

ATLANTS BY LALLY KATZ 19 MARCH - 13 APRIL 2024

ATLANTIS

CREATIVE TEAM

Director Set Designer Lighting Designer Costume Designer Sound Designers Movement Director Intimacy Advocate Dialect Coach Assistant Directors

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Panther & Others Lally Electra Bella & Others Alex & Others Dossie & Others Diego & Others NY Taxi Driver & Others Dave/Pop-Op, and others Tiffany Wong Amelia Lane Topaz Marlay-Cole Sam Hernandez Jennifer Gao, Justin Leong Emma Van Veen Sonya Kerr Benjamin Purser Josephine Lee Dominique Purdue Bella Wellstead

Callum Alexander Georgia Britt Tamara Foglia Castañeda Lisa Kelly James Lau Alyona Popova Dallas Reedman Renae Valastro Luke Visentin

PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Production Manager	Gemma Greer
Stage Manager	Atlas Andrews
ASM	Kiana Gould-Arocha
LX/SX Operators	Jay Daniel, Alex Pas
Assistant Production Designer	Adrien Stark
Lighting Programmer	Annie Fraser
Lighting Assistant	Luna Ng
Audio Technician	Oliver Jones
Set Construction/Bump-in	Amelia Lane. Oliver Jones
	David Marshall-Martin, Rodger Wishart
	Tom Bannerman, Adrien Stark, Kirby
Production Photography	Christundie

Production Photography Chris Lundie

Hero image: © Eric Isselee/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.



LALLY KATZ PLAYWRIGHT

Lally Katz was born in New Jersey, USA in 1978 but when she was eight the family moved to Canberra. She graduated from the University of Melbourne's School of Studies in Creative Arts, studied playwriting at London's Royal Court Theatre and in 2000 attended the Australian Theatre for Young People. When she was 23 she joined Stuck Pigs Squealing Theatre Company. This company produced several of her early plays with great success. This led to her being commissioned by mainstage theatre companies in Australia.

The double bill she wrote with Brendan Cowell, *The Dog/The Cat*, premiered at Belvoir in 2015 and had a return season in 2017. It was performed in London and Las Vegas in 2018. *Atlantis* had its premiere at Belvoir in 2017.

Lally wrote the libretto for Opera Australia's adaptation of 'The Rabbits' by Shaun Tan, with music by Kate Miller Heidke, which won the Australian Writers Guild Award in 2016 for Best Music Theatre script and won several Helpmann Awards, including Best New Work. Her plays have been staged in London, New York City, Mexico City, Dublin and Delhi. Her one-woman show, *Stories I Want To Tell You*, has toured extensively and Lally adapted it for ABC TV and Matchbox Pictures in 2015.

Lally's play Neighbourhood Watch was written for Robyn Nevin and has enjoyed a subsequent season starring Miriam Margolyes and productions at many companies, including New Theatre in 2020. Lally is currently adapting it for the screen with Goalpost Pictures.

A Golem Story and Goodbye Vaudeville Charlie Mudd both won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award. A significant number of Lally's plays are published by Currency Press, PlayLab and Australian Scripts Online. Lally regularly writes articles for magazines and newspapers and has been a panellist on television shows including Q&A, Agony of Modern Manners and Dirty Laundry.

Lally has sold pilots to FX, Showtime and ABC Signature Studios. In 2022 she worked in the writer's room for Hulu's *The Great*, season 3.

Her new play *Hans* & *Gret* premiered at the 2023 Adelaide Festival for the Arts with Windmill Theatre. She lives with her husband in Los Angeles and is currently writing episodes for an upcoming television series created by Shaun Tan and a memoir for Allen and Unwin.

Helen Tonkin, New Theatre Artistic Associate, 2024



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Every journey we go on is like looking for Atlantis. The trials, the tribulations, the love, the betrayal, and the self-discovery.

The journey of life, albeit, as a woman, is one almost universally shared (if you're cis and straight and white). The desire to have children, finding your soulmate, marrying for love, faced with a world of climate change, men, grief, biological clocks, it's a toughie. In all seriousness, life isn't always smooth sailing - and Lally's story is that of one of hurricanes hurtling at you as you try to make sense of it all.

