

*Sport for Jove in association with  
Hayes Theatre Co presents*

B R I G H T  
★  
S T A R

**A BLUEGRASS MUSICAL**

*by* STEVE MARTIN *and* EDIE BRICKELL

DIRECTED BY DAMIEN RYAN & MIRANDA MIDDLETON



SPORT FOR JOVE  
THEATRE CO.



Hayes

## **Acknowledgment of Country**

**At Sport for Jove, we love telling stories. Many of these stories are over 400 years old, but this is nothing compared to the 60,000+ years of stories, culture, and knowledge that have flourished on this land.**

**We at Sport for Jove acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live. We celebrate the diversity and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of Australia.**

**We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our shows, audiences, and creative community.**

“

**THE POINT OF DIVING IN A  
LAKE IS NOT IMMEDIATELY  
TO SWIM TO THE SHORE**

”

# CAST

**HANNAH MCINERNEY**

(SHE/HER)

ALICE MURPHY

**ALEC STEEDMAN**

(HE/HIM/THEY/THEM)

ENSEMBLE/BAND

**KAYA BYRNE**

(HE/HIM)

JIMMY RAY

**VICTORIA FALCONER**

(SHE/HER)

ENSEMBLE/BAND

**CAMERON  
BAJRAKTAREVIC-HAYWARD**

(HE/THEY)

BILLY CANE

**JARRAD PAYNE**

(HE/HIM)

ENSEMBLE/BAND

**DEIRDRE KHOO**

(SHE/HER)

LUCY

**DOM CABUSI**

(HE/HIM)

BASSIST

**GENEVIEVE GOLDMAN**

(SHE/HER)

MARGO

**MOLLY MARGARET STEWART**

(SHE/HER)

EDNA/COVER

**JACK GREEN**

DADDY CANE/DARYL

**OLIVIA TAJER**

(SHE/HER)

FLORENCE/COVER

**SEÁN VAN DOORNUM**

(HE/HIM)

MAYOR

**FELIX STAAS**

(HE/HIM)

MAX/COVER

**KATRINA RETALICK**

(SHE/HER)

MAMA MURPHY

**JAMES WEAVER**

(HE/HIM)

DEPUTY BASSIST

**RUPERT REID**

DADDY MURPHY

**JASON SMITH**

(HE/HIM)

DEPUTY BASSIST

**ERIC HUTCHENS**

(HE/HIM)

DEPUTY BASSIST



# CREATIVES

**MIRANDA MIDDLETON**

(SHE/HER)

CO-DIRECTOR

**JARRAD PAYNE**

(HE/HIM)

SOUND DESIGNER

**DAMIEN RYAN**

(HE/HIM)

CO-DIRECTOR

**EM-JAY DWYER**

(THEY/SHE)

SOUND ENGINEER

**ALEC STEEDMAN**

(HE/HIM/THEY/THEM)

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

**AMY LAWLER**

(SHE/HER)

STAGE MANAGER

**JAMES WALLIS**

(HE/HIM)

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**JEMIMA OWEN**

(SHE/HER)

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

**SHANNON BURNS**

(SHE/HER)

CHOREOGRAPHER

**LAURA FARRELL**

(SHE/HER)

ACCENT COACH

**ISABEL HUDSON**

(SHE/HER)

SET DESIGNER

**BERNADETTE RYAN**

(SHE/HER)

WARDROBE MANAGER

**MIA MACCORMICK**

(SHE/HER)

SET DESIGN INTERN

**CHLOË DALLIMORE**

(SHE/HER)

INTIMACY COORDINATOR

**LILY MATELJAN**

(SHE/HER)

COSTUME DESIGNER

**CHRIS TOMKINSON**

(HE/HIM)

CREATIVE PRODUCER

**VICTORIA FALCONER**

(SHE/HER)

MUSIC SUPERVISOR

**ISABELLA MILKOVITSCH**

(SHE/HER)

PRODUCER

**DAVID SONCIN**

(HE/HIM)

MARKETING MANAGER

# DIRECTORS' NOTE

One of the most beautiful ideas in *Bright Star* is that a life isn't fixed; that the story we find ourselves written into can be transformed by sheer will and wild hope. The show asks a big question, quietly: Can the past be rewritten by love and our courage to express it?

Alice Murphy's extraordinary tale – drawn from events that really happened – is at once extremely peculiar, yet (as she tells us, herself) strangely 'familiar' to us all. Set in North Carolina between 1923 and 1946, *Bright Star* is a story of deep healing and reparation – journeying from shame to strength, separation to homecoming, shadow to light. It is an **alchemical story**, where people get pulled apart, reduced to their rawest elements, then slowly, painfully, made whole again.

We have loved breathing life into Steve Martin's whip-smart book and Edie Brickell's soulful score over the past few weeks. At a time when women's rights and voices are being dismantled, and we bear witness to such devastating acts of human violence around the world, our rehearsal room full of banjos, laughter and dancing cellists has felt like an act of defiance and **radical rebellion**; a different vision of how our lives can be.

Bluegrass music, with its rich history of blending African American blues, Scottish-Irish ballads, and frontier spirit, is born of the land, shaped by hardship, kinship, and deep emotional truth. It is the music of gathering on front porches (as our design world suggests) and singing what can't easily be said out loud.

The show demands a great deal of our sixteen-strong cast of storytelling musicians, who are the real **heartbeat** of this production. It has been the greatest honour and marvel to work with such an incredibly talented, feeling, and deeply kind group of actor-musos, led by the fearless Alec Steedman as musical director and radiant Vicky Falconer as music supervisor. We couldn't be prouder of them all.

# DIRECTORS' NOTE

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every individual who helped us build this rustic, rough magic world from the ground up: Shannon for her spectacular choreography, Isabel for her gorgeous set design, Lily for the delightful costume palette, James for his evocative lighting, Jarrad and MJ for their miraculous sound work, Chris and Isabella for truly tireless producing efforts, Amy and Jemima for brilliant stage management, Laura for her invaluable accent and dialect coaching, the whole Jove team for all the thankless work behind-the-scenes, and of course our friends at the Hayes for giving us this special little home for a month. It takes many hands to make a musical, and this one has been mammoth!

