

# THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS

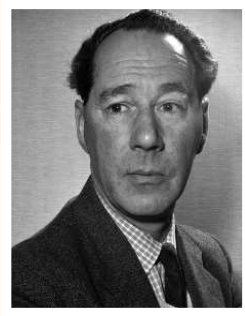
BY JOHN WYNDHAM  
REALISED BY J. JAMES-MOODY

30 JUN - 25 JUL  
2026



THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS was originally commissioned by Squabbalogue Independent Music Theatre Inc, and developed with the generous participation of Justin Amankwah, Chiara Assetta, Benjamin Brockman, James Brown, Andrew Cutcliffe, Briana Dunn, Emma Harvie, Glenn Hazeldine, Lauren Holmes, Jessica James-Moody, Bron Lim, Tony Llewellyn-Jones, Penny MacNamee, Mandela Mathia, Kenney Ogilvie, Adele Querol, Hayden Tonazzi, Lyndal Tuckey, Victoria Wildie, and Matthew Whittet.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is written by J. James-Moody, based on the novel by John Wyndham. With kind permission of the Wyndham Estate.



### John Wyndham 1903-1969

John Wyndham was an English science-fiction writer who examined the human struggle for survival when catastrophic natural phenomena suddenly invade a comfortable English setting.

Born in Warwickshire, UK, John Wyndham Parkes Lucas Beynon Harris was the son of a barrister. After trying a number of careers, including farming, law, commercial art and advertising, he started writing short stories in 1925. After serving during the Second World War he went back to writing. He started writing a form of science fiction that he called 'logical fantasy'.

During the Second World War, Wyndham first served as a censor in the Ministry of Information before joining the Royal Signal Corps as a cipher operator in 1943. He participated in the Normandy Landing on June 6, 1944, and left the service in August, 1946. He drew on his experiences as a firewatcher during the London Blitz and as a member of the Home Guard in *The Day of the Triffids*.

*The Day of the Triffids* was published in 1951. The Times's reviewer described it as possessing "all the reality of a vividly realised nightmare."

His other work includes *The Kraken Wakes* (1953), *The Chrysalids* (1955), *The Midwich Cuckoos* (1957; filmed as *The Village of the Damned*, 1960), and *The Trouble with Lichen* (1960). His short stories are collected in *Consider Her Ways* (1961) and *The Seeds of Time* (1969).

The Guardian: "innocuously English backdrops are central to the power of his novels, implying that apocalypse could occur at any time — or, indeed, be happening in the next village at this moment".

Main image: © Canva Stock; Vintage Collection/Alamy; Composition: Maddy Withington  
Production images: © Bob Seary





## CREATIVES

Director J. James-Moody  
Lighting Designer Holly Nesbitt  
Sound Designer Aubtin Namdar  
Production Designer J. James-Moody  
Costume Associate Alysia Butlin  
Intimacy Co-ordinator Sonya Kerr  
Associate Directors Angela Yarad, Carla Te Paa  
Sound Assistant Cameron Hissey  
Lighting Assistants Marc Monnet-Demarbre,  
Ron Abuhalaiqa.

---

## CAST

Bill James Collins  
Susan/Ensemble Claudia Elbourne  
Walter/Ensemble Nathan Farrow  
Dennis/Ensemble Tony Llewellyn-Jones  
Mary/Ensemble Kate Mannix  
Torrence/Ensemble Max Ryan  
Josella Umai Shantharajah  
Coker/Ensemble Natasha Todd

---

## PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Stage Manager Matilda Holton  
Operator Ricci Costa  
Technician Jay Murrin  
Set Construction Crew Tom Bannerman, Rodger Wishart,  
David Marshall Martin

---

Running time: 2hrs with no interval.

**Please note:** This production contains scenes of prolonged darkness, loud sounds, smoke and haze effects, depictions of violence, and some coarse language.

---

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Gadigal, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



## BIOGRAPHIES



### J. JAMES-MOODY DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION DESIGNER/PLAYWRIGHT

Jay is an award-winning actor, director, writer, and producer, was the creator and Artistic Director of acclaimed boutique company Squabbalagic (2006-2023), was a co-founder of Sydney's prestigious Hayes Theatre Co, and professionally debuted in *Jerry Springer The Opera* at the Sydney Opera House.

