



THE EFFECT

BY LUCY PREBBLE

PROGRAM

3-13 OCTOBER 2024

PRODUCERS NOTE

When we started Et Tu Theatre five years ago, our mission was to explore works that are entertaining, engaging and create conversations with the audience and the production team.

That remains a core part of why we do what we do. But we've also expanded our focus to include the development of the professional theatre industry here. We want great plays to be accessible without the need to travel to cities.

The Effect by Lucy Prebble is, in some ways, our most ambitious full-scale production yet. We have found new ways to work with our colleagues in other parts of the country, cast locals and collaborated with other creatives in the area. It's been a rewarding experience that drew on all aspects of our collective 30+ years as actors and creatives.

"My heart. Their hands." Lucy Prebble said of our production, and we have given all of ourselves to this play. Now, it's our hearts in your hands.

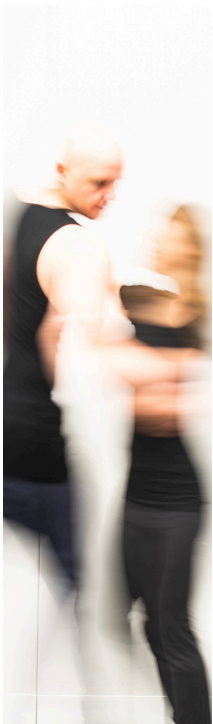
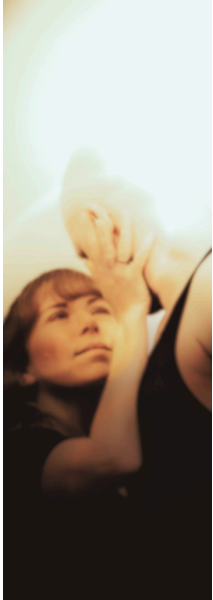
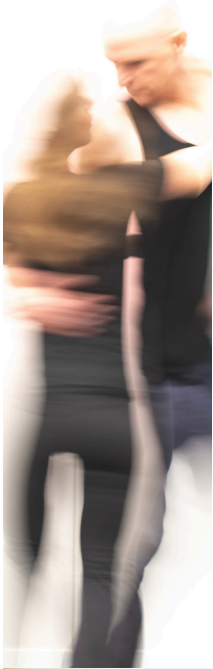
***The Effect* was first performed at the National Theatre, London, directed by Rupert Goold and co-produced with Headlong on 13 November 2012.**

DIRECTORS NOTE

Lucy Prebble is one of those rare playwrights with her finger right on the zeitgeist. Written over ten years ago, *The Effect* continues to mirror current concerns about the integrity of "gold standard" triple-blind scientific trials, the influence of big pharma and the sacrifice of the individual to one-size-fits-all, cookie-cutter solutions.

But perhaps the biggest concern in this play is with love. Can love navigate the complexity of society's ever-changing values? Can it transcend class? Sneak around an antidepressant to truly grab us by the heart, and light the soul? Can love do all that? Or is love, in itself, a kind of madness? Just another chemical?

The Effect by Lucy Prebble is listed by *The Independent* as one of the top forty plays of all time. Now we invite you to join us as these four people grapple with the meaning of life, love and reality in this space. Five. Four. Three. Two. One.



THE EFFECT

BY LUCY PREBBLE

CAST

Connie: Amy Bradney-George

Tristan: Seton Pollock

Dr Lorna James: Tamar Collier

Dr Toby Sealey: Troy Rogers

CREATIVES

Directors: Kerrie-Anne Baker, Amy Bradney-George,
Seton Pollock

Voice and dialect consultant: Anna McCrossin-Owen

Production design: Kerrie-Anne Baker, Amy Bradney-George,
Seton Pollock

Lighting and sound technician: Nic Hogan

Production assistant: Macy Lane

Set: Fulcrum Designs and Staging

Official photography: Jamie Barber

Producers: Amy Bradney-George and Seton Pollock

By arrangement with Knight Hall Agency Ltd



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lucy Prebble is a writer for film, television, games and theatre. She was an Executive Producer and writer on the BAFTA, Golden Globe and EMMY award-winning HBO drama *Succession*, for which she has also won a WGA and a PGA Award.

She is the writer and co-creator of *I Hate Suzie* and *I Hate Suzie Too* which was nominated for five BAFTAs

including Best Drama, Best Writer and Best Actress and won her the Royal Television Society Award for Best Writer. It was a huge hit for Sky, topping many major publications' lists for best shows of 2020 in both the UK and the US.

She is also the creator and writer of the TV series *Secret Diary Of A Call Girl* (ITV/Showtime), and made a pilot for HBO starring Sarah Silverman.

For theatre, Lucy recently had a rewritten version of her award-winning play, *The Effect*, at the National Theatre, directed by Jamie Lloyd. The show then had a successful transfer to The Shed in New York.

She has written the political and emotional meta-thriller *A Very Expensive Poison* which was a sell-out, five star hit for the Old Vic



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

in 2019 and was Olivier nominated for Best New Play. It won the Critics Circle Award for Best New Play and Best New Production of a Play at the Broadway World Awards. It also won her the Susan Smith Blackburn Award.

