

SLINGSBY'S MAN COVETS BIRD

artist biographies

Andy Packer (Director and Slingsby's Artistic Director)

Andy is Slingsby's founding Artistic Director and driving creative force. Andy develops and delivers the artistic program for Slingsby and is responsible for selecting the artists and creative personnel for each production. Andy conceives the original concepts, collaborates with the creative artists and ultimately directs each production produced by Slingsby. With more than fifteen years experience in initiating, developing, delivering and managing theatre, film, music and visual arts projects for children and young people, Andy is exceptionally well placed to lead this company. He has both creative and directing skills and strategic planning experience. Andy was producer of the Adelaide Fringe's family programs in 2007 and 2008 and was the Youth & Education Program Coordinator for the 2002 Adelaide Fringe. Andy has directed for Windmill Performing Arts, State Opera of South Australia, Co-Opera Inc., Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble, Urban Myth Theatre of Youth, Restless Dance Company, University of Adelaide Theatre Guild and Ricochet Theatre Company.

Finegan Kruckemeyer (Playwright)

Finegan (28) has had 38 of his commissioned plays performed around Australia, North America, Europe and Asia. He has 11 new works premiering this year, and seasons in England, Ireland, China, USA, New Zealand, the Sydney Opera House, the Adelaide Festival of Arts, the Perth International Arts Festival, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland.

In 2009, *The Tragical Life of Cheeseboy* (Slingsby) won the Australian Writers' Guild Award (AWGIE) for Best Children's Play in Australia, and toured to festivals in USA, Singapore, Spain, Scotland, England, and the Sydney Opera House. Finegan was named 2009's Young Tasmanian Artist, 2008's Best Children's Theatre Playwright and 2007's Best Playwright in the SA Oscarts, and received the 2006 Jill Blewett Playwright's Award, and 2002 Colin Thiele Scholarship.

Finegan was one of 25 artists selected worldwide at the ASSITEJ Next Generation Conference. He was a speaker at the 2008 Take Off Childrens' Theatre Festival (England), the 2009 Schächpir Festival (Austria) and the 2009 Imagine Festival (Scotland), assisted by Arts Tasmania funding.

Finegan was born in Ireland, and moved with his family to Adelaide at eight. His formative experiences in children's, integrated, community and adult theatre all occurred in South Australia, under a string of important and generous mentors. In 2004, he moved with his wife Essie to Hobart, Tasmania, from which he now writes for national and international companies.

He is represented by the Cameron Creswell Agency (www.cameronsmanagement.com.au). Examples of his work can be seen at www.doollee.com/PlaywrightsK/kruckemeyer-finegan.html, and www.fineganworks.com

Nathan O'Keefe (Actor)

Nathan graduated from the Centre for the Performing Arts (now AC Arts) in 2002. Theatre credits include *The Hypochondriac* (Brink Productions); *this uncharted hour* (Brink Productions co-production with State Theatre Company of South Australia); *Talk to me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen*, *Hot Fudge*, *Ghosts and King Lear* (State Theatre Company of South Australia); *Mr McGee and the Biting Flea* and *Emily Loves to Bounce* (Patch Theatre Company); *Plop* (Windmill Productions); *Checklist for an Armed Robber* (Vitalstatistix); *Assassins* (Flying Penguin) and many others. Film and television credits include *Alexandra's Project*, *Broken Hill*, *All Saints* and various commercials, short films and radio plays. In 2007 Nathan won the Adelaide Theatre Guide's "Curtain Call" Best Professional Actor award for his role in *TheImaGen's Norway Today*. In 2010 Nathan is performing in the world premiere seasons of *Grug* (Windmill Performing Arts); *Me and My Shadow* (Patch Theatre Company) and *Harbinger* (Brink Productions). He is a proud member of Equity.

SLINGSBY'S MAN COVETS BIRD

artist biographies

Quincy Grant (Sound Design, Composer & Musician)

Quincy Grant writes as a freelance composer on commissions from musicians around Australia and internationally. He works in theatre with various groups including Brink Productions and Slingsby, in film for various production houses, and plays in many groups: from rock to new music and, most recently gypsy music with Golonka.

