

# THE HOLIDAYS

BY DAVID MEGARRITY



QUEENSLAND THEATRE



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THEATRE  
2021  
LET'S GO**



 SCAN ME

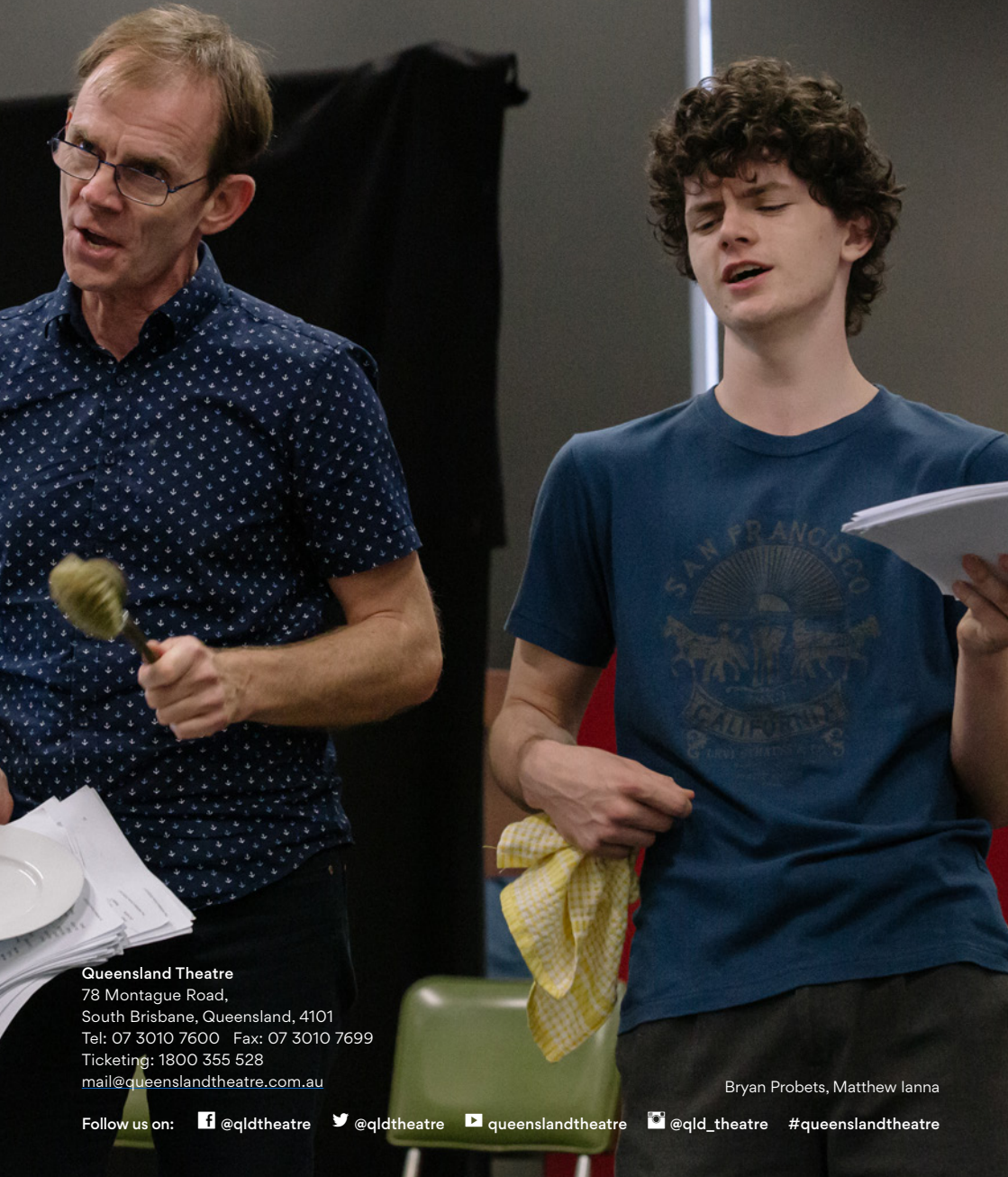
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*Bridget Boyle last directed the heartwarming and award-winning production, The Longest Minute.*

