

BACK TO BACK THEATRE

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ENSEMBLE Mark Deans, Rita Halabarec, Nicki Holland,
Simon Laherty, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price, Sonia Teuben
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Bruce Gladwin
GENERAL MANAGER Alice Nash
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MANAGER Sue Hartigan
ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE Marcia Ferguson
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER Stacey Baldwin
FINANCIAL OFFICER Marisa Chiappi
FUNDING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT Pauline Cady
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT Rose Hiscock (Chair), Ian
Bracegirdle, Bobbie Hodge, Gillian Hoystead, Simon Laherty,
Patsie Frawley, Patrick Over, Yoni Prior, Ann Tonks

ARTS HOUSE

Arts House celebrates the transformative power of art, inspiring dynamic community engagement and challenging cultural boundaries for both audiences and artists alike. With great enthusiasm, Arts House pursues an unflinching commitment to new ideas and contemporary arts practices with an annual curated program of provocative art.

Arts House is a City of Melbourne initiative that supports the arts and makes Melbourne a more creative and liveable city, committed to the development of new arts practices, works and audiences.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Steven Richardson
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Kate Ben-Tovim
PROGRAM PRODUCER Jude Gun
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR Adrian Aderhold
TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR Tom Howie

PERFORMING LINES

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Performing Lines develops, produces and tours contemporary Australian performance nationally and internationally — across genres including physical theatre, circus, dance, indigenous and intercultural arts, music theatre, hybrid work, and text-based theatre. Since 1990, we have toured 100 productions to 300 locations around the world.

GENERAL MANAGER Wendy Blacklock AM
PRODUCER Harley Stumm
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Nina Bonacci
PRODUCTION MANAGER Tristan Taylor
COORDINATOR Claire Portek
BOOKKEEPER Linda Luke
Performing Lines is assisted by the Australia Council,
and by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

MOBILE STATES: TOURING CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE, AUSTRALIA

Mobile States is a consortium of Australia's major independent contemporary performance presenters: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts; Brisbane Powerhouse; Arts House, Melbourne; Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart; Performance Space, Sydney; and tour producer Performing Lines.

It was established to provide touring opportunities for small companies and independent artists in contemporary practice, and enable audiences across the country to experience performance works from outside their home towns.

Mobile States: Touring Contemporary Performance, Australia, is a national touring initiative of the Australia Council, supported by its Theatre and Dance Boards and its Inter-Arts Office.

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts.

The next Mobile States tour is Lucy Guerin Inc's Love Me, touring nationally from 25 July to 8 September 2007.

BACK TO BACK THEATRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Jude, Steven, Kate, Adrian and Tom at Arts House, all at Performing Lines, especially Wendy, Nina and Claire, Kristy Edmunds, Mary-Ellen King, David McGinness, Paul Summers and the Bluebottle3 office, Australian Touring Services (ATS), Lachlan Carrick, Therese Scalise, Andrea Schade, Debra Jefferies, Ann Tonks, Cameron McNaughton, friends, families, loved ones and long-standing fans of Back to Back Theatre. Thank you so much.

