

Company Theatre  
presents Olivier and Tony Award Winner

# THE HISTORY BOYS

by Alan Bennett



*Directed by Suzy Sampson*

"Blissfully funny, a superb life enhancing play " The Guardian

**The Rose Centre Belmont May 6 - 20**

iTICKET





## WELCOME

from Stephen Hood

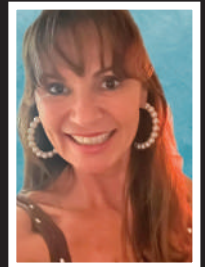
PRESIDENT OF **COMPANY** THEATRE

Company Theatre welcomes you to the beginning of our 2023 season of plays! Suzy Sampson returns to the director's chair at Company Theatre with Alan Bennett's **The History Boys**, after our long five-year wait since 2018's **Popcorn** – winner of three ACTT awards. The age range of this play's awesome cast, from teenagers to those more senior, combines youthful vigour with the conviction that comes with age. In August, Arthur Miller's **Death of a Salesman** is being directed by Sian Davis – welcoming back a regular director for Company Theatre after 2021's **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**: Winner of three NAPTA awards. Following this, renowned actor and director Elena Stejko will be directing Marc Camoletti's **Boeing-Boeing** in November. It would be great to see you there!

## THOUGHTS ON THE PLAY

from Suzy Sampson

**DIRECTOR of HISTORY BOYS**



I have led Drama Workshops for Teenagers with Tim Bray Youth Theatre for some years now so when it came to choosing a play to direct for **Company Theatre** **The History Boys** was an easy choice. It's very rewarding working with young people and encouraging them in the arts and this play is a great vehicle for these eight talented young actors and a wonderful opportunity for them to practice their craft alongside highly experienced actors. Directing **The History Boys** was not without its challenges - how does one keep the comedy in a play where the lead character behaves so badly without appearing to condone that behaviour? Thank goodness times have changed for the better since Alan Bennett wrote this play, presenting, as he did, one of the key elements of the story as something that the boys were resigned to putting up with; we chose to represent Hector as a deeply flawed individual whose heart was in the right place. Bennett used his own school experiences to help shape this play. The character of Posner, the younger gay student with a crush on one of his classmates was based on him and I found it fascinating to learn more about the playwright whose work I have admired ever since seeing Maggie Smith's magnificent performance with Bennett himself acting alongside her in his true account of **The Lady in the Van**.

I feel very lucky to have gathered such an amazing cast who portray their characters so astutely and a crew so dedicated to sorting all the finer details needed to bring this production to life. I hope you enjoy watching it as much as we have enjoyed creating it.

Arohanui, Suzy

# THE CAST

<b>Hector</b>	<i>Duncan Preston</i>
<b>Irwin</b>	<i>Walt Bowers Fleming</i>
<b>Headmaster</b>	<i>Chris Smith</i>
<b>Dorothy Lintott</b>	<i>Chlöe Smith</i>
<b>Dakin</b>	<i>Jesse Park</i>
<b>Scripps</b>	<i>Aidan Allen</i>
<b>Posner</b>	<i>Raine Gilchrist</i>
<b>Rudge</b>	<i>Nick Curry</i>
<b>Timms</b>	<i>Lucus Laurent</i>
<b>Akthar</b>	<i>Emré Logan Erdi</i>
<b>Lockwood</b>	<i>Aedan Ward</i>

## SCENES

### ACT 1

*Classroom, Staff Room, Headmaster's Study*

### INTERMISSION

### ACT 2

*Outside on film location, Classroom, Headmaster's Study, Church Hall*



There will be ONE INTERMISSION of 15 minutes  
Refreshments, Ice Cream, and a variety of  
drinks will be available



## SUZY SAMPSON

Director

Suzy trained at The London Academy of Performing Arts and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, the Stella Adler Academy in New York and TVI Studios in Los Angeles. Her one woman show ***Shakespeare's Will*** by Vern Thiessen was awarded Best Production in Hong Kong and has toured Prague, Auckland, Tauranga and Wellington.

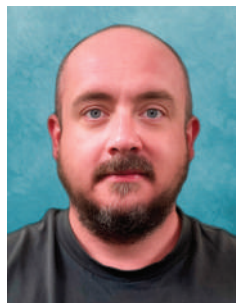
In 2015 Suzy established the highly acclaimed Outdoor Shakespeare in the Bay and produced, directed, and acted in ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** and ***As You Like It*** at Te Puna Quarry. In 2018 she produced and directed ***Outdoor Oscar Wilde*** at The Elms Te Papa in Tauranga. Ben Elton's play ***Popcorn***, which she directed for Company Theatre in 2018, received the ACTT Theatre Awards for Outstanding Comedy. Suzy also co-produced and acted in Geoff Allen's play ***Sexy Buddha*** at The Pumphouse, Vic Theatre and Pitt Street Theatre and directed and produced ***Skylight*** by David Hare at The Pumphouse in 2020.