*Brisbane theatremaker, writer, composer, musician and academic David Megarrity won the Queensland Premier's Drama Award 2018-19 for The Holidays from a field of more than 90 entrants.*



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Bryan Proberts, Matthew Ianna

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14 Nov — 12 Dec

Bille Brown Theatre

# THE HOLIDAYS

BY DAVID MEGARRITY

## CREATIVES

Bridget Boyle Director  
Sarah Winter Designer  
Jason Glenwright Lighting Designer  
Nathan Sibthorpe Projection Designer  
Sean Foran Composer  
Matthew Erskine Sound Designer  
Nicole Neil Stage Manager  
Sophie Watkins Assistant Stage Manager

## CAST

Louise Brehmer Mum (Summer Holiday)  
Matthew Ianna Oliver Holiday  
Bryan Probets Dad (Bob Holiday)

## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

*The Holidays* will run for approximately 80 minutes, with no interval.

## WARNINGS

This production contains theatrical haze and strobe lighting. The use of photographic or recording equipment is not permitted inside the theatre.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Queensland Theatre would like to acknowledge the Jagera and Turrbal people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## RECYCLE THIS PROGRAM

Support greening Queensland Theatre and recycle this program after the performance in the recycling bins provided in the foyer.

**50 SEASONS**  
of Stories

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

## A touching portrait of memory and connection

Fathers and sons. Complicated. Are we destined to repeat the mistakes of our fathers? Oliver Holiday believes we can write our own story and his capacity for hope is infectious.

The Holidays are on holiday: 12-year-old Oliver has been pulled out of school for an unexpected road trip with his mum and dad, en route to grandad's seaside shack. But grandad, an eccentric artist, is not there. In this unkempt place stuffed with memories, it seems that the Holidays — instead of getting away from it all — have taken a lot with them.

This Queensland Premier's Drama Award-winning play is a feast for the senses, a wistful and funny journey combining live performance, music and cutting-edge projection. A disarming and lyrical chronicle about family, for families, *The Holidays* is a show for sons, fathers, grandfathers, and anyone who loves one.

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Matthew Ianna



Bridget Boyle



Louise Brehmer, Bryan Proberts

# Welcome



**Lee Lewis**  
Artistic Director

**My introduction to Queensland Theatre started many years ago when Wesley Enoch invited me to be on the selection panel for the Queensland Premier’s Drama Award. I was blown away by the process of this award.**

The fact that the winning play receives a full production sets this award apart from any other award in the country. This partnership between the Queensland Government and Queensland Theatre to invest in Australian storytelling is as unique as it is inspiring. It is so much better than just a literary award for a work already made, it is a leap of faith that demonstrates this government’s understanding that theatre is always about looking forward.

Making new Australian plays is the most important thing we do as a theatre company, and it is the hardest. To create a new and original story for our stage adds to the bookshelf filled with Australian plays. It is a way of ensuring that the ideas and voices of our time are preserved for future generations. This award sits at the beating heart of this Company and we could not do it without government support.

In the 20 years the Queensland Premier’s Drama Award has existed, it has produced the plays of Sven Swenson, Adam Grossetti, David Brown, Richard Jordan, Marcel Dorney, Maxine Mellor, Daniel Evans, Michele Lee and the playwright whose work you are seeing tonight, David Megarrity. As we mark 20 years of this award and celebrate 50 Seasons of Stories at Queensland Theatre — despite the devastating disruption of COVID-19 to our industry and in our society— it is a real thrill to end this dark year with a new Australian play.

In times like these, we look to our playwrights to give us stories that will inspire us to survive whatever challenges the world throws at us, and in David’s play it feels entirely appropriate that he reminds us of the importance of family in all its complexity. It is a pleasure to welcome *The Holidays* onto the Bille Brown stage, and into our hearts.

