**GILTRAP AUDI SEASON OF** 

## LAST LEGS



BY ROGER HALL







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#### CILTRAP AUDI SEASON OF

### **LAST LEGS**

#### **BY ROCER HALL**

AUCKLAND 12-30 SEP

ASB Waterfront Theatre

HAMILTON
5-7 OCT
Clarence St Theatre

TAURANGA 13-15 OCT

Baycourt

#### CAST

Trish / Sheila – Louise Wallace
Garry – Mark Hadlow
Angus – Ray Henwood
Edna / Eve – Alison Quigan
Kitty / Joyce – Catherine Wilkin
Helena / Jessie – Margaret-Mary Hollins

#### **CREATIVE**

Director – **Colin McColl**Set Designer – **Rachael Walker**Costume Designer – **Debbie Thearle**Lighting Designer – **Nik Janiurek**Sound Designer – **John Gibson** 

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Props Master – Becky Ehlers | Set Construction – 2Construct
ATC Production Intern – Nathanaël Ruestchmann

AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR HELP WITH THIS PRODUCTION:

Bernice Judge and Aline Reilly (Mah Jong teachers), Isabelle Woods, Christine Young.

The Giltrap Audi season of *Last Legs* is the sixth Auckland Theatre Company mainbill production for 2016/2017 and opened on September 14<sup>th</sup> at ASB Waterfront Theatre. The production is approximately 2 hours plus a 20-minute interval. Please remember to switch off all mobile phones, pagers and watch alarms.

3



## Welcome to the Giltrap Audi season of *Last Legs*

We are very pleased to continue our relationship as a presenting partner of Auckland Theatre Company in 2017 and are delighted that our two Q2 vehicles are of great assistance.

Roger Hall again delivers a cast of recognizably funny and fallible characters. Those of us in the baby-boomer generation, who live in a state of denial regarding our own aging, identify with these characteristics because we have seen them in ourselves - or maybe in our parents.

Likewise we continue our own achievements with the Audi brand, along with being very proud of showcase dealership in Grey Lynn with its Audi Sport area within the building for our customers to build their own RS model.

We are immensely passionate about our brand and our customers and are very pleased to have so many of you here tonight.

And now, from Giltrap Audi performance to the atrical performance! We hope you enjoy the Giltrap Audi season of Last Legs by the humorous playwright Roger Hall.

Gary Periam General Manager Giltrap Audi

#### Now is calling

The all-new Audi Q5 with the new efficient quattro with ultra technology.



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#### Artistic Director Colin McColl

WELCOME to the Giltrap
Audi season of Last Legs
– the latest work from New
Zealand's master of
comedy, Roger Hall. For
more than four decades
Roger's plays have charted
our social history with
compassion, wit and a keen

Last Legs takes us into the world of an upmarket North Shore retirement village. Roger beautifully charts the individual plights of six residents, their belief systems, their politics, their relationships and their reasons for being there.

#### "Roger's very special talent as a writer is his ability to have us laughing and crying at the same time about these folk and their predicaments."

satirical eye. His plays have brought huge enjoyment to thousands of theatregoers both here and abroad. And over the years, many a struggling theatre company has been rescued from the brink with the sure-fire popularity of Roger's plays!

We know these people – we are these people – and Roger's very special talent as a writer is his ability to have us laughing and crying simultaneously about these folk and their predicaments.

I'm very lucky to be working with a lovely bunch of actors, most of whom are experienced exponents of Roger Hall's work. Huge thanks to them and to my creative team of Rachael Walker (set), Debbie Thearle (costumes), Nik Janiurek (lighting) and John Gibson (sound) plus our dedicated and proficient ATC Production team.

Last Legs tours to
Hamilton (Clarence St
Theatre) and Tauranga
(Baycourt) following its
Auckland season, so if you
know anyone in those cities
make sure you let them
know the Last Legs tour will
be playing in their city in
October.

Last Legs is the final play in our inaugural season at our fabulous new ASB Waterfront Theatre. Our 25th birthday season (2017/18) is now on sale – pick up a brochure in the foyer and book your subscription to enjoy another year of entertaining, thought-provoking theatre.