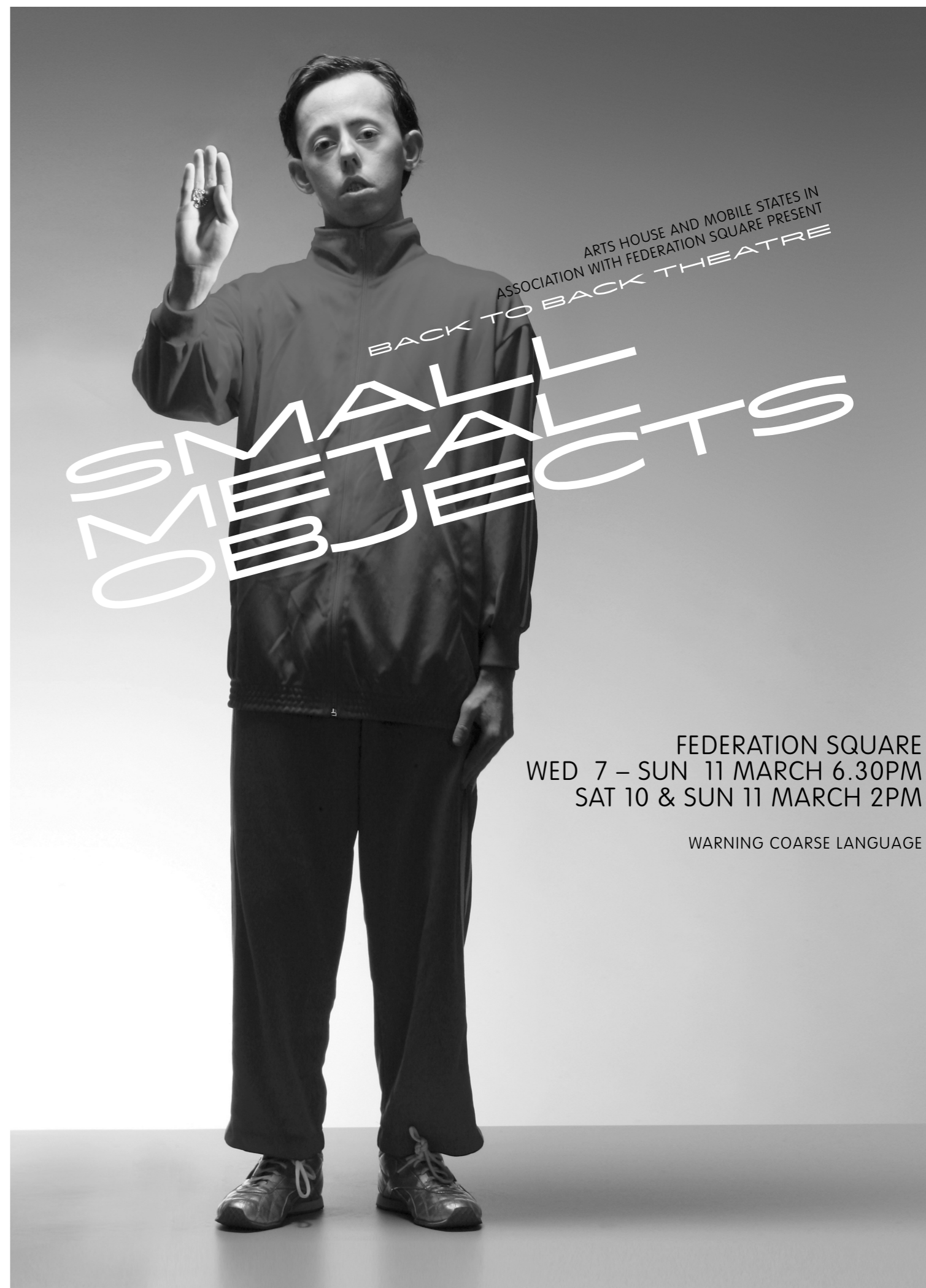
small metal objects was initiated through the Victoria Commissions, supported by the Victorian Government, through the Community Support Fund and has been presented by the Australian Government through the Australia Council. The work was developed and premiered with support from the Melbourne International Arts Festival, City of Melbourne, The Myer Foundation, RE Ross Trust, The Percy Baxter Charitable Trusts, Connex and V/Line.

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MOBILESTATES
TOURING CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE, AUSTRALIA



ARTS HOUSE



DIRECTOR’S NOTES

small metal objects has been inspired by the thoughts and philosophies of actor Sonia Teuben. Her creation of the character Gary was the catalyst for the other three characters to be born. Sonia’s intelligence and philosophical insight has had a dramatic impact not only on the development of small metal objects, but also Back to Back’s work over the last 13 years.

Set and played in a civic space, small metal objects offers two narratives. The first is the conventional drama, a story of two invisible men. The second is the unconventional, the disposition of a seating bank transforming a public space into a stage.

BRUCE GLADWIN

ABOUT BACK TO BACK THEATRE

Back to Back Theatre was founded in Geelong in 1987 to create theatre with people who are perceived to have an intellectual disability. It has since gone on to become one of Australia’s leading creative voices, focusing on moral, philosophical and political questions about the value of individual lives.

With an ensemble of six actors, Back to Back creates work that is idiosyncratic, passionate and at times confronting. Back to Back’s ensemble of actors with an intellectual disability are the real outsiders in a culture obsessed with perfection and surgically enhanced “beauty”. This position of marginality provides them with a unique and sometimes subversive view of the world. The stories they create explore the “cold dark side” of our times, be it the sexuality of people with disabilities, the uses of artificial intelligence and genetic screening, unfulfilled desire, the inevitability of death, and society’s fixation with economic rationalism and utilitarianism and what this means for people excluded from the “norm”.

small metal objects sold out at its premiere in the 2005 Melbourne International Arts Festival, winning the inaugural Age Critics’ Awards Special Commendation and was nominated for a Helpmann Award (Best New Australian Work). The production was also the sell-out smash hit of the recent 2007 Sydney Festival being hailed the “*jewel of the theatre program*” (The Sun-Herald).

small metal objects is produced and toured by Performing Lines for Mobile States: Touring Contemporary Performance, Australia. This season is part of a national tour to Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne, Mildura, Bendigo and Hobart.

