

Hayes Theatre Co would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet

We pay our respects to elders past and present, and acknowledge their continued connection to land, water, culture, and community

Contents

Hayes Theatre

- 4 WELCOME
- 7 THANK YOU
- 8 HISTORY
- 10 GHOST QUARTET
- 12 THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
- 14 THE PRODUCERS
- 16 WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN
- 18 BEING ALIVE: THE MUSIC OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM
- 20 ONCE ON THIS ISLAND
- 22 BRIGHT STAR

- 24 PHAR LAP: THE ELECTRO-SWING MUSICAL
- 26 MERRY & BRIGHT
- 8 NEGLECTED MUSICALS
- 29 CABARETS AND EVENTS
- 32 FESTIVAL OF NEW WORK
- **33** HAYES CREATIVE
- **34** SEASON CALENDAR
- **36** SUBSCRIPTIONS
- 38 SUPPORTING HAYES
- 41 BOOKING TICKETS
- 43 ABOUT US





Welcome

Welcome to our 2025 season! As we step into the second decade of Hayes Theatre Co and get ready to bring the lights up on another year of showstopping performances, we're thrilled to unveil a season packed with collaboration and innovation. Thanks to you, we're continuing our subscription model, and we've brought back the 'Tags' and 'If You Liked' features in this brochure, to help you find what you'll love, and ensure you don't miss out on a show that might just rock your world.

The shows we've commissioned and curated for this season all reflect the fundamental spark that makes a Hayes production special – they each revel in the grand legacy of live music theatre, while exploring it through a fresh lens of curiosity,

We know that the Hayes owes its reputation as a pioneer in this country to the passion shared

by our team, and the artists, technicians, and independent producers we work with. Our highest priority is to continue this legacy, giving opportunities for our finest creative minds to innovate and explore.

In that vein, we're kicking off the season with a brand-new, riotous adaptation of the G&S classic *The Pirates of Penzance*, starring the irrepressible Jay Laga'aia as The Pirate King. In an audacious, very Hayes touch, this sprawling, rollicking tale will be told by just four extremely talented actormusicians. With all the unforgettable numbers and swashbuckling fun you know and love, this production will reboot *Pirates* for a new century. We're thrilled to co-present this new production with our frequent collaborators. The Art House Wyong, and to take it on the road to Wollongong and Canberra.

continues to go from strength to strength in generating pathways for new music theatre and cabaret works to hit the stage. This program brought us the record-breaking sell-out Zombie! The Musical in 2024, as well as original Australian works like Dubbo Championship Wrestling and The Lucky Country. This year, we're premiering another hotly-anticipated show - Phar Lap: The Electro-Swing Musical, from writer-composer Steven Kramer. Yes, it is an absurdist, electroswing musical about the iconic Australian horse. And yes, it's about to subvert every expectation you have - flick through to find out more. We're also celebrating our rich history of presenting work by the legendary Stephen Sondheim with a uniquely-Hayes concert event, Being Alive. And to finish the year, we're premiering another brand new work, Merry & Bright, a funny and heartwarming play-with-music written specially for our beloved Nancye Hayes by award-winning playwright Jordan Shea.

This is just a taster of the delights in store this season - there's much more to discover, so keep reading! The Hayes is more than just a venue - it's a vibrant community where stories come to life, and every performance is an invitation to see musical theatre differently. We're grateful to you for being a part of this community, because without your support and enthusiasm, this exhilarating range of shows wouldn't have a home. Every ticket purchased, every dollar pledged, every glass of bubbles sipped in the foyer, helps us to keep bringing these unique and exhilarating experiences to life.

See you there.

L Cand/ MATTERE

Richard Carroll & Victoria Falconer

- 5

_ MADE IN JAPAN PLAYED BY YOU Hayes Theatre

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who's made our tenth birthday year so special. From sold-out new productions to wildly popular transfers and tours, and ground-breaking special events, by the end of 2024 more people will have seen a Hayes production in a single year, than at any other time in our history. Over 600 people took advantage of our inaugural subscription season to lock in a whole year of entertainment at discounted prices, secure their favourite seats, and enjoy a host of other benefits.

In 2025 we're building on this success with another spectacular year of entertainment and adventure. Hayes will produce three exceptional musicals at our theatre in 2025, including two brand new Australian works, as well as an exquisitely curated Sondheim concert as part of our mainstage season. And, as our creative development pipeline grows, you'll also have the opportunity to experience the hit shows of tomorrow and meet the writers and composers making their mark on the industry as our *Festival of New Work* returns.

Our mainstage season will be complemented by five captivating independent musicals.



Antipodes Theatre Company makes their Sydney debut with Dave Mallov's Ghost Quartet, an intoxicating musical odyssey about love, death and whisky. Pinwheel Productions brings us Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, an adaptation of Pedro Almodóvar's beloved film. One of Hayes' most successful independent producers, Joshua Robson Productions, fittingly tackles Mel Brooks' laugh-out-loud spectacle, The Producers. Curveball Creative, the producers of the online musical hit Who's Your Baghdaddy, return to the stage with the Tony and Olivier Award-winning musical Once On This Island, We're also thrilled to welcome award-winning theatre company Sport for Jove as they present their first ever musical. Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's

The exceptional entertainment on offer, the opportunities available to artists, and the ambition and scale of our 2025 season are only possible due to the commitment and dedication of the Hayes community.

Hayes is incredibly grateful for the support of Creative Australia, Create NSW, The City of Sydney and our major sponsors Kawai, Robert Oatley and RE, as well as our individual donors, who share our vision for the future of music theatre in Australia.

We'd also like to say a very special thank you to The Russell Mills Foundation, who've made an unparalleled contribution to Hayes productions and programs for many years, supporting our vocational program, creative development, and ensuring that some of our most successful musicals were able to make it to the stage.

Wes

Will Harvey
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hayes Theatre Co

Named in honour of musical theatre icon Nancye Hayes AM, Hayes Theatre Co occupies a unique and vital position in the Australian music theatre ecology – providing the only dedicated and permanent home for small-scale musical theatre with big ambitions. Since raising the curtain in 2014, Hayes Theatre Co has established a reputation for showcasing thrilling, innovative, and ambitious musicals and cabaret.

Hayes is a place where new Australian writing rubs shoulders with bold new productions of classic and contemporary international shows; where you can see barnstorming performers and musicians threaten to burst out of the theatre, then return to experience an intimate one-person show that casts a magic spell and breaks your heart. Everything we do is in service of the belief that Australian work and Australian artists are among the best in the world. We remain committed to challenging the outdated narrative that, with rare exceptions, only imported productions of musicals can be commercially successful in Australia.

Productions at Hayes have been nominated for and won numerous awards at the Helpmann Awards, Sydney Theatre Awards and several other awards ceremonies around Australia. Productions that have begun life at Hayes before transferring to other theatres and national tours include Sweet Charity, Blood Brothers, Heathers, Violet, Little Shop of Horrors, Calamity Jane, Assassins, In The Heights, American Psycho, Spamalot, H.M.S Pinafore, Rent, Godspell, Dubbo Championship Wrestling, Murder For Two, and Ride The Cyclone.