## MEET THE CAST

### DUNCAN PRESTON

Hector

Duncan has been performing with Company since 2020, when he played his first schoolteacher, Gordon Macintosh, in ***'Peninsula'***. Since then, he has played Algernon in ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** at Pah Homestead, another man called Gordon in ***Neville's Island*** and has just finished ***Jerusalem***, where he played Rooster's loyal friend Ginger. Duncan is looking forward to playing another teacher as it fits in nicely with his day job of being a teacher. Having been born and brought up in Manchester, the accent isn't too much of a problem either.



### WALT BOWERS FLEMING

Irwin

Walt is passionate about the arts, about creating a story, retelling an experience, and spreading emotion. He has performed in ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, ***Nua Sila*** and ***Waiting for Godot***. Walt adores the character ***Irwin***, as the morality of certain ethics are brought into question, challenging him to create layers for a character at first appearing straightforward.



## CHRIS SMITH

### Headmaster

Chris's foray into acting began 3 years ago as he retired from working for the terminally ungrateful. After several classes, being cast as Hopeful Christian, appearing for a year in Auckland's Bus Stops in a margarine advert, and, more latterly, as The Professor in **Jerusalem**, he now appears as The Headmaster who he models on several he met during the Bronze Age.

## CHLOE SMITH

### Dorothy Lintott

Chlöe is a Performing Arts teacher for an Intermediate School in Auckland. Prior to this, she worked behind the scenes at TVNZ for the **Breakfast Show**. Her passion for drama has seen her land roles in various theatre shows at Rose Centre, Centre Stage and Torbay Theatre. Some of the shows she has performed in include **All My Sons**, **Deathtrap** and **A Streetcar Named Desire**.

She also directs an annual performance on stage at the Aotea Centre for NZ's biggest student drama show called **Showquest**.

Chloe is thrilled to play the role of *Dorothy Lintott* in **The History Boys** and has thoroughly enjoyed working with the director Suzy and the cast to bring this famous play to the stage.



## JESSE PARK

### Dakin

Jesse attends Auckland Grammar and like the boys in the play, is in his final year of school. He has loved being part of the Company Theatre family and found it an honour to work with Suzy, an amazing Director, and such a talented cast and crew. Jesse has enjoyed many years of speech and drama training, attending competitions, and performing in theatre productions **Brainstorm** (2020), and the

combined St Cuthbert's and AGS show **Night with the Stars – A Broadway Revue** (2022). A highlight last year was competing in the National Young Performer Awards where he won the Audience Choice Award. Screen acting is another passion, where he's been cast in a number of projects for film and television. This year he will sit his Trinity diploma and it is his aspiration to continue developing his acting craft and keep performing.





## AIDAN ALLEN

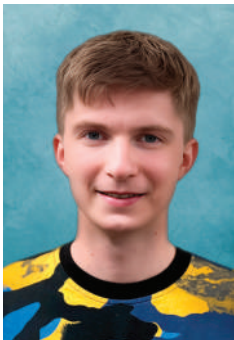
### Scripps

Aidan started acting not long after learning to walk and talk; at 3 years old... he was cute, but a silly fool to be frank. He hopes to have learned something about acting since then, and you may compare his ability tonight to a random toddler of your choosing to rank his improvement so far. His background in choral singing set him on the musical theatre path in high school, which he lauds as a “cool and fun time”. Aidan appreciates playing a character that parallels him in some ways, but diverges at interesting points too, and he described the experience as a “symbiotic mind-melding of sorts”.

## RAINE GILCHRIST

### Posner

Raine is an actor who has been involved in various theatre classes and groups for several years and played a main role in Geoff Allen's 2023 Rose Centre play ***Alien Attack***. He is looking to be involved in many productions going forward and branch out more within the performing community. He enjoys performances for the social aspect and being able to showcase his dramatic abilities on stage.



## NICK CURRY

### Rudge

Nick is a 24 year old recent graduate of the University of Auckland, where he completed a conjoint degree in Law and Music (specialising in Jazz Voice and Trumpet). In High school, he played lead roles in Sondheim's ***Assassins*** and ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***. This is his first full production since then, where he will be playing the character of Rudge. This coming September, Nick will be relocating to the UK, where he will be pursuing a Masters in Musical Theatre at Guildford School of Acting, and he one day aspires to perform a lead role on the West End.



## LUCUS LAURENT

Timms

Lucus is an actor who also enjoys the behind-the-scenes aspects of theatre. He has been apart of performances such as Company Theatre's ***The Thrill Of Love*** and Takapuna Grammar School's ***Mamma Mia***. He trained with Tim Bray Youth Theatre for a number of years before branching out and focusing on other aspects of the theatre.

## EMRÉ LOGAN ERDI

Akthar

Emré is a young actor who has been involved in various theatre classes and groups, both in school and out. He achieved Top of Level 3 Drama in Year 12, and has participated in many Shakespeare plays, and Devonport Drama's 2022 play ***Alien Track*** where he played Chuck Cal. He looks to branch out more, both on stage and on the screen and hopes to be an actor someday.



## AEDAN WARD

Lockwood

Aedan is a seasoned actor who's performed in a multitude of youth theatre musicals, from Bill in ***Mamma Mia*** to Kyle in ***Legally Blonde The Musical*** but is now branching into mature productions, including plays. Additionally, he has recently written a full length, professionally produced musical called ***Golden Screens***. He is currently co-assistant directing the project which will be performed at The Rose Centre in July.

