

**BEARTIGER PRODUCTIONS** IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**THE AMERICAS A THEATRE CO** PRESENT ...

# THIS IS L - - V - E

by **Allan Staples, Kai Paynter**

STARRING

Alex King • Lior Drimer • Joel Green • Georgia Britt  
Kate Jirelle • Dominic Di Paolo • Alex Baum • Laura Kiil  
Rhett Wilks • Kirk Hastings • Liam Merchant



**QTOPIA, SYDNEY**

**Mar 4-8, 11-15 2025**

# — Director's Note —

Bringing L-O-V-E back to the stage with a new name, is both a thrill and a challenge. In its first production, this play struck a deep chord with audiences—its humor, its heartbreak, its raw honesty about love in all its messy, beautiful, and sometimes painful forms. In this remount, at Qtopia we have an opportunity not just to revisit the work, but to rediscover it.

Love is never static. It evolves, just as we do. Time changes how we love, how we remember, how we long. And so, in reimagining this piece, we approach it with fresh eyes, fresh faces (some old ones, too), new perspectives, and a deepened understanding of what it means to connect. This production honors the original and some new work while allowing space for new nuances to emerge.

Theatre is at its most powerful when it reflects life in all its contradictions. Love is tender and brutal, joyous and heartbreaking, intimate and isolating. This play doesn't offer easy answers, but it does offer truth. It reminds us that love—however imperfect—remains the force that shapes us the most.

Thank you for joining us in this experience. Whether you're seeing THIS IS L-O-V-E for the first time or returning to it, I hope it resonates in a way that feels new, personal, and deeply felt.

Special thanks to Boipelo, Richard Price at Sydney Sports Management Group, the team at Qtopia, Paulie from Point Break Drama, my incredible friend & playwright Allan, Rubes, and my one & only, Kirk.

With Gratitude,

Kai P.



# Plays

**Run Time: 1:15 + Intermission**

## 1. Alyssa's World

*by Kai Paynter*

Love seen through the eyes of a child and a single mother, starring Lior Drimer & Laura Kiil

## 2. The Night Before

*by Allan Staples*

Two oddballs find love amidst tragedy, starring Georgia Britt & Joel Green

## 3. Clowns

*by Kai Paynter*

*(Inspired by 'Nights at The Circus' by Angela Carter)*

A different kind of love story, starring Alex Baum and Ruby Jenson

## 4. The Closing Argument

*by Allan Staples*

Is it still love if it isn't in our love language?  
Starring Kate Jirelle & Kirk Hastings

## 5. Garbage Night

*by Allan Staples*

An observation on romance, trust, and patience in a relationship, starring Laura Kiil & Rhett Wilks

## 6. Results

*by Allan Staples*

A play about budding love and hard choices, starring Georgia Britt & Dominic Di Paolo

## 7. Brave People

*by Allan Staples*

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

## 8. LAS

*by Allan Staples*

The role of society, culture, and timing in love, starring Alex Baum & Rhett Wilks (+ Cast)

