

A La Boite, Dead Puppet Society and Brisbane Festival production in association with PowerArts

Laser Beak Man

By David Morton, Nicholas Paine
and Tim Sharp With Music By
Sam Cromack (Ball Park Music)
based on the original artwork
by Tim Sharp



PROGRAM



LA BOITE
THEATRE COMPANY



BRISBANE
FESTIVAL

PowerArts



Australia
Council
for the Arts



Image by Dylan Evans

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY, DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY AND
BRISBANE FESTIVAL, IN ASSOCIATION WITH POWERARTS
9 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THE ROUNDHOUSE THEATRE

CAST

PETER BARTMAN NATHANIEL P. CLARIDAD
AMAZING GRACE, BARBIE LAUREN JACKSON
LASER BEAK MAN JEREMY NEIDECK
BLACK SHEEP, RAM, TOMATO MAN JON RIDDLEBERGER
MAYOR, CHICKEN BETSY ROSEN
REPORTER LEIGH SALES
LASER BEAK MAN, BOAR HELEN STEPHENS
EVIL EMILY MAREN SEARLE

BAND

VOCALS/GUITAR/PIANO SAM CROMACK
DRUMS DANIEL HANSON
GUITAR/BASS/VOCALS DEAN HANSON
KEYBOARD/BASS/VOCALS LUKE MOSELEY

CREATIVES

WRITER/DIRECTOR/DESIGNER DAVID MORTON
WRITER/CREATIVE PRODUCER NICHOLAS PAINE
WRITER/ORIGINAL ARTWORK TIM SHARP
COMPOSER SAM CROMACK
DESIGNER JONATHON OXLADE
PROJECTION DESIGNER JUSTIN HARRISON
SOUND DESIGNER TONY BRUMPTON
LIGHTING DESIGNER JASON GLENWRIGHT
PUPPET FABRICATOR/PROPS MASTER/MAKER JENNIFER LIVINGSTONE
DRAMATURG LOUISE GOUGH
DRAMATURG TODD MACDONALD
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER JUDY SHARP
ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGNER IMOGEN MILLHOUSE

CREW

TECHNICAL MANAGER AND AIRORB PILOT	SAMUEL MAHER
STAGE MANAGER.....	NICOLE NEIL
PUPPET FABRICATOR AND ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	MATT SEERY
SOUND ENGINEER.....	BENN SARAGOOD
LIGHTING OPERATOR	JOSHUA SKIPP
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT (SECONDMENT)	MIKAYLA BISHOP
SOUND DESIGN ASSISTANT (SECONDMENT)	JACOB FOGARTY
PROPS MAKER (SECONDMENT)	MELANIE MILLER
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (SECONDMENT)	YING YING YUN

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN ASSISTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS' CATALYST—AUSTRALIAN ARTS AND CULTURE FUND. DEVELOPED AS PART OF NEW VICTORY LABWORKS AT THE NEW VICTORY THEATER IN NEW YORK CITY. ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED BY QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE, ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE AND CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE.

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY CREATIVE SPARKS, A JOINT INITIATIVE OF BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL AND THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT THROUGH ARTS QUEENSLAND, AND ASSISTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, ITS ARTS FUNDING AND ADVISORY BODY. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE JIM HENSON FOUNDATION.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

AT LA BOITE WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE COUNTRY ON WHICH WE WORK, AND THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND - THE TURRBAL AND JAGERA PEOPLE. WE GIVE OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS PAST, PRESENT, AND EMERGING.

WE HONOUR THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE, THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS, WHOSE LANDS, WINDS AND WATERS WE ALL NOW SHARE, AND THEIR ANCIENT AND ENDURING CULTURES. THIS COUNTRY WAS THE HOME OF STORY-TELLING LONG BEFORE LA BOITE EXISTED, AND WE ARE PRIVILEGED AND GRATEFUL TO SHARE OUR STORIES HERE TODAY.

COVER IMAGE & PHOTOGRAPHY BY DYLAN EVANS





CO-PRODUCERS' NOTES

DAVID MORTON & NICHOLAS PAINE, DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY

Ever since we first met him, painted onto a traffic control box in the Brisbane CBD, we've been fans of *Laser Beak Man*. His creator Tim Sharp is a genius. The quirky humour and unrestrained joy in his work offers a unique insight into what it means to be in the world. In 2013 when DPS had a show alongside one of Tim's exhibitions at the Brisbane Powerhouse, we all started to dream up what a stage adaptation of his collection might look like.

The adventure we've been on together over the last four years has been straight out of a super hero movie: from developments in NYC looking out over Times Square, to assembling a world class team of performers and creatives. The input from all involved has been marked by constant generosity; from Tim and Judy in sharing their world with us, to the incredible cast and creatives who have brought it to life, and the amazing crew who have made it all a reality. We can't thank you all enough.