Lucy is the writer of the infamous *Enron*, a hugely successful piece about the infamous corporate fraud, which transferred to the West End after sell-out runs at both the Royal Court and Chichester Festival Theatre and then failed on Broadway. Her first play, *The Sugar Syndrome* (2003) won her the George Devine Award and was performed at the Royal Court.

Lucy was the recipient of the 2019 Wellcome Screenwriting Fellowship, allowing her to explore where the world of film meets science and research. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a patron of the David Nobbs Memorial Trust.

Lucy also writes video games and is fascinated by new technology and storytelling. She contributes to major publications as a journalist and wrote a weekly Tech column for the Observer newspaper. In games, she was Head Scene Writer for Bungie's massively successful first person shooter video game, *Destiny*.



AMY BRADNEY-GEORGE - CONNIE



Amy is an actress who has worked in Australia and Vancouver, Canada. For Et Tu Theatre, she has played Maz in the Australian premiere of *Maz and Bricks* (2023), Kali in *Stockholm* (2019) and Desdemona in their 2021 workshop of *Othello*.

Other theatre credits include Olga in *Summerfolk* (2017), Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream Re-Imagined* (2016), Sicinius in *Coriolanus* (2016), Nora in *The Plough and the Stars* (2016) and an ensemble actor for MKA Theatre's *HOT!HOT!HOT* (2016).

In 2020, Amy played Henry VI in the international, online production of Shakespeare's Age of Crowns Cycle (IAE, Circle in the Sand). Other screen roles include Phebe in *As You Like It* (2020), Portia in *Julius Caesar* (2020), Susan in *Liz Drives* (2017), Kitty Cat in web series *Ninja Panda* (2014) and May in Canadian thriller *Chain of Fools* (2011).

Amy has trained with Scott Major, Brett Cousins at Red Stitch, Howard Fine, David Coury and Marilyn McIntyre at the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia and with Andrea Moor as part of her degree at Griffith University (B.Arts Drama, Journalism).

She also works as a voice over artist, writer and creative consultant. This includes a recent commission with the City of Coffs Harbour for the *Reflections for the Future* arts-based recovery project, writing verbatim theatre monologues and directing young people in audio performances of them.



SETON POLLOCK - TRISTAN



Seton is incredibly proud to be the co-founder and co-director of Et Tu Theatre Company, based here in the beautiful Bellingen Shire.

For Et Tu Theatre, Seton performed the role of Todd in the 2019 production of *Stockholm* by Bryony Lavery, Iago in Et Tu's workshop of William Shakespeare's *Othello* and Bricks in the Australian premiere of

Maz and Bricks by Eva O'Connor in 2023.

A classically trained actor, Seton graduated from NIDA in 2009.

Whilst at NIDA Seton played the lead roles in David Williamson's *Third World Blues* and William Shakespeare's *Pericles*. Seton also performed in Maxim Gorky's *Summerfolk*, Arnold Wekser's *The Kitchen* and Middleton and Barkers *Women Beware Women*.

Other notable roles include Caliban in Sly Rat Theatre's *The Tempest* for their acclaimed Shakespeare on the Maribyrnong River festival, and the title role of *Ajax*, for Burning House Theatre's take on the Greek classic. He also played Prince Hal, later King Henry V, for Circle in the Sand's *Age of Crowns* online productions in 2020.

Seton hopes you enjoy this production of *The Effect* by Lucy Prebble and thanks you greatly for supporting professional independent theatre on the Mid North Coast.



TAMAR COLLIER - DR LORNA JAMES



Tamar has performed on stage for over 20 years. During a ten-year stint in Melbourne, she performed in the Melbourne Fringe Festival and in productions with Malvern Theatre Company, Peridot Theatre, and in Williamstown Little Theatre's international debut of Kerry Drumm's *Strawberry* (2019).

Since returning to the Bellingen Shire, Tamar has both directed and performed with Dorrigo Dramatic Club, most recently on stage as Eve in their 2022 production of *Minefields and Miniskirts* (with a 2023 reprisal to launch the renovated Bellingen Memorial Hall) and behind the scenes directing Eddie Perfect's *The Beast* (2022).

Tamar is also a vocalist and has trained in jazz vocals with the Richmond Music Academy under the tutelage of Australian artist Lillian Albazi.

Tamar is currently directing Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit* opening in November 2024 at the Old Gazette Theatre, Dorrigo.

This is Tamar's first professional role with Et Tu Theatre.



TROY ROGERS - DR TOBY SEALEY



Settling into the Bellingham Shire in January 2023, Troy has performed in 2 local community theatre musicals, notably, as an ensemble cast in Bellingham Theatre Troupe's 2023 presentation *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and nailing one of the lead roles as Tommy DeVito in CHMCC's *Jersey Boys* in May 2024.

After several improvisation workshops with local thespians Louise V, Ben DeMole and Cezar Zamfir, Troy was invited to perform with the "Improv Collective" in June of this year.

