

Q MATCHBOX

2024

OUR OWN LITTLE MESS

**A Slightly
Isolated Dog**

directed by
**LEO GENE PETERS
& JANE YONGE**



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square
sums
& CO

24 July – 3 August, 2024 - Loft, Q Theatre
90 minutes, no interval

Content warnings: strobe, haze, simulated gunfire,
loud sounds, themes of isolation and death.

Performers / Devisors

JACK BUCHANAN

LAUREL DEVENIE

ISLA MAYO

ANDREW PATERSON

MAAKA POHATU

Devisor

LOUISE JIANG

Creative Team

Director & Lighting Designer

LEO GENE PETERS (A Slightly Isolated Dog Ltd.)

Director

JANE YONGE

Producers

ALYSSA MEDEL & SUMS SELVARAJAN

(SquareSums&Co.)

Production Designer

MEG ROLLANDI

Sound & Technical Designer / Audio Mix Engineer

SAM CLAVIS

Composer

DR. JEREMY MAYALL

Dramaturg

NATHAN JOE

Cognitive Neuroscientists

DR. DAVID CARMEL & DR. GINA GRIMSHAW

(Victoria University Wellington)

Production Team

Production Manager / Show Operator

SAM CLAVIS

Technical Manager

EMMANUEL REYNAUD

Technical Stage Manager / Audio Assist

JOEL ORME

LX Programmer / Set LX

ZACH HOWELLS

Set Builder

GRANT REYNOLDS (Zorp Creative)

Wardrobe Support

PENELOPE PRATT

Produced by

Q Theatre, A Slightly Isolated Dog, SquareSums&Co,
and with development support from **Auckland Live** and
Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts.

Directors' Note

OUR OWN LITTLE MESS has had an incredible journey. Its development has survived a lot — a pandemic, several lockdowns, a cost-of-living crisis, a funding crisis, a baby. It's got battle scars. But it's come out the other side transformed in ways we never imagined.

It survived because of the champions that have nourished and sat alongside it, believing in it when we were starting to lose ourselves in a marathon of a process. Angela Green, Marnie Karmelita and the team at Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts. Sarah Graham and Padma Akula at Q Theatre. Our producers Sums Selvarajan and Alyssa Medel. All the supporters, audiences, and wider company members of A Slightly Isolated Dog. It takes a village to raise a show. Thank you.

And it also takes a village to make a show. The creative company on this devising process have brought their hearts, minds and stories to this work. Collaborating to explore a central question: how do we live? With ourselves, with each other, in a world that is constantly shifting, changing, and burning. How do we celebrate our loneliness, grief, yearning and joy?

OUR OWN LITTLE MESS is a mash-up of the creative company's collective hopes, dreams, anxieties, fears and twisted sense of humour. It's a journey into the void, the underworld, the desert, and back again.

Thank you to Maaka, Andrew, Laurel, Jack and Isla for your gifts to the work. Thank you to our past company member, Louise Jiang, for the creation of the character, Mary Kat Evangeline.

Thank you to Sam and Jeremy for your sound design and composition that gently yet assuredly holds this work together with fun, imagination and surprise.

Thank you to Meg, for creating a transformative and playful production design that gels together our collective hopes, ideas and dreams.

Thank you to David and Gina for your generosity, wisdom and profound knowledge of the brain. (Please make sure to do their survey post-show!)

We learnt from the first iteration of this work that it's pretty hard to co-direct a show while simultaneously raising a small and feisty toddler. For this Q Season, Leo has taken the lion's share of the show's directing. (From Jane to Leo – thank you! And he's done the lighting design.)

Lastly, thank you to our son, Jimmy for helping us develop an unhealthy need for coffee. Jokes! Thank you, Jimmy, for keeping us present, listening and silly.

To our audiences, thank you for joining us.
We are so excited to share this work with you.

**Aroha nui,
LEO & JANE**



The Research Behind OUR OWN LITTLE MESS

From our scientific collaborators, Drs Gina Grimshaw and David Carmel from Victoria University of Wellington:

We are interested in understanding the experience of inner speech. When the show is over, ask yourself: Did the show capture how your inner speech sounds? How does your own inner speech work?

