

SOUNDWORKS
productions



Music & Lyrics by
JASON ROBERT BROWN

5 –10 AUGUST
CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

Directed by
LAUREN MCKINNON

Musically Directed by
MARK BRADLEY

Choreographed by
BENJAMIN CURÉ

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre, New York City, 1995 (Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)
Original Orchestration by Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australia). All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.



A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER

Songs for a New World is truly a special and intriguing show - a collection of standalone songs, each a self-contained story or moment in time. This structure allows for a diverse range of characters and scenarios, making it a versatile and thought-provoking production. While the show was written in the 1990s, its themes of navigating uncertain times, making pivotal choices, and finding strength in adversity remain timeless. This adaptability of the piece allows a fresh and relevant interpretation of the socio-cultural landscape of our time.

Jason Robert Brown's compositions are emotionally charged and beautifully crafted, offering a rich tapestry of musical styles that span from poignant ballads to powerful anthems. The intricacy and depth of the compositions provide performers with a profound opportunity for artistic expression, demanding both vocal prowess and emotional authenticity.

When I envisioned a production of this show, I dreamed it would include an enhanced sound experience and a visual feast, and I knew it could only be achieved with just the right mix of artists and creatives.



This return season of Songs for a New World is the result of a wonderfully collaborative process; one which has been creatively fulfilling on many levels. It would be impossible without the incredible powerhouse performers who have jumped onboard (no pun intended...) with utmost trust and dedication to the creative vision. Each performer in this cast is a unique and dynamic storyteller, weaving their imagination, craft, and conviction into each song with sincerity and passion. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of this cast - they are formidable performers and beautiful people.

A very special thank you to my dear friends Harry Gill (Set Designer), Sidney Younger (Lighting Designer), and Thanu Moulton (Sound Designer). Your creativity, intuition, and pragmatic approach is invaluable and I've loved working with you.

The score is complex and rich in so many aspects, an iconic work in the musical theatre canon. My deepest gratitude to Mark Bradley (Music Director), a musical genius. Mark - thank you for coming along on this journey and for bringing this score to life, it has been an absolute pleasure working with you. My thanks also to our exceptional band members, thank you for rejoining us for this remount!

When ruminating about how I might position this show in 2023, the thought at the forefront of my mind was that it had to include heightened physical storytelling, yet stray to a degree from stylistic approaches often seen in musical productions. The stars aligned and I connected with one of the most daring, bold, and talented choreographers in Melbourne, who has brought so much joy, exploration, and charisma to the rehearsal room. Benjamin Curé - you are a star.

The magic which you are witnessing today would not have been possible without the creative bench-strength and leadership that Lauren McKenna has brought to this project. From the very first brainstorm session, to the opening of this season, Lauren has injected life, meaning, and specificity into every moment of each story within this theatrical experience. Her creative vision and approach to collaboration has connected and engaged every individual on this project from start to finish. Lauren, thank you from the bottom of my heart - you have made this a truly memorable experience for the entire company.

Most importantly, I'd like to thank you, our audience, for coming out to support independent musical theatre in Melbourne. Your patronage means a lot to all of us here at Soundworks, and we hope you enjoy the stories that we share with you on this stage. Thank you for supporting local artists, for enabling us to create and share our art with you.

Benjamin Samuel

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Hello Traveller! It is my great honour to once again welcome you aboard our vessel at the iconic Chapel Off Chapel, on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples. I invite you to join us in our prayer to community and embark on an exploration of hope, love, loss and adventure in this award-winning reimagined production of Jason Robert Brown's Songs for a New World.

It is not lost on me how rare it is to be able to revisit a project so beloved. Returning to this show two years on, has been a profound privilege and a creative reawakening. To delve back into its evocative music and timeless stories, surrounded by returning cast members and fresh new faces, has been nothing short of magic.

This wild and wonderful show offers snapshots of pivotal, life-altering moments that transcend time and space. It is a tour of hearts and minds - from a woman (quite literally) on the edge, to the future star of basketball, to the sister wives of Santa Claus, to reunited lovers. While traditionally performed by a cast of four, we explore the richness of this song cycle through the voices and bodies of 15 powerhouse performers, weaving movement and music into a bold, immersive narrative.

