

Shakespeare ALIENS



**THAT'S ALL FROM HERETOFORE,
FOR THE NEXT HOUR, THIS TIME, IT'S WAR.**

#SHAKESPEAREALIENS

SHAKESPEARE ALIENS. CASSANDRA HART. ELYSIA JANSSSEN. DANNY MCGINLAY. BRAD ALLEN. RIK BROWN. ZAC ROSE. LORE BURNS.
SEON WILLIAMS. COREY GLAMUZINA. Puppeteers: PETE DAVIDSON. LANA SCHWARCZ. PARIS BALLA. Puppet Maker: DONNA PRINCE.
Sound Design: SANDRO FALCE. Stage Manager: JEN SPEIRS. From an idea by ROB LLOYD. Written by KEITH GOW. Directed by ROB LLOYD.



DIRECTOR – ROB LLOYD

WRITER – KEITH GOW

PUPPET MAKER – DONNA PRINCE

SOUND DESIGN – SANDRO FALCE

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT – JEN SPEIRS

LIGHTING & PROJECTION OPERATOR – PATRICK SLEE

PUBLICITY PHOTOS – MARK GAMBINO & FAB EVANS

FILMING – NICK HILL PRODUCTIONS

PROGRAMME DESIGN – SHANE DAVIES

POWERPOINT DESIGN – ROB LLOYD & DAVID INNES

PROLOGUE

*Oh, for a muse of firepower
That would rise to the brightest heavens of adaptation!
A kingdom for a stage as big as space
Marines and creatures to behold a scene of tension.*

*But pardon, gentles all, we shall not be
Screening a film for two hours in a black box sea*

*Can our Theatre Works hold the blasted rock of LV-4-2-and-6,
A team of marines, and a vast phalanx of Xenomorphs?*

*See what we lay upon our scene in fair St Kilda
As aliens burst forth from fatal loins
And star-crossed marines risk their lives
Their fearful passage through an outpost abandoned...*

*Imagine when we talk of space, you see stars
Imagine when you see one alien, you see fifty
Imagine if we had a bigger budget...*

*For Shakespeare never wrote a story with more guns
Than this tale of Ripley and the Aliens.*

Prologue – Written by Keith Gow



DIRECTOR

ROB LLOYD

The sub-genre of literary/major movie mash-ups is not a new thing. There's the popular Shakespeare Star Wars series of official endorsed scripts and let's not forget the time that *Pride & Prejudice* and *Zombies* once ruled the zeitgeist.

Hell...this sub-genre isn't even new to me. In 2012 myself and Kelsey Gade retold the story of *DIE HARD* in the style of Jane Austen.

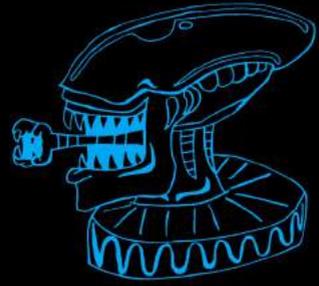
So this type of show has always been unashamedly in my 'wheelhouse'.

I describe myself as both a huge nerd and massive Shakespeare enthusiast. So you'd be hard pressed to find anyone better suited to disrespectfully respecting both *Aliens* and William Shakespeare with this seriously presented but not to be taken seriously at all tribute.

Shakespeare *Aliens* was an idea that has been running around in my head since 2018.



Originally it was meant to be a project for my performer friends and I to do together to recapture the spirit of running around your backyard as a kid and acting out alien invasions, made-up war movies or adventurous quests to find rare artefacts.



Time has turned this into a very different beast.

I always knew this was going to be a big undertaking and that was even before global pandemics, lockdowns, toilet paper hoarding, density limits & battlelines drawn over vaccination status.

I wanted to go big.

I wanted a stage that was bigger than the comedy clubs and cabaret spaces I've made my home in recent years. I wanted a big cast, like my school productions I've been directing the last ten years. I wanted puppets...I love puppets.

I've really lucked out. My cast and crew have worked so hard. They've thrown themselves 100% in with my ridiculously nerdy/silly idea. They have embraced the whole make-believe, "backyard acting" style I'm kind of going for.

