

BEARTIGER PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BAKEHOUSE THEATRE CO PRESENTS...

THE  
**AMERICAS**  
A THEATRE COMPANY

KXT ON BROADWAY 28-31ST AUGUST



L-O-V-E

A PLAY BY ALLAN STAPLES & KAI PAYNTER

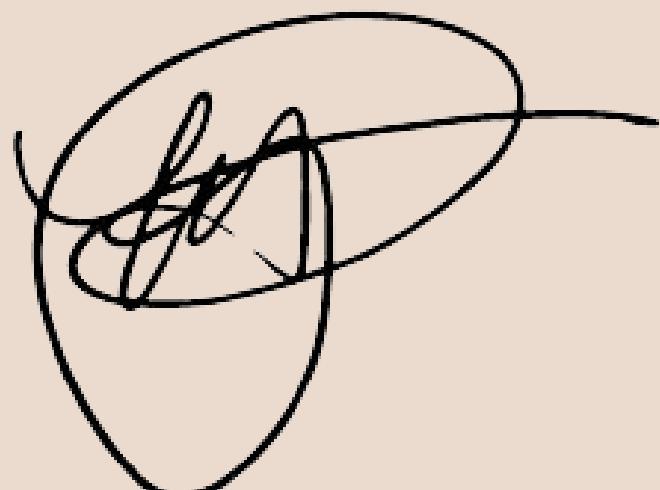
# — Director's Note —

It's all been so serendipitous, and I still can't believe that only after a couple of months we're here...launching *The Americas, A Theatre Co.* at KXT and performing the premiere of *L-O-V-E* with the best cast & crew a girl could ask for. It's a dream come true!

I remember reading Allan's play, *Brave People*, and knowing I had to direct it. The rest, as they say, is history. If I explained how the pieces came together, I'm not sure anyone would believe me. The only other time I experienced this was in & around the time my mother passed. I felt led, carried - sometimes not even knowing what day it was or if I had slept. And yet, everything came together, like she never left. The journey of *The Americas, A Theatre Co.* has been no different, and I can only describe that feeling as love...

Special thanks to Richard Price at Boipelo Mawasha, Sydney Sports Management Group, the team at KXT, Hunter McMahon from Sydney Acting Studio, and my one & only, Kirk.

**Kai P.**



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# Plays

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**Run Time: 1:30 + Intermission**

## 1. *Alyssa's World*

**by Kai Paynter**

Love seen through the eyes of children, starring Gezel Bardossi & Erika Ndibe (with V/O by Alex Baum & Andrea Magpulong).

## 2. *The Night Before*

**by Allan Staples**

Two oddballs find love amidst tragedy, starring Kirk Hastings & Jasmin Certoma.

## 3. *Results*

**by Allan Staples**

A play about budding love and hard choices, starring Jordan Thompson & Alex Baum.

## 4. *Garbage Night*

**by Allan Staples**

An observation on romance, trust, and patience in a relationship, starring Shakira Clanton & Kai Paynter.

## 5. *Why Actors Can't Love*

**by Allan Staples**

Sometimes love isn't enough, starring Andrea Magpulong & Jordan Thompson.

## 6. *The Closing Argument*

**by Allan Staples**

Is it still love if it isn't in our love language?  
Starring Kirk Hastings & Jasmin Certoma.

## 7. *Megan*

**by Allan Staples**

Even in loss and grief, love brings us together, starring Alex Baum and Jordan Thompson.

## 8. *Brave People*

**by Allan Staples**

“...Through sickness and in health, till death do us part.” Starring Kirk Hastings & Jasmin Certoma.

## 9. *LAS*

**by Allan Staples**

The role of society, culture, and timing in love, starring Shakira Clanton & Alex Baum (+ Cast).