**Lee**



Bryan Probets, Matthew Ianna, Louise Brehmer

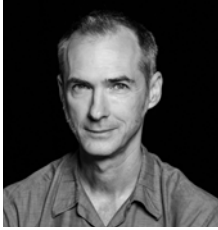


Louise Brehmer, Bryan Probets, Matthew Ianna



Matthew Ianna

# Writer's Note



David Megarrity  
Writer

**If you have this in your hands, then chances are you're part of *The Holidays* in performance. We all know there are big stories of luck and planning for all of us underneath this assembly. Though we've carefully arranged every grain of this work, soon *The Holidays* will be over, washed away by waves of time we'll ride together memorably for a moment. It's good we all got here.**

The words 'page' and 'stage' rhyme in the writing, but the journey from one domain to the other is far from simple, and far from sure. You'll experience the work of an all-Queensland creative team that composed this show: a safe, striving and skilful set of hands, and in this I include artists that had a hand in its development through the Queensland Premier's Drama Award.

We've woven art forms together so they influence and interanimate one another, drawn by tides of musicality that sing through the structure of the show. If you've ever been moved by a song, you will know that music can enable a shift from the 'as if' to the 'what is', often without a word being spoken.

Theatre is a place of evocation rather than emulation, and there's something simple and sublime about the seaside. We want to bring that beach feel into the theatre in ways that release shared shores already inside us, parts of us drawn to the edge of vastness, those last safe places where wind, waves and sand can reshape our loves with a wildness that will outlast us.

David

# Director's Note



**Bridget Boyle**  
Director

**What a joy to be able to introduce *The Holidays* to Queensland audiences, artists, dreamers, anyone who has a dad, or knows someone who does.**

For the team of creatives who have had the privilege of bringing the premiere production of *The Holidays* to life, performers, design, sound, projection and music have come together to create what we called a “story machine” through the interplay of each moving part. Through this machine, we get to ask questions about legacy, memory and fatherhood. Can we change the patterns laid down for us over generations, or can we skip the groove and make our own record of the present and the future?

David’s work showcases the deceptive simplicity of the best of children’s literature; big themes are distilled to their essence, dialogue is succinct and small moments are writ large. You’ll also see and hear David’s signature, knowingly ironic touch throughout the work — when the 12-year-old protagonist Oliver is “unexpectedly” able to talk to the audience, he wryly invites them to join him in building his imaginative world: “It’ll be a bit daggy, but if you do it too I’ll know you’re with me”.

Thanks to all the team at Queensland Theatre for their support in bringing this story to the stage — and thanks to all the many artists who have contributed to its development. We are also incredibly grateful to the artists and artists’ estates who have generously allowed us to use their iconic artworks in our story.

*The Holidays* is set at an unspecified Queensland beachside town, and the salt-scented dreams of hazy, lazy, sandy summer holidays so familiar to Queenslanders drift through this production. After this year, I think we all need a holiday.

**Bridget**



Nathan Sibthorpe, Bridget Boyle



Bryan Probets, Louise Brehmer, Matthew Ianna

## David Megarrity

WRITER

David Megarrity is a writer, composer, musician, performer and academic, creating at the intersection of music, performance and projected image. Rave Magazine suggested he is “as close as Brisbane has to a Renaissance Man”.

His works have played at the Sydney Opera House, around Australia and abroad. His picture book *The Empty City* was a Children’s Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year ‘Notable Book’. His script for the stage adaptation was a finalist in the Queensland Premier’s Drama Award in 2013. David’s short film collaborations have won a number of awards and nominations, including Official Selection Cannes International Film Festival. He is a part-time Senior Lecturer in Drama at Queensland University of Technology, where he completed his PhD in Composed Theatre. David has played in many bands, composed songs and soundtracks for stage and screen and released 13 albums in various audio incarnations. He currently plays in Tyrone and Lesley, whose album *Optimism* was dubbed Ukulele Record of the Year.



