

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME – LEE KENNEDY

Firstly, I would like to welcome two newcomers to the School of Arts, Nick Childe and Tori Stuart, in their first SoACT production and hopefully the first of many. They are joining what I believe is a fiercely talented theatrical community. Back after a sojourn in South Australia, Tony Woods returns to the stage, joined by two other SoACT stalwarts, Antonella Salvestro and Kristil-Rae Mobbs, to form a wonderful cast that will take you on a thought-provoking and entertaining journey.

Directed by the award-winning director Michael Mitchell, *A Broadcast Coup* is being brought to life with the assistance of an incredibly talented crew. Assisting Michael is Assistant Director Sally Jackson; Production Manager Michele Hemmings and her team Eddie, Ellie and Donna; Stage Manager Jo Cocks; award-winning costume designer Robyn Horwell; and Properties Manager Jo Strader.

We are all excited to see this play come to life. Thank you for coming along and supporting us in our 165th Year.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE – MICHAEL MITCHELL

What a ride that the cast and crew have been on in bringing this amazing piece of fresh Australian writing to the stage. *A Broadcast Coup* is a play that makes you laugh, makes you think, and makes you go, "Woah". At points hilarious and harrowing, its been a great experience to collaborate with the actors to find the humour and the heart that the characters deliver on stage.

Of course this play could not have gone ahead without the strong leadership of the management committee of the School of Arts and the time and energy that has been sacrificed by the production team. I am honoured to be part of a local theatre that values contemporary Australian writing and I am thankful to all those who have been part of the process of putting it onstage.

There's a real vibrancy in the school of Arts lately, all designed to enhance the experience of the audience. So if you like what you see and would like to play a more active role in local theatre, I'd encourage you to become a member and be a part of the fun.

A final thanks to you the audience, without whom, we couldn't do what we do. Survey after survey that we conduct identify word of mouth as the most popular way that people hear about our productions. So if you love the show, please tell your friends so that our offerings can become even bigger and better.



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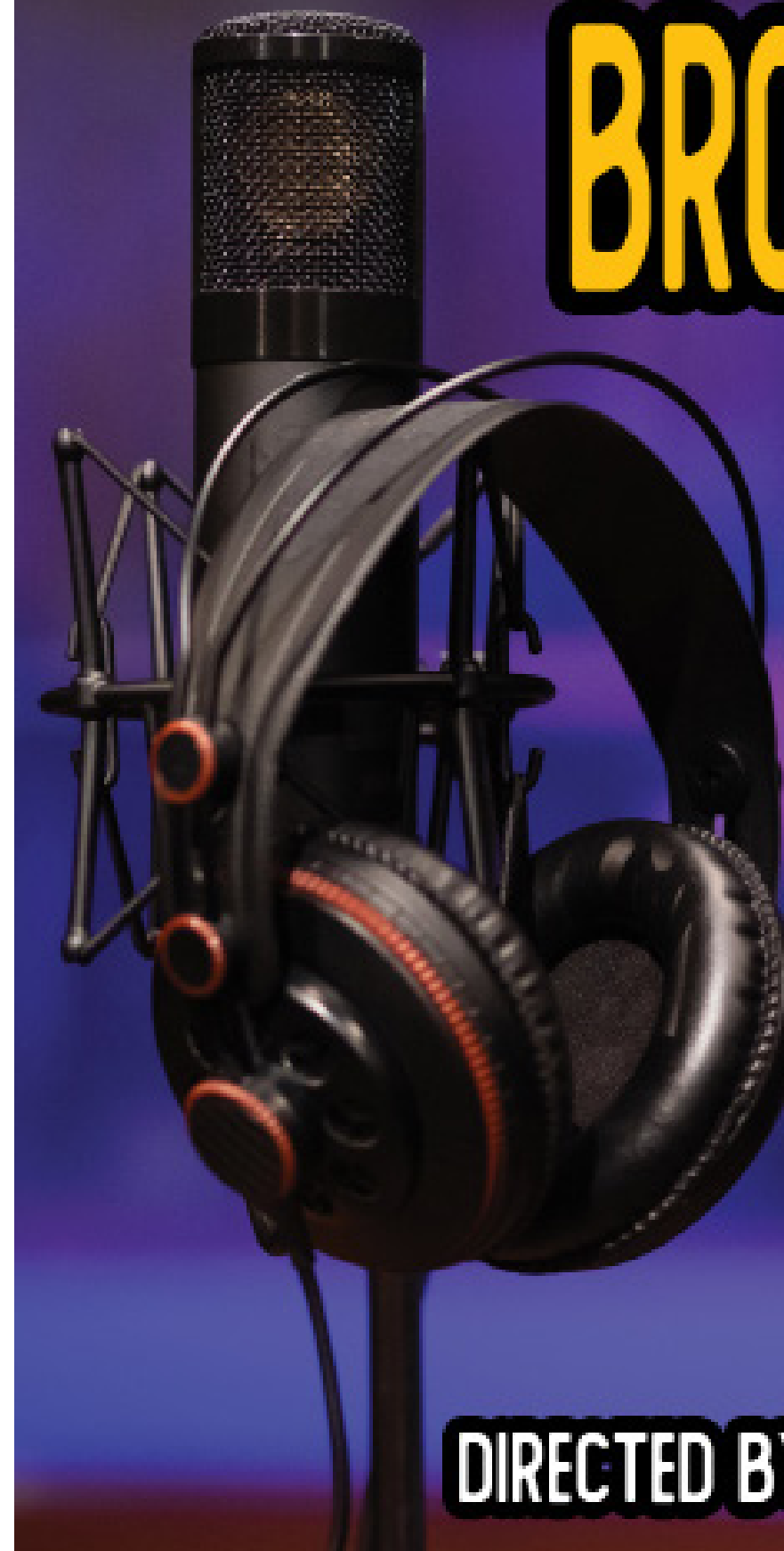
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WAGGA WAGGA SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESENTS

A BROADCAST COUP



BY MELANIE TAIT
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MITCHELL

CAST



Nicholas Childe - Troy

Nicholas, a seasoned stage veteran, began his acting journey at age 9. He competed in many Riverina Eistedfodds, honed his skills in speech, drama, and singing, and pursued a Bachelor of Creative Arts at Charles Sturt University. Nick performed in various shows across Brisbane and Canberra before settling in Wagga in 2022. Notable performances include *Priscilla Queen of the Desert - The Musical* (Bidgee Theatre Productions), *The Laramie Project* (Behind the Curtain), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (University Theatre Ensemble), *Wicked* (Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre) and more.

Surprisingly, this is Nicholas' first show with SoACT and he is keen to tread the boards with his amazing counterparts in the cast and crew in a gripping Australian theatre piece.



Kristil-Rae Mobbs - Jez

Kristil is a local primary school teacher who enjoys being part of the community theatre family. She has been involved in 28 productions over the past two decades, notably *Away and Wicked* for the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Wild Goose Chase* and *Witness for the prosecution* for SoACT, *The Twits* and *Summer Rain* for Riverina Theatre Company, and *Secret Bridesmaids Business*, *Silly Cow*, *Stepping Out* (for which she was nominated for a CAT award for best supporting actress) and *Mayflies* for Cooma Little Theatre. Kristil is excited to be involved in *A Broadcast Coup* under the expert guidance of Michael Mitchell.

Broadcast Coup



Antonella Salvestro - Louise

Antonella is a visual artist with a love for theatre and all manner of art making. Playing Coral in *Away* led to a CAT award nomination and she has since performed in numerous SoACT productions and been involved behind the scenes on many others. She was recently cast in the multiple CAT award winning *Neighbourhood Watch* and is elated to play Louise in the latest SoACT production of Melanie Tait's *A Broadcast Coup*. To be a part of this current, thought provoking, heartbreaking, funny and wonderfully told work, with a passionate director, cast and crew, is a true joy.



Victoria Stuart - Noa

A mother, teacher and theatre-lover, Victoria is excited to be performing as Noa, in her first acting role since school. Victoria's experience has mostly centred around music; performing and teaching both individually and in choirs; and in various styles of dance. She has taken much of the last 10 years off from performing while focusing on her four young children, but decided this year to begin to take up her passion and energy for acting, music and dancing once more. Victoria decided to join SoACT to model and instil the importance of following passions and hobbies to her children.



Tony Woods - Mike

A soon to be former military member due to compulsory retirement age of 60, Tony is looking forward to retirement and seeing what is on the other side of the fence. A qualified Blacksmith by trade who despises the taste of coriander, he commenced performing in theatre in Adelaide at the Tea Tree Players and performed in *Who's Under Where*. In *There goes the Bride* everyone had British accent except his character, and a reviewer said it was a very good Australian accent! I guess if you can't say something nice... Tony joined SoACT in 2018 and has performed in *Hooley in the Highlands*, *If you're Irish Come into the Parlour*, *The Hollow* and *Scary Bikers* as well as a number of *Ten x 10* plays.

