

HEARTH THEATRE PRESENTS

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH FIERY ANGEL LTD.



THE 39 STEPS

ADAPTED BY PATRICK BARLOW

FROM THE NOVEL BY JOHN BUCHAN

FROM THE MOVIE BY ALFRED HITCHCOCK

LICENSED BY ITV GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED

AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY SIMON CORBLE AND NOBBY DIMON

THE ORIGINAL LONDON PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARIA AITKEN DESIGNED BY PETER MCKINTOSH LIGHTING DESIGNED BY IAN SCOTT SOUND DESIGNED BY MIC POOL AND MOVEMENT DIRECTED BY TOBY SEDGWICK OPENED AT THE TRICYCLE THEATRE (NOW KNOWN AS KILN THEATRE) IN KILBURN IN AUGUST 2006 AND TRANSFERRED TO THE CRITERION THEATRE IN THE WEST END ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE AMERICAN AIRLINES THEATRE ON BROADWAY ON 15 JANUARY 2008. THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION WAS DIRECTED BY FIONA BUFFINI. THIS PRODUCTION IS LICENSED AND THE FILM IS DISTRIBUTED BY ITV GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT LTD.

DIRECTED BY CHARLIE COUSINS

WE AT HEARTH THEATRE ACKNOWLEDGE AND PAY OUR RESPECTS AND DEEP GRATITUDE TO AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES AND ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT, WE CELEBRATE THE HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY CREATIVITY OF THE WORLDS OLDEST LIVING CULTURE AND PAY RESPECTS TO ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.

THE 39 STEPS

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have The 39 Steps, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre!

A MAN WITH A BORING LIFE MEETS A WOMAN WITH A THICK ACCENT WHO SAYS SHE'S A SPY. WHEN HE TAKES HER HOME, SHE IS MURDERED. SOON, A MYSTERIOUS ORGANIZATION CALLED 'THE 39 STEPS' IS HOT ON THE TRAIL WITH A NATIONWIDE MANHUNT CULMINATING IN A DEATH-DEFYING FINALE. A RIOTOUS BLEND OF VIRTUOSO PERFORMANCES AND WILDLY INVENTIVE STAGECRAFT, THE 39 STEPS DELIVERS AN IRRESISTIBLE EVENING OF PURE THEATRICAL MAGIC.

After record-breaking seasons in the West End and on Broadway, winning two Tony Awards, and the Olivier Award for Best Comedy, The 39 Steps comes to Melbourne for a strictly limited season. Welcome to this much-loved gem, packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented cast of four), an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers, and some good old-fashioned romance!

CAST



SORAB KAIKOBAD

RICHARD HANNAY

A graduate of 16th Street Actors Studio, Sorab Kaikobad has had the good fortune of working with various master teachers including Elizabeth Kemp and Chris Edmund. He has also worked under some of Australia's finest directors, such as Jason Raftopolous, Iain Sinclair, Emma Freeman and Paul Currie.

Sorab's creative perspective has matured into a nuanced and unique voice which has served him well as a writer, director and artist. As an actor, he has starred in multiple film projects such as the Channel 31 hit 'Fruit Salad' and ABC powerhouse 'The Newsreader'. In his many years on stage Sorab's credits include Benedick in 'Much Ado About Nothing' and Howard/Stanley in Hearth Theatre's acclaimed production & national tour of 'Death of a Salesman'.

'Movie Night' - a short film written and directed by Sorab was accepted and screened as a finalist in the UNSCENE Film Festival. Sorab has written original work which was staged at the Melbourne Fringe Festival ('Alienation', 2015) as well as multiple short films including 'Fly, Waterfowl' & 'Kharon', which he also directed.

His graphic novel 'Prime' has been featured at both Oz Comic Con and Supernova, his illustrated epic poem 'Daiv'Shetra' was exhibited exclusively by the BlackCat Gallery in 2022, and in collaboration with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Sorab wrote and illustrated the official Captain Starlight comic book.



YVETTE TURNER

ANNABELLA SCHMIDT/PAMELA/MARGARET

Yvette is a theatre, screen and voice over actor. A graduate of the VCA, her recent theatre credits include the Victorian and New South Wales tour of Death of a Salesman (Hearth Theatre), The Crucible & The Dressmaker (Complete Works Theatre Company) and offstage cover for Neil Armfield's Death of a Salesman (Her Majesty's Theatre). For screen, she has performed in Offspring and numerous short films and webseries. Yvette is the recipient of the Patricia Kennedy award, VCA, and the Hannah Barry Memorial Award, University of Melbourne (UoM). Yvette also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Cinema & Cultural Studies, and a Diploma of Languages in Spanish from the UoM.



CAST



CHARLIE COUSINS

CLOWN #1

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

A graduate of WAAPA (Acting), Charlie is an actor, director, and educator with over 20 years experience working in theatre, film, and television.

In television, Charlie is most well known for playing the series regular role, Constable Charlie Davis, in *The Dr Blake Mysteries* and has had notable appearances in other series, including *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, *Winners & Losers*, *City Homicide*, *Blue Heelers*, *Marshall Law*, *MDA*, *Beastmaster*, and *The Lost World*.

