

"FUNNIER THAN HENRIK IBSEN'S GHOSTS AND FAR LESS NORWEGIAN"
- SHAUN MICALLEF

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NO. 01
NOV '25



THE HAUNTING OF SPOOK MANSION

(BY GHOSTS)

**HAUNTED? WHY
WOULD ANYBODY
THINK THIS PLACE
IS HAUNTED?!**

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL WARD
DIRECTED BY RUSSELL FLETCHER

NOVEMBER 12-23
CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

SPOOKMANSION.COM





PETER HOUGHTON

ADRIAN CHAMBERS

Peter has appeared in some of Australia's leading television series including Network Seven's *Molly*, the Nine Network's *Gallipoli* and *Howzat! Kerry Packer's War*, playing the iconic Richie Benaud. Other TV credits include *The Wrong Kind Of Black*, *Killing Time*, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, *Wentworth*, *Winners And Losers*, *Little Oberon*, *Stingers* and *Blue Heelers*.

Peter has performed in or directed more than 20 productions for Melbourne Theatre Company, and has directed several award-winning productions for MTC, Malthouse Theatre, Griffin Theatre, Black Swan and Marriner Theatres. Most recently he directed *Heartbreak Choir* for MTC, nominated for eight Victorian Green Room Awards including Best Director.

He wrote *The Pitch* (Malthouse Theatre), *The Colours* (MTC), *A Commercial Farce* (Malthouse Theatre), and *The China Incident* (Malthouse Theatre). He has won numerous Green Room Awards for his writing, direction and performance. Most recently he performed in *Honour* (Red Stitch).

RUSSELL FLETCHER

DIRECTOR

Russell's acclaimed solo shows include *Jest Like Danny Kaye*, *King Of Fools*, & *Jump Ralph, Jump!* Theatre includes: *Shakespeare Under The Stars*, *Noises Off*, *Cyrano De Bergerac* (MTC), national tours of *The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Certified Male*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *The 39 Steps*, *Yes Prime Minister*, *The Kitchen Sink* for Red Stitch and *Unsolicited Male* for Q44 Theatre.

As a director: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Saltpillar Theatre), *The Three Mikados* (with Colin Lane); for comedians Lynda Gibson, Denise Scott, Lawrence Mooney, Frank Woodley and many others; including Michael Ward and Stephen Hall in *I Said, I Said* and *Bond-A-Rama*.

Across many TV appearances, Russ is most often recognised as Father Ricky from the ABC comedy series *The Adventures Of Lano And Woodley*.

He's an MC and leadership facilitator, and is the Coordinator, Arts & Culture, Glen Eira City Council.



EMILY TAHENY

BETH JACKSON

An actor and singer, Emily was a core ensemble member of the award-winning ABC comedy series *Shaun Micallef's Mad As Hell*, for which she was nominated for the 2015 AACTA Best Comedy Performance Award.

Recent credits include the television series *Thou Shalt Not Steal*, *Population 11* and *Bay Of Fires*. Emily has also been seen in *Secret Bridesmaid's Business*, *True Story With Hamish And Andy*, *How To Stay Married*, *The Ex-Pm*, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* and *House Husbands*.

Emily's film credits include *Kangaroo*, *The Flip Side* (opposite Eddie Izzard), *That's Not My Dog*, *The Heckler* and *Now Add Honey*.

Her theatre credits include *Mono: A Three-Person One-Man Show*, *Kwanda* by Tom Ballard, *Bond-A-Rama: Every James Bond Film Live On Stage* at Chapel Off Chapel and, most recently, *Housework* for the State Theatre Company of South Australia.

STEPHEN GATES

SOUND DESIGN

Steven Gates (he/him) is a versatile, Grammy-nominated performer known for his work in music, comedy, and television.

As a member of the Aria Award-winning comedy group *Tripod*, Gatesy has released over twenty CD/DVDs since 1997 and performed worldwide, including at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Montreal's Just for Laughs.

Tripod gained national attention for their *Song-In-An-Hour* segment on Triple J and has written songs for various TV shows, video game companies and orchestras, including the MSO.

Steven was a core cast member and writer on *Skithouse* and has appeared on shows like *Good News Week*, *Spicks And Specks*, *Upper Middle Bogan* and *Fisk*. He won the peer-reviewed Piece of Wood Award at the 2012 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Steven currently produces, directs and tour-manages comedy/cabaret shows; writes songs for commercials; and has recently created songs for *The Weekly* on the ABC.



BEN RUSSELL

FLUGEL

Following a five-year stint in the US studying and working at Chicago's prestigious The Second City and iO Improv Theatre, Ben returned to Australia where he has appeared in *Thank God You're Here* (Ten), *We Interrupt This Broadcast* (Seven) and, on the *Abc*, *Aunty Donna's Coffee Cafe*, *Home Alone Together* and *The Weekly*.

Ben's 2014 debut show for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, *The Tokyo Hotel*, was nominated for Best Independent Show. It subsequently toured nationally, played at the Edinburgh Fringe and was adapted into a radio play for ABC Podcasts.

Ben won the MIFC's Director's Choice Award in 2024 for his show *Ben Russell*. He is the co-creator of cult comedy web series *Hug The Sun* and a frequent collaborator on the YouTube channel *Grouse House*.