We hope this journey touches you as it does us, and reminds you that even the darkest chapters can yield to grace, love, and joy. While we can't change what's happened, we *can* change how we carry it, and how we move forward together.

Thank you for joining us, and please enjoy *Bright Star*.

## MIRANDA MIDDLETON AND DAMIEN RYAN

CO-DIRECTORS



# AND ON A PERSONAL NOTE FROM DAMIEN

I want to thank Miranda and Alec for their work on this show, because this show is truly their work. To say I have been a passenger is an understatement, and it has been a privilege to sit in that seat. I have largely been a first audience member to a truly exceptional storyteller in Miranda, who understands this form so deeply and is so compelling in her passion and understanding of its challenges and delights, and who ran the room with such flair and imagination throughout. And alongside her of course is the sheer mastery of Alec Steedman, and of Victoria Falconer. Between them, they have done the heavy lifting on this beautiful story, its casting, its planning and its execution, and my thanks do not do justice to just how hard and skilfully they have worked on it. I have learned a very great deal from Miranda, Alec, Vicky and this stunning cast of bright stars. And yes, predictably, I have fallen in love with musicals! Plays where people fail to start singing when under pressure no longer make any sense to me.

## DAMIEN RYAN

MANAGING DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
SPORT FOR JOVE



# MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The lyrics “love let me lift this veil of darkness” are ones that are prominent in my mind when playing this beautiful score. A reminder that although this story delves into the pain and tragedy of life, there is always beauty to be found in the heart and love of those around you. The music of *Bright Star* is vast, sweeping, intricate and ornamental, but more than anything, it is deeply human. Melodies you may have never heard, yet somehow instantly recognise. Lyrics that are both incredibly specific and yet universally understood. That is where the joy in this score comes for me.

As a violinist, the first time I heard the opening refrain of ‘Knew My Story’, I knew this was a show I wanted to be a part of. On further listening, the lush vocal harmonies, expertly crafted melodic phrases, and dextrous bluegrass refrains only cemented that dream. I am incredibly grateful to Sport For Jove and the Hayes Theatre for making my dreams of bringing this show to life a reality. To Vicky Falconer, my musical supervisor, my mentor, and the best friend I could ask for, thank you for everything you do. You are musical dynamite. To Jarrad and MJ, our sound team. Thank you for making this crazy concept even vaguely possible with your skills.

And finally, I am indebted to this simply astounding cast of actor musicians, who each night, are performing a task so monumental it is hard to put into words. Not only do they act their parts perfectly, they also bring to life the full Broadway arrangements of this very difficult score, whilst dancing, moving, singing, acting, changing set, remembering lines, and beautifully conveying the emotional heart of a deeply complex and personal story in front of our eyes. They are simply world class. The show would not exist without them, and I am eternally grateful for their talents, time, dedication and sheer musicianship.

In truth, musically directing this show has been a dream, I have simply brought incredibly talented people into a room and let them do what they do best. Make music. It's been a highlight of my career so far.

**ALEC STEEDMAN**  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

# SONG LIST

## ACT 1   ACT 2

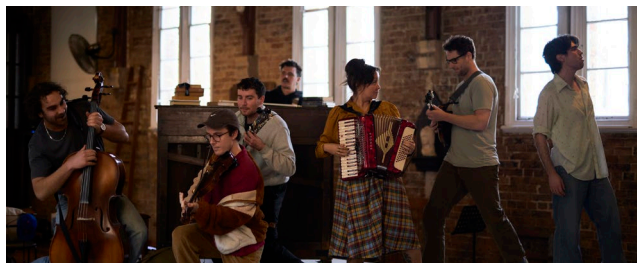
1. IF YOU KNEW MY STORY
2. SHE'S GONE
3. BRIGHT STAR
4. WAY BACK IN THE DAY
5. WHOA, MAMA
6. FIRMER HAND/DO RIGHT
7. A MAN'S GOTTA DO
8. ASHVILLE
9. PICNIC DANCE
10. WHAT COULD BE BETTER
11. I CAN'T WAIT PT. I
- 11A. I CAN'T WAIT PT. II
12. PLEASE, DON'T TAKE HIM
13. A MAN'S GOTTA DO (REPRISE)
14. ENTR'ACTE
15. SUN'S GONNA SHINE
16. HEARTBREAKER
17. ANOTHER ROUND
18. I HAD A VISION
19. ALWAYS WILL
20. SUN'S GONNA SHINE (REPRISE)
21. I CAN'T WAIT (REPRISE)
22. SO FAMILIAR/AT LONG LAST
23. FINALE







Photography by Campbell J. Parsons



Photography by Campbell J. Parsons

# CAST



## HANNAH MCINERNEY

(SHE/HER)

ALICE MURPHY

Hannah McInerney is a Sydney-based actor and musician, and a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (BFA Music Theatre). Theatre credits include Ensemble and Maureen Cover in the national tour of *Rent* (LPD), Swing in *FANGIRLS* (Belvoir/Sydney Opera House), Ensemble in *Catch Me If You Can* (LPD/Hayes), Daisy in *The Gathering* (Victorian Opera), Ilse in *Spring Awakening*, Ivy in *Bare: The Musical*, and Ensemble/Rose Cover in *Dogfight* (Chapel Off Chapel).

As a musician, Hannah regularly tours with her sister Meg Mac as a backing vocalist. Recent performances include *Splendour in the Grass*, Meg Mac's *Matter of Time* tour, and the Australasian legs of both *Sam Smith's Gloria* tour and the *Teddy Swims Tour*.



## KAYA BYRNE

(HE/HIM)

JIMMY RAY

Kaya (he/him) is a graduate of The Victorian College of the Arts and is an actor, musician and singer/songwriter. His theatre credits include *A Christmas Carol* (GWB), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (MTC), *Groundhog Day: The Musical* (GWB), *Come From Away* (Newtheatricals); *Chess* (Storyboard Entertainment); *HOSH: West Side Story* (Opera Australia); *Lazarus* and *Ragtime* (The Production Company); *Ring! Ring!* and *The House on Fire at the Edge of the World* (Fringe Replanted); *The Wind in the Willows* (ASC) and *Gilligan's Island: The Musical* (Left Bauer Productions).