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# *Team*

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## *Playwright*

Allan Staples

## *Creator/Director*

Kai Paynter

## *Executive Producer*

Kirk Hastings

## *Co-Producer*

Ruby Jenson

## *Stage Manager*

Mark Scoles

Dominic Di Paolo

## *Lighting & Sound Design*

Mark Scoles

## *Set Design*

Reena Akthar

## *Script & Stage Advisor*

Jasmin Certoma

## *Marketing Support*

Eddie Langford

## *Photographer*

HollyMae Steane Price

## *Cast*

Shakira Clanton

Gezel Bardossi

Alex Baum

Jasmin Certoma

Kirk Hastings

Andrea Magpulong

Erika Ndibe

Kai Paynter

Jordan Thompson

## *Stand-ins*

Dominic Di Paolo

Eddie Langford



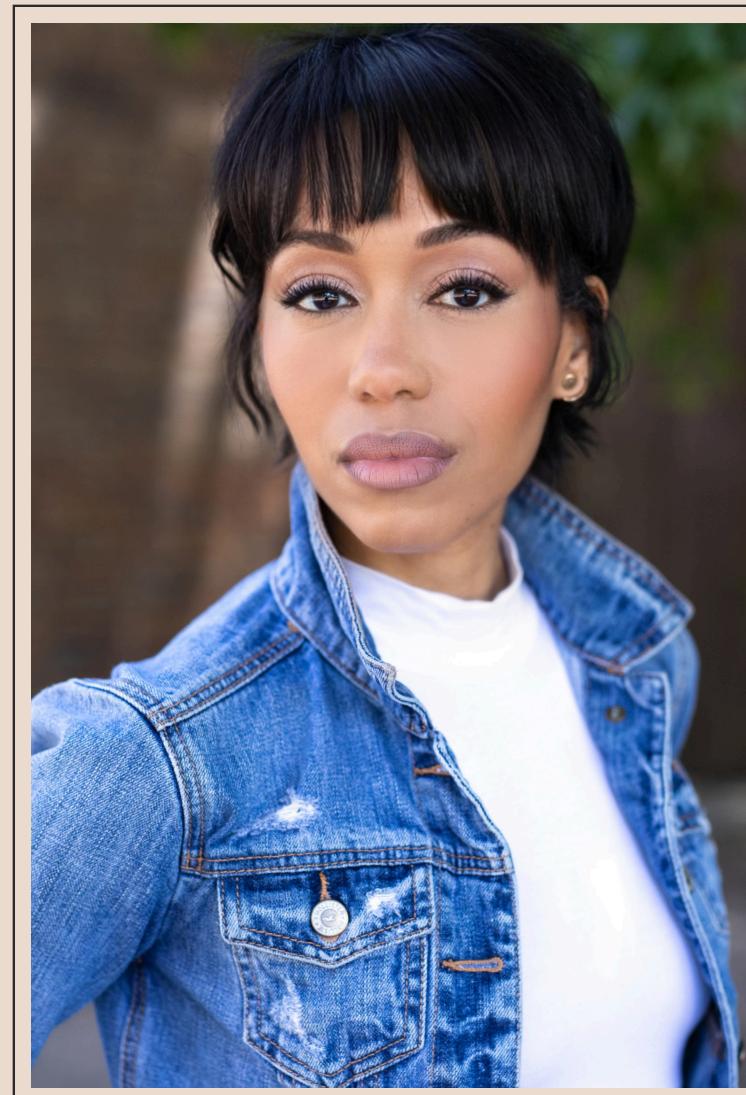
## *Allan Staples*

**Playwright**

Originally from Minneapolis, Allan is a New York-based playwright whose writing has been called, “funny, sexy, intimate and heart wrenching.” Allan’s plays have been developed or produced at the Jungle Theater, Playwright’s Center, Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive, Cape May National Playwrights Symposium, the Dennis & Victoria Ross Foundation and the Playwright/Director Unit at the Actor’s Studio in New York City.

He’s won the American Theatre Co-op award for best one-act play and the best play award at the Short+Sweet Sydney festival. He’s also been a two-time O’Neill semifinalist and a semifinalist for the Jewish Plays Project. Allan has an MFA in Playwriting from the New School of Drama. In addition to theatrical writing, Allan has also written and performed for Minnesota Public Radio. As screenwriter, Allan is a two-time Austin Film Festival Semifinalist and a finalist for the PAGE Fellowship at Stowe Story Labs.