Antipodes Theatre Company in association with Hayes Theatre Co Presents

Ghost Quartet

ACTOR-MUSICIAN BROKE THE MOLD PREMIERE

MUSIC LYRICS AND TEXT BY Dave Malloy

DIRECTOR Brandon Pape MUSICAL DIRECTOR David Butler

STARRING David Butler, Hany Lee, Patrick Schnur, Willow Sizer

4 sides. 7 centuries. 90 minutes.

IF YOU LIKED • Once • Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812 • Lizzie • Well Behaved Women

A camera breaks and four friends conjure spirits (both spectral and alcoholic) as they unravel four interwoven narratives spanning seven centuries: a warped fairy tale about two sisters and a treehouse astronomer; a retelling of Edgar Allan Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher; a purgatorial intermezzo about Scheherazade and the ghost of Thelonious Monk; and a contemporary fable about a subway murder. Inspired by source material as diverse as Arabian Nights and The Twilight Zone, Ghost Quartet is about the stories we choose to pass on, the versions of ourselves we choose to inhabit, and the healing power of music.

Featuring a cast of singer-musicians that includes David Butler (Love That For You), Hany Lee (Hamilton), Patrick Schnur (Once) and Willow Sizer

(Guys and Dolls), this is an intoxicating musical odyssey about love, death and whisky - written and composed by Dave Malloy (Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812). This production has previously had two sold-out Melbourne seasons, Meat Market Stables (2021) and Gasworks Arts Park (2019).

"Electrifying... NOT to be missed."

THEATRE PRESS

"Exquisite... brilliantly performed."

ARTSHUR

"I would see it again in a heartbeat."

THEATRE TRAVELS

6:30pm

7:30pm

2pm

5pm

Originally Developed and Arranged by Ghost Quartet (Brent Arnold, Brittain Ashford, Gelsey Bell, Dave Malloy), Annie Tippe and Christopher

GHOST QUARTET is produced by special arrangement with Paradigm

THIS PRODUCTION WAS A LANDMARK SUCCESS IN ITS TWO ACCLAIMED MELBOURNE SEASONS, AND WE'RE THRILLED TO FINALLY ARTISTIC GENRE, SPACE AND TIME - THIS ELEVATED SONG CYCLE CAPTURES DAVE MALLOY'S SIGNATURE MUSICAL STYLE. WHERE LINCANNY SOLINDS ARE MAGICALLY ARRANGED INTO REALITIFUL HARMONY. THE ORIGINAL RAZOR-SHARP CAST RETURNS TO PLAY, SING AND ACT THESE INTOXICATING STORIES INTO LIFE.

- RICHARD & VICKY

Monday Wednesday - Saturday Saturday Sunday



Hayes Theatre Co in association with The Art House Wyong presents

The Pirates of Penzance

or The Slave of Duty

COMEDY ACTOR-MUSICIAN NEW TAKE BROKE THE MOLD WILD RIDE

_{By} Gilbert & Sullivan ADAPTED By Richard Carroll DIRECTOR Richard Carroll ARRANGER & MUSICAL SUPERVISOR VICTORIa Falconer ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER Shannon Burns SET DESIGNER NICK Fry SOUND DESIGNER Daniel Herten

STARRING Jay Laga'aia and Brittanie Shipway

The G&S classic... re-wired and re-booted.

IF YOU LIKED • Murder For Two • HMS Pinafore • Godspell • Calamity Jane • One Man, Two Guvnors

(Swash) buckle up for an epic voyage...

Hayes Artistic Directors Richard Carroll and Victoria Falconer harness the irreverent, genrebusting spirit of a sprawling, satirical, musical masterwork, and bring it to raucous new life for a 21st-century audience. This brand-new, boisterously joyful adaptation is brought to life by just four bold performers.

Between them, this intrepid quartet bring to life:

- The Pirate King, devoted to a life of swashbuckling and skullduggery - as long as the hours aren't too demanding;
- · Ruth, the nursemaid who hasn't been entirely truthful, but who reveals a natural talent and appetite for piracy;

- Mabel, a young woman thirsty for new experiences (and just plain thirsty);
- Frederic, our young hero thrown into an existential battle between his old and new worlds by a series of administrative errors;
- · The Major-General, devoted to respectability, but tormented by the shame he's brought onto his ancestors-by-purchase;
- · Plus; the motley pirate crew, a troupe of singing police recruits, Mabel's eclectic group of sisters; and the faithful piratical accomplice/ pianist. Fish Cake.

Book onstage seating to really be a part of the action!

GILBERT & SULLIVAN KNEW THAT THEATRE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AS INCISIVE AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING AS IT IS JOYOUS AND ENTERTAINING - AND THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ALL THOSE THINGS. IT'S BEEN A LABOUR OF LOVE TO ADAPT THE SHOW FOR A FOUR-PERSON SPECTACLE THAT TRULY EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF HAYES, AND THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM WE'VE ASSEMBLED ARE SURE TO ROCKET THIS EXPERIENCE TO NEW HEIGHTS. GET READY FOR ANYTHING AS WE SET SAIL FOR THIS ROWDY, IMMERSIVE PRODUCTION.

- RICHARD & VICKY

Tuesday-Saturday Thursday Saturday Sunday

*No matinee performance on Thursday 20 February *Post show Q&A on Tuesday 25 February

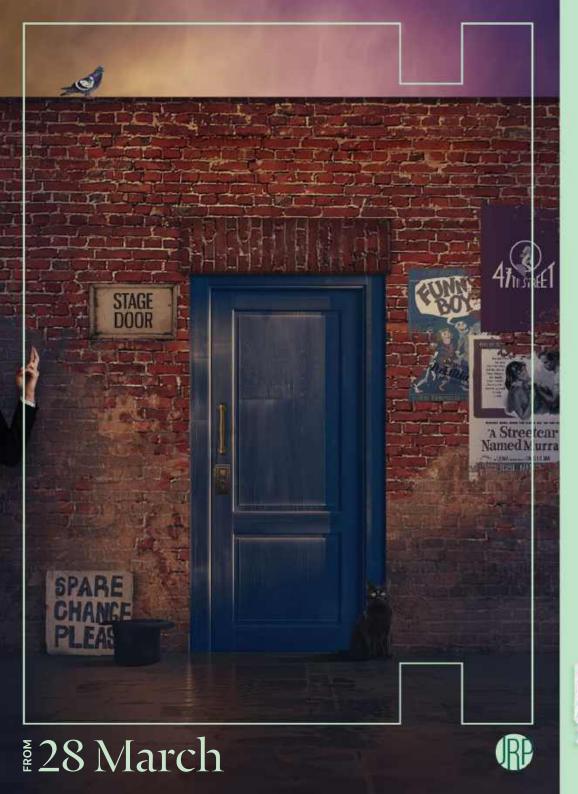
*Captioned performance on Wednesday 5 March

7:30pm

1pm

2pm

5pm



Joshua Robson Productions in association with Hayes Theatre Co Presents

The Producers

The Mel Brooks Musical

COMEDY WILD RIDE BROKE THE MOLD NEW TAKE

воок ву Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan MUSIC AND LYRICS BY Mel Brooks ORIGINAL DIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHY BY SUSAN Stroman

By Special arrangement with StudioCanal

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

DIRECTOR Julia Robertson ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Mym Kwa CHOREOGRAPHER Shannon Burns

They picked the wrong play; the wrong director; the wrong cast... Where did they go right?

