

A U S T R A L I A N P R E M I E R E



THE LAST SUNDAY IN JUNE

by Jonathan Tolins

29 OCT - 8 NOV CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

**Firerock Productions acknowledges the
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the East
Kulin Nations as the Traditional owners and
original custodians of this land of which we work,
create and gather.**

**We pay our respects to all First Peoples, their
Elders past and present, and their enduring
connections to Country, knowledge and stories.**

Firerock Productions Presents

THE LAST SUNDAY IN JUNE

by Jonathan Tolins

Directed by Cal Robinson-Taylor

29 October - 8 November 2025

The Loft Theatre, Chapel Off Chapel

ABOUT THE PLAY

Jonathan Tolins' *The Last Sunday in June* is a hilarious and poignant exploration of friendship, identity, and the shifting landscape of gay life in New York City. Following in the tradition of landmark works such as *The Boys in the Band* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, Tolins brings sharp wit and emotional honesty to a story that balances humour with heartfelt reflection.

Set in a Greenwich Village apartment, Michael and Tom plan to spend Gay Pride Day quietly, reflecting on their relationship and their upcoming move to the country. But as the Pride Parade marches by their window, a series of unexpected visits from old friends turns the afternoon into an unforgettable confrontation with love, change, and the complicated ties that bind them together.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When *The Last Sunday in June* first opened more than twenty years ago, it captured a community at a turning point. It looked back on decades of struggle and forward to a hopeful but uncertain future. Coming back to the play now, it feels like holding a mirror up to both the past and present. It's a reminder of how far we've come, and how questions about identity, belonging and authenticity still shape who we are today.



Tolins writes with wit and warmth, but beneath the surface lies something tender and searching. The play begins with friends gathered for what seems like an ordinary Pride Day in New York. Yet, as the day unfolds, old wounds and new insecurities rise to the surface. The characters wrestle with how to be honest with themselves and each other, how to love fully, and how to live truthfully in a world that keeps changing around them.

Over the past two decades, Pride itself has transformed from protest to celebration, from the margins to the mainstream. For many, that shift represents progress and safety. For others, it raises questions about what's been lost along the way. Has visibility come at the cost of authenticity? Has comfort dulled the urgency that once defined our community?

This play explores the tension between comfort and courage, between belonging and being true to yourself. The characters' struggles with identity, relationships and community still feel as real now as they did in 2003. What moves me most is the universality of it all. Beneath the specific lens of gay male friendship and love is a question that belongs to everyone: how do we stay true to ourselves while still being part of something larger?

In directing this piece, I wanted to honour the time it came from while also inviting reflection on where we are now. What does community mean in 2025? What does Pride look like today, and what might it look like in the years ahead?

For me, *The Last Sunday in June* is about the messy, beautiful act of being seen. It's about honesty, connection and the courage it takes to live authentically—even when the parade has passed by.

Cal Robinson-Taylor (he/him)

Director





CAST

Tom	Cameron Steens (they/them)
Michael	Finn McGrath (he/him)
Joe	Zak Vasiliou (he/him)
Brad	Ross Larkin (he/him)
Charles	Alec Gilbert (he/him)
James	Aram Geleris (he/him)
Scott	Jesse Vasiliadis (he/him)
Susan	Rebecca Fortuna (she/her)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Cal Robinson-Taylor (he/him)
Stage Manager	Takahara Williams (she/her)
Lighting Designer	Sidney Younger (he/him)
Sound Designer	Anthony Jacobsen (he/him)
Intimacy Coordinator	Kathryn Yates (she/her)

Producer	Ross Larkin (he/him)
Producer	Richard Gruppetta (he/him)

This production contains coarse language, sexual references and mature themes.

The running time for this production is approximately 90 minutes with no interval.



Tom Cameron Steens (they/them)



A queer, neurodivergent theatre maker based in Naarm, originally from Boorloo. A WAAPA Music Theatre graduate, they work as a creative producer, director and performer.

Performance credits include: MIMMA (Giovanni & Ens, dir. Adam Mitchell), James Terry's RENT (Benny, dir. Mark Taylor) & Black Swan State Theatre Company's Assassins (Leon Czolgoz, dir. Roger Hodgman).

