

SUNSET STRIP

BY SUZIE MILLER

9 JULY - 3 AUGUST 2024

SUNSET STRIP

CREATIVE TEAM

Director & Set Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Assistant Director

Annette van Roden
Casey Moon-Watton
Jay Murrin
Martin Kelly

CAST (in order of appearance)

Phoebe
Caroline
Dad
Teddy

Molly Haddon
Erica Nelson
Vincent Melton
Shane Davidson

PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Production Coordinator
Stage Manager
LX/SX Operators
Set Construction/Bump-in

Scenic Art
Production Photography

Gemma Greer
Marc Monnet-Demarbre
Jay Murrin, Violet Powter
Annette van Roden, Tom Bannerman
Rodger Wishart, Jay Murrin
David Marshall-Martin
Paris Burrowes
Chris Lundie

In loving memory of Leonie Zumamer

“Courage is found in unlikely places.” - JRR Tolkien

‘There is no value in life except what you choose to place upon it and no happiness in any place except what you bring to it yourself.’ - Henry David Thoreau

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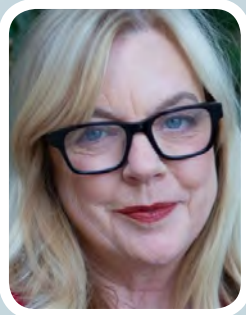
THE BEST SEATS - ON THE HOUSE!

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.

**INTERESTED? CONTACT OUR THEATRE MANAGER:
MANAGER@NEWTHEATRE.ORG.AU**

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.



SUZIE MILLER PLAYWRIGHT

Suzie Miller was born in Melbourne and now shares her time between London and Sydney.

She is a graduate of Monash University, the University of NSW and NIDA (playwriting). She worked as a human rights lawyer before moving to London, with her husband and two children, to pursue full time writing for theatre.

Her first play, *Cross Sections*, was based on contemporary stories from the experience of working as a lawyer for homeless youth in Sydney's Kings Cross. It premiered at the Old Fitz Theatre before transferring to Sydney Opera House.

She has written many plays since then but came to global attention with *Prima Facie*, which won the Griffin Award, the Australian Writers' Guild's Major AWGIE Award and the David Williamson Award for outstanding Theatre Writing and then went on to win the 2023 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play. The play was a huge success in the West End in London and on Broadway in New York. She has now adapted it for the screen and as a novel.

Sunset Strip was first produced by Griffin Theatre in 2017.

Suzie Miller talking about her play before its first production:-

"I especially wanted to write a play that had two strong women characters up front and centre; they are the main story of this play. I make no apologies for the very female nature of the storytelling — how women talk, relate and move through life. Indeed I fully embrace and celebrate it. But the male characters in this play are also fundamental to the telling of the story. Everyone in 'Sunset Strip' is confronting their fears."

'Human beings are remarkable at finding hope in the hardest and most unlikely places. Strangely it is this mixture of hope and horror that drew me to the world of this play. Because in being lost, ill, getting old, having cancer, melting down or screwing up — we are at our most human, and sometimes that's the place where the best laughs are.'

Helen Tonkin, New Theatre Artistic Associate, 2024

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As soon as I began to read the script, I wanted to breathe life into Suzie Miller's beautiful world and immerse myself and the actors in each character's life.

I love the way all of the characters show strength through vulnerability. People cope with life's traumas in different ways, and this play explores those differences without judgement. While the themes canvassed may seem 'heavy' - addiction, cancer, dementia, grief - the way they are handled is delicate and humane and often very funny. These are issues that will have touched most people's lives but we often find hard to talk about. This play creates a touchstone to start thinking about having the difficult conversations.

I'm excited to bring this play to New Theatre's stage because it's an intimate space that allows for great flexibility in staging and the team is wonderfully supportive.