Directing Atlantis has been another type of journey, so different to ones I've gone on before. There are many through lines and threads, which, in my opinion, is more representative of life than it is of theatrical life! When I had the opportunity to speak to Lally Katz herself, I felt like I understood her artistic and personal values - we ended up spending most of the time speaking about the potential of freezing my eggs. She has so many things to say and experiences to share, thanks for letting us put on this play!

I'd like to thank the entire team for coming on this journey with me, especially as I've never worked with the cast or designers before. It takes a lot of guts and trust to sign on to a production, especially one where the director has the opportunity to try doing things for the first time in their life! This show has taught me so much and has allowed me to experience a lot of firsts - I've never worked with an ensemble, a set builder, a gobo, an ensemble cast, a semi-autobiographical play with a central character, and so much more.

Thank you to the design team - Sam, Topaz, Jennifer, Justin, Amy - who are all making their debut in indie theatre, and almost all are still studying! I'm incredibly lucky to have found talents such as yourself to collaborate with and learn alongside. The specialists - Emma. Benjamin, Sonya - for going above and beyond in their roles and providing extra support for the team and to the actors. To Bella, Som, Josie - the wonderful assistants - assisting can be such a weird job, I'm so glad you all felt like this team had something you could learn from, and you have been able to contribute so much. All the builders, tech crew, and other helpers - Adrien, Tom, Kirby, David, Annie, Mehran, Oliver! Of course, a big thanks for Atlas for keeping me and the show together, and showing the ropes to Kiana.

And finally, the very silly and fun and wonderful family of actors whom I'll list in order of my silly numbering system so I don't forget anyone 1) Aly 2) Callum 3) Dallas 4) Georgia 5) Lisa 6) Lisa 7) James 8) Renae 9) Tamara. You have such great offers and talent, every time we had rehearsal I wondered what I was going to be presented with! I hope one day you all get to do a financially-able show where all your ideas get to happen!

Thanks also to all the team at the New Theatre for supporting a bunch of emerging designers, an ensemble of actors, and a director that has outlandish ideas!

Tiffany Wong, 2024

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TIFFANY WONG DIRECTOR

Tiffany is a theatre-maker with a disability working across Gadigal and Wurundjeri lands. She is an Australian-born Chinese artist with Singaporean and Malaysian heritage. She is the Artistic Director of Slanted Theatre, a company that supports Asian-Australian theatremakers and storytelling. She was featured as an Honouree of the Asian Australian 2022 & 2023 List, and is 2024 Cosgrave Associate Artist for Bell Shakespeare. Tiffany recently attended the Peking Opera Summer School at Shanghai Theatre Academy and holds a Bachelor of Arts

(Performance Studies, Music, Chinese Studies) and Diploma of Languages (French Studies) from the University of Sydney, and an Associate Diploma (Piano) from the Australian Music Examinations Board.

For New Theatre: Actor, *Animal Farm*; Director, staged readings for the Silver Gull Play Awards 2023.

Other directing credits include Boom and Three Fat Virgins Unassembled (Slanted Theatre & KXT bAKEHOUSE), Short Blanket (Slanted Theatre & Meraki Arts Bar), Lady Precious Stream (Slanted Theatre & The Flying Nun at Brand X), and Ching Chong Chinaman (Slanted Theatre). She has also worked as an Assistant Director on Top Coat (Sydney Theatre Company), Iphigenia In Splott (New Ghosts Theatre Company), and as a Directorial Assistant on Murder For Two (Hayes Theatre Co), and Things Hidden Since The Foundation of the World (Creative Development, National Theatre of Parramatta). As an actor, Tiffany has performed in Romeo & Juliet (Australian Shakespeare Company), Two Worlds, One Heart (Your Side), and Ching Chong Chinaman (Slanted Theatre). She is also in the feature film Five Blind Dates (Prime Video & Goalpost Pictures) which was released February 2024.



