

Presented by Arts House and Side Pony Productions

THE CONFIDENCE MAN

SIDE PONY PRODUCTIONS

Arts House,
North Melbourne Town Hall
Wed 28 August –
Sun 1 September 2013
50 minutes
Post-show Q&A Thu 29 August

Creative Team

Director: **Zoe Pepper**
Writers: **Zoe Pepper** and **Adriane Daff**
Composer: **Ash Gibson Greig**
Mask Designer: **Rebecca Baumann**
Audio Arrangement & Sound Designer:
Sam Price
Lighting Designer: **Lucy Birkinshaw**
Sound Technician/Operator:
Marco Cher Gibard
Sound Equipment Consultant: **Hayley Forward**

Producer: **Gemma Pepper**
Props: **Nathan Nisbet**
Guns: **John Pepper**
Closing the wormhole: **Pierce Davison**

Performers (Audio): **Igor Sas** (Peter), **Brendan Ewing** (Alex), **Andrew Hale** (Sam), **Talei Howell Price** (Susan), **Kate Neylon** (Maria), **Adriane Daff** (Anita), **Mikala Westall** (Claire), **Will O'Mahony** (Constable Ross), **Sean Walsh** (Terry), **Kym Bidstrup** (Boss), **Brent Hill** (Tom)

artshouse.com.au
sideponyproductions.com

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Artistic Notes

The Confidence Man has been a long time coming. There have been many incarnations as we figured the best way to tackle the complexities of this project. Creating this work was a very different experience that stretched parts of my brain that don't ordinarily get flexed when creating devised theatre.

Starting out, we wanted to create an immersive experience that explored the intimacy of being right in the audience's ear.

I look forward to seeing the show performed by a new cast every night, to see how the characters play the game. There are a lot of things that could go wrong, but so many things that can go so right, so we decided to risk it.

I hope you have fun. Play big and play hard, it's all for you.

Zoe Pepper

Biographies

Zoe Pepper

Director/Co-Writer

Zoe Pepper is a director and writer for theatre, and more recently, film. In 2013 she directed and co-wrote the award-winning production, *The Wives of Hemingway*, which played as part of Perth's Fringe World festival. In 2011 and 2012 she worked with Sydney Theatre Company developing *The Lobotomist* and devising/directing *Fiddler's Coin* as part of the *Money Shots* series. In 2012 her work, *The Pride*, toured to the Edinburgh Fringe, where the show played its fourth season and was nominated for a Total Theatre Award. *The Pride* also played as part of Perth Theatre Company's 2011 season, the Under the Radar Festival, and at the Blue Room Theatre, where it was awarded the Best Production and Member's Choice Awards. Her original work is billed under the company name, Side Pony Productions.

Zoe Pepper's other directing credits include *Heart of Gold*, working in collaboration with Hold Your Horses and PICA; and *Rehearsals*

of a *Cross-Dressing Stepfather* for Limoncello Gallery (London). She was also Associate Director of *Don't Look Back* for UK company dreamthinkspeak, at the 2008 Perth International Arts Festival.

Adriane Daff

Co-Writer

Adriane Daff completed a BA in Theatre Arts at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2004. Being a keen deviser, she is an artistic associate of Zoe Pepper's Side Pony Productions. Some of her credits include *The Manic Pony*, *The Pride*, and most recently, *The Wives of Hemingway*. She has appeared in various shows for Black Swan State Theatre Company, Perth Theatre Company and Barking Gecko Theatre Company. She has furthered her acting studies at the Ward Acting Studio (Meisner) from 2007 to 2009 and at the Ecole Philippe Gaulier in 2011, where she completed a summer term in *Le Jeu*.

Ash Gibson Greig

Composer

The Confidence Man is Ash Gibson Greig's second collaboration with Zoe Pepper, following *Heart of Gold*, *The Musical* in 2009. He has composed the music for over 50 plays, including with Black Swan (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Arcadia*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*), Malthouse Theatre (*The Trial*), Barking Gecko (*The Amber Amulet*, *Troll from the Bowl*) and Thin Ice Productions (*The Visit*, *The Lady Aoi*, *Red Shoes*). He has also composed for television series and many documentaries that have screened in Australia and internationally; including *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *Murdoch*, *Desert War*, *Ned's Head*, *The Bombing of Darwin*, *Leaky Boat*, *Death of the Megabeasts* and *Time Trackers*. He has won several awards, including the APRA/Australian Guild of Screen Composers Award for his music for the short film *Iron Bird* (along with six other nominations); and has received two AACTA (AFI) Award nominations (*Jandamarras War* and *Singapore 1942*) and a Green Room Award nomination (*The Trial*).

