

Constellations

BY NICK PAYNE



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL
ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH
A CONCORD THEATRICALS COMPANY

At Lunatix we respectfully acknowledge First People's sovereignty and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and storytelling by Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia

Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land.

Synopsis

'Every choice, every decision you've ever and never made exist in an unimaginably vast ensemble of parallel universes'

A story of love, quantum mechanics and yes, bees. *Constellations* follows Marianne and Roland as they navigate their love story where in a single moment the possibilities are infinite, inexplicable and even miraculous.

What if you could relive the most important moments in your life, over and over, to see how things could have turned out differently?

This is the question at the heart of *Constellations*, Nick Payne's gloriously romantic West End hit and winner of the 2022 Olivier Award for Best Play Revival. A combination of the brilliance of films like *It's a Wonderful Life* and the theatrical tenderness of *Once*, *Constellations* was described by *The Guardian* as "a stirring love story with infinite possibilities".

As heartrending as it is splendid, *Constellations* tells the story of beekeeper Roland, and quantum physicist Marianne: two (literally) star-crossed lovers whose relationship we see in a series of different 'what if?' variations – their joy and heartbreak, their laughter and quarrels, their break-ups and make-ups. The result is a rich, compelling and sensitive love story that reflects on the power of human connection in a seemingly random universe.

Producers Notes – Maddie Richards



If you would of told me 5 months ago, that I would be opening my first show under a company in my name. I would of laughed in your face. These last few months have seen alot of first for me both personally as well as professionally.

My break through moment happened during a recent production, onstage, staring into the abiss, and I just knew that I wanted to keep chasing the moment I was currently experiencing. And I wasn't going to wait for it anymore. I just wanted to make theatre, so why not just do it. I'd always enjoyed the details and process that goes into making theatre and how collaborative the development is, so deep down I think I always knew I wanted to be a producer.

Constellations was my immediate pick for our first show, I fell in love with the show eight years ago and it never left my mind, and I was now at an age where I felt that I fully appreciate the gravitas the show brings. I had just finished doing a show with Luke and was drawn to his proactive and passionate approach to acting and I'm very lucky that he said yes, his performance is dynamic, engaging and captivating, and I wouldn't have been able to share this journey without him.

So now I just needed a team. A team that would work towards with my passion behind creating theatre, and I wouldn't of asked for a better group. While I had been lucky enough to work with my couldn't have done it without you.

entire production team previously, I am so proud of how everyone single person has grown, development and adapted to the many challenges that we were presented with. And even though we didn't always agree on everything, we'd rally as a team and has resulted in a beautifully emotional work. So I thank you all for your patience and commitment as I navigated the companies growing pains, I couldn't have done it without any of you.

Lastly, and although I may be bias, but immediatly asked one of my favourite directors whether she would be interested in joining me on this journey and she thankfully said yes.

So to Luke, Millie, Pat, Jav, Emma, Adelle and Carla thanks for willing to take a leap with me, and putting up with my slightly stressed brain.

So audience member, I hope you enjoy the experience we've attempted to create for you, from the story, to the tokens, the environment. Hopefully, you'll stick around and see what Lunatix has to offer.

Constellations

Writer

Nick Payne *He/Him*

Roland

Luke Hill-Smith *He/Him*

Director

Adelle Richards *She/Her*

Marianne

Maddie Richards *She/Her*

Production Manager/Lighting Design

Amelia Joy Fraumano *She/Her*

Stage Manager/Sound Designer

Patrick Spencer *He/Him*

Production Assistant

Javier Lumsden *He/Him*

Choreographer

Carla Grcic *She/Her*

Associate Director

Emma Wood *She/Her*

Producer/Graphic Design

Maddie Richards *She/Her*

Show Photographer

Erin Lord *They/Them*

Intimacy Coordinator

Jessica Stanley *She/Her*



With Special Thanks to:

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Cast



Roland

Luke Hill Smith
He/Him

Luke is an actor based in Melbourne. He graduated with a Diploma from the National Institute of Dramatic Art in 2022, and is currently studying at the Australian College of the Arts. He has worked across stage and screen for more than fifteen years, most recently playing Arviragus in the 2024 production of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* (*Burning House/Heartstrings*) and as Astroff in *Uncle Vanya* (directed by Sarah Goodes for CollArts).