# Team

## Playwright

Allan Staples

## Creator / Director / Dialect

Kai Paynter

## Executive Producer

Kirk Hastings

## Co-Producer

Ruby Jenson

## Production Manager

Dominic Di Paolo

## Lighting & Sound Operator

Nathan Winslow

## Marketing

Eddie Langford

## Production Photographer

Tony Ling

## Cast

Lior Drimer

Laura Kiił

Georgia Britt

Joel Green

Ruby Jenson

Kate Jirelle

Kirk Hastings

Rhett Wilks

Alex Baum

Dominic Di Paolo

## Co-Stage Manager

Kate Jirelle

Liam Merchant



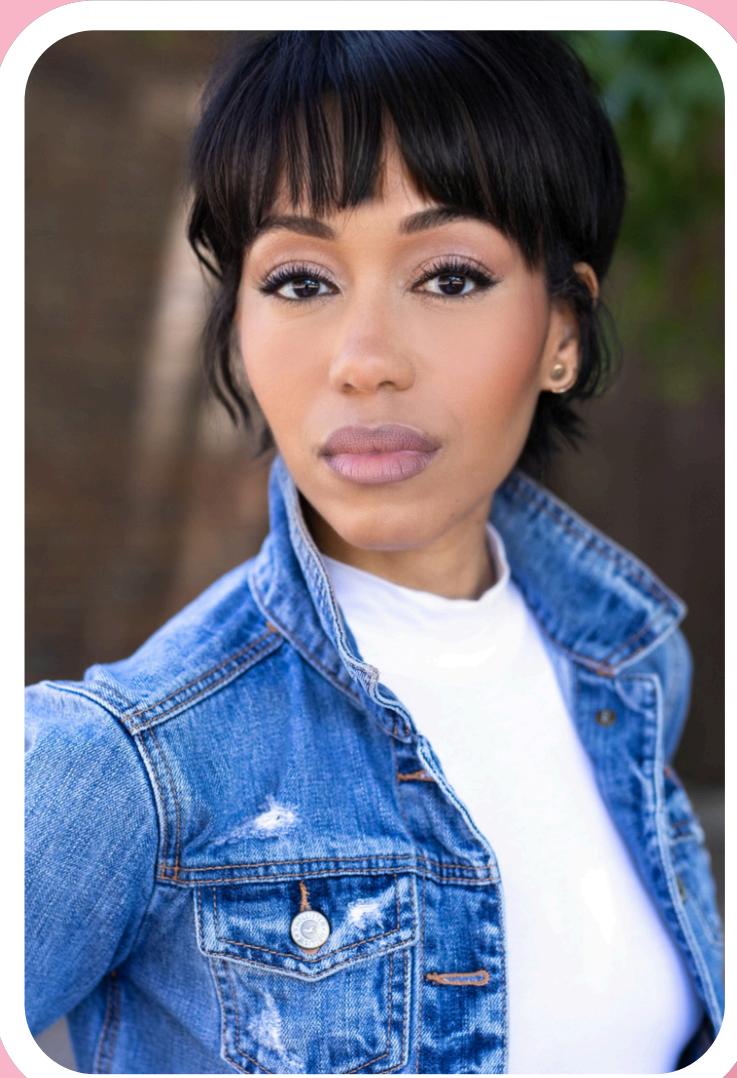
## Allan Staples

**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 2024. 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**

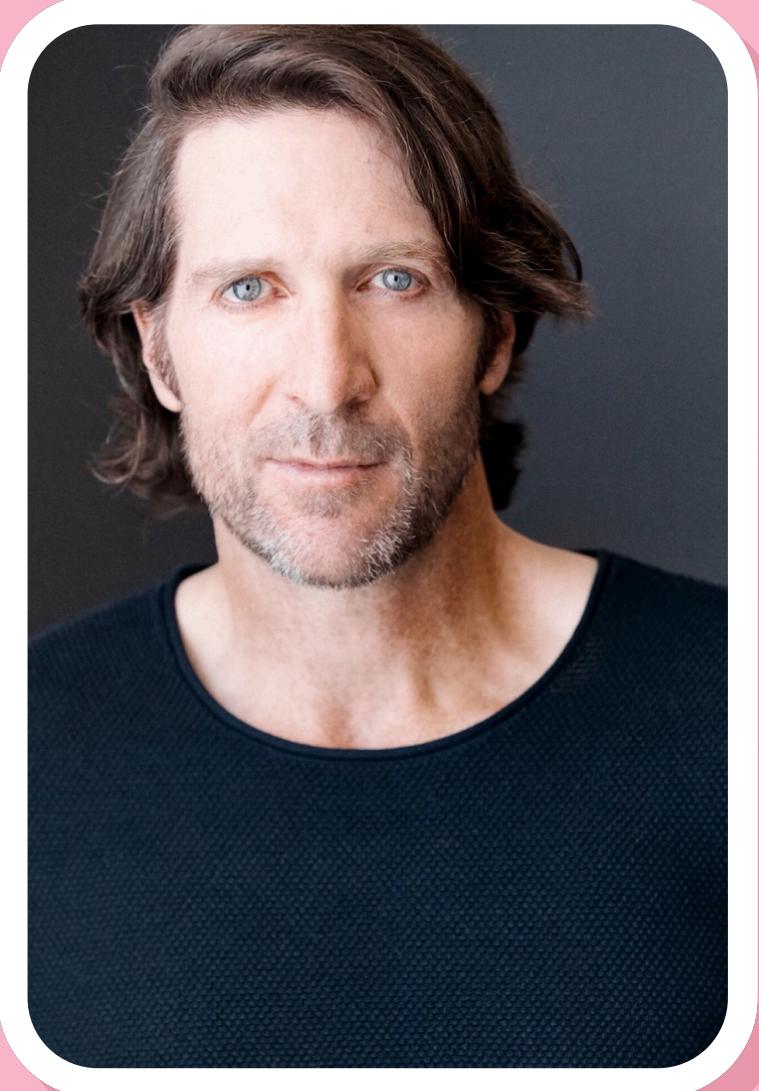
**Founder | The Americas, A Theatre Co.**

**Creator / Dir. / Dialect | This is L-O-V-E**

Kai is a NY artist, local to Sydney who founded @theamericanastheatreco last August. She is the recipient of the 2024 Sydney, Short+Sweet Festival award for Best Director and Best Play.

As a director/producer, Kai’s credits include Megan, No Direction Home, SUDS, Hello Dolly, Crazy For You, Honk - The Ugly Duckling, countless actor showcases, sizzle reels, pilots, and music videos. In addition to directing, producing, and writing, Kai has mentored students for entry into competitive collegiate programs such as Yale School of Drama, Columbia University, NYU and coached celebrity talent in both Sydney & Los Angeles.

Together with partner @kirk\_hastings, they formed @beartiger.productions. Kai holds a BA in Political Science from Purdue University and an MFA from the University of California, Irvine.



## Kirk Hastings

**Co-Founder | BearTiger Productions**

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

@kirk\_hastings is Co-Founder of @beartiger.productions (with his wife @kai.paynter) and Executive Producer/Actor in This Is L-O-V-E.

His producer credits include Megan, No Direction Home Kirk's film and TV credits include Deadly Women - Foxtel, Bite Club - Channel 9, Last King of the Cross - Stan.

His theatre work includes 2024 Short+Sweet Festival, Sydney winner - Best Play for "Brave People" and Ben in The Americas debut production of L-O-V-E. Kirk has trained in the Meisner Technique at Actor's Pulse Studio, Sydney.