Antipodes Theatres' inaugural New Work & Marketing Manager/Producer on numerous developments including the Winter Labs, Death to a Butterfly, Silver Tongue, Little Squirt, as well as the premieres of Orlando, Storked, the Festival of the Unseen and the Hayes Theatre season of Ghost Quartet. www.cameronsteens.com

Michael Finn McGrath (he/him)

A Melbourne-based actor and comedian and a BFA Theatre graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts. He has trained at NYU's Tisch and London's RADA, and performed in sold-out Comedy Festival and fringe shows at La Mama, Theatre Works, and Fortyfive Downstairs. His acclaimed sketch and stand-up work has filled venues like Comedy Republic, the Butterfly Club, and Motley Bauhaus. Finn has appeared in ABC's Utopia and currently works with Working Dog Productions, one of Australia's leading comedy institutions.



Joe Zak Vasiliou (he/him)



A comedian and musical theatre performer with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre) from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). His debut stand-up show, *Twinky Twinky Little Star*, played at the Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival, earning him an Adelaide Fringe Emerging Artist Award. Most recently, his comedy saw him MC the circus-cabaret *Twisted Tales*. Zak's theatre credits include *The 3 Little Pigs* (dir. Tahra Cannon), *Shrek the Musical* (dir. Lauren McKenna), *Sweet Charity* (dir. Jayde Kirchert), *The Hello Girls* (dir. Jason Langley), *Mongrel* (dir. Maude Davey), and *Chicago* (dir. Adrian Barnes).

Brad Ross Larkin (he/him)

Ross is an experienced actor, producer, scriptwriter and published author and has appeared on stage and screen across an almost three decade span in Australia, the UK and the USA.

Selected stage credits include *Angels in America*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Brilliant Lies*, *And Then There Were None*, *The Crucible*, *No Exit (In Camera)*, *Macbeth* and *Holding The Man*. Screen credits include TV shows *Bloom*, *Rostered On*, *Fix Her Up* and *Tomorrow Tonight*.



Charles Alec Gilbert (he/him)



An actor/director/writer/producer who has worked extensively in Australia and London. Recent theatre credits include: Oedipus, Ron & Isobel, An Audience With Don Dunstan (2025), Vespertillio, Car Crash, Not Finished with You Yet (Alex Theatre) and Essendon Champions. Television credits include: All Her Fault (2025 miniseries, Binge), Big Flirt, Tomorrow Tonight, Ex-PM, It's A Date, City Homicide, The Secret Life of Us, Stingers, Blue Heelers, Elephant Princess, Marshall Law, Crash Burn, Neighbours, Fergus In Hell, Lovejoy and numerous TVCs. Recent films: Love Rewind (2023), Saudade (2021), Mother (2020), Bad Lesbian (2020) and Melbourne After Dark (2018). Alec trained with Uta Hagen and Sandy Dennis at the HB Studios in New York City. He is a Life Member of the HB Studios, NYC and a proud member of MEAA.

James Aram Geleris (he/him)

After graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts (BFA Acting) in 2021, Aram plunged into the independent arts scene, performing in The Tempest (Melbourne Shakespeare Company), Crocodile Fever (TART Theatre Collective), and his ongoing collaborations with Three Bag's Fool; FOX and Yellow Red Fruit. He also made his Melbourne Theatre Company debut in 2023's What If If Only. Screen credits include the recently wrapped Mad Extravagant City (Chekov's Gun Pictures). Aram is also an award winning podcaster with his Dungeons and Dragons show, The Dirty Twenty Podcast.



Scott Jesse Vasiliadis (he/him)



A Naarm based actor and recent graduate of The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), who has since performed in various disciplines of Screen, Stage, Voice and Musical Theatre. Credits Include: The Sounds Of Motown (Singer/Dancer: Dir. Matt Hetherington, Bert Labontè), All Im Saying (Various Characters: La Mama, Dir. Charlotte Rodgers), My Brother Ben (Narrator, Bolinda Audiobooks), Thoroughly Disenchanted (Narrator, Bolinda Audiobooks) , Much Ado About Nothing (Claudio: Dir. Clara Voda), Fatherland (Alan: Dir. Shane) and Wise Children (Imogen Hazard, Barnum & Ensemble: Dir. Adam Mitchell). Jesse is incredibly excited to be making his Chapel off Chapel debut with the hilarious and thought provoking piece that is 'The Last Sunday in June'.