IF YOU LIKED • The Book of Mormon • Young Frankenstein • Only Murders In The Building • Murder For Two

Bialystock and Bloom! Those names strike terror and hysteria into anyone familiar with Mel Brooks' classic cult-comedy film, or the smash-hit, recordbreaking Broadway musical it inspired. Blazing the trail for a new kind of modern, outrageous, inyour-face musical comedy, The Producers won a record 12 Tony Awards. Now the show comes to the Hayes in an all-new production!

The plot is simple: a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and a mild-mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history - thereby swindling their backers (all 'little old ladies') out of millions of dollars. Only one thing goes wrong - the show becomes a smash hit. The antics of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom as they manoeuvre their way fecklessly through finding the 'perfect' show (the gloriously offensive Springtime for Hitler), hiring the 'ideal' director, raising the money, and finally getting their comeuppance is a masterclass in comedy construction. And at the core of this insanely funny adventure is the heartfelt emotional journey of two very different people who up-end each other's lives, and - against all odds - become

With a truly hysterical book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan (Annie), and music and lyrics by Brooks himself, The Producers takes no prisoners in skewering classic Broadway - and creates a new Broadway classic in the process.

TO OUR STAGE - WE'VE COLLABORATED WITH THEM EVERY YEAR SINCE OPENING OUR DOORS IN 2014! AND THIS SHOW IS AN ABSOLUTE BLOCKBUSTER - THE MEL BROOKS MASTERPIECE IN A BRAND-NEW PRODUCTION FROM ABSURDLY TALENTED DIRECTOR JULIA ROBERTSON, TWO WORDS: BOOK EARLY,

- RICHARD & VICKY

Monday (APRIL 21 ONLY) Tuesday - Saturday Thursday Saturday Sunday

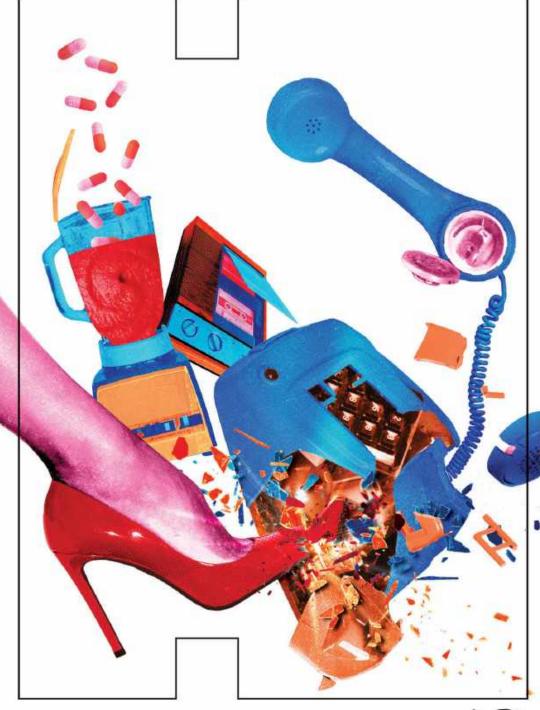
6:30pm

7:30pm

^{*}No matinee performance on Thursday 3 April

^{*}No performance on Friday 18 April

^{*}No performance on Tuesday 22 April



Pinwheel Productions in association with Hayes Theatre Co Presents

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

COMEDY BROKE THE MOLD PREMIERE WILD RIDE

воок ву Jeffrey Lane MUSIC AND LYRICS BY David Yazbek BASED ON THE FILM BY Pedro Almodóvar **DIRECTOR Alexander Berlage**

Overdose on love (and gazpacho)

IF YOU LIKED • Cry Baby • American Psycho • Dirty Rotten Scoundrels • Sex and the City

Step into the vibrant, hilarious world of 1980s Madrid, where Pepa, a heartbroken actress, finds her life spiralling out of control after her lover's sudden disappearance.

As she searches for answers, Pepa navigates a series of increasingly outrageous events alongside a cast of eccentric characters - including a vengeful ex-wife, a best friend entangled with an international terrorist, a power-suited lawyer, and enough sedative-laced gazpacho to knock out half of Spain.

Following his award-winning, critically-acclaimed productions of Cry Baby and American Psycho, Alexander Berlage returns to the Hayes to direct this exhilarating comedy, based on the iconic movie by Pedro Almodóvar.

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ALEX BERLAGE HAS GIVEN HAYES AUDIENCES SOME OF THE MOST THRILLING AND INVENTIVE PRODUCTIONS IN OUR HISTORY, AND WOMEN ON THE VERGE IS A PERFECT MATCH FOR HIS BOLD ARTISTIC STYLE THE CLASSIC ALMODÓVAR MOVIE IS A FEAST OF OUTRAGEOUS COMEDY AND EYE-CATCHING FASHION - AND THE MUSICAL ADDS IRRESISTIBLE TUNES TO CREATE HIGH CAMP HEAVEN

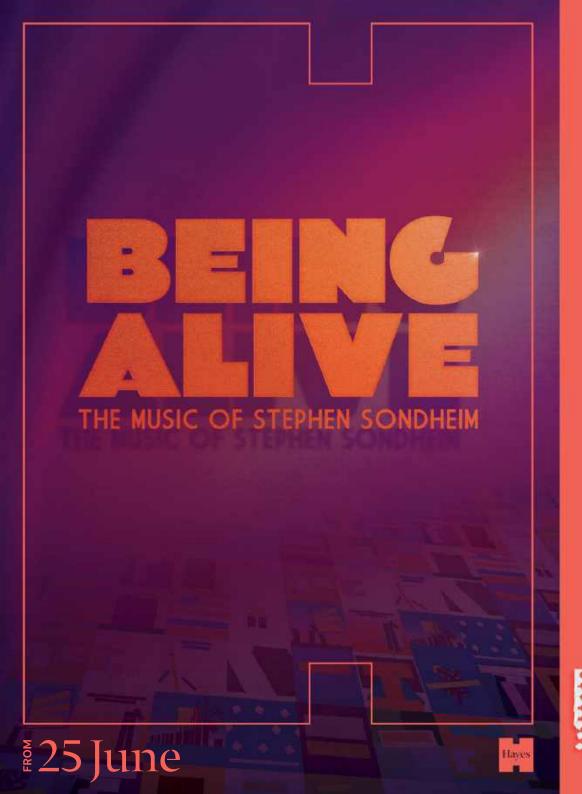
- RICHARD & VICKY

Wednesday - Saturday Thursday (JUNE 5 ONLY) Saturday Sunday

7:30pm 1pm 2pm 1pm & 6:30pm

§9 May





Being Alive The Music of Stephen Sondheim

DIRECTOR Sonya Suares MUSICAL DIRECTOR LUKE Byrne

WORLD PREMIERE

IF YOU LIKED • Saturday Night • West Side Story • Gypsy • A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum • • Merrily We Roll Along • Sunday in the Park with George • Into the Woods • Assassins • Passion • Here We Are

An exquisitely moving and exhilarating concert of songs by the greatest musical theatre mind of all.