The choreography, crafted by creative visionary and my long term creative collaborator, Benjamin Curé of Lion Heart Dance Company, once again astonishes me with its precision, detail and instinct. This beautiful music - complex, soaring and emotionally rich - is in the best possible hands with our extraordinary musical director, Mark Bradley.

Visually, our production remains rooted in the organic, nautical and spiritual, with echoes of oceans, galaxies, and earthy rituals. Harry Gill (set design) and Sidney Younger (lighting design) return with their signature ingenuity and care, while our neutral-toned costumes remain essential to fluid character transitions across eras, moods, and moments.

It is hard to put into words how deeply I admire this cast. These 17 supernovas are not only exceptional artists, but truly generous, grounded humans. The trust, talent and connection they bring to the room is unique and precious. A special thanks to Katie McMillan and Jackson Britza, our extraordinary swings, whose hearts and hustle keep the wheels turning.

There is no set blueprint for this show - and that is what makes it so thrilling. The team approached casting with curiosity, bravery and care, prioritising diversity, fluidity, joy and surprise at every turn. The part allocations have been selected based on instinct and essence rather than gender presentation and every choice has been made in service of authenticity and connection.

To our producer Benjamin Samuel - thank you for trusting me once again and for championing artist-led work. Soundworks is a beacon in our industry, and I am proud to be a part of its orbit.

And now, dear audience member - I invite you to open your heart and mind as we take you into our New World once more. May you be reminded that life is beautiful, everything is fleeting, and glimmers of happiness - no matter how small - are worth holding onto with both hands. We need this show now more than ever.

Lauren McKinnon

SOUNDWORKS
productions

A NOTE FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Working on this production has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences I've had to date and it's such a joy to be revisiting this work alongside this powerhouse team. The sense of collaboration, passion and investment from every member of the cast, creative and production team has been a delight.

Lauren and I worked closely together to sow intention and purpose into every movement - with a vision to use dance to support the story-telling without overshadowing it. I've used stylistic threads throughout the show to ensure the movements feel like part of a single production - while also crafting a unique identity for each instance where dance is featured.

One of the things that most excited me about this particular project was the creative freedom and unique challenge of creating choreography for a show that doesn't normally contain dancing. Normally you'd have some of reference for how you'd like to reimagine certain scenes or you would play with movements while still retaining the essence of the original choreographer's dance vocabulary. But in this case, there was freedom to explore innovative ways to bring each of these moments to life - making them all feel unique and equally important. Returning to the show over a year later, it has been such a joy to refine and enhance certain moments, while also allowing the magic of the first iteration to stay unchanged in many parts.

I hope this show brings you as an audience as much heartfelt joy and invigoration as it has me; this show came at the right moment in my personal and creative life and has transformed the trajectory of both in ways I never anticipated. In the spirit of the show, one moment truly can change your life.

Benjamin Curé



2023 Melbourne Cast

The Company



**Anna
Francesca Armenia**

Anna Francesca Armenia is a Melbourne/Naarm based Actor who graduated from the Ballarat Arts Academy (Bachelor of Arts, Music Theatre). She has been working in theatre and screen for over a decade, and was recently cast opposite Jack Black in the Hollywood Blockbuster film, ANACONDA (Sony Pictures, Columbia Pictures). Her theatre credits include Rose Granger-Weasley in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Michael Cassel Group), What If It Only (Melbourne Theatre Company), Alan Brough's Charlie and the War Against the Grannies (CDP Theatre Producers), Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark (Critical Stages Touring), Sing on Tour (Universal Studios Japan), Petra in A Little Night Music (Watch This), Paw Patrol Live (Life Like Touring), Jason Coleman's Razzle Dazzle (Ministry of Entertainment) and Nina in In The Heights (StageArt). In 2022, Anna Francesca was cast in the New Zealand production of RENT (The Court Theatre), then joined the 2024 Australian Tour with LPD Productions. She will join the RENT Sydney Opera House season (Opera Australia) later this year.



Campbell Bonello

Campbell is a Naarm/Melbourne based entertainer who is thrilled to be returning to the cast of 'Songs For A New World' after falling in love with performing this show during the 2023 Melbourne season! After graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, Campbell has explored the Melbourne independent theatre scene both on and off stage. Some recent performances include That Creative Hubs 'Hub on Broadway', Eleonore Entertainments 'Australian Launch', Soundworks Productions 'Pasek and Paul at the Ballroom' and the June 2024 'Broadway Unplugged'. Off stage, Campbell works as a Production and Stage Manager. He is currently Production Managing Stars and The Moon's 'Shrek the Musical', opening late August. Outside of theatre, Campbell and his better half, Talana, share their passion for music as a Melbourne-based wedding duo, 'Chord of Three Strands'. Campbell is proudly represented by the team at Ministry of Entertainment.



