

SOFT TREAD PRESENTS

THE WHARF REVUE

CAN OF WORMS

CREATED BY JONATHAN BIGGINS, DREW FORSYTHE AND PHILLIP SCOTT



 SOFT TREAD

 SEYMOUR

Creator's Note

After twenty-one years with the Sydney Theatre Company, we thought it was probably time we left the comfort of home and struck out into the wide world on our own. Thankfully, many of the talented people who have helped bring *The Wharf Revue* to life each year came with us, so the process of putting the show together seemed much like any other we've done, except the hall was draughtier and we had to buy our own biscuits.

You, our loyal audience, have also stayed with us. Which the accountant tells us is just as well. As the country drifts under increasingly incompetent governments and the world faces a seemingly endless list of existential crises, now is the time to get back into a theatre and have a good laugh about it all. Satire has always been a collective release valve for the powerless and our shows have long been informed by that classic Australian cartoon: "For gorsake, stop laughing – this is serious!"

But this year, reflecting the times, perhaps the show occasionally strikes a sombre note. For while satire may not ultimately effect much change in this world, it does remind us of what needs to be changed.

Jonathan Biggins, Drew Forsythe and Phillip Scott November 2021



Jonathan Biggins

Creator/Writer/Director/Performer

Jonathan Biggins is an award-winning writer, director and performer, perhaps best known for his bravura turn as Paul Keating in his smash hit play *The Gospel According to Paul* and as one of the creators and performers for the long-running and much loved annual political satire, *The Wharf Revue*, previously produced under the auspices of Sydney Theatre Company and now being produced independently. As an actor Jonathan has also worked with all of the major theatre companies, including Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company and the State Theatre Company of SA, and has appeared on multiple comedy shows on the ABC. He is the winner of two Australian Writers' Guild awards for *The Republic of Myopia* and for a new libretto for *Orpheus in the Underworld* (with Phil Scott), and a Helpmann Award for Best Director for *Avenue Q*. His two full-length plays, *Australia Day* (2012) and *Talk* (2017), both premiered at Sydney Theatre Company before touring nationally.



Drew Forsythe

Creator/Writer/Director/Performer

A graduate of NIDA, Drew Forsythe joined The Old Tote Theatre Co as a company member for four seasons which included the opening of the Opera House Drama Theatre. As a member of the Nimrod Theatre Co Drew performed in *Biggles* (which opened the Nimrod, now Stables, Theatre), *The Bacchoi* (which opened the New Nimrod, now Belvoir St. Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Richard the Third*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Seagull*, *Gone With Hardy*, *Comedy of Errors*, *The Club*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Venetian Twins*, *Three Sisters* and *The Servant of Two Masters*. Most of these with John Bell mentoring and directing. With Sydney Theatre Company Drew has appeared in most of the 26 Wharf Revues, *Shorts at the Wharf* (which opened the Wharf Theatre), *Hedda Gabler*, *The Way of the World*, *Amadeus*, *Emerald City*, *Big and Little*, *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, *The Recruit*, *Volpone*, *Harbour*, *The Republic of Myopia* (which opened the Roslyn Packer Theatre), *The Way of the World*, *The Give and Take*, *Under Milk Wood* and *Mrs Warren's Profession*. Musicals include *Strictly Ballroom*, *Big River*, *Lasseeter*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Mikado*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *HMS Pinafore*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and

The Merry Widow. Drew has performed with the Australian Chamber Orchestra in Michael Leunig's *Carnival of the Humans* and with The Song Company in *L'Amfiparnaso*, a concert. He has appeared in the films *Stone*, *Deathcheaters*, *Caddie*, *Newsfront*, *Doctors and Nurses*, *Ginger Meggs*, *Burke and Wills*, *Annie's Coming Out*, *Travelling North*, *Billy's Holiday* and *Ned*, and on television in *Devil's Dust*, *David Tench Tonight*, *The Miraculous Mellops*, *The Dingo Principle*, *The Party Machine*, *Whose Baby* and *Three Men a Baby Grand*. His awards include Green Room Award Best Actor in a Musical (*The Mikado*), Variety Award Best Actor in a Musical (*The Venetian Twins*), AFI Best Supporting Actor (*Caddie*) and Penguin Award Best Actor in a Mini-Series (*Whose Baby*). His writing credits include *The Wharf Revue*, *The Republic of Myopia*, *Three Men and a Baby Grand* and *The Last Man Standing*.



Phillip Scott

Creator/Writer/
Musical Director/Performer

Phillip Scott is a writer/actor/
composer/pianist, best known
for the annual the Wharf Revue.

