

I would like to thank all of the subjects of this show, living and dead, who have unknowingly contributed so much to it: they are all much more interesting people than I am and it has been my privilege to associate with my reinventions of them. Only one of the subjects of the show knows he is included in it and his response has been disgruntled but very funny. There is a letter from him on my website.

Here's a bit of background. Towards the end of 2010 I found myself to be in a creative quagmire: my acting career continued to rumble along but my ability to make work was moribund. As a last-ditch attempt to revive the patient, I applied to the Australia Council for a two-year fellowship. To my astonishment, they responded positively to my cry for help (thinly disguised as a grant application). Between 2011 and 2014, I elected to collaborate with 25 significant colleagues with whom I had worked during the four decades of my theatrical career. Each little collaboration was to last one week, had no pre-planning and was entirely open-ended. Despite this, several common themes emerged – Shakespeare, Pinter, Ted Hughes, theatre, London and misery were the most prevalent. These themes inform and infuse **EDMUND. THE BEGINNING**. Those who will recognise their contribution to this show are Lally Katz, Luke Mullins, Anna Tregloan, Matt Lutton, John Bolton and, of course, Peter Evans and Susie Dee; but all of my collaborators have had a huge influence on the reawakening of my creative confidence, and in fact there are now several other productions in the pipeline that have been inspired by work with my other collaborators.

I have posted an abbreviated record of my fellowship on my website. I thank the Australia Council for a truly life-changing experience. Let us hope that this vital institution can recover from the severe insult and disruption it has recently suffered.

Brian Lipson

Creative Team

Writer, Performer & Designer:
Brian Lipson
 Director and Co-Creator:
 Peter Evans
 Costume Designers:
 Brian Lipson, Mel Page
 Outside Eyes:
 Susie Dee (Melbourne) and Lucy Bailey (London)
 Producer:
 Wendy Lasica
 Promotional Video:
 Justin Batchelor
 Publicity & Production Photographs:
 Sarah Walker
 Stage Manager:
 Hayley Fox

Important Note

EDMUND. THE BEGINNING is a work of fiction and does not portray or depict real events. The work has not been created with the agreement of, or authorised by, Daniel Brand or Frieda Hughes or any of the other persons portrayed (or their estates). All spoken text has been composed by the writer and, apart from a few short quotations from Shakespeare, all of it is invented and original.



Biographies

Brian Lipson
 Writer, Performer & Designer

Actor, director, designer, writer and teacher, Brian Lipson, has been working in theatre for more than 40 years. He grew up in London, but has lived in Melbourne for the last 17 years. He has acted with nearly all the major theatre companies in Australia, from state theatres to the most adventurous independent companies; and has directed and devised many shows. His solo work, *A Large Attendance in the Antechamber*, received wide acclaim at the Edinburgh, Sydney and Adelaide festivals, and toured the USA. Brian Lipson is often seen acting on television and film, and has taught acting at the VCA. He has been nominated for seven Green Room Awards and won three of them. His large-scale work, *Bergasse 19 – The Apartments of Sigmund Freud*, sold out at the 2005 Melbourne Festival.

Peter Evans
 Director

Peter Evans is Co-Artistic Director of Bell Shakespeare, for which he has directed *As You Like It*, *Tartuffe*, *Phaedra*, *The Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Tempest*, and *Intimate Letters* with the ACO. As Associate Director at MTC (2007–10) he directed *Cybourne Park*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Life Without Me*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *The Ugly One*, *The Grenade*, *God of Carnage*, *Savage River*, *Realism*, *The Hypocrite*, *Blackbird*, *Don Juan in Soho*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *The History Boys*, *Don's Party*, *The Give and Take*, *Dumbshow* and *The Daylight Atheist*. He has also directed for STC, New Zealand's Court Theatre, Queensland Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, Theatre Jamb at the Bondi Pavilion, Theatre Adam at the SBW Stables, and the Studio Company at Belvoir St Theatre.

Susie Dee
 Outside Eye, Melbourne

Theatre performer, deviser and director, Susie Dee, has worked extensively both in Australia and overseas for the past 30 years. In 2011, she was awarded an Australia Council residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, where she observed the work of Théâtre du Soleil. She has received numerous awards and award nominations, including a 2013 Green Room Award for her direction of Patricia Cornelius's award-winning *Savages*, and a 2014 nomination for her direction of *The Long Pigs*. She has just directed Patricia Cornelius's *SHIT* (NEON Festival/MTC) and Emily Goddard's *This is Eden* (Foothouse Theatre).

Wendy Lasica
 Producer

Wendy Lasica is an award-winning cultural producer with decades of experience leading cultural and community organisations and programs. She recently attained a Master's degree in urban planning and has established a niche urban planning practice, operating in the space that connects cities and culture. For Brian Lipson she produced the long-running *A Large Attendance in the Antechamber* (2000–07) and *Bergasse 19 – The Apartments of Sigmund Freud* (2005), and will produce a new project for Lipson and Gideon Obarzanek in 2016. Other recent projects include developing a new strategic plan for Clunes Booktown Festival and strategic cultural planning for a CBD Burbank development. She was 'in conversation' with UK cultural planner, Andrew Dixon, for Open House, spoke at Arts House's *The Shipper Club* on politics and the city, and was MC for a day-long urban design forum for the Planning Institute of Australia.