Being Alive celebrates Hayes audiences' love affair with Sondheim, following acclaimed, awardwinning, and sold-out seasons of Assassins (2017), Merrily We Roll Along (2021), and A Little Night Music (2023).

"How startling and original all of his work is. He didn't comply with styles. He created them."

BARBRA STREISAND

lyricist, past or present."

After directing a host of Sondheim musicals across her career, Sonya Suares (The Lucky Country) honour the great man's legacy. Musical Director Luke Byrne leads a refined and intimate threepiece band for this unique concert event.

"Every Sondheim song is a three-act play set to beautiful music."

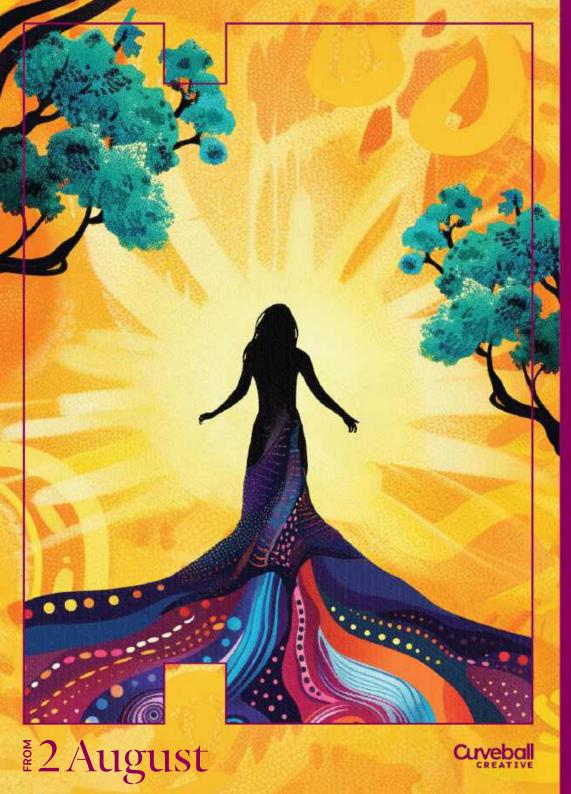
"Like Shakespeare, there are so many layers to his words and imagery. You can revisit their works time and time again, and there is always something new to discover."

HAYES HAS ALWAYS HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SONDHEIM - IN ADDITION TO THE THREE LANDMARK PRODUCTIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. WE'VE ALSO CO-PRESENTED GYPSY WITH LUCKIEST PRODUCTIONS AND ONE-EYED MAN PRODUCTIONS IN 2018, AND INTO THE WOODS AT BELVOIR IN 2023. THIS CONCERT IS SURE TO BE A MUST-SEE FOR ANY ADMIRER OF THE MUSIC THEATRE FORM.

- RICHARD & VICKY

Monday Tuesday - Saturday 7:30pm Thursday Saturday

2pm



Curveball Creative in association with Hayes Theatre Co Presents

Once On This Island

BOOK AND LYRICS BY LYNN Ahrens

HEARTWARMING BROKE THE MOLD NEW TAKE

мизіс ву Stephen Flaherty BASED UPON THE NOVEL "MY LOVE, MY LOVE" BY ROSA GUY **DIRECTOR Brittanie Shipway**

The tale of one young girl as she fearlessly follows her heart, defying even the expectations of the Gods

IF YOU LIKED • In The Heights • Come From Away • Moana • Romeo and Juliet

From the Tony Award-winning songwriting duo of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (Seussical, Ragtime) comes the Olivier Award-winning Once on This Island. This vibrant adaptation infuses its Caribbean roots with Australia's own rich cultural tapestry, injecting new life into the Hans Christian Anderson tale, The Little Mermaid.

Ti Moune, a humble peasant girl, courageously saves the life of Daniel, a wealthy boy from the far side of the island, and soon finds herself captivated by love. Little does she know, the island's proud Gods wager on a timeless question:

which is stronger, love or death? The unwitting pawn in their bet, Ti Moune's life hangs in the balance as she follows her heart.

This energetic and radiant score is carried by a poignant tale of love, sacrifice, and the transformative power of storytelling.

"Blessed with showcase numbers... Conjures a spell that is devastatingly timely yet affectingly timeless"

DEADLINE

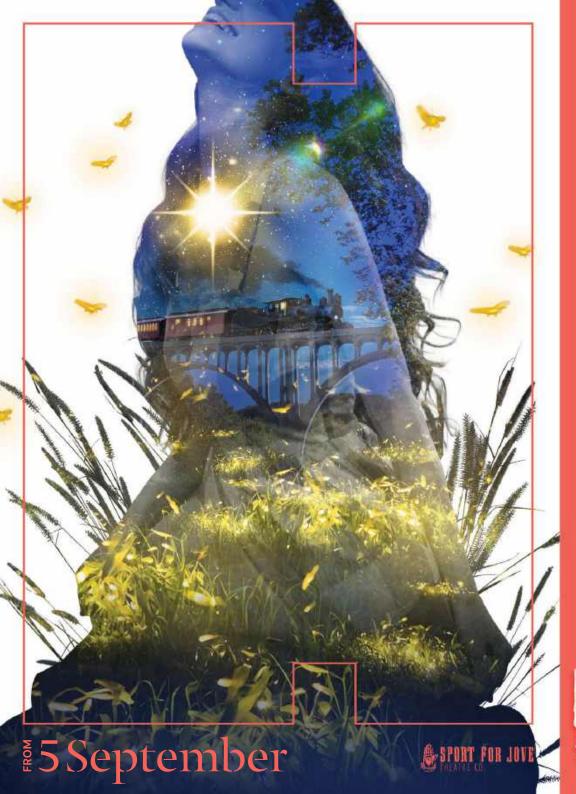
1pm

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THE TELLING AND RE-TELLING OF FOLKTALES IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WAYS THAT A COMMUNITY PASSES KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND LIFE LESSONS BETWEEN CULTURES AND TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS - BRITTANIE'S VERSION OF ONCE ON THIS ISLAND WILL DO THIS WITH TRUTH, COURAGE AND CURIOSITY AT ITS HEART. IT'S A STORY OF CONSTANT RESILIENCE AND RAW, BRILLIANT JOY; RESONATING WITH A NEW FORCE FROM ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S MOST EXCITING MUSICAL THEATRE CREATIVES.

