

A black-gloved hand, possibly a latex glove, is shown from the wrist up, reaching towards the top of the frame. The hand is positioned centrally, with fingers slightly spread. The background is a solid, vibrant red. The lighting highlights the texture of the glove.

DIRECTED BY
KAI PAYNTER

MARTIN MCDONAGH

A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE

SYDNEY, NSW
Oct 8-12, 2025

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*On its surface **A Behanding in Spokane** is a dark comedy about a man searching for his missing hand. Yet beneath the absurd situations and sharp humor lies something far more revealing. This is a play about loneliness, about the masks we wear to survive, and about the fragile stories we tell ourselves in order to belong.*

Each character is reaching for something just out of grasp. They construct myths about themselves to soften the ache of being unseen or unwanted. The missing hand becomes more than a body part. It stands as a symbol of all that feels stolen from us - dignity, connection, or a sense of safety. The presence of race threads through the play in deeply unsettling ways. Not as a tidy lesson but as a stark reminder that prejudice often grows out of fear. The ugliness voiced onstage exposes how people attempt to claim power or belonging by pushing others aside. It is uncomfortable because it is; it should be.

At its heart, this play wrestles with the fragile balance between truth and survival. We invent stories to keep moving forward. Sometimes they are absurd, sometimes they are cruel, and sometimes they are simply necessary. In watching these characters struggle, I hope we catch glimpses of ourselves and are reminded of how deeply we long to be seen, understood, and loved without condition.

**- Kai P.
Director**



A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE

1 HOUR 15 MINS WITHOUT INTERMISSION

From the darkly comedic mind of Martin McDonagh comes a twisted exploration of desperation, absurdity, and the strange ways people cling to hope.

*A **Behanding in Spokane** interrogates violence, vengeance, and the American underbelly with razor-sharp wit, unsettling humour, and a severed hand at its heart.*

Performances

7th October, 7pm - Preview

8th October, 7pm - Opening

9th October, 7pm

10th October, 7pm

11th October, 7pm

12th October, 7pm - Closing

Venue

Schell Medical Corp (Flow Studios 88), 57 Denison St, Camperdown NSW 2050, Australia

Content Warning

This production contains loud noises including the sound of a gunshot, racist language and slurs, depictions of violence, and dark comedic references to trauma, dismemberment, and death. It explores themes of racism, prejudice, and physical harm through a satirical and often confronting lens. Recommended for mature audiences (16+). Viewer discretion is advised.



TEAM

Playwright

Martin McDonagh

Director

Kai Paynter

Producer

The Americas, A Theatre Co.