His cabarets include the award-winning solo show *Reviewing the Situation*, *Mario* (with Blake Bowden), *Newley Discovered* (with Hugh Sheridan), and *No Cabaret for Old Men* (with Jonathan Biggins). He worked with director Ted Robinson on many ABC TV series including *The Gillies Report*, *The Big Gig* and *Good News Week*. Phil was Script Consultant on *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert – The Musical*. He co-wrote and composed the musicals *Safety in Numbers* and *The Republic of Myopia*, and wrote the music and lyrics for Monkey Baa Theatre's childrens shows including *Pete the Sheep* and *Josephine Wants to Dance*. With Trevor Ashley he co-wrote the adult pantos *Fat Swan*, *Little Orphan Trashley*, *The Bodybag*, and *The Lyin' Queen*. Phil recently played Dr. Pangloss and Narrator in Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* at the Sydney Opera House, and was Musical Director/Arranger of *Torch Song Trilogy* for the Darlinghurst Theatre Company. With Catherine Alcorn, he appeared at the Hayes Theatre in *30 Something*, set on New Year's

Eve 1939. Phil has published four novels and is also a music reviewer for *Limelight* and *Fanfare* magazines.



Amanda Bishop

Performer

Mandy Bishop is thrilled to be in Soft Tread Enterprises' first production of *The Wharf Revue*. Appearing in many Wharf Revues

for the Sydney Theatre Company since 2008, Mandy also loved watching many peers 'Revue-ing'. Other Theatre includes: *Echoes of the Jazz Age* (John Bell & Simon Tedeschi), Bell Shakespeare (*Much Ado About Nothing*, *Speak the Speech*, workshops & Education tours), Hayes Theatre (*Dubbo Championship Wrestling* workshop, *Neglected Musicals: Irene, Dear World*), Sydney Symphony Orchestra (*The Happiness Box*, *Gerald McBoing Boing*), New York (*The Pill* La Mama development & workshop, *All The World's A Pickle* Theatre 54), Darlinghurst Theatre Co (*Silent Night*, *Vicious Streaks*, *Boston Marriage*), Griffin Theatre Co & Old Fitzroy Theatre Co. TV includes: *Drop Dead Weird*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Rake*, *Australia The Story of Us*, *At Home With Julia* (co-writer, assoc-producer), *The Chaser*, *Chaperones*, *Wednesday Night Fever*, *Review With Miles Barlow*. Film: *Next Is The One* (USA), *Vulnerable*, *Legends of the Guardians: Owls of Ga'Hoole*. Awards: Logie, AACTA and AFTRA series nominations & awards, MEAA Cast Award, Glug award. Mandy also assists with the choreography for Revues in which she appears.

David Bergman

Sound and Video Designer



David is a leading video, music and sound designer for theatre, dance, opera, installation and film. For Sydney Theatre Company, David was video designer for *The Picture of*

Dorian Gray, sound designer for *Playing Beatie Bow*, video and sound designer for *A Cheery Soul* and *The Wharf Revue* (from 2009-2018); and video designer for *Muriel's Wedding: The Musical*, *The Hanging*, *The Effect*, and *The Long Way Home*. He was video designer for *Breaking Glass* with Sydney Chamber Opera. For Griffin Theatre, David was composer and sound designer for

Superheroes, and composer, video and sound designer for *First Love is the Revolution*; and for Belvoir, David was co-sound designer for *Packer and Sons*. For Monkey Baa Theatre, David was video designer for *Possum Magic* and *The Peasant Prince* and sound designer for *Josephine Wants to Dance*. Other credits include: as video designer, *Knowledge Ground*, *Spirited* (Bangarra); as composer and sound designer, *Made To Measure* (Seymour Centre), *Maggie Stone* (DTC), *Salem and Another Country* (NIDA); as sound designer, *The Rise and Disguise Of Elizabeth R.*, *Catch Me If You Can* (Hayes); and *Spring Awakening* (ATYP). David is a NIDA graduate. He teaches NIDA's graduate and post graduate courses.