Screen credits include short films *The Tide and My Straight Mate*, and advertising campaigns for *OpenTable*, *Heinz* and *NAB*. An instrumentalist and composer, Kaya released his debut EP *Belladonna/Supernova* in early 2025 alongside music videos for his singles *Stasis* and *Flying Into The Sun*. It's an honour to be joining this company of incredible musicians and actors to tell this story!

# CAST



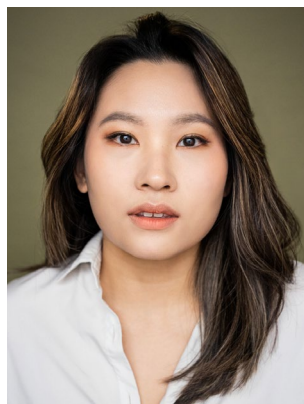
## CAMERON BAJRAKTAREVIC-HAYWARD

(HE/THEY)

BILLY CANE

Cameron Bajraktarevic-Hayward (he/they) is a Sydney (Gadigal) based performer. Following their time at The Victorian College of the Arts (2020-2022), Cameron has had the pleasure of being a part of *A Christmas Carol* (GWB Entertainment) 2022 & 2023; *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company); *The Grinning Man* (Salty Theatre); *Little Women* (Joshua Robson Productions); *My Brilliant Career* (Melbourne Theatre Company) and

most recently *Ghost Quartet* (Antipodes Theatre). Cameron is proudly represented by Mollison Keightley Management and is a MEAA member.



## DEIRDRE KHOO

(SHE/HER)

LUCY

Deirdre Khoo (she/her) is a versatile Singapore-borne actor who is building an impressive portfolio following her graduation from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts' (WAAPA), having trained in music theatre, film & television.

Deirdre is most known for playing Anne Boleyn in *SIX the Musical* in Australia and Janet Weiss in the 50th Anniversary Tour of the *Rocky Horror Show*, which both toured to theatres across Australia to great acclaim.

Other theatre credits include *ONCE* (Ex-girlfriend, u/s Girl, Reza & Baruska, dir. Richard Carroll), *A Christmas Carol* (Jess, u/s Belle & Little Fan, dir. Matthew Warchus), Isaac Shatford's new work *RUTH: The Musical* (Darla Ren, dir. Hayden Tee), *Cry-Baby* (Allison Vernon-Williams), *A Chorus Line* (Maggie Winslow, dir. Crispin Taylor), *Mamma Mia* (Rosie, dir. Shaun Rennie), Maki Morita's *Trash Pop Butterfly*, *Dance Dance Paradise* (Pepper, dir. Amelia Burke), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Flute, dir. Nicola Bowman) and *Merrily We Roll Along* (Scotty, dir. Brent Hill).



# CAST



## GENEVIEVE GOLDMAN

(SHE/HER)

MARGO

Genevieve is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theatre in 2023. Prior to this, she completed a Diploma of Music Theatre at Brent Street.

Genevieve recently made her Hayes Theatre debut in *The Producers* (Joshua Robson Productions) as Ensemble / Hold-Me-Touch-Me cover. Her other

credits include on-stage Swing / Lucille cover in *Parade* (Soundworks Productions), Grizabella in *Cats* (WAAPA), Urleen in *Footloose* (WAAPA), u/s Mrs Lovett and Ensemble in *Sweeney Todd* (WAAPA), Emma Goldman in *Assassins* (WAAPA) and Carrie White in *Carrie the Musical* (Brent Street).

Genevieve is thrilled to be returning to the Hayes Theatre for the NSW premiere of *Bright Star*.



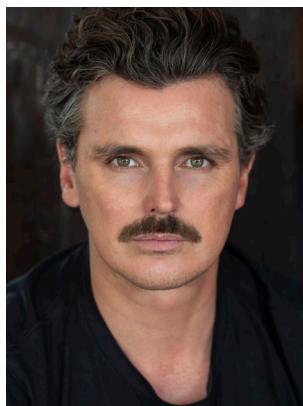
## JACK GREEN

DADDY CANE/DARYL

*Bright Star* is Jack's debut performance with Sport For Jove. Previous theatre credits include *Hour of the Wolf* (Malthouse Theatre); *As You Like It* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Crucible*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Australian Shakespeare Company). As with *Bright Star*, Jack frequently brings his musicianship into his work. He composed an original score for *The Crucible*, and created his own musical adaptations of children's fairy tales *Rumpelstiltskin*, and *Puss in Boots* (String Dog Productions). On TV Jack has

appeared in *Neighbours* (Fremantle Media); *Metro Sexual* (Hum Drum Comedy); and in film, *Emo The Musical* (Matthewswood Productions).

# CAST



## SEÁN VAN DOORNUM

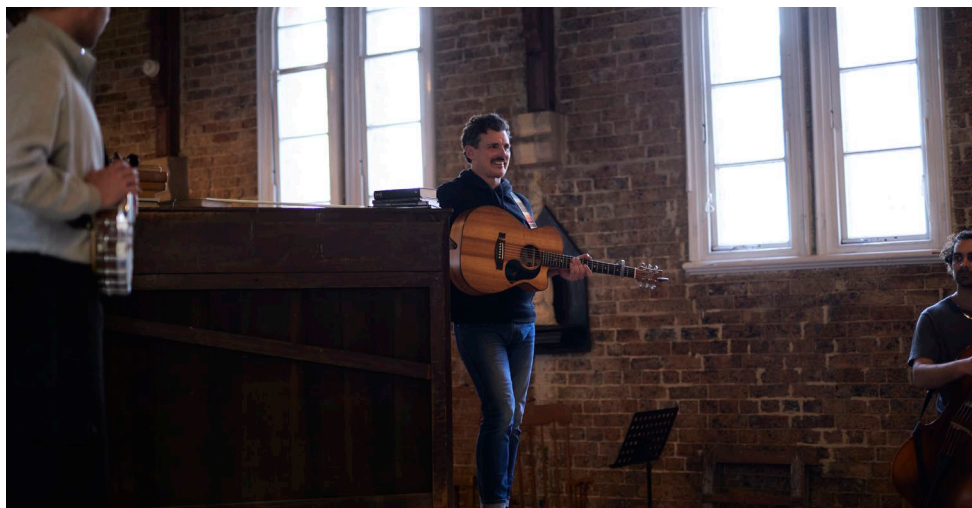
(HE/HIM)

MAYOR

Seán van Doornum is a multifaceted artist working at the intersection of music, sound, and performance. Trained in both acting and composition, his creative voice is shaped by an instinct for emotional nuance and sonic storytelling. Whether through the resonance of a film score or the subtle layers of theatrical sound design, Seán crafts immersive experiences that deepen narrative and evoke atmosphere.

