

Sunnybank Theatre Group presents
By arrangement with Origin Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French,
a Concord Theatricals Company

the
SUMMERS
of
US

by **David Stevens**

directed by **Dierdre Robinson**

April 9 - 24, 2021

Setting

The play is set in the living and dining room of the Mitchell household in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne in the early 1990s.

From the Director

We are so very grateful to be able to present this very heartwarming play to you tonight. The lead-up to tonight has been plagued by ill-health, Covid testing and the recent lockdown, but tonight that is behind us and we sincerely hope that you laugh and cry with us as we tell the story of *The Sum of Us*. Our children are the sum of us, and of our parents and grandparents, and so this play is about a father and a son, their life together, their love, and their hopes for each other. It's a very Australian story, but it could be about any family anywhere.

The Sum of Us was made into a very popular film in 1994 and starred Jack Thompson as the father, with Russell Crowe as his son Jeff. The play is a little more introspective, and, without the trappings of a movie, gives us an insight into the thoughts, memories, wishes, desires and loves of the main characters. We have loved working on this play, and we have learnt so much. We hope you too will enjoy it.



(formerly Gold Coast Theatre Awards)

Sunnybank Theatre Group is a participant in the 2020 Gold Palm Theatre Awards



Dierdre Robinson
Director

A lifetime associated with theatre in various forms is Dierdre's background. Although she has occasionally been seen on the STG stage in acting roles, including *Hotel Sorento* and recently *Kindly Leave the Stage*, the creativity of moulding characters from the director's point of view is her main passion. She recently directed our final show in 2019, *Shirley Valentine*, and in recent years, *Sleuth*, *Barefoot in the Park* and *Done to Death* are among her credits. Dierdre has worked in all aspects of community theatre including backstage and front of house.



John Mordacz
Assistant Director

John has been a fixture at STG for many years as director, assistant director, lighting and sound operator, stage manager, crew and president of the committee. He has been a part of many productions, including *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Good Business Sense*, *The Sound of Music*, *Stepping Out* and *Guys and Dolls*. In 2017 he directed the successful season of *Avenue Q* and is always on the lookout for other shows that are quirky, humorous and a little naughty. For now he has settled on this wonderful Australian play and hopes you enjoy *The Sum of Us*.



Andrew Roberts

Jeff

Chiropractor by day, performer by night, Andy is putting the ACTOR in ChiroprACTOR. After a five year break from the stage to focus on his career, Andy is super excited to be treading the boards again; especially here at the Sunnybank Theatre Group where he first cut his teeth almost 15 years ago as Troy in *Hotel Sorrento*. This was also the last stage he performed on in Brisbane almost 8 years ago prior to moving to Sydney. Whilst Andy prefers performing in plays, he has also been seen to enjoy the spectacle & fun of musical theatre and has had the opportunity to perform in a range of plays and musicals all over Brisbane and in a few locations in Sydney. He has played roles ranging from a guest appearance as a Camel's bum, all the way up to leading roles across a broad range of shows like *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Cats*, *Chess*, *One flew Over the Cuckoo's nest*, *The Addams Family Musical* and *Breaking Up is Hard to Do* - just to name a few. This play has been a great experience to step back on the stage with, and Andy believes that it is important that we continue to tell Queer stories, especially those that show the struggle many have lived through or continue to in some places.



Chris O'Leary

Harry

Chris has been a member of the STG family since 2010 with his first production, *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has since been seen in many roles on stage from musicals (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Sound of Music*, *Dusty*) to comedy (*Barefoot in the Park*, *Done to Death*, *Relatively Speaking*) to thriller (*Deathtrap*, *Suddenly at Home*, *Sleuth*) and drama (*A Few Good Men*, *Trap for a Lonely Man*).

Chris has also had many roles backstage in lighting, props and sets, and has directed *Guys and Dolls*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Tally Hall Radio Plays* and most recently *Xanadu*.

After this production, Chris will be taking a well deserved rest for a few months... he's not as young as he used to be. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time with the cast and crew of *The Sum of Us* and hopes you enjoy this very real story of family and love in 1990's Australia, whatever your persuasion.



Nicholas Chong
Greg

Nicholas is an identical twin who has taken part in a number of short films in 2020. *The Sum of Us* is his first theatre production. He has a Bachelor in Film Production and animation, but later realised acting is the path for him. He has been taking classes with acting coach Gareth Harris to build up his skills and is very excited to be a part of this production of *The Sum of Us*. He wants to thank his brothers and parents for always supporting his passions.



Joanne Oliver
Joyce

Joanne first production at Sunnybank was back in 1996. After the necessary break in 2020 she is delighted to be back again working with a wonderful cast and crew. Her previous shows here at STG include *Done to Death*, *Keeping up Appearances*, *Allo Allo*, *Are You Being Served* and *Noises Off* to name a few. Joanne has enjoyed being part of this production with its interesting, real-life characters and hopes that you enjoy it as much as she has loved being in it.

The Crew

Director	Dierdre Robinson
Assistant Director	John Mordacz
Lighting and Sound Design	Joanne Sephton
Lighting Operators	Joanne Sephton
	John Mordacz
Costumes	The Cast
Props	The Cast and Crew

We'd like to thank our wonderful volunteers who manage the bar, greenroom ushering and box office without whom your experience of STG would not be as great.



If you love theatre like we do, come and join us.
You'd be very welcome.
We're a great bunch of people who share a passion for the stage.

If acting isn't your thing, there are lots of other ways to be involved.
You could work back stage, or with sound and lighting.
You could help build sets, or make costumes.
Perhaps you could give a hand in the box office,
or the bar, or show people to their seats.
You can be involved as much or as little as you want,
but we would love you to be involved.

Talk to one of our volunteers, call us on 3345 3964,
email us at info@stg.org.au,
or chat to us on Facebook (search for @sunnybanktheatre).

Be sure to follow us on Instagram to keep in touch with what's
happening at your theatre (search for SunnybankTheatreGroup).

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