

sedos grapevine

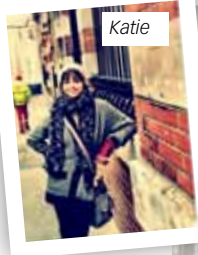
april 2013

To GODSPELL with love from the Southern Hemisphere

Our first musical of 2013, GODSPELL, opens this week. We get to know the four Aussie and Kiwi cast members



Doug and Eddie



Katie



Shannon

When Robert J. Stanex first struck upon the idea of staging GODSPELL on the steps of St Paul's during Occupy London's most public of demonstrations, he couldn't have possibly known that every day would be about learning something new, including what or who the Antipodeans are. The Grapevine caught up with GODSPELL's Antipodean contingent, all

four of whom are new to Sedos — Shannon McDonough (SM), Katie Godlesh (KG), Doug Colling (DC), and Edward John Mann (EJM).

What was it about Sedos and GODSPELL that attracted you?

SM: I had no idea where to start, but knew I wanted to get involved in theatre as soon as I hit London. With a little help from Google and the grapevine, it became obvious that Sedos had an outstanding reputation for putting on the best productions this side of the West End — so off to the GODSPELL audition I went.

DC: For me it was the context that Bob set for the show. It's put such a massive twist on the production. It's really exciting to be a part of something so unique.

EJM: GODSPELL creates a miniature model version of an ideal world, a community built on love. The 2011 Occupy London movement was not much different. People could speak their mind and not be hushed. People could sing, play music and create without being criticised. I personally do not have the guts yet simply to break from the commercial flow and join a movement such as this, which is why Sedos' production of GODSPELL appeared to me as the perfect outlet!

The production sounds bang up to date. How's the show going to be relevant for modern audiences?

DC: The Occupy London demonstration was so recent; our production is like a slightly abstract reflection on the whole event.

SM: It's going to be provocative, engaging, energetic, vivacious and ridiculous (in the best possible way!)

KG: I'm loving the eco friendly approach and the collective imagination from cast and creative team for eco friendly ideas is phenomenal... homemade tap shoes just says it all!

Doug, you're the youngest in the cast and have only been in the UK a short time. Are the cast becoming your second family?

DC: The cast are the coolest bunch of cats out and all ridiculously talented. It's like being part of a big singing, dancing, family, circus troupe.

And how are rehearsals going? Rumour has it the cast surprise each other with gifts... Secret GODSPELL?

EJM: Everything you have always wanted to "give a go" will showcase in GODSPELL. The cast are told, "Whatever you can do or want to do — DO IT!" creating this atmosphere where we learn and play together without being afraid of potentially looking a fool. Inhibitions are lost.

KG: It's unbelievable to see a somewhat ambitious vision of skateboards, hula hoops, bin bag costumes and puppets on bikes become reality! Also a special mention for the endless British banter... Secret GODSPELL holds the same principles as Secret Santa. Imagination is key and cheese seems to be a common passion within the cast. It's all a lot of fun and really highlights family spirit within the God squad.

There's some amazing music in the show. Your favourite number or moment?

DC: Cor, tricky one! There is such a wide variety of music throughout the show. I'd have to say getting my gospel choir boogie on during "Bless The Lord" is definitely a highlight. I also quite like "On the Willows", it's a really purdy tune.

Katie, you're a fitness instructor and teach pole dancing — will it be making an appearance in the show?

KG: Absolutely! And it's so exciting! Needless to say I will jump at any opportunity I get to be able to show off pole dancing in a reputable light, to show its diversity and I do feel it lends very well to musical theatre!

Shannon, you sing "Learn your lessons well" — what lessons have you been taught that you now live your life by?

SM: I have learnt how to ride a bike again and that puppets should be taken seriously...

Tell us why we should all buy a ticket.

DC: It's going to be way cool I promise! It's going to be really different to your classic musical. There will be lots of magical surprises along the way for the audience. Whether you're a fan of GODSPELL or a fan of God or a fan of spells you won't regret coming along to see this really special production.

GODSPELL is on 3-13 April at the Bridewell Theatre. Tickets on sale at sedos.co.uk

A new operating structure for Sedos

As we look forward to the AGM and the election of the 2013/14 committee, current secretary Matt Gould explains plans for several new Sedos groups — and how to get involved

The 2012/13 committee has spent some time thinking about what we do well and what we do less well, as well as about the long-term future of the society. We held a committee away-day to discuss the “future of Sedos” and held a consultation workshop with members.

