



ST. NICHOLAS





ST. NICHOLAS

by Conor McPherson

5—7 JUNE 2020

The Street Theatre, Street Two, Canberra

"YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP IT IN, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU OPEN THOSE FLOODGATES, CHRIST
KNOWS WHAT THE HELL IS GOING TO
COME POURING OUT."

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THEATRE—MUSIC—COMEDY

THE STREET

ABOUT THE PLAY

When a jaded Dublin theatre critic abandons his ordinary life in pursuit of a beautiful young actress, his desires lead him to strike an irreversible bargain with a band of modern-day vampires.

The action of St Nicholas takes place in various locations including a cosy study in Dublin, the bustle of London's West End and even a vampire's lair. But where exactly do we end up?

CAST

The Critic	Craig Alexander
Musician	Den Hanrahan

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer	Conor McPherson
Director	Shelly Higgs
Composition and Sound Design	Den Hanrahan
Production Design	Imogen Keen
Lighting Design	James Tighe
Camera Operator	Liam Budge
Vision Mixer	Kyle Sheedy
Lighting Operator	William Malam
Accent Coach	Christopher Samuel Carroll
Production Crew	James Tighe, Kyle Sheedy, William Malam
Publicity	Su Hodge
Production Photography	Creswick Collective, Shelly Higgs
Production Videography	Craig Alexander
Marketing Artwork	DAMS

St Nicholas plays at The Street Theatre and online Friday 5 June through Sunday 7 June. The performance runs for 90 minutes with an 8 minute interval.

STREAMED LIVE



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Creating a show in the time of Covid_19 has certainly presented many challenges. My biggest focus was always around the question of how to reach through screens and into living rooms to connect with people. Of how to transport the liveness of theatre - its conventions, its delights, its excitement, into a digital form that still has enough of the original ingredients to achieve what theatre sets out to do.

St Nicholas, is a storytelling piece. About a critic who struggles to find his own meaning in the world, his brush with vampires asks all sorts of questions of the audience; questions of power, of control, of reality. Ultimately, our live-streamed version of this work is an investigation into storytelling and connection. It's an experimental process for us, and has been a steep learning curve, as the translation of stage to screen isn't always easy to navigate.

Regardless of the challenges, the point is, that telling stories is important. Sharing is important. Connecting and feeling a part of something greater, is important. Especially at the moment, when the way that we connect is fundamentally shifting. It is our hope that you join us and take part in this experiment too. Because undoubtedly, you the audience, is what this is all about. And while it may not be in the same room as us, it's at least all happening at the same time. If something goes wrong, you see it. There's no pretence, there's no fourth wall. It's a shared experience.

Shelly Higgs, June 2020



CONOR MCPHERSON
WRITER

Conor McPherson is a playwright and screenwriter who was named by The New York Times as 'the finest playwright of his generation'. Conor won the George Devine Award in 1997 with his play *St Nicholas*, and went on to win an Olivier Award for Best

New Play in 1999 with his follow-up, *The Weir*. In 2006 he received a Tony Award nomination for *Shining City* and an Olivier Award nomination for Best New Play for *The Seafarer*. In 2011 he wrote and directed *The Veil* for the National Theatre and in 2012 he adapted Strindberg's *The Dance of Death* for the Donmar Trafalgar Season. *The Night Alive* premiered at the Donmar in June 2013 and transferred to the Atlantic Theater in New York in November 2013. Conor is currently working on the screenplay *Double Cross* for Paul Greengrass. His original television drama *Paula*, developed with Cuba Pictures and BBC NI for BBC2, aired in May 2017 to brilliant reviews. *The Girl from the North Country*, with music from Bob Dylan, had its world premiere at the Old Vic theatre in July 2017 and transferred to the West End in January 2018.



SHELLY HIGGS
DIRECTOR

Shelly is a professional theatre director, producer, occasional playwright and multi award- winning photographer. Shelly currently is The Street's Executive Assistant of Arts Programs including coordination of the First Seen: new works- in-progress

program. Recent productions for The Street include creative development and direction of: *Fragments* by Maura Pierlot; *Epitaph* by Ross Mueller, (The Street and The Australian War Memorial); and, *7 Great Inventions of the Modern Industrial Age* by Sally Greenway. Creative developments for The Street include: *Refuge* by Geraldine Turner, *Marion and Walter* by Peter Coleman *Life's a Bitch* by David Cole, *Diode Yang* by Graham McBean, and *Outsider* by Peter Cook. Directing credits include: *Closer* by Patrick Marber (Gearstick), *Baby Talk* by Doug Wright (Gearstick), *The Injuriousness of Tobacco* and *The Bear* by Anton Chekov (adaptation for Jetty Theatre), *Irreconcilable Differences* (Shakespeare adaptation toured as TIE piece throughout NSW and VIC), *Cinderella* (adaptation for Jetty Theatre), Jacob Marley's *Christmas Carol* by Tom Mula (The Street Theatre, Depot Theatre). Shelly trained as an actor (BA Acting CSU 2002), (RADA 2004) and co founded regional theatre company Gearstick Theatre with Craig Alexander in 2002.