A graduate of the Film Scoring Academy of Europe and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Seán has composed and designed sound for productions across Australia, Los Angeles, and New York City. His theatre credits include *Oracles & Miracles*, *The Incredible Here and Now*, and *Speaking in Tongues*, where his work brought characters and spaces to life with sonic precision. In film, he has contributed original scores and sound to a range of independent projects including *Bret Was A F\*\*k*, *Oceania*, and *Eleanor*, blending cinematic sensitivity with bold musicality.

Alongside his compositional work, Seán has pursued acting training with leading studios including Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop and the Susan Batson Studio, grounding his artistic process in performance and presence.





# CAST



## KATRINA RETALLICK

(SHE/HER)

MAMA MURPHY

Katrina trained at The Central School of Speech and Drama, London.

In 2024, she appeared in Sport for Jove's landmark *The Player Kings*, portraying Queens Isabel and Elizabeth, followed by Outhouse Theatre Co.'s *Eureka Day* as Suzanne.

Her Australian music theatre credits include *Elf*, *Come From Away*, *Falsettos* (Trina), *A Little Night Music* (Charlotte Malcolm, Opera Australia), *South Pacific* (Nellie Forbush), *The Addams Family*, *Menopause the Musical*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Ruthless!*, *Company*, and more, earning Sydney Theatre, Helpmann and Glug Award wins and nominations.

Other stage work includes *Who's Your Baghdaddy*, *Big Fish*, *Dead Man Brake*, and the Sydney Theatre Company's *Wharf Revue* 2016.

On screen, she has appeared in *Accidents Happen*, *The Eternity Man*, *June Again*, and TV's *Last Days of the Space Age*, *Bump*, *Love Child*, *Comedy Inc.*, *CNNN*, and *Backberner*.

Katrina has been a proud MEAA member since 1993.



# CAST



## RUPERT REID

DADDY MURPHY

Rupert has been working as an actor, musician, voice over artist and photographer for most of his adult life.

His theatre credits include: *Once* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company), *Degenerate Art*, *The Village Bike* (Redline/Old Fitz), *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Sport For Jove), *Life is a Dream*, *The Give and Take* (STC), *The Tempest* (MTC), *Pericles*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Coriolanus* (Bell Shakespeare Company) and *Henry V* (ATYP).

His film and TV credits include: *NCIS: Sydney* (CBS/Paramount), *Prosper* (Stan), *The Heights* (ABC), *The Matrix 2&3* (Warner Bros), *Blue Heelers* (Southern Star/Channel Seven) and the original *Heartbreak High* (Gannon Television).

Rupert is thrilled to be a part of *Bright Star*, his second production with Sport for Jove and his first with the Hayes Theatre Company.



## DOMINIC CABUSI

(HE/HIM)

BASSIST

Dominic Cabusi is a Sydney-based multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer. A graduate of the Australian Institute of Music, he is known for his versatility across electric, double, and synth bass, as well as his skills in arranging and production. Dominic has performed as a session bassist with artists including Paloma Faith, Aston Merrygold, and Nico & Vinz on national broadcasts such as *X Factor* and *Sunrise*. In musical theatre, he held the principal bass

chair for the Sydney season of *Hadestown*, served as deputy bass on *MJ: The Musical* and *Hamilton*, and toured nationally with *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* (2023–2024). As a screen composer under Maari Music, Dominic has scored feature films, short films, and TV. In 2023, he was nominated alongside collaborator Bronte Maree O'Neill for an APRA AMCOS Screen Music Award for Best Song Written for Screen for “Glow,” featured in *The Red Shoes: Next Step*.

# CAST



## MOLLY MARGARET STEWART

(SHE/HER)

EDNA/COVER

Molly Margaret Stewart is a Sydney-based performer undertaking a Bachelor of Music Performance (Music Theatre) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She also received a Diploma in Musical Theatre from The National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2020. She made her Hayes Theatre debut in 2023 playing Mrs Segstrom in *A Little Night Music*.

Molly's theatre credits include Witch in *Into The Woods* (Sydney Conservatorium of Music), Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, Heather McNamara in *Heathers*, Hannah/Others in *Puffs* (Rising Arts), Rona in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Crystal Clear), Vivienne in *Legally Blonde*, Janice in *Come From Away* (So Popera), Sophie in *Mamma Mia!*, Rose in *Dogfight*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* (Arcadians) and received CAT Awards for her performances as Elphaba in *Wicked* (AMTC) and *Little Red Riding Hood* in *Into The Woods* (So Popera). In 2018, Molly was honoured to have been selected as one of the Top 30 Semi-Finalists for the 'Rob Guest Endowment Award'.



## OLIVIA TAJER

(SHE/HER)

FLORENCE/COVER

Olivia is currently in her final year of the Bachelor of Music (Performance) majoring in Music Theatre at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Her stage credits include Jack/Milky White in *Into The Woods* (SCM 2024), Featured Soloist in *The Voices Concert* (Neil Gooding Productions 2023), her solo cabaret '*Family Ties*' at Claire's Kitchen at Le Salon (2023) as well as her performances in *Homegrown*, *An Evening with Peter Allen* and the 2024 season launch at the Hayes Theatre

Co. Mostly recent, Olivia was a vocalist at the debut of Matthew Forbes' song cycle '*We Have Stolen Our Bodies From God*' through the Shopfront Artslab program. Olivia thanks the Hayes Theatre and Sport for Jove for a wonderful experience!

