

AN AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

NEIL LABUTE

*all the ways to say
I Love You*

DIRECTED BY
KAI PAYNTER

THE LIVING ROOM • Aug 20-24, 2025

BEARTIGER PRODUCTIONS X THE AMERICAS, A THEATRE COMPANY

Director's Note

All The Ways To Say I Love You is a quiet storm — a memory, private reckoning, a confessional filled with longing, guilt, and the many ways we attempt to rewrite our pasts. In just one voice, Neil LaBute asks us to sit with discomfort, with ambiguity, and with the uneasy truths we try to bury beneath love, lust, and loyalty.

This production features two extraordinary actors: Paige Walker and Grace Ho, who share the role of Mrs. Johnson. Their performances offer two distinct but equally compelling portraits — Paige's layered intensity and Grace's subtle emotional excavation, which invites a new cultural dimension to the story as a woman of Asian descent, reclaiming this complex narrative. The result is a dialogue between performances, a fuller spectrum of human contradiction.

We're also fortunate to be joined by Arvin Arcilla, whose live acoustic music acts as a gentle frame — an emotional entry and exit point for this intimate experience. His songs are not part of the monologue but they linger with you as you leave, similar to that of Tommy, Mrs. Johnson's student/ primary subject matter.

There are no easy answers here. Just one woman, and all the ways she's tried — and failed — to say the things that matter most.

Special thanks to Neil, Richard Price at Sydney Sports Management Group, Boipelo Mawasha, Matt Giles of Astral Seas Productions, Claire at Wyldlings, Paul Winchester from Pointbreak Drama, Rubes, and my one & only, Kirk.

Thank you for being here.

— **Kai P.**
Director

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'K' and 'P' intertwined.

All the Ways to Say I Love You

The AMERICAS presents the Australian premiere of *All The Ways To Say I Love You* by our friend & playwright, Neil LaBute. This controversial piece is a raw confession of love, guilt, and buried desire. It peels back the layers of a woman's life to reveal the aching space between what we want, what we choose, and what we must live with. Neil LaBute's intimate monologue confronts the weight of secrets and the bizarre freedom that accompanies emotional compromise.

Performances

19 August, 6:15 PM — Grace Ho (Preview)
19 August, 7:45 PM — Paige Walker (Preview)
20 August, 7:00 PM — Paige Walker (Opening)
21 August, 7:00 PM — Paige Walker
22 August, 7:00 PM — Paige Walker
23 August, 7:00 PM — Paige Walker
24 August, 6:15 PM — Paige Walker (Closing)
24 August, 7:45 PM — Grace Ho (Closing)

Venue

The Living Room
457/459 Elizabeth St,
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Content Warnings

18+. This show includes explicit and derogatory language, graphic sexual references and controversial adult themes, as well as references to drugs and alcohol, pregnancy and childbirth, and racial and sexual identity.

Team

Playwright

Neil LaBute

Mrs. Johnson

Paige Walker

Director

Kai Paynter

Mrs. Johnson (Alternate)

Grace Ho

Executive Producer

BearTiger Productions

Tommy / Featured Musician

Arvin Arcilla

Producer

The Americas, A Theatre Co.

Production Manager

Ruby Jenson

Dialect Coach

Kai Paynter

Stage Manager

Grace Ho

Marketing

Eddie Langford



Neil LaBute

Playwright

Neil LaBute is an acclaimed American playwright, screenwriter, and filmmaker known for his provocative, emotionally charged works that explore the darker sides of human relationships. His breakthrough play, *In the Company of Men* (1992), won critical acclaim and was later adapted into an award-winning film. Other notable plays include *Fat Pig*, *The Shape of Things*, *Reasons to Be Pretty*, and *The Mercy Seat*.

LaBute's work is often recognized for its sharp dialogue, moral ambiguity, and unflinching examination of power, desire, and betrayal. He has written extensively for both stage and screen, with credits spanning Broadway, the West End, and independent film. *All The Ways To Say I Love You*, a one-woman monologue, premiered Off-Broadway in 2016, starring Judith Light.

LaBute remains one of contemporary theatre's most distinctive voices — unafraid to challenge audiences with complex characters and uncomfortable truths.



Kai Paynter

Artistic Director | The Americas

Kai Paynter is a NY artist, local to Sydney who founded @theamericastheatreco . As a director/ producer, Kai's credits include *All The Ways To Say I Love You*, *Amongst The Living*, *The Money Shot*, *When She Loves Me* (Playwright), *This Is L-O-V-E* (co-writer), *No Direction Home*, *Megan*, *L-O-V-E* (co-writer), *Brave People*, *Suds*, *Hello Dolly*, *Crazy For You*, *Honk The Ugly Duckling*, countless actor showcases, sizzle reels, pilots, and music videos. She is the recipient of the 2024 Sydney Short+Sweet Festival award for Best Director and Best Play.

In addition to her work as a creative, Kai has coached (acting, dialect, voice, & movement) celebrity talent in both Sydney & Los Angeles and mentored students for successful entry into competitive collegiate programs such as Yale School of Drama, Columbia University, and NYU's Tisch.

Together with partner @kirk_hastings , they formed @beartiger.productions. Kai holds a BA (Hon) in Political Science from Purdue University and an MFA from the University of California, Irvine (summa cum laude). She's at www.KaiPaynter.com



Kirk Hastings

Co-Operator | BearTiger Productions

@kirk_hastings is co-founder of @beartiger.productions (with his wife @kai.paynter) and recently starred as Steve in Australian Premiere of THE MONEY SHOT.