## Ruby Jenson

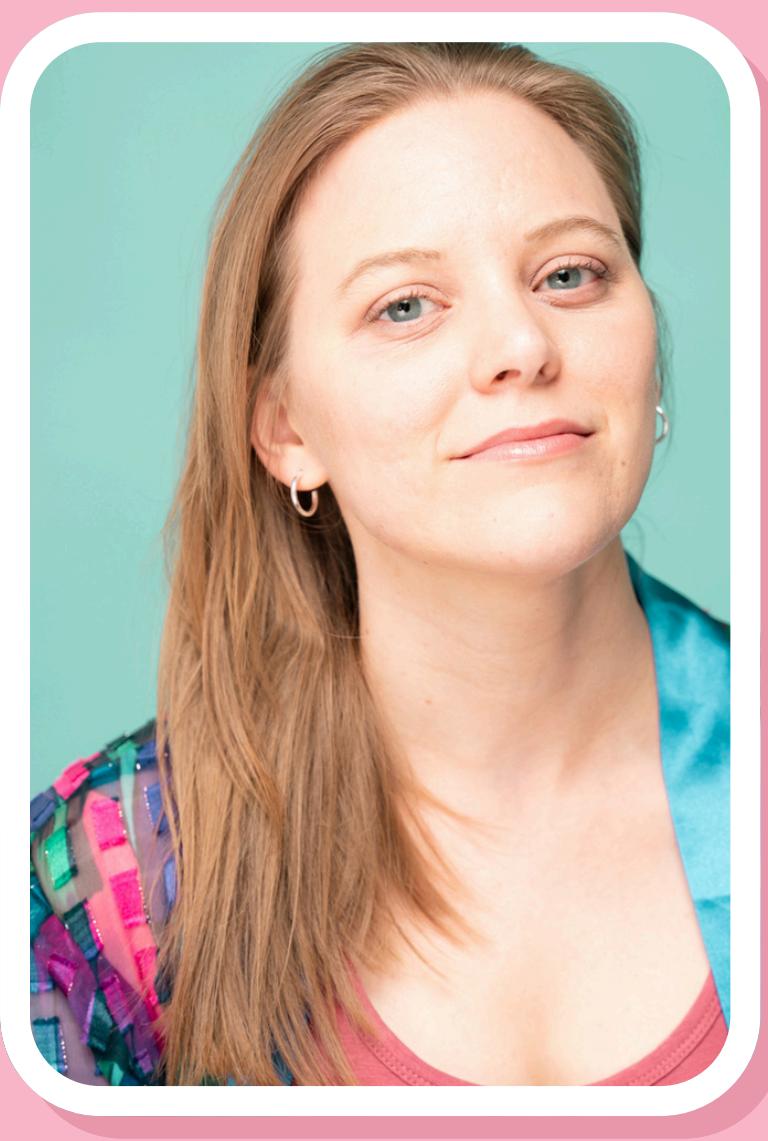
**Asst. Producer | BearTiger Productions**

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

Ruby is excited for her third theatre production role, working alongside Kai & Kirk to bring THIS IS L-O-V-E to life at Qtopia, Sydney.

Her producer credits include L-O-V-E and NO DIRECTION HOME. Ruby has an extensive background as a corporate project manager and has always been passionate about the arts, ensuring creative voices have the opportunity to be heard.

She has completed training with AFTRS, NIDA and Actors Centre Australia, and later this year, she'll be making her writing and acting debut with @beartiger.productions .



## Kate Jirelle

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

**Actor / Co-Stage Manager | This is L-O-V-E**

Kate is an actor and writer currently based in Western Sydney. As the great-granddaughter of an opera singer, she likes to blame genetics for her passion for performance and storytelling. Her stage credits include Tovarich, Earth and Sky, Things I Know To Be True, Little Women, Gaslight and The Vicar of Dibley. She has also toured across regional NSW, performing lead roles in productions for both Blue Whale Theatre and Dark Stories Interactive Theatre.

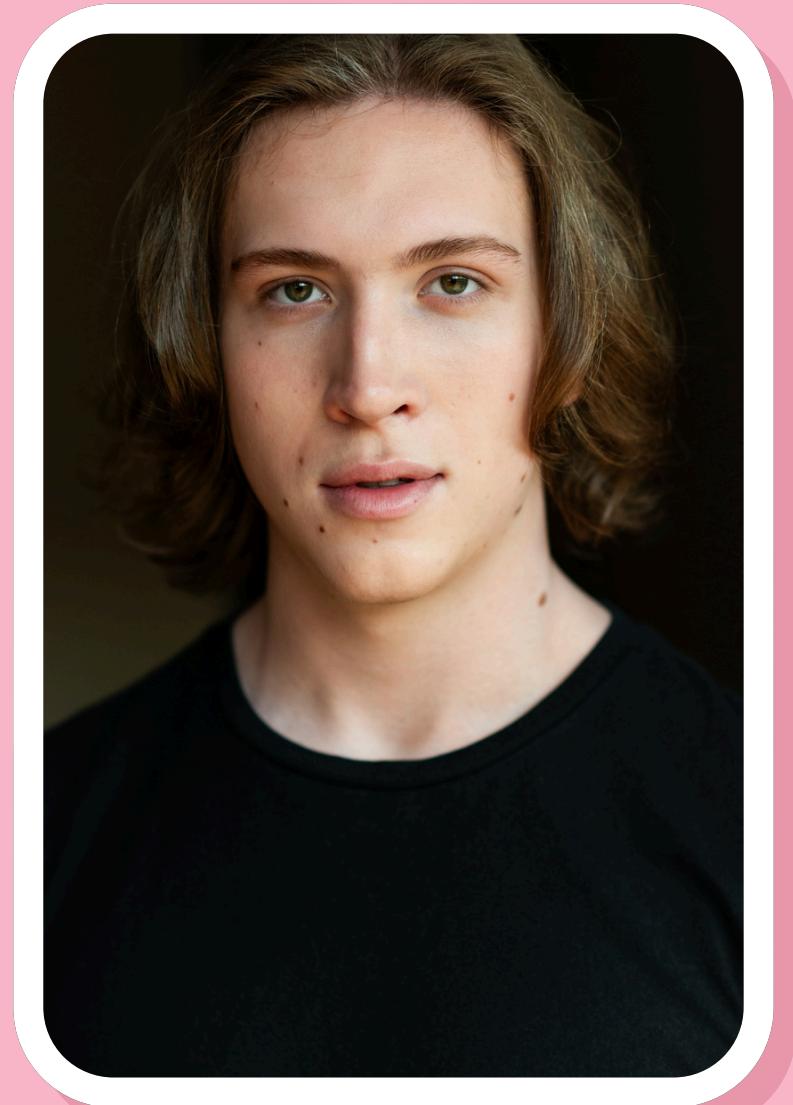
In 2022 she made her writing and directing debut, with the short play To Those I Left Behind for which she was awarded ‘Best Production’ at Short+Sweet Sydney. Most recently, her immersive one-act play The Secrets of Carmichael Manor (commissioned by Dark Stories Interactive Theatre) was performed in National Trust properties across the Western Sydney and Hunter Valley regions.

