

SOFT TREAD PRESENTS

# THE WHARF REVUE LOOKING FOR ALBANESE



CREATED BY JONATHAN BIGGINS,  
DREW FORSYTHE AND PHILLIP SCOTT

 **SOFT TREAD**

**THE  
WHARF  
REVUE**

## Creators' Note

### The Queen is dead. Long live the King in this season's Wharf Revue!

Along with Charlie, we've been gifted a new Labor Government to plunder and in particular a new Prime Suspect - sorry, Minister - to explore in many different ways and guises as we go playing with Albo's idiosyncrasies in *Looking for Albanese*. He's the seventh PM we've had since we started - we're going to last longer than Menzies!

One of the joys of writing, rehearsing and performing The Wharf Revue is getting to know these new characters. How they talk, walk, behave and what situations to place them in that will reveal a side of them immediately recognisable to you, our audience. And all that futile work we did on Liz Truss!

But of course, alongside these aspirants vying for a place in our new show are some old faithfuls, guiding the upstarts into the sometimes humiliating role of Revue rookie.

Assisting us in this happy journey we have an invaluable production team making costumes and wigs, filming video segments, creating images, recording backing tracks and putting together the all-purpose set. Most of this fantastic team have been with us for many years.

As have, we are pleased to discover, so many of you. We couldn't do this without our loyal audience, who followed us from our days at the STC as we ventured out on our own last year and now as we continue in partnership with Jo Dyer and her company Soft Tread.

### Jonathan Biggins, Drew Forsythe and Phillip Scott

November 2022

## Artist Biographies:



### Jonathan Biggins

Writer/Co-Director/Performer

Jonathan Biggins is an award-winning writer, director and performer, perhaps best known as one of the creators and performers for Sydney Theatre

Company's long-running and much loved annual political satire, *The Wharf Revue*, which celebrated its 21st Anniversary in 2021. 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. His most recent play, *The Gospel According to Paul*, a one-play about the life and political legacy of Paul Keating in which he also starred, was a smash hit that played to sold out houses across the country.



### Drew Forsythe

Writer/Co-Director/Performer

Drew has been a creator and writer of and performer in most of the 27 Wharf Revues presented to date under the aegis of Sydney Theatre Company.

For STC he has also performed in productions including *Hedda Gabler*, *The Way of the World*, *Amadeus*, *Emerald City*, *Big and Little*, *The Recruit*, *Volpone*, *Under Milk Wood* and *Mrs Warren's Profession*.

A graduate of NIDA, Drew 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, he 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 which were under the directorship of John Bell.

Drew is the recipient of a 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 the Penguin Award Best Actor in a Mini-Series (*Whose Baby*). For the stage he has also written *The Republic of Myopia*, *Three Men and a Baby Grand* and *The Last Man Standing*.



## Phillip Scott

Writer/Musical Director/Performer

Phillip Scott is a writer/actor/composer/pianist, best known for the annual Wharf Revues. 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 children's 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.



## Mandy Bishop

Performer

Mandy Bishop is an Australian actress, singer and writer and key collaborator of the Wharf Revue.

Other recent THEATRE: national tour of Bell Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Irene* for Neglected Musicals, *Dubbo Championship Wrestling* (Hayes Theatre Workshop), Sydney Symphony Orchestra's *The Happiness Box*, *The Pill* (La Mama New York workshops), numerous Sydney Theatre Company Wharf Revues, *All The World's A Pickle* (Theatre 54 NYC) and *Silent Night* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company) TELEVISION: *Drop Dead Weird* S1 & 2, *Law and Order: SVU*, *Chaperones* (pilot), *Maximum Choppage*, *Australia*, *The Story of Us*, *Wednesday Night Fever*, *Rake*, *The Outlaw Michael Howe* (MEAA Ensemble Award), Julia Gillard in *At Home With Julia* (also co-writer, assoc producer (MEAA Ensemble Cast Award, nominated for AWGIE Awards and AACTA Award for Best Comedy Series)), *Debt Defying Acts*, *My Place*,

*Review With Myles Barlow* S1 & 2 (ACTA Awarded series). FILM credits include *Next Is The One*, *Legends of the Guardians*, *The Owls of Ga'Hooole*, *Vulnerable*, *Fresh Air*.



## 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*, *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: *Wharf Revue 2020*, *Wharf Revue 2019*, *Wharf Revue 2018*, *Ruby Moon*. For William Zappa: *The Iliad Out Loud*. For Tinderbox Productions: *David Suchet*, *Poirot and More*. For Louise Withers and Associates: *The Mousetrap*, and *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* (2016), *The Famous Spiegeltent* (2015), *The Aurora Spiegeltent* (2014). For the Sydney Chamber Opera: *His Music Burns*.