It has become clear that what the members want is long-term stability and certainty as to the future. Having Ocean House to rehearse and base ourselves in, together with the five-year Bridewell deal has started to give us a feeling of permanence. This has let us take risks with our programming as well as focus on artistic excellence. Over the past few years, our shows have generally made a small profit. But how do we get to the next level and move on?

We want to encourage more members to get actively involved in the running of Sedos. We know that some people are less keen on the more “formal” side of being on the committee (with its trustee and administrative responsibilities etc), but we have also found that the committee is struggling to balance the various demands on it.

We have therefore spent some time considering how best we might improve the operating structure of the society so that more people can get involved, feel



The current Sedos committee — without chairman Chris de Pury

empowered and able to help move the society forward. We want to spread the load! Based on the success of the marketing subcommittee, we have decided to set up a number of additional “groups” focusing on different areas:

Production group

Responsible for helping producers put on shows. A forum for stage managers and producers to share learnings to encourage support, including liaison with Mikey re day to day Bridewell matters. All active show producers and stage managers would be expected to actively participate in this group.

Members group

Responsible for looking after our members, Including maintaining the list of members, organising events such as workshops and socials and organising member benefits.

Sedos future group (known informally as Sedos Ambassadors)

A forum for more experienced members and members with links to other societies and the City of London to help secure our long-term home, performing space etc. Also advising on securing our long-term future and looking after our capital funds.

Marketing group

Responsible for “general” marketing — website, newsletters, Grapevine, branding etc — as well as assisting producers and show marketing leads on a show specific basis.

The committee would remain directly responsible for trustee issues, financial issues and artistic policy including season choices.

The intention is for each group to have proper terms of reference so that they feel empowered to make decisions, whilst working with the committee on any bigger ideas.

If you think that you would like to become more involved with Sedos, either through the committee or the groups, please do get in touch — we would love to hear from you. We would like new blood on the committee and more people getting more actively involved in supporting the society on a day-to-day basis.

Anyone can join one of these groups! We may twist arms and encourage people to get involved, but we would ideally like volunteers.

However, to be on the committee, you need to be elected at the AGM. If you would like to stand, please let me, Matt Gould, (matt@mjgould.co.uk) know by Tuesday, 9 April with your CV that can be circulated to members. There will be a formal call-out for people wishing to stand in the next couple of weeks.

If you are interested in joining the committee but aren’t quite sure what it’s really all about or whether it’s for you, please contact Matt or any of the other current committee members.

If you are interested in one of the groups or to find out more, contact Dawn Harrison-Wallace (dawn@harrison-wallace.com).

We will be talking about our new structure in more detail at the AGM and what we want to achieve in the short and the longer terms — and encouraging you to join one of the groups!

Dates for the diary

3-13 April

GODSPELL performances

15, 16, 17 April/21 April

Autobahn auditions/recalls

24 April

AGM and Summer Festival launch party

10-14 July

Enron performances

16-20 July

Autobahn performances

23-27 July

A Man of No Importance performances

Contacts

Grapevine editorial

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Sedos website

sedos.co.uk

Find us at

facebook.com/sedostheatre
twitter.com/sedos
youtube.com/sedosvideo
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Sedos committee

Chris de Pury (chairman), Matt Gould (secretary), Craig Topp (treasurer), Jacqui Adams, Stephen Beeny, Dawn Harrison-Wallace, Will Harrison-Wallace, Matt Hudson, Deborah Lean, Matt Prince

Contact the committee at:

admin@sedos.co.uk

From the Sedos committee

- **Art Exhibition:** we're planning a "Sedos at the Bridewell" style exhibition in the Bridewell Bar, celebrating Sedos becoming resident at the Bridewell Theatre and showcasing the many productions we've performed there. The exhibition will run for three months from 1 June and will mean we have a strong presence at the venue during the Summer Festival.
- **Gormenghast:** 383 people booked tickets online to see Gormenghast, with Sardines magazine (the UK's professional magazine for amateur theatre) hailing it "an unquestioned

success". We're waiting on the figures that include walk-ups, so the final numbers will be higher. Congratulations to all involved.

- **Box office:** talking of ticket sales, we're sad to announce that Matt Prince has decided to step down from his role as box office manager. A huge thanks to Matt for all the hard work he's put in over the past two years. Debs Lean (who already looks after front of house) and Jacqui Adams have kindly offered to take over these responsibilities. Thanks!
- **2014 show dates:** we're in the process of finalising our 2014 show dates at the Bridewell Theatre. We're in discussions, but these should broadly follow our current 10-week season.
- **Marketing workshop:** the marketing group, plus some of the 2013 production teams, got



Marketing workshop with producer Dominic Lindesay-Bethune

together for a marketing workshop run by producer Dominic Lindesay-Bethune. It was a productive night with lots of talking and furious scribbling. Let's hope we sell more tickets!