# CAST



## FELIX STAAS

(HE/HIM)

MAX/COVER

Currently in his final year studying a Bachelor of Music (Performance) majoring in Music Theatre at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Felix (he/him) is a 21-year-old singer, actor, and musician. Stage credits include Cinderella's Prince & U/S Baker in *Into The Woods* (SCM 2024), Featured Soloist in *The Voices Concert* (Neil Gooding Productions 2023), Ensemble & Male Swing in *Les Misérables* (Packemin Productions 2023), as well as performing in *Homegrown*, *An Evening With*, and the

2024 Season Launch for Hayes Theatre Co. Recently, he was a vocalist for the debut performance of *We Have Stolen Our Bodies From God* by Matthew Forbes through the Shopfront Artslab program. Felix made his cabaret debut at Claire's Kitchen at le Salon in 2024 as both writer and performer. Alongside his Music Theatre pursuits on the stage, Felix is an accomplished guitarist with experience in band and cabaret settings.



## JAMES WEAVER

(HE/HIM)

DEPUTY BASSIST

James Weaver is a bassist, educator, and electronic composer from Sydney.

A founding member of underground Indie-Rock favourites, PLANET, James cut his teeth in the domestic and international club and festival circuit of the 2010s. Off the stage and into the studio, James has been fortunate to work with Grammy, Brit, and ARIA award-winning producers.

As a bassist, his skill set is varied, allowing him to be comfortable in many genres. James's performing credits reflect his versatility, with support performances ranging from Liam Gallagher to The Wiggles.

Currently, he is the primary bassist in one of Australia's top Reserve Service bands. He is also releasing his own compositions under the moniker "Jimmy Weaver".

James holds a Bachelor of Creative Practice from TAFE NSW.

# CAST



## JASON SMITH

(HE/HIM)

DEPUTY BASSIST

As a professional electric and double bassist, Jason brings a unique sound and versatility to the stage. With a passion for a wide range of musical styles, He has honed his skills in various genres, from jazz and rock to pop and classical. Currently residing in Manly, this is Jason's second show at the Hayes this year after a great season on *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. Jason is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Bright Star* where he'll be bringing his energetic and soulful playing to the stage.



## ERIC HUTCHENS

(HE/HIM)

DEPUTY BASSIST

Eric Hutchens is a versatile double bass and electric bass player whose career spans performance, teaching, and artistic collaboration. With extensive experience across music theatre, jazz, orchestral, and church settings, he has performed in both large concert halls and intimate venues, on National tours and local engagements.

Eric has appeared previously at the Hayes Theatre for seasons of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Big Fish*, *Half Time* and *The Hello Girls*. Recent orchestral engagements have included Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, Artes Christi and the Australian Remembrance Orchestra for Anzac Eve 2025, broadcast live on Channel 7.

Alongside performance, Eric is an active educator, committed to sharing his knowledge of bass playing, ensemble interaction, and musicianship with students.



# CREATIVES



## MIRANDA MIDDLETON

(SHE/HER)

CO-DIRECTOR

Miranda Middleton is an award-winning director, writer, and dramaturg with a Master of Fine Arts (Directing) from the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA). In 2024, Miranda was a recipient of the Sandra Bates Director's Award at the Ensemble Theatre and nominated for a Green Room Award for Outstanding Direction of an Independent Musical for the Australian premiere production of *The Grinning Man*.

Miranda's most recent directing credits include: *Into the Woods* (Elder Conservatorium of Music), *In Her Own Words* (Sydney Festival), *Paper Stars* (Sydney Conservatorium of Music), *The Grinning Man* (VASS Productions/Salty Theatre), *The Eisteddfod* (Old Fitz Theatre).

As Assistant Director: *Candide* (Opera Australia, dir. Dean Bryant), *My Brilliant Career* (Melbourne Theatre Company, dir. Anne-Louise Sarks), *Come Rain or Come Shine* (Melbourne Theatre Company, dir. Simon Phillips), *The Lovers* (Bell Shakespeare, dir. Shaun Rennie), *Master Class* (Ensemble Theatre, dir. Liesel Badorrek), *The Queen's Nanny* (Ensemble Theatre, dir. Priscilla Jackman), *Little Women* (Hayes Theatre Company, dir. Amy Campbell).





# CREATIVES



## DAMIEN RYAN

(HE/HIM)

CO-DIRECTOR

Damien is Founder / Artistic Director of Sport for Jove Theatre, now in its 17th year, where he has directed over 60 productions, including most of Shakespeare's canon. He has been acting and directing for Australia's major companies and in the independent sector for 30 years. Damien's award-winning adaptations of *Antigone* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* are published by Currency Press, his new play *Prometheus* is published by the NSW Dept of Education, and his acclaimed

*Venus & Adonis* to be published soon. He has been a proud MEAA member for 28 years. As part of SFJ's new works program, Damien is currently writing and developing several new plays including a commissioned work on Shakespeare's exploration of mystical and spiritual thought called *Perchance to Dream*, an adaptation of Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*, a new play based on Kate Lyon's great Australian novel *The Water Underneath*, a new work titled *Napoleon's Garden* and an adaptation of Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.



# CREATIVES



## ALEC STEEDMAN

(HE/HIM/THEY/THEM)

MUSICAL DIRECTOR/BAND/ENSEMBLE

A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts Musical Theatre program, Alec is a multidisciplinary artist who works as an actor, singer, multiinstrumentalist, musical director and composer.

Credits include *Ride The Cyclone*, *A Little Night Music*, *Young Frankenstein* (Hayes Theatre Co.) *Once* (Darlinghurst Theatre Co. & Black Swan State Theatre), *As You Like It* (Queensland Theatre & Sport For Jove), *Twelfth Night* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Hamlet & Measure for Measure* (Pop Up Globe),

*One Hour, No Oil* (KXT) *The Apple Tree* (Neglected Musicals). Alec was also a top 30 finalist in the Rob Guest Endowment and holds his AmusA diploma on the violin.