What began as an insanely ambitious project has turned into something much more, a great big family, all of us hell-bent on giving *Laser Beak Man* his greatest adventure yet.

Special thanks must also be paid to our co-producers and production partner Vision Productions, as well as our original development partners, the New Victory Theater, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne and Casula Powerhouse.

Until next time!

The quirky humour and unrestrained joy in his work offers a unique insight into what it means to be in the world.

TODD MACDONALD, LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY

La Boite is SUPER proud to present the world premiere of *Laser Beak Man*. This production is the irresistible meeting of some of Brisbane's most brilliant artists joined with a team of New York's finest and an incredible support cast of passionate partners. We are super excited to have Tim Sharp's incredible work at the heart of our Brisbane Festival season in 2017, made all the more special by welcoming back long time La Boite collaborators Dead Puppet Society.

This work is a massive endeavour that has taken four years to create. It's had many partners and supporters along the way and every step the centre of this epic production is Tim Sharp's imagination and artistry – I take my hat off to the team for keeping this titanic work going with an incredible inclusive process and for ultimately creating a generous and joyful work that we hope the whole world will soon see.

Check out more of Tim's beautiful art in our foyer, as part of a specially curated exhibition throughout the season and take a piece of this amazing work home with you! Enjoy the show, tell your friends – celebrate the love in this work and stick around to enjoy the Festival from the comfort of our new bar!

DAVID BERTHOLD, BRISBANE FESTIVAL

Four years in the making, financial and emotional investment from many on two sides of the world, a creative process that has always honoured Tim Sharp's central place, a gathering of artists and teams all utterly and joyously focused on doing the best work possible. This is the nature of *Laser Beak Man*.

Brisbane Festival feels privileged to be a co-producer of this smile-packed work, and to offer a platform that we hope will help launch it into the wider world. The world needs this story of inclusiveness and generosity, this story of love and equality, and when it's threaded with such beguiling puppets, delicious music, vivid visuals, and, throughout, with such cheek and charm, then the world is the winner.

Many Festival donors have given especially to this show, and that, I think, tells us of the power of this story.

We wish Power City, an emblem of the world, all luck and love on the road to happiness. May the walls break down, and many hands of friendship be extended to many.

Let's all rejoice in our home-grown superhero!

DARE POWER, POWERARTS

The underlying goal of PowerArts is to help visionary Australian theatre to the stage, and it doesn't get much more visionary than this.

Having been bowled over by *The Wider Earth* last year, we sought out the Dead Puppet Society to discuss their upcoming projects, and ways we might help. Upon hearing of their long-in-development adaptation of Tim Sharp's awesomely colourful and clever superhero, we were immediately intrigued. And then, the more we heard about the work, the more excited we became. Ultimately, it was a very easy decision to throw our support behind a project that had been fuelled by so much dedication and passion from so many contributors.

It seems extremely fitting that here at La Boite, as a part of the Brisbane Festival, audiences first get to immerse themselves in this work. The creative folk at Dead Puppet Society, the prodigious musical stylings of Sam Cromack of Ball Park Music, and the wonderful mind of Tim Sharp are all products of the city of Brisbane. As a Brisbane-based organisation, we at PowerArts are very proud to help fly the flag.

But tonight, let's leave Brisbane behind and take a sojourn into Power City, to cheer on our hero Laser Beak Man!



ARTIST

TIM SHARP

I made Laser Beak Man up when I was 11 years of age. I have a lot of ideas in my head. Sometimes I am a non-talker. You don't have to talk all the time. Sometimes you have to be quiet and listen. And sometimes you have to look. I needed someone who understands that that's the way I needed Laser Beak Man to come alive. Laser Beak Man is not me. I am not Laser Beak Man.

I needed someone who could accept that and not try and make Laser Beak Man something else. I met David and Nick in 2013 and they listened to me. They never tried to tell me what to say and never tried to change what I wanted to do. Instead they believed in the same dream that I do and saw the same things that I see. Sam listened to me and made the kind of music that I love. This is exactly what I see in my head. They made my dreams real. They are my friends, my partners and my brothers.











DAVID MORTON

Writer/Director/Designer

David Morton is a director, designer, playwright and puppet maker. He holds a PhD from the Queensland University of Technology focusing on the contemporary use of puppetry for adult audiences. Trained in theatre studies from the same institution, David also holds a first class honors in sculpture from the Queensland College of Art.

David has created works, as well as designed and constructed puppets, for The Woodford Folk Festival, Backbone Youth Arts, The Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane Festival's Under the Radar, The Garden of Unearthly Delights at the Adelaide Fringe, Metro Arts, QPAC, The Out of the Box Festival, Queensland Theatre, Brisbane City Council, the Brisbane Powerhouse, La Boite Theatre Company, and St. Ann's Warehouse. He is a founding member and the Artistic Director of the Dead Puppet Society.