Troy has recently returned from Sydney Fringe Festival after a 5 night run of his solo show *Upside Down Fantasyland*, an autobiographical performance of poetry, song and storytelling. He is looking forward to more opportunities in and out of the area!

The Effect is Troy's first professional acting role with Et Tu Theatre.



KERRIE-ANNE BAKER – DIRECTOR



As a director, Kerrie has worked mainly in television, where her documentary style series showcasing the latest in medical innovation and wellness, have played in many countries including the U.S.

This is Kerrie's first foray into theatre directing, and she is overjoyed to be working with such a dedicated and talented cast.

Kerrie's professional acting credits include guest roles in *Fake* with Asher Keddie, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Neighbours* and *City Homicide* to name a few.

Her professional theatre credits include swing for Pop Up Globe's Melbourne Shakespeare season, where she played Beatrice in *Much Ado*, Emilia in *Othello*, and Mary Davenant on the main stage, among other roles.



ANNA MCCROSSIN-OWEN - VOICE AND DIALECT COACH



Voice and Dialect Coach at Melbourne Theatre Company for over 60 productions and Lecturer in Voice & Dialect at the Victorian College of the Arts.

She trains actors, journalists, and public speakers.

Recent credits include:

Film/Streaming – *Deadloch 2*,

Hotel Cocaine, *The Twelve Season 2*, *The Witcher*, *Ice Road 2*. She was also Australian accent advisor on *The Crown* (Seasons 1 & 2).

Theatre – *Death of a Salesman*, *Woman in Black*, *2.22-A Ghost Story*, *The Mousetrap*, *Symphonie de Biclyclette*.

Music Theatre – *A Christmas Carol*, *Groundhog Day* (GWB Productions), *Sunset Boulevard* (Opera Australia), *GREASE* Australian Tour.

Anna has also received a Victorian Green Room award for Outstanding Contribution to the Melbourne Stage.



JOSH BELL - FIGHT DIRECTOR



Josh Bell is a journey-level fight director, actor and theatre-maker based in Melbourne. Under the mentorship of Lyndall Grant he is an assistant fight director at Captivate Action, and is a member of the Society of Australian Fight Directors. He has a BFA in Theatre Practice (Acting Company 2016) from the Victorian College of the Arts.

Fight credits include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Slay Theatre); *Hamlet*, *The Whale*, *Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Melbourne Shakespeare Company); *Powder Room* (MC Showroom); *Crocodile Fever* (TART Theatre Collective); *The View From Up Here* (The Voice in My Hands, Theatreworks); *Gundog* (Three Fates Theatre); *Cloud 9* (VCA); *Everyone is Famous* (Riot Theatre); *The Cane* (Red Stitch Theatre); *The Human Voice Project* (Periscope Productions); and *Stockholm* (Et Tu Theatre).

Josh has regular teaching engagements in the craft of stage combat to students across public workshops, university and high school settings.



SEAN BRADNEY-GEORGE - SOUND DESIGNER AND COMPOSER



Sean Bradney-George is a diverse creative with a passion for writing, music production, rapping, theatre and poetry.

As Wyldcard he has performed in numerous clubs and festivals in Australia and New Zealand over the past 14 years, often producing his own beats and DJing for himself. He has put out a string of releases in that time, the most recent being his debut feature album *Tunnel Visions* last year.

Sean first got into doing sound effects for theatre working with his Dad and sisters on plays in the early to mid 2000s. This was his introduction to electronic music production. Fast forward to last year and he added some sound effect work whilst also directing *Maz and Bricks* for Et Tu Theatre.

With just the sound to focus on this time around, Sean has arranged an original sound track and put some signature fades and reverb on sound effects to subtly enhance the setting of the play. He is excited to work with Et Tu again, as their attention to detail encourages him to hold his own work to a high standard.



THANKS

This show exists because of the passion, energy and creative force of our entire team. "Thank you" doesn't begin to cover the gratitude we have for everyone recognised in this program.

We have also had a huge amount of support behind the scenes and would like to acknowledge that here.

Thank you to our families for the emotional and practical support you've given us.

To Lucy Prebble and Knight Hall Agency in the UK, particularly Stephanie Ewens. They have been a pleasure to work with and we very much appreciate the support we had from the other side of the world.

To the Bellingen Memorial Hall team and Bellingen Shire Council, especially Phil Nicholas, whose work has breathed so much life and energy into the upgraded spaces here.

We also want to draw attention to the people you saw before you came through the doors: our wonderful front-of-house team, led by Michele Bradney-George and Jacob Brugmans.

It's been a journey for us to get here, and we also want to thank some businesses and organisations that have supported us in the lead-up to this show, including 2bbb Arts Mid North Coast, Bellingen Shire News, Bellingen Youth Hub, Mid North Coast Arts Guide, Theatre Matters, The Happy Frog and Inspired Audio Visual. Thanks also to Dr Brendon Morden and Lynda Lane.

Thanks also to our industry colleagues in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and around the world who have supported us from afar.

To all the people who have supported us, shared the event details and booked tickets. And to you, our amazing audience, for being here with us and connecting with this story.

Thank you.