Ethan Cooper

Ethan grew up dancing in Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs, training and competing in a wide range of styles. His passion for musical theatre was sparked during a singing lesson, which quickly led him to pursue the art form more seriously. In 2020, he began full-time training at Patrick School of the Arts, graduating with a Diploma of Musical Theatre. During his studies, he had the privilege of working with industry professionals including Andrew Hallsworth, Todd Patrick, Jan Di Pietro, Michael Ralph, and Jimmy Maxfield. Highlights at PSA include performances in Little Shop of Horrors, Xanadu, and The Boy from Oz. Most recently, Ethan appeared as Otto in Spring Awakening with Soundworks Productions. He is thrilled to be returning to work with Soundworks and to help bring such a unique and powerful show to life. Ethan is incredibly grateful for the opportunity and proud to share the stage with this talented team.



Isabella Gangi

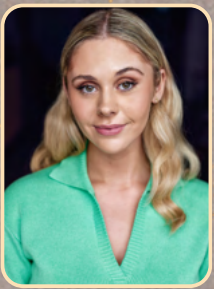
Isabella Gangi is a passionate Music Theatre performer and a graduate of Showfit in Brunswick. Isabella recently appeared as Bonnie Parker in Bonnie & Clyde (WTC) and Mayzie La Bird in Seussical (OCPAC). Her choreography credits include Rock of Ages and Matilda with M2 Productions. Isabella is also about to complete her Bachelor of Education (Primary and Secondary), combining her love of the arts and commitment to inspiring the next generation. Isabella is beyond excited to be joining the cast of Songs for a New World and would like to thank her agents for their encouragement. She proudly dedicates her performances to her parents Maria and Robert for their constant love and support.

The Company



Ben Goldsbrough

Ben is an emerging performer and all-round artist based in Naarm (Melbourne). Originally hailing from Ballarat, they graduated from the Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) course at WAAPA just last year. Since then, they made their professional theatre debut in Zealous Productions' Pinocchio: A Traditional Christmas Pantomime, garnering glowing reviews for their portrayal of Lampwick. Notable WAAPA credits include: Emmett Forrest in Legally Blonde, the Emcee in The World Goes 'Round, Telly in Godspell, and Juliet in Romeo & Juliet. This presentation of Songs For A New World is Ben's first production with Soundworks Productions and marks their Melbourne theatre debut! Having visited Chapel Off Chapel as a teenager, Ben is very excited to return and perform this exceptional piece of musical theatre. They would like to sincerely thank the team at Soundworks Productions for this opportunity!



Kelsey Halge

A graduate of Federation University's Arts Academy with a Bachelor of Performing Arts, Kelsey Halge is a Melbourne-based singer, actor and dancer. She made her professional debut as Annette Hargrove in David Venn Enterprises' 2022/2023 national tour of Cruel Intentions: The 90s Musical (dir. Alister Smith), and is thrilled to be joining Songs For A New World. Kelsey's theatre credits include Nicola and female swing in Kinky Boots (dir. Martin Croft), which was awarded Production of the Year at the 2024 Green Room Awards. She has also appeared in Cruel Intentions: The 90s Musical Party (dir. David Venn) and Thrones! The Musical Parody (dir. James Elmer). Her screen and commercial work includes campaigns for Snooze ("Every Day, Every Night Amazing"), Wattie's NZ ("unBEANlievable"), and Myer's 2023 Christmas TVC. She has also appeared in Nowhere Boys and Please Like Me. Additional credits include Vocal Director for PAC's Young Industry Project, MTI's Industry Night, RISE: The Performance Collective, Performing Artist Company Summer and Winter Intensives, Broadway Unplugged's 10-Year Anniversary, and a dancer for Katy Perry at the ICCU Cricket World Cup. Kelsey has also completed her Masters of Teaching and is passionate about mentoring and coaching the next generation of performers.