## No great wine ever came from a spreadsheet.

One of the luxuries of being family-owned means everything we do is for the good of what's in the glass.

Our wine is far more important than how many zeros are on our balance sheet. So open a bottle of Villa Maria and experience what passion and dedication taste like.

OPEN ANOTHER WORLD™







## Theatre – a risky business.

by Roger Hall

IN THEATRE, you can never take anything for granted. More than once I have sat despairingly through a dress rehearsal of one my plays saying to myself, "Well they won't like this one." I remember thinking this especially about *Four Flat* 

soon as Wal walked on stage, the audience let out a huge roar of delight and they hardly stopped until the final encore. (They were right: it's now had more than a hundred and fifty productions here and in Australia—not Andrew

## "In theatre, you can never take anything for granted."

Whites in Italy, but that turned out alright.

And with Footrot Flats, the Musical after the dress rehearsal at The Court in front of an invited audience (i.e blasé and hard to impress), the writers (Philip Norman, AK Grant and I) met and almost carried out a post-mortem. We were clearly doomed.

But the next night, as

Lloyd Webber territory but something of a record for this part of the world.)

On the other hand, I have set out for the theatre on opening night confident that I'm about to see a winner, thinking that by the next day I could realistically be talking to real estate agents about buying a London apartment, and by the end of the performance wishing

I could slink away into the night.

This is one of the plays I discuss in my talk The Ones That Got Away here at ASB Waterfront Theatre on the afternoon of Sunday 24 September. For another play, it was something of a dream to be flown to NYC by a Broadway producer, met at the airport with chauffeurdriven limo, and dropped off in a central hotel. That was as good as it got. The purpose was to attend a read-through in front of an industry crowd and then discuss a production. It was one of the worst experiences in my theatrical life.

Things weren't much better in the UK for the same play—and yet it had had considerable success here and in Australia.

Other plays that got away include one about a NZ poet,

## "After all, several characters are repeople. Which is a playwright) I love

a compilation of what had been said in Parliament over the years (fascinating stuff, truly), and a play that failed so badly it didn't even complete its initial season.

Of course, now I can look back and laugh.

Hie.

Lean't.

But audiences for *The Ones That Got Away* certainly do.

As for Last Legs, I won't be either too pessimistic nor too confident. Yes, it's had two successful seasons elsewhere but you can never assume another audience in another city will like it. After all, several of the characters are really awful people. Which is why (as a playwright) I love them. And times have changed politically a lot since this was first produced in Wellington a year ago. Yes, I've brought it up to date in the play, in that Bill English is now Prime Minister, when before he was Deputy. But as for everything else, well, who would have guessed!

So why set it in an upmarket retirement village? Because even if most of us aren't going to end up in one, we all know people who are. Playwrights are often looking for places where people are forced to be together. And while one might think that towards the end of life people living together should be tolerant and kind to each other, such is not the case. Certainly not in *Last Legs* anyway.

In my next play, Easy Money (Court, March 2018), about confidence tricksters, not everyone has a Gold Card. Promise.

## of the ally awful why (as a them. "



Four Flat Whites in Italy. Photo credit: Michael Smith.

#### Cast.



LOUISE WALLACE







CATHERINE WILKIN



#### **LOUISE WALLACE**

#### Trish / Sheila

Louise trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London. It is her thirty-year career in television for which she is best known. Presenting credits include Celebrity Treasure Island, Shock Treatment, Top of the Class, So You Want to be a Pop Star, The Weakest Link, 3News, Mobil Sport, 60 Minutes, and 20/20. Louise has recently finished filming *The* Brokenwood Mysteries, and she is a regular panellist on The AM Show and The Project. She was in the core cast in the four seasons of the highly successful drama, Street Legal. Louise has been a talkback host on Radio Live and reported for Health Matters on National Radio. Directing credits include the 2013 theatre production of Driving Miss Daisy and for television, World's Strictest Parents, Celebrity Treasure Island, Dancing with the Stars, and The Apprentice. In 2012, she co-founded Tadpole Theatre Productions and starred in The Lion in Winter, Social Climbers, and The Pink Hammer. Louise is thrilled to be appearing in Last Legs with the "alumni" of New 7ealand theatre