Alec's original musical *Silver Tongue* is currently in development with support from Hayes Theatre, and was a top 5 finalist in the APRA Music Theatre Professional Development Awards in 2024 and 2025.



## JAMES WALLIS

(HE/HIM)

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Originally from the UK, James is a freelance lighting designer based in Sydney. James' recent design work includes the national tour of *MARVELous* for Action Reaction Entertainment, *Female of The Species* for Rogue Projects at The Old Fitz, *Love & Faith* at Qtopia for Acoustic Theatre Company and *The Dismissal* for Squabblogic.

Previously at The Hayes Theatre, James designed *City of Angels* and *Bonnie & Clyde* for Josh Robson Productions,

*Nice Work if you Can Get it* for Michele Guthrie, and Nancye Hayes' cabaret *Hayes at The Hayes*.

James designed Katie Pollock's play *Rough Trade* for the Sydney Fringe Festival and its subsequent national tour. Other notable credits include the NSW tour of *Alphabetical Sydney*, and *The City*, both at The Sydney Opera House. James was the Associate Designer on the award-winning production of *American Psycho* at the Hayes Theatre/Sydney Opera House and Associate Designer for Red Lines' *A View From The Bridge* at the Ensemble Theatre.

# CREATIVES



## SHANNON BURNS

(SHE/HER)

CHOREOGRAPHER

Shannon Burns is an Australian creative specialising in choreography and movement direction.

In theatre, Shannon's movement and choreography credits include the Australian tour of *Dear Evan Hansen* (2024) co-produced by Sydney Theatre Company and The Michael Cassel Group. *The Producers* (2025) JRP Productions. *Pirates of Penzance* (2025) *Ride the Cyclone* (2024), *A Little*

*Night Music* (2023), and *Murder For Two* (2023/2024) for Hayes Theatre Co and A Kurt Weill double bill of *The Seven Deadly Sins* and *Mahagonny Songspiel* (2022) for Red Line Productions.

In Opera, Shannon has worked on high-profile productions with Opera Australia, choreographing HOSH *La Traviata* on *Sydney Harbour* (2021) and *Carmen* on *Cockatoo Island* (2022). Internationally, she choreographed Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* for the Berlin Philharmonic at the Kammermusiksaal, Berlin (2024). She has worked extensively with Pinchgut Opera and choreographed for Victorian Opera, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Musica Viva.

Before transitioning to choreography, Shannon had an extensive dance career in stage, film, television, and major events. She trained in ballet at the Queensland Dance School of Excellence and in Performing Arts at ED5INTERNATIONAL.



# CREATIVES



## ISABEL HUDSON

(SHE/HER)

SET DESIGNER

Isabel Hudson is an award-winning set and costume designer. Isabel holds a Bachelor of Design from NIDA and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales. She is a lecturer at NIDA.

Selected credits include: *A Fool in Love*, *Constellations*, *Hubris and Humiliation* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Torch The Place* set (Melbourne Theatre Company); *Master Class* (Ensemble Theatre); *Nucleus*, *Jailbaby*

(Griffin Theatre Company); *Blessed Union*, *Winyanboga Yurringa* (Belvoir); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Michael Cassel Group); *Young Frankenstein* set, *American Psycho* set (Hayes Theatre Co); *The Mousetrap* costume (Crossroads Live).

For Global Creatures, Isabel is associate set designer for *Moulin Rouge* Australia, Korea, and Japan; for Opera Australia, assistant designer for *Merry Widow* and *My Fair Lady*; and for Sydney Theatre Company, associate designer on *Fun Home* directed by Dean Bryant. Isabel has won four Sydney Theatre Awards for her outstanding designs; best set design for *Constellations*, *American Psycho*, and *Cry-Baby*, and best costume design for *Hubris and Humiliation*. She also won an APDG award for best set design for *American Psycho*.



## MIA MACCORMICK

(SHE/HER)

SET DESIGN INTERN

Mia MacCormick is an Australian set and costume designer whose love of stories led her to pursue a career in production design. Her work is characterised by a joy for making and a hands-on approach. Her professional creative practise began with a background in interior design, where she developed a strong foundation in spatial composition. This early training continues to inform her approach to design, blending functionality with artistic expression. She is currently working towards earning a Bachelor of design from NIDA.

# CREATIVES



## LILY MATELJAN

(SHE/HER)

COSTUME DESIGNER

Lily Mateljan is a highly dedicated and ambitious Costume Designer and Supervisor with a passion for the adaptability and capability of costume itself as a storytelling device.

Some of Lily's design credits include *Wednesday Island* Netflix event, *Mannequin* ( short film )*The Pirates of Penzance*, *Little Women: The Musical*, *The Pigeons* and *Rhomboid*, while her supervisory work spans acclaimed productions such as *Dido and Aeneas* with Pinchgut Opera, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Queen's Nanny*, *Colder Than Here* at Ensemble theatre. She has contributed her expertise to renowned companies like Netflix, The Hayes Theatre Co, Ensemble Theatre, The Sydney Conservatorium of Music, KXT, Sydney Festival, Belvoir 25A and NIDA.



## VICTORIA FALCONER

(SHE/HER)

MUSIC SUPERVISOR/BAND/ENSEMBLE

Victoria Falconer (she/her) is a theatremaker, music director, and cabaret artist. She is co-Artistic Director of Hayes Theatre Co alongside Richard Carroll, and recipient of the 2024 Arts & Culture Asian-Australian Leadership Award.

Music direction highlights include: *Hedwig & The Angry Inch* (GWB), *My Brilliant Career* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *In The Heights* (Sydney Opera House), *Ride The Cyclone* (Hayes Theatre Co), *M'ap Boulé* (Performing Lines), *Once* (DTC) and *Oklahoma* (Black Swan State Theatre).

Recent work as lead creative/performer include *Smashed: The Nightcap* (Sydney Festival/Auckland Arts Festival), *The Sight* (Dark Mofo), and *The Vali Myers Project* (Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Frank Ford Commission winner).

