

COMPLETE ARTISTIC BIOGRAPHIES

ENSEMBLE

BRYAN ANDY



bryan is a Yorta Yorta man who was raised at Cummeragunja village (NSW). His acting credits include a role in the 2003 world premiere season of *Yanagai! Yanagai!* (Melbourne Workers Theatre/Playbox). He also performed in the Melbourne Workers Theatre remount of *Yanagai!* for a Victorian and UK tour in 2006. In 2003 bryan was part of a reading of *Yanagai!* at the 6th Annual Women's Playwrights Conference in Manila, and in 2004 he performed in Jadah Milroy's *Crowfire* as part of a rehearsed reading for the Australian Aboriginal Theatre Initiative in New York. In 2007 bryan performed with Ilbijerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Cooperative in their remount season of *The Dirty Mile*.

MARGOT FENLEY



Margot Fenley trained at The Victorian College of the Arts, and since graduation has worked as an actor, teacher and teaching director. She has appeared for the State Theatre Company of South Australia as Linda in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (2004); as Desdemona in *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* by Anne-Marie Macdonald (2004); as Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (2003); and as Rivera in Howard Barker's *Scenes from an Execution* (2002). Margot also played Eve in the Sydney seasons of Stephen Sewell's *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America* at the Stables (2003, 2005). In 2004 Margot performed in *Afternoon of the Elves* for Windmill Performing Arts and the STCSA, which toured to Sydney in 2006 and Seattle, Washington in 2007. Margot has ongoing collaborative relationships with two companies, Southern Lights and Random Acts. Television credits include *City Homicide*, *Blue Heelers*, *Shock Jock*, *Raw FM*, *Mercury*, *Janus* and *Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left* and for eighteen months Margot played Helen Carr in *Neighbours*.

GRANT FOULKES

Grant is an alumni of the Victorian College of the Arts Drama School with Company 2007. Whilst there he performed in *Mad Forest* dir. Rob Meldrum; *Dancing at Lughnasa* dir. Melanie Beddie; *Pericles* dir. Rhys McConnochie; *Unity 1918* dir. Mary Siterinos; *Too Young For Ghosts* dir. Ailsa Piper; *Fen* dir. Mary Siterinos; *A Midsummer Nights Dream* dir. Glenda Linscott; *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* dir. Brian Lipson; *The Perjured City* dir. Kirsten Von Bibra; *The Imaginary Invalid* dir. Tom Healy; and *King Lear* dir. Brian Lipson. Since graduating from VCA, Grants' roles include Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* dir. Glenda Linscott (Remount with the Preferred Play Company); David Collins/Robert Sideway in *Our Country's Good* for the 2008 Adelaide Fringe Festival dir. Glenda Linscott (Preferred Play Company), Rod/Stefo in *Australian Marriage Act* dir. Marcia Ferguson (Victorian High School's Tour with Arena Theatre Company); Bernard/Robert (understudy for Shaun Micallef and Mitchell Butel) in Tony Award winning *Boeing Boeing* dir. Hannah Chissick (Australian production with NewTheatricals) and Macduff in Green Room Award nominated *Macbeth Re-Arisen* dir. David Mence (White Whale Theatre). Recently Grant starred in the 2008 Tropfest Finalist 'Notes from a Scaresmith' Dir. Scot Edwards.

FANNY HANUSIN

Fanny Hanusin is an Indonesian performer and singer who has been involved in Australian theatre since 1999. She has a Bachelor of Creative Arts (1999-2001) and Graduate Diploma in Animateuring (2005) from the Victorian College of the Arts. Past productions include performing with The Torch Project (2006 & 2007), *Transit* (2004), *The True Adventures of A Soul Lost At Sea* (2004), *Beyond the Gate of Heavenly Peace* (2001), and a bilingual solo show, *Pempek*, for 2003 Indonesian Arts Festival. In 2003, she received a Green Room Award for her performance in *Hospital of the Lost Coin* and *The Vanishing Box* (La Mama). Recent theatre highlights include a sell out return season of *Asylum* (2005 Wal Cherry Play of the Year) and 2008 Green Room nominated *Serial Blogger* that integrated street located touch screens, YouTube videos and live performance. Fanny's television credits include performing in Chris Lilley's *Indigeridoo* for the 2006 Logies Award and most recently *Bogan Pride*, a quirky upbeat musical comedy on SBS.

