

# **FIGHTING**

## **BY XAVIER COY**

18 MAR - 12 APR 2025

# FIGHTING

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director  
Set Designer  
Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Sound Designer

Xavier Coy  
Tom Bannerman  
Hansen  
Robin Legal  
Mehran Mortezaei

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Character A  
Character B  
Character C

Jay James-Moody  
David Woodland  
Sophie Highmore

## PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Production Coordinator  
Stage Manager / Operator  
Set Construction/Bump-in

Production Photography

Gemma Greer  
Alastor Gooley  
Tom Bannerman, Stuart Corner  
Owen Hirschfeld, Synyee Hong  
David Marshall-Martin  
Adrian Stark, Rodger Wishart  
Chris Lundie

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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.

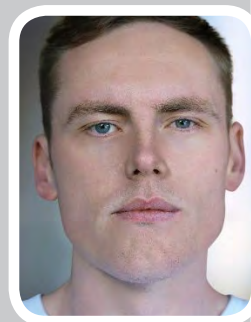
**INTERESTED? CONTACT OUR THEATRE MANAGER:  
MANAGER@NEWTHEATRE.ORG.AU**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I wrote this play in the weeks after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder. I'd spent a long time struggling with my mental health and after finally receiving my diagnosis and facing life with an answer I did a lot of introspection and looked into how bipolar was depicted and understood. It was pretty upsetting to see how my disease was being represented. That's what led to me writing *Fighting*.

This play is raw and by far the most personal I've ever written. I had to write it that way in order to achieve what I wanted. I wanted the audience to understand that we're not crazy. The difficulties are deeply rooted in psychology and thought patterns which attach themselves to physical symptoms and states. But I didn't want to write trauma porn. This play needed comedy throughout because if you don't laugh then you cry. Ultimately, I want an audience to do both those things and in the process be able to empathize a little because things that most people experience, sadness, anxiety, fear, are in bipolar, just to a much more intense level.

Xavier Coy 2025



### XAVIER COY PLAYWRIGHT / DIRECTOR

Xavier is an award-winning writer, director, actor and producer based in Sydney. For New Theatre: actor, *The Removalists*, *Harvest*.

For theatre, Xavier has written *Smokin' Joe*, *Distorted*, *Are You Listening Now?*, *Caught Out* and *Not Even God Can Save Us*. He has also been part of the KXT Teethcutting program and the writer's festival at KXT.

For screen, he wrote on Channel 10's *Five Bedrooms*, his short film *Fighting* and his upcoming feature film *Unremarkable*, as well as being part of writing rooms with TV production companies across Sydney.

He currently has many projects in development including a musical about a battle of morning TV between Karl Stefanovic and Grant Denyer.

Xavier started directing plays over a decade ago. His most recent productions were his satire *Not Even God Can Save Us* which is in development for a film adaptation with his company, *Caught Out* which won the Sydney Fringe Award for best new play, his short film adaptation of the play *Fighting* which premiered at Sydney Film Festival and *Unremarkable*, produced by his company Blazing Battle Productions.



### TOM BANNERMAN SET DESIGNER

Tom is a Sydney-based set-designer. His body-of-work is considerable, with *The Flea* marking his 292st production, including 80 set-designs for New Theatre.

His most recent New Theatre productions are *The Flea*, *Ink*, *The Ballad of Maria Marten*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Chimerica*, *The Spook*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Neighbourhood Watch*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Pygmalion*, *My Night with Reg*, *The Elements of an Offence*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The HIV Monologues*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Marat/Sade*, *That Eye/The Sky*, *The Ritz*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *Dying for It* and *Jerusalem*.

For other theatres: *Isolde and Tristan* (Sport For Jove at Old Fitz Theatre), *Stories from the Violins of Hope* (Bondi Pavilion), *The Wasps*, *Just Macbeth!* and *Tales of the Wild Bush* (NSW Public Schools Drama Co, The Studio, NIDA), *A Day at the Beach*, *House on Fire* (South Sydney High School), *Wild Thing* (NSW tour and Flight Path Theatre), *Love from a Stranger* and *Sherlock Holmes & the Death on Thor Bridge* (Genesian Theatre), *The Real Inspector Hound*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelve Angry Men* and *Amadeus* (Saint Aloysius' College), *Eight Gigabytes of Pornography* and *Mark Colvin's Kidney* (Drill Hall Mullumbimby), *Things I know to be True*, *Endgame* and *Charley's Aunt* (Civic Playhouse, Newcastle)



### ROBIN LEGAL LIGHTING DESIGNER

Robin is a French lighting technician and designer with experience in live performance and events. He trained in audiovisual techniques at GRIM EDIF in Lyon, France, and worked as a stage manager for Tech&Live, Eurosono Group (@eurosonogroupe on Instagram) for three years while completing his apprenticeship.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Robin has worked on a variety of productions, from theatre to architectural lighting projects and sports events, and has also worked on festivals, including Garma Festival and Darwin Festival in Australia, as well as Rhythm and Alps in New Zealand.

