

REVIEWS, TESTIMONIALS & AUDIENCE FEEDBACK:

REVIEWS

2026

“Willa King reveals the tension between authority and waning power.”

Paul Gilchrist – Theatre Red ([Theatre Red - Contest](#))

“Willa King (Goal Attack) is particularly notable, her beautiful booming voice captivating the audience and adding richness to her performance.”

Chanele Mao – Theatre Thoughts ([Contest Review: A Raw, Physical Exploration of Female Dynamics](#))

*“The award for ebullient performance is claimed by **Willa King** wearing triple hats as Trifana, the boatswain, Stefano and Trinculo, bringing a comical spirit that keeps the show fresh and grounded.”*

Eli Beverley-Schack – Sydney Arts Guide ([Come You Spirits: The Tempest at Glen Street Theatre](#))

2025

“Willa King as tough-love mum and worn-down barwoman steals the show.”

Kate Prendergast – Sydney Morning Herald ([Theatre: Beautiful Thing](#))

*“The supporting ensemble enriches the world in unexpected ways. **Willa King’s** Sandra is a force of nature chaotic, hilarious, fiercely loving, she anchors this ship steadfastly.”*

Kathryn Smith – Sydney Arts Guide ([JONATHON HARVEY’S BEAUTIFUL THING AT QTOPIA SYDNEY : A LUMINOUS REVIVAL OF A MASTERFUL PLAY](#))

“Willa King adds razor-sharp comedic timing and a fully realised complexity to Sandra.”

Caitlin Green – The Scoop ([Review: Beautiful Thing Breaks & Heals In The Same Breath](#))

*“In a cast with no weak links it becomes onerous to single anybody out, however I must give special praise to **Willa King** as Sandra, the mother - rendered with love and a profound understanding. Though harsh at times, we recognise in Sandra a woman desperately trying to protect her son and give him a better life.”*

Nick Bennett – What’s On Sydney ([Beautiful Thing by Jonathan Harvey - Review](#))

“Willa King as Jamie’s mother, Sandra, injects the production with invaluable verve and humour, while capturing with striking precision the realities of a single mother navigating the precarity of the lower working class.”

Suzy Wrong – Suzy Goes See ([Beautiful Thing](#))

*“The supporting cast enriches this world with vibrant character: **Willa King’s** Sandra is chaotic, sharp-edged and fiercely maternal.”*

Daisy Chapman – Waiting in the Wings Theatre Reviews ([Young Love, Loud and Unapologetic: Beautiful Thing](#))

*“Among the cast, **Willa King** stood out as the First Witch, possessing such a commanding voice as could have made me, too, believe that I was fated to be Scottish king.”*

John Shand - Sydney Morning Herald ([Macbeth](#))

*“The night’s standout by far was **Willa King’s** one-woman performance in *The Rise and Fall of the Fairy Queen*”*

Pia Curran - Honi Soit ([Bite-Sized Bard](#))

TESTIMONIALS

*“**Willa** is the rarest of actors: a person with deep emotive sensitivity coupled with a thoughtful disposition and analytical ability. I was amazed by her sophistication, attention to detail and expressive range. As well as these creative and analytical gifts, Willa is also a seasoned professional, who commits to deadlines, expresses herself clearly and courteously. She is an extremely talented actor with abilities across dramatic roles, singing and comedy, and is an absolute delight to work with.”*

Dr Helen Hopcroft (RCA) – Writer/ Director (*The Rise and Fall of the Fairy Queen/ 2025*)

*“**Willa** is a compelling, instinctive performer with a natural ability to draw an audience in... I was struck by her emotional honesty and the clarity she brings to text, alongside a willingness to take risks. Willa is a generous and grounded collaborator who maintains a strong sense of professionalism; she is the kind of actor who elevates the work around her.”*

**Kirsty Semaan - Artistic Director/Producer/ Director - Space Jump Theatre Company
(Contest / Flight Path Theatre/2026)**

*“**Willa’s** performance [as Sandra Gangel in *Beautiful Thing*] was met with significant acclaim across the Sydney arts and media landscape... a direct reflection of her dedication, discipline, and sustained commitment. Willa is a trusted collaborator who invests herself fully in her work... she consistently brings insight, curiosity, and a generosity of spirit to the rehearsal room. I would not hesitate to work with her again and recommend her without reservation.”*

