

Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company – Artists' Biographies

Maud Clark AM: CEO/Artistic Director: Writer, Director, Drama Workshop Facilitator



As co-founder of *Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company*, Maud has been the principal director and writer of many highly successful theatre works. She won the Eva Czajor Memorial award for directing in 1993 and was the 1995 recipient of the Australia Council's Ros Bower Award for contribution to Community Arts. In 1998, Maud was also one of only seven Australian women to receive an award from Amnesty International as an outstanding Human Rights Activist.

Maud has presented at more than 22 conferences nationally and internationally including keynote addresses at The Tenth United Nations Congress on the prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Vienna, the 2017 Symposium London at Queen Mary University and at Arts in Society 2017 in Paris. She has written numerous chapters on the work, most recently published in *Applied Theatre, Women and The Criminal Justice System*, C. McAvinchey, Methuen Press, 2020. Maud was made a member of the Order of Australia in 2006 in recognition of her work.

From 2001 to 2016 Maud led a ground-breaking arts-based education project in Albury/Wodonga in partnership with Gateway Community Health and the Department of Education. This program saw the birth of the Company's first 'official offspring' *HighWater Theatre* – young people aged between the ages of 12 and 18 years who are outside of the formal education system, most with histories of abuse and homelessness. From 2016 Maud has led the development of a solid partnership between SDTC and Newcomb Secondary College, Geelong. Nobody's Fool Theatre is based on the successful HighWater Theatre model.

2007 – Awarded an Honorary Fellow Melbourne, University Victorian College of the Arts.

2004 – Listed in *The Bulletin Smart 100* as one of the top one hundred "most innovative and creative people."

2000 – Awarded an Australia Council Fellowship.

Kharen Harper: Artistic Director: Writer, Director, Performer, Drama Workshop Facilitator



Kharen has worked with *Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company* since 1994 and is responsible for the artistic direction of the company along with Maud.

After completing an undergraduate degree in Communication Studies at Murdoch University WA, and Graduate Diploma at La Trobe University, Kharen formed her own theatre company, wrote and directed '*Serendipity*', then went on to study Directing at the Victorian College of the Arts. This is when she first joined *Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company*.

Kharen takes the lead role in devising, writing and directing all prison and community performances – as well as often performs. Kharen has written/co-written and directed more than 50 original Australian performance works of *Somebody's Daughter Theatre*, *HighWater Theatre* and *Nobody's Fool Theatre* - Greater Geelong, including '*So Full of Brave*', Vic. Arts Centre, '*She's Landed at the Gatwick*' and '*She Swallowed That Lie*', Chapel off Chapel and '*Bring Her Home*', Beckett Theatre, CUB Malthouse. Since 2009 Kharen has also worked in media production/docudrama/drama, co-writing and directing all of the Company's digital media works. In 2015 she completed work on the '*HighWater*' Film and directed short film clips, such as, '*No More Hiding in Silence*' in 2019.

In 2011 Kharen was awarded the prestigious Ros Bower Memorial Award from The Australia Council for the Arts, for her outstanding lifelong commitment to community cultural development.

Justin Holland: Music and Dance Director: Performer, Workshop Facilitator



Justin graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1992. As a jazz pianist, improviser and composer he performed with many bands and ensembles including the Don Burrows band, Tim O'Dwyers' Sun Ra experience, Julie O'Hara, Justin Holland Trio, Down Town Brown, High Pass Filter and Cabaret acts Meow Meow and The Dilapidated Diva to name a few.

Whilst at VCA, Justin began studying contemporary dance & contact improvisation, this led into work as a multi skilled performer with companies such as Legs On A Wall, Back To Back, Polyglot, The Torch Project, Flying Fruit Fly Circus, and was a founding member of Bird On A Wire Theatre.

Between 1995 and 2003 Justin was a core member of the Snuff Puppets and toured Europe and Asia numerous times. Between 2005 and 2011 Justin worked with incarcerated youth at Melbourne Youth Justice Centre as a music teacher. In 2009 he graduated as a Yoga Teacher from the Bhava school of Yoga.

In 2011 Justin began to work with *Somebody's Daughter* and by 2012 had become the Company's Musical Director. In 2015 Justin received an Australia Council grant to study a 3-year Taketina course in Sydney with Austrian master percussionist and composer Reinhard Flaticshler, furthering his study with Reinhard at the Taketina institute in Vienna in 2019.

