

Sunnybank Theatre Group presents



Written and produced by Ashley Worsman

Directed by Ashley Worsman

Musical Direction by Carleen Steele

Choreography by Lynette Wockner

12 – 27 November 2021



Ashley Worsman

Director

May I take you back to the end of 2019 if you will, a place of happier times for all.

I was approached and asked about being involved in the last show for the 2020 season here at STG, a pantomime. I considered this to be a very exciting prospect and set to work looking for some show ideas. I couldn't find anything that struck a chord so after a few weeks I made the suggestion that I would like to try and write one instead. I mean how hard could this idea be, right? Famous last words let me tell you!

I spent the next 2 months coming up with an idea and writing the first scene and had a deadline of mid 2020 to have at least a rough concept script completed.

I scribbled down some ideas using the pantomime notion but wanting to try something new, not necessarily making it a full pantomime show. I wanted trickles of that formula made so popular in the UK however I didn't want to overdo it but make it more my own. Yes, we needed to have the "he's behind you" and the typical villain and hero but I didn't want the script to drag and instead for it to be punchy and move along at a good pace.

So with that idea in mind I settled on "Red Riding Hood" as the base story with at least two other mini story lines intertwined together with a common "link" idea which I was yet to figure out.

We had hoped to be able to write our own music but again it was a time factor, so we have selected music from current musicals that fitted into the script and rewrote the lines before the songs to link them. The first scene was written, and progress continued to developing Act 1. All was going well then, March 2020 hit and well.... Blah!

Progress did continue as we believed by November things would return to normal and the show would still go ahead. However COVID kept it's ugly head held high and all of the 2020 season was cancelled - we all know what the last twenty months has been like.

The challenge of writing a script continued with version after version and rewrites being a common daily thing and, as the characters developed and were locked in, I started sourcing items for costumes as the post was still working and I could do some online shopping, The creation of the costumes continued in the coming months with many changing looks and styles as we went along.

April 2021 we had a read through of a draft script. I was very nervous that long terms friends were about to read something I have written and was worried it would all crash and burn. What little faith I had in myself, it was an amazing read, and the cast were laughing at the right bits. Over the next few months before general auditions further rewrites and ideas were thrown in and removed to fine tune further.

Auditions were set for August 22nd and a lockdown also decided to take place. Auditions were then bumped to 12th of September and instantly lost 3 weeks and 9 rehearsals from our schedule.

Rehearsals finally began, the show was off the ground, the script was at last being brought to life! Or was it? We then hit further restrictions and did what we could to accommodate being challenged even further to reach the goal of preview night and have things ready to go. The last 20 months has been a rollercoaster. The task of putting on any show or event is tough enough, with sleepless nights and a truck load of stress. You start to wonder why there aren't more hours in a day to get things done. And that's without a Pandemic!

This amazing cast and innovative team have made me so proud of what we have achieved under extremely difficult conditions, to create a theatre production worthy of our patrons. I hope you enjoy the show.

WELCOME TO STORY BOOK!!



Carleen Steele
Musical Director

Carleen first began playing piano at the tender age of 2 and was a guest performer at the Yamaha Music Festival at age 3. In her teens she was encouraged to try composition and her first attempt saw her being selected as one of three from around 33,000 entrants in Australia / Asia Pacific to be performed in a national concert. Carleen studied piano and composition at the University of Queensland as well as contributing to various Eisteddfods along with Yamaha Australia as a competitor and adjudicator. She has also composed theme and background music for television pilots and various multimedia resources. Carleen is a passionate music educator, teaching students at local schools and at her private studio in Ipswich. She considers her greatest productions to be her four children, all of whom share her love of music. She is very excited to be a part of *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue* – her seventh collaboration with the Sunnybank Theatre Group.



(formerly Gold Coast Theatre Awards)

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



Pam Cooper
Assistant Director

It's been a long time coming but here it is at last! Ashley started writing this some 19 months ago and we've been having sessions looking at costumes, music, scenery, changing script, changing story line and I'm so pleased for him that we are now able to bring to you the 'completed version' of his 'baby' *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue*. I have to admire his tenacity, doggedness, single-mindedness and perseverance and his obvious love of what he wanted to achieve, successfully doing so. I applaud the cast for their hard work under the amazing baton of Musical Director Carleen and Choreographer Lynette both of whom have put hours into making this show come alive. I know for certain the only thing Ashley would like now is to have you, the audience, sit back, relax, let yourself be taken away to "Story Book" Village and enjoy his creation.