## Bridget Boyle

DIRECTOR

**Queensland Theatre:** As Director: *The Longest Minute* (with debase Productions & JUTE Theatre), *Rice* (QPDA Finalists Readings), *The Landmine is Me*, *Hurry up and Wait*. As Actor: *The Works: Taking Aim*, *The Estimator*, *Lily Can’t Sleep* (with QPAC’s Out of the Box), *Europe*, *The Venetian Twins*, *Scapin*, *Backseat Drivers*. **Other Credits:** As Director: JUTE Theatre: *To Kill a Cassowary*; Little Match Productions: *The Owl and the Pussycat* (with Festival 2018 and Flowstate); debase Productions: *The Furze Family Variety Hour* (with Brisbane Festival), *Popping Lead Balloons* (with Queensland Arts Council), *The Clown from Snowy River*, *The Look* (with Queensland Arts Council), *Lovejunk* (with QPAC); Metro Arts: *We Live Here* (with Flipside Circus); Queensland University of Technology: *Dead Man’s Cellphone*, *Little Revolution*, *Bassett*, *Twelve Angry Women*, *Top Girls*. **Positions:** Co-Founder, debase Productions. **Training:** Doctor of Philosophy, Queensland University of Technology. **Awards:** Matilda Award — Best Director *We Live Here*; Matilda Award — Special Contribution to Queensland theatre debase Productions; Helpmann Award Nomination — Best Female Actor in a Musical *The Venetian Twins*.



## Sarah Winter

DESIGNER

**Queensland Theatre:** Debut. **Other Credits:** Brisbane Festival: *One Bottle Later* (with The Good Room), *Curious Arcade* (with Imaginary Theatre), *Theatre Republic* (site designer 2015–19); La Boite Theatre Company: *Neon Tiger*, *Medea*; Counterpilot: *TruthMachine*; Punchdrunk/Imaginary Theatre/Festival 2018: *Lost Lending Library*, *Coastal Curiosities*; Brisbane Powerhouse: *Sound of a Finished Kiss* (with Now Look Here & Electric Moon); creative consultant for West Village (2019–20). **Awards:** Matilda Awards — Best Design Nomination *Medea*.



## Jason Glenwright

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Queensland Theatre:** *City of Gold* (with Griffin Theatre Company), *The Longest Minute* (with debase Productions & JUTE Theatre), *Rice* (with Griffin Theatre Company), *Country Song*, *Argus* (with Dead Puppet Society), *Rumour Has It* (with Little Red), *I Want to Know What Love Is* (with The Good Room), *A Tribute of Sorts* (with Metro Arts), *The Removalists*, *Faustus* (with Bell Shakespeare), *Water Falling Down*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Thom Pain (Based on Nothing)*. **Other Credits:** Opera Queensland: *A Flowering Tree*, *Kiss Me, Kate*; La Boite Theatre Company: *Laser Beak Man* (with Dead Puppet Society and Brisbane Festival), *Lady Beattle* (with Little Red), *The Tragedy of King Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*; JUTE Theatre: *To Kill a Cassowary*, *Bukal*, *Here We All Are*. *Assembled*, *Joh For PM*; Myths Made Here: *Cinderella*; The Good Room: *I Just Came to Say Goodbye*, *I’ve Been Meaning To Ask You* (with Brisbane Festival); shake & stir theatre co: *Jane Eyre*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Endgame*, *Dracula*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, *Roald Dahl’s George’s Marvellous Medicine*, *Roald Dahl’s Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts*; Queensland Conservatorium: *Hansel & Gretel The Opera*, *Val Machin Opera Scene’s*. **Awards:** Matilda Awards — Best Lighting Design *Carrie: The Musical*, Best Technical Design *Dracula*; Matilda Awards — Gold Matilda Award for Body of Work; Grounding Awards – Favourite Lighting — Body of Work (2010, 2012–13), Del Arte Chart Awards — Favourite Lighting Design (2009–15 and 2018).