Nothing has come easy for this production and the mere fact that we are still here, together...well...nothing could make me prouder.

Enjoy the ride.



WRITER

KEITH GOW



Shakespeare's work is very versatile and his plays are insightful about the way human beings act and react to the things happening around them. His work plays with non-naturalistic things, too. Ghosts, magic, prophecy.

Aliens is a science fiction war film that tells us a lot about Ellen Ripley, the sole survivor of the original movie. She is haunted by the past which manifests in nightmares and dreams.

Most of my work includes elements that are unnatural; some of my work is set in the distant future, some of it set in the present day but with ghosts or the supernatural playing a part.

I love Shakespeare. I love seeing different productions of *Hamlet* or *Macbeth* or *Richard III* because every director approaches them differently. I love the film *Aliens* because it's one of the few sequels that matches or improves upon the original; and it allows Ripley to grow and change.

Adaptation is something I haven't done before and turning a 2-hour film into a 1-hour stage show was a real test. But I loved this concept. *Aliens* feels Shakespearean. It's big and broad and crowd-pleasing. Finding the essential elements of the story and really digging into the character of Ripley, central character and narrator on stage, was a real thrill.



CASSANDRA HART

RIPLEY

Cassandra is a Stage and Screen Actor, hailing from Adelaide. Having appeared in the role of Sister Anne Harefield, in 'The Major and the Matron 1914' at The Motley Bauhaus as part of the 2019 Melbourne Fringe Festival, and taking home the award for 'Best Supporting Actress' in Cracked Actors Theatre Summer Reading 2020 Series, Cassandra has also worked with Antipodes Theatre Company, for a virtual reading of 'Moonshot' by Noel Anderson, taking on the role of Gloria. After what feels like 57 years of cryosleep on the theatre front, Cassandra is excited to be coming out of stasis and stepping into Ripley's Reebok's.



ELYSIA JANSSEN

NEWT

Elysia (Elly) Janssen is a Melbourne based Actor across film and stage. Recent stage credits include '100 Reasons for War' (La Mama Theatre) and 'Gaslight' (HTC) in 2020. Elly has worked on several independent films including 'The Safe Place' (2021), 'Danny and Max' (Full feature 2021), 'Cutpurse' (2021), '159' (2020) and 'What We're Owed' (2020). She's also currently hosting the travel television series 'Chronicles' (yet to be aired). Other upcoming projects, 'Present Laughter' (HTC) and 'BYTE' (La Mama) are due to open in 2022. In her spare time Elly is an Creative Copy-writer, Mural Artist and a great consumer of an Oat flat white.





DANNY MCGINLAY

BURKE

A stand-up comedian by trade, Danny is mostly known for his sketches on AFL Game Day on Channel 7. He has also appeared in Utopia, City Homicide and the films Knowing and The Merger.



BRAD ALLEN

GORMAN

Brad Allen is an aspiring actor freshly trained from Howard Fine Acting Studio. Brad has appeared in numerous theatre projects such as 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' And 'The 39 Step'. As well as theatre, Brad is working in expanding his wide catalogue of work on screen, as he continues to work with Melbourne based filmmakers across the city, in search for developing his craft and telling great stories.



RIK BROWN

BISHOP

Rik is an Actor and Improvisor who for the past 20 odd years has appeared in numerous Comedy and Fringe Festival shows including Late Night Impro, Celebrity Theatresports, Spontaneous Broadway and Sooth-players: Completely Improvised Shakespeare.

He has featured in the television shows Comedy Slapdown, The Mutant Way, Utopia, SlideShow, Prank Patrol, It's a Date, How To Stay Married and Why Are You Like This.

He recently appeared as the only non-dancing cast member of Magic Mike Live during its short but exciting Australian Tour.



ZAC ROSE

APONE

Fresh out of university, Zac Rose is thrilled to be playing the role of Sgt Apone in Shakespeare Aliens. In his early years of performing, Zac was a member of the Southern Voices community choir leading him to perform at the State Theatre as a chorus member in Opera Australia's A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2011. An avid lover of the arts, Zac studied Musical Theatre at the Australian Institute of Music, where he learned to sing, act, dance and devise his own work. Throughout the year, Zac has performed his own cabaret show The Peak State, where he plays fictitious religious cult leader Doctor Marshall David Charles. Zac has written directed and starred in many of his own short films including The Tangent which was recently a semi-finalist in this year's World Monologue Film Festival.



