

FRESH WORKS

THE ETERNALLY HOPEFUL



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WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ISABELLE DAVIS

22 - 26 SEP | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

explosives factory, rear laneway, 67 inkerman street, st kilda



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.

Theatre Works respectfully acknowledges 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.

TEAM THEATRE WORKS

KRYSTALLA PEARCE (she/her) Artistic Director

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

BEK SCHILLING (they/them) Front of House Co-Ordinator

ANNE HENDERSON (she/her) Finance Administrator

THE ETERNALLY HOPEFUL

WRITER + DIRECTOR + PRODUCER

Isabelle Davis (She/Her)

MUSICAL DIRECTOR + ACCOMPANIST

John Mondelo (He/Him)

LIGHTING DESIGNER + OPERATOR

Cale Dennis (They/Them)

SOUND DESIGNER + OPERATOR

Christopher Wiseman (He/Him)

CAST

Hopeful 1 - Jacqui Dwyer (She/Her)

Hopeful 2 - Kate Alnutt (She/Her)

Hopeful 3 - Hamish Pattenden (He/Him)

Hopeful 4 - Luke Leong-Tay (He/Him)

Swing (Male Presenting) - Samuel Dyer (He/Him)

Swing (Female Presenting) - Isabelle Davis (She/Her)

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Anita Mei La Terra (She/Her)

PROMOTIONAL IMAGES

Dan Rabin (He/Him)

THE ETERNALLY HOPEFUL 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.





WRITER/DIRECTOR'S NOTE

ISABELLE DAVIS

In early 2025 I spent a lot of time worrying that perhaps being hopeful was a terribly selfish thing to be. Is it okay to feel hopeful when the world is on fire?

Writing *The Eternally Hopeful* helped me explore this fear and come to believe, quite firmly, two truths:

1. The world is on fire therefore I must be hopeful, and
2. Hope is an ever present and enduring gift.

... and gifts ought to be shared.

Thank you for sharing this gift with me, our committed cast, and wonderful crew of hopefuls. This team has been a great gift for my directorial debut, and I can't wait for you to witness the incredible work, passion and truth they have brought to these stories.

Finally, what an honour and privilege to continue in the long and rich history of story telling that has taken place on this land for thousands of years. I hope for many more stories to come.

Go gently,
Isabelle

THANK YOU

A special thank you to David Willey for your unwavering belief in this project and your ongoing support of me as an artist, a person and friend. Thank you also to Nicola Vague for your contribution to this work in memory of Jeff Vague. Thank you to the cast, crew, Auslan interpreters, Daly Productions and Theatre Works for bringing these stories to life with me.

ISABELLE DAVIS

WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/SWING



Born in Melbourne and raised in Shanghai, Isabelle graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theatre in 2019; just in time for the world to shut down. Isabelle used that time to focus on her music career, writing, recording and performing her original music throughout Victoria.

In October of 2025, Isabelle released her debut album *An Inconvenient Youth*, which follows five singles and an EP. Isabelle also features on the original cast recording of Jude Perl's *Sharehouse: The Musical*, and as the singing voice of Talia Wick in the audio drama *The Realm Tree*.

Her recent theatre credits include *Homegrown* (Melbourne 2026), *Children of the Air* (Be New 2025), *Fizzy the Fairy* (Banyule City Council), *Romeo and Juliet* (MSC), *The 3 Little Pigs* (AG Theatre), *Sharehouse: The Musical* (Arts Centre Presents), *Outback Adventures* (MSC) and *Ordinary Days* (Be You Productions).

The Eternally Hopeful marks Isabelle's writing, directing and producing debut and she can't wait to see the work come to life this September.

JOHN MONDELO

MUSICAL DIRECTOR



John is a proud food loving Filipino boy originally from Perth WA. He is a graduate of the inaugural cohort of the Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium (ECMT) and has previously completed a BA in Classical Voice at the University of Western Australia, the Certificate course at WAAPA in Musical Theatre, and the Music Theatre Intensive at the Stella Adler Studio NYC. John's performance credits include Tunny in *American Idiot* (Theatrical, dir. Scott Bradley), Georg in *Spring Awakening* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay), Swan Lake (The Australian Ballet, dir. David Hallberg) Robert and others in *The White Rose* (dir. Dymalovski & Thomas), Jason in *Rodgers & Hammerstein's: A Grand Night for Singing* (EXEUNT (PURSUED BY A BEAR) Productions, dir. Erin James), *Cabaret* (ECMT, dir. Erin James), *Mamma Mia* (ECMT, dir. Zoe Komazec), *Manon* (The Australian Ballet, dir. David Hallberg), Liam in *Teeth & Tonic* (May As Well Productions, dir. Maya Britbart Ellazam), choir for the national tour of *Chess* (StoreyBoard Entertainment, dir. Tyrann Parke), *Lazare* and *Jairo* in *Arcadia* (PRESS MANQUE, dir. Ysabel Dungca) and his self devised show *Bite Size Cab*.

As an educator and musician John is passionate about developing emerging talent and has been heavily involved in a number of initiatives, particularly through the Be You Group where he was Assistant Music Director for multiple years. Throughout his time there he assisted and ran workshops, developed works and played for new artists at Broadway Unplugged concerts. He is very excited to be involved with *The Eternally Hopeful* and believes strongly in the message of the work.

