

Biographies

Ross Balbuziente – Boxer / Pilkington

For shake & stir: Ross is the Co-Artistic Director of shake & stir and has created over 30 youth productions and performed in over 1000 performances. He co-created and performed in the Helpmann Award nominated *STATESPEARE* (2009, 2011, 2011 national tour) and performed in the Matilda Award winning *Animal Farm* and *1984*. **Other Theatre:** *Romeo & Juliet* (Queensland Theatre Company), *Julius Caesar* (La Boite), *Citizen Jane* (JUTE), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Harvest Rain Theatre Company), *Assassins* (Warehaus Theatre/QPAC), *Of Our Own Volition* (Spangled Drongo Productions/Metro Arts), *As You Like It*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Monkey and His Magic Journey to the West* (Grin & Tonic Theatre Troupe). Ross developed and performed in an original Shakespeare compilation production *Strangers* on the Globe Stage London. **As Director:** shake & stir's annual in-school seasons and productions of *Out Damn Snot*, *STATESPEARE* (shake & stir/La Boite); *Thus I Die!*, *Bard-Wired* and *Love is an Ass* (University of Southern Queensland).

Tim Dashwood – Benjamin / Snowball

For shake & stir: Debut. **Other Theatre:** Tim starred in David Williamson's World Premiere of *Managing Carmen* (Queensland Theatre Company & Black Swan State Theatre Company), *Romeo & Juliet* (QTC), *The Last 5 Years* (Ignatians), *Dead Cargo* (co-presented by Metro Arts Independents), *Fame - the Musical* (2010 National Tour), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Rabbit Hole* and *The Exception & The Rule* (QTC), *The Year Nick McGowan Came to Stay* (La Boite), *The Awfully Big Adventures of Peter Pan* (Harvest Rain), *Much Ado About Nothing* (4mbs), *The Reunion*, *Love Song Dedications* and *Donna's Party* (Metro Arts), *Mandragora* (Short & Sweet Festival - awarded Best Actor & Best Drama). With the Queensland Arts Council, he has toured regional Queensland in *Zoological*, *idotludotu* and *Hermes and the Naked Flame*. **Film & Television:** the independent feature - *Dartworth*, and short films: *Cowboys*, *Stars & Angels*, *Cravings*, *Stolen Honour* and *Tunnel Vision* (QPIX - awarded QNFA Best Actor), *Myles West* (48 hr Short Film Festival – Awarded Best Actor) and *Tightrope* (RACQ/Qld Police).

Nelle Lee – Mollie / Clover

For shake & stir: Nelle is a founding member and Co-Artistic director of shake & stir and has written and performed in productions across the country. Nelle co-created, wrote and performed in the Helpmann Award nominated *STATESPEARE* (2009, 2011, 2011 national tour), performed in the Matilda Award winning *Animal Farm* and co-adapted and performed in *1984* and co-wrote and performed in *Out Damn Snot* (shake & stir/La Boite). **Other Theatre:** *The Crucible*, *Maxine Mellor's Mystery Project*, *Property of the Clan* (Queensland Theatre Company). *Complete Works of William Shakespeare by Chicks & ALICE* (Harvest Rain Theatre Company). Nelle also appeared in *Magda's Fascination with Wax Cats* (The Forward Movement/Metro Arts Independence), *Catholic School Girls* (Three Sisters Productions) and *Newton's Law* (Strut 'n' Fret/QLD Arts Council). **Film & Television:** *Sea Patrol* seasons 2 & 3, *Mortified* and the feature film *JUCY*. **Training:** Bachelor Theatre Arts (Acting) from the University of Southern Queensland. **Awards:** 2011 USQ Alumnus Award, 2011 USQ Arts Faculty Award.