Dan Ham

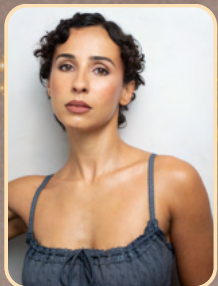
Dan Ham is an esteemed performer and artist in Australia's dance and burlesque industry, winning Mr Boylesque Australia (2015), "Melbourne's favourite dancer" (MEDEA's 2024 & 2025), and internationally nominated for the "Silver Tusk awards" in New York. Ham's performance credits include "Bring It On – The Musical" (DVE), "50 Shades – The Musical Parody" (DVE), "Saturday Night Fever" (StageArt) and currently tours with "The King of Pop Show – Starring TJ". His career has also seen him tour nationally with "Lazytown in Schools" and internationally with "Barney and Friends", including a special performance for the Royal Family of Bahrain. His burlesque/choreographic career highlights include the Boylesque storyline for long-running channel 10 series "Neighbours", music videos and performances for multiple Drag Race Down Under stars and Mx Burlesque Victoria/Australia winners. Most recently Ham was co-choreographer for the remount of "Cruel Intentions – The 90's Musical" (DV Live), and for the Australian tour of "Footloose The Musical" (DV Live)



Tayla Lauren Muir

Born in Melbourne, Tayla is a performer who trained in Musical Theatre at the Australian Institute of Music (AIM). Previously, she completed a year of full time training at Left Leg Studios (LLS). During her time at LLS, Tayla performed the role of the Witch in 'Into the Woods'. Most recently, Tayla originated the role of Stella Forts in the workshop season and Melbourne premiere of the new Australian musical, 'Jack Frost'. Other performance credits include: Martha in 'Spring Awakening' (Chapel off Chapel), Dream Team Member in 'DreamSong' the Musical (Ebbflow theatre co.), featured vocalist in Home Grown: The Power of Us (Chapel off Chapel), as well as in Broadway Unplugged at the Royal Botanic Gardens (The Australian Shakespeare Company & BU). In 2018, she originated the role of Joan in 'Decoration Day' (T2 theatre company). Tayla is thrilled to be joining the cast of the newly reimaged 'Songs For A New World'!

The Company



Alessandra Merlo

Alessandra Merlo is a versatile Australia performer, often moving between musical theatre and screen acting. A graduate from The Victorian College of the Arts Musical Theatre BFA, she has performed in 'Big Fish' (The Hayes Theatre Co), 'Titanic the Musical in Concert', starring Anthony Warlow (The Marrollo Project) and most recently, 'Midnight', a brand new Australian Musical starring Shane Jacobson and Lucy Durack. Screen credits include 'La Brea' (NBC), 'Safe Home' (SBS), 'Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries' (Acorn TV/Seven Network), 'Neighbours' (Fremantle Media). She has also featured in the short film 'Blvck Gold', which was selected for St Kilda Film Festival 2022 and Flickerfest 2023, among other International Festival Selections. 'Run, Baby', selected for 2025 St Kilda Film Festival as well as Associate Producing and co-starring in the short film, 'A Good Boy' which was selected for the 34th Flickerfest Programme as well as winning Best Cinematography. "



Ken Paolo

Ken Paolo is a soulful performer with a Diploma of Music from WAAPA and training in comedy improv performance. Their theatre credits include Op Shop Til You Drop (The Orderly Chaotic Theatre), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Altona Theatre) and Cruel Intentions (Phoenix Theatre Company). In the cruise entertainment scene, Ken Paolo has featured as a Blue Room front singer, late-night band member, and music guest entertainer aboard P&O's Pacific Explorer. As a musician, Ken Paolo fronted the band Ken Paolo and The Space Cadets and was a winner of the NIDA x Triple J Music Video competition and has performed at major festivals including Groovin' The Moo and 10 Nights at the Port in Fremantle. Their work showcases a unique blend of theatrical flair and musical artistry.



Zac Parkes

Zac found his love for theatre through his family and local companies while growing up in Townsville, North Queensland. He studied Musical Theatre at the Queensland Conservatorium (the Con) in Brisbane before making the move to Melbourne in 2020 to pursue a career in the arts. In 2022, Zac covered and performed the role of Dewey Finn in School of Rock at Qudos Bank Arena—a career highlight. He made his Melbourne debut in 2023 with the original Songs for a New World by Soundworks. Since then, he returned to Soundworks as Mr Myers in Fame, and is currently working with inclusive theatre company Stars and the Moon. He will appear as Shrek in their upcoming production of Shrek the Musical later this month. Zac is thrilled to be returning to Songs for a New World—the show that reignited his love for performing.