- RICHARD & VICKY

Tuesday - Saturday 7:30pm Thursday Saturday Sunday 1pm & 5pm



Sport For Jove Theatre Co. in association with Hayes Theatre Co Presents

Bright Star

PREMIERE ACTOR-MUSICIAN HEARTWARMING

MUSIC LYRICS AND STORY BY Edie Brickell

DIRECTOR Damien Ryan

SYDNEY PREMIERE

"The point of diving in a lake is not immediately to swim to the shore..."

IF YOU LIKED • Violet • Godspell • Bonnie & Clyde • Once

The NSW premiere of the ingenious and inspiring musical by the superb Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. Drawn from a true story and featuring a Tony-nominated score, Bright Star tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s.

When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past, and what she finds has the power to transform both of their

With stunning melodies, gorgeous actor-centric theatricality and powerfully moving characters, the story is an evocative tapestry of deep emotion. An uplifting journey, Bright Star is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful.

IT'S A JOY TO BRING THE BRILLIANT ARTISTS OF SPORT FOR JOVE TO HAYES FOR THE FIRST TIME, WITH A BRAND NEW PRODUCTION OF THIS TRULY HEART-WARMING MUSICAL WITH A SENSATIONAL SCORE. MOST PEOPLE KNOW BY NOW THAT WE LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ACTOR-MUSICIAN MUSICAL, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST. YOU'LL LAUGH, YOU'LL CRY, YOU'LL RESOLVE TO LEARN THE MANDOLIN.

- RICHARD & VICKY

Tuesday - Saturday Thursday (18 SEPTEMBER ONLY) Saturday Sunday



Phar Lap The Electro-Swing Musical

COMEDY PREMIERE WILD RIDE

BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY Steven Kramer

DIRECTOR Sheridan Harbridge

WORLD PREMIERE

The musical that stops the nation

IF YOU LIKED • Dubbo Championship Wrestling • Keating! • The Great Gatsby • Bojack Horseman

Not just another absurdist, electro-swing musical comedy about a thoroughbred racehorse, Phar Lap is a rags-to-riches story with a big heart. If you're thinking elaborate life-size puppetry and dazzling special effects, you couldn't be more wrong (we don't have the budget). Suspend your disbelief as an actor swaps his horseshoes for tap shoes to play one of Australia's most beloved

When an awkward, gangly horse from New Zealand meets a hapless, down-on-his-luck, trainer, they embark on a classic underdog story to win the Melbourne Cup, and Australians' hearts and minds. The road isn't easy - there are gambling scandals, double-crosses, an attempted shooting, and a career-threatening addiction to sugar. It's high stakes, high drama, and highly historically accurate.

Phar Lap boasts an irresistible electro-swing score, with inspirations from Duke Ellington to Daft Punk. Brassy, lively and retro - these songs will take you from the race course to the rave hall.

Pop the champagne, harness up, and get ready for a wild ride.

This show was developed and supported through the Hayes Creative program.

THE BRILLIANT STEVEN KRAMER BROUGHT THIS IDEA TO US FOUR YEARS AGO, AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE 'PROOF OF CONCEPT' STAGE, WE SAW ABOUT 15 MINUTES OF MATERIAL, AND WERE ALREADY OBSESSED, SINCE THEN, IT'S ONLY GOT BETTER, FUNNIER, AND EVEN MORE ABSURD - WHILE SOMEHOW MAINTAINING A GLORIOUSLY WARM HEART, WE'RE SO EXCITED FOR AUDIENCES TO EXPERIENCE THIS TOTALLY UNIQUE, ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS MUSICAL.

- RICHARD & VICKY

Monday Tuesday - Saturday Thursday Saturday

7:30pm 1pm 2pm

*Post show Q&A on Monday 27 October

6:30pm

^{*}No matinee performance on Saturday 18 October

^{*}No matinee performance on Thursday 23 October

^{*}Captioned performance on Wednesday 5 November



Merry & Bright

PREMIERE HEARTWARMING COMEDY

воок ву Jordan Shea ORIGINAL MUSIC By Victoria Falconer

STARRING Nancye Hayes

DIRECTOR Richard Carroll MUSICAL DIRECTOR Victoria Falconer

WORLD PREMIERE

Never underestimate an 80-year-old. They've got a lot less to lose.

IF YOU LIKED • A Little Night Music • I'll Eat You Last • Elf • Miracle on 34th Street

Shirley has been playing Mrs. Claus at David Jones for forty years. Ever since she landed the role from a cattle call in 1983 out at a warehouse in Mascot, she's taken pride and joy in taping down the white wig, patting on the rouge, and blowing the dust off her sparkling one-liners to delight children and parents as Santa's finest off-sider. But this year, she turns up to work in early November, and is unceremoniously given her notice. Mrs Claus, say The Management, is "lacking in relevance".

A devastated Shirley decides to pick herself up and do battle on the fourth floor of David Jones - battling Millennial elves, screaming children, and men-in-suits who feel she's simply not up to it anymore. It's a fight for survival, and Shirley resolves to arm herself with the relevant data and the appropriate KPIs to front the board and make it known she's not going anywhere.

The incomparable Nancye Hayes weaves her magic in this new play with music, crafted specially for her by award-winning playwright Jordan Shea.

This show was developed and supported through the Hayes Creative program.

WHEN JORDY BROUGHT US THIS IDEA IN 2022 - DEVISED SPECIALLY WITH NANCYE IN MIND - WE WERE HOOKED IMMEDIATELY. FORTUNATELY, NANCYE WAS TOO. OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, WE'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF CRAFTING IT FURTHER WITH JORDY AND NANCYE, TO DESIGN SOMETHING WHICH SHOWCASES EVERYTHING WE LOVE ABOUT THE FIRST LADY OF AUSTRALIAN MUSICAL THEATRE -YET ALSO PROVES SHE STILL HAS THE ABILITY TO SURPRISE US. A TRUE

- RICHARD & VICKY

7:30pm Wednesday - Saturday Thursday Saturday 2pm 1pm & 5pm Sunday

1pm

^{*}No matinee performance on Saturday 29 November *No matinee performance on Thursday 4 December

^{*}Post show Q&A on Wednesday 10 December

^{*}Captioned performance on Wednesday 17 December

Neglected Musicals in association with Hayes Theatre Co presents

The Apple Tree

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock

ADDITIONAL BOOK MATERIAL BY Jerome Coopersmith

BASED ON STORIES BY

Mark Twain, Frank R. Stockton and Jules Feiffer ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON THE BROADWAY STAGE BY

Stuart Ostrow

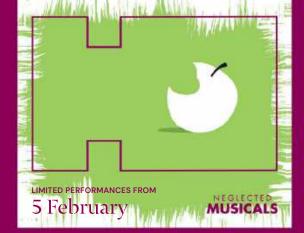
ORIGINAL PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY Mike Nicholas

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

DIRECTOR Alexander Berlage

From the songwriting team behind Fiddler on the Roof and She Loves Me comes a long loved Neglected Musical.