Susan Rebecca Fortuna (she/her)

An Australian actor with over 20 years' experience in theatre, film and TV. She has toured nationally in Confetti & Chaos, Faulty Towers (as the iconic role of Sybil) and Dirty Dancing, earning 5-star reviews at Adelaide Fringe and MICF, and a Dionysus Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Performer. Her short film Still Here - which she wrote and starred in - is currently on the festival circuit with multiple nominations. Select credits include: Rostered On (Netflix), international features: Nova Star and No Such Thing as Monsters, plus theatre shows Fool for Love, The Boys, Weekend Quartet, Medea and Romeo & Juliet. Rebecca has a bachelor's degree in Theatre and has trained with Howard Fine, Nancy Banks and Elizabeth Kemp. She is also a certified Intimacy Coordinator and Acting Coach.

Follow Rebecca & her work at: www.rebeccafortuna.com & @rebecca.fortuna (MEAA Member)





CREATIVES

Playwright Jonathan Tolins (he/him)



Jonathan Tolins is an American playwright, screenwriter and television producer. Born in Brooklyn, he earned a degree in English Literature at Harvard before carving out a career in theatre and screenwriting. His stage works include *If Memory Serves*, *Secrets of the Trade*, *The Forgotten Woman*, the Broadway hit *The Twilight of the Gods* and the celebrated one-man show *Buyer & Cellar*. He was also a co-writer on TV's *Queer as Folk* and has written films such as *Martian Child* and served as showrunner and executive producer on the CBS drama *Elsbeth*. Tolins lives in Connecticut with his husband and their children.

Director Cal Robinson-Taylor (he/him)

A Melbourne-based performer and director, trained at the Arts Academy, University of Ballarat, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theatre.

As the founder of Taylor Made Productions, Cal has directed and produced acclaimed works including *Holding the Man* (sold-out season at Chapel Off Chapel), *Torch Song* (co-produced with Midsumma Festival), *Spring Awakening*, and Jonathan Harvey's *Beautiful Thing*.

His work champions inclusive, character-driven storytelling that celebrates authenticity and emotional truth.

Additional credits: *Fall on Death Years* (Thatcher's Boy Theatre Company), *Someone Like You* (North-by-South Theatre Co), *Hold Me, I Beg You* (Thatcher's Boy Theatre), *More Pudding Anyone?* (Thatcher's Boy Theatre), *Marriage of Convenience* (U3A & Northern Theatre Company), *Take a Seat* (Chapel Off Chapel)



Lighting Design Sidney Younger (he/him)



A Green Room award winning Lighting Designer, and a 2021 graduate of the BFA (Design and Production) degree at the VCA. His credits include 'American Psycho' (Mark Taylor), 'Werewolf' & 'A Case for the Existence of God' (Gary Abrahams), 'Meet Your Maker' (Brisbane Festival), 'Ghost Quartet' (Hayes), 'Parade' & 'Songs for a New World' (Soundworks), 'Bach's Universe' (Brandenburg Orchestra). His works have been seen by audiences across Australia, praised by reviews as "one of the best lighting designers Melbourne has to offer". Sidney is proudly represented by Ian White Management. His website portfolio can be found at <https://sidneyyounger.com/>

Sound Design Anthony Jacobsen (he/him)

A versatile music producer, writer, and performer hailing from Brisbane, Anthony boasts a rich background in the performing arts industry. His journey commenced with composing music for Channel 10's Crocamole, a platform where his talent quickly garnered recognition. Since then, he has evolved into a prolific figure, contributing significantly to the realm of musical theatre. His creative ingenuity is evident in the development of various productions, notably the captivating Love After, the thought-provoking Endings, and his inaugural song cycle, Struggling to Speak. Anthony's artistic pursuits extend beyond the stage, reflecting a holistic engagement with the diverse facets of the entertainment industry. Academically, Anthony has honed his craft through the acquisition of bachelor's degrees in Music from the Queensland University of Technology and Musical Theatre from the Fed Uni Arts Academy.



Producer Richard Gruppetta (he/him)

A former diplomat and corporate advisor with more than two decades in Tokyo, Richard has worked across Japan and the United States in film financing within investment banking.

He brings that same blend of creative insight, strategic management and business experience to The Last Sunday in June, a project that has been a genuine pleasure from start to finish, thanks to an exceptionally talented and professional team.



Studio photography - Tom Noble

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Thank you to:

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