AMELIA LANE SET DESIGNER

Amelia is a Sydney-based costume and set designer who graduated Victorian College of Arts Design and Production course in 2021, and this production marks her first return as set designer since graduating. She has a passion for experimentation with aesthetics and blending historical and modern designs, and strives to challenge the boundaries of traditional theatre with abstract and metaphorical design that resonates with modern audiences.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: Costume Design, *Incredible Floridas* (Carriageworks), short film *Joon-Delam* (S.Soheili and A.R. Talbot-Smith) and upcoming *Escape Room* (Flight Path Theatre); Costume and Set Design, *Wax - Atlas / Gadhaban Kurrawan*, and for VCA, Associate Costume Design, *The Hello Girls*, Costume Design, *Baccarat*, and Costume Maker, *On the Town* and *Disclosure*.

Amongst other roles in film and television, Amelia has worked as a costume art finisher on *The Fires* (ABC), *Love Me* (Warner Bros), *Better Man* (Partizan), *Mad Max Furiosa* (Underdown Productions), *Fall Guy* (Universal Pictures) and *Play Dirty* (United Artists). Website: amelialanedesign



TOPAZ MARLAY-COLE LIGHTING DESIGNER

Topaz is an emerging theatre technician and lighting designer, currently completing her final year at NIDA, studying Technical Theatre and Stage Management.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Throughout her time at NIDA she has worked on several shows including head electrician for *Sweeney Todd*, *The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, and lighting designer for *The Great Theatre of The World* and *Amadeus*. She has also worked with Sydney Festival for two years as an Assistant

Event Coordinator for In Chamber, Encantado, Masterclass and Things Hidden Since the Foundation of The World.



SAM HERNANDEZ COSTUME DESIGNER

Sam is currently in his final year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Costume at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts. His career in costume design began with an interest in fashion, working for a number of great Australian and International fashion brands over the past 10+ years. With an additional longstanding interest in theatre, Sam developed a fascination with theatrical costume and costume history. His work at NIDA has expanded his interest in designing and costume making. His personal works have spread across contemporary, historic

and imaginative costumes. This production marks his first as a costume designer. For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: for NIDA, Costume Supervisor, *The Attempted Rape of Susanna* (Festival of Emerging Artists); Costume Maker, *Falsettos, Splendour* and *Sweeney Todd*; Dresser, *Carmen* (Opera Australia), *Il Tabarro* (Victorian Opera & Sydney Festival).



JENNIFER GAO CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Jennifer is a Chinese-born composer, arranger, sound designer, and multifaceted creative based in Sydney. She is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Music (Composition for Creative Industries) at the Sydney Conservatorium. In her approximately four years of composing she has been involved in range of different projects and collaborated with many brilliant creatives. For New Theatre: Debut.



SONYA KERR INTIMACY ADVOCATE

Sonya Kerr is an actor, voice over artist and intimacy advocate.

For New Theatre: Actor, Homos, or Everyone in America, August: Osage County, The Angry Brigade, Next Lesson, Dinkum Assorted; Intimacy Director, Homos, or Everyone in America, The Ballad of Maria Marten, Banging Denmark,

Although relatively new to the world of intimacy directing, Sonya has worked in that capacity on *Much Ado* (Attractive, Not Model Attractive/ Flight Path Theatre), *Ninety* (Actors Pulse Theatre), and the short film

Cherry Pie (UTS). Sonya is proud member of MEAA/Equity.



BENJAMIN PURSER DIALECT COACH

Benjamin holds a PhB (Hons., First Class) (ANU), a Dip. Performing Arts (ED5International) and is a certified practising speech pathologist (MSLP, University of Sydney).

For New Theatre: Dialect/Voice Coach, The Ballad of Maria Marten, All My Sons, Jumpers for Goalposts, Breaking the Code, Glengarry Glen Ross, Picnic at Hanging Rock, Neighbourhood Watch.

Other credits: Dialect/Voice Coach, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Hayes Theatre Co), MRock (ATYP), The Pass (Fixed Foot Productions), Chef

(Virginia Plain Theatre), A Streetcar Named Desire, Poirot's First Case, Sherlock Holmes and the Death at Thor Bridge, William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (Abridged), The Secret of Chimneys (Genesian Theatre Co), Steel Magnolias (Lane Cove Theatre Co), Příbor (Charles Sturt University), Threads (AFTRS).