NICHOLAS PAINE

Writer/Creative Producer

Nicholas Paine is a producer of theatre and festivals. He is a founding member and the Executive Producer of the Dead Puppet Society, creating original puppet-based visual theatre between Australia and the United States. Nicholas holds a Master of Creative Industries (Creative Production and Arts Management) and a Bachelor of Creative Industries (Drama) both from the Queensland University of Technology.

Nicholas is the creative producer for South Bank Corporation and has worked as the Producer for Theatre Republic, Brisbane Festival (2016), Program Manager at La Boite Theatre Company (2012-2013), Programming Associate at Performance Space 122 in New York City (2011-2012), Producer for Backbone Youth Arts (2009-2011), Project Assistant on Brisbane Festival's Under the Radar (2009), Project Coordinator at Imaginary Theatre (2008) and Market Researcher for the Brisbane Writers Festival (2007). He has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards from organisations both in Australia and the United States.



TIM SHARP

Writer/Original Artwork

Tim Sharp is an internationally acclaimed artist, the creator of *Laser Beak Man* and co-writer of *Laser Beak Man* the stage production with David Morton and Nicholas Paine. At age 11 Tim created *Laser Beak Man* and in 2010 *Laser Beak Man* was made into an animated TV series screening on ABC 3, Cartoon Network Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Tim's art is displayed in galleries and collections around the world and his exhibitions quickly sell out. A short film about Tim has been shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. After creating the artwork for a young rock band from Nashville Tennessee, a music festival in Nashville was started in Tim's honour.

Tim has twice been a finalist for Young Australian of the Year. Tim's story has been documented on the ABC's Australian Story, told on ABC radio's Richard Fidler's Conversation Hour and exhibited in the National Museum of Australia. Tim received a standing ovation for his 2014 TEDx talk at the Sydney Opera House and has now become an in demand international keynote speaker. Allen & Unwin's best selling book about Tim's life *A Double Shot of Happiness* continues to inspire people around the world. Tim met David and Nicholas in 2013 and at the very first meeting ideas for a theatre production were discussed. Shortly after the three began work on the script for the play following Tim's original ideas for the story of *Laser Beak Man*.

Tim was attracted to David and Nicholas' previous work and their commitment to staying true to Tim's art, which they have been able to achieve in incredible detail in this production. In 2015 Tim attended the New Victory Theatre's development for *Laser Beak Man* in the 42nd Street studio in New York City with Nicholas and David. Tim has been a part of every process of the production. Seeing *Laser Beak Man* come alive on the stage exactly as he has always imagined, while working as an equal collaborator with his creative peers is a dream come true for Tim.



SAM CROMACK

Composer/Vocals/Guitar/Piano

Sam Cromack is the frontman and primary songwriter of indie-rock band Ball Park Music. Ball Park Music has quickly ascended from the buzzing musical ecosystem of Brisbane to becoming an accomplished and critically acclaimed tour-de-force on record and on stage. Since the 2011 release of *Happiness and Surrounding Suburbs*, the band has delivered a further three highly acclaimed records. Their recent offering *Every Night The Same Dream* debuted at #3 on the ARIA Charts.

On the side, Sam has been busily crafting and cementing himself as a prolific indie songwriter and producer. In 2015, he took the opportunity between Ball Park Music albums to release a solo record, *Goodlum*, under his moniker My Own Pet Radio. He has recorded and featured on an EP with Melbourne's alt-soul group The Cactus Channel due for release this year, as well as produced and engineered for Ayla, Sahara Beck, Sans Parents, Dirt Hand and Denpasar.

<http://www.ballparkmusic.com>



JONATHON OXLADE

Set and Costume Designer

Jonathon studied Illustration and Sculpture at the Queensland College of Art.

He has designed set and costumes for Windmill Theatre, Queensland Theatre, La Boite Theatre Company, Is This Yours?, Aphids, Circa, Arena Theatre Company, Polyglot, The Real TV Project, Polytoxic, Men of Steel, Lemony S Puppet Theatre, Terrapin Puppet Theatre, Vitalstatistix, Barking Gecko, Bell Shakespeare, The Border

Project, State Theatre of South Australia, The Last Great Hunt, Sydney Theatre Company, The Escapists, Sandpit and Belvoir.

He has also designed for venues and festivals including the Sydney Opera House, Melbourne Festival, Asia TOPA, Adelaide Festival and Fringe, The Malthouse, Performance Space and the Queensland Art Gallery.

Jonathon has illustrated the Picture Book *The Empty City* for Hachette Livre/Lothian, the *Edi Amelia* series by Sophie Lee, was Festival Designer for the 2010 Out of the Box Festival, 2015 Brisbane Festival's *Arcadia* and is currently the Resident Designer at Windmill Theatre.