He is Co-Director of The Firm, a company that presents an annual subscription concert series featuring Australian classical musicians in programmes of new Australian works along side repertoire pieces. He lives in Adelaide with four dear ones – Anna, Arland, Clara and Miranda.

Steve Lennox (Musician)

A stalwart of the South Australian music scene for the past twenty years, Steve has released a number of critically acclaimed albums, toured nationally and received national TV & radio airplay. He has shared the bill with the likes of Paul Kelly, Archie Roach, Tim Finn, Ed Kuepper, Meatloaf, The Jim Rose Theatre Circus and he has worked with Slack Taxi, VIP Theatre & Restless Dance Troupe. Steve enjoys horse riding and sunny beaches.

Gareth Chin (Musician)

Gareth has worked primarily as a keyboardist over the last 15 years in musical theatre, as well as session work in recording, funk bands, jazz, African, reggae and Indian groups... He has studied piano performance in the Elder Conservatorium with Gil Sullivan, and composition with Graeme Koehne and Graham Dudley and has written music for tv and media. Under the tutelage of master multi-instrumentalist Sen Bednikov, Gareth has also worked professionally as an accordionist, folk guitarist and sitar player, supporting many world class acts in Australia, including Talvin Singh, Sneaky Sound System, The Bamboos and the Sen Bednikov Quartet. He currently works in gypsy band Golonka!

Geoff Cobham (Initial Design Concept)

Geoff has worked as a Production Manager, Lighting Designer, Set Designer, Event Producer, and Venue Designer.

His recent Set & Lighting designs include; The Flying Dutchman State opera, The Age I'm In, Already Elsewhere, Same same But Different Force Majeure, Construct Tanja Lietke, Plop Windmill, La Voix & Bastien Bastiena State Opera Hickory Dickory & Emily loves to Bounce Patch Theatre, 448 Psychosis Brink , HELD Australian Dance Theatre, The Caretaker Brink

His recent Lighting Designs include; Wizard of Oz, Windmill, G Australian Dance Theatre, Freaky Cirkidz. Burning Daylight Stalker, Metro Street, Attempts On Her Life, Night Letters, The Goat State Theatre Company, Cheeseboy & Wolf Slingsby, This Uncharted Hour & Drums in the Night Brink, Impulse, Satyagraha, Einstein on the Beach, Quick Brown Fox & Akhnaten Leigh Warren & Dancers, Cake Vitalstatistics, Here Lies Love David Byrne, Translations Flying Penguin, Vocabulary ADT/Restless, Beetle Graduation, Drums in the Night Brink, Rebel Restless Dance.

Museum Of Economic Botany @ SA Botanic Gardens, Dinosaurs @ Australian Museum & Anzac Hall @ National

SLINGSBY'S MAN COVETS BIRD

artist biographies

Wendy Todd (Designer)

Wendy was the Set and Costume Designer for The Hypochondriac (Brink Productions), Set and Costume Designer for Freaky (Cirkidz & Circus Monoxide, produced by Come Out 2009); Set and Costume Designer for After The End (Adelaide Fringe 09), Designer of the Travelling Street Theatre Set for Three Men in a Tub (Adelaide Fringe 09), Set and Costume Designer for Beetle Graduation (Brink Productions). Wendy was the Assistant Designer for the Persian Garden, [Adelaide Festival of Arts NightClub 2008 & 2006). Set and Costume Designer for the successful The Tragical Life of Cheeseboy Set and Costume Designer (Slingsby). Other design work has included Assistant Designer Lullaby (Lady Killers), Event Designer Adelaide International Film Festival, Set and Costume Designer Lawson (Grabbitt and Runn Productions), Assistant Designer/Production Manager Double Bill (State Opera of South Australia), Event Designer Maestros and Apprentices Dinner (Helpmann Academy).