As Director: *The Golden Age of Broadway* (Sydney Opera House); *Bring It On* (WAAPA); *Straight From The Hart* (Noosa Long Weekend); *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*, *Nine*, *Herringbone* (with Michael Ralph), *The Original Grease*, *Grey Gardens*, *Hello, Dolly!* (with Dean Vince), *Triassic Park*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Carrie*, [title of show] (with Daniel Jacobs), *Thrill Me*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *Reefer Madness*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Squabbalagic); *Tick... Tick... BOOM!* (New Line Theatricals), *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (New Theatre).

As Actor: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Cheery Soul* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Sport For Jove); *A Christmas Carol*, *A Year With Frog and Toad* (Ensemble); *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*; *Her-ringbone*, *Nine*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Drowsy Chaper-one*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Ordinary Days*, *A New Brain*, [title of show], *Reef-er Madness* (Squabbalagic); *She Loves Me* (Hayes Theatre Co); *West Side Story* (Opera Australia); *The Book of Mormon* (Gordon Frost); *Fighting*, *The Venetian Twins* (New Theatre).

Other credits include conceiving, co-writing and directing *The Dismissal: An Extremely Serious Musical Comedy*; co-writing *Caught Out*; co-writing the musical adaptation of the best-selling novel *Good Omens*; and revising and adapting *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*.

He was awarded a Mike Walsh Fellowship in 2022, and productions produced and directed by him have amassed over 40 excellence award nominations, occasionally winning a few, most recently the Australian Writers Guild Award for Musical Theatre and The David Williamson Prize, both for *The Dismissal*.



### HOLLY NESBITT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Holly is an emerging lighting designer who has been working on Gadigal land professionally for the last two years. She graduated from NIDA in 2023 and spent 2024 working in various venues as a technician, including the Sydney Opera House.

As Lighting Designer: *The Frogs: In Hell They Sing Show Tunes*, *Stage Kiss* (New Theatre); *We Aren't Kids Anymore* (Little Big Theatre Co/Qtopia); *Traffic Light Party* (Jezebel Productions/KXT); *Gia Ophelia* (JB Theatre Co/KXT); *As You Like It* (Fingerless Theatre Co/Flight Path).



### AUBTIN NAMDAR SOUND DESIGNER

Aubtin is a seasoned educator, musician, and all round technical creative with a long-standing passion for sound and storytelling. He completed a Bachelor of Music (Music Education) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2006 and currently serves as the Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts at Glenmore Park High School. Beyond the classroom, Aubtin has contributed to more than forty theatrical productions across Sydney, working as Musical Director, Technical Director, and Sound Designer. His work blends musical sensitivity with technical precision, bringing depth, atmosphere, and imagination to every production he joins.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Aubtin's New Theatre debut and his latest collaboration with director J. James-Moody.



### ALYSIA BUTLIN COSTUME ASSOCIATE

Alysia is passionate about costume making and the art of sewing. She graduated from Ultimo TAFE in 2024, studying Fashion Production, Costume for Live Theatre and Millinery.

Her experience includes the *Sydney Wearable Art Show* at Enmore Theatre and working on the costume team for *Home and Away* (Channel 7), constructing garments and props for screen production. She has also worked in bridal fashion, contributing to designer gowns, photoshoots and events.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Alysia's New Theatre debut.



### CARLA TE PAA ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

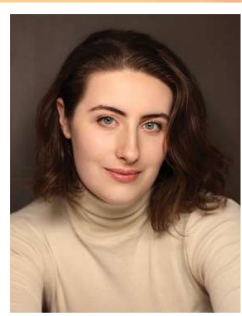
Carla is an Aotearoa-born actor and emerging creative who graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2022 with a Diploma of Musical Theatre. Since graduating, she has continued to expand her practice across theatre, screen, and creative development.

As Actor: *Under Milk Wood* (ATYP); *Scene Dating* (Old Fitz Theatre); Elphaba Alternate/ Ensemble Swing: *Wicked* (North Shore Music Theatre); Betty Rizzo: *Grease* (Harlequin Musical Theatre); *Pacifica* (Black Grace Dance Company); *Mamma Mia!* (Amici Productions).

Screen credits include: *Rhythm of Resilience* (Splice Productions).

