

Neil LaBute
Australian Premiere

THE MONEY SHOT

Directed by
Kai Paynter

The Factory Theatre
Marrickville • 7PM

"Hollywood's new breed
of movie stars, steeped in
GOOP and desperation."
- *Entertainment Weekly*

"An acid-tongued
showbiz satire..."
- *Variety*



THE
AMERICAS
A THEATRE COMPANY

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"That's show business, baby!"

In *The Money Shot*, Neil LaBute rips into the world of Hollywood with his trademark wit, cynicism, and unapologetic dialogue. The play invites us to witness a single evening in the lives of two fading movie stars, grasping for relevance in a culture obsessed with image, youth, and fame. It's a comedy, yes—but one that draws blood.

What drew me to this play was not only LaBute's sharp ear for the rhythms of ego and desperation, but also his ability to expose the performative layers of human interaction. In a world where personal relationships are often just another transaction, LaBute asks: What's left when the cameras stop rolling? Who are we when no one's watching?

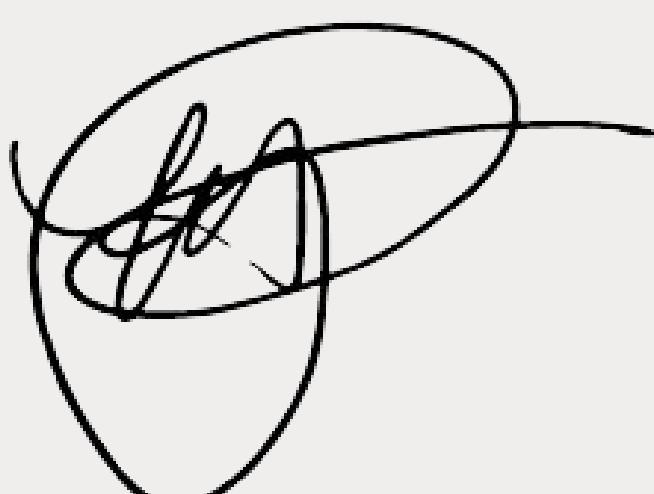
The characters in *The Money Shot* are exaggerated, certainly—but behind their vanity and bravado lies something disarmingly familiar: the fear of being forgotten, of becoming irrelevant, of not being enough. That's what makes the satire sting. And in staging this play, we've leaned into both the absurdity and the underlying vulnerability, embracing the uncomfortable space where humor and truth collide.

I invite you to laugh, squirm, and question. Welcome to the show.

Special thanks to playwright & friend Neil, B, Sydney Sports Management Group, The Genesian Theatre, Paulie from Point Break Drama, Rubes, and my one & only, Kirk.

With Gratitude,

Kai P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kai P.", enclosed within a large, roughly oval-shaped outline.

THE
AMERICAS
A THEATRE COMPANY

THE MONEY SHOT

Run Time: 1:45

Fasten your seatbelts for this premiere event, Australia. Neil LaBute needs no introduction, but we'll give him one anyway - friend of THE AMERICAS, A THEATRE COMPANY, Mr. LaBute is a renowned American playwright, screenwriter and director. His works have been seen the world-over, from Broadway, to the silver screen, to Netflix. He is known for his barrier-pushing, intelligent, thought-provoking, modern work which says the quiet part out loud. The Money Shot explores power, intimacy, insecurity, ego and the state of showbiz in America. We are honoured to be premiering this play in Australia and you are cordially invited!

Karen and Steve are glamorous movie stars with one thing in common: desperation. It's been years since either one's had a hit, but the latest movie by a hot-shot European director could change that. The night before filming a big scene (that will undoubtedly assure them a spot back on the pop culture radar), Karen, her partner Bev, Steve and his aspiring actress wife Missy, meet in order to make an important decision: how far will they let themselves go to keep from slipping further down the Hollywood food chain?

Sexy, daring and darkly comedic - and Neil LaBute's first officially billed comedy - The Money Shot lands as sharp as a paparazzo's camera flash in a starlet's eye.

TEAM

Playwright

Neil LaBute

Director

Kai Paynter

Executive Producer

BearTiger Productions

Producer

The Americas, A Theatre Co.

