



Andrew Bovell's

After Dinner

2 - 4 JUNE 2023

Goulburn Performing Arts Centre

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HLA Management Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 1536, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 (hla@hlaamt.com.au)

DIRECTORS' NOTES

MICHELLE MCALEER & HANNAH COTTON

Welcome to 1987.

Shoulder pads are big. Hair is even bigger. Gordon Gekko says “greed is good”. In Britain, Margaret Thatcher wins her third term. In West Berlin, Ronald Reagan calls on Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall!” In Australia, Prime Minister Bob Hawke declares that “by 1990, no Australian child will be living in poverty”. John Howard is the opposition leader. Queensland premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson resigns after nineteen years in the job.

We're tuning into brand new music video programs **Video Hits** and **Rage** to watch Whitney Houston's **I Wanna Dance With Somebody** and Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes' **I've Had The Time Of My Life**. It's the inception of the Rickroll with **Never Gonna Give You Up**. Here at home, INXS tops the charts with **Need You Tonight**, Angry Anderson provides the soundtrack to Scott and Charlene's wedding with **Suddenly**, and nineteen-year-old Kylie invites us to do the **Locomotion**.

Hollywood brings us **Dirty Dancing**, **The Lost Boys**, and **Fatal Attraction**. Aussie cinemas are screening Michael Hutchence in **Dogs In Space** and Noah Taylor in **The Year My Voice Broke**. Twice a week we're glued to the seventh season of **A Country Practice**. **Neighbours** is in its third season.

At Sydney Theatre Company, David Williamson's **Emerald City** premieres, and Griffin Theatre Company debuts Richard Barrett's **The Heartbreak Kid**. The following year, Andrew Bovell's first play will be performed at La Mama Theatre in Carlton, Victoria.

Welcome to After Dinner. We hope you enjoy the show as much as we've enjoyed bringing it to you.

Love,
Michelle & Hannah



SYNOPSIS

AFTER DINNER

After Dinner is a poignant and hilarious collision of lonely hearts, sex, friendship and Friday night drinks.

A suburban pub, circa 1987. Paula, Monika and Dympie are going to paint the town red... or maybe just a deep shade of embarrassment.

Paula's frocked up, it's Monika's first night out in years and Dympie just wants a table with a good view of the band. Semi-eligible blokes Gordon and Stephen are shaking off the office and revealing their own peccadillos while they're at it. Between the Chardonnay, the oysters and the odd Valium things are bound to loosen up!

This play was written in 1984, and the themes within – love, relationships and loneliness – are just as relevant today as they were back then. On the surface, this play seems like a benign comedy of manners, but dig a little deeper and we find an existential piece full of timeless yearning for human connection. It's a beautifully observed period piece from a time when we were all a little less knowing. A true celebration of the iconic 1980s.

Hannah Cotton (Co-Director)

"What's interesting about bringing to life a play from this era is exploring human interactions in the decade just before technology completely changed the way we connect with and relate to one another. There was no internet, no social media, no mobile phones. How did we meet people? How did we communicate? Most importantly, how did we avoid looking awkward while sitting alone in a bistro? What did we do with ourselves? It's also fascinating to reflect on how dramatically certain values and attitudes have shifted in the intervening years."

Michelle McAleer (Co-Director)



CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

CAST

Dympie	Amanda Waters
Monika	Alyce King
Paula	Sophie Linton
Gordon	Anthony Lewis
Stephen	Morgan Rook
The Band	Ashleigh Chapman

CREATIVE TEAM

Producer	Bladwell Productions
Directors	Michelle McAleer Hannah Cotton
Stage Manager	Zac Bladwell
Set Design	Michelle McAleer Hannah Cotton
Lighting Design	Hannah Gee Abbey Loader
Choreographer	Hannah Cotton
Lighting Operation	Hannah Gee Abbey Loader
Sound Tech	Rebecca Stevens Samantha Marks
Microphone Tech	Ruby-May Miles Zoe White
ASM	Finn Channells Ryleigh McKellar
Photographer	Makin' Memories with Kira



MEET THE DIRECTORS



MICHELLE MCALEER she/her

Michelle first tried her hand at directing with *My Fair Lady* for the Earle Page College Musical society at the University of New England. Since then, she has worked in various roles in theatre, including technical director at Camp Wah-Nee in Connecticut, stagehand and production assistant at the Sydney Opera House, and performer in a number of stage shows – most recently *Things I Know To Be True* (Bladwell Productions). Michelle attended NIDA's Directors and Writers Studio. As a teacher at Mulwaree High School she directed *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Children's Hour*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Michelle is thrilled to be co-directing with the brilliant Hannah Cotton, and she is excited to be bringing together some old friends and some new faces as the cast of Andrew Bovell's *After Dinner*.



