

# Home, I'm Darling

by LAURA WADE



## Education Mini-Pack

20 JANUARY — 22 FEBRUARY 2020

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

### About the Play

Every couple needs a little fantasy to keep their marriage sparkling, and Judy is always looking for little ways to brighten her husband Johnny's day. Like cocktails, dancing, warm slippers ... all the usual jazz. But is their perfect 50s life a perfect lie?

### About the Playwright

Laura Wade is an Olivier Award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her most recent play *Home, I'm Darling* premiered at Theatre Clwyd in 2018 before transferring to the National Theatre where it received rave reviews; in February 2019 it transferred to the West End at the Duke of York's. *Home, I'm Darling* won the award for Best Comedy at the 2019 Oliviers. In 2018 Laura adapted Jane Austen's unfinished novel *The Watsons* for the stage for Chichester Festival Theatre; it will open in the West End at the Harold Pinter Theatre. In 2015 Laura adapted Sarah Waters' *Tipping the Velvet* for the stage. The play premiered at the Lyric Hammersmith before transferring to the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh. Laura's screenplay *The Riot Club*, an adaptation of her 2010 stage play *Posh*, premiered at Toronto International Film Festival 2014. It opened in cinemas in September 2014. *Posh* opened in the West End at the Duke of York's Theatre on 11 May 2012. The original production opened at the Royal Court Theatre in April 2010 to sell-out audiences.

### Cast

**Marcus** Peter Paltos  
**Judy** Nikki Shiels  
**Johnny** Toby Truslove  
**Sylvia** Jane Turner  
**Alex** Izabella Yena  
**Fran** Susie Youssef

### Creative Team

**Director** Sarah Goodes  
**Set & Costume Designer** Renée Mulder  
**Lighting Designer** Paul Jackson  
**Composer & Sound Designer** Jethro Woodward  
**Voice & Dialect Coach** Geraldine Cook-Dafner  
**Assistant Director** Bessie Holland  
**Intimacy Coordinator** Michala Banas  
**Choreographer** Steven Grace  
**Assistant Choreographer** Tracie Morley  
**Stage Manager** Christine Bennett  
**Assistant Stage Manager 1** Meg Richardson  
**Assistant Stage Manager 2** Lucie Sutherland  
**Sound Design Secondment** Daniella Esposito  
**VCA Stage Management Secondment** Max Woods

### Genre

Contemporary British comedy

### Running Time

Approx. 2hrs and 30min including a 20min interval

### Attendance Information

This production contains coarse language, mature themes, sexual references and the use of herbal cigarettes. For detailed information, please visit [www.mtc.com.au/production-content-guide](http://www.mtc.com.au/production-content-guide)



Turn the page for activities,  
and discussions.

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## Before the show



Research the 1950s and make a mood board of images that show clothing, houses, food, cars and advertisements. What other plays or films evoke this era?

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Download the show programme at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage) to read an article from director Sarah Goodes reflecting on the themes that underpin this play.

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Debate this topic: Things were better in the 1950s.

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Explore #wifey on Instagram and discuss the Cult of Domesticity, then read our article in the show programme at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage).

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Watch the video trailer for *Home, I'm Darling* at [YouTube.com/melbtheatreco](https://www.youtube.com/melbtheatreco) and make predictions about the show. Discuss design elements, themes, characters.

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Discuss the title of the play. What might it mean?

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Discuss how different people define feminism.

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Imagine your family decides to live a 1950s life in contemporary society. What would be the challenges?

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## Post-show Activities



Discuss the use of disjointed time in the play. How did the playwright use a flashback to enhance the story?

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Discuss the ending of the play. What is the overall feeling you're left with? Write your own epilogue to the play that explores what happens next for Marcus, Judy or Alex.

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Recall some moments from the play that resonated with you, made you laugh, or that you didn't like. Have other people in the class chosen the same moments?

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Look at the production photos at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage). Discuss how the actors used the space, and identify the hidden entrances and exits.

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Explore Renée Mulder's costume designs at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage). Choose one costume and analyse how it contributed to characterisation.

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Read the Q&A with actor Nikki Shiels (Judy) at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage) and discuss her comments about the overarching themes in the play.

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You'll notice that the creative team for *Home, I'm Darling* includes an Intimacy Coordinator. Read more about this role at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage).

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Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukitj Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the First Peoples of Country on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand. We pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.



@melbtheatreco #mtcHomeImDarling



MTC Education

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