

OLD MILL THEATRE PRESENTS

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD

Rabbit Hole

DAVID LINDSAY- ABAIRE'S PULITZER PRIZE WINNING PLAY



2023
**FRINGE
WORLD**
FEEL GOOD

OLD
MILL
THEATRE

A stylized red and black logo graphic consisting of several radiating lines forming a fan or sunburst shape.

Rabbit Hole

About the Play

Rabbit Hole was written by David Lindsay-Abaire and premiered on Broadway in 2006. The play was the recipient of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The season ran for 77 performances and received five Tony Award nominations in 2006: Best Play, Best Direction, Best Performance by a Featured Actress (Tyne Daly) and Best Scenic Design. Cynthia Nixon won the 2006 Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actress. Rabbit Hole deals with the ways family members survive a major loss, and is punctuated with comedy and tragedy.

The play had its Spanish language premiere in Puerto Rico in 2010 and this 2023 OMT production is the world premiere of the play's queer adaptation. The film version premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2010, starring Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart.

About the Author

David Lindsay-Abaire is an American playwright, lyricist and screenwriter, born in 1969 in Boston, Massachusetts. He attended Milton Academy and concentrated on theatre at Sarah Lawrence College, graduating in 1992. He was accepted into the Juilliard School in New York, where he wrote under the tutelage of playwrights Marsha Norman and Christopher Durang (from 1996 to 1998).

Notable works include the musical version of High Fidelity, Shrek the Musical, Good People and Ripcord and most recently, Kimberly Akimbo (musical) Off-Broadway in 2021.

Lindsay-Abaire and wife Christine, live in Brooklyn, New York. In 2016, Lindsay-Abaire was named the co-director of Juilliard's, Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program.

Welcome

Welcome to the Old Mill Theatre's production of Rabbit Hole. It has been a seven-year journey for us in bringing a queer adaptation of Rabbit Hole to the stage. We are thrilled to bring this powerful, beautiful story about the human experience to audiences. After seeing the film in 2011, Rabbit Hole profoundly impacted us. David Lindsay-Abaire's script so eloquently helps us understand the experience of being in the rabbit hole of grief, loss, depression, and anxiety. However, it does more than just take us down the Rabbit Hole; it shows us how to find our way through the dark and come out on the other side.

Directors

Christopher Hill



Erin Hegarty



Erin and I have a long history of performing together across Australia; however, this is our first joint directing project. It's been a pleasure working on such an incredibly written play in our home state, WA. We hope you enjoy the performance as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to life.

Many thanks to our cast and crew who have worked extremely hard on Rabbit Role, and Old Mill Theatre for allowing us to bring our vision to their beautiful, cosy theatre.

*Set in contemporary Perth,
Western Australia*

Rabbit Hole

ACT 1

20 Minute Interval

ACT 2

Scene 1: Saturday, late February

Scene 2: Later that same night

Scene 3: Evening, a week later

Scene 4: Later that same night

Scene 1: 2 months later, May, PM

Scene 2: A week later

Scene 3: A few days later

Scene 4: Later that same day

The Cast

Ben Corbett	Christopher Hill
Howie Corbett	Cameron Leese
Nat	Valerie Henry
Izzy	Erin Hegarty
Jason Willette	Bella Hill
Understudy	Altus Vernoooy

The Production Team

Directors	Christopher Hill & Erin Hegarty
Stage Manager	Sierra Phillips
Assistant Stage Manager	Altus Vernoooy
Set Design & Construction	George Boyd
Set Dressing/Décor/Props	Erin, Christopher & Sierra
Wardrobe	Erin Hegarty
Technical Advisor	John Woolrych
Lighting Design	Bailey Fellows
Lighting Operator	Bailey Fellows
Sound Design	Charlie Montgomery & Christopher Hill
Sound Operator	Charlie Montgomery
Promotion & Photography	Rosalyn Anderson
Poster/Programme Design	Rosalyn Anderson
Box Office	George Boyd
Bar Manager	Rex Gray
Front of House	Brenda Oliver-Harry



Christopher Hill

Christopher grew up in Fremantle and has been performing on stage, since the ripe age of 12. He studied performance at John Curtin College of the Arts and then continued with a BA in Performance at Curtin University. Chris has performed in multiple WA productions including: Hayman Theatre's production of Neil Labute's crime drama, *The Distance from Here* and Blue Room Theatre's apocalyptic drama *When We Wake*. His film appearances include Screen Australia's, *Holding the Man*, *Gallipoli's Deep Secrets*, for National Geographic and *Restare Uniti*, which went on to be screened in festivals worldwide and in competition at Cannes Film Festival.