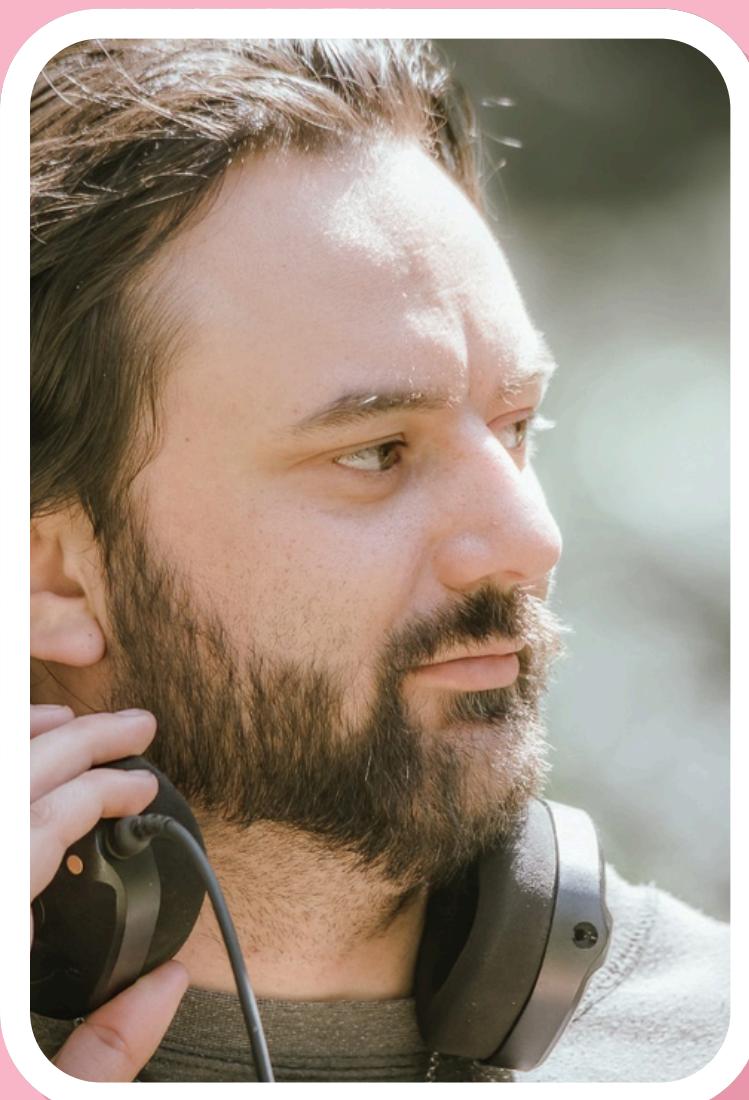
## Liam Merchant

**Co-Stage Manager**

Liam Merchant was born and raised in Sydney. As a young child, Liam’s parents nurtured his passion for the creative arts through music, playing both flute & piano for several years. Liam also grew up playing many sports as a child before choosing to settle on gymnastics, of which he trained competitively for six years, placing 3rd on floor at the National Clubs Championships held in Bendigo 2017.

Though growing up shy, Liam’s love for performance from competitive training and creative influence derived from his music influence slowly nurtured his admiration for acting. With little knowledge of the industry, Liam chose to take his first step towards his passion through high school drama & instantly fell in love, being provided a space of creative freedom and self expression, though still craving more. Post high school graduation in 2022, Liam knew he wanted to focus more on screen acting, where he enrolled in Screenwise, graduating November 1st 2024.





## Nathan Winslow

### *Lighting & Sound Operator*

Nathan Winslow is a film graduate from the University of Newcastle. He has made the focus of his studies, and his time in the entertainment industry, on Sound. Location sound, sound design, radio-plays, he found his calling on the set of Strangers in a Carpark, Veil of Whispers and Site Unseen (due to release in theatres October... assuming they finish it in time. I believe in you Brady). He has done work on feature length, short films, and advertising campaigns, as well as events and stagework.