Bryan Probets – Squealer / Old Major

For shake & stir: *1984*, *Animal Farm* (2011). **Other Theatre:** *Pygmalion*, *Waiting For Godot*, *Taking Aim*, *The Alchemist*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Private Fears in Public Places*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Venetian Twins*, *Scapin*, *The Lonesome West*, *Mano Nera*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Road to She-Devil's Salon*, *The Works 2003* (Queensland Theatre Company); *Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness* (with Sydney Theatre Company), *As You Like It*, *The Wishing Well*, *The Danger Age*, *The Year Nick McGowan Came to Stay*, *Operator*, *Crèche and Burn*, *Way Out West*, *Milo's Wake*, *Hermes and the Naked Flame* (La Boite Theatre Company/Queensland Arts Council) all for La Boite. *Vikram and the Vampire* (Zen Zen Zo); *The Composer is Dead* (Out of the Box); *Australia The*

Show! (Hothouse Theatre Company); *The A to Z of Cabaret* (Brisbane Cabaret Festival/Qld Arts Council); *Zoological* (Kite Theatre/Schnapper Head), *Credo the Innocence of God* (Queensland Music Festival). **Film:** *The Great Gatsby*, *The rainway Man*, *Singularity*, *A Heartbeat Away*, *Daybreakers*, *Triangle*, *The Proposition*, *Nim's Island*, *Subdivision*, *The Horseman*, *Punishment* and *Hildegard*. **Television:** *Monarch Cove*, *Starter Wife*, *Fat Cow Motel*, *Love Weights*, *Farmkids*. **Awards:** 2012 Matilda Award, Two Matilda Commendations (2012, 2003), MEAA Award for Emerging Artist (2003). **Training:** Bryan is a graduate of USQ.

Nick Skubij – Adaptor / Napoleon / Jones

For shake & stir: Nick co-adapted and performed in 1984, adapted and performed in the Matilda Award winning *Animal Farm*, co-created and performed in the Helpmann Award nominated *STATESPEARE* (2009, 2011, 2011 national tour) and co-wrote and performed in *Out Damn Snot* (shake & stir/La Boite). As a co-founder and co-Artistic Director of shake & stir theatre co, Nick has devised, directed and performed in numerous productions. **Other Theatre:** *Romeo & Juliet* (Queensland Theatre Company), *EUROBEAT* (QPAC), *Citizen Jane* (JUTE), *Crackle*, *Snap*, *Pop* (JUTE/QTC), *Surviving Jonah Salt* (KEDT/JUTE), *Flutter* (JUTE), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Oscar Theatre Co), *The Fiveways* (Brisbane Festival) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Harvest Rain Theatre Company). Nick has also worked for Grin & Tonic Theatre Troupe in 2005-2006. He has performed at a number of major arts festivals including Scene Change Playwrights Festival (Tasmania), NT Festival of the Arts, Festival Cairns and Brisbane Festival. Trained in classical dance, Nick has danced with the Queensland Ballet and has choreographed and performed in various corporate dance troupes. **Film & Television:** *TOYBOX* season 2.

Michael Futcher – Director

For shake & stir: 1984, *Animal Farm* **Other Theatre:** Michael has worked over the past 25 years with many of Queensland's major theatre companies in various capacities, including actor, director, dramaturg and writer, and, with Helen Howard, is the joint Artistic Director of Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre and Matrix Theatre. **As Director:** for Queensland Theatre Company: *Treasure Island*, *Grimm Tales*, *Rabbit Hole*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Oz Shorts*, *A Life In The Theatre* (Noosa Long Weekend), *Blithe Spirit* (Assistant Director) and *Explosions* (education production); For La Boite: *Walking By Apple Tree Creek*, *The Drowning Bride*, *James and Johnno*, *Salt* and, in co-production with Matrix Theatre and the Brisbane Festival, the critically-acclaimed *A Beautiful Life*, which toured nationally in 2000 winning Michael Best Director at the Victorian Green Room Awards along with three other awards; For Zen Zen Zo: *Vikram and the Vampire*; For Matrix Theatre: *The Wishing Well*, *The King and the Corpse!*, *1347* and *Cutting Loose*. In 2009, Michael's production of *The Kursk* (Matrix/Metro Independents/Critical stages) toured nationally to over 35 venues receiving a Helpmann Award nomination and 3 Matilda Awards, including Best Director. Other productions include: *Dirty Apple* (Opera Qld/Backbone), *As You Like It*, *Jane Eyre*, *Cymbeline*, *The Crucible*, *Three Sisters*, *The Duel*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Camille* (QUT), *Jane Eyre* (USQ) and *Macbeth* (Rheingold Theatre Club, London). **Awards:** Michael has won several Matilda Awards, a Green Room Award and a Playlab Award, and been nominated for a Helpmann Award, an Awgie, and 2 Queensland Premier's Drama Awards.