Charlie's theatre credits include: *Arms and the Man* at The Sydney Theatre Company under the direction of Richard Cottrell, *Oil*, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, and *Wolf Play* for Red Stitch, the Helpmann Award winning production of *Thursday's Child* for Monkey Baa Productions, playing Lewis in *Cosi* and John Proctor in *The Crucible* for The Complete Works Theatre Company, *Pains of Youth* for Malthouse Theatre and The Artisan Collective, *Our Country's Good* for Group Theatre Productions, *The Drowned World* for The Storeroom, *A Respectable Family* for Chambers Theatre Co., *Much Ado about Nothing* for Bell Shakespeare, and *Young & Jackson* for Harrison Productions in conjunction with Steady Lads Pty Ltd.

In film, Charlie can be seen in the award-winning short film *Blackwood*, *Last Ditch*, and the Warner Bros. Pictures feature *Scooby Doo*.

In 2018 Charlie established Hearth Theatre, an independent theatre company that is committed to ensemble theatre-making. Hearth Theatre was launched with their immersive and site specific production of *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* by John Patrick Shanley, performing to an entirely sold out season. They followed this with Nikolai Gogol's *Marriage* and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, starring Paul English, which had a season in 2022 and toured throughout Victoria and NSW throughout 2023, garnering widespread critical acclaim.



JACKSON MCGOVERN

CLOWN #2

Jackson is an award-winning actor who works in theatre and film. Stage credits include: *Duck Duck Goose* (Theatre Works, That Production Company - in production); John Proctor (*The Crucible* - Australian Shakespeare Company); *Mystery of the Valkyrie* (QPAC, Woodward Productions); *The Owl and the Pussycat* (Little Match Productions National Tour - Matilda Award Winner); *Naked and Screaming* (La Boite Theatre Company - Matilda Nominee); Happy/Howard (*Death of a Salesman* - Queensland Theatre - Matilda Nominee); Benjamin/Snowball (*Animal Farm* - Shake and Stir National Tour); *Wisdom* (Queensland Theatre); and Bottom (*A Midsummer Night's Dream* - Melbourne Shakespeare Company).

In 2020, Jackson was librettist and director of the online children's opera *There Once Was A Puffin* alongside collaborator Luke Volker, and later toured the live theatre adaptation to regional Queensland.

He also works extensively with young artists for Queensland Theatre, La Boite, Grin and Tonic, Complete Works, Shake and Stir and many other companies throughout Australia as a teaching artist, director and adjudicator.



CREATIVE



ELOISE KENT

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

Eloise is a multi-disciplinary designer, and graduate of the Master of Design for Performance at the VCA. She has a keen interest in creating spaces that respond to and interact with the site, the performer and the spectator. Eloise has designed for theatre, circus, exhibitions, parties and public installations.

Recent set design work includes *'I Am (Not) This Body'* (Arts House, 2023), *'Within These Walls'* (NICA, 2023), *'THIS'* (Rising Festival, 2023), *'Variations or Exit Music'* (La Mama, 2022), *'Eclipse'* (NICA, 2022), *'The Darkening Sky'* (Theatre Works, 2022), *'What Every Girl Should Know'* (Brunswick Mechanics Institute, 2020), *'Love/ Chamberlain'* (Theatre Works, 2019), and *'Oh No! Satan Stole My Pineal Gland!'* (Melbourne Fringe Hub, 2019).

Designs for live art installations include *'After the Flood'* (Sydney Opera House, 2022), *'Nom Nom Nom'* (Testing Grounds, 2019), *'Carnival Of Futures'* (Arts House, 2018) and *'The Infirmary'* (Arts House, 2018).

Eloise has interned with the Schaubühne theatre in Berlin, took part in the Besen Family Artist Program at the Malthouse Theatre, and was a contracted artist for White Night Melbourne. She recently received the APDG award for Emerging Designer for a Live Performance with her collaborator Angelica Rush.

COLIN ORCHARD SET BUILDER



NIKLAS PAJANTI

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Niklas Pajanti is an award-winning lighting designer whose practice ranges across contemporary art forms and performance styles including theatre, dance, opera, circus, musical theatre, comedy, events, exhibitions and public spaces.

Niklas has designed for a range of leading Australian and international companies including: Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Malthouse, Chunky Move, Victorian Opera, Brink, Ilbijerri, Dance North, Dancehouse, The Eleventh Hour, Ranters Theatre, BalletLab, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne Festival, Sydney Festival, Adelaide Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Commonwealth Games Festival Melbourne, Federation Square and Waterfront City.

He designed lighting for the Helpmann Award winning production of *ANGELS IN AMERICA* as well as *THE WILD DUCK* for Belvoir which toured to the Vienna Festival, Holland Festival and The Barbican London; and lighting *RUPERT* for Melbourne Theatre Centre which went on to commercial seasons at Sydney's Theatre Royal and The Kennedy Center, Washington DC.