His TV appearances include *Neighbours*, *Channel Nines*, *The Great Mint Swindle* and *Channel Sevens*, *First Dates*. Christopher moved to Melbourne in 2012, performing at Chapel off Chapel in Prahran, in Essendon Theatres dark comedy, *A Good Man and Mordialloc* Theatre's Pulitzer prize-winning drama, *Proof*, as Hal.

Christopher makes his return to Perth theatre in 2023, as Ben in *Rabbit Hole* and is excited to bring his vision to Old Mill Theatre audiences.



Cameron Leese

Cameron initially trained at Swinburne University, Melbourne prior to relocating to London in 2010, where he undertook further training at the Sylvia Young Theatre School and worked within the UK Film and television industry on feature and independent film, TV Shows & commercials. Since his stage debut in GRADS' 2013 production of *The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea*, Cameron has performed on stage for many of Perth's theatre groups.

Cameron was awarded as the Best Supporting Actor by *The Old Mill* in 2015 for his role in *It's All Greek to Me*. In 2019, KADS awarded Cameron the Dorothy McCartney Award for the Most Outstanding Performance, for his lead role in *The Return* (aka *The Last Train to Freo*). In 2020 Cameron performed in GRADS', *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which marked his Shakespearean debut and of performing at *The New Fortune Theatre*. That same year Cameron sashayed across the stage in the role of the camp & vivacious Emory, in GRADS' production of the iconic, *The Boys in the Band*.

Cameron is thrilled to be a part of this queer adaptation of *Rabbit Hole* and dedicates his performance to Magnus Leese.



Erin Hegarty

Erin Hegarty's passion for performing manifested in her teenage years and led her to begin a bachelor of Performing and Visual Arts at Curtin University. After performing in several Haymen Theatre and community theatre plays in Perth, Erin moved to Melbourne to complete her degree and study at the Melbourne Actors Lab. After several years of refining her acting muscle, devising new performances and performing in Melbourne, Erin travelled internationally before landing back in Perth to complete a Master of International Relations and open a NFP; Mama Respond International. Erin works as a researcher by day, performer at night and runs a charity in her sleep.



Valerie Henry

Valerie has been involved in theatre since Adam was a boy. Over the years she has performed on stage, screen and television in NSW, Queensland and WA. Her first love was musical theatre but on moving to a town that had no theatre, she co-founded a theatre company and the rest, as they say, is history. In recent years her favourite roles have included Miss Hannigan (Annie – Koorliny), Dot (The One Day of the Year – Old Mill) and Bea (Navigating – Melville), for which she received a Finley Best Actress nomination.

Valerie was thrilled to be asked to join this dynamic group producing and performing Rabbit Hole. Theatre is constantly evolving. The many changes made available to directors over the years has meant many challenging and innovative ways theatre can be presented. The co-directors of this production have implemented many. Valerie has enjoyed the challenge of working with the next generation of passionate theatre tragiqs.

Valerie has had more swansongs than Nellie Melba and still she returns to the stage. She hopes tonight you enjoy her interpretation of a modern mother, as she navigates a variety of situations which confront many families today.



Bella Hill

Isabella Hill (known as Bella) is extremely excited to make their acting debut as Jason in the Old Mill Theatre's production of Rabbit Hole, as part of the Fringe Festival. Bella has studied acting throughout high school whilst taking several acting classes with Harvest Rain Theatre Company. Outside of acting, Bella enjoys music by playing the clarinet and singing. Bella would like to thank her family and friends for being super supportive and to thank the Rabbit Hole production cast and crew for being such great mentors and idols, and even better friends.



Altus Vernooij

Altus has been acting since his primary school years, and fell in love with screen/film acting. As he got older he was afforded the opportunity to study in a more formal capacity; however life pushed things in a different direction. Altus was the 'Behind the Scenes Guy' for many moons, editing, filming and operating sound. Recently, he felt it was time to step back into the light that he once fell in love with, but this time on the theatre stage. Now it's Lights, Curtain Calls, and Action.

Upcoming Productions

Private Lives

Directed by Barry Park

14 - 29 April 2023



Pride and Prejudice

Directed by
Carmen and Jason Dohl

9 - 24 June 2023