Back to Back’s 2002 production, soft, won The Age Critics’ Award for Creative Excellence at the 2002 Melbourne Festival and was nominated for a Helpmann Award (Best New Australian Script). soft, along with Cow (2000), toured to European festivals in 2003.

Back to Back’s next major work, with the working title **Dumb**, is slated to premiere in Melbourne in 2008.

DEVISORS Bruce Gladwin, Simon Laherty, Genevieve Morris, Jim Russell, Sonia Teuben
DIRECTOR Bruce Gladwin
PERFORMERS Simon Laherty, Genevieve Picot, James Saunders, Allan V Watt
SOUND COMPOSITION & DESIGN Hugh Covill
COSTUME DESIGN Shio Otani
DRAMATURGY Melissa Reeves
PRODUCTION MANAGER Andrew Livingston, Bluebottle3
STAGE MANAGER Bernadette Sweeney
SOUND OPERATOR Phillip Pietruschka
STILLS PHOTOGRAPHY Jeff Busby

HUGH COVILL A composer, sound designer and audio engineer, Hugh’s sound design work has included musicals, ballet, installations, casino spectacles, film, television and many mixed media performance events. He is at the leading edge of artists working with surround sound. He considers working in the live performance medium as offering the most challenging opportunities for the creation of truly immersive listening experiences. Most recently he was awarded the inaugural ‘Technical Design Initiative’ from the Australia Council for the Arts from applicants across Australia in all technical disciplines. The initiative afforded him the opportunity to undertake specific research in electro-acoustic modeling and sound design in the United States of America. He is a staff writer for Audio Technology an Australasian technical journal.

BRUCE GLADWIN specialises in the development of adventurous theatrical work, working as director, designer and writer. He currently works as Artistic Director at Back to Back Theatre for which he has created four major new works: Mental (1999), Dog Farm (2000), soft (2002) and small metal objects (2005). Under his direction the company has also produced several short films – Porn Star has screened at film festivals in Salsrund, Montreal, London and Sydney – and undertaken residencies from regional Victoria to Tokyo. Work prior to Back to Back included extensive collaboration with Rosemary Myers at Arena Theatre Company. The Anthropop trilogy (Autopsy, Mass and Panacea) has been recognised for its dynamic integration of technology and theatre both nationally and internationally. In 1998 Autopsy toured to North America while Panacea premiered to acclaim at the Melbourne International Festival. In 1999, the trilogy along with Oblong garnered the prestigious ASSITEJ International Honorary President’s Award for inspiring, provocative and experimental ways of expressing a new theatrical language. Bruce’s other credits include The Island with Lano & Woodley, Blue Rinse Club with MOMO (Museum of Modern Oddities) for the 2004 Melbourne International Festival, Road Movie for Melbourne Workers Theatre and act director with Circus Oz’s New York season at the New Victory.

SIMON LAHERTY first worked at Back to Back when he was a student at Nelson Park School, devising and performing in Drag Races in Love (1999). From 2001 to 2003 Simon was an important contributor to the development and growth of Theatre of Speed, taking lead roles in Arnold, Fishman and the short film 12 Ways to Open a Door. Simon joined Back to Back in 2003. In 2004, Simon starred in the independent short film Rodney. In 2005 he played the character of Lucky Phil in the feature film Noise.

ANDREW LIVINGSTON has 12 years design and production experience working in the theatrical medium. Andrew has worked with most of the major theatre companies and arts organisations in Melbourne either freelance or through his involvement with Bluebottle. In 2003 he undertook the study of Illuminance Engineering part time at RMIT, further developing his technical knowledge of lighting. Andrew is committed to extending the bounds of light and performance integration.

PHILLIP PIETRUSCHKA is a Melbourne based sound engineer. He has worked on theatre shows in 2006 including The Scarlet Pimpernel (Cloc Theatre), and The Last Five Years (Melbourne Music Theatre). He frequently works at a wide ranges of theatres and venues around Victoria. His is also a composer, under which auspices he has recently released a CD Itinerant Labours published by Cajid Media.