He received 2005 Matilda Awards; Best Designer for *A Christmas Carol* and Contribution to Queensland Theatre, and 2009 Matilda Award; Best Designer for *Attack of the Attacking Attackers*, 2010 Green Room Award nominated for *Goodbye Vaudeville Charlie Mudd* for Best Design, 2011 Ruby Award for *School Dance*. Jonathon was nominated for a 2013 and 2014 Helpmann award, 'Best Scenic Design' for *School Dance* and *Pinocchio* along with a Green Room nomination for *Skeleton* and *I Heart John McEnroe*. He was awarded the 'Lord Mayors Fellowship Grant' to attend the Prague Quadrennial of scenography and Theatre Architecture.

In 2016 Jonathon received APDG awards for both Best Production Design and Best Costume Design for *Girl Asleep*, and received an ACCTA award for Best Costume for *Girl Asleep*.

Jonathon was also awarded a Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship in 2016.



JUSTIN HARRISON

Projection Designer

Queensland Theatre: As Projection Designer: *The Wider Earth* (with Dead Puppet Society).

As Sound Designer: *Riley Valentine* and *the Occupation of Fort Svalbard*, *Love and Information*, *St. Mary's in Exile*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Country Song*.

As Sound and Projection Designer: *My Name is Jimi*, *Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *The 7 Stages of Grieving* (with The Grin & Tonic Theatre Troupe), *Orbit*, *Youth Ensemble Showcase 2014 - 2016*

Other Credits: Grin & Tonic Theatre Troupe: *Revolt*, *Inferno*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *I Am Macbeth*, *Livid*, *Super/Natural*, *Heartfail*, *Island Home*, *Romeo and Juliet versus The World*, *Macbeth and Lady Macbeth versus The World*, *Our Place*, *Romeo and Juliet Must Die*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth and the Many Deaths*, *Lover*, *Lunatic and Loon*;

State Library of Queensland: *Garage Gamer*. Feature Film: *Tailgate*, *The Little Things*, *Conscience for Cambodia*, *Don't Show Mother*. Television: *RedBullTV "Ridin' Shotgun" Series*, *Snake Boss*, *Handball Heroes*. Awards: *Matilda Award, 2016*, *Crime Stoppers International* (Capetown), 2014, Brisbane Advertising and Design Club, 2014, Queensland New Filmmakers, 2010. Training: Bachelor of Film and Screen Media Production, Griffith University, 2008.



TONY BRUMPTON

Sound Designer

Tony Brumpton's work focuses on the praxis of aural scenography. He explores this through a number of areas including sound design, composition, field recording, installation art, and intermedial performance.

For over a decade he has created works with companies and artists including:

Queensland Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company, Brisbane Festival, Sydney Festival, Queensland Performing Arts Complex, Centenary of Canberra Festival, State Library Queensland, Queensland University Of Technology, La Boite Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre Company, Dead Puppet Society, deBase Theatre Company, Brisbane City Council, White Rabbit Theatre, I-pin Lin Productions, J2 Ideas and Events, Liesel Zink Productions, Jute Theatre Company, CN Management, Vena Cava and Queensland University of Technology.

www.toneblack.com



JASON GLENWRIGHT

Lighting Designer

Jason Glenwright has designed over 200 productions, specialising in lighting for theatre, music theatre, opera, orchestral concerts, cabaret, dance and puppetry. He is one of Queensland's most highly awarded designers of the last 10 years having won a Matilda Award for best Lighting Design in 2015 and 2016, a Gold Matilda Award in 2013 as well as further nominations in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2016. Jason has also received three Groundling Awards and nine Del Arte Chart awards.

Jason's past credits with Dead Puppet Society include *Argus* (Co-Pro with Queensland Theatre). Other production credits with La Boite include *Lady Beatle* (Co-Pro with The Little Red Co), *The Tragedy of King Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Pale Blue Dot*, *A Hoax* (Co-pro with Griffin Theatre), *Ruben Guthrie*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Kursk*.

Jason has also designed productions for companies including Bell Shakespeare, Opera Queensland, The Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, Griffin Theatre, Queensland Theatre, shake & stir theatre co, Harvest Rain, Queensland Conservatorium, QUT, JUTE, Dead Puppet Society, Brisbane Powerhouse, Debase, Goat Track Theatre, The Good Room, Belloo Creative, TAM, Oscar Theatre among many others.

www.jasonglenwright.com



JENNIFER LIVINGSTONE

Puppet Construction & Props Master & Maker

Jennifer Livingstone is a Brisbane based Theatre Maker and Arts Producer. After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Critical and Cultural Studies (Macquarie University), she furthered her interest in the practical theatre arts through a Diploma of Design for Theatre, Film and Television at the Enmore Design Centre in Sydney (TAFENSW).

