

FRESH WORKS

TWO SISTERS. ONE DEAD-END TOWN.
AND A DREAM BIG ENOUGH TO BURY THEM.

THE DEADMOUSE AND PEABRAIN DREAMS



THEATRE WORKS AND ALRIGHT? PRESENT

THE DEADMOUSE AND PEABRAIN DREAMS

BY ALANA LOUISE

12 - 21 FEB | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

theatre works, 14 acland street, st kilda



PHOTO CREDIT: DAN RABIN

Theatre Works and Alright? respectfully acknowledge First People's sovereignty and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and storytelling by Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We pay our respects to the many clans and language groups in Victoria, to their elders past and present, and acknowledge the strength and resilience of all Aboriginal peoples.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

ABOUT THEATRE WORKS

Theatre Works is Australia's home of independent theatre: a creative precinct where artists take risks, new stories are born, and audiences discover the bold voices shaping contemporary culture. For more than 45 years, Theatre Works has supported artists to develop, make, and share ambitious new Australian work. Today, our precinct is stronger and more interconnected than ever.

Located in the heart of St Kilda, the Theatre Works Precinct brings together four purpose-built venues: the Main Theatre, the Explosives Factory, the TWiSK Rehearsal Space, and the Black Box Café & Outdoor Stage. Each space plays a distinct role in the creative lifecycle, providing artists with everything they need to move from idea, to development, to premiere, to tour; all within a single, supportive ecosystem.

Our model is simple but rare: we share investment and risk with independent artists. Through co-producing, commissioning, and tailored producing support, we ensure artists are backed by real resources: free development space, professional equipment, rehearsal infrastructure, marketing, ticketing, and technical support. This gives artists the freedom to take creative risks while removing the financial and logistical pressures that so often limit independent work.

Every year, more than 600 artists pass through our precinct, developing and presenting work across 50+ productions.

Many go on to regional and national touring, VCE Playlist recognition, and major awards. Our audiences are equally diverse: from loyal locals to school groups, visiting families, and new theatre-goers who discover us through the café, bar, or festival partnerships.

The precinct allows us to operate at a scale unique in Victoria's independent sector. The Main Theatre offers a fully equipped black box for bold, ambitious work; the Explosives Factory provides a home for experimentation, residencies, and intimate performance; the TWiSK Rehearsal Space offers year-round free development space; and the Black Box Café & Outdoor Stage connect the precinct to the daily life of St Kilda, welcoming more than 20,000 visitors each year.

Together, these venues form a pipeline that supports artists at every stage of their practice while building community, diversifying income, and embedding independent theatre deeply into the cultural fabric of St Kilda. This integrated precinct model - development to presentation, bar to black box, artist to audience - is what makes Theatre Works unique.

This is the heart of Theatre Works: a place where artists are held, supported, and challenged; where audiences encounter work that surprises and moves them; and where community grows, one story at a time.

TEAM THEATRE WORKS

DIANNE TOULSON (she/her) Executive Director / Creative Producer

ADAM GARDNER (he/him) Marketing / Graphic Design / Box Office Manager

JADE HIBBERT (she/her) Company Producer

CHRIS PATRICK HANSEN (he/him) Marketing and Producing Associate

RIVER STEVENS (he/him) Front of House Co-Ordinator

JOSHUA FERNANDEZ (he/him) Venue Operations Assistant

ANNE HENDERSON (she/her) Finance Administrator

THE DEADMOUSE AND PEABRAIN DREAMS

BY ALANA LOUISE | PRESENTED BY ALRIGHT?

PLAYWRIGHT

Alana Louise

PRODUCER

Nina Hopley

COMPOSER

Mike Hart

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jodi Rabinowitz

PERFORMERS

Alana Louise
Sarah Palmieri
Joe Kenny
Jason Schwab

STAGE MANAGER

Perri Hobbs

SPECIAL THANKS

Louise Adam and Pete Richer, Vicki and James Stewart, Carlo Palmieri

**THE DEADMOUSE AND PEABRAIN DREAMS IS
A FRESH WORKS PRODUCTION**

Our **FRESH WORKS** program is an entry point to our **WITH THEATRE WORKS** program, allowing artists to pursue exciting debut work and bold new ideas while assuming less risk. These works are co-produced and co-presented with Theatre Works.



THANK YOU

We would like to say thank you to our awesome community. This play would still be an idea without the support of our friends, family and the audience's applause. You have made us feel that what we have created is worth growing and staging again.

Our parents and loved ones have been integral to this entire process, from our premiere in Paris and our run in London, to our even longer run in Edinburgh. To bring **The Deadmouse and Peabrain Dreams** home to Melbourne and feel so held, physically and metaphorically, has made this adventure such a joy. Knowing you were there allowed us to have fun, to breathe when the work felt overwhelming and for that, we are super grateful. Louise Adam and Pete Richer, Vicki and James Stewart and Carlo Palmieri, without your hands and "yes, we can" attitude, this show would not be as fabulous as we hoped it would be.