GENEVIEVE PICOT graduated from NIDA in 1979. Her many MTC credits include Ray’s Tempest, The Aunt’s Story, The Rain Dancers, Away, Miss Bosnia, My Father’s Daughter, Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, Arcadia, A Flea in her Ear, The Sisters Rosensweig, Summer of the Aliens, On Top of the World, The Respectable Wedding, The Rivers of China, The Benefactors, Sons of Cain, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Top Girls, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, The Changeling, As You Like It, and Antigone. Genevieve’s other theatre credits include Hotel Sorrento, Volpone, The Comedy of Errors, Happy End, Wild Honey, This is the Way the World Ends and Tales From the Vienna Woods. Her television credits include Medivac, Fire II, Frontline, Law of the Land, Halifax fp, Bread and Roses, Fast Forward – The Making of Nothing, Seven Deadly Sins-Wrath, Max Gillies- Vietnam Vets, Acropolis Now, Good Vibrations, GP, Inside Running, All the Way, The Four Minute Mile, The Fast Lane, The Petrov Affair, A Long Way Home, A Descant for Gossips, Cop Shop, Carson’s Law, The Sullivans, Timeless Land and Skyways. Genevieve’s film credits include Deeper Than Blue, True Love and Chaos, Muriel’s Wedding, Proof, Tea and Pictures, To Market To Market and Undercover. Genevieve received the 1994 New Zealand Film Festival award for Best Performance in a television Series for Bread and Roses, the 1994 New Zealand Film Festival award for Best Performance in a Feature Film for Bread and Roses. In 1983 Genevieve received a nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role for Undercover, and again in 1991, an AFI nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role for Proof.

JAMES SAUNDERS has performed with the Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare Company, Playbox and La Mama, as well as in both the Melbourne International and Fringe festivals. Recent Theatre credits include Fat Pig for Sydney Theatre Company, and Bell Shakespeare’s Two Gentlemen of Verona. He won a Best Actor Green Room Award for Stuck Pigs Squealing’s The Black Swan of Trespass, which then toured to New York, (winner of 4 Green Room awards, 2 New York International Fringe Festival awards, and 2 Melbourne Fringe Awards). Other work with Stuck Pigs includes Woyceck (Melbourne Theatre Company Wings Project 2003). He was also a member of the Green Room Award winning ensemble Playbox Inside 2001, where he featured in Seven Days of Silence, Ancient Enmity and Public Dancing.

James received a Goethe Institute Scholarship to Berlin in 2005. Some other theatrical credits include Inheritance, Full Dress Productions 2006; Conquest of the South Pole, Store Room 2004; Ivan Ilych in The Death of Ivan Ilych, Melbourne International Festival 2002; Minutiae and Gilgamesh for Uncle Semolina and Friends; Speculator for theatre@risk. TV credits include Wilfred for SBS, Blue Heelers and Stingers. James featured in the German/Australian co-production short film A Familiar Lullaby shot in Germany in June 2004. James is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts.

SONIA TEUBEN has been creating powerful, passionate, intensely emotional, and at times confronting performances with Back to Back Theatre since she joined the company in 1993. Sonia brings her own unique and highly personal view of the world to each character she creates. Her one-woman play, Gina’s Story (1995) has been published in a collection of stories about women with intellectual disabilities. Sonia has performed in joint productions with Melbourne Workers Theatre, Handspan, Circus Oz and Arena Theatre Company.

Sonia stars in the 2002 short film Porn Star (originally part of Back to Back’s Dog Farm) which has screened at festivals in Germany, Montreal and London. Sonia has worked with Muse Company in Tokyo, toured with Back to Back’s acclaimed soft to Germany and Switzerland and most recently created the character of Gary for small metal objects.

BERNADETTE SWEENEY first started working in theatre while studying Chemical Engineering at University. By the time she graduated she had worked out that theatre was much more her style! She has worked with many companies including St Martin’s Youth Theatre, Chunky Move, Garry Ginivan, Back to Back, TML Enterprises and Mamma Mia! Berni also had a stint as the Technical Manager at St Martin’s Youth Arts Centre and as Head Electrician at Her Majesty’s Theatre (Melbourne). Recently Berni has been working on Ngapartiji Ngapartiji for Big hART and touring the country with Eurobeat and It’s A Dad Thing!

SHIO OTANI designs for a variety of media including costume, graphics and installations. After relocating from Japan to Australia, she completed a BA in dance at the Victorian College of the Arts and then studied fashion design at Box Hill Institute. Shio has worked with choreographers Shelley Lasica and Kage Physical Theatre. She has also worked with filmmaker Rhian Hinkley, artist David Rosetzky and Back to Back Theatre on the award winning work soft (2002).

ALLAN V WATT When, in grade one, the teacher brought out a play to cold read, Allan knew that was what he wanted to do. At 10 years of age he played a character called Chopito in a play called El Dia del la Palloma, (‘the day of the dove’ in Spanish), produced and directed by his grandfather. Allan has been acting ever since, performing in short films and with Theatre of Speed.