

 LA MAMA

**THAT'S ONE DAMN SEXY APE**



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**MELBOURNE  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMEDY  
FESTIVAL**

**27 MAR  
→ 21 APR 2024**

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# THAT'S ONE DAMN SEXY APE

Bubo is a proud, strong and stoic gorilla. He is the pride of the Zoo. Its main attraction. Visitors come in waves to gaze upon his majesty and mystic.

But when a series of chilling events tarnish his unblemished reputation, drastic measures must be used to win back the public's favour.

With a sultry new ad campaign and a cast of over-the-top characters, hilarity ensues as Bubo is pushed and pulled into an arena, he is not only ill-equipped for, but one that he never imagined he would shine so bright in.

## **CREATIVES:**

Writer/Director: Gavin Roach

Lighting Designer: Ashleigh Shearman

Set Designer: Fernando Ulloa

Sound Designer: Anthony Jacobsen

Stage Manager: Lowana van Dorssen

## **CAST:**

Zoo Administrator - Perri Cummings

Zoo Employee - Rupert Bevan

PR Agent 1 - Dax Carnay

PR Agent 2 - Asher Griffith-Jones

Journalists - Eleni Vettos & Jasper Jordan

Bubo the Gorilla - Christopher Trimarchi

## WRITER'S NOTE

That's One Damn Sexy Ape began life like so many of my works, scribbled on a bit of paper on my lunch break to present that evening to my cohort at VCA. I had of course not done my homework and I needed something, anything, to present. The idea was rolling around in my head and I was pretty excited to share the ramblings with the group. I however was left disheartened when the lecturer questioned the work's worth and requested "more", so I just left the work as is, another half written composition of scenes in my computer. But Bobu wanted to live. I kept working on the script, embracing the silly and seemingly meaningless moments with little intent or concern about deeper themes explored or issues dealt with. The ape is sexy, and that's all that mattered. And then, from these humble beginnings, and my need to clean out memory space in my computer, That's One Damn Sexy Ape finally finds its way to the stage. I'm forever grateful to the creatives who helped breathe life into this work, it is their talent, commitment and whimsy that makes me laugh at my own writing and affirms my belief that apes can indeed be pretty damn sexy.



## GAVIN ROACH

### PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR

Gavin Roach has a Bachelor of Arts (Acting for the Screen and Stage), Bachelor of Arts (Acting for the Screen and Stage, Honours) CSU, Masters in Arts Management UTS & Masters in Writing for Performance VCA.

Gavin is the writer, performer & producer of Confessions of a Grindr Addict (Sydney, Melbourne, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Perth Adelaide, Launceston, Hobart & New Zealand), Any Womb Will Do (Sydney, Melbourne & New Zealand), I Can't Say The F Word (Melbourne, Perth & New Zealand), The Measure of a Man (Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Hobart, Brisbane & Prague), All The Songs I Can't Sing (Melbourne) & Your Silence Will Not Protect You (Melbourne, Sydney, Perth & Adelaide).

Gavin adapted and produced Beyond Priscilla: The Play & was the co-devisor & co-creative developer of We Were There, showcasing the stories of women during the HIV/AIDS crisis in Australia.

Gavin's producing credits include Manwatching, All I See Is You, The Loneliness Project, Adam, The Campaign, Sink, Transgression, Meet Me at Dawn, Pops, If We Got Some More Cocaine I Could Show You How I Love You, CULT, A Southern Fairytale, STUCK and Sauna Boy. Gavin's producing and directing credits include Lake Disappointment, Awkward Conversations With Animals I've Fucked, The Shy Manifesto, Run, Bottom, A Hundred Words For Snow, Heather, Disco Pigs, Outlier Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes, This Is Living, Bacon, One of Them Ones and Vespertilio.



## **DAX CARNAY**

### **PR AGENT I**

Dax has a rich heritage in the arts, rooted in their academic journey at the University of the Philippines. Since 2003, they have been an active member of the University of the Philippines Repertory Company, making significant strides as a cultural worker and activist within the theatre scene. Dax's contributions have spanned various roles, including actor, director, marketing consultant, and producer, collaborating with esteemed organizations such as the Metro Manila Pride Organisation, Repertory Philippines, Philippine Educational Theater Association, Manila Fringe, Nineworks Theatrical, ABS-CBN, GMA, Dulaang UP, The Virgin Labfest, Cinemalaya, Cinefilipino, Cinemaone Originals, Tanghalang Pilipino, Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the International Theater Institute.