LORE BURNS

HICKS

Lore is a non-binary actor, composer, writer and cellist with a special interest in stage combat and martial arts. Since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2012 with a Bachelor of Theatrical Production, Lore has pursued a varied career as a sound designer and technician, cellist, instrumental teacher, composer and actor. They are currently working as a cello teacher, composer and actor, studying a Graduate Diploma of Arts as well as writing and producing their own original work, which can be found on Youtube and Vimeo.





Shakespeare ALIENS





SEON WILLIAMS

VASQUEZ

Seon is a Melbourne-based actor, writer and director. She has appeared in over 40 stage shows, including the Melbourne Fringe Festival immersive show "Never Ending Night", an all-female production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Bitten By's production of "The Critic" and as part of BYTE's international tour of "The Deep Freeze Option". Seon directed Boutique Theatre's Melbourne Fringe Festival show "Prayers to Broken Stone" and appeared as part of sketch comedy group Dr Duck in their MICF sell-out show "General Quacktitioner". Seon has also appeared in the award-winning web series "The Happiness Curve" and award-winning short film "Autocarrot". This year Seon has worked with 24 Carrot Productions as Mavis Clarke in "Red Hollywood" and as Empress Himiko in "The Regina Monologues". This year, she also appeared as Julia, the Duke and Crab the Dog in "Two Gents" with That's Classic. Her upcoming projects include feature film "Dream Girl", and her own web series "Sort of Super".



COREY GLAMUZINA

HUDSON

Corey M. Glamuzina is a trained Melbourne-based actor, writer, and filmmaker originally hailing from Aotearoa. Playing roles as iconic as Iago, to the comedic extravagance of Prince George in a staged production of Blackadder: The Third, they love nothing more than to deep dive into character and perform to the masses.

When not on stage, they are behind the helm writing, marketing, producing, and directing creative works, including one-person shows, fully staged theatre shows, original musicals, screenplays, and novel manuscripts. They are also an ensemble member for the improvisational troupes, 'The Big Hoo-Haa' and 'The Mighty Littles'.



PETE DAVIDSON

PUPPET CAPTAIN

Pete Davidson is a performer, puppetry artist and content creator hailing from Sydney. Pete graduated from The McDonald College of The Performing Arts in 2008, and holds a Double Bachelor of Design and Arts Education from UNSW Art and Design (2014)

Pete was the 2019 Australian candidate for the UNIMA 'Youth in Progress' fellowship to Russia; performing in the Ryazansky Smotriny International Puppet Festival and training under the direction of Boris Konstantinovo - Artistic Director of the Obraztsov Puppet Theatre, Moscow. In 2021, Pete was artist in residence with Regional Arts Victoria as part of the Creative Workers in Schools Program for Creative Victoria. Recent credits include Puppet Potluck and roving performances at the 2021 Melbourne Festival of Puppetry and roving performances for A Blanck Canvas' Puppet Mayem(2021)



PARIS BALLA

PUPPETEER

Paris is a non binary theatre maker and academic excited about making work that sees how terrible the world is yet chooses to find joy and possibility in spite of that. They are in the first year of a PhD at Monash University in using a theatre of queer hope and collaborative storytelling to create community with young people. Paris is a graduate of the John Bolton Theatre School, has been a student of Giovanni Fusetti and is just obsessed with discovering new stuff. Paris is making their professional puppeteering debut in Shakespeare Aliens which will be followed by their playwright and directorial debut at Theatre Works later in the year with their new work Owl and the Albatross on the VCE Playlist.