He is currently based in Sydney and continues to expand his career in Australia's theatre and event industries.

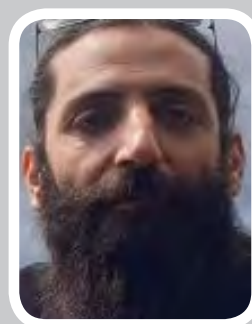
## HANSEN COSTUME DESIGNERS

Hansen is a collaboration dating back to 2011. The duo cut their teeth in underground theatre, designing costumes and sets for multiple productions, and have kept working together ever since even though their paths have taken them in very different directions. Collectively, they have designed costumes and sets for much of Xavier Coy's stage work, including productions of *After Dinner*, *Moody Woods*, *Not Even God Can Save Us* and *Caught Out*.

One part of the duo has remained working in Australia whilst the other has spent much time abroad. The Australian-based member has worked eclectically, contributing designs to a homewares line, a cocktail bar and designed a series of high-end dog harnesses, in addition to a variety of screen work.

The other worked extensively throughout Europe where they completed a residency with Romanian theatre maker Daciana Cazacu before interning for Mongolian performance artist Baatar Batbayar.

For New Theatre: Debut.



## MEHRAN MORTEZAEI SOUND DESIGNER

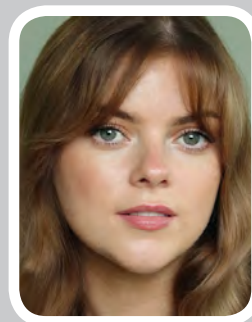
Mehran started his theatre journey in high school, then continued it academically to get Masters in Theatre and Performing Arts. He has worked on more than 150 productions as a writer, director, designer, stage manager, and actor in Iran, NSW, Qld, and Denmark.

For New Theatre: Lighting Designer, Sydney Fringe Festival (2018 and 2019), *Off the Record*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Beautiful Thing*, *Removalists*, *Neighbourhood Watch*, *Pygmalion*, *My Night With Reg*, *Broadway Bound*, *Australia Day*, *Enron*; Sound Designer, *Hangmen*.

Other credits: Sound/Lighting Designer, *The Unpleasant State of Being* (Lighthouse Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Zenith Theatre),

*Act of Faith* (King Street Theatre), *Educating Rita*, *The Big Meal* (Depot Theatre), Lighting Designer, *Dorian Grey Naked* (Limelight), Balmain Sinfonia (Italian Forum), Australian Chamber Orchestra, and *Persuasion* (Genesian Theatre Co) for which he won Broadway Australia awards for Best Lighting Design and Best Sound Design.

Mehran is Technical Manager at New Theatre.



## SOPHIE HIGHMORE CHARACTER C

Originally from Canberra, Sophie is now a Sydney-based actor, singer, dancer and choreographer. She completed a Diploma of Musical Theatre at NIDA before graduating from Actors Centre Australia with a Bachelor's Degree of Performing Arts (Stage and Screen).

For New Theatre: *Ink*.

Her other theatre credits include: *Three Sisters*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Libertine*, *The Boys*, and *The Laramie Project* (ACA). Her musical theatre credits include: *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Little Mermaid* and *42nd Street* (Free Rain Theatre Company) for which she won a CAT award and Canberra Critics Circle award for her role as Peggy Sawyer.

She choreographed *Cinderella* (SMS) and *Urinetown* (USYD) in 2024. She is currently choreographing MUSE's upcoming production of *Dogfight the Musical*.

Sophie has been a proud member of MEAA since 2023.

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#### JAY JAMES-MOODY CHARACTER A

Jay is an award-winning actor, director, writer, and producer, was the creator and Artistic Director of acclaimed boutique company Squabbalagic, was a co-founder of Sydney's prestigious Hayes Theatre Co, and professionally debuted in *Jerry Springer The Opera* at the Sydney Opera House.