The Apple Tree is made up of three musical miniatures. The Diary of Adam and Eve is a quirky, touching spin on the tale of the world's first couple, adapted from Mark Twain's Extracts from Adam's Diary. The Lady or the Tiger? is a rock and roll fable set in a mythical barbarian kingdom, which explores the fickleness of love. Passionella



is based on Jules Feiffer's offbeat Cinderella-story about a chimney sweep whose dreams of being a glamorous movie star nearly sabotage her one chance for true love.

Neglected Musicals is an initiative dedicated to presenting musical theatre that's never (or rarely) been seen in Australia. The musicals are presented with scripts in hand & piano accompaniment after only a day's rehearsal. There's been 27 Neglected Musicals presentations since 2010.

Hayes Theatre Co and Bang Bang Rodeo present

Musical Bang Bang

Musical Bang Bang is the best live musical you've never seen. Why? Because it doesn't exist yet. It's IMPROV, silly. From a cult event at The Old Fitz, to Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Adelaide Cabaret Festival, this must-beseen-to-be-believed onslaught is now a firm favourite of Hayes audiences. Actor-comedians Jane Watt (Godspell, Spamalot) and Rob Johnson (Calamity Jane, Boomkak Panto, Rosehaven) lead an ensemble of Sydney's best improvisers, as well as some special - often terrified - guests from the top ranks of Australian music theatre.

With an ever-changing lineup, this foolhardy ensemble invents a singing, dancing extravaganza 'yes and'-ing each other into oblivion - all on the set of whichever production is showing. Musicals cooked up so far in 2024, based on suggestions from Hayes audiences, include 'Moonbeam The Musical', 'In-between The Musical', 'Gold Mine The Musical', and 'The Magicians' Society'. Previously featured theatre and comedy luminaries include Julia Zemiro, Virginia Gay, Tom Cardy, Billie Palin and Gabbi Bolt - not to mention a very game musical director, and sound & lighting technician improvising along with the cast! Come see these consummate professionals push themselves to ridiculous limits, all in the name of entertainment.

Hayes Theatre Co and Hedger & Nicholson present

Home Grown

After kicking off a residency at Hayes in 2024, following a decade at the centre of Melbourne's new music theatre writing scene, Home Grown has already established itself as a staple of the Hayes program with sold-out shows throughout the year. In 2025, Home Grown continues their one-of-a-kind Sydney concerts, which see the hottest talent in Australian musical theatre come together with the country's most exciting writers to celebrate new work in our own backyard. Hear writers and composers talk candidly about their work, as they introduce never-before-heard songs - these electrifying concerts are not to be missed. Home Grown is a not-for-profit company dedicated to supporting, developing and promoting Australian musical theatre.



FIRST 2025 PERFORMANCE Tuesday 21 January



FIRST 2025 PERFORMANCE Monday 17 March

PLEASE GIVE MORE THAN APPLAUSE





The Actors Benevolent Fund of NSW has been providing a safety net for the performing arts since 1944.

DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

HELP WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST

Theys at the Hayes

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY GLOBAL CREATURES & MICHAEL CASSEL GROUP

Following an acclaimed 2024 event that sold out in record time, *Theys at the Hayes* returns with a brand-new line-up for another one-off performance during Sydney Mardi Gras. Celebrating star quality that's self-defining, and featuring leading players and new faces from across our industry, *Theys at the Hayes* is conceived and co-produced by Blake Appelqvist (they/them – star of & *Juliet*, *Fangirls*, and Hayes's *Spamalot*, *American Psycho* and *Bonnie* & *Clyde*). Come along for an array of gender-expansive performers, musicians and artists refreshing you with new work, local talent and gender euphoria.





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Hayes Theatre Co presents

An Evening With:

The Music of Peter Allen

Hayes Theatre Co once again brings you an extra-special, star-studded event for our annual fundraising concert *An Evening With.* In 2025, we celebrate the music and legacy of one of our country's most beloved artists, Peter Allen – with songs like Tenterfield Saddler, I Go to Rio, and I Honestly Love You, performed by some of Australian music theatre's most incredible voices. This is always a special night filled with unforgettable exclusive performances – make sure you're signed up to the Hayes e-news to be notified when tickets go on-sale, and to find out first who will make up this year's incredible cast.

Hayes Theatre Co presents

Winter Cabaret Season

We're excited to once again work with our friends at Adelaide Cabaret Festival to bring local, interstate and international artists to the Hayes. The full line-up will be announced in 2025, but the season will be headlined by the award-winning star of Miss Saigon, and recipient of the inaugural Hayes Theatre Co & Adelaide Cabaret Festival Cabaret Commission, Seann Miley Moore. This commission supports the creation and development of a new work by an Australian cabaret artist.

LPD Productions in association with Haves Theatre Co present

Carols by Cabaret

This annual charity concert has been produced every year since the Hayes opened, has become a vital Christmas tradition for many of our audience members, and has raised almost \$100,000 for local charitable organisation The Wayside Chapel. Featuring performers from Hayes shows throughout the year, it's a fun and heartwarming way to lend a helping hand to some of the more vulnerable members of our local community.





9-22 June on Sale in 2025



Mon 8 December 12

3

Festival of New Work

In 2025, Hayes is once again thrilled to present our Festival Of New Work. Springing from our thriving Hayes Creative program, this festival reflects Hayes' vital role in developing Australian music theatre talent and new music theatre writing. Events are aimed at both arts practitioners and audiences, and the two weeks of the Festival of New Work vibrate with activities including musical readings, showcases, concert presentations, workshops, and industry upskilling & networking

The Festival of New Work offers the chance to see the Next Big Thing before anyone else does, and maybe even be a part of shaping it. Full program of events will be unveiled in 2025.

THE FESTIVAL OF NEW WORK IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY JONES THEATRICAL GROUP, THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION. & THE RUSSELL MILLS FOUNDATION.



THEATRICAL GROUP

Suzanne Jones and Jones Theatrical Group are proud to support new work at the Hayes Theatre.

Jones Theatrical Group brings incredible entertainment experiences from ground the world to Australia and from Australia to the world.

CHICAGO



HADESTOWN THE BOOK OF MORMON

Hayes Creative

Hayes Creative is our professional and artistic development arm. New musicals including Zombie! The Musical, Dubbo Championship Wrestling, The Lucky Country - and, in 2025, Phar Lap: The Electro-Swing Musical and Merry & Bright - have debuted at Hayes following development through this program, which is at the heart of what we do. Hayes Creative is designed to support the mission of Haves Theatre Co:

- to advance the art form of music theatre
- to enrich and develop the ecology of our industry
- to create unique experiences that engage and entertain our audiences, reflecting the human experience through music and storytelling

Hayes Creative is made up of four streams:

1. SHOWLAB SUBMISSIONS

A day-long workshop where selected early-tomid-career writers, performers and composers present an excerpt from their project to a panel of industry professionals, and receive immediate, in-person feedback.