In 2020, Dax embarked on a new chapter in Melbourne, drawn by the city's vibrant cultural diversity and the opportunity to inspire others through their story. They immersed themselves in furthering their craft with dedication, undergoing training in the Meisner technique at Meisner Studio Manila, Screen Acting at the National Institute of Dramatic Art, and the National Actors Intensive at The Australian Film and Television Academy. Dax's commitment to excellence led them to be selected for the prestigious Malthouse Emerging Writers Program in 2023, an opportunity that allowed them to further hone their craft in writing for the stage.

In Melbourne, Dax continued to forge meaningful collaborations with groups, artists, and festivals, including the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, SBS, 24 Carrot Productions, Eagle's Nest Theater, Zanny Begg, La Mama Theater, Western Edge, and Antipodes Theatre. This vibrant engagement with the local arts scene culminated in Dax being honoured as BroadwayWorld's Best Performer in a Play for Melbourne in 2023, a significant accolade that underscores their exceptional talent and the profound impact of their contributions to the theatre community in Melbourne.



## ASHER GRIFFITH-JONES

### PR AGENT 2

An Anglo-Indian Australian, Asher Griffith-Jones, is a proud alumni of 16th Street Actors Studio. His recent work includes the 2023 productions of “If We Got Some More Cocaine I Could Show You How I Love You” directed by Christian Cavallo, the National Tour of “Mr Stink” directed by Jonathan Biggins, “One Of Them Ones” directed by Gavin Roach and just recently closed Melbourne Shakespeare Company’s “Much Ado About Nothing” directed by Emma Austin.

Asher is also a massive fan of cows. So if you don’t like the show, please ‘moo’ not ‘boo’.



## ELENI VETTOS

### JOURNALIST

Eleni is thrilled to performing her first voiceover role in, 'That's One Damn Sexy Ape!' Originally from rural Victoria, Eleni is a graduate actor from Federation University Arts Academy (2014). Over the last five years, Eleni has been working in both the performing arts industry and education, across Victoria and the Northern Territory. Her most recent theatre credits include playing Portia in 'The Merchant of Venice,' (Melbourne Shakespeare Company), and Chancellor/Magic Mirror in the musical/comedy, 'A Brutally Honest Fairy Tale' at the 2023 Melbourne Fringe Festival. Eleni also recently toured a production of 'Love's Labour's Lost' with the Australian Shakespeare Company to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and Prague Fringe Festival. Eleni is proudly represented by Ian Nisbet Talent Management and would like to thank Ian, Jess and her family and friends for the continuing support they've shown her through each of her theatrical pursuits.



## **JASPER JORDAN**

### **JOURNALIST**

Jasper is thrilled to be voicing a journalist in this production as he makes his debut at Lama Theatre. He plays the supporting role of Spike in *Single Out* (season 2 onwards) and is part of the Early Career Artists Program running at Theatre Works in their August production of *The Volition Project*. He recently played Boyet in Australian Shakespeare Companies' *Loves Labours Lost* (2023) and has acted in upcoming feature films such as *Better Man*, *Freelance* and *CCTV Nasty*. He is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne and has previously completed the actor's studio at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (2022) and a Diploma of Theatre Arts at Melbourne Polytechnic (2021).





## RUPERT BEVAN

### ZOO EMPLOYEE

Since graduating from the VCA (BFA Acting), Rupert has continued to hone his craft in theatre, most recently in the acclaimed sold-out Australian premiere of “The Inheritance” at fortyfivedownstairs. Other highlights include “Away” at Theatre Works and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” for Sport For Jove in Sydney and the Blue Mountains. His one-man show, “DARLING BOY” (dir: Lucy Rossen), which he also wrote and produced, has enjoyed sold-out seasons in Melbourne, Sydney, and in 2023 it made its UK premiere to great acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. “DARLING BOY” has been invited to perform in Dublin this year and Rupert will undertake training at Arthaus Berlin, as the recipient of the Keith & Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship (Theatre) and assistance from the Ian Potter Cultural Trust. Rupert will next be seen on TV screens in “The Narrow Road to the Deep North” (Curio Pictures/Sony Pictures Television) on Amazon Prime, directed by Justin Kurzel (Nitram, Snowtown).



## **PERRI CUMMINGS**

### **ZOO ADMINISTRATOR**

Actor and writer Perri Cummings was a founding member of Tropic Line Theatre in Queensland, working and training with Jean Pierre Voos for seven years. In Melbourne, she has worked regularly in independent theatre and performed for two outdoor Shakespeare companies. Her recent theatre work includes 'Then The Snow Fell On Egypt' by Gavin Roach and directed by Sarah Vickery, 'The Association' for Girls Act Good (an immersive theatre piece she also wrote), 'The Girlie Show', directed and written by Wayne Tunks and 'Coming Out', written and directed by Scott Taylor. Her recent TV work includes The Doctor Blake Mysteries, The Bazura Project, Conspiracy 360, Laid, and played Jill Ramsay in Neighbours, where she has also worked as a Storyliner and Scriptwriter. She has also had major roles in two independent feature films, Trench and Apparitions, which she co-wrote/produced/directed as one half of the independent film company Cinema Viscera.