Josh McIntosh – Designer

For shake & stir: *Out Damn Snot*, 1984, *Animal Farm*, *STATESPEARE* (2011, 2011 national tour). **Other Theatre:** Josh has designed *Rabbit Hole* and design consultant for *Thom Pain* (Queensland Theatre Company). *Treasure Island* (Matrix & Queensland Theatre Company). *The Kursk* (with Critical Stages & Matrix), *The Wishing Well* (with Matrix), *The Danger Age*, *The Year Nick McGowan Came To Stay*, and *Red Cap* (La Boite). *Spamalot* and *April's Fool* (Toowoomba's Empire Theatre). Josh has designed many shows for Harvest Rain Theatre Company including *Hairspray*, *The Neverending Story*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Alice*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Lion The Witch & The Wardrobe*. *Ithica Road*, *Chasing the Lollyman*, and *Snagged* (deBase). Josh is the Artistic Director and writer/collaborator of Directions Musical Theatre Company, who tour regularly throughout Australia and overseas. **Awards:** Matilda

Award for Body of Work (2011), Groundling Awards for Set Design (2011) and Costume Design (2011), Del Arte Chart Award every year since 2004.

Jason Glenwright – Lighting Designer

For shake & stir: *Out Damn Snot, 1984, Animal Farm.* **Other Theatre:** Most recent highlights include: *The Removalists, Faustus* (Co-Pro Bell Shakespeare/Queensland Theatre Company), *Water Falling Down, The Little Dog Laughed, Thom Pain (Based On Nothing)* (Queensland Theatre Company); *Ruben Guthrie, Julius Caesar* (La Boite) *A Hoax* (La Boite/Griffin) *The Kursk* (La Boite/Matrix Theatre); *While Others Sleep* (Expressions Dance), *DRAG Queensland* (Queensland Music Festival); *The Tempest* (Zen Zen Zo); *At Sea, Staring Up, The Shining Path, Cake* (JUTE); *Gaijin* (Gardens Theatre); *Hairspray, The Neverending Story, The Wizard Of Oz, Aladdin, Jesus Christ Superstar, Songs For A New World, Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Peter Pan, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Harvest Rain/QPAC); *My Name Is Rachel Corrie, Blackbird* (La Boite Indie); *Dead Cargo, Trolley Boys, Tender, The Truth About Kookaburras, The Pillowman, Bronte, The Ghost Writer, The Kursk* (Metro Independents); *[Title Of Show]* (Oscar Theatre Company); *Chasing The Lollyman* (Debase). **Awards:** Four of Jason's lighting designs have been nominated for Matilda Awards.

Guy Webster – Composer / Sound Designer

For shake & stir: *Out Damn Snot, 1984, Animal Farm, STATESPEARE* (2009, 2011, 2011 national tour). Guy Webster is a performer, composer, musician, sound designer and teacher. While his live performances have earned him a reputation as a prolific and inspiring songwriter, his work in interactive composition and sound design has featured in festivals, galleries, conferences and theatres in Australia, Japan, UK, Europe, USA and China. **Other Theatre:** *Orphans* (Queensland Theatre Company), *As You Like It, Ruben Guthrie, I Love You, Bro, The Pineapple Queen, The White Earth, Kitchen Diva, Summer Wonderland, The Narcissist, Last Drinks, Urban Dingoos and Creche & Burn* (La Boite), *Water Wars* (Umber Productions), *Vikram And The Vampire* (Zen Zen Zo), *The New Dead: Medea Material* (Stella Elekrika), *Paradise – The Musical* (Backbone Youth Arts), *Advanced Screening* (Markwell Presents), *Under Today* (Red Shoes), *The Pipe Manager, The Pineapple Queen* (Lisa O'Neill), *Alice 21* (Brisbane Festival), *Salome, Heavy Metal Hamlet* (Frank Theatre), *Intimate Transactions* (Transmute Collective), *Shifting Intimacies* (ICA, London), *Cherish Exhibition* (QPAC's Out of the Box Festival) **Other Music:** Guy has released several CDs and performed on many stages supporting the likes of Beth Orton, Ed Harcourt, Powderfinger, The Cruel Sea, Mad Professor, Eskimo Joe, Ben Lee and Sarah Blasko.