He has also overseen lighting for university plays, worked in the control room for the Chromatic Festival, and the feature film Under the Red. He is excited to be the Lighting and Sound Operator for BearTiger Productions, and This is L-O-V-E, because it makes him feel like he is flying a spaceship. @sidestrikesound

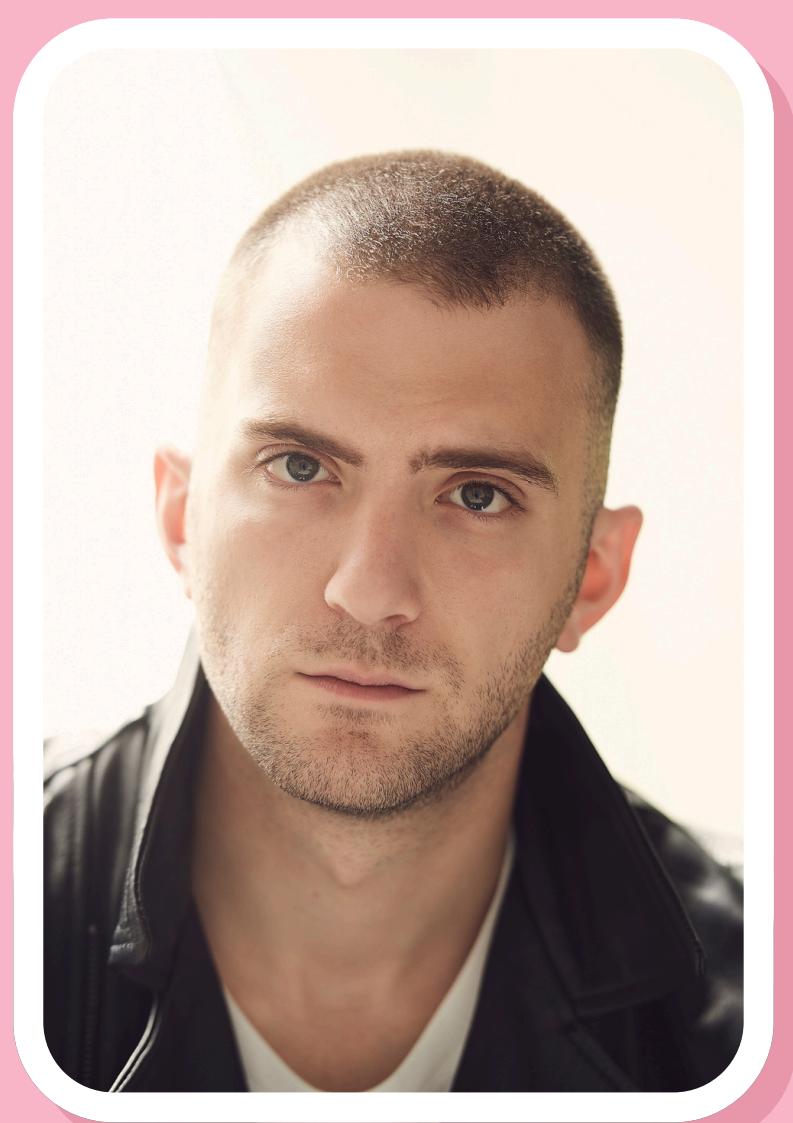
## Dominic Di Paolo

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

**Actor / Production Manager | This is L-O-V-E**

Dominic Di Paolo is a dynamic actor of Lebanese and Italian descent, with a passion for bringing compelling stories to life on stage and screen.

He has appeared in the feature-length film Mercy of Others, currently streaming on Amazon Prime. His theatre credits include Gruesome Playground Injuries, Don's Party, After Dinner, The Eight: Reindeer Monologues, and A Single Act. He also performed in Smoke and Mirrors as part of Short + Sweet last year and has since expanded his involvement in the festival by producing two new shows for this year's lineup.



After more than a year away from the stage, Dominic makes his highly anticipated return in No Direction Home. He is beyond excited to be part of such a fantastic production and grateful for the opportunity to perform alongside his talented cast mates who have made this journey all the more special. With many exciting projects on the horizon, Dominic is eager to continue exploring new creative challenges, telling powerful stories, and sharing his passion for performance with audiences everywhere.



## Tony Ling

### **Production Photographer**

Tony Ling is a Chinese-Australian photographer and post-production filmmaker formally trained at the Australian Film Television & Radio School and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. With over half a decade of experience, his photography spans productions, concerts, and events across Sydney, working with clients such as SYO, Camp Quality, NSW Health, and UNSW.

When he's not capturing stills for his love of theatre, Tony works full-time in editorial for film, television, and short-form content, with screen credits including features starring Mark Wahlberg, Susan Sarandon, and Rebel Wilson. Supported by initiatives from Screen Australia, Create NSW, Media Mentors, the Australia Screen Editors Guild, and Endemol Shine, Tony is excited to continue contributing to the Australian creative landscape, collaborating with talented creatives and seeking the next incredible story.