JUSTIN GARDAM

SOUND DESIGNER

Justin Gardam is an award-winning sound and video designer. He is a graduate of Monash University's Bachelor of Performing Arts and completed a Master of Dramaturgy at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Highlights of his design work include *Laurinda* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *The Meeting*, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, *Lamb*, *Control* and *Wakey Wakey* (Red Stitch Actors' Theatre); *Paradise Lost*, *Bad News* and *The Nose* (Bloomshed); *Everyone is Famous*, *The Lockdown Films* and *F.* (Riot Stage).

In 2020, Justin won a Green Room Award for Sound Design and Composition for *The Market is a Wind-Up Toy* at Theatre Works. He has received a further four Green Room Award nominations.

PRODUCTION



GENEVIEVE DAVIDSON

STAGE MANAGER

Genevieve graduated with a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Production and Design) from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2017. Since graduating she has worked across Australia in a variety of roles. She has also travelled to the UK to complete an internship as a Production Assistant for the UK tour of *The Crucible*.

Genevieve's credits include *Personal* (Jodee Mundy Collaborations & Critical Stages), *Yentl* (Kadimah Yiddish Theatre), *100 Years of the History of Dance* (Altitude Theatre), *The Gruffalo's Child* (CDP), *HIR* (Black Swan State Theatre Company), *Lovely Mess* (Riot Stage), *Il Pagliacci* (Freeze Frame Opera), *2:20AM* (Red Stitch Actors Theatre), *Rough Trade* (Rogue Projects), and many more.



SOPHIE WALTER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Sophie Walter is a recent graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), where she completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production), specialising in stage management. Her university credits include Stage Manager on *'Borneo plus 3'* and Deputy Stage Manager on *'Heathers: The Musical'*. In 2023 Sophie worked with the National Ballet School as Assistant Stage Manager on *'Beyond the Frame/The Greatest Show'* and also completed secondments with Melbourne Theatre Company on *'Escaped Alone & What If, If Only'* and on Victorian Opera's *'Melbourne Cheremushki'*.



EMMA PARFITT

PRODUCTION MANAGER, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Emma is currently studying a Bachelor of Science and Diploma of Languages at the University of Melbourne, where she is an avid member of the student theatre community. At The University of Melbourne, she has stage management, production management and producing credits spanning from musicals (Intercollegiate Activities Council's *Firebringer*, *Clue: The Musical*) to intimate plays including the student theatre group she runs, Eleven Eleven Theatre, with productions of *This Is Where We Live* and *Body* (which she also lighting designed). In 2023, she was the Head of Drama at Queen's College, where she assistant directed *Noises Off!* and directed *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

A young emerging theatre-maker, Emma's professional stage management credits include *Berlin* (A Little Life Productions), *Mudfest* (University of Melbourne Student Union) and *Dry Land* (Quiet Roar).

HEARTH THEATRE

“Hearth Theatre is a testament to how in terms of ingenuity and passion, independent companies are surpassing our mainstage, commercially funded companies in their interpretations of the classics.”

– Theatre People

Hearth Theatre creates thrilling work that is ensemble led and which celebrates the unpredictability of the stage, the alchemy of live performance and the joy of exploring worlds that share our humanity. Founded by actor Charlie Cousins (The Doctor Blake Mysteries, Bell Shakespeare, Sydney Theatre Company, and Red Stitch), Hearth Theatre was launched in 2018 with an immersive and site specific production of Danny and the Deep Blue Sea by John Patrick Shanley to critical acclaim and an entirely sold out season.

Hearth’s second show was Marriage by Nikolai Gogol. Unfortunately after working on the play for a year (in 2019 & 2020) with a dedicated cast, and one week from opening, COVID hit and we couldn’t continue.

Our latest production of Arthur Miller’s classic Death of a Salesman premiered at the iconic Melbourne theatre fortyfivedownstairs in 2022 and attracted widespread critical acclaim, full houses, and standing ovations every night. A highly successful tour of Victoria and New South Wales followed.

Our way of working is inspired by the work of legendary UK director, Mike Alfreds, and his process for creating theatre which is focused on making each performance as alive and embodied as possible. Known, by the title of a book Alfreds wrote to describe his rehearsal methodology, “Different Every Night”, this way of making theatre involves a rigorous examination of the script and a detailed exploration of the actors physical, emotional and theatrical responses to those words over an unconventionally long rehearsal period. This approach is centered around the idea of disciplined improvisation. The structure of the scene does not change, and the text is always spoken as written; however, the way actors play the scene can be different every night. The rehearsal and performance process is an exploration of the action of the scene, and actors are encouraged to remain present and responsive to the moment.

Alfreds' methodology is the culmination of a lifetime of work in the theater and is considered the most complete rehearsal methodology in print since Stanislavsky. He encourages actors to bring the text to life and keep it alive by focusing on the actions and objectives of the characters, which leads to a more authentic and organic performance. His book, Different Every Night, offers practical advice and guidance for actors and directors and is considered a master class in the field.

‘The purpose of this rehearsal process is to immerse the actors so thoroughly in the WORLD OF THE PLAY that they’ll have the complete confidence and ability to play freshly, with freedom and spontaneity, at every performance, living in the moment, in a continuous creative flow, able to adapt to — and absorb — change, variation and discovery.’

– Mike Alfreds



SPECIAL THANKS

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THANKOO!