As Producer: Expressions Dance Company, Queensland Music Festival, Out of the Box (Project Coordinator).

As Theatre/ Events Maker: event theming for corporate clients (Staging Connections), festival decoration (Out of the Box), Props Technician (*Ballet Nacional de Cuba*, *Don Quixote*; *Disney's Mary Poppins*); Puppet and Masks Artist (*Disney's The Lion King*); Props Maker (Dead Puppet Society, *The Wider Earth*); Rehearsal Props Technician (*Louise Withers & RSC Matilda*).

Working across all artistic media through metal, wood, fabric and paint; she enjoys nothing more than making ideas come to life using her hands and has relished the experience of realising Tim Sharp's amazing art in the third dimension, alongside such a magnificent team.



LOUISE GOUGH

Dramaturg

Louise is a dramaturg, script editor and development executive. Louise has developed a number of works across theatre and live performance spanning narrative, contemporary circus, youth arts, performance, and Indigenous work from intimate theatres to international festivals. Louise has script edited or been dramatic advisor on a number of feature films in Australia and throughout Europe.

Previous positions Louise has held include Dramaturg in Residence (La Boite Theatre Company), Literary Manager (Playbox), Editorial Manager (ABC TV Drama and Narrative Comedy), Script Manager (Film Victoria), Literary Fellow (Vineyard Theatre, NYC), Resident Dramaturg (Queensland Theatre), Curatorial Advisor (Queensland Performing Arts Centre), Development (Madman Production Company). Louise has worked throughout Europe with Sources 2 as an Advisor in their residential feature film development labs and is currently under contract as a Development Executive at Screen Australia. (And if anyone is wondering, Louise consulted as dramaturg on *Laser Beak Man* prior to starting work at Screen Australia, because new work always takes time to grow, resources to develop and endurance to realise).



JUDY SHARP

Associate Producer

Judy Sharp is the author of the best selling book *A Double Shot of Happiness* which tells the story of artist Tim Sharp. She is also an international keynote speaker following her debut talk at TEDX Sydney in 2014. Judy first met David Morton and Nicholas Paine in 2013 when the discussions about the production of *Laser Beak Man* began. She has been involved in every step of the process since. In 2015 Judy travelled to New York City for the development of *Laser Beak Man* at the New Victory Theatre. *Laser Beak Man* is Judy's first introduction to the world of theatre making, and she is convinced that "nothing could be better" than working with Dead Puppet Society, Tim Sharp and their team.



TODD MACDONALD

Dramaturg

Artistic Director and CEO of La Boite Theatre Company, Todd completed acting training at NIDA in 1994 and has worked extensively across the theatre, film, television and voice-over industries. Todd was the Artistic Associate at QT from 2011-2014 and has worked as associate producer and company member with David Pledgers' company NYID, touring internationally. In 1999 he co-founded the award winning venue and production company The Store Room Theatre in Melbourne. He maintains a performance practice as a director, deviser and performer.

Theatre credits include: *Blackrock* (Dir-La Boite 2017), *The Village* (Dir-La Boite 2017), *The Tragedy of King Richard III* by Marcel Dorney & Daniel Evans (Performer- La Boite 2016), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Dir-La Boite 2016), *Prize Fighter* by Future Fidel (Dir- La Boite/Brisbane Festival 2015), *Medea* Adapted by Suzie Miller (Dir-La Boite 2015), *Kelly* by Matthew Ryan (Dir-QT 2012/15), *Vanya at Avoca* by Chekhov devised by Bagryana Popov (Performer-Castlemaine Festival/La Mamma 2015), *The Mountaintop* (Dir-QT 2014), *The C Word* by David Burton and Claire Christian (Dir-Metro Arts 2014), *The Button Event* devised with Bagryana Popov (Performer-QT 2014), *Venus in Fur* (Performer-QT 2013), *Bare Witness* (Performer-La Mama National Tour 2012), *Progress and Melancholy* (Performer-fortyfivedownsatirs 2009), *Blowback*, *Training Squad and Strangeland* by David Pledger (Performer-NYID 2006, 1996, 2008).



IMOGEN MILLHOUSE

Associate Sound Designer

Imogen graduated from the Queensland University of Technology's Technical Production course in 2013 and has since worked primarily as a Touring Stage Manager for dance, circus and theatre productions. Production credits include Company Stage Manager for the Performing Lines produced tours of *Saltbush* (Insite Arts), *Sons and Mothers* (No Strings Attached) & *Lake* (Lisa Wilson Projects); Assistant Stage Manager Queensland Ballet *Romeo & Juliet*; Tour Manager / Director for Circa, touring shows from their repertoire throughout Australia, Europe, North America and Asia.

