

**NEW
THEATRE**

SYDNEY
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

**BANGING
DENMARK**

BY VAN BADHAM

20 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

BANGING DENMARK

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Madeleine Withington
Assistant Director	Isabella Milkovitsch
Set & Costume Designer	Ruby Jenkins
Lighting Designer	Luna Ng
Sound Designer	Daniel Herten
Accent Coach	Linda Nicholls-Gidley
Intimacy Coordinator	Sonya Kerr

CAST (in order of appearance)

Jake Newhouse	Matt Abotomey
Anne Toft	Emelia Corlett
Ishrar 'Ish' Madigan	Sarah Greenwood
Dr Denyse Kim	Kandice Joy
Toby Bello	Gerry Mullaly

PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Production Manager	Jaime Petersen
Stage Manager	Atlas Andrews
ASM	Patrick Mondrian
LX/SX Operator	Michelle Grasso
Set Construction/Bump-in	Ruby Jenkins, Stephen Kirby
	Tom Bannerman, Rodger Wishart
	David Marshall-Martin
	Jaime Petersen, Mehran Mortezaei
Promotional Photography	Renata Dominik
Production Photography	Ezekiel Rodofili (Haskelr Photography)
	Campbell Parsons

Hero image: © ded pixto/Shutterstock

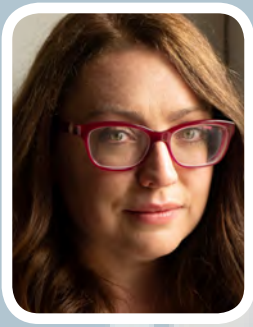
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country on which we meet today, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

THE BEST SEATS - ON THE HOUSE!

We're looking for fun and friendly volunteers to join our Front of House team. Work a couple of hours behind the bar, looking after our patrons, and we'll give you free tickets to use for any New Theatre show.

FOH volunteers must hold a current RSA certificate.

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MANAGER@NEWTHEATRE.ORG.AU**



VAN BADHAM PLAYWRIGHT

Van Badham is an Australian internationally award-winning writer, theatremaker and broadcaster. She is a graduate of the University of Wollongong, won an exchange scholarship to study at the University of Sheffield (UK) and has a Masters from the VCA.

As a journalist, she's a featured columnist for *The Guardian* and has also written for other international publications. She was a Walkley finalist for her non-fiction book debut, *QAnon And On: A Short and Shocking History of Internet Conspiracy Cults* and she was the first Australian to win Britain's Harold Hobson prize for theatre criticism.

As a commentator she's appeared numerous times for the ABC's *Q+A* and *The Drum*, for *The Project* on Ten, and regularly for ABC radio, while as a writer of radio drama she's been broadcast both by the ABC and BBC.

As a theatremaker, Van is a former literary associate at both London's Finborough Theatre and Malthouse, Melbourne, and her plays include *Banging Denmark* for the Sydney Theatre Company, *The Bloody Chamber* for Malthouse, *Animal Farm* for Black Swan State Theatre Company of Western Australia, *Big Baby* for Terrapin and *The Bull, the Moon and the Coronet of Stars* for Griffin. Van was writer in residence at LAMDA in London for two years, she was the first Australian included in the New York Summer Play Festival and her plays have had professional seasons around the world. She has won three Premiers' awards for drama, a Green Room award for Best Production and a London fringe award, as well as numerous awards at the Adelaide Fringe. Van is currently under commission for new work at the Sydney Theatre Company and State Theatre Company of South Australia.

Van has worked with New Theatre in the past, contributing the short play *I Think the Interview Went Well, Mum* for our *Women, Power and Culture* season in 2011.

Banging Denmark was Shortlisted for the 2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting. Van describes it as "a love letter from me to every anonymous jerk, douchebag, dickhead and dumbass who's ever given me or other feminists any shit on the internet".