Co-Stage Manager

Emma Worrall

Assistant Director

Lola Kate Carlton

Production Manager

Ruby Jenson

Lighting & Sound

Holly Nesbitt

Executive Producer

BearTiger Productions

Co-Stage Manager

Ben Wheeler

Marketing

Eddie Langford

Carmichael

James Yeargain

Toby

Alexander W. Hunter

Marilyn

Cynthia Taylu

Mervyn

Christopher Northall

Carmichael U/S

Kirk Hastings

Marilyn U/S

Emma Worrall

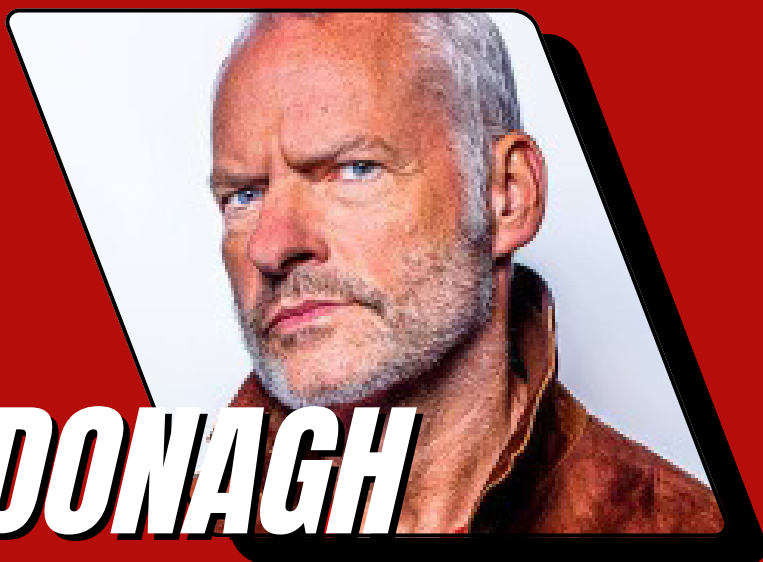
Toby U/S

Arvin Arcilla

Mervyn U/S

Ben Wheeler

PLAYWRIGHT
MARTIN MCDONAGH



MARTIN MCDONAGH is an award-winning Irish-English playwright, screenwriter and director known for his razor-sharp wit, violent absurdism and richly dark humour. His plays, including **The Pillowman**, **The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, and **The Beauty Queen of Leenane**, have earned international acclaim for their fearless blending of comedy and brutality.

A Behanding in Spokane - his first play set in America - continues this tradition, showcasing McDonagh's masterful ability to find both horror and hilarity in the human condition. In film, his credits include **In Bruges**, **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** and **The Banshees of Inisherin**.

KAI PAYNTER

BTP CO-OPERATOR + THE AMERICAS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR + DIRECTOR



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, and 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 Tish.

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

BTP CO-OPERATOR + 'CARMICHAEL' UNDERSTUDY



@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 JENSON

BTP CHIEF OF STAFF + PRODUCTION MANAGER



Ruby is excited to be collaborating for the seventh time with Kai & Kirk to bring **A Behanding in Spokane** to life. Her production credits include **All the Ways to Say I Love You**, **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.

LOLA KATE CARLTON

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Lola Kate Carlton, a Sydney born and raised actor, writer, stage manager and director leapt into the industry as a voice actor from age 4, where she grew up in booths and drama classes. She studied theatre throughout high school, and currently studies acting at Sydney Acting Studio in Redfern. Forever inspired by her mother, Paige Walker, Lola is an avid fan of American absurdist theatre, performing as Max in Taylor Mac's **Hir** at the New Theatre, and developing monologues from Rosary Hartel O'Neill's **Marilyn/God** and Stephen Adly Guirgis's **The Last Days of Judas Iscariot**. New to the world of directing, they are honoured to be a part of the creative process of **A Behanding in Spokane**, and hope to bring the show's fascinating, sharp humour to life.

Off the stage, Lola is a student at The University of Sydney studying English and Philosophy, where they are inspired by conventional philosophy's conversations on the definitions and duty of art, and the boundary breaking feats of postmodern literature. They also can be found stage managing at Talk & Tease, or scribbling out reviews for Honi Soit. As an assistant director, they are greatly enjoying working behind the scenes, and all of the Facebook-Marketplace-ing that comes with it.

BEN WHEELER

CO-STAGE MANAGER + 'MERVYN' UNDERSTUDY



*Ben Wheeler is an Australian stage and screen actor. After graduating from Notre Dame with his Bachelors in Theatre Studies, he has worked on multiple film and television productions such as **Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga**, **Critical Incident**, and **Play Dirty**. He has starred on stage in multiple productions at the Pavilion Theatre, such as **Funny Money!**, **Cactus Flower**, **Caravan**, **Grand Horizons**, and most recently in **Rehearsal For Murder**.*

Ben brings professionalism and devotion to his craft on both stage and screen in the characters he inhabits. He has also studied at NIDA and The Hub Studio in all aspects of acting ranging from both screen, stage and voice acting.

This is Ben's first time stage managing a production, and is looking forward to challenging himself in a new aspect of theatre, and is excited to bring this production to life.