## Nathan Sibthorpe

PROJECTION DESIGNER

**Queensland Theatre:** Debut. **Other**

**Credits:** Counterpilot: *Avoidable Perils*, *Truthmachine*, *Statum*, *Crunch Time*, *Spectate*; The Good Room: *One Bottle Later* (with Brisbane Festival), *I've Been Meaning to Ask You* (with Brisbane Festival); Queensland Cabaret Festival: *Tyrone & Lesley in a Spot*. As AV Designer:

JUTE Theatre: *To Kill a Cassowary*; Playlab: *Blue Bones*; Judith Wright Arts Centre: *Wireless*; Shock Therapy Productions: *Virai*; Brisbane Powerhouse: *He Dreamed a Train*. **Positions:** Director, Counterpilot; Artist in Residence (2012–14), Queensland Theatre; Festival Director (2013–16), Short+Sweet Queensland; Creative Director (2016–18), Markwell Presents. **Awards:** Matilda Awards — Best AV Design *Blue Bones*; Lord Mayor's Award — Best New Australian Work *Crunch Time*; Dr Don Batchelor Award for Drama Research, Queensland University of Technology. **Training:** Masters Degree (Contemporary Performance), Queensland University of Technology.



## Louise Brehmer

MUM (SUMMER HOLIDAY)

**Queensland Theatre:** *The Longest Minute*

(Brisbane season & QLD tour), *Australia Day*, *Private Fears in Public Places*, *Cooking with Elvis* (national tour), *Good Grief* (The Scene Project), *Riley Valentine and the Occupation of Fort Svalbard* (The Scene Project), *The Fledglings* (The Scene Project), *The Lost Property Rules* (Brisbane season & QLD tour), *An Oak Tree*, *The Works*, *MoDD - Romeo & Juliet*. **Other Credits:** La Boite Theatre Company: *The Bitterling* (with Pentimento Productions), *Summer Wonderland*, *Creche and Burn* (Brisbane season & national tour), *He Died With A Felafel In His Hand* (with Someone Productions); The Good Room: *That's What She Said*; 4MBS Classic Arts: *Julius Caesar*, *The Comedy Of Errors*, *Cribbie*; debase Productions: *Popping Lead Balloons* (QLD & VIC tours), *Lovejunk*; Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard III*, *The Comedy of Errors*; Tilted Projects: *We Were There*; Now Look Here Theatre: *The Seagull*; Crossbow Productions: *The Miracle Worker*, *Mrs Klein*, *Anne of the Thousand Days*; Real TV: *Children of the Black Skirt* (national tour), *Tall Man*; White Rabbit Theatre Ensemble: *Pocketful of Pebbles* (with Gold Coast Arts Centre); Seeing Place Productions: *All Aboard!* (with Bleach Festival); Elbow Room: *After All This* (with Brisbane Festival); JUTE Theatre: *What Are The Odds?*; Zen Zen Zo: *Therese Raquin*, *The Man Who Sold The World* (national tour); Homunculus Theatre: *The Spirit of the Mask* (QLD tour), *Thoughts Have Feelings Too* (QLD tour); Mixed Company: *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*; Oscar Theatre Company: *Spring Awakening*; ... and moor theatre: *The Ghost Writer*; Metro Arts: *New Royal*, *Micro Trip 2*; Creative Regions: *Tales of the Underground* (QLD tour); The Restaged Histories Project: *The Greater Plague*; Rolling Jaffa Productions: *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *The Duck Variations*; Forte Theatre: *Chicago* (QLD tour), *Amadeus*, *Witness for the Prosecution*. **Film:** *A Heartbeat Away*, *Hildegarde*. **Short Film:** *Too Soon*, *Turtle*, *Buds and Thorns*, *The Empty Room*. **Television:** *Harrow*, *Hoges*, *Mabo*, *SLiDE*, *FarmKids*, *Code 1114*. **Positions:** Clown Doctor, The Humour Foundation; Teaching Artist, Queensland Theatre, The Warehouse Workshop, The Factory. **Awards:** Matilda Award — Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role *Therese Raquin*, Matilda Award — Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Matilda Award Nomination — Best Female Actor in a Lead Role *The Miracle Worker*. **Training:** Bachelor of Arts — Drama (Acting), Queensland University of Technology; Shakespeare and Company USA.