MEET THE DIRECTORS



HANNAH COTTON she/they

Hannah is a multitalented performer and theatremaker with a particular focus on creating excellent quality theatre that is both meaningful and accessible. Hannah has performed in many stage shows including *The Three Musketeers* and *Monochrome* (Lieder Theatre), *Steel Magnolias* (CADS) and *Things I Know to be True* (Bladwell Productions).

Hannah has also choreographed stage shows including *A Musical! Do You Hear The Lieder Sing, Again?* (Lieder Theatre) and *About Time* (RHMTC).

Hannah's directorial debut was with *Motherhood the Musical* (Lieder Theatre). Hannah is delighted to be working with collaborator and mentor Michelle McAleer to co-direct *After Dinner* for Bladwell Productions. The pair first crossed paths almost a decade ago when Hannah performed in *The Children's Hour* which was directed by Michelle.

Hannah is thrilled to be bringing to life another great work from playwright Andrew Bovell with a cast of brilliant performers.





AMANDA WATERS she/her **DYMPIE**

Amanda is so excited to get back on stage, doing her first show with Bladwell Productions. She has been a part of the local theatre scene for a number of years, starring in many shows with the Lieder Theatre, including *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Motherhood: The Musical* and another Andrew Bovell play, *When The Rain Stops Falling*. She has also been involved with the Highlands theatre scene, with *Little Women* (Magic Box Productions), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Highlands Theatre Group), *Grease* (SHYAC) and *Summer of The 17th Doll* (Smart Arts Productions). She has taken a bit of a break recently to take time with her family but couldn't pass up the opportunity to bring Dympie to life.



ALYCE KING she/her **MONIKA**

Originally from Canberra, Ally has been performing in theatre since she was 12 years old. Some of her favourite roles include Nelly in *South Pacific* (Queanbeyan Players), Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz* (RHMTC) and Maureen in *Rent* (G-String Productions). Ally has also performed in several locally written musicals and short films set in Australia, and is very excited to take on this role written by one of Australia's most talented playwrights. Ally's first real introduction to the 80s was playing Kim in *Back to the 80's* and ever since she's been in love with the music, the fashion and the overall fabulousness of the era. She looks forward to bringing some of that to the stage as Monika.



SOPHIE LINTON she/her **PAULA**

Sophie has been involved in acting since she was 7 years old. She has completed over 10 years of speech and drama lessons at the Hume Conservatorium, where she regularly performed and compèred concerts. She previously played Zoe in Debra Oswald's *The Peach Season* (The Lieder Theatre). Sophie was selected for state drama ensemble on two occasions. Sophie has always had a passion for creativity, with her 2018 short film 'Musician Man' being selected for ArtExpress and being showcased at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Since her last performance, Sophie has been busy at university studying advertising and public relations.



ANTHONY LEWIS GORDON he/him

A lover of supercars, musical theatre, guitar and historic vehicles, this father of six has a diverse range of theatrical credits. Favourites include playing Bob Price in *Things I Know To Be True* (Bladwell Productions), Walter White in Chris Gordon's *Getting There* (RHMTC), the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* (RHMTC), and in his return to theatre after a 20 year hiatus, as a Pirate in *Pirates of Penzance* (Argyle Musical Society).



MORGAN ROOK STEPHEN he/him

It's been over a decade since Morgan last stepped foot on the stage. Having spent a majority of his teenage years to his really early twenties appearing in as many shows in the Southern Highlands as possible. Ranging from *RENT* (Magic Box), to *Big: The Musical* (SHYAC), to *The Crucible* (HTG), Morgan has always had a fondness for the stage and is so glad to be back at it.

Just check out these reviews from over a decade ago

"He is such a handsome young man!"

"I'm flabbergasted that someone so young is so talented."

"Mark my words, he will be famous in ten years!"