EMMA WORRALL

CO-STAGE MANAGER + 'MARILYN' UNDERSTUDY



*Emma Worrall is an actor based in Sydney. She has a Diploma in Screen and Media from Sydney Actors School. With a love of both theatre and screen, Emma has been a part of multiple short films, including **Loss of Appetite**, advertisements including **Kai and Creams**. She is excited to help bring the role of Marilyn to life in The Americas production of **A Behanding in Spokane**.*

JAMES YEARGAIN

‘CARMICHAEL’



James Yeargain recently moved to Australia with his family from New Orleans, Louisiana in the States. His most recent productions include **Radium Girls** (Lane Cove) as Arthur Roeder and **The Front Page** (New Theatre) as Sheriff Hartman. While in New Orleans he was a member of The NOLA Project, a regional theatre company. Some of his favorite roles include Angelo in **Measure for Measure** (The NOLA Project), James T in **Barbecue** (Radical Buffoons), John in **Oleanna** (The Mighty Lincoln) Brick in **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** (The NOLA Project)

He can be seen in “blink and you missed it” roles in films **Keanu** with Jordan Peele, **The Big Short** with Christian Bale and **The Runner** with Nic Cage. Television credits include **Treme** (HBO), **NCIS New Orleans** (Paramount), and Tyler Perry’s **The Passion** (Fox). He is a new member of MEAA as well as a long standing member of SAG-AFTRA and Actor’s Equity Association. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of New Orleans. He is extremely grateful to enjoy creating and discovering with everyone involved in this production.

ALEXANDER W. HUNTER

‘TOBY’



Alexander W. Hunter is a bilingual American actor and voice-over artist that has been based in Sydney, Australia since 2024. Before relocating to Sydney, he spent 13 years in Japan. Alex is fluent in Japanese and built a successful acting career in Japan. His versatile career spans major motion pictures, commercials, action and stunts, fitness promos, music videos, voice overs, motion capture for video games, and indie projects. Since moving to Sydney, he has also begun exploring opportunities and challenges within the theater world.

CYNTHIA TAYLU

‘MARILYN’



Cynthia Taylu is a Liberian-born actress, model, and rising presence in the Australian entertainment industry. Inspired by her high school drama teacher, she discovered a passion for storytelling that has since guided her career.

*She has brought characters to life across acclaimed short films and a debut feature, with a strong focus on screen acting (**Elvis**, **Streets of Deceit**, **Run Club**). Committed to her craft, Cynthia has trained extensively in Brisbane and Sydney with notable industry leaders, consistently honing her skills and expanding her range.*

She is excited to be stepping into the world of Spokane, where Marilyn’s unapologetic spirit inspires her to bring boldness and truth to the stage.

CHRISTOPHER NORTALL

‘MERVYN’



*Christopher Northall was born in Perth, Western Australia. He graduated from WAAPA with a diploma of Acting before pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting at NIDA. Throughout his training, Christopher developed various skills and techniques from a variety of disciplines. Some of his acting credits include **Measure for Measure**, **The Cherry Orchard**, **The Last Days of Judas Iscariot**, **Machinal**, and **Mixtape**.*

ARVIN ARCILLA

'TOBY' UNDERSTUDY



Arvin Arcilla is a Sydney based actor, musician and 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 Chanterey studios in 2023 and has worked with the likes of Phillip Quast, Garth Holcombe and Orion Lee amongst many others to develop his skills. His musicianship includes being a guitarist, 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. He then worked with Pinchgut and Neil Armfield on a production of **Julius Caesar** in 2024. 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, alongside numerous other shows/performances throughout his time there.

Most recently in 2025, Arvin premiered the role of 'Tommy' in Neil Labute's **All The Ways To Say I Love You**, showcasing his musical side.

HOLLY NESBITT

LIGHTING & SOUND



Holly Nesbitt is an emerging lighting designer and NIDA 2023 graduate. She has worked in venues such as the Sydney Opera House, and has designed 7 productions so far this year. She is excited to bring *The Behanding Of Spokane* to life and work on such an interpretive project.

8TH - 12TH OCTOBER 2025

Tickets available at

<https://beartigerprodmgmt.getform.com/dxjpk>

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theamericas@beartigerproductions.com