Helen Tonkin, Artistic Associate, 2023

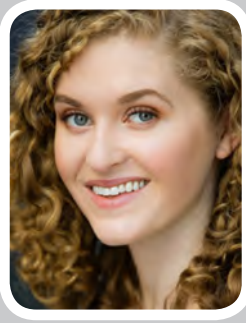
DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Over the course of rehearsing and thinking about this play, there has been one concept that comes up again and again, which is that of the sublime. Specifically a philosophical definition from the 1800s, which describes the feeling of pleasure from perceiving something that threatens to hurt or destroy you. Every character in this play is chasing their own concept of sublimity, and I feel that resonates with most people. At some point in our lives, we have all searched for the sublime. It's at this point I should tell you that it was my Assistant Director, Isabella, who first articulated this properly, after I kept talking about the idea of 'frightened horny'. Thank you Bella, for helping me sound smart.

Beyond this though, I think this play is wonderful because of how each of us has been all of these characters at some point. You may not have been a pick-up artist, but you've been problematic at some point. You've been militant about your beliefs, hopelessly in love, paralysed by inaction, made terrible decisions, and maybe you've even bathed with wet wipes. You are here on this stage. This story is for you.

With that in mind, I want to thank the people that have been involved in this production. Their talent has terrified me every step of the way, and it has been wonderful. People have given so much, and for nothing more than the reward of telling the story. Thank you.

Madeleine Withington, 2023



MADELEINE WITHINGTON DIRECTOR

Maddy graduated from the Actor's Centre Australia in 2014 and since then has been working as an actor and voiceover artist on a range of projects. You may have heard her voice on the radio convincing you to join the navy, reconsider your super fund, or get a boob job. Maybe all at once.

For New Theatre: actor, *The School for Scandal*, *The Angry Brigade*.

Other recent theatre productions she has appeared in include: *It's A Wonderful Life* (Joining the Dots Theatre Co), *Fuente Ovejuna!* (Flight Path Theatre), and her first play, *Wil and Grace* (Sydney Fringe Festival).

Her first short film *Butter: A Love Story* received a Special Mention from the Jury for Best Comedy at Flickerfest 2023, and she appeared at St Kilda Film Fest in *June* (Best Original Score Nominee). In 2022, she made her directorial debut with *Much Ado* (Attractive, Not Model Attractive/Flight Path Theatre), and subsequently directed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*.



ISABELLA MILKOVITSCH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Isabella is a second-generation Italo-Australian woman. She holds an Honour's degree in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Sydney (First Class).

For New Theatre: Stage Manager, *The Angry Brigade*.

Other credits include: Assistant Director, *Twelfth Night: Heads or Tails* (Virginia Plain), Producer, *Much Ado* (Attractive, Not Model Attractive/Flight Path Theatre), Stage Manager, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Sport For Jove), and Director, *The Real Inspector Hound* (The International Grammar School).



RUBY JENKINS SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

A 2022 NIDA graduate, Ruby was nominated for the 2023 Australian Production Design Guild Award for Emerging Designer for a Live Performance or Event for *Seven Days of Silence* (NIDA Festival of Emerging Artists 2022). Ruby has also undertaken screen industry placements on *The Twelve* and *Furiosa*, and a live performance industry placement with Patch Theatre in Adelaide.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other design credits include: Costume Designer, *Falsettos* (NIDA), *Late Bloomer* Music Video (Triple J Unearthed), *Miss Julie* (Famous Last Words), Production and Costume Designer, *It's A Wonderful Life* (Joining the Dots Theatre Co), Exhibition Concept Designer/Drafter, *Turn Up Your Radio* Exhibition (Adelaide Festival Centre'), as well as assistant and scenic roles on *Kairos* (Sydney Festival) and *Choir Boy* (Riverside).



LUNA NG LIGHTING DESIGNER

Luna is a Sydney-based theatre maker who was born and raised in Hong Kong. She is enthusiastic about storytelling through theatre and enjoys working with artists who share different cultural and identity backgrounds. As well as acting and lighting design, Luna has experience in producing and stage management. She is currently studying at the University of Sydney.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: co-lighting designer/co-stage manager, *Boom* (Slanted Theatre, currently in production). She has been involved in 15 student theatre productions at SUDS and NUTS mostly as a lighting designer, actor, and producer.