Benoit Vari

Born in Adelaide, raised in Melbourne, Benoit (he/him) graduated his professional training in 2021, at The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre). In 2022, Benoit debuted in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (dir. Nicola Bowman), playing the role of Demetrius. Later in the year, he played Hot Blades Harry in Soundworks' production of 'Urinetown' (dir. Mark Taylor) at Chapel off Chapel in Melbourne. Travelling up to Sydney in 2023, Benoit reprised the role of Hot Blades Harry, making his Hayes Theatre Co. debut in their production of Urinetown. Later on, he made his professional main stage debut in Midnight the Cinderella Musical at the Comedy Theatre (dir. Pip Mushin and Dean Murphy). Soon after, he was delighted to be a part of Soundworks' first mount of Songs for A New World (dir. Lauren Mckenna) and is overjoyed to be returning to the remount of this incredible production in 2025.

The Company



Teo Vergara

Teo Vergara (they/them) is a Naarm based Latinx creative. Recently, they starred in "Converted!" by Vic Zerbst and Oliver John Cameron – a new Australian musical produced by ATYP. Teo is an avid voice actor, also being seen as the leading role of Laura in "The Sloth Lane", streaming now on Binge. They starred in the premiere of new queer Australian play "Storked" by Myf Hocking produced by Antipodes theatre company earlier this year. They hold a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Music Theatre from the VCA, graduating in 2020. Teo is passionate about developing new works and authentic representation in theatre and media. Insta: @teocvergara rep: Marquee management



Mollie Williams

Mollie graduated from the esteemed Music Theatre course at Patrick School of the Arts in 2022 under the incredible direction and guidance of Andrew Hallsworth and Todd Patrick. During her training, she was part of many productions including Guys & Dolls, Rock of Ages and played April Sunday in the workshop of an Australian musical called Dream Song. Prior to her tertiary studies, Mollie performed with PLOS Musical Productions in Mamma Mia and as Eponine in Les Misérables. Mollie is grateful to have such professional training: with special mention and thanks to her acting teacher Kestie Morassi and her singing teacher Tim Smith. Mollie is honoured to be joining the cast of Songs for a New World once more, after performing in the inaugural 2023 season. She would like to thank her family, friends and agency Patrick Management for their endless love and support.



Maddi Xuereb

Maddi Xuereb hails from NSW's Central Coast, where she was fortunate to train under the mentorship of Darren Disney. She went on to complete her training at Sydney's renowned Brent Street Studios, graduating with Honours and a Diploma of Musical Theatre & Diploma of Dance under the guidance of industry luminaries such as Lisa Callingham and Cameron Mitchell. Since graduating, Maddi has performed as a featured vocalist in The Little Mermaid Cocktail Experience at Sydney's SEA LIFE Aquarium and for ICC Premiers Gala Concert. She has provided backing vocals for Guy Sebastian, Australian Idol, and the 2024 ARIA Awards. Maddi's commercial credits include campaigns for McDonald's, Bonds and Mount Franklin, and advertising for Rebel Sport and Rockwear. Having been a part of the original cast of Gatsby at the Green Light at the Sydney Opera House, Maddi is excited to return to the touring show as dancer and vocal understudy.

The Company



Jackson Britza
SWING

Jackson is a WAAPA trained performer based in Naarm/Melbourne, Australia. He has performed as multiple lead roles during his time of study (Mack Sennett in Mack and Mabel, Billy Cane in Bright Star, Prez in The Pajama Game). He has gone on to perform in multiple versions of the professionally filmed children's musicals at Echelon Productions in Victoria as well as at Chapel off Chapel in Soundworks Productions' 2023 production of Songs For A New World'.