LANA SCHWARCZ

PUPPETEER

Lana's eclectic performance career has seen her perform puppets for the shows Graeme Base's *The Water Hole*, Erth's *Dinosaur Zoo*, Ballooga's and *The Spiritual Realm*, amongst others. Lana regularly roves with giant puppets in festivals over the world, and is often jumping into random squat positions for cool music videos, short films and guest spots in cabarets, such as *Puppet Palaver* and *Puppet Slam*. Lana's own short puppet films *Sir Dancealot* and *The Upper Hand* have played as Official Selection in multiple film festivals with *Sir Dancealot*, becoming a featured film in Heather Henson's long running global touring film festival, *Handmade Puppet Dreams*. As an independent artist, Lana is well known for her iconic puppet peepboxes, *Minute Exhibit* and *Burlesque in a Box*— tiny shows for one person at a time - and her own longform live theatre shows which deliberately skewer difficult topics with a comedic sword. Good lord is she happy to be back on stage again, with a cracking team, rocking the *Queen Xenomorph* in *Shakespeare Aliens*.





ROB LLOYD

DIRECTOR

Rob has been working professionally as an actor/comedian/improviser for over 20 years.

He has been Artistic Director of improvisational puppet troupe The Mighty Littles since 2016. He is the Lloyd half of comedy duo Innes Lloyd and also performs with Improvisation troupes Completely Improvised Potter and The Big Hoo-Haa.

Rob proudly wears the title of being a massive nerd close to his heart. In fact, his one-man Doctor Who themed show Who, Me. celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, having toured extensively around Australia, New Zealand, Canada, America and the UK. He also represented Australian Doctor Who fans on the BBC America documentary Doctor Who: Earth Conquest.

On TV, Rob stars in the ABC Me educational adventure series Bertram Pop-pingstock: Problem Solver.

Shakespeare Aliens has been a labour of love for Rob for the last three years and he is excited/relieved to finally get this show up and running with such a talented, dedicated cast and crew.



KEITH GOW

SCRIPT WRITER

Keith Gow is a playwright, critic and screenwriter. He is co-creator and co-Executive Producer of the Channel 31 supernatural drama series, Sonningsburg. His 2013 play Who Are You Supposed to Be premiered at Edinburgh Fringe, before touring to London, as well as Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe Festivals. His short plays have been performed all over Australia, South East Asia and the United Kingdom, His critical writing has appeared at Witness Performance, Beat Magazine, The Music, AussieTheatre and his own blog, KeithGow.com



DONNA

PUPPET MAKER AND PROPS MASTER

Donna is a maker and teacher, passionate about the full gamut of theatre production, her classes involve acting, set and costume design, lighting and sound. Donna has been a well-loved staff member at Candlebark since 2009, where she taught English and Drama across the senior year levels. She teaches Drama and the language subject, Text To Performance, for Years 7-10 at Alice Miller. In her 'Theatre Arts' class, she teaches the skills required to make and use puppets of all kinds, and specialises in using recycled and found materials in her creations. Some of these creations grace the stage tonight. Donna also runs the 'Explosions Club' at Alice Miller.



SANDRO FALCE

SOUND DESIGN

Sandro Falce is a comedian, podcaster, radio presenter and show technician from Melbourne. He's worked both on-stage and behind the scenes at comedy shows for over 8 years now, including the comedy group 'Paul Noodle PhD Candidate' and the Best Comedy winner at Melbourne Fringe Festival 2019 'The Living Room'. Sandro has also worked as a presenter and producer at many radio stations, including Triple J, and can currently be heard on his podcast 'Oldie But A Goodie'.



JEN SPEIRS

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT & STAGE MANAGER

Jennifer Speirs is a sometimes theatre maker, always theatre lover. She goes pretty much wherever Rob Lloyd needs her and has recently performed in Mina Harker: Monster Doctor for MICF 2021 and less recently, in Dracula for MICF 2019. When not acting or stage managing, Jen works in sports, watches sports and is co-host of the podcast: "Nerd Out!"

CREATING THE PUPPETS

FACE-HUGGER



XENOMORPH



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RIPLEY - CASSANDRA HART
NEWT - ELYSIA JANSSEN
BURKE - DANNY MCGINLAY
LT GORMAN - BRAD ALLEN
BISHOP - RIK BROWN
SGT APONE - ZAC ROSE
CPL HICKS - LORE BURNS
VASQUEZ - SEON WILLIAMS
HUDSON - COREY GLAMUZINA

PUPPET TEAM:
PUPPET CAPTAIN - PETE DAVIDSON
PUPPETEER - PARIS BALLA
PUPPETEER - LANA SCHWARCZ