#### **MARK HADLOW**

#### Garry

Mark Hadlow (ONZM) is one of New Zealand's most well-known and prominent actors. He has performed in over 150 plays, including musical theatre, Shakespeare, and one-man shows. He has appeared in dozens of films and TV series, and done thousands of commercials and radio voice-overs. Mark has played many roles in Peter Jackson films including *The Hobbit* trilogy, *Meet the Feebles*, and *King Kong*. Mark has just finished filming his fourth Peter Jackson production, *Mortal Engines*. Mark has appeared in

concerts and musicals My Fair Lady; Jesus Christ Superstar; Kiss Me, Kate; Rocky Horror Show; A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum; and Little Shop of Horrors. Mark has been nominated for and won several awards, including Best Supporting Actor in a Television Comedy Series for Willy Nilly, Best Theatrical Performance of the Year in 1993 for the one-man show SNAG, Entertainer of the Year in 1995, and Best Character Voice Over Artist in the 2010 New Zealand Radio Awards. In the 2017 Queen's Birthday honours, Mark was awarded Officer of New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) Award for services to the Arts

"LAST LEGS is full of connections. Catherine Wilkin and Ray Henwood were in Roger's 'Who Wants to be 100? (Anyone Who's 99)' for ATC with me, which was also directed by Alison Quigan. It's like coming back into the family and I feel very lucky to be working with some wonderful talented people."

#### **RAY HENWOOD**

#### **Angus**

Ray Henwood came to New Zealand from Wales in 1962. In 1964, he was cast in the first play at Downstage in Wellington, marking the resurgence of professional theatre in New Zealand following the demise of The NZ Players. Since then, Ray has acted in many plays at Downstage, and in 1976 he became a founding member of Circa Theatre in Wellington. Ray has been in many radio and TV plays including Roger Hall's *Gliding On*, which was created from Roger's play *Glide Time* – first performed at Circa Theatre in 1976.

#### **ALISON QUIGAN**

#### Edna / Eve

Alison's theatrical experience spans more than 39 years. In that time she

has acted in and directed over 100 plays, has written 13 original works, and was the Artistic Director of Centrepoint Theatre in Palmerston North from 1987 to 2004. In 2001 Alison was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for Services to the Theatre. Alison is well known for her work on Shortland Street, where she played Yvonne Jeffries from 2004 to 2010. Her favourite roles include Cathy in Mum's Choir, and Mattie Fae in August: Osage County for Auckland Theatre Company in 2010. Alison's recent directing work includes Heroes for Auckland Theatre Company in 2015, and an annual community children's production at Mangere Arts Centre featuring 30 new dancers, singers and actors. She has worked with many playwrights over the years but the playwright she has worked with the most is Roger Hall, having performed in and directed 15 of his plays. Since 2013, Alison has been the Performing Arts Manager of the Mangere Arts Centre where she works to support new work with emerging practitioners in South Auckland.

#### **CATHERINE WILKIN**

#### Kitty / Joyce

Catherine began her career as a student at the Mercury Theatre in Auckland in the seventies and since then has worked extensively in theatre, television, film and radio in New Zealand and Australia. She is best known in New Zealand for classic plays such as Hedda Gabler, Death of a Salesman, and Lady Windermere's Fan. In Australia, it was her work in such television series as The Flying Doctors, Rafferty's Rules, McLeod's Daughters, and The Saddle Club that brought recognition and Best Actress awards. She has previously appeared in the Auckland Theatre Company productions *Equus, The* 

Pohutakawa Tree, The Importance of Being Earnest, Trees Beneath the Lake, Enlightenment, and two Roger Hall classics – Middle Age Spread and Who Wants to be 100? (Anyone Who's 99). Now appearing in Roger's latest play Last Legs, she delightedly reunites with Colin, Alison, Mark, and Ray as well as new castmates Margaret-Mary and Louise, for this sweet and sour retirement home romp.