Katie McMillan
SWING

Katie is a Naarm/Melbourne based performer who graduated from Patrick School of the Arts (PSA) in 2022 with a Diploma in Music Theatre under the direction of the esteemed Andrew Hallsworth. During her time at PSA she was seen in roles such as 'Regina' in Rock of Ages, 'Shena' in the Boy from Oz and in Guys and Dolls. Since graduating Katie has been seen performing at Crown, AFLW matches and piano bars across the state. Katie is currently involved with Stars and the Moon theatre company; dedicated to creating accessible and inclusive theatre for all abilities, and will be seen in their production of Shrek the Musical later in August as 'Fairy Godmother'. Katie is absolutely over the moon to have the opportunity to swing on this special show once again. Katie was also involved in a workshop presentation of 'Dreamsong' written by Robert Tripolino with the role of Clarice Cunningham. Other performances Katie has been involved in was the Melbourne Follies: Cabaret Down Under as a featured singer and in the Crown Atrium Christmas Show as a Lead Vocalist for the month of December last year. Katie is thrilled to have been given this opportunity to work with the exceptionally talented cast and creative team of this show. Katie is also a proud member of the MEAA actors equity.



2023 Melbourne Cast



The Company

Anna Francesca Armenia
Campbell Bonello
Jackson Britza
Ethan Cooper
Isabella Gangi
Ben Goldsbrough
Kelsey Halge
Dan Ham
Katie McMillan

Alessandra Merlo
Tayla Lauren Muir
Ken Paolo
Zac Parkes
Benoit Vari
Teo Vergara
Mollie Williams
Maddi Xuereb

The Show

ACT I

Opening Sequence: The New World
On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship, 1492
Just One Step
I'm Not Afraid of Anything
The River Won't Flow
Transition I
Stars and the Moon
She Cries
The Steam Train

ACT II

The World Was Dancing
Surabaya-Santa
Christmas Lullaby
King of the World
I'd Give It All for You
Transition II
The Flagmaker
Flying Home
Final Transition: The New World
Hear My Song

The Band

Piano | Conductor: Mark Bradley
Drums: Mitch Thomas
Bass: Lester Berryman
Violin I: Vanessa Chen
Violin II: Ben Gibson
Cello: Sonja Boon
Percussion: Sophie Barker
Guitar: Alisha Karunagaran
Viola: Shannon McIntosh
Guitar Dep: Ash Murdica

The Production Team



Lauren McKenna
Director

Lauren McKenna (she/her) has worked Australia-wide as a director, performer, creative collaborator, and acting coach. With a passion for inclusive and accessible theatre, Lauren is dedicated to authentic storytelling, reimagining the classics, developing new Australian musicals, and championing emerging artists. She is a proud graduate of the inaugural Bachelor of Music Theatre program at the Victorian College of the Arts (2011). Lauren is delighted to return to Soundworks Productions following the critically acclaimed, award-winning 2023 season of *Songs for a New World* – a production that garnered nine Green Room Award nominations, including Best Direction and Most Outstanding Independent Music Theatre Production. Lauren's directing credits include: *The Addams Family* (Stars and the Moon), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Patrick School of the Arts), *FAME* (Soundworks Academy), *Judy - Australia - 1964* (Skunkworks Productions), *Jack Frost* (Jamm'd Productions), *DreamSong* (EbbFlow Theatre), *FLUID* (Courtney Act/Working Management, Associate Director) and *Puffs; or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* (TEG Live, Resident Director). In 2024, Lauren was appointed Artistic Director of *Stars and the Moon*, Melbourne's only all-abilities music theatre company and pioneers of the castmate model. She is currently directing their highly anticipated production of *Shrek the Musical*, opening at the Alexander Theatre in Clayton from August 24–31 and featuring a cast of over 70 all-abilities artists. www.starsandthemoon.org



