**TE PŌ Cast and Crew.**

**Ben Crowder - Director**

Ben is a co-founder and director of Auckland’s independent company Theatre Stampede.  He studied drama at both Otago and Auckland Universities and went on to continue his professional training at ***The John Bolton Theatre School***in Melbourne. His productions are well known for their theatricality, bold physicality and visual flair.

Work includes:*The Young Baron, Blossom, The Secret of Dongting Lake, Well Hung, A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*. In past years he has collaborated with Nightsong Productions resulting in the works *Head*and most recently *360 - a theatre of recollections* – which enjoyed an acclaimed premiere season at The New Zealand International Arts Festival in Wellington and went on to very successful season at Auckland’s Civic theatre in 2014.  The show won an inaugural excellence award and also The Hackman Cup, the people’s choice award for most original production at the 2014 Auckland Theatre Awards.

He regularly directs and leads development workshops for a range of other theatre companies and organisations.

**Carl Bland - Writer/Actor**

Carl Bland is a writer, actor and painter. He wrote and created his own shows with Peta Rutter under the name Nightsong Productions. Their shows included *The Bed Show,* *The House of Doors and Camels*, *Peta and Carl at the Last Supper* and *Sofa Stories*.

Collaborating with Theatre Stampede they also made *Head* (winner of Chapman Tripp Most Original Production) and *360 - a theatre of recollections*for The New Zealand International Arts Festival 2010. The show also won an inaugural excellence award and also The Hackman Cup, the people’s choice award for most original production at the 2014 Auckland Theatre Awards.

**Owen Hughes - Producer**

Owen is a film and theatre producer. He was production manager at Downstage Theatre in the 1970s working with directors Ian Mune, Mervyn Thompson, Phil Mann, George Webby, Grant Tilly, Nola Miller and Sunny Amey. In 1990 he production managed Richard Campion and Don Selwyn’s reenactment of the signing of the *Treaty of Waitangi* for its sesquicentenary. He has produced over 50 documentaries, 7 one-hour television dramas and two feature films. In this capacity he has won Best Film (1996) for *Memory & Desire* and Best Drama for *Overnight* and *Trifecta* (1998) and *Home Movie* (1999). For the Auckland Festival (2013) he produced *Walk, Eat Talk* part of ATCs Dominion Rd Stories. His most recent documentary was *Anzac: Tides of Blood* with Sam Neill.

**Andrew Foster - Designer**

Director/Designer Andrew Foster was a co-founder of the award winning Wellington theatre company Trouble. He has become known for his contribution to the development of new works. Collaborations with playwrights Jo Randerson, Gary Henderson, and Duncan Sarkies, have become contemporary landmarks.

Andrew was Head of Radio Drama at Radio New Zealand in 2004-05 and during this time was instrumental in bringing many of the new voices of NZ theatre to radio, including *The Flight of the Conchords*, *Te Radar* and *The SEEyD Trilogy*, which won Best Radio Drama at the 2005 NZ Radio Awards.

Recent projects include: directing Eli Kent’s ‘slacker comedy/supernatural whodunit’ *Black Confetti* for ATC in Auckland; designs for Gary Henderson’s *Peninsula*, and Stuart Hoar’s *Pasefika* at the New Zealand Festival; direction/design of the Jo Randerson/Trouble classic *The Lead Wait*, and the Tony Award winning *Red* at Circa Theatre. In 2013 he directed and designed *Apocalypse Z*, an immersive theatre work about a zombie apocalypse in Auckland’s Aotea Square.

**Elizabeth Whiting - Costume Designer**

Elizabeth Whiting has designed costumes for The NBR New Zealand Opera, Auckland Theatre Company, The Silo, Court Theatre, Red Leap and Okareka Dance, Black Grace, Douglas Wright Dance, Michael Parmenter, Atimira and Shona McCullagh and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. She designed costumes for Pop-Up Theatre in London, which was performed at the Edinburgh Festival.

Opera design credits include *Faust*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Falstaff*, *Barber of Seville*, *The* *Marriage of Figaro*, *Così Fan Tutte* (NZO) She designed *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacc*i for the Opera 2011 winter season, *Acis and Galatea 2012*, and *Don Giovanni* in 2013 She is designing *Tosca* for 2015.

Theatre design credits include *In the Next Room*, *Mary* *Stuart, Well Hung,* *Equus*, *Cabaret*, *Into the Woods*, *Sweet Charity*, *Hair*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Pillow Man*, *My Name Is Gary Cooper* *The Importance of Being Earnest* *The Glass Menagerie* and *Anne Boleyn* (ATC); *The Country Wife, La Cage aux Folles, The Great Gatsby* and *Cabaret* f*o*r Court Theatre *Tartuffe, Top Girls, Three Days of Rain*, *Irma Vep, The Scene, Holding the Man, When the Rain Stops Falling,* *Assassins, Tartuffe and Angels in America* (The Silo). For Theatre Stampede and Nightsong Productions she designed the costumes for both their previous collaborations: *Head* and *360 – a theatre of recollections.*

Elizabeth designed the World of Wearable Art core show for Wellington 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 and is working on 2015 at present.

In 2010 she won the Chapman Tripp Costume Design Award for *The Arrival. (Red Leap)*  She represented New Zealand at the Prague Design Quadrennial in 2003 with her costumes for *Falstaff*, and again in 2007 with a team of designers who created the exhibition *Blow*.

