



Things I Know to be True

by Andrew Bovell



Directed by Shirley Sydenham

23 April – 10 May 2025

Williamstown Little Theatre, 2 Albert Street Williamstown

Bookings: 0447 340 665 or www.wlt.org.au

Performance rights for THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE exclusively licenced by HLA Management Pty Ltd,
P.O.Box 1536, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 (hla@hlamgt.com.au)



Williamstown Little Theatre proudly presents

Things I Know to be True

by Andrew Bovell

by arrangement with HLA Management Pty Ltd

Directed by Shirley Sydenham

23 April - 10 May 2025

Cast

Bob	Zoran Babic
Fran	Christina Costigan
Pip	Lucy Norton
Mark	Blake Stringer
Ben	Jason Budarick
Rosie	Kaila Michael

Setting

2016.

A suburban home in Hallett Cove, 21 km south of Adelaide.

Acknowledgement of Country

Williamstown Little Theatre acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and their unceded lands on which we perform. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge that this play is set in Adelaide, on the unceded lands of the Kaurna people. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.

Content note

This play contains sensitive material which some audience members may find upsetting. Please refer to resources at the back of this program if you need support.

About the play

Is unconditional love absolute? Or is there a step too far? This touching, humorous and brave play is centred around that dichotomy. Over a year, each member of an Adelaide family deals with truths that impact their life. "People aren't perfect. Even the people you love. Especially the people you love."

A family torn apart can reunite. But not always as expected. Andrew Bovell's beautifully written play weaves many threads that may make us consider our own attitudes and biases.



ANDREW BOVELL

Playwright

Born in Western Australia, Andrew Bovell is an internationally known and acclaimed Australian playwright and screenwriter.

His theatre credits include *After Dinner* (1988); *Speaking in Tongues* (1996, which he adapted as the film *Lantana* in 2001); *When the Rain Stops Falling* (2008 Adelaide Festival, Lincoln Centre NYC, winner of five Lucille Lortell Awards); *Things I Know to be True* (2016); *The Secret River* (2013), winner of six Helpmann Awards including Best Play, and Best New Work Sydney Theatre Awards.

Director's note

I've been a fan of Andrew Bovell's work since 1989 when I did publicity for *After Dinner* at Theatreworks, his first professional season (and my first theatre publicity).

His work always has sharp observations, symbolism, many plot threads to follow or unravel, always leading to a new perspective or re-evaluation of a character or action, taking one ever deeper into the work and always expressed in beautiful writing.

I am excited to tackle a favourite work, *Things I Know to be True*, which premiered in 2016 in Adelaide and London.

Shirley Sydenham



SHIRLEY SYDENHAM

Director

Shirley Sydenham has acted in a number of WLT productions including *Hotel Sorrento* (2010), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (2013), *London Suite* (2016). She has directed also, most recently including *Vincent in Brixton* (2017, for which she was nominated VDL Best Director, and was winner for Sound Design); World Premiere *Strawberry* (2019), and most recently, *Citysong* (2022, WLT Craven Award Best Production).

Shirley is part of the WLT Costume team, including winning a VDL Silver Award for costumes for *Kindertransport* (2009). Most recently she designed costumes for *All My Sons* (2023), *Photograph 51* (2024) and had huge fun in 2018 creating many many costumes for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*!

Outside of theatre, Shirley has published many works written for primary school students and teachers, including an ongoing and successful website for kids, www.kidcyber.com.au.

Shirley was WLT Secretary for 12 years, and is proud to be a WLT Life Member and to have participated in our recent refurbishments. Shirley and her cavoodle owner Ginger live in South Kingsville.

From the director

This play has many layers that have given us much scope for exploration; such stimulation. At first sight, the Price family seems like an ideal, loving, suburban family and a tight unit. Yet, as the play continues, we see that each member of the family harbours a secret; each faces some hard truths and life-changing choices or decisions. They're tough things to face but each, in its way, is very much a part of modern life which in no way makes the way forward an easy choice.

We may look at characters differently when their secret is revealed, we may agree or disagree with decisions made or a path taken, but these characters resonate because they are ordinary Aussies: parents who've worked hard so their kids have a better chance in life and young adults who followed the expected path but now have to find their own way to find fulfillment and the prospect of happiness.

To go on this journey with me I am blessed with an amazing team of companions. At the 'tip of the iceberg' is a wonderful, talented, intelligent and enthusiastic cast. I wish to acknowledge the consideration and professionalism of Sophie Stewart, who was Pip but, due to a family crisis, withdrew from the production in order to allow a replacement time to integrate into the cast – and family – rather than risk having to leave during the run if the situation worsened. I thank Lucy Norton for stepping into the role, hitting the ground running and bonding immediately with her new 'family'.

I was fortunate also in having a solid, equally talented and hardworking team of over 30 supporting us, complementing the performance, and helping bring this story to life on the stage: the designers, the brilliant construction team and leaders, the painters, the rehearsal and extra prompts, the backstage team keeping performances flowing. Thanks also to Barbara Hughes and John Arnold, the creators of the seasonal rose bushes (yes, they are hand made!). Thanks to Alex Zvi, talented not only in costume design but with an enviable ability to find super bargains in many op shops.

