

SOFT TREAD PRESENTS

THE WHARF REVUE LOOKING FOR ALBANESE



CREATED BY JONATHAN BIGGINS,
DREW FORSYTHE AND PHILLIP SCOTT

 SOFT TREAD

THE
WHARF
REVUE

Creator's 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

Creator/Co-Creator/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

Creator/Co-Creator/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*.



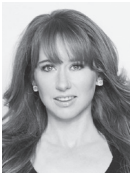
Phillip Scott

Creator/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 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

Soft Tread presents

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:

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Props Departments

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