Rebecca Baumann

Mask Designer

Rebecca Baumann is a visual artist from Perth, WA. She completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Curtin University of Technology in 2003. She has participated in exhibitions both in Australia and internationally, including *Bazinga!* at Starkwhite, Auckland, New Zealand (2013); *LUMINOUSFLUX*, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Perth (2013); *Contemporary Australia: Women*, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane (2012); *Primavera*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2011); and *NEW11*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2011).

Rebecca Baumann has been the recipient of the Veolia Primavera Acquisitive Art Award (2012), the *Art & Australia/Credit Suisse Private Banking Contemporary Art Award* (2011), and the Qantas Spirit of Youth Award (2009). In 2012 she undertook a residency in New York at The International Studio & Curatorial Program. This is her second collaboration with Side Pony Productions, following *The Manic Pony* in 2006.

Sam Price

Audio Arrangement & Sound Designer

Sam Price is an award-winning musician and filmmaker. Under the name Naik, he creates unique and progressive experiments in electronic music. His debut album, *In the Shadow of Thunder Mountain*, has received critical acclaim and airplay throughout Australia. Similarly, his live show, which fuses cutting-edge technology and traditional instrumentation, has been critically recognised and was voted the best Australian live performance of the year in the 2009 Drum Media writers' poll. He has received five West Australian Music Industry (WAMI) award nominations and four Perth Dance Music Awards nominations, among other media awards.

As a filmmaker Sam Price has produced and directed WAMI-award-winning music videos for the likes of Birds of Tokyo, Kito & Reija Lee, Eleventh He Reaches London and Downsyde. He is also an animator and VFX artist. His menu design and creative direction for

Cut & Paste DVD magazine helped the publication to win the 'best cross-platform media' category three times at the WA Screen Awards.

Lucy Birkinshaw

Lighting Designer

Lucy Birkinshaw graduated from WAAPA in Lighting Design and from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts; and is a co-founder of the Filament Design Group. Her design work spans theatre, music theatre, concert lighting, opera, dance, film and television.

Lucy Birkinshaw's design credits include *flowerchildren*, *The Hatpin*, *Sondheim Triptych*, *A Jerry Herman Triptych*, *[Title of Show]* and *Life's A Circus* (Magnormos); *Merlyn Quaife – Opera XS*, *Happiness* and *Africa* (Malthouse Theatre); *The Seizure*, *Delectable Shelter* and *Spring Awakening* (The Hayloft Project); *Becks Music Box 2009–11* (Perth International Arts Festival); *The Pride*, *Taking Liberty*, *The Matchmaker*, *Baby Boomer Blues* and *Dealer's Choice* (Perth Theatre Company); and *The Messiah*, *Woyzeck* and *Falling Petals* (Black Swan Theatre Company). In 2009 she was nominated for a Green Room Award for her design for *Life's a Circus* (Magnormos) in the Music Theatre category. She is resident lighting designer for Magnormos, an independent producer of music theatre in Melbourne.

Thank You

Side Pony Productions would like to sincerely thank all those who took the time to help us get this project off the ground: Eclipse Light and Sound – Chris and James, Steve Berrick, Kate Neylon, pvi collective, Neil Simpson, Van Badham, Bernie Gibson, Paul Prestipino, Saju Abraham, Holly Pepper, Elizabeth Honey and Andrew Clarke, Fiona de Garis, Julie and John Pepper, Nathan Nisbet, Sue and Mick Daff, Shauna Daff, and the Malthouse Theatre. A big thank you also to Sydney Festival.

Arts House

Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, exhibitions, live art, residencies and other activities that nurture, support and stimulate cultural engagement. We value work in which artists at different stages of their careers, as well as our diverse audiences and communities, are actively involved in creating an imaginative, just and environmentally sustainable global society.

Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. Approximately half of this work is selected through an Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or co-author their work.

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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