



Venus in Fur
By David Ives

“You don’t have to tell me about sadomasochism. I’m in the theatre.”
- Vanda

Synopsis

Playwright Thomas Novachek is at a loss. There are simply no actresses talented enough to play his leading lady. Then in walks Vanda, a mysterious siren with the uncanny ability to inhabit his character. All bets are off when the audition quickly escalates into a seductive power play. With loads of cheek and a hint of the erotic, *Venus in Fur* keeps you on the edge of your seat as you question "who is really in charge here?"

Adult content | Recommended for ages 16+

Cast

Craig Alexander

Thomas Novachek: Playwright/Director

Joanna Richards

Vanda Jordan: Aspiring Actress



Creative Team

Writer: David Ives

Director: Caroline Stacey

Stage & Costume Design: Imogen Keen

Sound Design: Kyle Sheedy

Lighting Design: Verity Hampson

Accent Coach: Dianna Nixon

Movement Coach: Emma Strapps

Production Team

Stage Manager: Angharad Lindley

Sound Operator: Seth Edwards-Ellis

Lighting Operator: Angharad Lindley

Set Build: Steven Crossley

Production Technicians: Seth Edwards-Ellis, Jed Buchanan, William Malam

Publicity: Su Hodge



Find us

6247 1519

thestreet.org.au

15 Childers Street

Canberra City

Biographies

David Ives

Born in Chicago, Illinois, David Ives is perhaps best known for his evening of one-act plays, *All In The Timing* and for his drama *Venus In Fur*, produced all over the world and nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play in 2012 and turned into a film by Roman Polanski in 2013. A former Guggenheim Fellow in playwriting and a graduate of The Yale School of Drama, he lives in New York City.

His plays include *New Jerusalem: The Interrogation Of Baruch De Spinoza*, *The School For Lies* (adapted from Molière's *The Misanthrope*); *The Liar* (adapted from *Corneille*), *Time Flies* and *Is He Dead?* (adapted from Mark Twain). He has also translated Feydeau's *A Flea In Her Ear* and Yasmina Reza's *A Spanish Play*.

Craig Alexander

Craig Alexander is an award-winning actor, writer, film and theatre maker, with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Acting. Recent stage credits include: his acclaimed solo production of *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*; various roles in the premiere production of *Cold Light* by Alana Valentine; Roo in Pigeonhole Theatre's *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*; multiple roles in The Street Theatre's radio play double bill, *War of the Worlds/Tourmaline*.

Recent screen credits include *Dirt* (Next In Line Films), *Insecure Digital* (ScreenCraft), *Life* (Short Poppy Productions), *Victimas* (O'Hallmurray Films), several national TVC campaigns, and donning a wicked moustache in the hilarious *Trainee Bomb Squad*.

Craig is currently adapting several classic horror tales for the stage and is also a father of four, a motorcycle enthusiast, gamer, somewhat-regular meditator, progressive callisthenics practitioner, Wing Chun Kung Fu student, not very successful organic vegetable grower, often house-husband, Connoisseur vanilla ice-cream addict and occasionally finds time to sleep...

Joanna Richards

Trained at American Repertory Theatre at Harvard with Moscow Art Theatre Conservatory, she played Natasha in *Three Sisters* and Yelena in *Uncle Vanya*. Stage credits in Canberra include the role of Harrison in *Boys Will Be Boys* (The Street Theatre) title role of Atajara in *Widowbird* (The Street Theatre) and various music theatre works at QCC including *Blood Brothers* and *Fame*, both directed by Stephen Pike. Her most recent screen credit is for Judy in the forthcoming season of Rake. Joanna completed a degree in International Relations at ANU, followed by a scholarship to Harvard University. The 2015 ACT Telstra's Young Business Woman of the Year, she is the first PhD candidate to be accepted into Virginia Haussenger's 50/50 by 2030 Foundation.

Caroline Stacey

Caroline is the Artistic Director/CEO of The Street Theatre, Canberra's leading creative producer of contemporary theatre and live performance and the creative hub for professional and independent artists. In 2012 Caroline received the Canberra Artist of the Year Award for her outstanding contribution to theatre and the performing arts.

Caroline has an extensive career as a festival director leading Castlemaine State Festival for seven years and as a stage director of theatre and opera working for companies as diverse as West Australian Opera, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Sydney Opera House, Queensland Music Festival, Victorian Opera, Canterbury Opera, Melbourne Opera, Saltpillar Theatre, and Downstage Theatre (NZ). Works directed for The Street include: *Diary of a Madman*, *The Weight of Light*, *Boys Will Be Boys*, *Cold Light*, *Constellations*, *The Chain Bridge*, *The Faithful Servant*, *MP*, *To Silence*, *The Give and Take*, *Where I End & You Begin*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Capital*, *Medea*, *The Jade Harp*, *Albert Herring*, *The Six Memos* and *From A Black Sky*.