Victoria has performed on international cabaret stages from Soho Theatre London, Club Cumming NYC, Edinburgh Fringe, Glastonbury, Sydney Mardi Gras and Bi Pride UK. Accolades include two Best Cabaret awards (Adelaide Fringe), a Green Room Award, and multiple Sydney Theatre award nominations for musical direction.



# CREATIVES



## JARRAD PAYNE

(HE/HIM)

SOUND DESIGNER/BAND/ENSEMBLE

Jarrad is a multi-instrumentalist and audio engineer from Adelaide. He graduated from The Elder Conservatorium of Music in 2005, specialising in jazz drumming. His recent performance credits include *My Brilliant Career* (musician and ensemble, Melbourne Theatre Company 2024); *In The Heights* (musician, Sydney Opera House/Joshua Robson Productions 2024); *Little Women* (sound designer, Joshua Robson Productions 2024); *Ride the Cyclone* (musician, Hayes Theatre Co 2024); *Smashed: The Nightcap* (musician and bandleader, Sydney Festival 2024); *The Sight* (composer and performer, Dark Mofo 2023); *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (musician, Hayes Theatre Co 2023); *Godspell* (musician and sound designer, Hayes Theatre Co 2022); *And Then You Go - the Vali Myers Project* (composer and performer, Adelaide Cabaret Festival 2022); *Pleasure Seekers* (music director and producer, Soho Theatre 2022); and *Lizzie* (sound designer, Sydney Festival 2022).





# CREATIVES



## EM-JAY DWYER

(THEY/SHE)

SOUND ENGINEER

Em-Jay Dwyer (they/she) is a Sydney-based sound designer, operator, performer, and composer.

Their previous accolades include their award winning sound design for *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Regals Musical Society - BroadwayWorld 2023), their performance as The Informant in the Sydney premiere of *Spies Are Forever* (North Shore Theatre Company), and their previous sound designs for

*Being Alive* (Hayes Theatre Co), *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Pinwheel Productions), *Holiday Inn* (Well Done Creative), and *Urinetown* (Heart Strings Theatre Company).

Additional notable roles include Sound Engineer for *The Producers* (Joshua Robson Productions), *Pirates of Penzance* (Hayes Theatre Co), *Flat Earthers: The Musical* (Griffin Theatre Company x Hayes Theatre Co), *Little Women* (Joshua Robson Productions), and *Ride the Cyclone* (Hayes Theatre Co).

Em-Jay recently featured as a writer and a performer at Homo Grown: Midsumma, presenting Crack A Few Eggs from her musical *Prism*, currently in development.



# CREATIVES



## AMY LAWLER

(SHE/HER)

STAGE MANAGER

In 2020, Amy graduated with a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts with a focus on production, writing and directing and began working across theatre and film predominately as a stage manager and director, later starting a new theatre company, Coffeehouse Productions.

As a stage manager, Amy's highlights include the children's musical *Seasonal Warriors* (2021), *Labyrinth* (2022), *Peer Gynt* (2022), *Urinetown* (2023), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2024) and Sport for Jove's *Macbeth* (2025). She's also the Access and Inclusion Coordinator as part of the producing team for the City of Sydney to help deliver large scale events such as Christmas in the City, New Years Eve and Lunar New Year.

As a diverse creator, Amy has also worked as a director and producer; her highlights include her original animated exhibition *Hunter's Mark* (2021) *Proof* (2022), *Single Ladies* (2023), and her original comedy *Vickie & Vinnie* which was nominated for Best in Theatre at 2024 Sydney Fringe Festival.



## JEMIMA OWEN

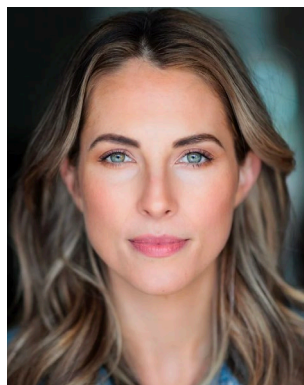
(SHE/HER)

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Jemima began by stage managing community theatre in the Northern Rivers before moving to Sydney to further her career. Her recent credits include *Abigail Williams* (STC Wharf 2, 2025) and *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn* (Hayes Theatre, 2024). Jemima has recently focussed on swinging onto productions as SM or ASM such as *4000 Miles* (STC), *IRL* (KXT on Broadway) and *Pirates of Penzance* (Hayes Theatre). She is a NIDA graduate and in her time there worked with directors such as Ong Keng

Sen and Carissa Licciardello. Jemima wants to explore a wide variety of live performance, to learn as many methods and from as many sources as possible.

# CREATIVES



## LAURA FARRELL

(SHE/HER)

ACCENT COACH

Laura Farrell (she/her) is a Voice and Dialect Coach living and working on Gadigal land. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Voice from NIDA; a Post Graduate Diploma in Voice from the Victorian College of the Arts; and a Bachelor of Music Theatre from the Victorian College of the Arts. Laura is a certified teacher of Knight Thompson Speechwork and Vocal Combat Technique. She is a lecturer for NIDA's BFA

and Diploma actor training programs and the resident voice and dialect coach at Belvoir St Theatre.

Recent coaching credits for Belvoir include *Big Girls Don't Cry*, directed by Ian Michael (2025), *Song Of First Desire*, directed by Neil Armfield (2025), *August: Osage County*, directed by Eamon Flack (2024), *Counting And Cracking*, directed by Eamon Flack (2024), *Never Closer*, directed by Hannah Goodwin (2024), *Lose To Win*, directed by Jessica Arthur (2024), *Holding The Man*, directed by Eamon Flack (2024) and *Master & Margarita*, directed by Eamon Flack (2024).