- **City Library:** have you seen our new home yet? City Library has already been used for

rehearsals and workshops and we're slowly getting used to the space. You'll also be pleased to learn that a big trip to Costco is planned so we can stock up on essentials like tea, coffee, bin bags and toilet roll!

- **Bridewell Theatre:** the St Bride Foundation has instigated a "No Naked Flame Policy" across the complex. This means we will not be able to use any candles etc in our productions. There are many precious books in the St Bride collection — including Egyptian papyrus and Bibles that are over 700 years old — so they have understandably taken a "no risk" attitude.
- **Pub chat:** if you want answers to any rumours you may have heard about Sedos then email pubchat@sedos.co.uk email address. Feel free to send us your questions.

From Hazel East at Angel Shed

It's been a busy term at Angel Shed. Our young people have worked very hard to create an interactive, physical and inclusive piece of theatre which includes dance, singing, signing and some excellent acting.

"Best of Both Worlds" is now in its final week of rehearsals and is all about how social media impacts on our day to day lives. The show runs 21-22 March at City and Islington College.

By the time you read this show will be over, but the good news is we'll be touring Best of Both Worlds around Islington in the summer term. More details about venues are imminent! In the meantime check out the brilliant rehearsal photos and we'll make sure that you're able to see all the photos from the



performance at www.angelshedtheatre.org.uk very soon. You can also catch up on what we're up to day to day on twitter @angelshed.

As well as making sure our young people are ready for their performance, we've been working hard behind the scenes and have some fantastic new volunteers. We have a lovely new web developer, volunteer fundraiser and social media volunteer and are still searching for a committee member to handle our marketing. If you think that this might be just the thing for you then drop us and email at info@angelshedtheatre.org.uk.



Rehearsals for Best of Both Worlds

News in brief

- Make sure you put **24 April** in the diary! Not only is it the AGM at 7pm, but from 8.30pm we will be holding a Summer Festival launch party. All are welcome at this social occasion for a good chat and a few drinks — plus some Festival fun... more info soon at sedos.co.uk.

- **Sedance update:** we're hoping to move into our new home (fingers tightly crossed) at the American Academy of Musical Theatre very soon, but anyone wanting to attend needs to get on the email list as currently we move around from week to week. Email sedance@sedos.co.uk to get on the list!

- Andy Marchant has adapted **Stag Nation**, which debuted as a short play at our 6plays7days workshop last year, into a one-act play, which KDC stages at The Lion and Unicorn this week (2-6 April). Andy's fiancée and Sedos committee member Jacqui Adams is one of the cast. Yasir Senna, who was in

Sedos's Push Up last year, is Henry in The Player Played, which shows in a double bill with Stag Nation. Christopher Warren, who was in Sink the Belgrano! is directing Richard III for KDC (9-13 April), while Doug Baker (Romeo and Juliet) is assistant director and plays Hastings, while the cast also includes Wayil Eisa (The Taming of the Shrew) and Chris Dascaloupoulos (Gormenghast). Thom Petty (Sink the Belgrano!) was also in a recent KDC show, The Early Bird, which was directed by Zoë Thomas-Webb, who directed Sedos's As You Like It last year. More info: kdctheatre.com.



Stag Nation at 6plays7days

Sedos embarks on its second Summer Festival this year, staging two plays and a musical in three weeks at the Bridewell

This is the second year Sedos has staged a Festival and the teams are looking forward to building on last year and delivering a fantastic artistic programme as well as some fun “extras” — this time we have a launch gala on

The Festival will involve some 45 people on stage and at least another 20 in creative and production roles. We still have spots to fill, so if you are interested in getting involved backstage contact Pippa Roome (pippa_roome@ipcmedia.com).

Read on to find out more about our three Festival shows...

- Enron author Lucy Prebble also wrote the screenplay for *Secret Diary of a Call Girl*.

- The values of Enron were: respect, integrity, communication and excellence.

- Mia Bennett (Enron's co-producer), who works for an energy company, is particularly fond of the line "I'm sorry I f**ked up electricity!"

- Enron carried out 360-degree annual performance reviews and the bottom 10% were fired — this was known as “Rank and Yank”.

- Matt Hudson (Enron's director) directed Enron original cast member Orion Lee during a Sedos directors' workshop.