**Ella Becroft - Puppeteer**

Ella works as an actor, director and producer.  Ella has been a Red Leap Theatre company member since 2007, when she first collaborated with Kate Parker and Julie Nolan on the production ***Beyond the Blue***. She then went on to devise and perform in their multi-awarding winning production of *The Arrival*, for which she was awarded a Chapman Tripp Theatre Award for Most Promising Newcomer. Ella was also a cast member in Red Leap’s *Sea* and *Dust Pilgrim*.

Ella co-founded theatre company Petit Workshop, and recently directed *The Two Farting Sisters*, which toured to Wellington and Auckland. Petit Workshop create beautiful worlds using puppetry, shadow and pop-up storybook sets.

As well as working in theatre Ella recently featured in the television series *Coverband* and puppeteered Kune from children's series *Kune's Kitchen*.

She has designed and created puppets for Auckland Theatre Company, Theatre Stampede, Red Leap Theatre and Petit Workshop.

**Nik Janiurek - Lighting Designer**

Nik is a theatre practitioner, specialising in freelance production & technical management, and lighting design. Originally trained at the Bristol Old Vic in the UK, he has worked for premier companies both in the UK and New Zealand. He has toured extensively with shows in New Zealand and internationally to festivals throughout Europe, Australasia, Asia and North America.

Nik's previous work includes international tours of *'Little Shop of Horrors'* (Jumpboard),' *Masi' & 'Vula'* (The Conch), *'Gathering Clouds'* (Black Grace), *'The Magic Chicken'* (Theatre Beating) and *'The Rocky Horror Show'.* National tours include *'The Kiss Inside'* (Douglas Wright), *'The Thing from the Place'* (Theatre Beating), *'Tic Tic'* (Jumpboard) and *'Rita and Douglas'* (Armstrong Productions).

Recent work includes '*Evita'*, 'Mamma Mia' and '*Rent'* (Amici), *'Between the Waves'* (Passion Productions), *'360 -* *Theatre of Recollections'* & '*Flora'* (Theatre Stampede), *'Len Lye - The Opera'* (NICAI) and The Chinese Lantern Festival. Nik has also worked on *'Guys and Dolls', 'The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate', 'Like there's No Tomorrow', 'God of Carnage', 'Mary Stuart'* and '*Disgrace*' for Auckland Theatre Company.

Nik regularly lights the National Youth Theatre Company productions, including *The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, The Wizard of Oz, Grease, Aladdin, Peter Pan, Sound of Music, Pinocchio & High School Musical.* He has occasionally taught lighting at the University of Auckland, AUT, Unitec and Toi Whakaari.

**John Gibson – Sound Design**

John Gibson has been composing original scores for theatre film dance and television since 1980. He has clocked up close to a hundred original scores and sound designs for theatre since then. In 2009 he received a Qantas award for his score with Jack Body for Vincent Ward's *Rain of the Children*. He has worked on all of Nightsong Productions shows – including the Theatre Stampede collaborations *Head,* *360 – a theatre of recollections* and the forthcoming *Te Po*.

**Andrew Grainger - Actor**

Andrew's career as an actor began in the 1980's in England. Some of his first professional productions, all performed on London's West End, were *South Pacific, Seven Brides For Seven Brothers* and *Little Shop Of Horrors*. Television and film highlights from the UK include roles in BBC’s *Pride and Prejudice* and *Our Friends From The North, The Bill, Rosemary And Thyme, Heartbeat, Bad Girls* and *Eastenders, Sky Runners, Avalon High, In The Beginning*; appearing in feature film *Mean Machine*, and working alongside Robert Redford in *Spy Game*.

After emigrating to New Zealand, Andrew has rapidly built up an impressive collection of credits, appearing in *When We Go To War*, a six part television series for TVNZ, *Shortland Street, Outrageous Fortune, The Million Dollar Con Man, Life's A Riot, The Cult, Spartacus, Super City* and most recently *Ash Versus Evil Dead*. His film credits here include *Six Days* and *The Dark Horse*.

For Auckland Theatre Company, Andrew has appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar, The Good Soul of Szechuan, Once on Chunuk Bair, Chicago, The Heretic, Anne Boleyn, Little Shop Of Horrors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Twits, Calendar Girls, Mary Stuart, Poor Boy, August: Osage County, Oliver,* *Le Sud* and *Lysistrata*. For Silo Theatre: *Assassins, That Face,* and *Ruben Guthrie*. Andrew was also proud to be a part of *360-a theatre of recollections* created by Carl Bland, Peta Rutter and Ben Crowder.

**George Henare - Actor**

50 years in this vagabond but very rewarding profession. A career which began in 1965 with the N.Z. Opera Company’s production of *Porgy and* *Bess*, then subsequent operas graduating from chorus member to character

principal then into Legit Theatre, working with the N.Z. Maori Theatre Trust, Downstage, Mercury, Court, Circa, Taki Rua, Stetson Productions, A.T.C., Newmarket Theatre Company. Across the ditch with Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Ensemble and Company Belvoir - all these interspersed with radio drama, television, talking books, films, documentary narrations and hosting award ceremonies. The honours, achievements and awards over the years have been an extremely humbling experience for which I will be eternally grateful. Played the role of Werihe in A.T.Cs. 2012 production of *Awatea*