He’s at [www.allanstaples.com](http://www.allanstaples.com).



## *Kai Paynter*

**Co-Founder | BearTiger Productions**

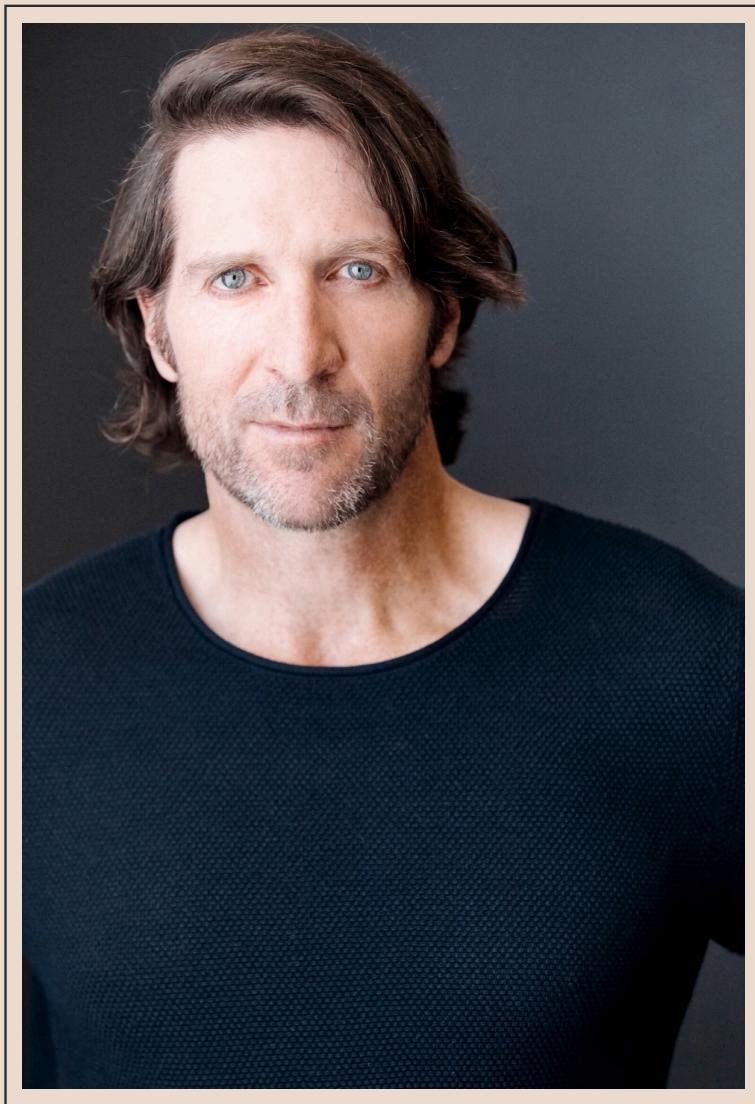
**Founder | The Americas, A Theatre Co.**

**Creator / Director | L-O-V-E**

Kai is a NY artist, local to Sydney, who most recently won Best Director and Best Play for her work at the Short & Sweet Festival, Sydney 2024. As a director, Kai’s credits include SUDS, Hello Dolly, Crazy For You, Honk - The Ugly Duckling, actor showcases, sizzle reels, pilots, and music videos. In addition to directing, Kai has mentored students for entry into top graduate programs and coached celebrity talent in both Sydney and Los Angeles.

Together with partner, Kirk Hastings, they formed BearTiger Productions. Kai holds a BA in Political Science from Purdue University and an MFA in Acting from the University of California, Irvine.

She’s at [www kaipaynter com](http://www kaipaynter com).



## Kirk Hastings

**Co-Founder** | BearTiger Productions

**Executive Producer / Actor** | L-O-V-E

Film/TV: Deadly Women - Foxtel, Bite Club - Channel 9, Last King of the Cross - Stan.

Theatre: 2024 Short+Sweet Festival, Sydney winner - Best Play for "Brave People".