- Enron's prize for Distinguished Public Service winners included Colin Powell, Nelson Mandela and Allan Greenspan — the prize was \$10,000 cash, a \$15,000 sculpture and a crystal trophy! 19 days after Allan Greenspan received his award Enron went bankrupt.

- Tracie Laurinaitis (Enron's assistant director) was a structured products trader on the Russian desk.

- Enron collapsed in 2001 with the share price falling from \$40 to 26 cents in three months. The high had been \$90.56!

- Early in 2002, Enron was awarded Harvard's IgNobel Prize for "most creative use of imaginary numbers".

- Sarah Peachey (Enron's musical director) will be taking part in Tough Mudder in June during which she will receive electric shocks.



Enron is on 10-14 February at the Bridewell Theatre. Tickets on sale soon at sedos.co.uk



Autobahn is on 16-20 July at the Bridewell Theatre. Tickets on sale soon at sedos.co.uk

Autobahn — did you know?

- This is director Jacqui Adams' fourth play as a director — and all her plays have been, well, a little on the wordy side shall we say! (A Shakespeare, a Shaw, and a dramatised transcript of Oscar Wilde's obscenity trials).
- There are 10 speaking roles in the play cycle.
- Author Neil LaBute directed the films Nurse Betty and Death at a Funeral (and the remake of The Wicker Man — but we don't talk about that! 'Not the bees! Not the bees!!!')
- 10 is also the number of times more a ticket to the original production cost than a ticket to a Sedos show last year! (\$125! But for that you got to watch Philip Seymour Hoffman, Kieran Culkin, Susan Sarandon, Kevin Bacon, Paul Rudd, Brian Dennehy, Kyra Sedgewick, Peter Dinklage, Amanda Peet and Christopher Meloni...)
- Autobahn came to life when LaBute recalled hours spent on cross-country drives with his family as a child: "Sitting in an automobile was where I first remember understanding how drama works. Hidden in the back seat of a sedan, I quickly realized how deep the chasm or intense the claustrophobia could be inside your average family car."
- 10 is also the number of years since the play was written.
- Autobahn is also the name of an album by

Kraftwerk — and a fake version of the cover is briefly glimpsed in a scene in The Big Lebowski (which of course also features Philip Seymour Hoffman, who appeared in the production of Autobahn, in the play called Autobahn!).

- You may have seen Autobahn's producer, Juliet Colbert, at the recent Sedos Christmas party — she was the one taking all the gorgeous pics!
- Neil LaBute is known for the plays Fat Pig, Reasons to be Pretty and In a Forest, Dark and Deep, which starred Robert Webb, Billie Piper and Matthew Fox, respectively.
- There has only been one professional production of Autobahn in the UK — in Glasgow four years ago.

A Man of No Importance — did you know?

- The film of the same name — which the musical A Man of No Importance (AMONI) is based on — opened in September 1994 and starred Albert Finney as Alfie Byrne.
- AMONI musical director Inga Davis-Rutter was an RAF pilot.
- The show is set in Dublin. Famous Dubliners include Bob Geldof, James Joyce, George Bernard Shaw, Maeve Binchy, Yeats and of

course Oscar Wilde, the hero of AMONI's main character, Alfie.

- Dublin attractions include the Leprechaun Museum and the Guinness brewery tour.
- The British preview of the musical AMONI was just a few miles from the Bridewell, at the Union Theatre, Southwark. The Stage's review described it as "utterly charming".
- AMONI director Matt Gould and producer Pippa Roome work in the same building — how handy is that for production lunches?
- The original production at the Lincoln Centre, New York, won the 2003 Outer Critics Circle Award for best off-Broadway musical. Outer Critics Circle Awards are given in over 20 different categories annually and The Book of Mormon, which has recently opened in the West End, won two in 2010-2011.
- AMONI is set in 1964 — the year the Beatles first visited the States, BBC2 started broadcasting, Mary Poppins premiered and became the first Disney film to be nominated for a best picture Oscar and Martin Luther King received the Noble Peace Prize. Courtney Cox, Nicholas Cage and Michelle Obama were all born this year, while those who died include Ian Fleming and Herbert Hoover.
- The show is also being staged at the Salisbury Playhouse from 25 April-18 May 2013.
- A search for the "The Streets of Dublin" — one of the best known numbers — on YouTube garners over 77,000 results.



A Man of No Importance is on 23-27 July at the Bridewell Theatre. Tickets on sale soon at sedos.co.uk



No change!

Gormenghast, John Constable's stage adaptation of Mervyn Peake's trilogy of novels, kicked off Sedos's 2013 season, with Andy Marchant directing a big cast in an ambitious piece of physical theatre.