Since her time at QUT she has had a keen interest in sound design, and has previously worked as Assistant Sound Designer on Queensland Theatre productions *Black Diggers*, *Australia Day* and *Mountaintop*.



NATHANIEL P. CLARIDAD

Peter Bartman

Nathaniel P. Claridad, Off-Broadway/NYC credits: *Here Lies Love* (The Public Theater), Taylor Mac's *24 Decade History of Popular Music* (St. Ann's Warehouse), *The Awesome 80's Prom*, as well as work with NYShakespeare Exchange, NYMF, PS122, N.A.A.P. National Tour: *Alice* (The Kennedy Center); Regional: The Kennedy Center, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Cape Fear Regional, Imagination Stage, Hangar Theatre, Barrington Stage. Directing/Producing credits include work for The One Minute Play Festival, ShakesBEER, and The Drama League. MFA: University of North Carolina, CH.



LAUREN JACKSON

Amazing Grace, Barbie

Lauren Jackson is an actress and dancer whose career has spanned both mediums of stage and screen with a strong focus on physical theatre. Lauren has featured in many stage productions throughout her acting career, including; *The Odd Couple* and *Macbeth* through the Queensland Theatre, *Bastard Territory*, as a co-production with QT and JUTE Theatre Company, *The Wider Earth*, as a co production with QT and Dead Puppet Society, *Laser Beak Man* with Dead Puppet Society (in development with the New Victory Theatre, New York) *Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche* with Imprint Theatricals, *Holding the Man* with La Boite Theatre Company, *Medea: The River Runs Backwards* and *Vikram* and *The Vampire* with Zen Zen Zo, *Le Corsaire* with Bolshoi Ballet and *Carmen* with Opera Queensland.

Lauren also has a very diverse film and television background, featuring in such projects as *E-Motion Documentary*, *The Hunters Club*, *God I Love You*, *Million Dollar Toes*, *Winkman P.I.*, *Forever*, *After the Fall*, *Change in Fortune*, *Douglas Eats Your Heart*, *Ruby*, *Illusion 5* and pilots such as *The W.A.S.P.S Nest* and *Schadenfreude*. Lauren's training includes a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) QUT, The National Theatre London and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Lauren is also a youth education facilitator for Queensland Theatre, Shake & Stir and Grin & Tonic theatre troupe and was nominated for a Matilda Award in 2011 for Best Emerging Artist.



JEREMY NEIDECK

Laser Beak Man

Jeremy Neideck is a performance maker and academic who has worked between Australia and Korea for over a decade, investigating the interweaving of cultures in performance, and the modelling of new and inclusive social realities. The recipient of scholarships from Aphids, Australia-Korea Foundation, Asialink, and Brisbane City Council, Jeremy has undertaken residencies at The National Art Studio of Korea, The National Changgeuk Company of Korea, and The Necessary Stage (Singapore).

Jeremy's works as a director and performer include *Underground* and *Deluge* which have enjoyed return seasons in Brisbane and Seoul, with *<Shimchong>: Daughter Overboard!* premiering at WTF 2016. Jeremy currently teaches across the drama, music, and Creative Industries majors at Queensland University of Technology, and teaches movement for the BFA Acting course, and consults on the architecture and facilitation of collaborative projects, and programs of institutional and community transformation.



JON RIDDLEBERGER

The Black Sheep/Ram/Tomato.

Jon Riddleberger is a NYC based actor, puppeteer, and teacher. He has performed around the world as a puppeteer and is an artistic associate of Theater Reconstruction Ensemble in NYC. He met Dead Puppet Society in a serendipitous run in while visiting the reef in Cairns, and has loved working with them since.

Jon has been a puppeteer with companies such as Handspring Puppet Company, Mettawee River Theatre Company, Our Voices, InkFish Productions and toured with the shadow show *Feathers Of Fire* and the North American and Japanese tour of *War Horse*.

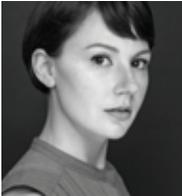
www.jonriddleberger.com



BETSY ROSEN

Mayor, Chicken

Betsy Rosen is thrilled to be making her Australian debut with the amazing team of *Laser Beak Man*. Betsy is an actor, puppeteer and teacher based in New York City and has been collaborating with Dead Puppet Society since 2013. Most recently, she made her Off-Broadway debut in Dead Puppet Society's *Argus* at Lincoln Centre. Betsy's New York credits include The Samuel French OOB Festival, St. Ann's Warehouse, and New Victory LabWorks. Betsy has performed across the U.S. with regional productions at Cincinnati Playhouse, The Studio Theatre, Round House Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, Taffety Punk, Forum Theatre, among others. She won a Helen Hayes Award for *The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe* at Imagination Stage. Much love and gratitude to Nick, David, Tim, Judy, and the entire cast, crew, and production team who made this incredible dream become a reality.