Training: Meisner Technique at Actor's Pulse Studio, Sydney.

Love & gratitude to my wife, Kai.

@kirk\_Hastings



## Ruby Jenson

**Asst. Producer** | BearTiger Productions

**Co-Producer** | L-O-V-E

Ruby is excited for her first theatre production role, working alongside Kai and Kirk to bring L-O-V-E and *The Americas, A Theatre Company* to life at KTX on Broadway. Ruby has an extensive background as a corporate project manager and has always been passionate about the arts and ensuring creative voices have the opportunity to be heard.

She has completed training with AFTRS, NIDA and Actors Centre Australia, and in her spare time you can find her on the back of her trusty steed King, cantering around Terrey Hills!



## Mark Scoles

### Stage Manager

Mark is a dynamic newcomer to stage management, using his extensive film production expertise to ensure seamless operations and exceptional quality at The America's Gala.

Mark was a DJ for 5 years and during that time he played at some of the biggest nightclubs in Sydney and interstate, along with plenty of music festivals.

## Nathan Winslow

### Lighting & Sound Designer

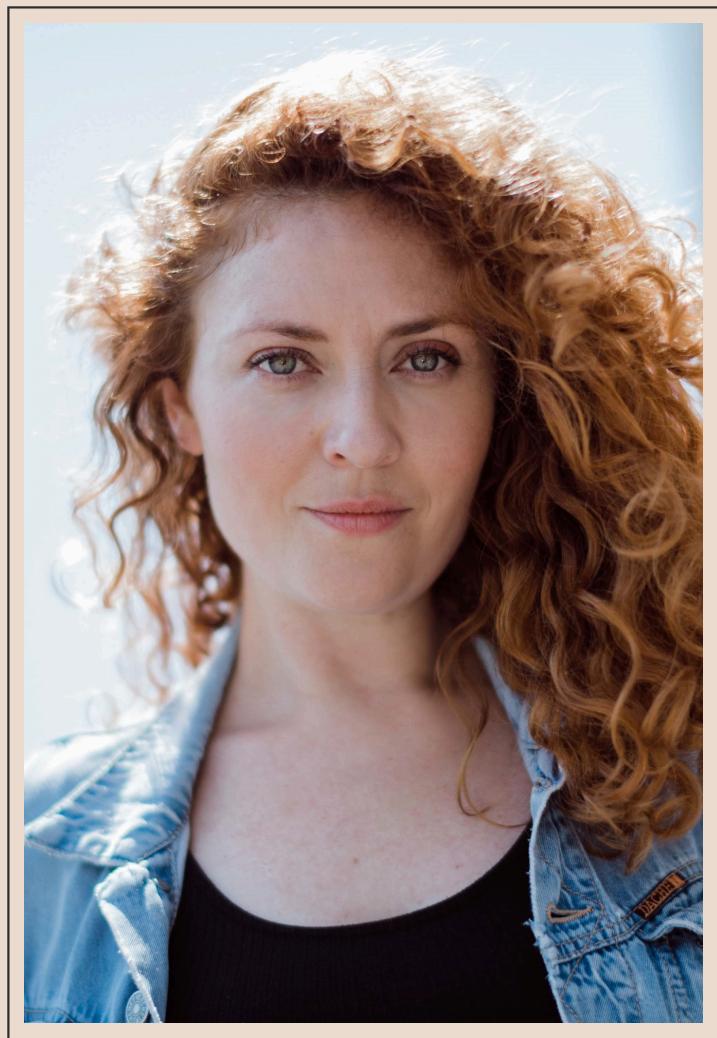
Nathan Winslow is a film student at the University of Newcastle. The focus of his studies, and his time in the entertainment industry thus far has focussed sound - location sound, sound design and radio-plays. He found his calling on the set of Strangers in a Carpark and Veil of Whispers. He has worked on feature length, short films, and advertising campaigns, as well as events and stage productions. Nathan has also overseen lighting for University plays, worked in the control room for the Chromatic Festival, and the feature film Under the Red. Outside of the arts, Nathan has been boxing competitively for a few years and playing games for a few decades! He is excited to be the Lighting and Sound designer for L-O-V-E because... if you do what you love, you never work a day. @sidestrikesound