Marianne

Maddie Richards
She/Her

Maddie Richards (she/her) is a Melbourne based artist, working as a performer, producer, designer and photographer for the last twelve years. She is currently finishing her Bachelor of Performing (Acting) with the Australian College of the Arts. She most recently appeared as Sonia in *Uncle Vanya*, Dir. Sarah Goodes with other highlights including Wednesday (*The Addams Family*), Marianne (*Merciless Gods*), Daughter (*Trail to Oregon*), Nancy (*Kids Stakes*) and Linda (*Blood Brothers*) for which she was nominated for a CONDA award.



Production



Director

Adelle Richards
She/Her

Adelle has been involved in the performing arts from an early age – following in her mother's footsteps. She performed in her first adult production at the tender age of 16. This proved to be the first of many ranging from university revues and musicals, to farces such as *Boeing Boeing*, to strong dramas like *Agnes of God* and everything in between. Adelle directed her first production in Melbourne in 1997, and has since directed many shows for NTC including *Under Milk Wood* (2004); *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (2007, 2022); *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* (2010); *The Accused* (2012); *Company* (2015); *Noises Off* (2016); *Blood Brothers* (2017); *Dogfight* (2019) and *Government Inspector* (2023). Four of these shows picked up an annual City of Newcastle Drama Award (CONDA) and ran sell out seasons. Adelle has also been involved with Wyong Musical Theatre Company: *Me and My Girl* (2018 Assistant Director) and *The Addams Family* (2022 Director). She is thrilled to be back in Melbourne, supporting and directing *Constellations* for Lunatix Theatre.



Production Manager/Lighting Design

Amelia Joy Fraumano
She/Her

Amelia is a Melbourne based actor and creator. Has been a part of community theatre for 13 years. She has studied at Deakin for Drama and is completing her Bachelor of Performing Arts /Acting at Australian Collage of the Arts. Most recent Credits, *Mother in Blood Wedding* (Dir. Briony Dunn, COLLARTS, 2024) as well as taking on multiple Tech/Design roles for the production including, Costume Design, Set Design and Lighting.



Stage Manager/ Sound Design

Patrick Spencer
He/Him

As a 21 year old originally from Brisbane, he has been interested in theatre from pretty early age. Initially interested in singing and performing in musicals, he quickly discovered his love for all things design in VCE Theatre Studies. Since beginning studies at COLLARTS, he has both stage managed and sound designed shows, often at the same time. Past productions include *Cymbeline* (Burning House/Heartstring Theatre Co., dir. Robert Johnson), *Cabaret Vertigo* (NICA) as an Assistant Stage Manager. And *Uncle Vanya* (COLLARTS, dir. Sarah Goodes) *The Day We Were Not Alone* (COLLARTS, dir. Kitan Petkowski) as a Sound Designer



Production Assistant/ Lighting Operator

Javier Lumsden
He/Him

Javier (he/him) is excited to be production assistant and lighting operator on *Constellations*.

He has previously performed on stage, some of his credits include Michael Astroff in *Uncle Vanya* (Dir. Sarah Goodes, COLLARTS 2024), Al Deluca in *A Chorus Line*, and Gomez Addams in *Addams Family*. Javier is currently studying a Bachelor of Performing Arts(Acting) at the Australian College Of The Arts.



Choreographer

Carla Grcic
She/Her

Dancer, Choreographer and Stage Manager. Professionally trained in all dance styles - Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip-Hop, Commercial, Contemporary and Heels. Performed with Melbourne City Youth Ballet, choreographic competitions, festivals and musical dance ensembles.



Associate Director

Emma Wood
She/Her

Emma Wood is an award winning, internationally produced playwright. Her plays have been widely acclaimed by audiences and critics in Australia, USA, UK, Canada and Asia.

Her prequel to *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mr Bennet's Bride* has been hugely popular, with 10 productions to date in Australia, USA and UK. Her most recent play, *Piece of Mind*, had a development production in LA with Write Act Repertory, receiving rave reviews. You can see more about her work at: emmawoodplays.au She is delighted to be working with Maddie and Adelle again and the whole Lunatix team.





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By Nick Enright

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