David Green (Lighting Designer)

David comes to Slingsby having worked as a lighting technician for 20 years, mostly at the Adelaide Festival Centre. During this time he has toured with State Theatre Company of South Australia on shows such as High Society, Melbourne Theatre Company with Lost in Yonkers, Compañie Phillipe Genty with Stowaways, Australian Dance Theatre with Furioso, Possessed, Inuk, and Birdbrain. He has designed shows for Patch Theatre Company including Who Sank The Boat, Mr Mcgee and the Biting Flea, Pigs Bears and Billy Goats Gruff and Special Delivery.

The People's Republic of Animation (Animators)

The PRA is a multi award-winning animation studio based in Adelaide creating world-class animation for film, advertising and video games. Their latest short film, The Cat Piano (2009) was shortlisted for an Oscar in this year's Academy Awards. The film also won 'Best Short Animation' awards at the Australian Film Institute (AFI) Awards, Inside Film Awards, DENDY Awards, Melbourne Film Festival and Flickerfest. Other notable productions include a music video for Australia's most successful hip-hop group, The Hilltop Hoods in 2006 and Itty Bitty Ditties series of animated interstitials currently airing on the new children's channel, ABC3. In advertising, PRA has also lent its style to brands such as Converse, Mitsubishi and Coopers. PRA has also established itself in video games working with several major video games developers in Australia to produce animated cinematics for Xbox 360, Playstation 3 and Nintendo Wii games titles. PRA is currently developing an ultra low-budget feature film as part of the SA Film Corporation's FilmLab production initiative.

Lisa Hill (Slingsby's Production Manager)

Lisa joined Slingsby in 2008 as Production Manager for its production of Wolf, and in 2009 became the full time Production Manager and proud third member of Slingsby's core staff. Lisa has worked in production for theatre and events for the Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Festival, Moonlight Cinema, Croc Fest (Regional Rock Eisteddfod), Vitalstatistix Theatre Company, Country Arts SA, Barossa Under the Stars, Womadelaide, Melbourne International Arts Festival, and the Pleasance venues in Edinburgh. Lisa wrote, produced and directed a short film entitled 'Checking In' during 2007 which has been shown in four countries and nominated for three awards. Lisa has a Bachelor of Cultural Tourism from Flinders University and shares her life with her dog, Kjetil.

SLINGSBY'S MAN COVETS BIRD

artist biographies

Lisa Osborn (Stage Manager)

Lisa graduated from the Centre of Performing Arts (now AC Arts) in 2002 and has since worked as a Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager and in various other roles in theatre and on events. Her Stage Management credits include Metro Street, Attempts on Her Life, The Female of the Species, Triple Threat, Noises Off and The Government Inspector for State Theatre Company South Australia; G, Devolution and Ignition for Australian Dance Theatre; When The Rain Stops Falling for Brink Productions; Cake for Ladykillers / Vitalstatistix; The Angel and the Red Priest for Arts Projects Australia; Boom Bah!, Afternoon of the Elves, Two Weeks with the Queen, Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, Boo! and Moonfleet for Windmill Performing Arts; Beautiful Words for Oddbodies Theatre Company; and Einstein on the Beach for Leigh Warren and Dancers. Lisa has also worked on events in a range of roles including Production Manager for Carclew Youth Arts Centre's Youth Week event 20:20, Production Assistant for Fuse Festival and as Stage Manager on events such as WOMADelaide, The Helpmann Awards, Melbourne Commonwealth Games 2006 Cultural Festival, Barossa Under The Stars and Come Out Festival.

Andy Ellis (Image)

Andy Ellis is an award winning freelance illustrator and photographer based in the Barossa Valley, South Australia.

Spending his time between both the Barossa Valley and Japan, he creates images that capture a hauntingly beautiful look at isolation and simple moments in time.

"I've never set out to create a particular style or body of work, I like to capture what I see and feel at the time, I want to create work that I'm proud of and continue to progress".

Andy is currently in the process of creating a children's book and working towards a major photographic exhibition. For more information visit: www.theartofandyellis.com