## Todd Decker

*Video Director*

Todd has been a Television Director for 25 years and has worked with the Wharf Revue team for over a decade. He also works for ABC TV, SBS, The Sydney Opera House, the Seven Network and Network Ten, directing live broadcasts and recorded programs. 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 Kapsis and Emma Pask Live, Play School, Whovians, 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, All About Women, Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Antidote and Stereosonic.

Todd has also been a tutor at AFTRS in Advanced Presenter Training.



## Hazel Fisher

*Costume Designer*

Hazel grew up in Liverpool, UK and trained in theatre wardrobe and design...many years ago. Having made her home here 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. Hazel is currently 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 including *Cats* and *Les Miserable* 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.



## Cameron Smith

*Sound and Video Systems Designer*

Cameron is a sound and video designer and technician who has an extensive background in music and musical theatre. After completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Theatre and Stage Management) from NIDA, he has worked for numerous companies around Sydney including Sydney Theatre Company, Monkey Baa, Sydney Festival, Channel 7, and more. Cameron is interested in theatre that aims to redefine the artform using new and innovative technology that plays with the audience's expectations. He is also looking outward and wants to explore other mediums such as film, TV and other digital video formats. As Video Designer: *The Linden Solution* (RATCATCH), *Dracula* (NIDA), *Icarus* (NIDA), *When The Rain Stops Falling* (NIDA); As Video Editor: *Julius Caesar* (STC); As Sound Designer: *Pagliacci* (NIDA), *God of Carnage* (NIDA); As Systems Designer: *Lifespan of a Fact* (STC), *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (STC), *Miracle City* (NIDA), *Pagliacci* (NIDA), *Flora* (NIDA), *Roberto Zucco* (NIDA).



## Jo Dyer

*For Soft Tread Enterprises  
Producer*

Soft Tread is a an independent production house working across theatre and film led by Jo Dyer, former Executive Producer of Sydney Theatre Company, General Manager of Bangarra Dance Theatre and CEO of Sydney Writers' Festival. Its recent productions include the premiere season and national tour of The Wharf Revue: *Can of Worms* in 2022, *Maureen: Harbinger of Death*, which premiered at the Sydney Festival in 2021 before playing at Melbourne's RISING Festival and Darwin Festival in 2022, and *The Gospel According to Paul*, by and starring Jonathan Biggins, that premiered to great acclaim in 2019, before touring nationally.

Soft Tread's productions 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.

Its films have screened and been acclaimed worldwide, with its most recent film, *Girl Asleep*, premiering internationally at the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival and winning awards including Best Film at the Seattle Film Festival and the Critics' Award at the Melbourne Film Festival.

# Program

Running Time: 90 minutes (no interval)

**Opening Number:** *Happy Days*

*The Greens*

*Albo Baggins and the Mountain of Debt*

*Katy Gallagher*

*Boris Johnson*

*Allegra Spender*

*"Everyman": Albo in Aged Care*

*Oh, It's a Culture War*

*Albo in Wonderland*

*The Three ex-PMs*

*Ghost Soldiers*

*Jacqui Lambie*

*King Charles III*

*Joe Biden*

*The Supremes*

*Inner West Side Story*

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## THE WHARF REVUE: LOOKING FOR ALBANESE

**Writers:** Jonathan Biggins,  
Drew Forsythe and Phillip Scott

**Co-Directors:** Jonathan Biggins and Drew Forsythe

**Musical Director:** Phillip Scott

**Lighting Designer:** Matt Cox

**Video Designer:** Todd Decker

**Sound and Video Systems Designer:**  
Cameron Smith

**Costume Designers:** Hazel and Scott Fisher

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

**Producer:** Jo Dyer

**Company Stage Manager:** Tim Burns

**Sound Operator:** Tim Greig

**Touring Lighting Realiser/ Technician:**  
Cameron Menzies

**Production Manager:** Barry Searle

**Publicity:** Ian Phipps Publicity

**Marketing:** Rani Haywood

**Digital Marketing:** Luke de Zilva

**Photographer:** Ashley de Prazer

**Graphic Designer:** Leading Hand Design

**The Producers wish to thank:**

Tim Jones and all the staff at the Seymour Centre  
Marcus Kelson  
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the Costume, Staging, Sound and  
Props Departments

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