MAREN SEARLE

Evil Emily

Off-Broadway: *Argus* (Dead Puppet Society/Lincoln Center), *Fashions for Men* (Mint Theater Company). USA Regional: *Picnic* (Palm Beach Dramaworks), *Assassins*, *The Tempest*, *Metamorphoses*, *Cabaret*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Imaginary Invalid*, *Henry IV*, *Henry V*, (PlayMakers Repertory), *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie), *Prom*, *Antigone*, *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings*, *Dragonwings* (Children's Theater Company, Minneapolis). Training: M.F.A. from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



HELEN STEPHENS

Laser Beak Man, Boar

Helen is the Artistic Associate of the Dead Puppet Society (DPS) where she works as a performer, director and facilitator of visual theatre and puppetry workshops. In this capacity she worked as the Puppet Coach for *The Wider Earth* (Dead Puppet Society & Queensland Theatre) and has travelled throughout remote Queensland devising puppet shows for students of the Mount Isa School of the Air.

Performance credits include: Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble's *Dare to Share*, *The Tiger's Bride* (Belinda Locke & QUT), *Last Tree in the City* (Dead Puppet Society & Artslink QLD), *We are all Ghosts* (Anywhere Theatre Festival), *The Theory of Everything* (Metro Arts), *Un-natural Selection* (Gold Coast Arts Centre Independents), *The Nightingale* and *the Rose* (Anywhere Theatre Festival), *Sweet Surrender* (2high Festival and QUT), *The Harbinger* (Dead Puppet Society, La Boite Indie), *The In and Out People* (Out of the Box Festival), *Les Misérables* (Ignatians Musical Society), *Antigone* (QUT).

Previously Helen worked as a director and facilitator of performance workshops for young people and has run a variety of theatre programs for Backbone Youth Arts and many of Brisbane's secondary schools. In 2014 she worked as the Program Coordinator for Queensland Theatre's Theatre Residency Week and coordinated the regional Queensland tour of *The Lost Property Rules*. Helen has a Bachelor of Creative Industries Drama (QUT 2007). This is her debut at La Boite Theatre Company.



DEAN HANSON

Guitar/Bass/Vocals

Dean Hanson is a guitarist and song writer that grew up in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. Currently based in Brisbane, Dean has been performing in the band Ball Park Music with Sam Cromack (composer of the *Laser Beak Man* score) for his entire professional career after meeting whilst studying music at university in 2008.

The band has seen Dean travel across the globe performing to audiences across Europe, The United States, South East Asia and Australia on the back of 4 critically acclaimed records that each placed in the ARIA albums chart at #36, #9, #2, and #3 respectively.

Performing in *Laser Beak Man* will be Dean's first experience as part of a theatre production and will hopefully open some opportunities to be a part of more theatre productions in the future.



DANIEL HANSON

Drums

Daniel Hanson has been playing the drums for 20 years and is best known for his role as the drummer in Brisbane band Ball Park Music.

The band has played over 400 live shows and released 4 studio albums, 3 of which debuted in the top 10 on the ARIA charts.

This show marks Daniel's first professional adventure into the world of theatre.



LUKE MOSELEY

Keyboard/Bass/Vocals

Laser Beak Man keyboard extraordinaire Luke Moseley is a Sydney based artist and average surfer. Luke writes and performs in his own projects (Luke Wellington, Marlis) as well as performing with fellow Sydneysiders, Emma Davis and Lady Lyon.

After years of touring with Ball Park Music as a stage technician, Luke has joined Daniel, Dean and Sam to form the band for *Laser Beak Man* in his debut theatre experience. Luke has helped produce live shows for Rūfūs, Sarah Blasko, Paul Kelly and Matt Corby. Luke is currently studying Philosophy and Spanish, and recording a new Luke Wellington album.



SAMUEL MAHER

Technical Manager/AirOrb Pilot

Dead Puppet Society: As Co-Sound Designer: *The Harbinger* (2011), *The Harbinger* (2012). As Stage Manager: *Argus*. As Technical Manager: *The Wider Earth*, *The Harbinger Tour*. Other Credits: Toneblack: *Slide Night*, *Freeze Frame*, *In nite In nites*, *Speaking in Tongues*. Metro Arts: *A Library For The End of The World*. Training: Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production), QUT.

Queensland Theatre: As Stage Manager: *Argus*. As Technical Coordinator: *The Flick*, *Constellations*, *My Name is Jimi*. As Technician: *Ladies In Black*, *7 Stages of Grieving*, *Gasp*, *The Effect*, *Gloria*, *The Mountaintop*, *Australia Day*, *Black Diggers*, *Design for Living*, *The Pitch and The China Incident*, *Venus in Fur*, *1001 Nights*, *Bombshells*, *Elizabeth*, *Managing Carmen*, *Pygmalion*, *Sacre Bleu!*, *No Man's Land*, *Fractions*, *I Feel Awful*, *Betrayal*.