In 2021, Carla was awarded the NAPTA iTICKET Scholarship in recognition of her emerging talent and supporting the next stage of her career.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Carla's New Theatre debut.



### ANGELA YARAD ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Angela is a multidisciplinary artist who graduated from Screenwise with a Diploma of Acting in 2019.

Her work includes the poetry collection *Songs for Sleep* (2023) and appearances in several short films. Angela also writes for stage and screen, with a focus on developing original work.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Angela's New Theatre debut.



### SONYA KERR INTIMACY COORDINATOR

Sonya is an actor, voice over artist and intimacy director. She has worked extensively in Melbourne and Sydney, appearing in both stage and screen roles.

As Intimacy Director: *Stage Kiss, In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play, Banging Denmark, The Ballad of Maria Martin, Atlantis and Homos, or Everyone in America* (New Theatre); *Es & Flo* (Mi Todo Productions); *FOAM* (Qtopia); *Ophelia Thinks Harder* (Fingerless Theatre); *Much Ado* (Attractive, Not Model Attractive); *Ninety* (Actors Pulse Theatre).

As Actor: *Hangmen, August: Osage County, The Angry Brigade, Next Lesson* (New Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew* (Playwright Productions); *Dungeons & Dragons; The Twenty Sided Tavern* (Showpath Entertainment/David Carpenter); *The Government Inspector* (Fingerless Theatre); *The Sweet Science of Bruising, In Their Footsteps* (Theatre Travels); *Silenced* (Vox Theatre); *Seed Bomb, Shut Up and Drive, A Quiet Night in Rangoon, One Way Mirror* (Subtlenuance); *As You Like It, Macbeth* (SheShakespeare); *The Auxiliary, Macbeth* (Phrankly Theatre - Melb).

Sonya has appeared in several short films including the award-winning *Vector*, which she also co-produced. She has also narrated many audiobooks and worked as an historical consultant on several projects.







### JAMES COLLINS BILL

James Collins is an actor from Port Stephens and a graduate of the Actors Centre Australia. He recently appeared as Danny Miller in *Port* at KXT on Broadway, which earned a Sydney Theatre Award nomination.

As Actor: *Romeo: Romeo and Juliet*, Gerry Evans: *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Danceny: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (ACA); Henry Newlove/Arthur Somerset: *The Flea* (Patrick Kennedy Theatre Machine/New Theatre); Danny Miller: *Port* (KXT).



### CLAUDIA ELBOURNE SUSAN/ENSEMBLE

Claudia is a passionate multidisciplinary artist working as an actor, director, educator and producer.

As Actor: Maya: *Snowflake*, Mel: *She Threaded Dangerously* (The Old Fitz Theatre); Juliet: *Romeo & Juliet*, Helena: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, assorted roles including Miranda, Abigail Williams, Hero, Beatrice, Titania, Emilia, Jessica & Nerissa: *Education Symposiums* (Sport for Jove); Nina: *The Seagull*, Romaine Patterson & Aaron Kreifels: *The Laramie Project*, Tiresias: *Antigone*, Lady Anne: *Richard III*, (ACA)

As Producer/Director: Host/Producer: *Senseless and Fitz* (The Old Fitz Theatre); Associate Producer: *The Shakespeare Carnival* (Sport for Jove); Producer: *Sotoba Komachi* (New Ghosts); Producer/Director: *Julius Caesar* (Little Spirits); Co-Producer: *These Youths Be Protesting* (Blinking Light); Co-Producer: *The Roaches & The Boot* (Studio 5 Productions); Director/Co-Producer: *She Threaded Dangerously* (Senseless Productions).

Screen credits include: Susannah Shakespeare: *Venus & Adonis* (Sport for Jove).

Claudia launched their own production company, Senseless Productions, in 2025, with the world premiere of *She Threaded Dangerously* at the Old Fitz Theatre.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Claudia's New Theatre debut.





### NATHAN FARROW WALTER/ENSEMBLE

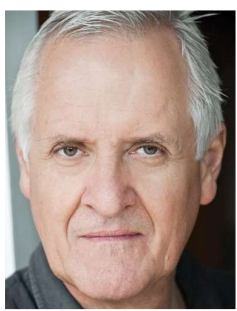
Nathan is an actor, writer, and director. He was born into a theatre family and has been performing for nearly forty years.