## Eddie Langford

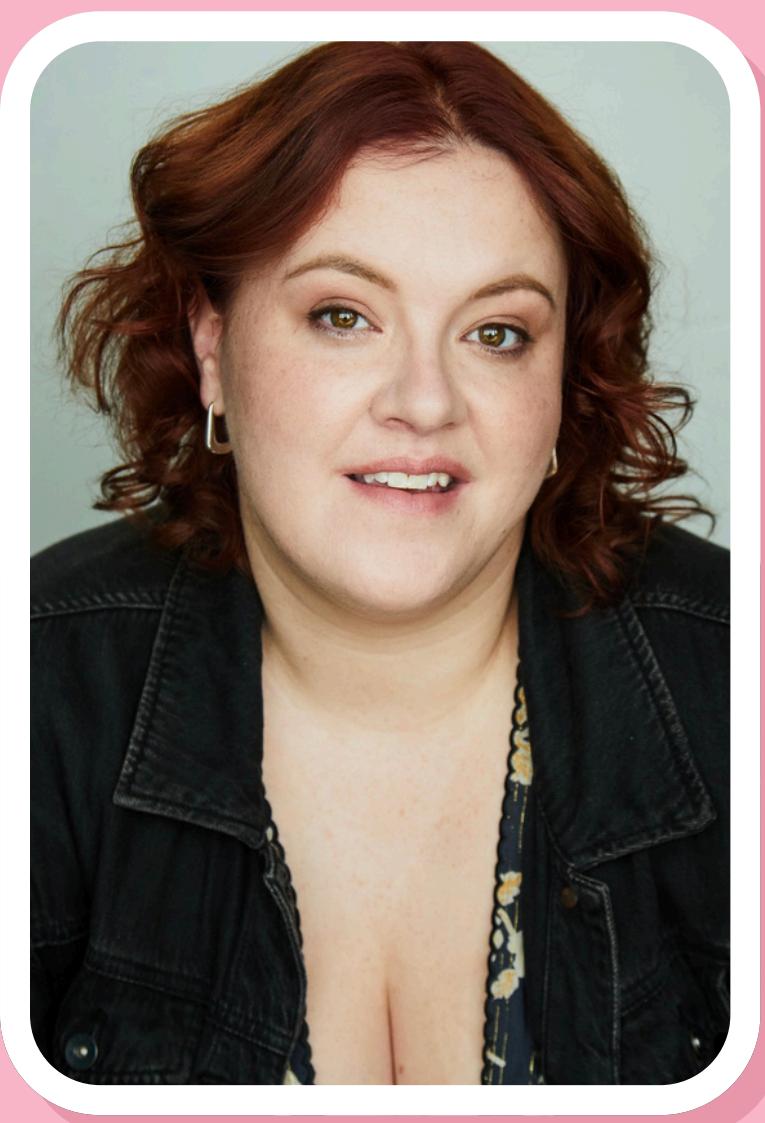
### **Marketing**

Eddie Langford graduated from AIM with a Bachelor of Music (Music Theatre) in 2022 and is currently rehearsing to play Adam in Hills Musical Theatre Company's production of 'Freaky Friday'! His other theatrical credits include Ensemble in 'Head Over Heels' (The Regals Musical Society, 2025), Officer Lockstock in 'Urinetown' (MUSE, 2024), Ensemble in 'Avenue Q' (Blackout Theatre Company, 2024) Anthony the Squirrel in 'Nutz!: A New Musical' (MUSE, 2023), Whiffle/Father Officer O'Brien/Ensemble in 'Cry Baby' (MUSE, 2023), Leo Bloom in 'The Producers' (Holroyd Musical & Dramatic Society, 2023), Voice 5 in '35MM: A Musical Exhibition' (MacMS, 2023), Mr./Dennis in 'Sunday in the Park with George' (MUSE, 2022) and the Typesetter in 'Personals: A Musical Revue' (AIM, 2022).

Since 2021, he's also been in an acapella group called 'The Spare Keys', which has since performed three yearly concerts - 'The Mouth, The Whole Mouth and Nothing But the Mouth' (2022), 'Make Love, Not Instruments' (2023), and 'Acamacarena' (2024).

@eddiejlangford and @the\_spare\_keys on Instagram.





## Laura Kiil

### Actor

Originally from Adelaide Laura got her start acting in children's theatre and pantomime shows all around South Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Media from the University of Adelaide and completed a diploma of musical theatre in Melbourne, before settling on Sydney 8 years ago to focus on film and television productions where she has successfully appeared in commercials, short films and most recently a minor role in the Stan original series *Prosper*.

This is Love marks Laura's return to the stage after an 8-year break, her last role starring as Eleanor in *Sense and Sensibility* with Blue Sky Theatre. She is thrilled to be back on stage, working with the America's and is excited to bring the role of Aylssa to life for this production.