Benjamin Curé
Choreographer

Benjamin Curé is a Melbourne/Naarm-based choreographer, teacher and the founding director of Lion Heart Dance Company. With a versatile and unique blend of genres, his choreographic credits include long-running TV series *Neighbours*, the Australian tour of *Footloose the Musical*, *Cruel Intentions the 90's Musical*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Songs for a New World*, *The Addams Family Musical*, *Urinetown* and Lion Heart's extensive repertoire of contemporary dance seasons [*Don't Go* (2023), *FAE* (2023), *Collection* (2022), *Anew* (2022), *Clash* (2019), *Still Frame* (2019), *Envision* (2018), *Table of Eight* (2016), *Fabricated* (2016), *The Scarlet Trace* (2017, 2014, 2013)]. Curé's work has also been commissioned for the World Congress on Public Health and the International Inner Wheel Conference. He is also a sought after choreographer within the burlesque, cabaret and drag scene, creating for Evana De Lune, Gina Stirling, Egson Ham, Ruby Slippers and more. During his performance career, he performed with Opera Australia (*Turandot*, *King Roger*), *Vertical Shadows* (Home, Trybe), *Karen From Finance* (*Out of Office*, *Doing Time*, *Live at the Forum* and *Music Videos*), and was a top 100 finalist on *So You Think You Can Dance Australia*. Ben's work has received critical acclaim and recognition, including 2 Greenroom Award nominations (Betty Pounder award for Original Australian Choreography and Best Choreography [Musical Theatre]) for his work on *Songs For A New World*. Additionally, his work, *Rubik's Fugue*, was included in the 2024-2025 VCE Dance prescribed list for study – marking the first Victorian Choreographer's work to be included and one of only 2 Australian Choreographer's works.



Mark Bradley
Musical Director

Mark is an in-demand music director, pianist and keyboard player now based in Melbourne, originally from Auckland. Most recently, Mark was the Music Director for the Sydney season of *Parade*, and was nominated for a Green Room Award for his work on this production of *Songs For A New World* in 2023. While in New Zealand he regularly played for various musical theatre productions and cabaret artists. International theatre credits include *Wicked*, *West Side Story*, *Aladdin*, *The Book of Mormon*, *School Of Rock*, *Mary Poppins*, *Footloose* and *The Wedding Singer* as well as large local productions of *Jersey Boys*, *We Will Rock You*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Mamma Mia*, *Evita*, and *Sister Act*. He regularly plays for events, performances, cabaret and exams. Cabaret artists include Hayden Tee, Delia Hannah, Rutene Spooner and Les Femmes. Mark regularly works in youth theatre programs across both countries including the Junior Theatre Festivals in Australia and New Zealand alongside StageAntics, OzTheatrics, iTheatrics and Music Theatre International. As an educator Mark is regularly contracted with Patrick Studios Australia, JMC Academy and various high schools in Melbourne.

The Production Team



Harry Gill

Set Design

Harry is a graduate of the VCA and an Award Nominated Set and Costume Designer based in Naarm. Harry has a keen eye for design and aesthetics and through his designs seeks to make theatre relevant and meaningful to contemporary audiences. Harry's recent design credits include Set & Costume Design for: Waltzing The Wilarra (HIT Productions, 2025), The Boys In The Band, (James Terry Collective, 2025) Bunyi Bunyi Bumi (AsiaTopa, 2025), Ilarun (Forty-Five Downstairs, 2024), Werewolf (Arts Centre Melbourne, 2024), Parade (Seymour Centre, 2024). Set Design for: Footloose (Athenaeum Theatre, 2025), Love and Information (Theatreworks, 2025), Addams Family (Stars and the Moon, 2024), The Whale (Melbourne Shakespeare Company, 2024), Every Lovely Terrible Thing (Lab Kelpie, 2024), Songs for a New World (Soundworks Productions, 2023). Harry was recently nominated for a Greenroom award for his work on 'Parade' and 'Songs for a New World'. In 2021, Harry was recognised for his efforts, being awarded the Orloff Family Charitable Trust Scholarship for excellence.

You can see Harry's work at harrygilldesigns.com



Sidney Younger

Lighting Design

Sidney is a Green Room award winning Lighting Designer, and a 2021 graduate of the BFA (Design and Production) degree at the Victorian College of the Arts. Design credits include 'Werewolf' & 'A Case for the Existence of God' (Gary Abrahams), 'Meet Your Maker' (Brisbane Festival), 'Ghost Quartet' (Hayes), 'Every Lovely Terrible Thing' (Lab Kelpie), 'Parade', 'Songs for a New World' & 'Spring Awakening' (Soundworks), 'Addams Family' (Stars & The Moon), 'Insert Self' (Chunky Move), 'Redhealer' (Back to Back), 'Niusia' & 'Still Buried' (Kathryn Yates), 'Love & Information' (Belle Hansen), and 'Bach's Universe' (Brandenberg Orchestra). Sidney has also worked as the Assistant Lighting Designer on 'Bananaland' (Simon Philips), 'Salamander' (Maxine Doyle & Es Devlin), and 'The Birds' (Malthouse), as well as the Lighting Design Realiser for 'The Dictionary of Lost Words' (Sydney Theatre Company & State Theatre Company South Australia). His works have been seen by audiences across Australia, praised by reviews as "one of the best lighting designers Melbourne has to offer".