2. FEEDBACK SUBMISSIONS

writers/performers/composers seeking creative feedback on a project in its early stages, without the need for a live presentation. Submissions lead to an in-person feedback session with our Hayes Creative advisory panel, who gives critical feedback on ideas, book writing, plot/character, song construction and composition, as well as tips and further questions to help the writers along the creative path.

3. DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSIONS

For artists seeking development support and/ or funding from Hayes Theatre Co, to help their project get to its next stage. Our advisory panel selects projects for assistance such as development funding, mentorship, and/or workshopping with a director, cast and musicians.

4. HAYES VOCATIONAL

Hayes Vocational is our flagship talent escalation program, now in its fifth year. Emerging creatives



are paired with industry leaders on Hayes productions, in paid and credited roles. The program allows recipients to refine their skills and expand their knowledge, and to receive mentoring from more experienced practitioners. Hayes Vocational also aims to expand representation within creative appointments in music theatre. Several creatives who have come to Hayes through our Vocational program have gone on to more senior roles on later productions.

HAYES CREATIVE INDUSTRY PANEL 2024:

Amy Campbell Laura Tipoki Brittanie Shipway Michael Tyack Katherine Thomson Jonathan Ware

Vocational placements in 2024:

Ashleigh Grace
WIG, HAIR & MAKE UP DESIGN ASSISTANT ON ZOMBIE! THE MUSICAL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CASTING) ON RIDE THE CYCLONE

Madeleine Picard

SOUND & AV DESIGN ASSOCIATE ON RIDE THE CYCLONE

SOUND & VIDEO DESIGN ASSISTANT ON FLAT EARTHERS: THE MUSICAL

Opening and closing dates for submissions to each stream will be included in the Hayes e-news and on social media throughout the year.

THE HAYES VOCATIONAL PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE RUSSELL MILLS FOUNDATION

2025 Season



PHARLAP OCT 17 - NOV 15 Musical Bang Bang NOV 24

MERRY & BRIGHT NOV 28 - DEC 21

MERRY & BRIGHT NOV 28 - DEC 21

December

Musical Bang Bang DEC 15

FEB 14 -- MAR 16 Musical Bang Bang MAR 3 THE PRODUCERS MAR 28 - APR 27

April

MARKET							-								
1	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
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	28	29	30											

MAR 28 - APR 27														
Musical Bang Bang APR 7	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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WOMEN ON THE VERGE								2	3	A	6	6	6	R

Musical Bang Bang AUG 25	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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PHAR LAP OCT 17 – NOV 15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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November	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

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Winter Cabaret Season

JUN 9 - JUN 22 BEING ALIVE

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Subscriptions now on sale

A subscription means purchasing tickets to three or more productions in 2025. The more you see, the more you save.

Benefits



Receive a 10% discount on single ticket prices if you see six or more shows.



Access to our Subscriber Opening Nights for every production.



Receive a 5% discount on single ticket prices if you see between 3–5 shows.



Unlimited free exchanges should you need to change dates.*

* If exchanging tickets at least 48 hours before your performance.



Subscribers get priority access to book in for all 2025 productions.



Lock in the year's entertainment in advance, & never miss another soldout show



Best seats in the house: Choose performances and seats you want before single tickets go on sale.



No fees: Subscription bookings are free from transaction fees.

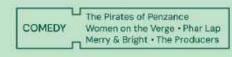
Subscriber Opening Nights

Every mainstage show in our season has a special Opening Night performance designed for subscribers. For no extra cost, subscribers can choose to allocate their tickets to this night to get access to this event. You'll be treated to a red carpet where you can take photographs in front of our media wall, discounted show cocktails, and a special welcome and words about the show from

our Artistic Directors. Just select the Subscriber Opening Night performance when you book – but be quick, each Subscriber Opening has a limited number of tickets. You can select the Subscriber Opening for some or all of the shows you choose in your subscription – but if the date isn't convenient for you, just pick another performance!

Can't decide? Take our advice

Just choose the heading which best describes your interests, and select those shows when you subscribe.

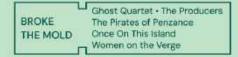








I	NEW TAKE	The Pirates of Penzance The Producers Once On This Island







Subscriber exclusivity until...



Ghost Quartet
single TIX on SALE September 2024



The Pirates of Penzance SINGLE TIX ON SALE October 2024



The Producers
SINGLE TIX ON SALE December 2024



Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

SINGLE TIX ON SALE January 2025



Being Alive
THE MUSIC OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM
SINGLE TIX ON SALE FEBRUARY 2025



Once On This Island SINGLE TIX ON SALE March 2025



Bright Star



SINGLETIX ON SALE April 2025

Phar Lap



THE ELECTRO-SWING MUSICAL SINGLE TIX ON SALE JUNE 2025



Merry & Bright SINGLE TIX ON SALE JULY 2025

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Our easy-to-use booking system allows you to select your preferred date and seats for each show you select. Scan the QR code to the left and you'll be taken straight to the subscription page of our website.

Alternatively, you can use the subscription form included in this brochure (or download one from our website) and mail it in. Or call our friendly box office staff to process your order over the phone.

36



Supporting Hayes

It's been an extraordinary decade at Hayes Theatre Co, but it's only through your support that we can continue to do what we do best – stage the best music theatre in Australia, and support our extraordinary artists.

We've played to a total of **287,351 audience** members; **employed 1,151** actors and musicians; and supported the development of no fewer than **67 new Australian musicals**. More than a dozen productions that started life at Hayes have gone on to play at other theatres, or to tour around the country. Countless directors, musical directors, creatives, actors, and musicians have started their professional careers at Hayes. We've truly established Hayes as the vital creative engine of the Australian music theatre industry.

But the numbers don't tell the whole story.

Because the Hayes story is one of community. Individuals coming together to achieve something extraordinary. From the group of producers who founded the theatre, to the ingenuity of artists and creative teams who create wonders with limited resources and tight timelines. From our incredible artists, to our hard-working staff, to every last audience member, whose energy and enthusiasm propel each performance to astonishing heights.

We know each other, work hard for one another, and champion each other every day.

Hayes is the only professional not-for-profit company in Australia that consistently develops and produces new Australian musicals. It's expensive, and it takes a long time – but we believe that Australian stories should be seen and heard onstage. We produce and present extraordinary musicals in our intimate theatre – and while the experience of sitting just a few feet from the action is what makes Hayes so special, our 111 seats can't pay for the shows we put on. By donating to Hayes, you're directly supporting Australian artists employed on one of our productions, or funded through one of our creative development programs.