#### **MARGARET-MARY HOLLINS**

#### Helena / Jessie

Margaret-Mary has been active in the performing arts industry for 35 years. She is an experienced actor, director, tutor, producer, theatre arts manager, and recently the Artistic Director of TAPAC (The Auckland Performing Arts Centre). After training in Australia and the UK, Margaret-Mary studied with Ecole Philippe Gaulier and City & Guilds of London, and performed as a freelance actor in theatre, film and TV. Margaret-Mary has directed for Auckland Theatre Company, Silo Theatre, Co. Theatre Physical, and numerous independent productions. She is currently the Artistic Director of houseofhudson, with which she is developing a new work - The Secret Thief by Mike Hudson - with members of the Blind Foundation. Her most recent acting role was in 2017 with The Court Theatre in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. Margaret-Mary is loving being in the rehearsal room again and thrilled to be working with Colin and ATC on a New Zealand play with such an accomplished cast.

#### Creative.

## ROGER HALL











#### **ROGER HALL**

#### Playwright

70 years a theatregoer, 50 years a writer, and 40 years a playwright. Roger Hall's first stage play, Glide Time, was produced in 1976, and was a smash hit throughout the country. His next play, Middle Age Spread, was equally successful throughout New Zealand. The play also went to the West End, where it ran for 15 months and won Comedy of the Year Award. The play has since been seen in nine other countries. Roger has been writing a stage play every year since then, plus musicals and pantomimes. He has written more than 70 sitcom episodes for TV, from Gliding On to Spin Doctors, and had two series of the comedy Conjugal Rites made and screened in the UK. Recent plays have included Who Wants to be 100? (Anyone Who's 99), Four Flat Whites in Italy, A Short Cut to Happiness, Book Ends, and You Can Always Hand Them Back. Roger has been awarded a QSO, a CNZM, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Victoria University, and a 2015 Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement. He is currently involved in setting up New Zealand Theatre Month for September 2018.

#### **COLIN McCOLL**

#### Director

Colin has directed for the Norwegian National Theatre and the Dutch National Theatre, as well as leading New Zealand and Australian theatre companies. He is the only New Zealand director to be invited to present his work (Hedda Gabler) at the official Edinburgh Festival. The production played to great acclaim and also was presented at other festivals around the world. Colin has won Best Director at the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards several times – including for his Circa Theatre production of A Doll's House. In

2015 Colin directed Emily Perkins' new version of Ibsen's A Doll's House for Auckland Theatre Company. He has directed approximately 50 productions for Auckland Theatre Company. His opera directing credits include Quartet (New **7ealand International Arts Festival** 2004), La Bohème (Wellington City Opera), The Italian Girl In Algiers, The Marriage Of Figaro and The Prodigal Child (NBR New Zealand Opera). In 2009 he remounted his production of The Italian Girl In Algiers for the Scottish Opera. In November 2007, Colin was honoured for his artistic achievements and excellence at the eighth annual Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Awards. He was made an Officer of the New 7ealand Order of Merit in June 2010.

#### **RACHAEL WALKER**

#### **Set Designer**

With a passion for theatrical set and prop design, Rachael has spent the past 16 years amassing over 100 projects as a professional designer in Auckland. For Auckland Theatre Company, her works include Nell Gwynn, Venus in Fur. That Bloody Woman, You Can Always Hand Them Back, Lysistrata, The Ladykillers, The Lollywitch of Mumuland, Other Desert Cities, Polly Hood in Mumuland, Anne Boleyn, King of the Gym, The Gift, In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play), Calendar Girls, God of Carnage, Who Needs Sleep Anyway?, End of the Rainbow, The Tutor, The Bach, The Vagina Monologues, Play 2 and Play 2.03. She has just contributed to New Zealand Dance Company's Kiss the Sky, and Court Theatre's Uncle Vanva. She won Excellence at the Auckland Theatre Awards in 2014 for Silo Theatre's production of *Angels* in America and in 2016 for ATC/Court Theatre's production of *That Bloody* Woman. Rachael was the 2008 URBIS Best Stage Designer.

#### **DEBBIE THEARLE**

#### **Costume Designer**

Deb Thearle, originally from England, graduated in Costume Interpretation from the Wimbledon School of Art in 1995. She has worked on TV, film, and theatre costumes for Angels Costumes in London. She spent four years in Melbourne designing and making costumes for J.C. Westend Costume Hire before heading back to the UK. She was a pattern-cutter and maker at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester, working on The Crucible, The Lady Vanishes, Babes in the Wood Pantomime, Waiting for Godot, and The Tempest. Last Legs is Debbie's New Zealand costume design debut.