And, above all, for her wonderful support, organisation, sound advice, wheelbarrow purchasing and catering, Bernadette Wheatley, a most amazing Production Coordinator!

I am so grateful to the entire TIKTBT (aka TICKETYBOO) team for your talent and enthusiasm and for making this a happy production!



ZORAN BABIC

Bob



Zoran has been a dedicated member of the Melbourne community theatre scene for almost 30 years now with companies such as Mordialloc, Beaumaris, Brighton, Lilydale, Williamstown and Essendon theatre companies.

Mordialloc Theatre saw Zoran in their 2023 production of *Consent* playing the role of Jake and, prior to that, at Essendon Theatre Company in their 2018 production of *An Unseasonable Fall of Snow* playing the role of Arthur.

Williamstown Little Theatre in 2024 saw Zoran appearing as Mike in *The Memory of Water* and as Pierre in *The Father* for which he received a nomination for best supporting actor whilst Peridot Theatre saw Zoran playing Jeremy in *The Architect* in March of this year.

Zoran is thrilled to play the role of Bob in *Things I Know to be True* for Williamstown Little Theatre and hopes you enjoy the show.

CHRISTINA COSTIGAN

Fran



Christina first appeared on the WLT stage in the 1999 production of Andrew Bovell's *Speaking in Tongues* followed by *Hysteria* and *Chilling and Killing My Annabel Lee*.

In the more than two decades since, Christina spent time in Los Angeles (2009-2011) and devoted herself to her indie theatre company Baggage Productions, writing and producing original scripts written by women including the annual Madwomen Monologues (2011-2024).

Other notable recent stage roles include Lady Macbeth and the Duchess of Malfi both with Arrant Knaves.

Christina is delighted to return to WLT in this exquisite play alongside such a talented cast.

LUCY NORTON

Pip



Since graduating from the National Theatre Drama School (St Kilda) in 2008, Lucy Norton has been involved in a multitude of independent theatre productions, acting and directing, community theatre, corporate voice overs, short films, web-series, stand-up comedy, music videos, online ads and a TVC.

Lucy is delighted to be involved in WLT's production of *Things I Know to be True*. Andrew Bovell is a master of naturalist language and very real, relationships. The opportunity to work with such script is a privilege.

BLAKE STRINGER

Mark



This is Blake's 33rd production and is his 3rd time on the Williamstown stage with appearances in *Photograph 51* in 2024 and *Morning Departure* in 2013 (affectionately known to WLT regulars as the "submarine play"). It is also his 4th time designing sound and/or music for a WLT production.

Select credits elsewhere include: *Torch Song* (Brighton); *The Normal Heart* (STAG); *Schmattes* (Peridot); *Hearth* (Mordialloc); *The History Boys*, *Ghosts*, *Never The Sinner* and *Patient 12* (1812); *The Elephant Man* (Lilydale); *Amadeus* (Heidelberg).

Off the stage, Blake has a passion for music production, sound design, videography, photography, video games and spreadsheets.

JASON BUDARICK

Ben



Jason is a passionate actor and artist with a deep love for storytelling. Returning once again to WLT, he is thrilled to take on the role of Ben and explore the character's depth on stage.

From rehearsals to opening night, Jason has loved every step of this journey and is incredibly grateful to the talented cast, crew, and production team for their hard work and dedication.

He also thanks his friends, family, and everyone who has supported his artistic pursuits. Jason hopes you enjoy the show and his portrayal of Ben!

KAILA MICHAEL

Rosie



Kaila is thrilled to return to the WLT stage after playing Queen Liz in *Handbagged* last year to now play Rosie Price, the youngest of the Price family.

Rosie is very unlike any of Kaila's previous characters although much like herself in many ways. Like Rosie, Kaila has travelled the world embarking on many adventures over the years, even encountering a few of her own 'Emmanuel's' along the way. She never made it past the 6-month mark as the absence of close friends and family always drew her home.

She now currently channels her creativity as a Primary School Visual Arts teacher, engaging in theatre whenever she can.

Her recent standout roles include Kate in *Citysong*, the lead role of Jennie in *Chapter Two* and her critically acclaimed portrayal of Marilyn in the VDL award-winning *The Revlon Girl*. She is thrilled to be performing alongside an exceptional cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show!

