook Guitar: Willy Zygier Bass Guitar: Lucas Taranto Drum Kit and Percussion: Joshua Barber

Cast, Digital Projections

Young Jean: **Rochelle Young** Mallow House Jean Lee: **Sarah Grenfell** Mallow House Norman Andrews: **Tim Allen** Mallow House Robert Clayton: **Tim Maddock** Mallow House William 'Pop' Kent: **Kenny Graham** Ballroom Dancers: **Adam Stone**, **Jennifer Stone**

Image Source Acknowledgements

Bauer Media; City of Sydney Archives; the family of Nola Dam; Bill Barry Jnr; Film Australia; Mike Sutcliffe Collection; National Australian Archives; National Library of Australia, Frank Hurley, 1612708; National Library of Australia, National Australian Archives; New York Review of Books; National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) and NFSA Film Australia Collection; Pentridge Village; Public Records of Victoria; Robert Mitchell Family Film and Lyn Mitchell; State Library of NSW; State Library of Victoria including F. Oswald Barnett Collection; T3Media; Victoria Police History Museum and the Victorian Parliamentary Library.

Thank You

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Thanks also to Anna Messariti, Producer, and Lisa Magnus, Assistant Producer, of the premiere production of **The Hanging of Jean Lee**, Sydney Opera House, Green Room Music, 2006.

Arts House

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Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. Approximately half of this work is selected through an Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or co-author their work.

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