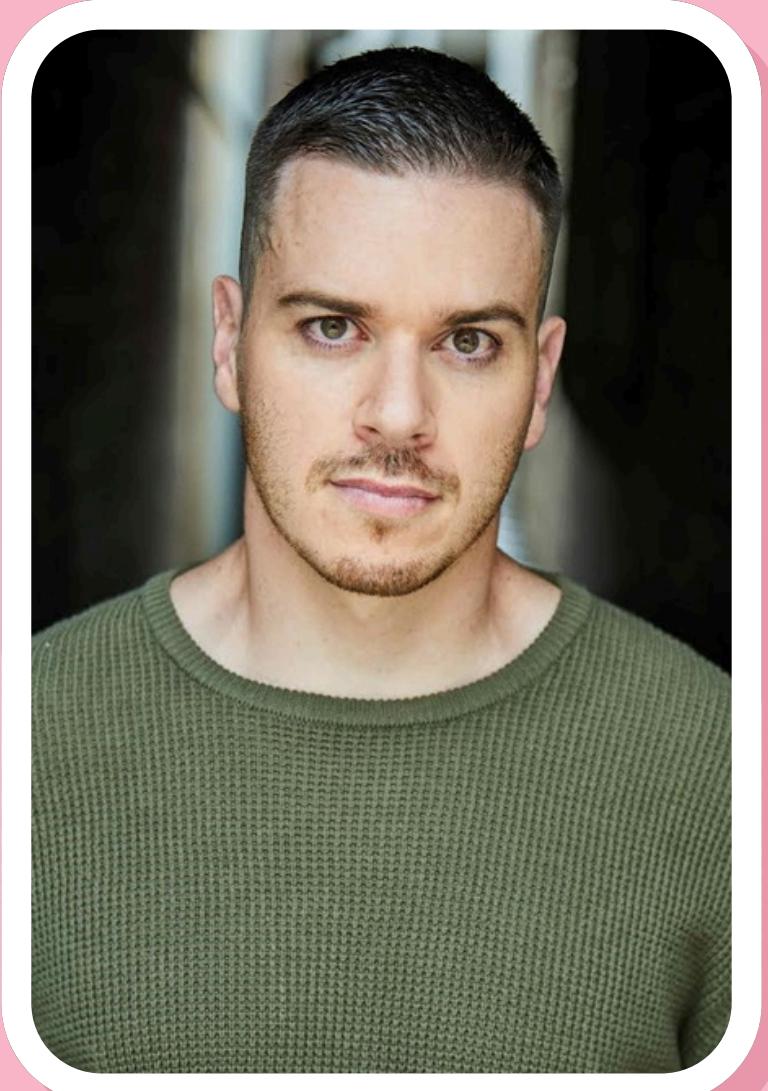
## Alex Baum

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

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

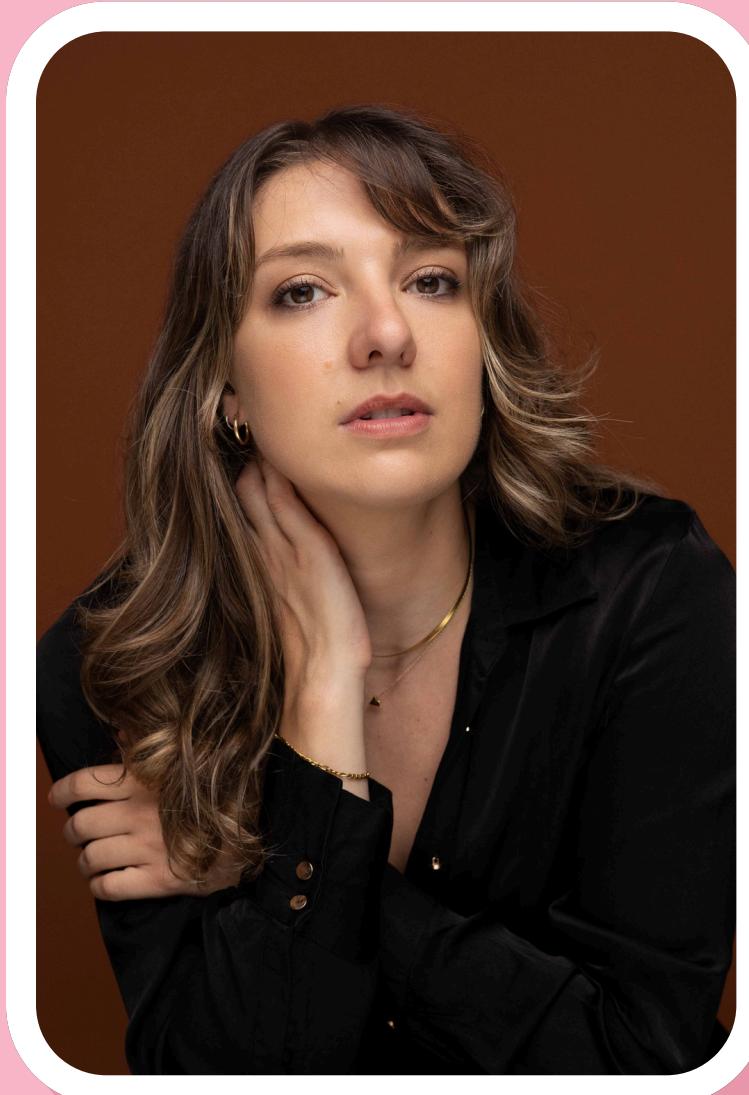
Alex is a QUT graduate and has appeared in numerous plays from Julius Caesar as Octavius, Things I Know To Be True as Mark/Mia, The Glass Menagerie as Jim, Dasher in Eight Reindeer Monologues, and Jeff U/S in No Direction Home.

He most recently took part in the Sydney Short+Sweet Festival as well as playing Zary and Max in The Americas inaugural production of L-O-V-E. Alex is a proud Resident Artist of The Americas and is excited to reprise his roles at Qtopia. He is also looking forward to his first writing/directorial debut this April!



# Georgia Britt

## Actor



Georgia is a Sydney-based actor, recently returned from studying at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in the UK in 2024. Prior to that she spent time in Los Angeles where she performed in a short play festival, winning the People's Choice Award, and studied at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute.

Some previous credits include 'The Effect' (BOVTS, dir. Natalie Simone), 'Othello' (BOVTS, dir. Joe Leat), 'Atlantis' (New Theatre, dir. Tiffany Wong), 'Wolves Are Coming For You' (Kittyhawk Theatre, dir. Georgia Britt), 'Seeds in your pocket' (Short + Sweet Sydney, dir. Fiona Leonard), 'Dutiful Daughter' (Short + Sweet Illawarra, dir. Ali Bendall), 'Steel Magnolias' (Genesian TC, dir. Alli Bendall), 'A Streetcar Named Desire' (Genesian TC, dir. Tom Massey), 'Things I Know to be True' (Theatre on Chester, dir. Carla Moore), 'Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat' (NIDA, dir. Shane Anthony).