As Actor: Anthony: *Love All* (Roseville Story); Mr Sud: *The Pot Boiler* (Bittersweet); Ned Alleyn: *Shakespeare In Love*, Harry Wade: *The Hangmen* (New Theatre); Andy: *Love Letters* (Guild Theatre); Gomez: *The Addams Family* (MMT); Second Man: *Kiss Me, Kate*, French Ambassador: *Of Thee I Sing* (Squabbalagic).

As Director: *Ambrosia* (Grumpy Mandrake), *An Inspector Calls* (Guild Theatre), *The Good Doctor* (Woodstock), *Art* (Woodstock)

Short films he has written and directed include *The Picture In The House* and *Bernadinos*.

He has a Masters Degree in Screenwriting from The London Film School, which he isn't using enough. His adaptation of *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* was performed at The Genesis Theatre.



### TONY LLEWELLYN-JONES DENNIS/ENSEMBLE

Tony graduated from NIDA in 1971, and since then he has worked at The Melbourne Theatre Company, The Sydney Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare, Nimrod, Marian St Theatre, Belvoir Theatre, and The Hayes Theatre. This is his second appearance at New Theatre, the first being *Club Cockroach* in 1995.

As Actor: *North by Northwest*, *Yes Prime Minister*.

Tony will soon reprise the role of Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady* for Opera Australia later this year.



### KATE MANNIX MARY/ENSEMBLE

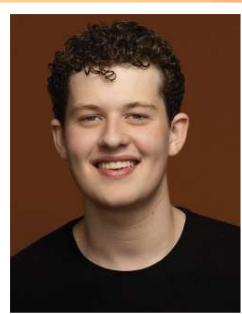
Kate trained for the theatre at the Webber-Douglas Academy in London.

As Actor (UK): *The Biograph Girl* (Phoenix Theatre, West End); *Taming of the Shrew* (Cliveden Castle, Buckinghamshire); *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (Connaught Theatre, Sussex); *Having a Ball* (UK National Tour).

As Actor (Aust): Judy: *It Shoulda Been You* (Independent Theatre/Riverside Theatres); Jenny: *The Secret Singer* (Eternity Theatre); *Mary Poppins* (The Concourse); *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Pavilion Theatre); *Florence Foster*

*Jenkins: Glorious!*

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Kate's New Theatre debut.



### MAX RYAN TORRENCE, ENSEMBLE

Max is an award-winning actor who has worked extensively with Sport for Jove Theatre Co over the last 15 years, performing much of Shakespeare's canon in that time. He is passionate about reimagining classical works, developing new Australian theatre, and collaborating with like-minded industry people.

As Actor: *The Player Kings*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Sport For Jove).

Screen credits include: *A Stable For Horses* (Fossil Films) *How To Eat The Sun* (Senseless Productions) *Venus & Adonis* (Sport For Jove).

Max is represented by Sophie Jermyn Management.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Max's New Theatre debut.



### UMAI SHANTHARAJAH JOSELLA

Umai is an Australian Sri Lankan actor and a 2024 graduate of Actors Centre Australia. Since graduating, she has worked with Bell Shakespeare as part of The Players Program performing a range of characters across Shakespeare's plays. She will also appear in an upcoming Australian feature film.

As Actor: *Machinal*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Our Country's Good* (ACA).

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Umai's New Theatre debut.



### NATASHA TODD COKER, ENSEMBLE

Originally from the UK, Natasha began her acting training with the Theatre School of Scotland's youth program before continuing her studies in London with The Actors Crib. Since moving to Sydney in 2023, she has further trained with Darlo Drama, The Actors Pulse and Sydney Acting Association.

As Actor: *The Crucible*, *The Steamie*, *Wasted*, *Bombshells*, *Catherine the Great*, *It's a Wonderful Life* (The Genesian Theatre).

Away from the stage, Natasha is Deputy Editor of Take 5 magazine, where she pursues another form of storytelling through real-life features and true crime.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is Natasha's New Theatre debut.





### **MATILDA HOLTON STAGE MANAGER**

Matilda Holton is an emerging professional stage manager who is based on Gadigal Land. They recently graduated with a Diploma of Live Production and Stage Management from JMC Academy in 2024. They have worked as Stage Manager on many nominated Sydney Theatre Award shows, including the award winning production, *Saints of Damour*.