#### **NIK JANIUREK**

#### **Lighting Designer**

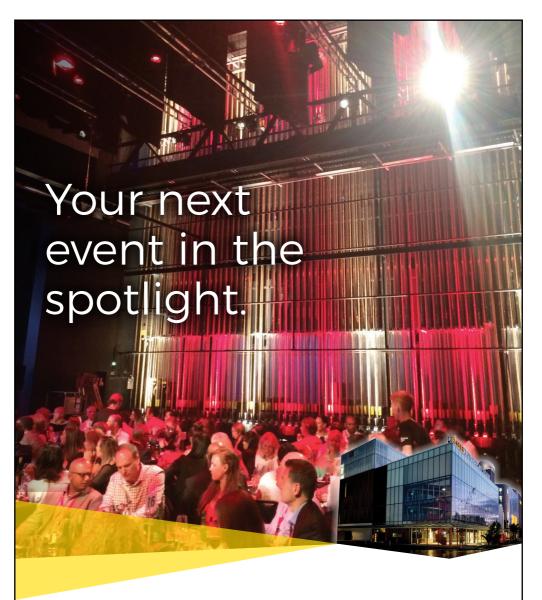
Nik is a theatre practitioner. specialising in freelance production and technical management, and lighting design. Originally trained at the Bristol Old Vic in the UK, he has worked for premier companies both in the UK and New Zealand. He has toured extensively with shows in New Zealand and internationally to festivals throughout Europe, Australasia, Asia and North America. Nik was part of the team that built and installed the flying system into the new ASB Waterfront Theatre for Auckland Theatre Company and worked on their inaugural show Billy Elliot. For Auckland Theatre Company, Nik has worked on Nell Gwynn, Peer Gynt [recycled], You Can Always Hand Them Back, Guys and Dolls, The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate, Like There's No Tomorrow, God of Carnage, Mary Stuart, and Disgrace. Nik has taught lighting at the University of Auckland, AUT, Unitec and Toi Whakaari. Nik was the Production Manager for the Auckland Writers Festival from 2015 - 2017. He is currently working as Technical Manager for Amici's

end of year production of *Sister Act* at the ASB Waterfront Theatre, and will light NZ Dance Company's new work at the Auckland and Wellington Festivals next year.

#### **JOHN GIBSON**

#### **Sound Designer**

John Gibson has been composing original music for New Zealand theatre, film, dance and television since 1980. During that time, he has composed over 100 scores and sound designs for theatre. In 2008 he received a Qantas Film and Television award for his score for Vincent Ward's film Rain of the Children. He has performed in Edinburgh in a comedy he wrote and directed called Gordon Six Pence He Is Music. John is currently adapting a book by Alain de Botton for the stage.



The ASB Waterfront Theatre complex offers a number of versatile event spaces perfect for your next function or event. With state-of-the-art in-house staging and production facilities, as well as onsite catering, the ASB Waterfront Theatre is Auckland's newest premier function venue.

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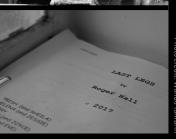












#### Back to back.

by Mark Hadlow

#### From Nell Gwynn to Last Legs



Mark Hadlow in *Nell Gwynn*. Photo credit: Michael Smith

THERE'S SOMETHING
AMAZING about doing
back-to-back shows.
A little longer in the
employment stakes is great
but working two shows
simultaneously is a scary
prospect - you wonder
whether you still have the
mental agility. I think it's
okay. I'm not confusing
the plays and one was
rehearsed while learning
the other. While Nell Gwynn
was on I was rehearsing the

Roger Hall. Yay, perhaps I'm not too old.

So here I am about to perform my 7<sup>th</sup> Roger Hall and my third for ATC. I'm not sure if Colin McColl thinks I'm older than I am or I can perform older characters well – either way, it's great to power into another play from one of our most successful writers.