CALE DENNIS

LIGHTING DESIGNER



Cale Dennis (they/them) is an award-winning Lighting Designer, Photographer, and Director. Originally hailing from Meanjin (Brisbane), they are best known for their direction and design of Silent Sky Collective's production *Close, But No Cigar*, which received several awards and great critical recognition. Other recent design credits include *Sweet Charity* (Heirlume Productions), *The Irreducible* (Blank Space Productions) and *The Breath of Kings* (Burning House Theatre). With a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama) from QUT, Cale is a proud queer and disabled artist who aims to bring their holistic theatrical experience to every production.

ANITA MEI LA TERRA

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT



Anita Mei La Terra (she/her) is a queer, BIPOC performer and creative of Chinese-Malaysian and Italian descent raised and based in Naarm/Melbourne. She completed her Bachelor of Performing Arts at Arts Academy, Federation University in 2023. Her recent work includes *'Checked Out: The Musical'* (Melbourne Fringe Festival, dir. Stephanie Lee, 2025), *'A Wake to Remember'* (dir. Alyssa Wong, 2025), and Jude Perl's *'Share House: The Musical'* (Arts Centre Melbourne, dir. Desiree Monroe, 2024). Anita is passionate about the development of new Australian musical theatre and stories, and is very excited to be assisting the cast and team on *'The Eternally Hopeful'*!

JACQUI DWYER

HOPEFUL 1



Jacqui Dwyer (she/her) is a warm, versatile performer from the Blue Mountains. A 2017 TDP graduate, she completed her Diploma of Musical Theatre at Brent Street and her Bachelor of Musical Theatre at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. Recent credits include Falcon in *Imagine LIVE* (NCM), George/Swing in *Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out LIVE* (TEG Life Like Touring) Ensemble in *Bearded* (Theatre Works) and Swing in Disney's *Winnie The Pooh: The New Musical Stage Adaptation* (TEG Life Like/Rockefeller Prods.) She also features on the released EP of new Australian musical *The White Rose* (by Isabella Dymalovski and Oliver Thompson) and is on the theatre reviewing team at Stage Door Podcast.

KATE ALLNUTT

HOPEFUL 2



Originally from New Zealand, Kate is an accomplished performer with an extensive career spanning musical theatre, cabaret, live entertainment, and recording. A graduate of NASDA (Christchurch) and ED5 International (Sydney), Kate has developed a diverse career performing across Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and internationally.

Her musical theatre credits include her most recent role as Princess Fiona in the national tour of *Shrek The Musical*. Kate spent eight years as a guest entertainer and headline vocalist for Princess and Holland America cruise lines, she still sails the high seas as a member of Melbourne born vocal trio *The Cover Girls*.

Kate has toured extensively throughout Australia and Asia in concert productions, musical revues and children's shows. She had performed in numerous Melbourne cabaret seasons, including her own works and continues to work with a variety of touring bands. In 2025 Kate narrated an audiobook for acclaimed Kiwi writer Alan Duff, putting all her accent skills to the test.

Kate is delighted to be performing in *The Eternally Hopeful* and can't wait to share these beautiful works with you.

HAMISH PATTENDEN

HOPEFUL 3



Hamish is a passionate performer based in Melbourne. He is currently undertaking vocal tuition under the guidance of Morgan Phillips and attends Utassy Ballet where he trains in the disciplines of classical and contemporary. His recent credits include; Evan Goldman, 13! The Musical (CBGS), Bobby Strong, Urinetown (CBGS), Robert Martin, The Drowsy Chaperone (CBGS), Miss Trunchbull Matilda Jr (Gateway Theatre Co) and Starbound Musical Theatre 2026. Hamish is extremely excited to debut the role of Hopeful 3 in The Eternally Hopeful and is delighted to be part of the very talented team bringing this original production to life.

LUKE LEONG-TAY

HOPEFUL 4



Born and raised in Perth, Luke is a proud Chinese Australian man. Luke graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) with a Bachelor of Music Theatre in 2019, and is represented by Morrissey Management. Luke made his professional stage debut in 2021 playing Igor in Young Frankenstein for the Hayes Theatre Co, and originated the role of Ron in their world premiere production of Dubbo Championship Wrestling. Luke returned to the Hayes to join the Australian premiere cast of Jekyll & Hyde in the role of Bishop/Guitarist.

In 2024, Luke starred in the Australian premiere production of The Grinning Man, and made his Melbourne International Comedy Festival debut in Impromptunes. Luke's work includes Porpoise Pool with Bite Productions as part of the 25A program at Belvoir St Theatre, in the role of Jonah. Luke covered the role of Petey and George in the Australian tour of Dog Man the Musical, joined the cast of Arden of Faversham with Bell Shakespeare as part of the 'play in a day' program, and joined the cast of If/Then with Neglected Musicals. In 2026, Luke took over the role of George for the New Zealand tour of Dog Man the Musical, and has been training as a close-up magician.

SAM DYER

SWING



Sam Dyer is a Melbourne born actor, singer and writer, whose talents have taken him from the stage to the screen. A graduate of JMC Academy with a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting), his passion for performance has been evident since childhood and to this day he continues to dive head-first into the acting world. His stage credits include lead roles such as Tony in 'West Side Story' (2024), Shane Gray in 'Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical' (2023) and Lucas Beineke in 'The Addams Family' (2024). Most recently, he appeared in the ensemble of '& Juliet' (2025), and earlier portrayed Linus Van Pelt in the second running season of Stagebugs' production of 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown', presented as part of the 2025 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. In another realm of his performance world, Sam is training to become a professional wrestler, with dreams of making his in-ring debut in 2026. Sam is a risk-taking and epic performer who doesn't shy away from the realism in his work. From the social grit of Shakespeares 'Julius Caesar' (2023) to the small town atmosphere of 'Our Town' (2022), Sam is always ready to invest his heart and mind in any performance.



THEATRE WORKS

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