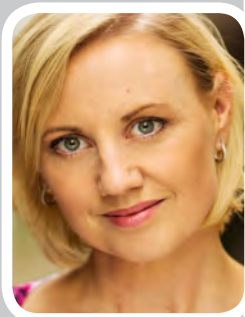


DANIEL HERTEN SOUND DESIGNER

Daniel is a Composer, Sound and Video Designer, and Creative Technologist, working across theatre, installation and interactive media. Growing up in Fiji, China and Thailand, before traveling to Sydney, Daniel now collaborates on Bidjigal and Gadigal land to tell stories. His work explores the ways audiences interface with storytelling, and how emerging and integrated technologies can enhance this experience to create a two-way discussion between ourselves and our art. Daniel is a 2020 graduate of NIDA's Technical and Stage Management BFA.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other recent credits include: Composition & Sound Design Realiser, *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* (Sydney Theatre Company), Sound & Video Designer, *Let The Right One In* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company), Sound Designer, *Set Piece* (Rising Festival), Composer, Sound Designer & co-Video Designer, *Collapsible* (Essential Workers), Composer & Sound Designer, *FADE* (NTofP), Sound Designer, *Murder For Two* (Hayes Theatre Co), Sound Designer, *Plenty of Fish in the Sea* (Clockfire Theatre Co), Sound Design Associate, *Twelfth Night* (Bell Shakespeare), Sound Design Associate, *Wherever She Wanders*, *Whitefella Yella Tree*, *Green Park*, *Sex Magick*, *Pony* (Griffin Theatre).



LINDA NICHOLLS-GIDLEY ACCENT COACH

Linda is a sought-after Sydney-based accent and dialect coach.

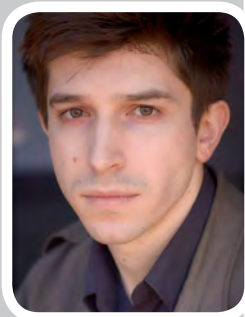
For New Theatre: Accent Coach, *Jellyfish*.

Theatre coaching includes *Clydes*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *The Caretaker*, *Photograph 51* (Ensemble), *Pony* (Griffin), *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Cinderella*, *9 to 5* (XRoads Live), *An American in Paris*, *Jagged Little Pill*, *Girl From the North Country* (GWB Entertainment), *A Chorus Line*, *Once* (Darlinghurst), *Counting and Cracking* (Belvoir), *How to Train Your Dragon* (Dreamworks), *Shrek*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *The Bodyguard*, and

Dirty Dancing (GFO).

Film and Television includes *Shantaram*, *Wellmania*, *Year Of*, *Gorgon*, *Mary: The Making of a Princess*, *The Chase Australia*, *Jungle*, *Seeds of Gold*, *The Hollow*, and *Vincent*.

Linda discusses accents on her podcast *Say You Say Me*.



MATT ABOTOMEY JAKE NEWHOUSE

Matt holds a Bachelor of Creative Arts (University of Wollongong).

For New Theatre: *A Very Expensive Poison*, *The Grapes of Wrath*

Other credits include: *UFO* (re:group), *Apocka-Wocka-Loockalypse* (Tooth and Sinew Theatre Co), *Labyrinth* (Dream Plane Productions), *The Sucker* (independent), *Molly Sweeney* (Clock and Spiel Productions), *Hotel Bella Luna* (Ponydog Productions), *Tom William Mitchell* (Woodcourt Art Theatre), *One Way Mirror* (subtlenuance).