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JOSEPHINE LEE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Josephine is an actor, theatre and audio producer, videographer and director who aspires to combine their passion of theatre, film and science within their storytelling. They aim to create thought-provoking works that speak to the hearts of diverse communities in Australia and to enhance science communication.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Their directing credits include *My Lord, The Queen, Is Dead* and *Nostalgia* (Sydney University Dramatic Society); and assistant director for *As You*

Like It (Sport for Jove Theatre Co). Their acting credits include: *Boom* (Slanted Theatre), *Attempts On Her Life* (Montague Basement), *As You Like It* (Sport for Jove), *Julius Caesar* (Little Spirits Theatre Co), *The Glass Menagerie* (SUDS), *Girl Band* (New Ghosts Theatre Co), *Shakeflix* and *A Time of Change* (Sport for Jove Second Age Project).



DOMINIQUE PURDUE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dominique is a Filipino-Australian actor based in Sydney. She graduated from the Academy of Film, Theatre and Television (AFTT) in 2020.

For New Theatre: Significant Other, The Other End of the Afternoon.

Other recent acting credits include: *Dumb Kids* (KXT/Legit Theatre Company), *Short Blanket* (Slanted Theatre Company/Meraki Arts Bar) and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Dominique made her playwrighting debut with *Misc.* co-written and co-starring Sophie Teo, which enjoyed a sold-out season as part of the Panimo Pandemonium Festival at KXT.

She made her directing debut with *Origin Story*, written by Eric Jiang, as part of the Everything but the Kitchen Sink Festival at Flight Path Theatre.

Dominique is touring with Bell Shakespeare's The Players Learning Ensemble in 2024. She is represented by Smith and Macdonald Creative Management.



BELLA WELLSTEAD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bella is a writer, director, and designer who is passionate about creating high-quality, low-budget, accessible theatre.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include numerous productions for SUDS: head set and costume designer, *The Lamentable Tragedy of Titus Andronicus*, set designer, *Rolleo and Juliet, She Rode Horses Like the Stock Exchange,* and *Accidental Death of An Anarchist,* costume designer, *Red* and *The Popular Mechanicals.* They designed and constructed puppets for

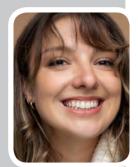
Everynight and acted as dramaturg for PLAY ON. Bella co-wrote and directed Arracket, was assistant director on Arcadia and had the privilege of directing the revival of Troy's House. They also designed costumes for Little Women (MUSE).





CALLUM ALEXANDER PANTHER & OTHERS

Callum is a graduate of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (2015). For New Theatre: Cats Talk Back, Consensual, After the Dance. Other theatre credits include Way Too Cool (Perform!), Russel (Old 505), Don Juan (Ripped Script) and The London Cuckolds (Bristol Old Vic). Callum is a proud member of MEAA/Equity.



GEORGIA BRITT LALLY

Since graduating from the University of Sydney with First Class Honours in Theatre & Performance Studies, Georgia has completed the NIDA Actors Studio and the Hub Studio 6-month Ensemble. A classically trained dancer, she has been working in Sydney theatre as an actor, dancer and deviser. For New Theatre: Debut.

Georgia recently toured NSW with German-based Fiona Leonard's *Seeds in your pocket,* which will be heading to LA in May. In 2023, she established Kittyhawk Theatre which produced its debut production, *Wolves Are*

Coming For You, at the Sydney Fringe Festival. Other recent theatre credits include 'Blanche' in A Streetcar Named Desire and 'M'Lynn' in Steel Magnolias (Genesian TC) and Things I Know to be True (Theatre on Chester).



TAMARA FOGLIA CASTANEDA ELECTRA

Tamara is an Indigenous Latinx performer who grew up in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. Born to immigrant parents from Chile and Argentina, and she began performing in dance and music theatre from a very young age. She completed her Acting BFA at NIDA in 2022. As a BIPOC creative and proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community, Tamara is passionate about increasing diversity in the industry. She aims to be the representation she so longed to see more of as a child.. For New Theatre: Debut.