Thanu Moulton

Sound Designer

Thanu is a Melbourne based sound designer and technician who is excited to be returning to Songs for a New World at Chapel off chapel. His sound design on the 2023 production earned him a Green Room Award nomination for Best Sound Design. He also designed sound for Fame - The Musical (Soundworks), further developing his approach to creating dynamic, character-driven audio for live performance. In addition to design, Thanu has worked as a mic tech on major productions such as Melbourne's season of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. He brings a clear, practical approach to theatre sound, with a strong focus on reliability and detail. Thanu is thankful to Lauren and the team for bringing him onboard for the remount of this production.



Benjamin Samuel

Producer

Ben is a musician, educator, and producer at Soundworks Productions. In Aotearoa, he studied Music Performance (B.A) & Music Theatre (BPA). Upon relocating to Australia, Ben completed a Master of Music (Performance & Pedagogy) at the University of Melbourne. He has taught at various schools and creative arts programs across Australia and is a Director of Soundworks Group Pty Ltd. Ben's musical performance highlights include CATS, Hair, The Color Purple, Beauty & the Beast, Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Fiddler on the Roof, Oklahoma! & Curtains. He has also performed with Southern Opera, Chant et Danse, Midsumma Festival and various cabarets & showcases across Melbourne. He is a consultant for new theatre works in development and his Music Direction credits include Parade, Urinetown, In the Heights (Recipient of Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Bruce Award & Lyrebird Award for Best Music Direction), Seussical, Altar Boyz, Disenchanted, Cry Baby. Ben is also an examiner for the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB), a consultant at Conscious Casting, and is the Head of the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting & Music Theatre) Courses at JMC Academy Melbourne.

The Production Team



Dylan McBurney
Stage Manager

Dylan is a stage manager, producer and sound engineer who studied at Adelaide College of the Arts. Their stage management credits include 'Voss' and 'Turn of the Screw' (State Opera South Australia) 'Holding The Man' (Taylor Made Productions), 'Dogfight' (Theatrical) and 'Urinetown' (Soundworks Productions). They recently co-wrote and produced the new musical 'The Forgotten Songbook' at Chapel Off Chapel. Dylan also runs production company Pilot Comedy and is a Bruce Award nominated performer bringing their debut solo show 'loud jazz will fix me' to the Melbourne Fringe. In their day-to-day, they work at Children and Young People with Disability Australia and are an accomplished LGBTIQ+ and disability advocate.



Brittany Myers
Assistant
Stage Manager

Brittany Myers graduated with a Bachelor of Communications (Theatre/Media) from Charles Sturt University. She works predominantly as a stage manager, but also has credits as an actor, deviser, choreographer, and costumer. Her recent credits include, as Stage Manager: for Echo Theatre; God of Carnage Tour (2025); Bombshells (2024); Ruthless! (2022); for Canberra Theatre Centre; Act Up! (2023, 2024 and 2025); for Free-Rain Theatre Company; Sweet Charity (2025); Boy From Oz (2024); for The Street Theatre; Waiting For Godot (2024), This Rough Magic (2023); In His Words (2023), Art (2022), 20 Minutes with the Devil (2022), Milk (2021); for National Opera; The Merry Widow (2024); Heart Strings Theatre Co.; The Hello Girls Tour (2023 - 2024); for Echo Youth; Puffs (2023), This Changes Everything (2022); for National Gallery of Australia; Victory Over the Sun (2022). As Deputy Stage Manager; for Free-Rain Theatre Company; Billy Elliot (2024). As Assistant Stage Manager: for Soundworks Productions; Parade (2024); for Circus Oz; Wunderage (2019).

SPECIAL THANKS

Marketing/Social Media: Joey Dessman & Tayla Muir

Publicity: Eleanor Howlett

Photography & Videography: Matthew Chen

Graphic Design: Christian Cavallo

Program Design: Campbell Bonello

Casting Consultant: Conscious Casting

JMC Academy

Chris Pickering & Erin Lisk

Aaron Barfoot (Impress AV & Lighting)

Rachel Nankin


Lara Gabor



CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

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