As a team, we feel so lucky to have each other and such strong complicité - a word we were taught at clown school about a shared electricity, a shared understanding that comes without needing to speak.

Jason Schwab, you bring a fearless attitude to every rehearsal. Your willingness to jump into improvisation for the exploration of your characters has been a joy to work with.

Sarah Palmieri, watching you grow into the character of Jodi has been so exciting to watch. You are bolder, braver and look like you are having all the more fun for it.

Joe Kenny, after being our Stage Manager in Edinburgh, you have stepped into the role of Ronald with such

a wonderful spirit. Your fresh perspective has provided clarity every time we've hit a creative wall, merci mon ami.

Perri Hobbs, we have felt safe in your hands from the moment we met. You are so professional, you have a fantastic eye for detail and we have all said, quite frequently in the lead up to the performance, "don't worry, Perri's on it."

And Alana Louise, without you, there is no team. You are an excellent theatre-maker and a fantastic leader. Your drive is unparalleled and you have a gift for writing that is as hilarious as it is capable of producing that "single tear."

Thank you for this experience, for making us a part of your theatre company, for trusting the creative process - a process akin to charging into darkness without a flashlight. You have created a safe space where we have felt free to explore and to fail.

We would also like to thank Theatre Works for the space they have provided, as well as allowing us to be so independent in the space. Thank you for taking a chance on us and for your support. And your always-positive replies to our chaotic emails. The opportunity to continue to run this show has been a dream come true.

And finally, to our audience. Thank you for coming to a show written and performed by a new company. Thank you for laughing, for applauding. We may not have a big name for ourselves yet but we do know two things: we love making theatre and we love making it for you.

Thank you.







ALANA LOUISE (SHE/HER)

PLAYWRIGHT + PERFORMER



Alana Louise is a writer and actor whose work spans television, film, and theatre. After graduating from NIDA in 2020 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, she went to train at École Philippe Gaulier.

Her screen credits include the Stan miniseries *Bali* 2002 as Annika Linden and Sophie Hyde's 2026 feature film *Jimpa*, acting alongside Olivia Coleman and John Lithgow. On stage, she has performed in productions including *Woman with a Tomahawk* (La Mama), and *Future Proof* (Arts Centre Melbourne).

Driven by a desire to create original work, Alana wrote, directed and starred in the short film *Binchook*, which screened at the Montreal Women's Film Festival in 2024. In 2025, she founded her theatre company, *Alright?* and through it, wrote and performed in *The Dead Mouse* and *Peabrain Dreams*, touring the work through Paris, London and Edinburgh before bringing it home to Melbourne for Theatre Works' 2026 season.

NINA HOPLEY (SHE/HER)

PRODUCER



Nina Hopley is a freelance producer working across film and theatre. After graduating from the University of Exeter with a degree in English Literature and Theatre, she was invited to co-write and direct an original production for IBDP Theatre students at the International School of Geneva. Interested in understanding an actor's vulnerability on stage, she went on to train at École Philippe Gaulier, a drama school outside of Paris with the nickname 'Clown School.'

Nina has since been producing with *Alright?*, taking *The Dead Mouse* and *Peabrain Dreams* to the 2025 Edinburgh Festival Fringe and working with film production company *BIGFILMS* on projects across Paris and Los Angeles. She has also led workshops in international schools across Geneva, Switzerland, with a particular focus on performance art.

Nina is now in Melbourne with *Alright?* for their 2026 season at Theatre Works.

MIKE HART (HE/HIM)

COMPOSER



Michael Hart is a singer/songwriter, theatre maker and sound designer. He independently releases music under the pseudonym 'September Barker', and his completely self produced music has grown rapidly in recent months with the viral success of his social media content. Michael has a strong background in theatre making, being co-founder of the Green Room Award winning Tedious Theatre, who gained recognition for their form-pushing production of 'Shadow Piece', created and filmed in a living room during the 2020 lockdowns.

Michael can be found on social media (@Cowboytourist) and music streaming (September Barker).

For inquiries, septemberbarkermusic@gmail.com is his best contact.

JODI RABINOWITZ (THEY/THEM)

LIGHTING DESIGNER



Jodi Rabinowitz is an experimental lighting designer whose practice expands across live performance, theatre, film, television, music video, dance and immersive art. Their work is rooted in lighting design, while frequently incorporating elements of set and video design as part of a holistic scenographic approach. Jodi is particularly interested in how light can shape emotional, spatial and relational experiences, often placing audiences at the centre of the work.