SHANE LEE

Shane began his theatrical career in 1978 as Little Jake in *Annie Get Your Gun*. His professional debut was in the 1980 Melbourne season of *Evita*. Since then he has had an extensive career in theatre and TV for almost 3 decades, playing a myriad of roles in all aspects of theatre, both here and overseas. Shane is a graduate of Ballarat University (1990) gaining a Bachelor of Performing Arts (theatre). This is Shane's second production onstage with White Whale Theatre, his first being the critically acclaimed performance in *Convict 002* as the evil Captain Maurice Frere. Shane's TV credits include *Neighbours*, *Halifax FP*, *Marshall Law*, *Underbelly*, *Thank God You're Here* and various television commercials.

SHIREEN MORRIS

Shireen completed a Bachelor of Arts English major at Melbourne University and trained as an actor at East 15 Acting School in London. Shireen worked in the UK for 2 years, with roles including Ayah in *The Secret Garden* at the Byre Theatre in Scotland, Mirielle in *Espresso Trasho* at The Arts Theatre in the West End, Princess Yasmin in *Aladdin* at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, and lead vocalist in the CR3 pop group performing at Wembley Arena. Since returning to Melbourne, Shireen's roles have included Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, and various fairies in *Mid Summer Night's Dream* with the Australian Shakespeare Company. Shireen also played Devi in *The Perfume Garden* at the Athenaeum Theatre and Ifrah in *The Yellow Peril* at La Mama. In 2008 Shireen played various roles in White Whale Theatre's Green Room nominated production *Macbeth Re-Arisen*. TV credits include *Neighbours* and *The Wedge*. Shireen also writes and performs original music and has sung with cabaret acts and bands.

PRODUCTION

DAVID MENCE**Director**

David is Artistic Director and co-founder of White Whale Theatre. He divides his time between the rehearsal room, the State Library of Victoria, and the University of Melbourne (where he is studying for a Ph. D). He has written and directed *Macbeth Re-Arisen* (Edinburgh Fringe 2006, Trades Hall 2008) and *Convict 002* (Melbourne Fringe 2007); he has directed *Melburnalia* and *Melburnalia No. 2* (fortyfivedownstairs 2007 and 2009) and *Wordspace* (Short & Sweet Festival 2007); and assistant directed *Othello* (Bell Shakespeare 2007) and *Blackbird* (Melbourne Theatre Company 2008). David was recently a Creative Fellow at the State Library where he researched the material for his upcoming play *Convincing Ground* about whaling and colonisation in early Victoria.

KELLY FARROW**Producer/Publicity Manager**

Kelly Farrow has been Producer and Managing Director of White Whale Theatre since co-founding the company with David Mence in 2004. In her day job she is a lawyer with Victoria Legal Aid specialising in criminal law. She has been an Associate at the Supreme Court of Victoria and a project worker for a migrant and refugee young people's independent network. Kelly has been involved with numerous Melbourne theatre projects including *Dimboola* (Ormond College), *Oedipus Tyrannus* (Fancy Fish Theatre) and *Convict 002* (White Whale Theatre). In 2006 she won the Universal Arts Award for 'Best Producer' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for her work on *Macbeth Re-Arisen*, which involved managing all aspects of the international tour as well as 25 young Australian theatre makers. In 2008 she produced, publicised and co-managed the acclaimed Melbourne season of *Macbeth Re-Arisen* which was nominated for two Green Room awards. In 2007 and 2009 Kelly created and co-developed the critically acclaimed *Melburnalia* and (soon to open) *Melburnalia No 2*.

MELANIE BEDDIE**Dramaturg**

Melanie Beddie is a graduate of Sydney University and VCA. She was a co-founder of the \$5 Theatre Co. and is artistic director of the independent theatre company The BRANCH. She works as an actor, dramaturg and director. In 2004 she directed *Traitors* for which she won Best Director (Independent Theatre). She has also recently directed at WAAPA and The National Theatre School as well as VCA. In 2007 she has directed *Sinners* by Ramez Tabit and Johann McIntyre and also *Ghosts* by Ibsen. In 2008 she directed *Fear and Misery in the Third Reich* by Brecht at VCA and was a sessional lecturer in Directing also at VCA. She is currently developing a new play with Melissa Reeves called *The Real World*. In July she will direct three new short works at La Mama. In 2002 she co-founded the *Dramaturgies* forum with Paul Monaghan and Peter Eckersal. In 2004 she received the Dramaturgy Fellowship from the Australia Council.