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Shirley Sydenham
Production Coordinator	Bernadette Wheatley
Stage Manager	Rosalin Shafik-Eid
Assistant Stage Manager	Jason Budarick
Set Design	Gaetano Santo with Alex Begg and John Arnold
Set Realisation	Alex Begg, John Arnold, Peter Burns, Robin Green, Jeff Martin, Ian Miller and Bob Mitchell.
Set Dressing - Roses	Barbara Hughes and John Arnold
Costume Design	Alexandra Zvi
Wig Design	Robyn Duggan
Props	Bernadette Wheatley and Shirley Sydenham
Lighting Design	Michael Birkett
Original Music and Sound Design	Blake Stringer
Lighting and Sound Operation	Declan Edwards
Technical Assistance	Les Hart
Rehearsal Prompt	Liz Buckley
Assistant Rehearsal Prompt	Judi Clark
Poster Design	Janine Evans
Program Design	Shauna Stanley
Photography	Bernardo Brandão
Publicity	Shauna Stanley and Kaila Michael
Ticketing Manager	Andrew Wild
Front of House	Bernadette Wheatley, Barbara Hughes and the WLT FOH Volunteers

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to our Consultant Michelle Sheppard, who added validity and truth to characterisation. We are so grateful.



2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Peter Newling, President
Tony Tartaro, Vice President
Brian Christopher, Treasurer
Barbara Hughes, Company Secretary
Alex Begg
Roger Forsey
Les Hart
Bernadette Wheatley
Shauna Stanley

LIFE MEMBERS

Alex Begg
Brian Christopher
Judi Clark
Graeme Cope
Kerry Cordell
David Dare
Ellis Ebell
Roger Forsey
Laurie Gellon
Robert Harsley
Barbara Hughes
Robyn Legge
Joan Lindsay
Mary Little
Peter Newling
Frank Page
Gaetano Santo
Shirley Sydenham
Tony Tartaro
Bryan Thomas
Bevan Uren
Gillian Wadds
Bernadette Wheatley
Neil Williamson
Mark Young

WLT is entirely run by volunteers. There is always plenty to do whether it's on stage, backstage or front-of-house. Just look at the Production Team list in this program!

The opportunities to participate include designing sets, lighting, sound, costumes - and making those designs a reality. Props and set dressing are a rewarding, and sometimes big job. When costume construction is required we call on our sewing team. Stage management and lighting/sound operators work backstage.

No experience? We'll train and mentor you! Check out [our website](#) for more information.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Are you a subscriber?

Subscribing to see three, four or five shows a year gives you access to fantastic subscriber discounts.

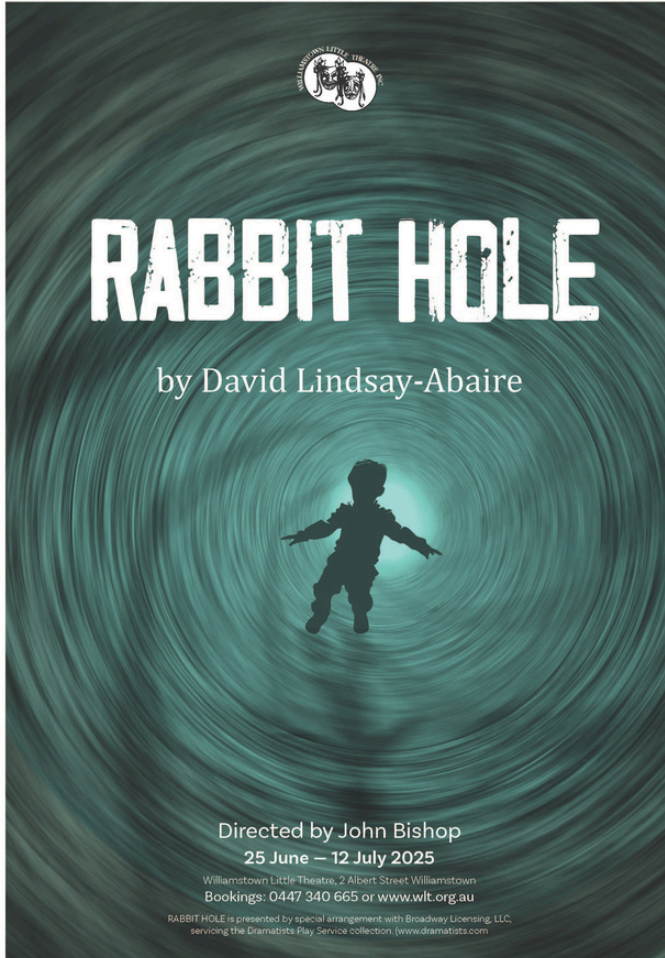
The Subscription Brochure is now available. It can be downloaded [here](#).

RESOURCES

If anything in this play causes you concern, there are people you can turn to:

- 1800 RESPECT
- The Rainbow Door 1800 729 367
- Switchboard Vic: national phone and web counselling, information & referrals, including families, friends, teachers, co-workers of LGBTIQ+ people
- Parentline Vic 13 22 89

COMING SOON



Becca and Howie Corbett have everything a family could want until a life-shattering accident turns their world upside down and leaves the couple drifting perilously apart.

Rabbit Hole charts their bittersweet search for comfort in the darkest of places and for a path that will lead them back into the light of day.

Playwright David Lindsay-Abaire has crafted the most serious, simple but painstakingly beautiful, dramatically resourceful, exquisite play.

BOOKINGS: wlt.org.au/book-tickets
or contact Ticketing Manager Andrew Wild
on 0447 340 665 / tickets@wlt.org.au