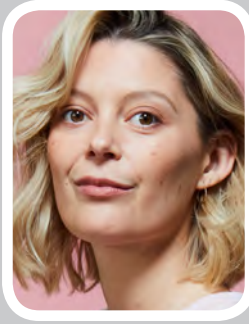


EMELIA CORLETT ANNE TOFT

Emelia graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) with a Bachelor of Acting at the end of 2021.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: Ibsen's *Ellida* and Dennis Kelly's *Orphans* (WAAPA), guest starring on *Home and Away*, and most recently the lead in *Take a Breath*, a short film promoting the importance of mental health awareness.



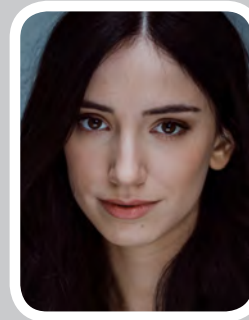
SARAH GREENWOOD ISHTAR 'ISH' MADIGAN

Sarah is an actor and playwright from Meanjin (Brisbane), and trained at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), graduating in 2016.

For New Theatre Debut.

Other credits include: *Possum Magic* (Monkey Baa/Sydney Opera House/national tour), Cassie Hamilton's *Daddy Developed a Pill* (KXT), Grace Davidson-Lynch's *Hydrarchos* (NIDA's Festival of Emerging Artists), *Torn Apart by War* (Moira Blumenthal Productions), *Much Ado* (Attractive, Not

Model Attractive/Flight Path Theatre), *Twelfth Night: Heads or Tails* (Virginia Plain) and *Kindertransport* (Darlinghurst Theatre Co).



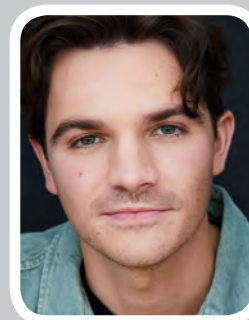
KANDICE JOY DR DENYSE KIM

Kandice's training includes: NIDA (Graduated 2021 - Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance), RADA (Shakespeare), The Second City LA, Howard Fine Studio Melbourne and Sydney Dance Company.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other theatre credits include: *From Morning To Midnight* (Other Theatre/Opera Centre), *Tchekov at the House of Special Purpose* (La Mama) and *Annie* (GFO/ Australian Tour). Film and TV credits include: *Utopia* (ABC), *Underbelly; Fat Tony & Co* (Screenime Australia/Nine Network),

Winners & Losers (Seven Network), *Predestination* (Screen Australia). In 2021, Kandice was the winner of the NIDA x SF3 Short Film Competition, for her short film *Esmé*.

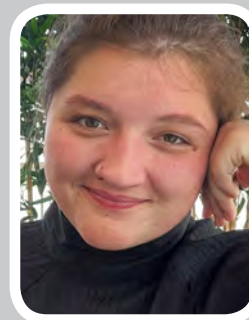


GERRY MULLALY TOBY BELLO

Originally from Townsville in Far North Queensland, Gerry moved to Sydney to Complete a Bachelor of Performing Arts at ACA, graduating in 2022.

For New Theatre: Debut.

This production also marks his first since finishing drama school. His credits at ACA included: *Don's Party*, *A Doll's House*, *Hurlyburly*, *Speaking in Tongues* and *Romeo and Juliet*.



JAIME PETERSEN PRODUCTION MANAGER

Jaime Petersen is a University of Wollongong alumni, graduating in 2019 with distinction.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: Stage Manager, *Babette's Feast*, *It's a Wonderful Life* (Joining the Dots Theatre Co), *Relativity* (Joining the Dots Theatre Co/National Theatre of Parramatta), *Little Jokes in Times of War* (KXT), *Come Again* (Purple Tape Productions), *Sweet Mama* (Campbelltown Arts Centre). During the World Pride Festival at Darlinghurst Theatre, Jaime

was Production Manager on *Rainbow Tree* (Fat Fruit), *All The Sex I've Ever Had* (Mammalian Diving Reflex), *Gender Euphoria: Mighty Real* (Mama Alto & Maude Davey), and *Rainbow History Class: Live Show* (Rudy Jean Rigg & Hannah McElhinney).