Finn Stannard – Producer / Director (*Beautiful Thing/ Qtopia/ 2025*)

*“**Willa** has a great creative energy and a natural curiosity that is demonstrated in her considerable acting talent”*

Mike Newell - Director

*“**Willa** is notable especially for her ability with character and comedy. Her one-woman show was a great success and showcased her wonderful singing voice as well as her range and depth in a variety of roles.”*

Janie Frazer (CDG) – Casting Director

*“**Willa King** is a joy to work with: incredibly professional, highly intuitive and exceptionally well prepared. In my short play, ‘*Chopin’s Heart*’, Willa brought a lovely nuance to the character. I have subsequently recommended Willa to other directors as both an extremely talented and very reliable actor.”*

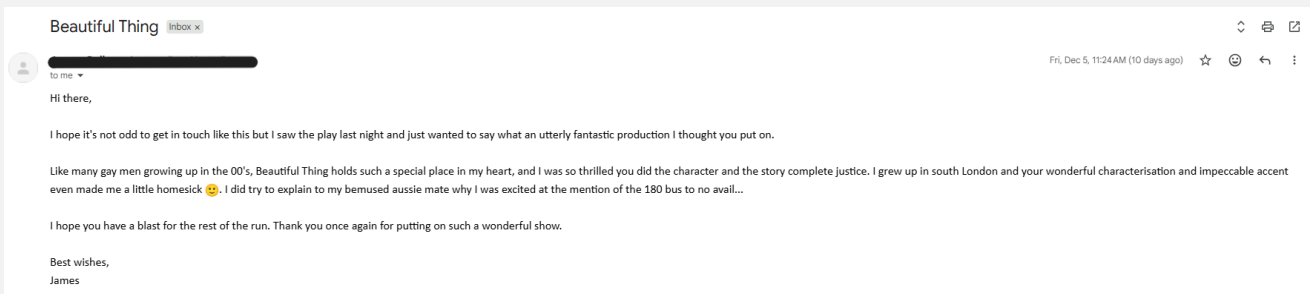
Fiona Leonard – Writer/ Director (*Chopin’s Heart/ 2025*)

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK



“The cast were AMAZING. Especially the lady who played Sandra, the Mum. Exceptional.”

Audience Member



“I grew up in south London and your wonderful characterisation and impeccable accent even made me a little homesick.” **Audience Member**

WILLA KING

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“The stand out star was Willa King as Sandra who made the character her own. I found her depiction of Sandra to be both authentic and convincing.”

Audience Member

kensington25 I enjoyed the @companyofdramaticarts production of 'Beautiful Thing' at @qtopia_sydney .

We were transported to a South London council estate where homosexuality and Mama Cass were never far from the fore.

Good humour and catty banter were mixed with a good balance of tenderness and sensitivity. I particularly loved the fact that plenty of local UK references were kept for this production.

The stand-out star was Willa King as Sandra who made the character her own. I found her depiction of Sandra to be both authentic and convincing. She played her well as a tough mother with a heart of gold even if her next door neighbour Leah drove her to despair with her constant channelling of Mama Cass.

Despite the simple set, I felt that I was back in London in the mid-90s and there was something about it which I found rather reassuring. I am also glad that the actors depicting Ste and Jamie retained the innocence and naivety of the characters from the original film. I have always found that endearing.

This is the third stage production that I have seen of 'Beautiful Thing' and I very much enjoyed it. It is on until tomorrow night.

#beautifulthing #qtopiasydney #companyofdramaticarts @dontsaym_cbeth



Willa King Hello Willa! I just wanted to say a huge thank you for your absolutely exceptional performance as Sandra in Beautiful Thing last night at QTOPIA Sydney. This story has always meant a lot to me — I actually took my mum to see the film years ago at the Cremorne Orpheum, just after I came out, and it's been one of my favourite movies ever since. Seeing it brought to life on stage was a true thrill... and you owned that role from start to finish. You were phenomenal — hilarious, heartbreaking, raw, real, and completely magnetic. Sandra is such an iconic character, and you delivered her with so much heart and grit. I was honestly blown away. Thank you for an extraordinary performance and for bringing one of my all-time favourite stories to life in such a powerful way. The whole cast was brilliant, but you in particular made the night unforgettable! Thank you so much! Xxx 🥰🥰🥰🥰🥰

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Audience Member