Imogen Keen

Imogen is an award-winning set and costume designer for professional theatre production. She has enjoyed a long collaboration with The Street Theatre, including design for: *Diary of a Madman*; *The Weight of Light*; *Boys Will Be Boys*; *Under Sedation: Canberra verse Remixed*; *Constellations*; *Cold Light*; *The Faithful Servant*; *The Chain Bridge*; *MP*; *Where I End & You Begin*, *The Give & Take*; *To Silence*; *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*; *Lawrie and Shirley*; *Albert Herring*; *Dido and Aeneas*. Imogen has received Canberra Critics Circle Awards for Theatre Design (2009; 2011) and an MEAA Peer Acknowledgement Award (2011). She has worked on a wide variety of theatre, film, music and cross-disciplinary productions for: Aspen Island Theatre Company, This Band Will Self Destruct, COUP Canberra, Handel In The Theatre, Barking Spider Visual Theatre, Polyglot Theatre, Canberra Youth Theatre, Little Dove Theatre and Urban Theatre Projects. Imogen graduated from the ANU School of Art in 1993.

Verity Hampson

Verity Hampson is a lighting and projection designer for theatre, dance, opera, film and television. Verity has worked with many of Australia's leading directors and choreographers including Judy Davis, Leticia Caceres, Lee Lewis, Imara Savage, Sarah Goodes, Gale Edwards, Kate Champion, Meryl Tankard, Stuart Maunder, Sam Strong and Eamon Flack.

Since graduating from NIDA, Verity has forged a formidable career, designing over 120 productions including the multiple award-winning productions of *The Drover's Wife* and *Faith Healer* (Belvoir); *The Bleeding Tree* (Griffin); *After Dinner and Machinal* (Sydney Theatre Company); *The Boys* and *The Floating World* (Griffin); and Helpmann Award nominated production *Fly Away Peter* (Sydney Chamber Opera). Verity won a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Mainstage Lighting Design for her work on *Machinal* with Sydney Theatre Company. She was awarded the Mike Walsh Fellowship which took her to Broadway to work with projection designers 59 Productions.

Kyle Sheedy – Sound Designer

Kyle is an Audio Engineer based in Canberra. Having completed a Cert II Live Production, Theatre and Events during High School he moved to Canberra to complete an Advanced Diploma in Sound Production through CIT. Predominately a live engineer working on festivals and local gigs, he also works in other areas of sound. He has experience in the film industry having worked a range of films as Location Recordist and Boom Operator as well as Sound Editor, Designer and Mixer in Post Production. He also works in the studio whether it be band Recordings, Mixing, Mastering, or other tasks such as Audio Restoration.

He started getting into the theatre world working as a general tech and operator. He has worked as an Audio Operator on The Street Theatre productions: *The Faithful Servant*; *Cold Light*; *Boys Will Be Boys*. Sound design credits for The Street Theatre include *Constellations* and the double-bill radio-style plays of *Tourmaline* and *The War of The Worlds*.

Angharad Lindley

Angharad graduated with Distinction from the University of Wollongong in a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Performance). As Assistant Stage Manager her credits include *The Dapto Chaser* (Merrigong Theatre Company), *Snugglepote & Cuddlepie* (CDP

Theatre Producers), *Alice In Wonderland* – NSW Regional Tour 2018 (Michael Sieders Presents), *Hamlet* and *Hedda Gabler* (Belvoir). Her Stage Management credits include, *Lucy Black*, *The Political Hearts of Children* (subtlenuance), *Opera at the Forum* (Pacific Opera), *Rust and Bone*, *Fireface*, *Music*, *Minus One Sister* (Stories Like These), *Dirty Blonde* (Garnet Productions), *A Butcher of Distinction* (we do not unhappen), *The Lightbox* (Fat Boy Dancing), *Gaybies*, *Deathtrap*, *The Pride* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company), *RENT – The Musical* (Highway Run Productions), *Belleville* (Mad March Hare Theatre Company), *Resident Alien* (Left Bauer Productions - Sydney and Canberra), *Songs For The Fallen* (Critical Stages), *The Dapto Chaser* (Apocalypse Theatre Company). For Street Theatre: *Cold Light*, *Constellations*, *Under Sedation*, *Boys Will Be Boys* and *Diary of a Madman*.



Acknowledgements

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We thank our Street Supporters for their donations ensuring this work was produced and opportunities created to allow talented people to bring excellence to the stage. The Street is Canberra's Professional theatre company and leading creative producer dedicated to contemporary theatre and live performance.

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