She was an inaugural board member of Playwriting Australia. She is currently involved with numerous dramaturgical projects including the Maza Sisters and also Melissa Reeves, Amelia Roper and David Mence. She received a Gloria Fellowship from NIDA in 2009 which allowed her to conduct some research in UK and USA. The focus of the research was cross-racial casting and initiatives for developing opportunities for culturally diverse theatre practitioners.

BROOKE ANTULOV**Production Manager/Assistant Director**

Originally from Perth Brooke ventured to Melbourne in 2004 to study at the Victorian College of the Arts. She worked with Tangible Productions on *Playing You* and *That Show with Those People* before joining White Whale Theatre for their smash hit Edinburgh Fringe season of *Macbeth Re-Arisen* in 2006. She appeared in lead roles in White Whale Theatre's *Convict 002* (2007) and Green Room Award nominated production *Macbeth Re-Arisen* (2009). Brooke has been a regular member of Whale Whale's ensemble at the company's Play Soundings. She has recently performed in *Tomb Raider Live!* for Sudden Impact Entertainment and as a corporate performer for Bent Knee Creative. Firmly ensconced in the belly of the Whale, Brooke sits on the board of directors and has been Production Manager on *Melburnalia*, *Macbeth Re-Arisen* and *Melburnalia No 2*.

CHRISTINA LOGAN-BELL**Set/Costume Designer**

Christina Logan-Bell has a background in design ranging from theatre design in sets and costumes but also graphic design, visual merchandising, fine art, event designing and photo styling. Christina completed a Bachelor of Performing Arts at Monash University majoring in Music. Christina then studied a Diploma of Design in Visual Merchandising at RMIT, and has recently completed a Post-Graduate in Theatre Design at the VCA. At the VCA, Christina designed the set and costumes for *Night School* by Harold Pinter, directed by Richard Murphet; *Between Today and Tomorrow* by Daniel Keene; costume design for *White with Wire Wheels* by Jack Hibbard for Melbourne Union Theatre, directed by Susie Dee; and costume design for *Living Things* (puppetry) created by Peter Wilson and puppetry students. More recently Christina designed the set for a short film *Red Water Red*; costumes for *Disjointed Story* at Chapel off Chapel; set and costume design for *Rio Saki and Other Falling Debris* at La Mama; *War Lounge for the Bettybooke* for the Melbourne Fringe Festival 2008; and set and costume for White Whale Theatre's Green Room nominated production *Macbeth Re-Arisen* in 2008.

LUCY BIRKINSHAW
Lighting Designer

Lucy graduated from WAAPA (Advanced Diploma of Lighting Design for Production and Performance) and Curtin University (Bachelor of Arts, Fine Arts) and is a co-founder of the Filament Design Group. Lucy's most recent lighting designs include *Inside the Island* (Doorslam Productions), *Matchmaker*, (Perth Theatre Company), *Becks Music Box* (Perth International Arts Festival), *Danny and The Deep Blue Sea* (Human Sacrifice Theatre), *One Cloud* (Lady Muck Productions), *Taking Liberty* (Perth Theatre Company), *Idomeneo* (Australian Opera Studio), *The Red Room* (Channel 31 Studios – Television Series) and *Under The Weather* (Tracie Mitchell – Short Film). Lucy's distinctive approach to depth, contrast and beauty within her designs make her an identifiable theatre artist. Lucy is the resident lighting designer for Magnormos, an independent producer of Musical Theatre.

LACHLAN TAN
Sound Designer

Loki Tan is the Chuck Norris of music. Even before he was conceived he began honing his chops on the grand piano. In 2004, he composed music for White Whale Theatre's *Macbeth Re-Arised*. This music has variously been described, as "hard", "sublime", "awesome" and a whole slew of other superlatives that would look good in a larger font. While he has continued his sound design work since then, he has also diversified, playing in a Hip Hop band and, more recently, experimenting with ways of integrating virtuoso classical grand piano and computer based music techniques in live performance settings. He holds an Arts/Law degree and a Masters of Public of Health, but not when performing because he needs to keep his hands free. (by Geoff Chan!)