The show garnered an excellent review from Sardines, which said: "These are seriously good actors, working hard to make the play work in a style that is always in danger of disappearing up its own backside, as plenty of similar productions have done since this style of theatre appeared half a century ago (or should I say 'reappeared', since the similarities with classical Greek tragedy are striking). The fact that it didn't fail is testament to the talent of the actors and the cojones of director Andrew Marchant."

The review concluded: "I don't think Sedos intended to give its audience an easy ride, pushing theatre as far as they could. This style of theatre isn't for everyone, but, taken purely on its own terms, Gormenghast was an unquestioned success."

Pictures by Michael Smith



A glass of wine with... Sedos member Stephen Beeny

What was your first Sedos show?

I joined Sedos for my first show, Merrily We Roll Along, way back in June 2006. I'd queued for returns for Sedos' production of Jekyll & Hyde the year before and thought, "This is a company I want to be involved with".

Are you involved in a Sedos show at the moment?

I'm the marketing lead for the Summer Festival (the flyers have already gone to print, so I'm currently feeling on top of things), but will also audition for A Man of No Importance — wish me luck! However, it sometimes feels like I am never not involved in a show — I look after the website and social media, am on committee and currently also send out the weekly newsletter!

What do you do in real life?

I was the online editor for GaydarNation/ GaydarRadio for nine years, but am about to become the head of music for a new online radio station dedicated to musical theatre, launching on 29 May (more: jemmthree.com).

What's the worst thing that's happened to you backstage/on stage?

Not my fault, but I was DSM (deputy stage manager) for a production of Sleeping Beauty and one of the actors was messing around by my desk and accidentally pressed the button to bring the curtain in! Thankfully the actors got out of the way, but they (and the audience) looked thoroughly bemused. That was an interesting show report to write.



Picture by nickchronnell.com

If you had 24 hours before the world combusted, what would you do?

Eat shepherd's pie (by which, I really mean cottage pie) from the restaurant Bob Bob Ricard and drink champagne while listening to Barbra Cook and musing on musical theatre with Matt Gould.

It's our round, what are you having?

A pint of Kronenbourg please! Failing that a flute of your finest Camel Valley champagne.

One food you couldn't live without?

Potatoes. I don't care how they're prepared; I just love them every which way.

The first and last show you saw?

First: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. I remember loving it and that they had very colourful pillars! The last was The Book of Mormon and I'm going to put it out there — it didn't blow me away. In fact, I'd rather see a lot of things before I saw it again. Controversial, I know.

Have you ever won anything?

£100 on the premium bonds. Does that count?

A good production begins with...

An overture.

And ends with?

Goose bumps and a standing ovation.

Name that show

In each Grapevine issue we bring you a small part of a poster, prop, piece of scenery or costume from an old Sedos show. Your task? To name the show. Answer at the bottom of the page.



In the wings with... #anthonyandorskyla

In the competitive world of musical theatre looking the part is half the battle, but it's not always a walk in the park (with George). Dressing for dance rehearsal can put unnecessary strain on your wardrobe. But fear not, our years of experience juggling function and fashion have taught us a trick or two. Master musical-theatre chic with our sartorial guide to rehearsing in style and you too can be a quadruple threat — sing, dance, act, DRESS.

- DO keep a close eye on the latest dancewear trends. Take inspiration from style icons like Kim Barker; try a sweater dress and leggings, a versatile choice to take you from office to dance mat with ease.
- DON'T come dressed as your character. Let your own personal style shine through. Unless you dress like the cast of Zanna Don't in which case you could probably benefit from a makeover.
- DO invest in wardrobe staples. A red polyester gym short is a timeless classic that will help you stand out among the chorus. If in doubt, head-to-toe black will hide those unsightly sweat patches.
- DON'T let your vanity get in the way. Those snug trousers may look super hip (*cough*Joe

Penny*cough*) but a simple lunge can result in disaster. No one thinks you're cool with your bum hanging out (plus you can charge at least £16 for that so don't give it away for free).

- DO show off your assets. Customise your dancewear to highlight your best features. Try Tom Leonard's approach — roll up one trouser leg to show off that balletically toned calf or sport a daring vest to display those enviable biceps.

- DON'T live in the past. Hoodies and t-shirts from past shows may seem like an adorable choice but resist at all cost. They're hideous, unflattering and nobody cares that you played Brigitta in The Sound of Music in 2001.

#anthonyandorskyla work in the fashion industry (obviously) and are in GODSPELL this week.



Name that show answer: Putting it Together, 25-29 July 2010. Read more about the show at sedos.co.uk/2010/putting.htm