Collaboration sits at the core of Jodi's practice. They work closely with directors, choreographers, composers, performers and technologists, engaging a wide range of creative practitioners to develop work that is process-led and responsive. This interdisciplinary approach allows lighting to function not only as a technical element, but as a dramaturgical and narrative tool within a piece.

Jodi trained at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in Sydney, Australia, specialising in visual design. Since graduating, they have worked across a range of performance and installation contexts, including theatre productions, dance works, immersive experiences and live music events. Recent and indicative projects include collaborations with major cultural organisations such as the Royal Albert Hall and Punchdrunk Enrichment.

SARAH PALMIERI (SHE/HER)

PERFORMER



Sarah Palmieri (she/her) is an Australian actor, writer, and multidisciplinary artist working across theatre, film, and journalism. Based between Melbourne, New York, and Paris, her practice explores humanity through socially engaged storytelling and physical performance.

She trained in Theatre Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School before studying at the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris and the Atlantic Acting School in New York. Recent theatre credits include My Name is Rachel Corrie and Ghina Fawaz's refugee-centred reimaging of Three Sisters (both off-Broadway, New York), and Alright's The Dead Mouse and Peabrain Dreams written by Alana Louise, which toured Paris, London and had an award-winning run at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Sarah is also a published writer, currently Culture and Fashion Editor of The Modes, and a contributor to Broadsheet, To Be Magazine, and Libi Journal.

JOE KENNY (HE/HIM)

PERFORMER



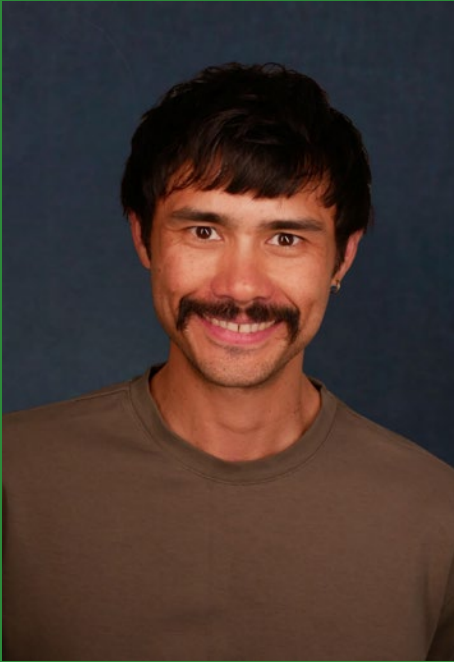
Joe Kenny is an actor based in Melbourne, Australia with work spanning across theatre and film. In 2017 he graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. Joe has continued to develop his creative practice at VCA graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre 2020 and 16th street.

Joe had spent the last few years travelling between England, France and Australia working and exploring the international creative scene.

Originally the stage manager for Alright?'s production of The Dead Mouse and Peabrain Dreams at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2025, Joe has since joined the cast taking on the role of Ronald.

JASON SCHWAB (HE/HIM)

PERFORMER



Jason Schwab is a recent graduate of École Philippe Gaulier and has just returned to acting – and the city of Melbourne – after a decade of studying, living, and working abroad.

Prior to this, he was a founding ensemble member of Melbourne independent theatre company Boutique Theatre, performing in the productions Don't Tell The Women and Fugues. As part of a comedy duo, Jason co-wrote, produced, and performed in five shows across four Melbourne International Comedy Festivals and the Adelaide Fringe. He was a Golden Gibbo award nominee at the MICF in 2011 and in 2013 was invited to perform at the inaugural Busan International Comedy Festival.

Jason is also a founding ensemble member of TheatreiNQ in Townsville, appearing in Henry V, Richard III, Love's Labour's Lost, as well as playing the role of Lewis in Così. He is reprising the roles of Dad and Mateo in The Dead Mouse and Peabrain Dreams, an original production by Alright? theatre company, following runs in Paris, London, and at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2025.

PERRI HOBBS (SHE/HER)

STAGE MANAGER



Graduating from Federation University's Bachelor of Performing Arts and Graduate Diploma of Theatre Production in 2024, Perri Hobbs has been working in multiple facets of theatre, with a focus on design and stage management. Her previous stage management credits include; Melbourne Opera's La Bohème and Samson et Dalila, and Federation University Arts Academy's An Enemy of the People. Perri is excited to join this wonderful and kooky show as stage manager after its successful run in the 2025 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

FRESH WORKS

THE STARS ARE FALLING
BUT WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID



THEATRE WORKS AND TIP TOE THEATRE PRESENT

I THOUGHT YOU SAID

BY BRONTE LEMARIE

25 FEB - 7 MAR | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

explosives factory, rear laneway 67 inkerman street, st kilda



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PHOTO CREDIT: DAN RAHN

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ST KILDA

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