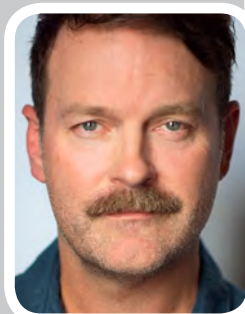
For New Theatre: *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Director), *The Venetian Twins* (Tonino/Zanetto).

Theatre acting credits Include: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Sport For Jove); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Cheery Soul* (Sydney Theatre Company); *A Christmas Carol*, *A Year With Frog*

and *Toad* (Ensemble); *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*; *Herringbone*, *Nine, Of Thee I Sing*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Ordinary Days*, *A New Brain*, [title of show], *Reefer Madness* (Squabbalagic); *She Loves Me* (Hayes Theatre Co); *West Side Story* (Opera Australia); *The Book of Mormon* (Gordon Frost).

Other credits include: conceiving and co-writing *The Dismissal: An Extremely Serious Musical Comedy* with Blake Erickson & Laura Murphy; co-writing *Caught Out* with Xavier Coy & Lloyd Allison Young; co-writing *Good Omens* based on the best-selling novel with Vicki Larnach & Jim Hare; revising and adapting *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*; and adapting John Wyndham's novel *The Day of the Triffids*.

Jay was awarded a Mike Walsh Fellowship in 2022, and works produced and directed by Jay have amassed over 40 excellence award nominations, occasionally winning a few.



#### DAVID WOODLAND CHARACTER B

For New Theatre: *Wolf Lullaby*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*.

Recent theatre credits include: *The Importance of Being Earnest Expedited* - 3 actors playing all roles (Kings Cross Bordello Room).

New Australian work includes: *In This Light* by Noel Hodda (Flight Path Theatre), *Distorted* (Fixed Foot Productions), *Never Let Me Go* (Griffin Theatre) and *Caught Out* (Fixed Foot Productions/Bondi Feast).

Other productions include: *Nautilus-A Voyage to the Deep* (Monkey Baa/The Australian National Maritime Museum), *Being Norwegian* and *Wittenberg* (Brevity Theatre Company/Old Fitz) and *Year of the Family*

(Tooth and Sinew/KXT), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (ETC), *The Comedy Of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare By the Sea Farewell Season 2011).



#### ALASTOR GOOLEY STAGE MANAGER / OPERATOR

Alastor has their Certificate 3 in Live Entertainment and Technical services, and has done over 50 hours of short volunteer work for various theatres and productions. This is their second production at New Theatre and first official SM position outside of school.

For New Theatre: ASM, *Hangmen*.

Other experiences includes productions for Belco Arts, Mosman Art Gallery and Mosman High School.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT NEW THEATRE?**

**VISIT OUR HISTORY WEBSITE:**

**<http://newtheatrehistory.org.au>**



# COMING NEXT

## IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY BY SARAH RUHL

22 APR - 17 MAY



## WHO'S WHO AT NEW THEATRE 2025

### STAFF

THEATRE MANAGER &  
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR  
Gemma Greer (on leave)

A/THEATRE MANAGER  
Chad Traupmann

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  
Margaret Thanos

LITERARY MANAGER  
Helen Tonkin

PREMISE MANAGER & LICENSEE  
Dr David Marshall-Martin JP

SECRETARY (EX-OFFICIO)  
Gemma Greer

EMERITUS THEATRE CAT  
'Mouse'

## *MANY THANKS TO NEW THEATRE'S PARTNERS*

SUMMER HILL WINE SHOP

YOUNG HENRYS BREWERY NEWTOWN

If you are interested in becoming a New Theatre Partner, please contact our Theatre Manager to discuss your options: [manager@newtheatre.org.au](mailto: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](http://newtheatre.org.au) or contact [manager@newtheatre.org.au](mailto:manager@newtheatre.org.au)

## *SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE 'FIGHTING' TEAM*

New Theatre Management Committee, staff and volunteers.

## *NEW THEATRE MEMBERSHIP*

If you want to join the New Theatre family, why not become a member? 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 (+ bf) tickets to all productions
- Discounts at the bar
- Voting rights at company meetings and the eligibility to stand for Management Committee positions
- Use theatre facilities at discounted rates
- Participation in *Hold Cold Reads* – our series of 'cold reads' cast on a first-come basis

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**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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