GEOFF CHAN
Sound Designer

Geoff got his start in sound design in 2003, composing music for beating down sphinxes for Fancy Fish's *Oedipus Tyrannus*. In 2004, he and Loki Tan received a commission from White Whale Theatre to research musical methods for reanimating the undead. From 2005-2006 he completed a minor survey of the transmigration of North-Eastern dumplings into China's South West (2005-2006), an endeavour not entirely free of risks of gastro. In September 2006 he facilitated a collaboration between students at the Eastern Tibetan Training and Language Institute (<http://www.etli.org>) and "new media" artist Alfred Banze in Shangri-La. He suspects that Banze was aiming at achieving transcendental incomprehensibility, in which case the project was a smashing success by any measure. He plays ukelele, fretted and slide guitar, banjo, erhu, mandolin and computer games, most of them out of tune and all of them, he hopes, idiosyncratically.

WRITERS

KIT LAZAROO

Kit's writing for theatre includes; *Hospital of the Lost Coin* and *The Vanishing Box*, produced at La Mama in 2003 and nominated for a Green Room Award for most outstanding writing in the fringe/independent theatre category; *True Adventures of a Soul Lost at Sea* which received an RE Ross Trust Playwright's Award in 2003, produced at Trades Hall in 2004 and nominated for a Green Room Award for most outstanding writing in the fringe/independent category; *Asylum*, the 2005 Wal Cherry Play of the Year, enjoyed a sell-out season at La Mama in March 2007, shortlisted for the Queensland and Victorian Premiers' Literary Awards; *Letters from Animals*, short-listed for the Max Afford Memorial Award in 2004 and produced at the Store Room Theatre in November 2007; *Topsy* which received an RE Ross Playwright's Award in 2007. Currently in development are *Room for Night and Day*, and *Ministry of Islands*. Kit enjoys an ongoing collaboration with director and dramaturg Jane Woollard and the award winning Here Theatre. She is an associate artist of the Store Room Theatre Workshop.

DANNY KATZ

Danny Katz is a columnist for The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald. He writes the Modern Guru column in the Good Weekend magazine. He is the author of *Spit the Dummy*, *Dork Geek Jew*, *M.O.T.H.E.R.*, and the Little Lunch series for kids. Originally from Canada, Danny came to Australia at a young age, completed an arts degree in Theatre Studies then stumbled into stand-up, finally turning to writing 'cos he was pretty crap at stand-up.

ANDREA JAMES

Andrea James was the Artistic Director of the Melbourne Workers Theatre (2000-2008). A graduate of Latrobe University and the VCA, she wrote and directed the hugely successful, *Yanagai! Yanagai!* First produced in 2003, the show recently enjoyed a return season in Melbourne before embarking on an international tour.

HOA PHAM

Hoa Pham is an award-winning author. Her novels include *Vixen* and *Quicksilver*. Her first play *Silence* will be produced at Carlton Courthouse in November 2009 and she is a regular contributor of short stories and essays to journals such as Heat, and Griffith Review. Her film script for *49 Ghosts* was funded by Film Victoria as part of the New Writer's Scheme in 2003. She was awarded Best Young Novelist by the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 2001 and an Asialink writing residency in Vietnam in 2006. Hoa edits *Peril* - an online magazine focusing on Asian Australian issues at

www.peril.com.au. She is studying a Doctorate of Creative Arts at the University of Western Sydney.

AIDAN FENNESSY

Aidan Fennessy is a writer, director and dramaturg. He studied language, literature and drama at Victoria College and was a co-founder of Chameleon Theatre. He has worked extensively as a director in theatre and as an actor on television, stage and film. His plays have been produced by Playbox, Queensland Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre Company and Melbourne Theatre Company. In 1997 he won the Wal Cherry Award for play of the year for his play *Chilling and Killing My Annabel Lee*. He has also directed for Melbourne Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre, HotHouse Theatre and Playbox. He was a member of the Artistic Directorate for HotHouse Theatre from 2003-2007. The short film he directed, *Mr Wasinski's Song*, won Best Australian Short Film at the Melbourne International Film Festival and his co-devised comedy *'The Trade'* won the 2002 Barry Award in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. In 2007-2008 he was the Artistic Director of The Store Room Theatre Workshop and is currently Associate Director with the Melbourne Theatre Company.