## BERNADETTE RYAN

(SHE/HER)

WARDROBE MANAGER

Bernadette is a founding member of Sport for Jove, working as an Actor, Costume and Production Designer and Education Artist. Recent acting credits include *Venus & Adonis* (Agnes Hathaway), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard 3*, Queen Elizabeth in *Rose Riot: Shakespeare's History Cycle*. She has also performed in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *As You Like It* (for SFJ). Selected theatre credits include Mary Mackillop in *Her Holiness* (Bakehouse Theatre),

Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Katrinn in *Mother Courage*, Desdemona in *Othello* and Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Film credits include the Feature Film *Venus & Adonis* and *Blessed Mary*. Costume design credits include *Isolde & Tristan* (Old Fitz), *Venus & Adonis* Stage play and Feature Film, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Henry 4* and *Richard 3*. Bernadette is a Graduate of Theatre Nepean UWS.

# CREATIVES



## CHLOË DALLIMORE

(SHE/HER)

INTIMACY COORDINATOR

Chloë Dallimore is an internationally trained and accredited Intimacy Coordinator/Director. Belvoir Street Theatre: *At What Cost?*, *Miss Peony*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Master & Margarita*; Crossroads Live: *Chicago*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *SIX*; Hayes Theatre Company: *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Ride The Cyclone*, *Zombie!*; Opera Australia: *Amadeus*, *Miss Saigon*, Summer Season '25, Winter Season '24; Sydney Theatre Company: *A Fool In Love*, *Dear Evan Hansen*,

*The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Seagull*, *The Tempest*; Chloë's film credits include: *The Knot*, *Three Thousand Years of Longing*, *Transfusion*; Chloë's television credits include Fifth Season: *One Night*, *Pieces of Her*, *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*, *The Twelve*; FremantleMedia Australia: *Heartbreak High*, *Significant Others*, *Totally Completely Fine*, *Wellmania*; Seven West Media: *Home & Away*; Stan: *Bump*, *Colin From Accounts*, *Last King of the Cross*, *Thou Shalt Not Steal*. Chloë received the 2005 Helpmann Award for Best Female Actor in a Musical.





# CREATIVES



## CHRIS TOMKINSON

(HE/HIM)

CREATIVE PRODUCER

“CT” is Sport for Jove’s Creative Producer and Business Manager. Since 2016 he has produced S4J’s Shakespeare Carnival.

Christopher works as an actor, director, producer, art educator and writer in theatre, radio, TV and film.

His most recent acting work includes *Bach & the Bard* (Sport for Jove), Judge Brack in *Hedda Gabler* (Secret House), *Ratburger* (CDP), *Venus & Adonis* (Sport for Jove), *Holding Achilles* (Legs on the Wall /Dead Puppet Society) and *EternityLand* (Dancing Giant). He has also worked with Bell Shakespeare, Sydney Theatre Company, Monkey Baa, Ensemble Theatre, Darlinghurst Theatre Company, Pinchgut Opera and Melbourne Arts Festival.

In 2023 directed *Death of a Salesman* for Hearth Theatre, which had seasons in Melbourne and toured regional Victoria and New South Wales. He is one of the most in demand arts educators in Australia, working in metro, regional and remote locations around the country and has directed multiple shows for Australian Theatre for Young People, Actor’s Centre Australia, Poetry In Action, Australian Institute of Music, MLC, Sydney Grammar and at Wenona.

A graduate of WAAPA, Christopher also studied in London and Paris with Philippe Gaulier and Pantheatre through an ATYP/Lend Lease Scholarship.

Christopher has been a member of Equity since 1985.



# CREATIVES



## ISABELLA MILKOVITSCH

(SHE/HER)

PRODUCER

Isabella Milkovitsch is an Italian-Australian Director and Producer. Having achieved a First Class Honours result in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Sydney, Isabella now works as a Producer and Teaching Artist at Sport for Jove Theatre Company, and a freelance Director for the independent scene, and in high schools. Her directing credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (co-Directed alongside Damien Ryan), *The Real Inspector Hound*,

*Knock Knock* and *The Day the Internet Died*. As an Assistant Director Isabella worked alongside Cristabel Sved on SFJ's production of *Betrayal* and she has worked regularly at the New Theatre on shows such as *Twelfth Night*, *Banging Denmark* and *Shakespeare in Love*. Isabella independently produced *Much Ado* at Flight Path Theatre (Attractive, Not Model Attractive). Isabella began her career as Stage Manager; for Sport for Jove she stage managed *Romeo and Juliet* (touring production), *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Summer Season) and *Timon of Athens* (Summer Season).





# CREATIVES



**DAVID SONCIN**  
(HE/HIM)  
MARKETING MANAGER

David Soncin took over as Marketing Manager at Sport for Jove in late 2023, bringing a decade of experience in Sydney's theatre scene. A QUT Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) graduate (2013), he has been deeply involved in Jove's productions both on and off stage.

In his role, David oversees digital marketing, content creation, social media, and PR, video trailer direction and editing, driving strong audience engagement and ticket sales. His innovative campaigns for productions

like *Venus & Adonis*, *Timon of Athens*, *Isolde and Tristan*, *The Player Kings*, and *Betrayal* have boosted brand recognition.

David is a successful actor who has performed in numerous productions. He recently undertook the title role of *Macbeth* in Sport for Jove's 2025 Education Tour. His other credits include *A View from the Bridge* (Redline/Ensemble, 2017/2019), *Twelfth Night* (Sport for Jove, 2020), *Taming of the Shrew* (Queensland Theatre, 2021), *A Doll's House* (Ensemble Theatre, 2022), *Romeo and Juliet* (Sport for Jove, 2019/20, 2022, 2023), *I Hate People; or Timon of Athens* (Sport for Jove, 2024), and *Dial M for Murder* (Ensemble Theatre, 2025).

His dual expertise in acting and marketing strengthens Jove's connection with audiences, shaping the company's storytelling in compelling ways.



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Hayes Theatre Co gratefully acknowledges all our supporters and those who volunteer. We'd especially like to thank Wayne McKenna for his expertise, guidance and time.

# THANK YOU

Jake Harvey, Gabriel Fancourt, Eddie O'Leary, Huw McKinnon, Amy van Gelder Brown, Oliver Ryan, Jelena Hudson, Tom Fahey, Sherydan Simson, Aron Murray, Dinitha Senevirathne and Chuanie Luu.

We would also like to thank our friends, Belvoir Street Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Hayes Theatre Company, Genesian Theatre Company.

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