## Reena Akthar

### Set Designer

Reena is a proud Fijian-Indian director, bringing her unique cultural perspective to the stage. With a burgeoning stage career, she has directed and produced two plays, earning the People's Choice award for her second play at the Short+Sweet Festival in 2024 (week 8). Born and educated in Western Sydney, Reena now calls the vibrant Inner West her home, while combating cybercrime at her day job. Her passion for storytelling and unwavering dedication to her craft honour the legacy of those who believed in her from the very beginning. Reena is thrilled to work with *The Americas, A Theatre Company* as set designer and overall creative cheerleader.



## *Jasmin Certoma*

### **Actor / Script & Stage Advisor**

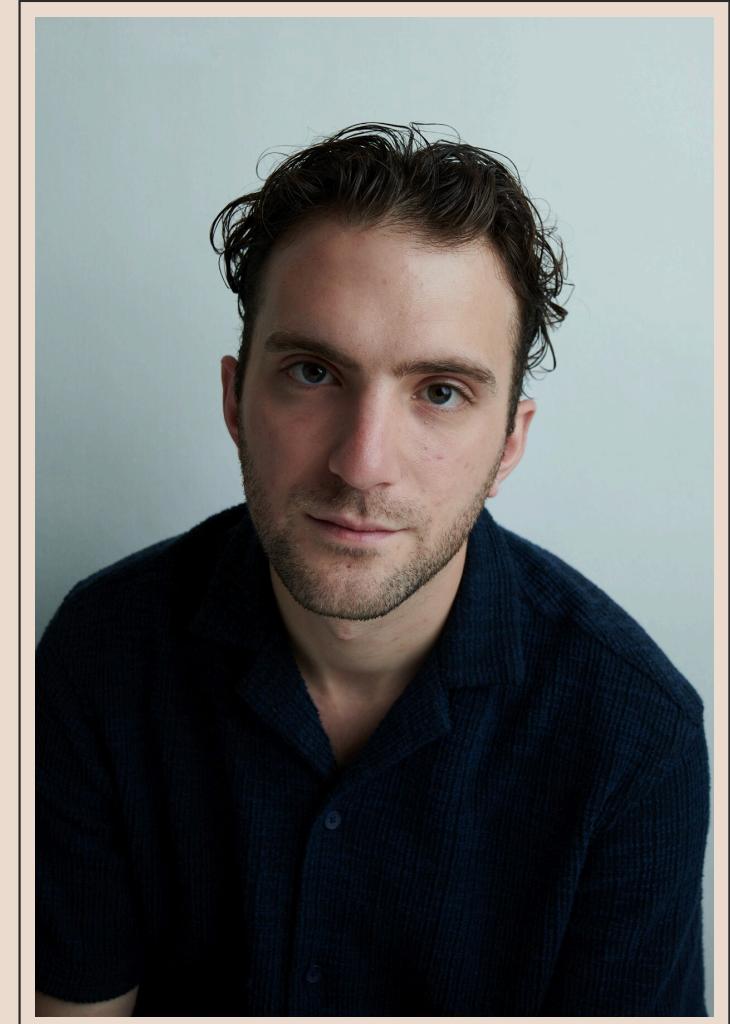
After graduating from the Actors College, Jasmin went to London to tour plays around the U.K. Upon returning to Sydney she went onto star, write and produce her own films such as Modern Mating, and Walk In My Shoes, as well as other independent films. She also teamed with Impolite Productions to co-create and star in Inadequate, which was picked up by the streaming service Roku. Jasmin returned to the stage and starred as Tess in New Theatre's Chimerica and Marianna in Well Actually Productions We're All Terrible, with both receiving rave reviews. Most recently she appeared in Home And Away and various commercials. Jasmin was delighted to win the Best Actress Runner-Up at the Short & Sweet Festival 2024 for Brave People.