Of course I've known Roger since I was ten. Yep, when we were in Karori, Wellington, he, Diane and baby Pip lived next door to us. We had all sorts of fun – even back then. I was so impressed that a famous person lived next door, as Roger was first doing stuff on telly and writing for *In View of the Circumstances*.

I think Roger probably had a bit to do with me being in the business. Anyway, life and being a Kiwi, and

# "It is amazing that I grew up next to an internationally famous writer and now 50 years later, I'm in another of his plays."

being a small place is all good considering the associations we all develop in the profession. It is amazing that I grew up next to an internationally famous writer and now 50 years later, I'm in another of his plays.

Another fantastic connection in this Roger Hall is I'm on stage with Alison Quigan, a drama student colleague with whom I graduated from the first year of Theatre Corporate Drama School in 1978. Halcyon days they were. Theatre was bustling and there were nine professional companies in NZ. So we burst out of drama school around the country and never stopped. We're still going and loving the chance to act and entertain.



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## What's on at the ASB Waterfront Theatre.

## September

**Auckland Theatre Company presents** 

#### **My Own Darling**

by Grace Taylor

#### 17 September, 3:30pm Tickets from \$17

Take a trip through Auckland in a special show which is part dreamscape, part love song. Award-winning poet and TED talking sensation Grace Taylor brings her unique spoken word voice to theatre in this exclusive one-off performance.

#### September



EXCLUSIVE TALK! Auckland Theatre Company presents Roger Hall on

#### The Ones That Got Away

24 September, 2:30pm ASB Cube. \$15 per person

Over his career, Roger Hall has written more than 35 plays plus 70 TV sitcom episodes. Most of his plays and musicals have been successful, but some have failed – such are the vagaries of getting a play on. Naturally these are the ones you don't know about.

#### October



Auckland Theatre Company presents

#### The Navigators

by Malia Johnston, Katie Wolfe, and Kate Parker

#### 6 - 8 October

Three extraordinary artists have been commissioned by Auckland Theatre Company to develop ground-breaking new performance work. Malia Johnston, Kate Parker and Katie Wolfe each present a new work in the early stages of development over a festival–style weekend.

#### October



The West End's Best New Comedy

#### The Play That Goes Wrong

11 - 22 October

The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society are putting on a 1920s murder mystery, but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong... does! The accident-prone thespians battle on against all the odds to get to their final curtain call with hilarious consequences!

#### October



Auckland Theatre Company presents

#### **Red Speedo**

by Lucas Hnath

#### From 31 October

Ray is a lean, mean swimming machine. A month before the Olympics, he seems certain to win and destined for superstardom. But when performance-enhancing drugs are discovered in the team locker room he is implicated in a scandal that could destroy his dreams and tear his family apart.

#### November



The Amici Trust presents

#### Sister Act

A Divine Musical Comedy

#### 25 November - 16 December

Sister Act tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a wannabe diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look – a convent!



## By Lucas Hnath

**Direction** Benjamin Henson Cast Chelsie Preston-Crayford Ryan Carter

Scott Wills Wesley Dowdell

Design Eden Mulholland John Parker

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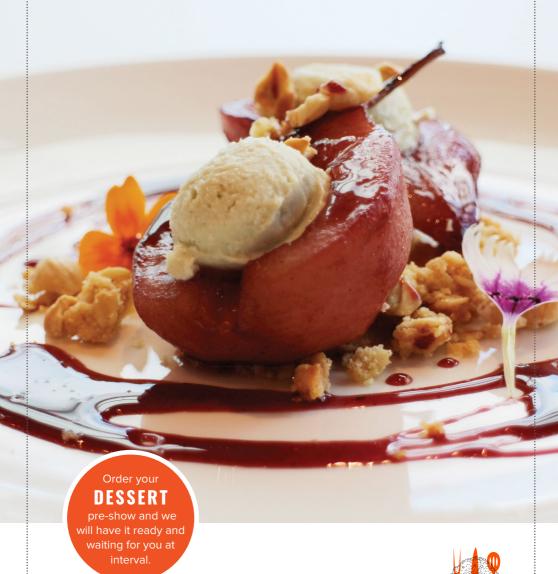


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