## Sean Foran

COMPOSER

**Queensland Theatre:** Debut. **Other**

**Credits:** As Performer: The Tokyo, Takasaki & Kutchan Jazz Festivals Japan, MIDEM Music Conference France, Jazzahead Festival Bremen, Calgary International Jazz Festival Canada, World Expos Aichi and Shanghai, The Queensland Music Festival and Biennial, The Sydney Opera House, The Vortex Jazz Club London, Pizza Express Jazz Club London, Wangaratta, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane International Jazz Festivals, Woodford Folk Festival, Darling Harbour Jazz Festival, and touring to Europe, the UK, Japan, China, Korea, Argentina and others. **Music:** As Artist: Trichotomy, Berardi-Foran-Karlen. **Positions:** As Head of Music, JMC Academy Brisbane; Associate Artist, Australian Music Centre; Jazz Councillor, Music Australia; Doctoral candidate, Queensland Conservatorium. **Awards:** Brisbane City Council — Lord Mayors Emerging Artist Fellowship; APRA PDA Award — Jazz; APRA/AMC State Award-Excellence in Jazz; QLD Music Award — Jazz. **Training:** Bachelor of Music, Queensland Conservatorium; Master of Arts in Jazz Performance (Distinction), Leeds College of Music UK.

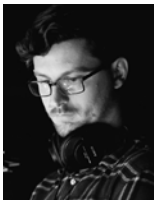


## Matthew Erskine

SOUND DESIGNER

**Queensland Theatre:** As Sound Designer:

*Country Song*. As Head of Sound/Sound Engineer: *Emerald City*, *Fangirls*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Noises Off*, *Black Diggers* (national tour). **Other Credits:** As Sound Designer: MAD Squad: *Australiana*, *Furry Tails Gone Wrong*, *Spring into MAD* — *A Festival of Short Original Musicals*; Queensland University of Technology; *Who's Afraid of the Working Class?* **Positions:** Technical and Operations Director, MAD Squad; Technical and Operations Director, CrossPoint Sound.



## Matthew Ianna

OLIVER HOLIDAY

**Queensland Theatre:** Debut. **Other Credits:**

The Good Room: *I've Been Meaning to Ask You* (with APAM & Brisbane Powerhouse). **Training:** Drama and Performance, and Film and Television, Kelvin Grove State College; The Scene Project participant (2017), Queensland Theatre; Australian Acting Academy (2018–19).





## Bryan Proberts

DAD (BOB HOLIDAY)

**Queensland Theatre:** *Hydra, Twelfth Night, The 39 Steps, 600 Ways to Filter a Sunset* (The Scene Project), *St Mary's in Exile, Much Ado About Nothing, The Odd Couple, Australia Day, Design For Living, Pygmalion, Waiting for Godot, The Alchemist* (with Bell Shakespeare Company), *The Importance of Being Earnest, Private Fears in Public Places, A Christmas Carol, The Venetian Twins, Scapin, The Lonesome West, Mano Nera, The Cherry Orchard, Road to She-Devil's Salon*. **Other Credits:** shake & stir theatre co: *A Christmas Carol, George's Marvellous Medicine, Tequila Mockingbird, 1984, Animal Farm*; La Boite Theatre Company: *Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness* (with Sydney Theatre Company), *As You Like It, The Wishing Well, The Danger Age, The Year Nick McGowan Came to Stay, Operator, Creche and Burn, Way Out West, Milo's Wake, Hermes and the Naked Flame* (with Queensland Arts Council); Opera Queensland: *Candide*; Zen Zen Zo: *Vikram and the Vampire*; Queensland Music Festival: *Credo the Innocence of God*; Queensland Ballet: *The Amazing Magician Goes Troppo*; Harvest Rain: *The Woman in Black*; Hot House Theatre Company: *Australia: The Show*. **Film:** *In Like Flynn, Celeste, Don't Tell, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales, The Railway Man, Tracks, The Great Gatsby, Singularity, Punishment, Daybreakers, Subdivision, Triangle, Hildegard, The Proposition, Nim's Island, A Heartbeat Away, The Horseman*. **Television:** *Tidelands, Monarch Cove, Starter Wife, Fat Cow Motel, Pyjama Girl, Love Weights*. **Positions:** Artistic Associate (2004-06), Emerging Artist (2003), Queensland Theatre. **Awards:** Matilda Commendations *The Lonesome West, Road to the She-Devil's Salon*; Matilda Award — Best Supporting Actor *As You Like It*; Gold Matilda Award Winner for Body of Work.