Annette van Roden, 2024

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ANNETTE VAN RODEN DIRECTOR & SET DESIGNER

Annette has freelanced as a creative for many years, co-developing and managing several of her own production companies including an animatronic display company and a children's entertainment company. Fourteen years ago she developed a business specialising in diversional therapy entertainment which she performs for residents in aged care facilities. She also works as an actor specialising in emotionally complex, immersive improvisational role play as part of an education team focusing on difficult conversations and dealing with bad news.

For New Theatre: actor, *Marat/Sade*, *Collaborators*.

Actively involved in community theatre both as an actor and director, Annette has appeared in *The Addams Family Musical*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Stepping Out*, *Steaming* and *Things I Know To Be True*, as well as directing *The Sum of Us*, *Proof*, *And Then There Were None*, *The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged)*, *Calendar Girls*, *Dark Voyager* and *A Few Good Men*.

JAY MURRIN SOUND DESIGNER/OPERATOR

Jay is fairly new to theatre, coming from a design background (B. Vis com). He has spent the past year assisting technical management at New Theatre. He is currently in his final year of a music and sound production under graduate degree.

For New Theatre: Technical Assistant/Operator, *Ballad of Maria Marten*, *Homos*, or *Everyone in America*, *Atlantis*, *The Front Page*, *Ink*.



MARTIN KELLY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Martin has a Certificate 1V in Audio Engineering and a daytime job as a research manager.

For New Theatre: actor and production manager, *The Wild Duck*, sound operator, *Into the Woods*, sound designer, *The Witches*, production manager and supervisor, *Woman in the Window*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Traitors*, *Gasping*, *Equus*, *Jerusalem*, *The Women* and *Marat Sade*, production manager and assistant director, *Wolf Lullaby*, assistant director, *Broadway Bound* and *Collaborators*.

Work with other companies includes *Bedtime for Bastards* (Under the Table Productions/Cat and Fiddle) and Mark Ravenhill's *Handbag* (Focus Theatre/Seymour Centre).

Martin was a co-founder and director of Newtown Flicks, an annual festival for aspiring film-makers held in Sydney's inner west.





SHANE DAVIDSON TEDDY

Shane is a Sydney-based actor whose training includes NIDA, Actors College of Theatre and Television, Actors Centre, Northers Rivers Conservatorium of Arts, Howard Fine and Greg Apps.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other theatre credits include: *Howard Fine Scenes* (Bondi Pavilion), *Marathon* (Franko Milostnik Productions/Tap Gallery), *The Amaranth* (Molotov Theatre Co), *Dracula* (Four Seasons Theatre), *Short & Sweet*, *Hotel Sorrento* (ACTT), *The Crucible* and *Satan Place* (Rochdale Theatre Lismore), *Sometimes My Friend* and *Sign of the Times* (Kempsey Players Theatre).

Screen credits include: *Black Comedy*, *Neighbours*, *Home and Away*, *In Our Blood*, *Cops LAC*, *Old School*, *All Saints*, *Deadly Women*. He has also appeared in TVCs for Woolworths, Vodafone, ANZ, Hahn, KFC, Westfield and Youii.



MOLLY HADDON PHOEBE

Molly is Sydney based actor and director. She now works predominantly behind the scenes in film so she is always thrilled to perform on stage when she can. She began acting in her teens and went on to study film after school. Since then, she has directed multiple award-winning short films and music videos and in 2022 her debut feature film *The Longest Weekend* premiered at Sydney Film Festival and later screened at Brisbane International Film Festival, Darwin International Film Festival and Melbourne Queer Film Festival. She studied acting at Screenwise,

NIDA Open and Sydney Acting Studio.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other theatre credits include: *Steel Magnolias*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily*, *Towards Zero*, *Figaro*, *A Murder Is Announced* (Genesian Theatre), *Mrs McKenna And The Female Home* (Peach Productions), *Two Quarters Full* (Flight Path Theatre), *The Tender Age* (Version 1.0/ATYP), *Cursed Hearts* (ATYP).