Production Manager

Dominic Di Paolo

Stage Manager

Matt Giles

Sound & Lighting Operator

Matt Giles

Fight Choreographer

Laujine Yassin

Intimacy Co-ordinator

Ruby Jenson

Cast

Kirk Hastings

Monisha Inserra

Molly Haddon

Ella Sullivan

Dialect Coach

Kai Paynter

Media Co-ordinator

Kloud Milas

Marketing

Eddie Langford



NEIL LABUTE

PLAYWRIGHT

NEIL LABUTE is an award-winning playwright, filmmaker, and screenwriter. His plays include: *Bash*, *The Shape of Things*, *The Distance From Here*, *The Mercy Seat*, *Fat Pig* (Olivier Award nominated for Best Comedy), *Some Girl(s)*, *Reasons to be Pretty* (Tony Award nominated for Best Play), *In a Forest*, *Dark and Deep*, a new adaptation of *Miss Julie*, *Reasons to be Happy*, and so much more. He is also the author of *Seconds of Pleasure*, a collection of short fiction, and a 2013 recipient of a Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Neil LaBute's films include *In the Company of Men* (New York Critics' Circle Award for Best First Feature and the Filmmaker Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival), *Your Friends and Neighbors*, *Nurse Betty*, *Possession*, *The Shape of Things*, *Lakeview Terrace*, *Death at a Funeral*, *Some Velvet Morning*, *Ten x Ten*, and *Dirty Weekend*.



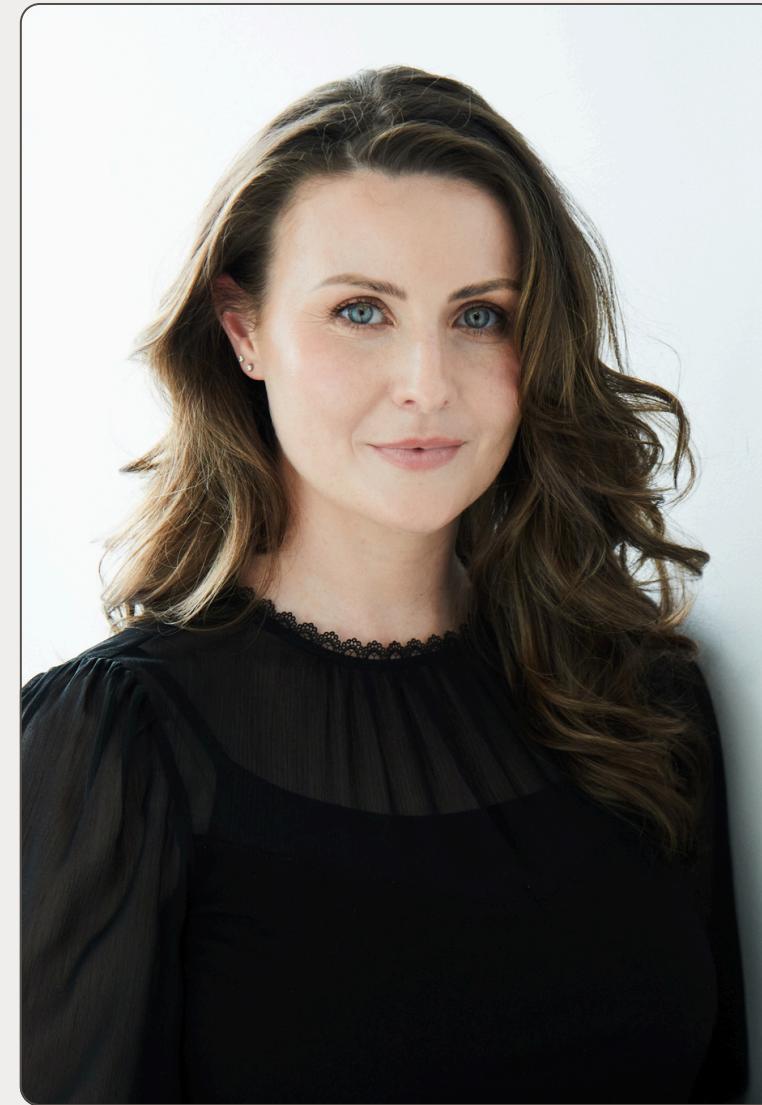
KAI PAYNTER

**CO-OPERATOR | BEARTIGER PRODUCTIONS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | THE AMERICAS, A THEATRE CO.
DIRECTOR | THE MONEY SHOT**

Kai is a NY artist, local to Sydney who founded @theamericanastheatreco . As a director/producer, Kai's credits include THE MONEY SHOT, WHEN SHE LOVES ME (writer), This Is L-O-V-E (co-writer), NO DIRECTION HOME, MEGAN, L-O-V-E (co-writer), 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 directing, producing, and writing, Kai has mentored students for entry into competitive collegiate programs such as Yale School of Drama, Columbia University, NYU's Tish and coached celebrity talent in both Sydney & Los Angeles.

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. She's at www.KaiPaynter.com



RUBY JENSON

**CHIEF OF STAFF | BEARTIGER PRODUCTIONS
INTIMACY CO-ORDINATOR | THE MONEY SHOT**

Ruby is excited to be collaborating for the fourth time with Kai & Kirk to bring THE MONEY SHOT to life. Her production credits include 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, and later this year, she'll be making her writing and acting debut with @beartiger.productions



DOMINIC DI PAOLO

PRODUCTION MANAGER

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 *This Is Love*, *No Direction Home*, *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.

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.