## Nicole Neil

STAGE MANAGER

**Queensland Theatre:** As Stage Manager: *The Shot* (The Scene Project), *The Wider Earth* (with Dead Puppet Society, Sydney season). As Assistant Stage Manager: *Much Ado About Nothing*. **Other Credits:** As Stage Manager: La Boite Theatre Company: *Neon Tiger, Laser Beak Man* (with Dead Puppet Society); Dead Puppet Society: *Laser Beak Man* (national tour); Brisbane Festival: *You Should be Dancing*; QPAC: *Spirit of Christmas 2019*. As Deputy Stage Manager: Opera Queensland: *Orpheus & Eurydice* (with CIRCA), *Tosca, Peter Grimes, The Merry Widow, Ruddigore* (Brisbane season & regional tour). As Assistant Stage Manager: La Boite Theatre Company: *A Streetcar Named Desire*; Opera Australia: *Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour – West Side Story, Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour – La Bohème*; Opera Queensland: *The Pearlfishers, The Barber of Seville* (Brisbane season & regional tour); shake & stir theatre co: *American Idiot, George's Marvellous Medicine* (Brisbane season & New Zealand tour); Brisbane City Council: *The Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols 2016*. **Training:** Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama), Queensland University of Technology.



## Sophie Watkins

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

**Queensland Theatre:** Debut. **Other Credits:** As Stage Manager: Queensland University of Technology: *The Season at Sarsaparilla*. As Deputy Stage Manager: Queensland University of Technology: *Essentially Dance 2018, Caucasian Chalk Circle*. As FOH Sound Operator: La Boite Theatre Company: *The Neighbourhood*. As Composer & Sound Designer: Queensland University of Technology: *Recipe, Standing By 2019*. As Secondment: Michael Cassel Group: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*; Australasian Dance Collective: *The Dinner Party*. **Training:** Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production), Queensland University of Technology.



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# LANDMARK PRODUCTIONS FUND

Thank you to the Visionaries who generously support our Landmark Productions Fund, cementing Queensland Theatre as a national leader in the development and staging of productions of significant scale.

For the 2021 Season, we are thrilled to announce our landmark production will be Trent Dalton's *Boy Swallows Universe* adapted for the stage by Tim McGarry.

---

Tim Fairfax AC & Gina Fairfax

Cass & Ian George

Elizabeth Jameson AM & Abbe Anderson

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Liz Pidgeon & Graeme Wikman

Trevor St. Baker AO & Judith St. Baker

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## TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE OUR AMBITIONS A REALITY

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

Stephen Henry

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*Still life 1986* © Margaret Olley Oil  
on composition board, 74.2 x 99.7  
cm. Ipswich Art Gallery Collection.  
Acquired with funds donated by  
CS Energy through the Ipswich Arts  
Foundation, 1999 Photo: Carl Warner

*Sydney Harbour, late afternoon* 2011  
(panel 3) © Margaret Olley Oil on  
board, 46 x 276 cm (full triptych)  
Courtesy of Philip Bacon Galleries

Additional artworks by David Hinchliffe,  
images used with approval of artist  
(who loves and admires Bridget Boyle's  
work).

*A Grey Matter* (podcast):  
Understanding, Preventing and  
Treating Dementia with Dr Gerhard  
Leineng. Courtesy of Queensland  
Brain Institute / The University of  
Queensland

The following people contributed to  
the creative development of this work:

Kerith Atkinson, Tony Brumpton, Walt  
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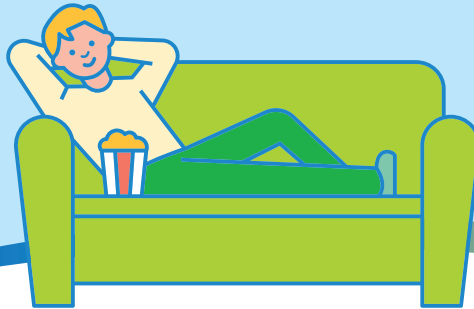
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