CRAIG ALEXANDER
ACTOR

Craig Alexander is an award-winning actor, writer, film and theatre maker with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Acting from CSU. He has an extensive history touring throughout regional centres with Riverina based Gearstick Theatre; the company

which he co-founded and led as Artistic Director for almost ten years. He has held senior arts leadership positions including Creative Producer for Jigsaw Theatre Company, General Manager for Canberra Youth Theatre and Manager for Jetty Memorial Theatre. Recent stage credits at The Street Theatre include: *Exclusion*; *Venus in Fur*; *Cold Light*; *War of the Worlds*, *Tourmaline*; *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*; and, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (Pigeonhole Theatre). Recent Screen credits include: *Dead Heart* (Channel 7/Beyond) *Dirt* (Next In Line Films – Best Actor award at the inaugural Fleurieue Film Festival) *The Photographer* (thehorse.media – Best Actor Canberra Short Film Festival 2018), *Life* (Short Poppy Productions), *Victimas* (O'Hallmurray Films), several national TVC campaigns, and comedy series *Trainee Bomb Squad*. Craig currently is developing, with Nick Stannard, comedy series, *Trainee Bomb Squad*, a horror-comedy feature and adapting several classic horror tales for the stage.



ST. NICHOLAS



THE STREET



DEN HANRAHAN
COMPOSER | SOUND DESIGN | MUSICIAN

Canberra-based musician, Den Hanrahan is a published singer-songwriter, teacher and producer with a Bachelor of Contemporary Music from Southern Cross University with a Double Major in Composition and Music Theory. From his work with his band 'Saddle Rash' in the early 2000's, to his solo career of 19 years he has delivered 6 albums, 2 EPs, had songs featured on radio, in films and TV series and taught guitar to over 500 students across the ACT and NSW. Considered one of Australia's best contemporary singer-songwriters, Den's reputation as a composer spans many different genres but all serve to highlight his love of the story song. His songs tell the tales of modern Australia – from the red dust of the land, to the loves and losses of the people that have touched his life. Woven through this rich repertoire are the stories drawn from his past, finely observed tales from his years living and working across the country which have spawned the albums *Red Dust* (2005), *Black Swamp Road* (2010) and *One Horse Town* (2012), amongst others. In 2014, his musical focus turned to hybrid bluegrass with band, the Rum Runners recording albums and touring. 2020 sees the release of *Scars* and back to a roots/country vibe.
www.denhanrahan.bandcamp.com



IMOGEN KEEN
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

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: *Flight Memory*; *Fragments*; *Metamorphosis*;

A Doll's House, Part 2; *Venus in Fur*; *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, 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.

JAMES TIGHE
LIGHTING DESIGNER

James Tighe has been working professionally in the live performance industry since graduating from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Professional Music Practice. James has worked in several varying roles within the industry, primarily as an Audio Technician and Production Manager, with notable credits including; Production Manager for *The Merchants of Bollywood Kuwait Tour* (ATA Allstar 2019), Stage Manager for *Grease the Arena Experience* (Harvest Rain Theatre Company 2018), and *The Bar at Buena Vista* (ATA Allstar 2018). Tour Manager for Tim Freedman (2019). Sound Design *Exclusion* (Street Theatre 2018), *Miss Saigon* (ANU 2015).

James lighting design credits include *Fragments* (The Street), *ANU Med Revue* (2015,2016), and *Speaking in Tongues* (NUTS 2015). As a lighting technician, James has worked at the Canberra Theatre Centre, The Street Theatre, The Hayes Theatre and other venues, on a range of different productions. James has also worked as the Head Audio Technician at the Canberra Theatre Centre, and has worked as an Audio and Lighting operator for a range of local, national, and international touring performing artists.



LIAM BUDGE
CAMERA OPERATOR

Liam Budge is an award-winning Canberra-based creative exploring the artistic mediums of music, photography and videography. As a videographer, Liam has specialised in directing and filming unique and dynamic films for musical artists. Such highlights include music video clips for Gideon King & City Blog, and behind the scenes documentary videos for Kristin Berardi, Kate Kay Es and Desmond White.

St Nicholas will see Liam return to The Street Theatre, after making his theatre debut in the acclaimed production of Sandra France and Alana Valentine's *Flight Memory* in October 2019. Since returning to Canberra in 2019, Liam has set up the 'Creswick Collective', to house his artistic pursuits and facilitate continued collaboration with Australian and international artists.

DEDICATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THANK YOU

Carey and David Gaul, Riley Higgs and Nicole Davidson for your support.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The support that The Street Theatre receives from individual patrons is crucial to the ongoing success of the company. The generosity of The Street's supporters enables us to develop the talents of aspiring ACT artists, create new Australian works and to continue to inspire with a unique program of work on stage.



STREET LIFE / \$5000+

Michael Adena, Joanne Daly



STREET PARTY / \$1000—\$5000

Mark Craswell, Michael Sassella, Caroline Stacey, David & Margaret Williams, Cathy Winters, Peter Wise



STREET WORKS / \$500—\$1000

Dean Ellis, Jamie Hladky, John Passioura, George Lawrence



STREET STYLE / \$250 — \$500

Ann Bounds, Tamara Mckee, Bren Weatherstone, Anonymous (3)



STREET WISE UP TO / \$250

Marion Amies, Roger Bean, Watson Blaikie, Thomas Boleyn, Joanna Bowen, Georgina Breen, Duncan Bosworth, David Coghlan, Peter Copeman, Sue Crawford, Belinda Daley, Julia Dunston, Fleur Flanery, Helen Fletcher, Tim Foster, Alan Flett, James Fursdon, James Gary, Jacky Gibson, Stephen Goggs, Isobel Griffin, Beverly Hart, David Hinds, Simon Hobbs, Chris Holly, Andrew Hollo, Graeme Hoy, Sarah Hubert, Margaret Hyland, Tanya Jacobsen, Gary James, Alan Jordan, Kathryn Kelly, John Laidlaw, Kelli Lawton, Caroline Le Couteur, Rosemary Lohmann, Neil McAlister, Barbra McAuley, David McCook, Fergus McCowan, Tamara McKee, Fiona Manning, Kirsten Maron, Anna Marzano, Frederique Morris, Jason Morrissey, Anne Murn, Alexandra Pelvin, Maura Pierlot, Andrew Purdham, Sarah Reid, Susan Reye, Dean Richmond, Sarah Rogers, Dave Robson, Geoff Rodwell, Denise Ryan, Fiona Sawyers, Kathryn Stenner, Sarah Stitt, Peta Tanahill, Rebecca Vassarotti, Rodney Waghorn, Grant Wales, Leigh Watson, Patti Wilkins, Lyle Williams, Ramon Wilson, Margot Woods, Natalie Zuber.

To find out more about supporting The Street please call 02 6247 1519 or visit thestreet.org.au/donate-now

ABOUT THE STREET

The Street is Canberra's leading creative producer dedicated to contemporary performance, and presenting bold work from other places. Inspired by our geography, history and people, we champion creative process alongside finished work; rich dialogue with our community, and in our city of ideas, inquisitive artists who have something to say about the world.

Over 24 years, the company has established itself as an essential part of Canberra's cultural and imaginative life. Our home is The Street Theatre in City West, where cast, creatives, artists, and audiences meet in our three performance spaces and café. We are dedicated to bringing distinctive and diverse Australian stories to the stage, with many of the finest and much loved creative talent in the region and beyond, including Canberra's diaspora, on our stages. Original works developed and produced have included: *Breaking The Castle*; *Fragments*; *Flight Memory*; *Epitaph*; *The Weight of Light*; *Tourmaline*; *Cold Light*; *The Iliad Out Loud*, *Pigman's Lament*; *The Faithful Servant*; *The Chain Bridge*; *From a Black Sky*; *M.P.*; *Bartleby*; *Where I End & You Begin*; *How to be (or not to be) Lower*; *Johnny Castellano is Mine*; *In Loco Parentis*; and *Underage House Party Play*.

THE STREET / STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/CEO

Caroline Stacey

PRODUCER

Dean Ellis

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Shelly Higgs

COMMUNICATIONS

Su Hodge

CUSTOMER SERVICE & TICKETING SUPERVISOR

Skye Rose

FOH TEAM

Logan Craswell, Pierce Craswell, Lilia Walsh

In collaboration with:

BRAND + DESIGN

DAMS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Novel Photographic

THE STREET / BOARD

Susan Blain, Mark Craswell, Kirsty Easdale, Henry Kazar, Jamie Hladky, Kate Shepherd



The Street Theatre acknowledges the Ngunnawal peoples, the First Peoples of Country on which The Street Theatre stands, and we pay our respects to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.

The Street is an ACTarts facility managed by The Stagemaster Inc, a not-for-profit organisation, supported by the ACT Government through artsACT.

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15 CHILDERS ST
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