VINCENT MELTON DAD

Vince is no stranger to the stage, having appeared in over 30 plays in Sydney, Canberra and regional locations. Vince has undertaken training as an actor at NIDA and The Actors Centre but says the best training he ever got was working with dramaturg Nico Lathouris on a feature film.

For New Theatre: Debut.

On screen, he has enjoyed a number of guest roles in old favorites such as *Home and Away*, *Water Rats*, *All Saints*, plus a lot of film work as well as many commercials. He has also done corporate work, most recently

appearing as Ben Chifley for Bathurst City Council.



ERICA NELSON CAROLINE

Erica is an actor and producer based in Sydney. Her training includes a Bachelor of Arts (Performance Studies) at the University of Sydney, programs at Sydney Acting Studio, the Hub Studio, AMAW, and Darlo Drama, and the Screen Actors Studio at NIDA.

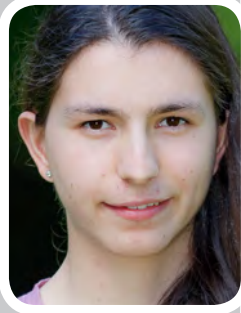
For New Theatre: *Hating Alison Ashley*.

For other companies: *The Secrets Of Carmichael Manor* (Dark Stories), *Cloudstreet* (Lane Cove Theatre Company), *Young Bodies/Somebody's* (Theatre Travels), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (The Acting Factory), *Closer* (Paradox Productions), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Three Sisters* and *Cosi* (Darlo Drama).

Screen appearances include: *Elysium* (AFTRS), *Under the Trees* (Grounded Productions), *Love and Fear* (Atmosphere Pictures), *Alessandra* (Australian Film Base), *Super Wog* (Century Entertainment).

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<http://newtheatrehistory.org.au>



MARC MONNET-DEMARBRES STAGE MANAGER

Marc has recently graduated high school and is embarking on his theatre career. He is currently studying a Certificate III in Live Production Services at TAFE.

For New Theatre: Assistant Stage Manager, *Ink*.

He has previous lighting production experience as the Dome Operator for *La Cage aux Folles Musical* at the State Theatre.

VIOLET POWTER OPERATOR

Violet is currently studying a Bachelor of Media Arts and Production at University of Technology Sydney.

For New Theatre: Debut.

She has previously participated in many theatre workshops including programs at The Australian Film Television and Radio School, The National Institute of Dramatic Art and The Australian Theatre for Young People.



COMING NEXT

HANGMEN

BY MARTIN MCDONAGH

13 AUG - 14 SEP



WHO'S WHO AT NEW THEATRE 2024

STAFF

**THEATRE MANAGER &
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**
Gemma Greer

PUBLICIST
Alice Livingstone

TECHNICAL MANAGER
Mehran Mortezaei

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGERS
Eddy S Dharmadji (Coordinator)
Marica Fumanti
Harlee Timms

PLAY ASSESSORS

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
Rosane McNamara

VICE PRESIDENT
Elizabeth Ivory

TREASURER
Michael Pedersen

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Louise Fischer

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE
Helen Tonkin

PREMISE MANAGER & LICENSEE
Dr David Marshall-Martin JP

SECRETARY (EX-OFFICIO)
Gemma Greer

EMERITUS THEATRE CAT
'Mouse'

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SUMMER HILL WINE SHOP

If you are interested in becoming a New Theatre Partner, please contact our Theatre Manager to discuss your options: manager@newtheatre.org.au

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 'SUNSET STRIP' TEAM

Barry French (set consultant). Emmanuel Said (prompt reader), Todd Beilby and Ash Urquhart
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
- \$25 tickets to all productions
- Voting rights at company meetings and the eligibility to stand for Management Committee positions
- Use theatre facilities at discounted rates

IF YOU LIKE WHAT WE DO, HELP US DO WHAT WE DO

PLEASE CONSIDER:

NAMING A 'STEP' - \$150

MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

LEAVING A BEQUEST

SPONSORING A PRODUCTION

CONTACT OUR THEATRE MANAGER TO DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS

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