Matt Cox

Lighting Designer

Since arriving in Sydney in 2003, Matt has designed numerous theatre productions including for Bangarra Dance

Theatre: *Dubboo*, *One's Country*, *OUR Land* *People Stories*, *Blak and Belong*; for Carriageworks: *Lake Disappointment*; for The Hayes Theatre Company: *She Loves Me*; for Siren Theatre Co: *The Trouble with Harry*; for Ensemble: *Diplomacy*, *Murder on the Wireless*; for the Australian Chamber Orchestra: *Reflections on Gallipoli*; for Marrugeku: *Burrbgaja Yalirra*; for Musica Viva: *Goldner String Quartet*; for Bell Shakespeare: *The Miser*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*; for Monkey Baa: *Possum Magic*, *The Unknown Soldier*, *Diary of a Wombat*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *The Wharf Revue* (2018-2020), *Ruby Moon*; for William Zappa: *The Iliad Out Loud*; for Tinderbox Productions: *David Suchet*, *Poirot and More*; for Louise Withers and Associates: *The Mousetrap*, *A Murder is Announced*; for Michael Sieders Presents: *Alice in Wonderland*; for Company B: *The Seed*; for Legs on the Wall: *Symphony*; for Sport for Jove: *The Libertine*, *Othello*, *Antigone*, *The River at the end of the Road*, *The Tempest*; for Red Line Productions: *This Much is True*, *A View From the Bridge*; for Sydney Festival: *The Famous Spiegeltent* (2015-2016), *The Aurora Spiegeltent* (2014); for the Sydney Chamber Opera: *His Music Burns*.



Hazel Fisher

Costume Designer

Hazel grew up in Liverpool, UK and trained in theatre wardrobe and design... many years ago.

Having made her home in Sydney for more than 30 years she has worked not only in theatre but retail, teaching kids to sew and production management in a small fashion business specialising in incorporating Japanese kimonos into clothing. For the past few years, she has been the coordinator of the costume store for Sydney Theatre Company.



Scott Fisher

Costume Designer

Scott, a native of Adelaide, spent his formative years in theatre working on shows like *Cats* and *Les Miserables* as well

as a stint as a tailor's assistant at The National Theatre of Great Britain. He joined Opera Australia in 1989 as a wardrobe assistant before moving to the roles of buyer and then coordinator for the wardrobe department. He has spent the past 18 years as manager of Sydney Theatre Company's costume department where he was introduced to *The Wharf Revue* team. The rest, as they say, is history.



Todd Decker

Interstitials Video Director

Todd is a contract television director for ABC TV, SBS, the Sydney Opera House, Disney Channel, Network Ten, the

Seven Network, Foxtel Arts, PBS, graphic artist for ABC Kids, and tutor in Advanced Presenter Training at AFTRS. Productions include: *Q+A*, *Yo-Yo Ma Six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello*, Lea Salonga in Concert, Audra McDonald & the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Paul Capsis and Emma Pask Live, *Play School*, *Whovians*, 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, All About Women, Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Antidote and Stereosonic. Todd has worked with *The Wharf Revue* team for over a decade creating video content.

Soft Tread presents

THE WHARF REVUE: CAN OF WORMS

Creators and Writers Jonathan Biggins,
Drew Forsythe and Phillip Scott

Directors Jonathan Biggins and Drew Forsythe

Musical Director Phillip Scott

Lighting Designer Matt Cox

Sound and Video Designer David Bergman

Costume Designers Scott and Hazel Fisher

Wigs and Make-Up Margaret Aston

Interstitials Video Director Todd Decker

Cast Jonathan Biggins, Mandy Bishop,
Drew Forsythe and Phillip Scott

Producer Jo Dyer

Stage Manager Tim Burns

Sound Operator Jonathan Gardner

**Touring Lighting Realiser/
Technician** Cameron Menzies

Production Manager Barry Searle

Publicity Ian Phipps Publicity

Marketing Rani Haywood

Digital Marketing Luke de Zilva

Photographer Brett Boardman

Graphic Designer Leading Hand Design

Running Time: 90 minutes (no interval)

The Producers wish to thank

Tim Jones and all the staff at Seymour Centre
Barbara Cuckson

Sydney Theatre Company, particularly
the Costume, Staging, Sound and
Props Departments

Soft Tread Enterprises

Soft Tread Enterprises was established in 2008 by film and theatre producer Jo Dyer to develop and produce independent, commercial projects across film, TV and the performing arts.

Soft Tread's live productions have featured in festivals and venues around Australia. They have toured internationally to venues including the National Centre for Performing Arts in Mumbai, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and as a headline act at the legendary Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas.

Soft Tread's films have screened and been acclaimed worldwide. Its most recent film, *Girl Asleep*, had its international premiere at the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival and won awards including Best Film at the Seattle Film Festival and the Critics' Award at the Melbourne Film Festival.



SOFT TREAD softtread.com.au

Seymour Centre

Seymour Centre's work champions new voices, questions the status quo and inspires wide-ranging audiences through the creative expression of big ideas.

The Seymour Season program presents major works from Australian and international artists, and proudly supports emerging and established independent arts companies.



seymourcentre.com