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Featuring the voice talents of:

Jo Cocks, Sarah Foley, Bec Huxtable, Sally Jackson, Ellena Zacharia, and Zajkel Zaia,

harry mangelsdorf & amanda tilyard
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CREATIVES



Jo Cocks - Stage Manager

Jo's professional background is in technology, bringing entertainment and sport to televisions and small screens all across Australia. She brings her love of process, planning and precision to help make the creative vision of a theatre show come to life. *A Broadcast Coup* is Jo's second season with Wagga Wagga School of Arts, having managed the stage for 2023's *Neighbourhood Watch*. The experience was too good to say no the next one, and Jo encourages anyone who is curious to get involved and try their hand at theatre.

Having recently returned home to Wagga Wagga from Sydney, Jo is keen to jump in and get involved wherever there's new people to meet and amazing creative happenings.



Robyn Horwell - Costume Designer

Robyn enjoys playing with colour, matching fabrics, and shopping for recycled & vintage clothes. Managing the Costume Hire Department at SoACT was a great past time. Previous work includes, fabric wig construction for *Lysistrata*, animal suits for *Footrot Flats* and recently, overseeing the costume design for *Neighbourhood Watch*, the SoACT, CAT Award winning production of 2023.



Sally Jackson - Intimacy Coordinator / Assistant Director

Sally is a graduate of the Stage and Screen Acting course at Charles Sturt University Wagga. Her career began in Port Macquarie with the community theatre ensemble Night4Murder, acting in multiple original productions. Since arriving in Wagga, Sally has performed in various productions through UTE and Persona Collective including *Rozenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Hamlet*, *This Territory*, *Killing Game*, *Lines and Boxes* and *Rabbits*. Sally is also a director and producer for Freeroam, making her directorial debut with the 2022 production of *Picnic at Hanging Rock* and is a proud ensemble member in the improvised production *TOME*. This is Sally's second Wagga Wagga School of Arts production after working on SoACT's 2023 production of *Neighbourhood Watch*.



Michael Mitchell - Director

A passionate educator, theatre maker and advocate for the arts, Michael first joined Wagga Wagga School of Arts in 2006. For SoACT he has directed *Love Song* and *Proof*, and most recently, *Neighbourhood Watch* which earned the 2023 CAT award for Best Production of a Play, and best ensemble cast, and for which he was honoured to be awarded the award for Best Director of a Play. He directed *Boom*, *Fat Men in Skirts*, and *Play* for Gearstick Theatre, and *Oliver!* for the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, in addition to many school plays and musicals, and 10-minute plays. As a performer he has appeared in productions of *Guys and Dolls* (Holroyd Musical and Dramatic Society), *My Fair Lady* and *Away* (Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre), *Hairspray* (Bidgee Theatre Productions) *Death of a Salesman* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (SoACT); and was assistant director for *Australia Day* (New Theatre), *The Boy From Oz*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* (Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre). Michael is thrilled to be in the rehearsal room with such passionate and talented collaborators and is grateful to his peers in the SoACT committee for supporting such a diverse variety of theatrical offerings in its theatre season and for being fierce advocates for community theatre in our region.



Michele Hemmings - Production Manager

Production management is like playing mother of her home that is the theatre, having her eyes and ears on everything: Set, Props, Costumes, Sound and Lighting, Marketing, and Patron needs. Thankfully, Michele has the experience from *Mrs Warren's Profession* as Production Manager and *Neighbourhood Watch*, as Sound and Lighting operator and Costume assistant, to step again into this challenging position. She is honoured to work with the same capable personnel from *Neighbourhood Watch* in *A Broadcast Coup* and thanks the director for these opportunities. As a multi-decade theatre goer, more recent actor with SoACT and singer in local choirs such as Cantilena Singers and Wagga Women's Unisong, Michele is immensely interested in both sides of the stage. She trusts that this collaboration and collation of essential theatrical ingredients provides audiences with another heart-warming and thought-provoking experience in the Basement Theatre.

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Jo-Anne Strader - Properties Manager

Jo-Anne started in theatre 10 years ago in the ensemble of *Away* at Wagga Civic Theatre. Then has been onstage in SoACT productions of *Wild Goose Chase* and multiple 10 x Ten plays. Jo-Anne's love of being involved in SoACT productions has led her to help backstage at *Scary Bikers*, *A Midnight Dream* and most recently, gathered the multitude of props in the CAT award-winning *Neighbourhood Watch*. Jo-Anne is thrilled to have been invited to again work with this amazing team.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Stage Managers - Eddie Pratt & Ellena Zacharia

Sound & Lighting Design - Michael Mitchell

Set Design - Michael Mitchell

Front of House Coordinator - Donna O'Grady

SPECIAL THANKS

A million thanks to the following people:

John Strader, Phil Horwell, Ken Kennedy, Gavin Shen, Diana Lovett, Sally Bryant, Paul Cocks, Fi Ziff, Tumut High School,

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