## *Dominic Di Paolo*

### **Stand-in / Stage Manager**

Dominic Di Paolo is a graduate of the New York Film Academy, Sydney Acting Studio and Improv Theatre Sydney. He is an Australian actor of Italian and Lebanese heritage with a profound passion for storytelling. His theatrical credits include standout performances in productions such as "Don's Party", "After Dinner", and "Gruesome Playground Injuries".

Dominic has also made his mark on the silver screen in "Mercy of Others", his debut feature film. In his spare time Dominic enjoys the company of sharks and fish, often scuba diving and working towards his divemaster qualification.



## *Eddie Langford*

### **Stand-in / Marketing Support**

Eddie Langford graduated from The Australian Institute of Music with a Bachelor of Music (Music Theatre) in 2022 and is currently rehearsing for Blackout Theatre Company's Avenue Q! Last year, Eddie had the privilege of performing the role of Leo Bloom in Holroyd Musical and Dramatic Society's production of 'The Producers'. His other theatrical credits include Anthony the Squirrel in 'Nutz!: A New Musical' (MUSE, 2023), Whiffle/Ensemble in 'Cry Baby' (MUSE, 2023), Voice 5 in '35MM: A Musical Exhibition' (MacMS, 2023), and Mr. and Dennis in 'Sunday in the Park with George' (MUSE, 2022). In his spare time he likes to make art, play the piano, and play video games (he's a total nerd).

@eddiejlangford

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# *Shakira Clanton*

## **Actor**



Shakira Clanton is a proud Wongatha, Yamatji and Noongar, Gitja yorga (woman) from Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar (Perth), as well as being African American with Native American ancestry on her father's side.

Credits include: Don't Ask What the Bird Look Like, Barbara and the Camp Dogs (with Belvoir St Theatre), The Long Forgotten Dream (Sydney Theatre Company), I'm With Her, Still I Rise (Darlinghurst Theatre Company) York (Black Swan Theatre Company), The Weekend (Moogahlin Performing Arts) and The Weekend (Carriageworks).

Her television credits include: Frayed, Preppers, Eden, Diary of an Uber Driver, Doctor Doctor, Wellmania, Summer Love.

Shakira completed her acting training at NIDA in 2015, and was nominated for Best Actress at the Sydney Theatre Awards for her role in The Weekend.