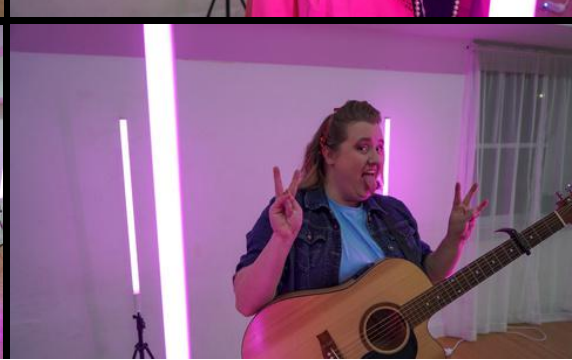
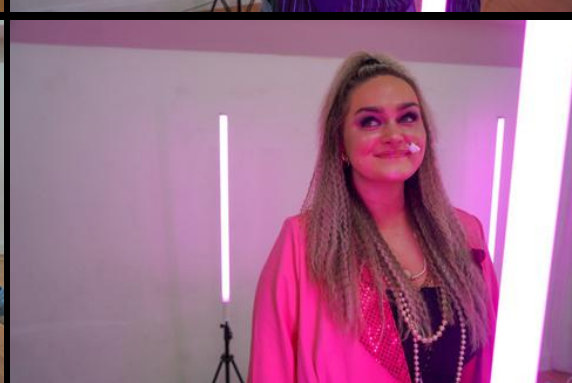


ASHLEIGH CHAPMAN THE BAND she/her

As a teenager, Ashleigh dabbled in the local theatre scene. After a 13-year hiatus, she is returning to the stage in her most thrilling role yet.

In 2011, Ashleigh began gigging around NSW & QLD in the duo 'Adam & Ash', where they had the opportunity to open for Thirsty Merc (Astor Goulburn), Wendy Mathews (Astor Goulburn) and perform at the opening ceremony for the National Futsal Championships (AIS, Canberra).

Since finishing up in her duo in 2018, Ashleigh has been performing as a solo act, releasing her debut EP 'Find My Way' on Spotify in 2020. While pursuing her musical career, Ashleigh has also completed her Bachelor of Music at JMC Academy, and is currently gaining her Certificate III in Horticulture.

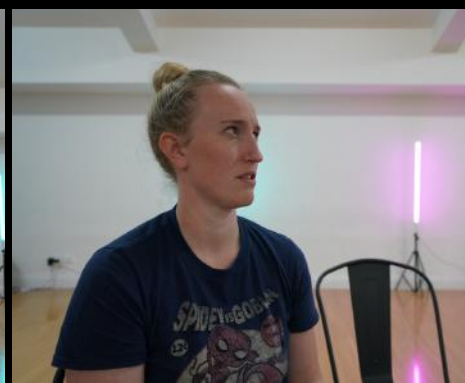
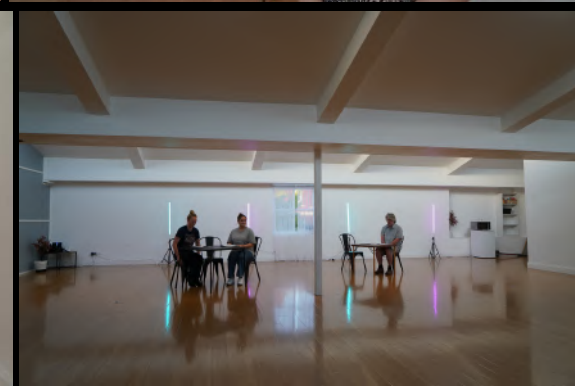
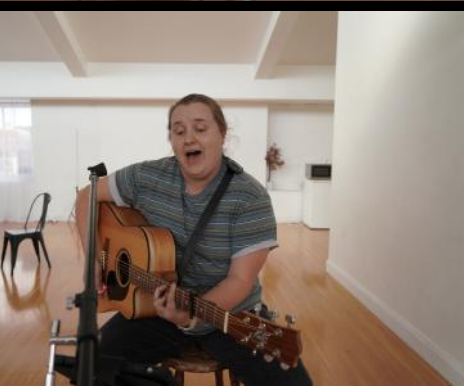


KENDALL FEAVER'S



THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIMES

3 - 5 NOVEMBER 2023



THANK YOU

Bladwell Productions wish to thank the following for their contributions to *After Dinner*.

Shiree Bladwell

Ruth Lewis

Leonard Buckley

Hannah Gee

Suze Smith

Del Mills

Abbey Loader



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