His producer credits include *All The Ways To Say I Love You*, *Amongst The Living*, *Megan*, *No Direction Home*, several music videos, and a pilot sizzle reel. 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*, *L-O-V-E*, and *This Is L-O-V-E*. Kirk has trained in the Meisner Technique at Actor's Pulse Studio, Sydney.



Ruby Jensen

Chief of Staff | BearTiger Productions

Ruby is excited to be collaborating for the sixth time with Kai & Kirk to bring *All The Ways To Say I Love You* to life. Her production credits include *Amongst The Living* (Playwright), *The Money Shot* (Intimacy Co-ordinator), *This Is L-O-V-E*, *No Direction Home* (Intimacy Co-ordinator) and *L-O-V-E*.

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 Sydney Actors Association, AFTRS, NIDA and Actors Centre Australia.



Eddie Langford

Marketing

Eddie Langford graduated from AIM with a Bachelor of Music (Music Theatre) in 2022 and is currently playing Paul in Regals Musical Society's production of *Company*! His past theatre credits include Adam in *Freaky Friday* (Hills Musical Theatre Co., 2025), Ensemble in *Head Over Heels* (Regals Musical Soc., 2025), Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown* (MUSE, 2024), Ensemble/Nicky's Right Hand in *Avenue Q* (Blackout Theatre Co., 2024), Whiffle/Father Officer O'Brien/Ensemble in *Cry Baby* (MUSE, 2023), Leo Bloom in *The Producers* (Holroyd Musical & Dramatic Soc., 2023), Voice 5 in *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* (MacMS, 2023), and Mr/Dennis in *Sunday in the Park with George* (MUSE, 2022). @eddiejlangford on Instagram.



Paige Walker

Mrs. Johnson

Paige Walker, hailing from New York, began her immersion in the arts at 13 when she went to Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts as a vocal music and music theatre major. Her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance followed-also opening up her world to the idea of dialect coaching.

When Paige changed shores to Australia she made Voice and Dialect a full time career adding voice overs, aerials and tango to her cap. As a dialect coach Paige has had the absolute pleasure of working with incredible companies like Sydney Theatre Company on *Disgraced*, *The Testament of Mary* and *American Signs*. Belvoir St with Helpmann Award winning shows *Angels in America* and *Glass Menagerie* and Michael Cassel on *Beautiful The Carol King Musical* and the current Australian and New York production of *MJ The Michael Jackson Musical*.

When Paige isn't in the theatre she can be found on set working on Stan's final season of *Preacher* and Netflix's *Pieces of Her*. As a performer Paige loves nothing more than fusing all of her skills to create theatre in the air, as an aerialist, doing double trapeze, hoop, silks and Spanish web. She was a resident performer at Sydney's El Circo for 10 years and has performed for companies like Tour de Cure, Belvedere, Save Our Sons and World Parks. Paige has worked on voice campaigns like Lenovo, Google, Dior, Audi and Revlon but one of her greatest pleasures as a performer was when she became a Saturday morning cartoon - voicing Tubarina, the Princess of the Sharks on *The Sea Princesses*. For Paige, the creative arts is where she has placed her whole world and every conversation she gets to have about sound, creation, language, performance-drives her forward. And she has the best kids on the planet that make every day a wonder.



Grace Ho

Mrs. Johnson (Alt.) / Stage Manager

Grace Ho is a versatile actor with experience across both stage and screen. After performing with BearTiger Productions and The America, A Theatre Co in *Amongst The Living*, she is excited to return to the stage in *All The Ways To Say I Love You*.

Some of Grace's credits include *To Freely Flourish* (official selection, St Kilda Film Festival 2025), as well as performances with Slanted Theatre, Silver Pillow Productions, and others.

Grace began her training at Sydney Theatre School and has since completed both the Actors Residency and Screen Actors Studio programs at NIDA Open.

Beyond acting, Grace co-created and co-produced a comedy show for the Sydney Fringe Festival. She also served as associate producer for *An Apprentice From Western Sydney*, a new stage play that premiered in 2024 at Riverside Theatres.



Arvin Arcilla

“Tommy” / Featured Musician

Arvin Arcilla is a Sydney based actor who completed his studies at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2022, obtaining a Diploma in stage and screen performance. Arvin studied film acting with Les Chantery studios in 2023 and had taken part in studies/productions with local theatre companies from 2018 - 2019.

In addition he is also a musician playing and focusing primarily on guitar, alongside a singing/vocal ability.

Arvin avidly practices and partakes in both stage and screen, following his passion. Arvin has been in shows with Pinchgut Opera, performing in Charpentier's *Médée* at the end of 2022 and later Handel's *Rinaldo* in 2023. His latest show with Pinchgut was a 2024 production of *Julius Caesar* directed by Neil Armfield. Throughout 2025 he's been working with Netflix & Fever acting in *Stranger Things: The Experience*.

Alongside this, he has credits as leads in Australian short films, working with up and coming companies such as Splice Productions on their 24 hour short 'Amma'. Moreover, he took part in plays during NIDA's October 2022 production season, and did numerous other shows/performances throughout his time there.

19 – 24 August, 2025

Tickets available at

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-americas-a-theatre-company-present-all-the-ways-to-say-i-love-you>

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