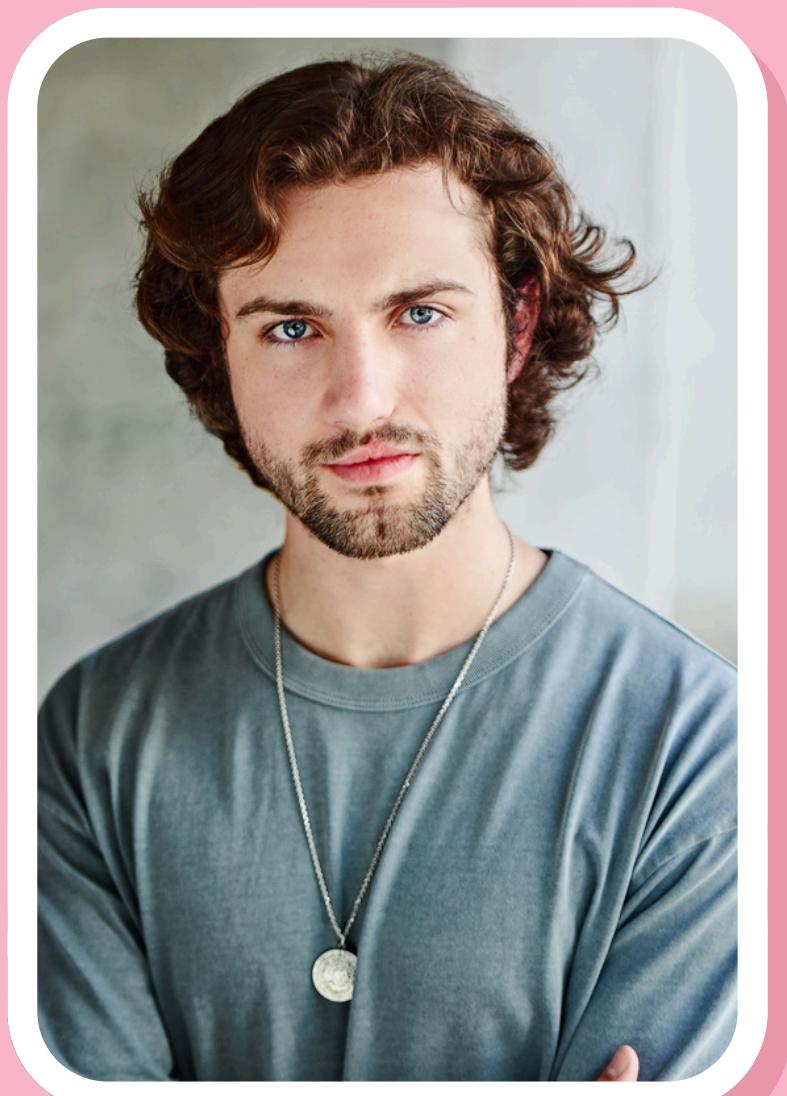
Georgia is very excited to be working with such a wonderful cast and crew of 'This is L-O-V-E' at Qtopia.

# Rhett Wilks

## Actor

Rhett Wilks is a Sydney-based actor, having had his theatre debut late last year playing Laertes in Point Break Theatre Co's production of Hamlet. In 2024 he was seen in short films including The Midnight Club (AFTRS) and Platonic Phantom (SAE).

More recently he performed at Short+Sweet, playing opposite Alex Baum in Allan Staples' MEGAN with The Americas A Theatre Co. Along with theatre, he spends his time writing, directing, and acting in projects with his partner. Rhett is thrilled to bring both Jack and Jim to Qtopia with the team!





## Lior Drimer

### Actor

Lior is 13 years old, and she has been training and working as an actor since she was 8. She is represented by Starfish Talent Management, and is coached by Jo Briant (Sydney), Katherine Beck (US dialect), Sara Sevginy (LA), Linda Nicholls-Gidley (voice) and Sydney Acting Studio (teen Meisner).

Lior has been in a number of short films, features and web series, and she is delighted to be making her theatrical debut in 'This is L-O-V-E' with The Americas Theatre Company (Bear Tiger Productions).

## Joel Green

### Actor

Joel Bailey Green was born on the 24th of April 1999 and grew up in the suburb of Engadine, Australia. When he was 8 years old, he wanted to become an actor after discovering Doctor Who. In 2014, Joel attended Art Umbrella School of Performing Arts where he received theatre training for 6 years.

Throughout the years, he starred in theatre productions including Blue Electric Wind, Bassett, YOLO, and more. In 2020, Joel did 3 screen acting courses with Anna Lee, Maya Stange, and Robert Mammone at Screenwise Film and Television School, before enrolling in the Advanced Diploma of Screen Acting later in 2023.

During his time at Screenwise, Joel has been taught by industry professionals such as Denise Roberts, Alan Flower, Alexandra Davies, and many more. He also worked on the short film 'Summer Boys', directed by Caleb Rhodda, and donned a 50's outfit for a role in the Stan series 'Ten Pound Poms', directed by Ana Kokkinos/Tom McKay.



4 - 8, 11 - 15 March 2025

**Tickets available at**

<https://events.humanitix.com/this-is-l-o-v-e>



For media enquiries please contact Ruby Jenson on 450510091 or  
[producer@beartigerproductions.com](mailto:producer@beartigerproductions.com)