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VISIT OUR HISTORY WEBSITE:
<http://newtheatrehistory.org.au>**



ATLAS ANDREWS STAGE MANAGER

Atlas is currently training for the Certificate III in Live Production Services, and completing Year 11.

For New Theatre: ASM, *All My Sons*.

Other credits include: Follow Spot Operator, *Ignite* (Riverside Theatre), Stage Crew, *Noir Cabaret* (Southern Cross), Lighting Assistant, *Aladdin Jr* (Marist Penshurst). They will soon be undertaking a work experience week at NIDA in Stage Management.



MICHELLE GRASSO LX/SX OPERATOR

Michelle is a video and photomedia artist, based in Sydney, with a passion for visual storytelling and content engagement. She holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts, majored in Screen from the University of Sydney, and is currently working fulltime as a Media Lead.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Michelle's creative background includes judging for the women's short film festival Radical Womyn in 2021, and exhibiting video and photomedia artworks across a range of galleries from 2018-2020 at Articulate Project

Space, Contact Sheet Gallery, and Sydney College of the Arts. This is Michelle's debut in the world of theatre production, marking a significant milestone in her artistic journey contributing to stage management and tech.

WHO'S WHO AT NEW THEATRE 2023

STAFF

THEATRE MANAGER &
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Gemma Greer

PUBLICIST
Alice Livingstone

TECHNICAL MANAGER
Mehran Mortezaei

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGERS
Eddy S Dharmadji (Coordinator)
Robyn Arthur
Nicole Toun

PLAY ASSESSORS
John Keightley (Coordinator)
Annie Bilton
Michael Briggs
Doug Cairns
Susan Jordan
Sahn Millington
Raymond Patman (Administrator)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
Rosane McNamara

VICE PRESIDENT
Elizabeth Ivory

TREASURER
Michael Pedersen

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Louise Fischer

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE
Helen Tonkin

WARDROBE COORDINATOR & LICENSEE
Dr David Marshall-Martin JP

PROPS COORDINATOR
Robyn Arthur

PREMISES MANAGER
Ole Borch

SECRETARY (EX-OFFICIO)
Gemma Greer

EMERITUS THEATRE CAT
'Mouse'

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MANY THANKS TO NEW THEATRE'S SUPPORTERS

Your donation to New Theatre, no matter how large or small, will make a very real difference, ensuring that we are able to continue the invaluable work that we do. New Theatre is vital to Sydney's cultural life, continually encouraging high standards of creativity and artistic excellence in our community and providing audiences with quality theatre that provokes, stimulates and entertains.

All donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible. To make a donation, please visit our website: newtheatre.org.au or contact manager@newtheatre.org.au

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE 'BANGING DENMARK' TEAM

Jessica Boase, Tom Bannerman, Rodger Wishart
New Theatre Management Committee, staff and volunteers

NEW THEATRE MEMBERSHIP

If you want to join the New Theatre family, why not join our membership? For \$30 a year you receive the following benefits:

- regular members' newsletters keeping you up to date with all the theatre goss.
- Notice of all auditions via email plus a guaranteed audition if the part is right for you
- \$22 tickets to all productions
- Voting rights at company meetings and the eligibility to stand for Management Committee positions
- Use theatre facilities at discounted rates

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COMING NEXT

A magnifying glass is held over a five-pound banknote. The note is yellow and green, with the words 'ENGLAND' and 'FIVE POUNDS' clearly visible. The magnifying glass is positioned over the center of the note, making it the focal point of the image.

LOOT

BY JOE ORTON

10 OCTOBER - 4 NOVEMBER 2023

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A silhouette of a woman in a long, flowing dress is shown against a bright yellow and orange sunset sky. She has her right arm raised and is looking upwards. The dress has a red sash or detail. The background shows a field of grass in the foreground.

THE BALLAD OF MARIA MARTEN

BY BETH FLINTOFF

14 NOVEMBER - 16 DECEMBER 2023