LISA KELLY BELLA & OTHERS

Lisa is an actor and writer based in Sydney. Hailing from the Gold Coast, she graduated from the Actors Centre in May of 2022, and works in theatre education with NIDA Open and Belvoir Street Theatre. For New Theatre: *Pygmalion*.

Other credits include: Hamlet, A Doll's House, Our Country's Good, Arcadia, A Mouthful of Birds, and The Female of the Species (all ACA). Lisa is represented by Loxton Management.



JAMES LAU ALEX & OTHERS

James is a Chinese-Australian Actor & Creative born in Hong Kong and raised in Melbourne, Australia. James is a Graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and completed a BFA in Acting & Theatre Practice in 2017. James moved to Sydney in 2022 and this is his first stage production in Sydney.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other theatre credits include: *Dear Mama...* and *I, Me, She, Him* (Wit Incorporated), Ken's Quest (La Mama Theatre). TV credits include: *Glitch* (ABC/Netflix), *New Gold Mountain* (SBS), *A Former Lover Bakes Themselves Into a Pie*

(MQFF). James is represented by Victoria Jackson Management.



ALYONA POPOVA DOSSIE & OTHERS

Alyona is a Russian actress with a background in classical piano. She graduated from NIDA in 2021 with a BFA in Acting. She has always enjoyed the great (and rather serious) works of Shakespeare, Chekhov, Pinter, and Hare, but eventually found a strong love and knack (if she might say so herself) for comedy.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Genesian Theatre Co); and while at NIDA, *Uncle Vanya, The Master and Margarita, Nothing* osis.

and *Metamorphosis*. Alyona is represented by Kermond Management.



DALLAS REEDMAN DIEGO & OTHERS

Dallas trained at the Actors Centre Australia, graduating from the fulltime course in 2017.

For New Theatre: Breaking the Code.

Other credits include spending 2023 touring for Bell Shakespeare as part of the Players, performing in schools around the country, and a production of '*Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Company Theatre, at Flow Studios. Dallas has also appeared on ABC ME as a children's TV Host in shows like *Break the Future, News to Me* and *Good Game: Spawn Point*.



RENAE VALASTRO NY TAXI DRIVER & OTHERS

Renae is a multi-disciplinary artist working on Gadigal Land. She graduated from the Australian Performing Arts Conservatory while living in Queensland. Since then she has resided in Sydney and worked on a number of theatre productions.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: *Uz: The Town* (Sydney Fringe Festival). She is most known for her co-creation of and involvement in *Tough Titties*, which has been part of Sydney Fringe Festival, Sydney World Pride and Emerative Festival

most recently the Femeraki Festival.



LUKE VISENTIN DAVE/POP-OP & OTHERS

Luke graduated from NIDA in 2020.

For New Theatre: Control.

Other credits include: The Seagull and Twelfth Night (NIDA), Come Again and Rhomboid (KXT), Morning to Midnight (Opera Centre), Horizons Theatre puppet shows, Much Ado About Nothing and Hamlet tours, Wind in the Willows (ASC) and the short films Icarus and Lady May.

In January, he appeared in the extraordinary avant-guarde piece Sophia=Wisdom: The Cliffs, produced by Patrick Kennedy Phenomenological Theatre, in association with New Theatre.

ATLAS ANDREWS STAGE MANAGER

Atlas is an emerging theatre practitioner based in Sydney. They are especially passionate about Australian work, live cinema, and immersive theatre.

For New Theatre: ASM, All My Sons; Stage Manager, Banging Denmark.

Other credits include: Stage Manager, *Bottle Blondes* (Flight Path Theatre/Good Financial Decisions), Dome Operator, *Ignite* (Riverside Theatre), Stage Crew, *Noir Cabaret* (Southern Cross), and Lighting Assistant, *Aladdin Jr*. Upcoming projects include Stage Manager, *The Pigeons* (KXT on Broadway/The Other Theatre), as well as completing a Certificate III in Live Production Services.

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SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE 'ATLANTIS' TEAM

Robin Monkhouse; Costume and Props store manager, NIDA; Jordan Jones; Susan Ling Young; Amy's parents; Natania; Naomi Shen; Kaylee Ashton. New Theatre Management Committee, staff and volunteers

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