# *Gezel Bardossi*

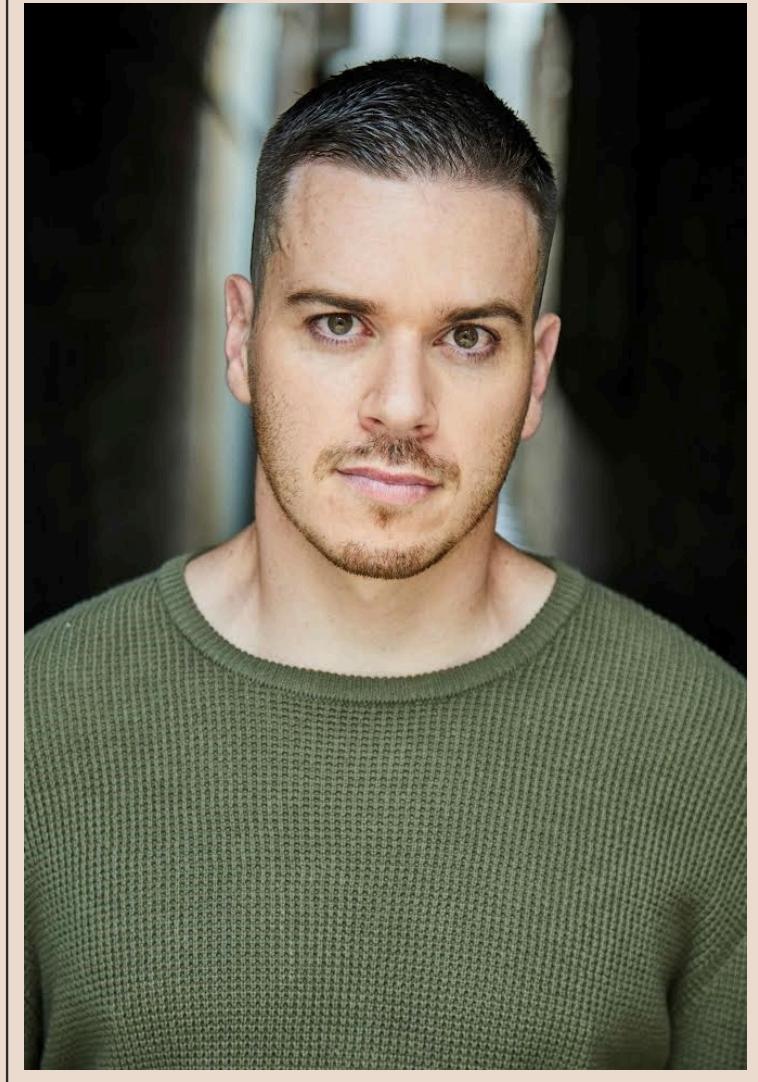
## **Actor**

Gezel has a beautiful mix of ethnicity being (English, Italian, French, Greek & German). In 2022, Gezel booked the supporting role of Blair in the Australian Feature film Public Eye, a credited speaking role in Season 14 of the US series Deadly Women and the lead role in 2 professional short films. She was one of the leads in the multi award winning music video Monska, and in a video for JoJo Siwa (on the Oprah Chanel "OWN").

Gezel is extremely comfortable on stage, recently playing the lead child role of Summer in Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock at the Qudos Bank Arena and Gabriella in the professional theatre production of Georgina. She also enjoys the title of youngest talent globally for the The Voice, participating in Australia's Season 12, in Team Rita's Top 6. In 2024, Gezel was awarded "NSW Woman of The Year Award" in "The Ones to Watch" category.

As though all of this is not enough, Gezel is also a keen baker! She loves to bake cakes, bread, pizzas – all from scratch. Look out Paul Hollywood.





## Alex Baum

**Resident Actor |** The Americas, A Theatre Co.

**Actor |** L-O-V-E

Alex Baum is a QUT graduate and has appeared in numerous plays from Julius Caesar as Octavius, Things I Know To Be True as Mark/Mia and The Glass Menagerie as Jim.

He most recently took part in the Sydney Short & Sweet Festival as well as playing Dasher in Sydney Acting Studio's production of the Eight Reindeer Monologues.

During the pandemic Alex decided to live out his childhood fantasy of becoming Robin Hood, and took up archery! Alex is incredibly excited and grateful to be a part of L-O-V-E and can't wait to share these stories with all of you.

## Jordan Thompson

**Resident Actor |** The Americas, A Theatre Co.

**Actor |** L-O-V-E

Jordan is a Sydney-based actor who studied at Screenwise School of Film and Television with a focus on screen technique and character portrayal. Jordan is thrilled to be making her theatre debut in L-O-V-E, bringing her on-screen experiences to live audiences.

Jordan lived in LA for a year when she was 18 and was born with only 9 toes... but that hasn't stopped her from kicking goals.

Her short film credits include The Valley 91, Rupture, Wasteland and Rescue. Most recently, Jordan took on a lead role as Kennedy in Independent Feature Film The Last.





## *Andrea Magpulong*

### **Actor**

Andrea is a Filipinx-Australian actor and improviser who holds a Bachelor of Media Arts (Honours) from UNSW. Her theatre credits include: Short Blanket as Lainey, The 8 as Blitzen, 12 Angry Jurors as Juror 4, Ate Lovie as Lovie Understudy, Wasted as Charlotte.

Screen credits include: Nothing In Between, Queen of Oz, Strife.