Please contribute to our research by filling out this **5-minute survey! Responses will be entered into a draw to win two tickets to a future Q Theatre production.**



**Tap here to
complete
the survey.**

Directors



LEO GENE PETERS (MTA 2004 Toi Whakaari/VUW) has most recently been directing/touring **Don Juan** (Edinburgh Fringe, UK, NZ) and **Jekyll & Hyde** (Tourmakers NZ Tour, Edinburgh Fringe). He's also directed/created **The Odyssey** (A Slightly Isolated Dog/CubaDupa18), **Alice** (ATC's Here & Now), **Black Confetti** by Eli Kent (Toi Whakaari 2017 Grad) and **Santa Claus** (Basement Xmas Show).

In 2014 he directed **One Day Moko**, from 2012-15 he wrote/directed several seasons/tours of **An Awfully Big Adventure** for Capital E. In 2011 he directed **Awhi Tapu** for TRP (Chapman Tripp Nominee: Best Director) and **Death and the Dreamlife of Elephants** at Downstage. He first directed **Elephants** for 2009 STAB at BATS and it received several Chapman Tripp Awards and Nominations, including Best Director.

From 2006-10 he directed Paolo Rotundo and Rob Mocaraka's **Strange Resting Places** for TRP (2007 Chapman Tripp Nominations: Most Promising New Director, Production of the Year).



In 2015 **JANE YONGE** graduated with a Master of Theatre Arts (MTA) in Directing from Victoria University and Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School. In 2019 she graduated with a Masters in Arts Politics from New York University: Tisch School of the Arts on a Fulbright scholarship.

Jane's directing work includes **Scenes from a Yellow Peril** by Nathan Joe (2022), **Another Mammal** by Jo Randerson (2021), **48 Nights on Hope Street** (Auckland Theatre Company, 2020), Basement Theatre's 2019 **Christmas Show, A Fricken Dangerous Space-mas**, **The Basement Tapes** (Wellington Theatre Awards Best Director 2017, Scotsman Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018), **At the Wake** by Victor Roger (Circa Theatre 2018). Jane is an ISPA Fellow and the Creative Catalyst at Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi (Arts Regional Trust).

Performers



Since graduating from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School in 2013, **JACK BUCHANAN** has worked extensively in professional theatre throughout New Zealand. He has acted in over thirty professional productions with many of New Zealand's most prominent theatre companies. Jack has been a key collaborator with A Slightly Isolated Dog since 2016, co-creating and performing in **Don Juan, Jekyll & Hyde, Santa Claus, The Odyssey, Trojan War, Safety In Numbers, and Our Own Little Mess**. Other stage highlights include **Night of the Living Dead, Homos or Everyone In America, Cock, and Peer Gynt [Recycled]**.

Jack is also a writer and musician, and in 2020 he created the viral music video **Family Lockdown Boogie** which earned him international attention and has been viewed over 14 million times. Jack is one of the creative forces behind indie-rock band **Cheap Sav For Dead Friends**, and he releases his own alternative synth-pop under the name **Goblin Problem**.



LAUREL DEVENIE is an actor, director, and theatre-maker now based in Te Tai Tokerau. She is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School and the John Bolton Theatre School, and has been involved in professional and community arts organisations across the country including Auckland Theatre Company (**Upside Down of the World, The Dolls House, The Importance of Being Earnest, and A Midsummer Night's Dream**), Capital E and Downstage Theatre. She has served as a teacher or director for numerous organisations including Silo Theatre, Unitec, Prayas, Red Leap Theatre, Northland Youth Theatre, and Script to Screen. She was a core cast member on **Shortland Street** for four years.