As Stage Manager: *Three Sisters* (Flight Path); *Saints Of Damour* (QTOPIA); *Mary Jane* (Old Fitz); *Hir* (New Theatre); *Bonny & Read* (QTOPIA); *Traffic Light Party* (KXT); *Fair Play* (Old Fitz).

As Assistant Stage Manager: *Hedda Gabbler* (KXT), *Little Women* (Chippen Street Theatre), *Bright Star* (Hayes Theatre).



### **RICCI COSTA OPERATOR**

Ricci studied theatre production at NIDA.

As Operator: *A Lie of the Mind*, *Stags and Hens*, *The Front Page*, *Hangmen*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Chimerica*, *The Spook* (New Theatre), *The Maids* (That Theatre Company), *The Italian Comedy* (Something Wicked), *The Various Methods of Escape* (Mon Sans Productions).



### **MARC MONNET-DEMARBRE LIGHTING ASSISTANT**

Marc is passionate about working backstage at the theatre. He has been assisting technical management at New Theatre for the last two years. He studied a Certificate III in Live Production & Technical Services at TAFE and holds his electrical testing and tagging licence. He loves all things technical and electrical.

As Stage Manager: *Sunset Strip*, *Fighting* (New Theatre); *Legally Blonde the Musical* (MustSee Shows Sydney East).

As Assistant Stage Manager: *Ink*, *Wife*, *Shakespeare in Love* (New Theatre).

As Operator: *Fighting*, *Continuity* (New Theatre); *Greatest Hits of Dutch Cabaret* (Sydney Fringe Festival); *La Cage aux Folles Musical* (State Theatre).



### **RON ABUHALAIQA LIGHTING ASSISTANT**

Ron is an emerging operator and technician who discovered a passion for theatre while completing a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) at the University of New South Wales.

As Stage Manager/Operator: *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Continuity* (New Theatre).

As Technician: *Stage Kiss*, *Perfect Arrangement* (New Theatre).

Ron also aspires to work as a lighting designer.

# NEW THEATRE TEAM

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President Rosane Mcnamara

Vice President Chad Traupmann

Treasurer Matthew Dell

Artistic Director Louise Fischer

Artistic Associate Margaret Thanos

Members & Volunteers Coordinator Sahn Millington

Secretary (Ex-Officio) Gemma Greer

## PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Literary Manager Helen Tonkin

Play Assessors John Keightley (Coordinator), Raymond Patman (Administrator), Annie Bilton, Michael Briggs, Douglas Cairns, Rayma Watkinson

## NEW THEATRE (PROPERTIES) LTD

Chair John Short

Deputy Chair Nicholas Stewart

Treasurer Elizabeth Ivory

Secretary Ed Dharmadji

Director Matthew Dell

## STAFF

Theatre Manager & Production Coordinator Gemma Greer

Communications Coordinator Maddy Withington

House Manager Eddy Dharmadji

Front of House Managers Harlee Timms, Marica Fumanti

Technical Advisor Holly Nesbitt

Licensee Eddy Dharmadji

---

## PARTNERS

Young Henry's

Summer Hill Wines

---

## SPECIAL THANKS

Jessica James-Moody, Pam Schultz, Kenney Ogilvie, Benjamin Brockman, James Brown, Helen Tonkin, Farah Kandkhar, Cerys Greason-Walker.

**UP NEXT AT NEW THEATRE**

**A VIEW FROM  
THE BRIDGE**  
BY ARTHUR MILLER

**4 AUG - 5 SEP  
2026**

**\$30 TIX**

PROMO CODE **WORM26** T&CS apply

## **THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS**

Donations to New Theatre, large or small, help ensure the theatre's future and supports the work made here by our community.

New Theatre has long been part of Sydney's cultural life, providing a place for artists and audiences to come together around bold, engaging theatre.

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. To donate, please visit [newtheatre.org.au](http://newtheatre.org.au) or contact [manager@newtheatre.org.au](mailto:manager@newtheatre.org.au)

---

## **BECOME A NEW THEATRE MEMBER**

For \$30 a year, members receive audition notices (with guaranteed auditions where suitable), \$30 tickets to all productions, voting rights, bar discounts, and discounted use of theatre facilities.