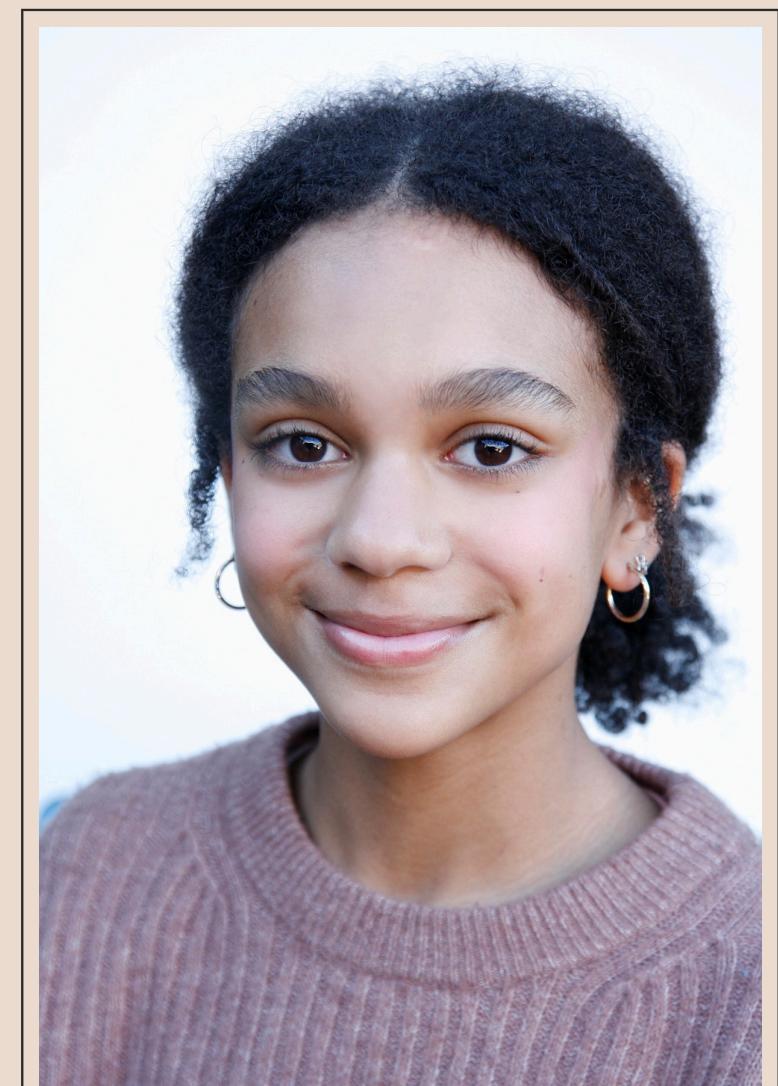
Andrea is part of the improv group Fillow Talk, their show Pamamanhikan was a finalist in ‘Best in Comedy’ at the Sydney Fringe Festival 2023. In her down-time, Andi likes to play guitar and play Dungeons & Dragons with her best friends.

## *Erika Ndibe*

### **Actor**

While only being 11 years old, Erika has been acting in film and TV commercials for seven years! In 2023 Erika was cast in her first supporting actor role in Australian short film Souvenir.

In addition to acting, Erika has been a performance dancer since she was four and she plays the piano.



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# **HollyMae Steane Price**

## **Photographer**

Hailing from Wales, HollyMae began her photography journey with her mother's camera, chasing butterflies in the vegetable garden and failing to capture any images of the beautiful creatures. Since then – and having been gifted a camera of her own when she was 12 – HollyMae fell in love with the art of capturing fleeting moments in time with her camera. Her journey began with the breathtaking landscapes of Wales: the castles, mountains, wildlife and rivers; flowers and fauna, and her archaeological endeavours, and continues with the wide horizons and big skies of Australia. Now living on Gadigal Country in Sydney's Inner West, HollyMae has combined her lifelong love for theatre with her skills in photography.

Along with her involvement with L-O-V-E, her work includes rehearsals, tech and dress run photography for productions by New Ghosts Theatre Company, Akimbo & Co, Andy Freeborn at the Old Fitz Theatre, and Yellow Line Theatre at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre. When she is not at the theatre, HollyMae is an archaeologist... not the Indiana Jones type though!

**29 - 31 August 2024**

**Preview - 28 August 2024**

*Tickets available at*

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-americas-l-o-v-e>



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THE  
**AMERICAS**  
A THEATRE COMPANY

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