She is the Founder and Director of Company of Giants, a Whangārei-based theatre collective known for productions like **Odyssey, Giant Teeth, The Owl and the Pussycat, Rangitahua, Milk and Honey, and The Living Forest**. Laurel is also a co-founder of ONEONESIX, a community and performance venue in Whangārei that supports the development of both professional and community performing arts projects in Te Tai Tokerau. She is a Co-Founder and Director of the Whangārei Fringe Festival.



ISLA MAYO is a performer of mixed Chinese and Pākehā descent. She was raised in Tāmaki but also lived in Singapore and Japan growing up. She is most known for her recent work in Silo Theatre's **Night of the Living Dead**. Isla is a graduate of The Actors' Program (2022) and for her graduation show, played one of the leads 'Nora' in Stef Smith's adaptation of the classic play, **Nora: A Doll's House**. Isla has gone on to be a part of many theatre shows including **Not Woman Enough** (Proudly Asian Theatre) and **Love to Say Goodbye** (No.3 Roskill Theatre) where she devised her own piece of work. Aside from acting, Isla is also a skilled pianist and hip-hop/Latin dancer. She wishes to continue utilising her many skills to tell stories in Aotearoa and beyond!



ANDREW PATERSON graduated from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School – Acting in 2012. After graduating, Andrew has acted in a number of Wellington productions, and has created and performed with *A Slightly Isolated Dog* in productions of **Don Juan, Jekyll & Hyde, Santa Claus** and **The Odyssey**. Other productions around New Zealand include **Isaac’s Eye, King Lear, Orphans, The Angry Brigade, School Dance** and **Jeeves & Wooster**.

Recently, Andrew appeared in **The Brief and Terrifying Reign of Phil**, a new musical directed by Lyndsey Turner in collaboration with National Theatre of Britain and Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts.



A graduate of Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School, **MAAKA POHATU** has performed in a multitude of productions, ranging from the critically acclaimed **Strange Resting Places** and **The Māori Troilus and Cressida**, which featured at the prestigious Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, to more recently, A Slightly Isolated Dog's highly acclaimed recreation of Moliere's **Don Juan**. He made his film debut in the feature **Two Little Boys** and portrayed Dalvanius Prime in the recent hit Kiwi music biopic **Poi E**. He can currently be seen as Sergeant Maaka, one of the leads in mockumentary series **Wellington Paranormal**. He is also a professional musician and is a member of the Modern Māori Quartet.

Special Thanks

Tane Te Pakeke-Patterson, Georgia-May Russ, Lucy Suttor, Trae Te Wiki, Sepe Mua'au, George Fowler, Frankie Berge, Jessie Alsop, Emma Katene, Susie Berry, Comfrey Sanders, Jono Price, Nic Clarke, Lauren Day, Shannon Brosnahan Inglis, David Jack Olivier, Cat Ruka, Alice Kenealy, Alice Kirker, Ania Upstill, Sam Mence, Brad Gledhill and Rachel Marlow of Filament Eleven 11, Sam Phillips, Helaina Keely and the team at Auckland Live, Padma Akula and Q Theatre, Brian Steele and Shoreline Partners, Rina Kim and Emma Willis and the University of Auckland.

And Jimmy, Lyra, Matt, William, Hinemoa, Leigh.

This year, we are celebrating **Our Own Little Mess** — an offbeat and incredibly innovative theatrical experience, where audiences are given headphones to listen in real-time to the inner thoughts of the characters' minds. Following the seemingly unconnected lives of five people, the show will celebrate the beauty of the mundane and the mysteries of the human inner voice.

Since 2012, **MATCHBOX** has presented 28 fabulous productions and solidified itself as an annual opportunity for artists and makers to showcase bold and innovative works in a supportive framework. Our curated contemporary programme responds to the rich talent, artistry and diversity of Tāmaki Makaurau.

We are very grateful to our generous support from our funders and donors, Auckland Council, Creative New Zealand, The Gus Fisher Charitable Trust, Four Winds Foundation and Nancie Plested.

Special thanks to A Slightly Isolated Dog and SquareSums&Co for co-producing **Our Own Little Mess** with Q. We are looking forward to a great season!



Q Theatre's Development Season
is made possible by the support of