# *The Rehearsals*

Photo Credits: Kathryn Nobbs





# The Crew

<b>Director</b>	Suzy Sampson
<b>Production Manager</b>	Kathy Gent
<b>Stage Managers</b>	Freya Said, Edith Lane
<b>Backstage Crew</b>	Emma Arwanitis
<b>Set Design</b>	Sherry Berg, Tricia Hollingum
<b>Lighting and Sound Design</b>	Stephen Hood
<b>Lighting and Sound Operation</b>	Stephen Hood
<b>Props/ Set Props</b>	Vettinia Ross
<b>Costume Design</b>	Suzy Sampson, Kate Finlay, Chris Smith
<b>Dresser</b>	Kate Finlay
<b>Musical Advisor</b>	Robyn Allen Goudge
<b>Set Manager</b>	Sherry Berg
<b>Set Crew</b>	Sherry Berg, Stephen Hood, Tricia Hollingum, Suzy Sampson, Kathy Gent, Tony Sandy, Joe Rouse, Andrew Park, Stephen Willson, Victoria Park, Chris Smith, Freya Said, Jesse Park, Aidan Allen, Lucus Laurent, Raine Gilchrist, Aedan Ward, Emré Logan Erdi, Madelaine Park, Jemima Park, Scott Thomas, Brett Marshall (The Claystore)
<i>(A team effort including Set Construction, Painting, &amp; Set Dressing)</i>	
<b>Advertising</b>	Kathy Gent, Suzy Sampson
<b>Billboard &amp; Poster Design</b>	Suzy Sampson
<b>Facebook</b>	Stephen Hood
<b>Website</b>	Sherry Ede
<b>Programme</b>	Sherry Berg
<b>Billboards</b>	Alastair Fletcher, Stephen Hood
<b>Box Office</b>	Kathy Gent, Sarah Dettwiler, Marissa Willson
<b>Bar Manager</b>	Alastair Fletcher
<b>Front of House Manager</b>	Lesley Hawkey
<b>Rehearsal Photos</b>	Kathryn Nobbs

# Latest Company Theatre News

This year, **Company** Theatre had a stellar outcome at the 2022 Northern Area Performance and Theatre Awards (NAPTA) gala evening with 21 nominations across 27 categories resulting in receiving 6 awards, a significant achievement indeed.

*We wish to congratulate the following Award Winners:*

Outstanding Play: **Jerusalem**

Outstanding Leading Actor in a Play: Jimmy Carrick as 'Johnny "Rooster" Byron, **Jerusalem**

Outstanding Direction of a Play: Kristof Haines, **Jerusalem**

Outstanding Props Design: Megan Waters, Sarah Dettwiler, Chris Smith, **Jerusalem**

Outstanding Set Design: Megan Waters, **Jerusalem**

Cameo Award: Kristof Haines as 'Troy Withworth', **Jerusalem**

*In addition to the award winners, the following individuals and plays were nominated:*

Outstanding Leading Actor in a Play: Oliver Roberts as 'Alan Raleigh', **God of Carnage**

Outstanding Leading Actress in a Play:

- Marissa Willson as 'Veronica Novak', **God of Carnage**
- Meg Andrews as 'Ruth Ellis', **The Thrill of Love**

Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play:

- Chris Smith as 'Professor', **Jerusalem**
- Dion Hunt as 'Wesley', **Jerusalem**
- Duncan Preston as 'Ginger', **Jerusalem**
- Max Easey as 'Lee', **Jerusalem**

Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play:

- Aria Harrison-Sparke as 'Tanya', **Jerusalem**
- Monique Rabie as 'Pea', **Jerusalem**
- Catherine Maunsell as 'Sylvia Shaw', **The Thrill of Love**
- Natasha Ross as 'Doris Judd', **The Thrill of Love**

Outstanding Direction of a Play:

- Kate Birch, **God of Carnage**
- Kathy Gent, **The Thrill of Love**

Outstanding Play: **The Thrill of Love**

Outstanding Lighting Design: **Jerusalem** (Stephen Hood)

Outstanding Make-up & Hair Design: **Jerusalem** (Cut Above Academy)

Outstanding Sound Design: **Jerusalem** (Matt Rust)

It is a matter of collective pride that **Company** Theatre is able to attract the calibre of performers and practitioners of the theatre crafts to be able to present work of such quality to your community. Congratulations to all!



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Deep appreciation to our major sponsors, Ian Cunliffe of Harcourts,  
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A big *Thank You* to the Rose Centre!

Next with COMPANY THEATRE:

# Death of a Salesman

12-26  
August  
2023

Pulitzer Prize-winning play by  
**ARTHUR MILLER**

DIRECTED BY

**SIAN DAVIS**

Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is one of the great classics of American theatre. It is in essence a tragedy, focused on the portrayal of a man doggedly committed to a pernicious ideal, and rooted in the absurdity of his pretensions: the pathetic victim of a deeply flawed society.



See [companytheatre.co.nz](https://companytheatre.co.nz)  
for details



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