Kgshak Akec: Performer, Writer, Workshop Facilitator



Kgshak is a South-Sudanese writer/author, performing artist, storyteller, and a lover of words. Her debut novel *Hopeless Kingdom* (2022) inspired by her own journey of migrating to Australia, explores the relationship of a mother and daughter as they settle, break, evolve, and adapt in new lands through multiple heartaches and triumphs.

Kgshak feels most compelled to tell stories that don't traditionally get told, seen or heard; through the art of spoken and written word, movement and song.

Kgshak has performed with *Somebody's Daughter* since 2018, most recently in '*She Swallowed That Lie*' at Chapel Off Chapel – August 2022

2021 – Winner of the Dorothy Hewett Award for unpublished work – '*Hopeless Kingdom*' (UWA Publishing).

2021 – Runner Up Vogel Award. 2016-2018 – '*HB*': Book 1; '*As We Are*' – Published digital work.

Sam Reed: Filmmaker, Animator, Workshop Facilitator



Sam Reed is a writer, director and animator from Melbourne, Australia. He started his career producing award-winning animations for clients as diverse as MTV, the ABC and McDonald's, and has worked in Australia, Vietnam and the USA. In 2009 Sam co-wrote and directed the Web series, Larry Labrat, which won an Honorable Mention at the Webby Awards in New York. More recently Sam has moved into documentaries, directing Wagner's Ring – A Tale Told in Music, a four-episode series about Richard Wagner's epic Ring Cycle, and Music to Your Ears, a one-hour documentary about music theory.

Sam has been working with Somebody's Daughter Theatre as a digital artist since 2012, producing films and digital backdrops for their productions. He also works creating multimedia art with the kids in SDTC's school, Nobody's Fool Theatre; with the women in prison; and with SDTC's post release program.

Sam is currently enrolled in the Associate Degree in Professional Writing and Editing at RMIT's Melbourne campus. He has completed a novel, Cleo, which he is shopping around with publishers, and is working on a second novel as part of the course. Sam is completing the degree part time and SDTC has been very supportive of his efforts.

Lisa Calwell: Visual Artist, Curator, Workshop Facilitator



Lisa is a visual artist and teacher of art who has worked with Somebody's Daughter since 2014. She works with the women in prison at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and HM Prison Tarrengower. Lisa also facilitates visual arts program for women after they are released from prison.

Lisa is a career sculptor / artisan with over 30 years experience in creative industries and sculptural commissions. With her wide-ranging skill base, she has worked in a range of industries from art foundries through to over twenty years sculpting for the Myer Christmas windows, and currently part of the skilled team at award winning 'Creature Technology', working on international projects for America, China and the UK.

Amelda Read-Forsythe: Visual Artist, Workshop Facilitator



Amelda is a contemporary artist based in Melbourne represented by Scott Livesey Gallery. She was awarded the John Leslie Landscape prize in 2016, won The People's Choice Award in the City of Albany Art Prize in 2009 and was highly commended in the Tattersalls Art Prize 2007.

Amelda graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Tasmania and Honours at Monash University, Melbourne. Her work is held in public and private collections throughout Australia, including in the collections of Artbank, The Gippsland Art Gallery and the Macquarie Bank Collection.

Painting with oil on board, Amelda's work revolves around theory relating to the governing of culture and how this influence merges with the government of the self.

Hayley Wallace: Emerging Artist, Performer



Hayley is a proud Palawa Woman. She first became part of Somebody's Daughter Theatre (SDTC) in 2016 when she enrolled in Nobody's Fool Theatre, SDTC's offspring company. Through that time she completed her year 12 and performed in 5 major plays, including – 'Submit She Whispers' 2017; 'Geelong after Dark' 2018, 2019; 'When the Light Went Walking' 2021 and most recently 'She Swallowed That Lie' 2022, as well as multiple conference performances across Victoria for schools, health workers and the wider community.

Kiara Smith: Emerging Artist, Performer



Kiara is a proud Gunditjmarra Woman. She first became part of Somebody's Daughter Theatre (SDTC) in 2016 when she enrolled in Nobody's Fool Theatre as a 13-year-old. Through that time she has performed in several major plays, including – 'Submit, She Whispers' 2017; 'Geelong after Dark', 'Unapologetically Myself' 2019, 'When the Light Went Walking' 2021 and 'She Swallowed That Lie' 2022, as well as multiple conference performances across Victoria for schools, health workers and the wider community. Most notably, she was the lead performer in Give Where You Live's 'Conversations that Matter' conference with Grace Tame at the Geelong Football Club August '22.