NICOLE NEIL
Stage Manager

Nicole is a Queensland University of Technology Graduate with Fine Arts Degrees in both Technical Production (2015) & Drama (2012).

Previously for La Boite Nicole has been the Assistant Stage Manager & Show Caller on *A Streetcar Named Desire* and a Stage Management secondment on *Medea*.

Nicole's most recent production credits include; As Stage Manager; *Sensory* (Opera Queensland & GoMA), *World Science Festival* (2017), *Macbeth* (Shake & Stir Theatre Company - Shakefest) *Spectate* (Counterpilot) & *You Should be Dancing* (Brisbane Festival 2016). As Deputy Stage Manager; *Ruddigore or the Witch's Curse* (Opera Queensland) As an Assistant Stage Manager; *The Pearlfishers* (Opera Queensland), *American Idiot* (Shake & Stir Theatre Company), *George's Marvellous Medicine* (Shake & Stir Theatre Company - Brisbane Season & Auckland/Sydney Tour) *The Lord Mayors Christmas Carols* (2016), *The Barber of Seville* (Opera Queensland – Brisbane Season & Regional Queensland Tour) & *Much Ado About Nothing* (Queensland Theatre).

Nicole is passionate about excel spreadsheets, wine & her cat.



MATT SEERY
Assistant Stage Manager/Puppet Fabricator

Matt Seery is a director and producer of innovative contemporary performance. Since graduating from Queensland University of Technology in 2014, Matt has worked on numerous independent projects in a variety of roles throughout Queensland, around Australia and internationally.

These experiences include credits as Producer (Architects of Sound/Brisbane Festival) and Associate Producer (Motherboard Productions/World Theatre Festival), Stage Manager (Imaginary Theatre), and Associate Artist (Dead Puppet Society). Amidst projects in Australia, USA and South Korea, Matt has lead the Festival of Australian Student Theatre (2014-2016); a national arts showcasing and networking event for early career artists.

In 2017, Matt was excited to bring his directing practice into sharper focus, directing the Queensland premiere performance of *England* by Tim Crouch (Metro Arts' "L-C-L") and joining La Boite Theatre Company's production of *Blackrock* as Assistant Director.



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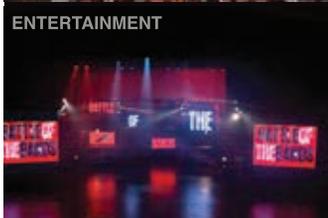
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machination

Cake Industries (Jesse Stevens & Dean Petersen)

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The Voyages project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



CAKE INDUSTRIES (Jesse Stevens & Dean Petersen), *It's nice to be alive* 2016 (detail), robotics and mixed media. Courtesy Cake Industries.
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ABOUT

BRISBANE FESTIVAL

Brisbane Festival is one of Australia's major international arts festivals. Each September, it explodes across the city with a thrilling program of theatre, music, dance, circus, opera and major public events, such as Sunsuper Riverfire, attracting an audience of around one million people every year. Brisbane Festival has only been annual since 2009, but in that time it's been embraced by the city and admired by the world.

Brisbane Festival aims to connect artists and audiences in ways that lift the spirit, disrupt the conventional and open our city to the world.

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ABOUT

DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY

Dead Puppet Society is Queensland's premier visual theatre and design company based between Brisbane and New York City. They are proud to be presenting *Laser Beak Man* in a co-production with Brisbane Festival and La Boite Theatre Company following on from a two year residency at The New Victory Theater in New York City (2014-2016). Their most recent production *The Wider Earth*, a co-production with Queensland Theatre (2014-2016) was initially developed at St. Ann's Warehouse (2013/2014). Prior to this, the Society worked with Handspring Puppet Company (*War Horse*) in South Africa who assisted with the creation of *Argus* (Lincoln Center 2017, Kravis Center Florida 2016, Australian National Tour 2015/ Brisbane Powerhouse 2013).

Previous works include *The Harbinger* (La Boite Indie 2011/La Boite Theatre Company 2012/ National Tour with Critical Stages 2014), *The Timely Death of Victory Blott* (Metro Arts 2010) and *Little Grey Wolf* (UNDER THE RADAR, Brisbane Festival 2009/The Garden of Unearthly Delights, Adelaide Fringe 2010). The Society has received several awards from The Jim Henson Foundation for the creation of new work and was awarded the Gold Matilda Award in 2017 for their body of work in 2016.

www.deadpuppetsociety.com.au

DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY STAFF

Creative Director **David Morton**

Executive Producer **Nicholas Paine**

Artistic Associate **Helen Stephens**

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