## CHRISTOPHER TRIMARCHI

### BUBO

Chris is beyond excited to be playing Bubo the Gorilla in That's One Damn Sexy Ape!

With a Diploma in performing arts from 2005 Chris then worked as a dancer for ten years with work spanning from TV appearances (AFL Footy Show Players review) and commercials (Goulburn Valley Gould), Video Clips (Ricki Lee - Hell No), Bollywood movies (Salaam Namaste) , to stage (Hollywood HonkyTonk choreographed by Michael Ralph) and others including the AFL grand final half time show behind Kath and Kim.

Working in between on board Princess Cruises. Chris then spent 5 years as resident rehearsal choreographer with Grayboy Entertainment for PnO Cruises Australia setting up the shows on board.

Chris now teaches Reformer Pilates at IR leaving the dancing world behind but is looking forward to settling into his enclosure at La Mama to premiere That's One Damn Sexy Ape bringing Bubo to life.



## **LOWANA VAN DORSSSEN**

### **STAGE MANAGER**

Lowana is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts. During their final year of studies, she had the pleasure of interning with MTC (Storm Boy directed by Sam Strong), and Chunky Move (Token Armies, choreographed by Antony Hamilton). Post studies, Lowana has worked with Red Stitch (Single Ladies, dir. Bagryana Popov; Prayer Machine, dir. Krystalla Pierce; The Amateurs, dir. Susie Dee), Melbourne Opera (Die Walküre; The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny; both dir. Suzanne Chaundy) and Three Fates Theatre (Gundog; dir. Alonso Pineda).

Most recently Lowana was the Deputy Stage Manager on the University of Melbourne's production of Die Zauberflöte. In her spare time Lowana enjoys film photography and typewriters.

Lowana is a proud member of the MEAA.



## **ANTHONY JACOBSEN**

### **SOUND DESIGNER**

Anthony is a versatile music producer, writer, and performer hailing from Brisbane, and boasts a rich background in the performing arts industry. His journey began as an independent music producer before composing for Channel 10's *Crocamole*, where he quickly garnered recognition.

Since then, Anthony has evolved into a prolific figure, contributing significantly to the realm of musical theatre through creating various productions including *Love After*, *Endings*, and his inaugural song cycle, *Struggling to Speak*. He also has credits as a theatrical sound designer, with his most recent credits including Taylor Made Productions' *Holding the Man* and *Torch Song*. Academically, Anthony has acquired bachelor's degrees in Music from the Queensland University of Technology and Musical Theatre from the Fed Uni Arts Academy.



## **ASHLEIGH SHEARMAN**

### **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Ashleigh Shearman is a trans theatre practitioner with over ten years experience in theatre as a performer, designer, and writer.

Originally from Gadigal land, she has appeared in shows including *Dusty the Original Pop Diva* and *Midsummer Nights Dream* both with St Vincents Girls College, *HAIR* with Exclaim Theatre Company, *Witches of Eastwick* and *Urinetown* both with AIM, and *Little Shop of Horrors* with Rockdale Musical Society.

She has also provided lighting designs for *The Fantasticks* with Exclaim Theatre Company, the premiere of *Together Apart* by Nicholas Gentile, *Chicago* with AIM, *Dreamgirls* with Rockdale Musical Society, *The Gondoliers* with Rockdale Opera Company, *Cloud Nine* and *Baccarat* with VCA, and countless recitals, short form performances, and live events at AIM, with Birdie Productions, and as a freelance designer.



## **FERNANDO ULLOA**

### **SET DESIGNER**

Fernando Ulloa is an upcoming building designer who believes in the connection between spaces and emotions. He has been surrounded by the arts, and the world of theatre for the past 3 years, inspiring him more and more to be part of the magical creative process of it.

In 2023 Fernando was the Set Designer on Peter Fetcher: 59 Minutes (director Gavin Roach) during the Midsumma Festival.



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Box Office opens 4pm on performance nights, 12pm  
for Playreadings and 2pm Sundays

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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

La Mama is financially assisted by Creative Victoria (Creative Enterprises Program), and the City of Melbourne (Arts and Creative Partnership Program).

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community. Thank you!