We couldn't be more excited for the year ahead, or more grateful to everyone for making this possible. Knowing that you're in our corner allows us to take creative risks, and to bring you the most exciting new shows – whether they're new musicals or thrilling new adaptations of existing works.

You can donate quickly and easily using a credit card on our website, or send an email to will@hayestheatre.com.au to find out more about our programs and how you can help.

Our Donors

SUPPORTERS \$20,000+

Denton Family Trust, SuperNova Services

SUPPORTERS \$10,000+

Anonymous, Brian Abel, Ellen Borda, Marie & Gordon Esden, Anita Jacoby, Fiona Martin–Weber & Tom Hayward, Robertson Foundation, Annie Williams, Jones Theatrical Group

CHAIRS CIRCLE LEADERS \$10,000

Vicki Brown, Stephen Fitzgerald, Joydeep Hor, Steven and Belinda Hufton, Hugh Marks & Alexi Baker

CHAIRS CIRCLE \$5000

Darren & Hannah Challis, Wendy Gerahty, Grant & Kelley Drury-Green, Phil & Meaghan Lucas, Christopher McCabe, Vanessa & Sasha Shevelev, Lisa Wallace, Sam and Judy Weiss

SUPPORTERS \$5,000+

Anonymous, Fiona Allan, Challis & Company, Rachel Launders & Paul Clark, Adam & Vicki Liberman, Global Creatures, Robert and Vanessa Morgan, Webcoda

SUPPORTERS \$1,000+

Anonymous, Ben Anderson, John & Patricia Azarias, John Barrer, Sally Beath, Nerida Bewick, Freya Bourke, Ant Campbell, Peter & Kathy Carroll, Michelle Castle, Des Clarke, Kerry Comerford, Hannah Cousens, Ian Crosbie, Sally Davis, Erin Devery, Kathryn Dolan, David Ellis, Faulkner, Melody & Jonathan Feder, Ben Franklin, Robert Furley, Troy Gallant & Giles Smith, Wendy Gerahty, Jennifer Giles, Nicky Gluyas, Helena Harris, Kate Harrison & Betty Hounslow, Neil Henrdy & Jean-Claude Niederer, Victoria Holthouse, Kate Howitt, Iley Jones, Shahnaz Irani, Ed and Carmel Kreamer, Dash Kruck, Rachel Launders, Maria Lawrie – All Time Conveyancing, John Lewis, Craig Limkin, Malcolm Lycett, Elena Mangioni, Jennifer Mann, Gemma McDermott, Michael Cassel Group, Julia Newbould, Alan Parry & Bruce Fairhall, Lou Oppenheim, David O'Toole, Jean Prouvaire, Ian Phipps, Martin Pilbeam, JK Power, Lynn Ralph, Tiffany Rez, Steve Riethoff, David Rolph, Alan Foude & David Round, Andrew Rosenberg, Michael Roset, Vanessa Rowe, Nick Saunders, Patrick Shand & Ben Cavanagh, Katherine Sharpham, Andrew Silberberg, Angel Stevie, Judge Robyn Tupman, Greg Wood & David Barron, Caroline Verge

38

Creative Partners





























Booking Tickets

ONLINE

Go to hayestheatre.com.au and click Book Now on the Show Page

BY PHONE

Box Office (02) 8065 7337

Monday 10am - 5pm

Tuesday to Friday 10am - 6pm

Saturday 12pm - 5pm*

Sunday 2 hours before the show*

*Dependent on performance schedule

IN-PERSON

During box office hours. Within one hour of any scheduled performance, the Box Office is only able to sell tickets to that performance.

GROUP BOOKINGS

Group bookings of eight or more people may be entitled to further discounts and can be booked online or over the phone.

CONCESSIONS

Concession prices apply to Seniors, Pensioners, Students, and MEAA members. Some productions or performances may not offer concession price tickets.

GIFT VOUCHERS

Gift vouchers may be purchased online or over the phone and are valid for three years from the date of purchase.

COMPANION CARDS

You can book tickets using a companion card online, selecting the 'Book a wheelchair or Companion ticket' button before selecting your performance date, or by contacting the Box Office.

TRANSACTION FEES

All phone, online and in-person bookings are subject to a \$5 transaction fee.

REFUNDS

Tickets cannot be refunded after purchase, except as provided in the Live Performance Australia code of ticketing practice. To view a copy of the code, head to "Booking Information" on our website.

TICKET EXCHANGES

Subject to availability, tickets may be exchanged once to a performance of equal value, no later than 48 hours prior to the booked performance. Exchanges to performances of a higher value will incur an upgrade fee. Second or late exchanges will be subject to a \$5 exchange fee.

ACCESSIBILITY

A fixed number of accessible seats are available in the front row of the theatre. These can be booked online by selecting the 'Book a wheelchair or Companion ticket' button, or by contacting the Box Office.

Partners

Hayes Theatre Co is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.

Hayes Theatre Co is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

Hayes is made possible through the City of Sydney's Accommodation Grant Program.



































About

ADDRESS

19 Greenknowe Avenue, Elizabeth Bay, NSW, 201

CONTACT

PHONE: 02 8056 7337

EMAIL: admin@hayestheatre.com.a

boxoffice@hayestheatre.com.au subscriptions@hayestheatre.com.au

BOX OFFICE HOURS*

Monday 10am - 5pm

Tuesday to Friday 10am - 6pm

Saturday 12pm - 5pm

Sunday 2 hours before the show

*Subject to change in accordance with the performance schedule

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND PARKING

BY TRAIN

To Kings Cross Station

Exit Darlinghurst Road and turn left to walk to

Approximately 8 minutes

BY BUS

Catch the 311 from Wynyard or Central and disembark on Greenknowe Ave

PARKING

Kings Cross Car Park

Ward Avenue, Kings Cross

\$15 flat rate weeknights after 6pm, all day weekends, or with validation of parking ticket at the theatre.

Limited one-hour street parking is available around the area.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our theatre includes road-to-stage step-free access and we have several dedicated accessible seating areas.

For all accessibility information, visit our website or contact the box office.

Staff

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Richard Carroll

Victoria Falcone

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Will Harvey

PRODUCE

Rica Canillas

OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Sarah Isaacs

MARKETING & TICKETING MANAGER

Kayla French

VENUE TECHNICAL MANAGER

Sam Ducker

MARKETING ASSOCIATE & BAR MANAGER

Dash Kruck

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Ezara Nortor

FRONT OF HOUSE TEAM

Tori Bullard, Lewis Defina, Jordan Delany Rose McClelland, Michael McPhee, Annabelle Richens, Patrick Selmes, Lauren Walker, & Chantal Ward

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DEPUTY CHAIR

Darren Chailis

BOARD

Jennifer Huby

Bree Langriage

Jaciyn Lee-Jo

wayne Mckenna

Lou Oppenheim

Darren Yap

BOARD OBSERVER

Yana Burton

2025 SEASON BROCHURE DESIGNED BY

42

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