MATT GILES

STAGE MANAGER / SOUND & LIGHTING OPERATOR

Matt Giles is a Sydney-based actor and creative. He holds a Bachelor of Performance (Dramatic Arts) from the Australian Institute of Music and is the co-founder of Astral Seas Productions, which debuted its first show *The Mark You Leave* at Sydney Fringe Festival 2024.

Matt's acting credits include *The Mark You Leave* (Astral Seas), *Cloudstreet* (Lane Cove Theatre Company), *Jack* (Echo Theatre Company), and *Waiting for Godot* (AIM).

His behind-the-scenes credits include Sound Designer, Dramaturg, and Producer for *Mind the Gap* (Astral Seas), Sound Designer for *Cloudstreet* (Lane Cove Theatre), and Stage Manager for *The Long Haul* (Sydney Fringe 2023) and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Outhouse Theatre Company).



LAUJINE YASSIN FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Laujine Yassin is a qualified stunt actor with credits including *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, *Mad Max: Furiosa*, and *Last King of the Cross*. Specialising in dynamic, story-driven fight choreography, Laujine brings extensive experience across film, television, and new media.

He is excited to join The Americas for the first time, contributing to the physical storytelling of the production.



KLOUD MILAS MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR

Kloud is an accomplished artist with a diverse background including acting for the stage and screen. She is thrilled to be making her production debut as media co-ordinator and her acting debut in June with The Americas.



EDDIE LANGFORD MARKETING

Eddie Langford graduated from AIM with a Bachelor of Music (Music Theatre) in 2022 and is currently playing Adam in Hills Musical Theatre Company's production of *Freaky Friday!* His past theatre credits include 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.



KIRK HASTINGS

CO-OPERATOR | BEARTIGER PRODUCTIONS STEVE | THE MONEY SHOT

@kirk_hastings is co-founder of @beartiger.productions (with his wife @kai.paynter) and is thrilled to be playing Steve in THE MONEY SHOT.

His producer credits include MEGAN and 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, L-O-V-E, and THIS IS L-O-V-E. Kirk has trained in the Meisner Technique at Actor's Pulse Studio, Sydney.



MONISHA INSERRA

KAREN

Monisha Inserra is a Melbourne-based actor who trained at Showfit and Film and Television Studios International. Since completing her studies, she has worked across both stage and screen.

Her credits include leading roles in several student films, and she appeared in the bilingual stage play Pane Di Casa: A Taste of Home, which was performed at the Clayton Community Centre, The Butterfly Club, and the Melbourne Italian Festa. Most recently, she performed in Loose News, a sketch comedy/improvisation show that ran weekly at The Butterfly Club for several months.

Monisha is thrilled to join the cast of The Money Shot and collaborate with such a dynamic team.



MOLLY HADDON

BEV

Molly Haddon is a Sydney-based actor and director. While she now works primarily behind the scenes in film, she is always thrilled to return to the stage when the opportunity arises.

Molly began acting in her early teens and later studied film, going on to direct multiple award-winning short films and music videos. Her debut feature film *The Longest Weekend* premiered at the 2022 Sydney Film Festival and screened at the Brisbane, Darwin, and Melbourne Queer Film Festivals.

She has trained at Screenwise, ATYP, NIDA Open, and Sydney Acting Studio. Her previous stage credits include *Sunset Strip* (New Theatre), *Steel Magnolias*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily*, *Towards Zero*, *Figaro*, and *A Murder Is Announced* (Genesian Theatre), *Mrs McKenna and the Female Home* (Peach Productions), *Two Quarters Full* (Flight Path Theatre), *The Tender Age* (Version 1.0/ATYP), and *Cursed Hearts* (ATYP).



ELLA SULLIVAN

MISSY

Ella Sullivan is a Sydney-based actor and graduate of the Bachelor of Dramatic Arts program at Excelsia College. She continued her training at the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory, specialising in screen acting and the Meisner Technique. Ella regularly hones her craft through courses at The Hub Studio and currently serves on the ATYP Youth Advisory Board.

Her recent credits include *Dumb Kids* (Stage, 2024), *Salt Waters* (Screen, 2024), and *Anything's Fair Game* (Screen, 2025). A passionate writer and producer, Ella co-wrote, produced, and starred in *Things Left Unsaid* (2023), which premiered at Excelsia College, and also co-wrote and starred in the short film *Transcending* (2022). She is currently co-producing her latest screenplay, *Remembering You*.

Ella is also a trained dancer with experience in ballet, contemporary, and modern dance, as well as physical theatre. In 2023, she appeared in *Some Things Change*, a physical theatre piece presented at Sydney Fringe Festival. Equally passionate about stage and screen, Ella brings energy and commitment to every project she takes on.

27 MAY – 1 JUNE 2025

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

<https://aucentury.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/148277>

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BEARTIGER
PRODUCTIONS

For media enquiries please contact Ruby Jenson on 450510091 or
producer@beartigerproductions.com