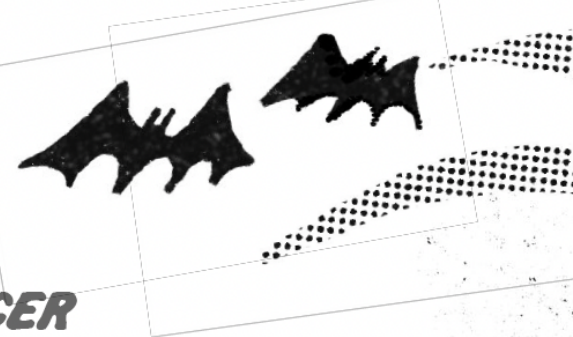
JASON BOVAIRD

LIGHTING DESIGNER

A multi-award-winning lighting designer, Jason graduated from Melbourne University in 1995 and from New York University's Broadway Masterclass in Lighting Design and Projection (under the internship of legendary Broadway lighting designer Ken Billington) in 2012.

Jason's most recent lighting designs include *The Play That Goes Wrong 10th Anniversary* (Australian / NZ tour), *Here You Come Again* (Australian tour), *Ruthless – The Musical* (2024 Green Room Award nomination), *Son Called Moon* (2024 Green Room Award Nomination) and the Green Room Award-winning production of *Kinky Boots*, which earned him a 2023 Green Room Award nomination.

Other national tour credits include *The 39 Steps*, *Motherhood – The Musical*, *One Day Of The Year*, *Love Letters*, *The Club* and *Matador*. Other international work includes *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Australia / NZ), *Busting Out* (Los Angeles / London), *Titanic – The Musical*, *Barassi – The Stage Show*, *In The Heights* (Australian premiere), *Dream Girls*, *The Colour Purple* and *Antarctica – The Musical* (world premiere).



MICHAEL WARD

WRITER & PRODUCER

Michael is an AWGIE Award-winning comedy writer who has written for television and stage for almost 30 years, often collaborating with Shaun Micallef.

Among Michael's many TV writing credits are *Shaun Micallef's Mad As Hell* (on which he appeared as cult favourite the Kraken); the original series of *Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation*, *Welcher & Welcher* and many sketch, panel, quiz, awards and reality shows. Michael co-wrote over 120 episodes of *Rockwiz* and he has written the last ten seasons of *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!* from South Africa.

For the stage, Michael co-wrote and produced (with Stephen Hall) two sold-out seasons of the spoof *Bond-A-Rama: Every James Bond Film Live On Stage* (Chapel Off Chapel); the pair also received a MIFC Moosehead Award for *I Said I Said*.

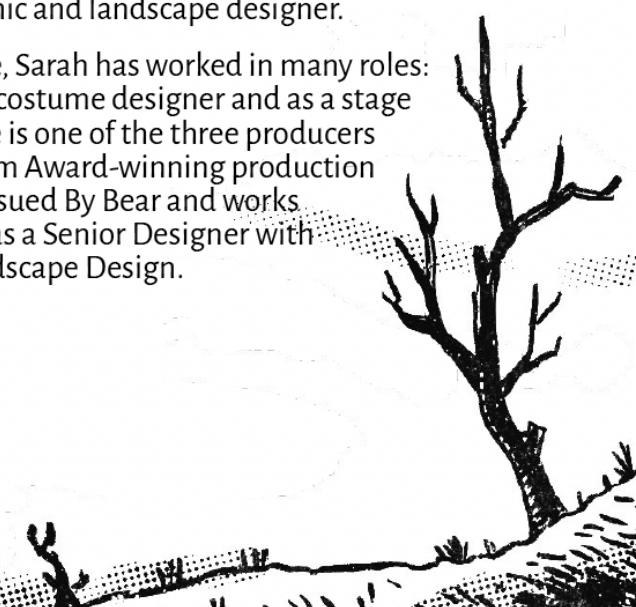
While living and working in Osaka, Japan, Michael co-wrote, directed, produced and performed in two popular sketch comedy shows: *Three Men And A Squid* and *Squidfellas*. He has also adapted Roald Dahl's *Dirty Beasts And Revolting Rhymes* for the stage; the Melbourne season was attended and enjoyed by Dahl himself.

SARAH TULLOCH

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

With a Bachelor of Interior Architecture and a passion for theatre and landscapes, Sarah's love of visualising story through environment has led to work both internationally and across Australia both as a scenic and landscape designer.

In the theatre, Sarah has worked in many roles: set designer, costume designer and as a stage manager. She is one of the three producers at Green Room Award-winning production company Pursued By Bear and works in residence as a Senior Designer with Waddell Landscape Design.



Starring

Peter Houghton as Professor Adrian Chambers,
Emily Taheny as Beth Jackson
and Ben Russell as Flugel.

Additional voices

Andy Goodone, Stephen Hall,
Roz Hammond, Anita Punton

Written and Produced by

Michael Ward

Directed by

Russell Fletcher

Lighting design by

Jason Bovaird

Sound design by

Steven Gates

Set and costume design by

Sarah Tulloch

Stage Manager

Angus Thomson

Special prop construction by

Harry Sokol, Andrew Bowden

Poster and website design by

Peader Thomas

Photography by

Mark Gambino

Publicity

Michael Wilkie M.A.D. PR

Social media

Stewart Reeve

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