Lynette Wockner
Choreographer

Lynette has been involved with theatre for many years, either on stage or as a choreographer for various theatre companies in and around Brisbane. Lynette was a Highland Dancer, teacher and qualified international adjudicator. The last stage roles Lynette had at Sunnybank Theatre were in *Avenue Q* and *The Wedding Singer* and she has choreographed *Dusty* and *Xanadu* for STG. In addition Lynette has choreographed theatre restaurant productions, *Dinner in Transylvania* and *Forbidden Broadway* for Casa Mia Productions. For other theatres in recent years she has choreographed *Ladies in Black* for the Villanova Players, *Victor/Victoria* for Beenleigh Theatre Group and *The Marvellous Wonderettes* for Anam Cara Productions. It has been a rewarding experience bringing this premiere production, *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue* to the stage and the cast, crew and production team are sure you will enjoy a wonderful night at the theatre with Red and her friends.



Daisy Rapley

The Story Writer

This is Daisy's first show with Sunnybank Theatre, but no doubt, not the last. She discovered a love of theatre earlier this year as a chorus member in her school production of *Chicago*, with her younger brother, James. Appearing in *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue* along with James, and their mum, Jane, they have decided to collectively be known as 'The Von Raps'



Joanne Sephton

Fairy

Sparkle Sparkle!! As a member of Sunnybank Theatre for nearly 20 years you will typically find Joanne looking down at the actors and audience from the lighting box. Occasionally she ventures onto the stage. With previous roles in *The Sound of Music*, *Mikado*, *You Must Remember This* and *Puss in Boots*.

Joanne is so excited to play the role of Fairy. She cannot wait to glide with style and hopes she will bring a little sparkle to the lives of STG patrons.



Grace Faint

Red Riding Hood

Grace discovered a love for singing and acting from a young age, and has pursued training and performance opportunities since then. Grace is a part of her school's NOVA arts program, is participating in Griffith University's SHEP program, and has received over 4 years of vocal training. Grace has starred in a variety of shows including *Annie*, *The Government Inspector*, and most recently Miss Honey in *Roald Dahl's Matilda*. She is beyond delighted to play Red Riding Hood and says she is blessed to perform alongside this cast of creatives.

She would also like the audience to know that she isn't actually frightened of the wolf, and Gary is a really nice guy.



Brett Wilson

Granny

It's been 23 years since Brett has tread the boards. Before his car accident in 1998, Brett was an accomplished dancer and choreographer having performed in numerous productions both on stage and television. To his acting credit he has played roles from Shakespeare through to contemporary roles including Lycimicus in *Pericles* and Jeff in *The Sum of Us*. He has directed productions of *Six Degrees of Separation* and *I Have a Hunch* to name just a few. In his early 20s he wrote a musical *Mindplay* which won several awards at the Arts Theatre Festival. This is the first time Brett has played a pantomime dame and it has been great fun bringing *Granny* to life. Brett is once again finding his feet and excited to be under the stage lights, wearing fun costumes and playing the big bold and over the top loveable *Granny*.



Nathaniel Young

The Woodcutter

Fresh off his debut with Savoyards Musical Theatre in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Nate is thrilled to be back for the WORLD PREMIERE of *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue!* Despite a few tempestuous flings with Centenary Theatre Group and Nash Theatre, as well as writing, producing, and performing for Brisbane Anywhere Festival and Short+Sweet, he's come to think of STG as his home away from home, and it's great to be back, following *First Things First* earlier in the year and his third directorial effort with *Eventide*. Additionally, his first novel *Analog Cop* (as "Nathaniel James", wink wink, plug plug!) is available to purchase via Amazon. Nate hopes you enjoy the show!



Lesley Davis

The Evil Queen

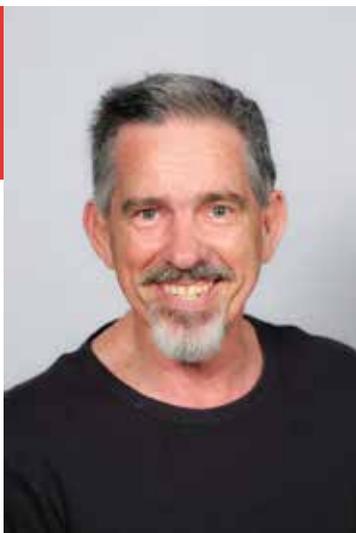
Lesley is undoubtedly a familiar face around STG, having been an active member for many years, both on the stage and behind the scenes, including involvement on committees where she contributes to the future direction of Brisbane's friendliest little theatre company. *The Evil Queen* has let Lesley sink her teeth into some scenery chewing and melodrama. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy the fun filled journey to Story Book.



Ashley Worsman

Banter

Ashley has been a member here at Sunnybank for 24 years now and over that time he has been on stage in many roles and created sets and lighting for many productions. He has also worked behind the scenes as a member of the committee a few times. Ashley directed two previous shows here at STG - *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 2011 & *The Mikado* in 2014, both of which were very well received. Ashley hopes you will enjoy his take on a more modern take of a pantomime.



Gary McEwan

Big Bad Wolf

Gary returns to us here at the STG after a break of some length due to work priorities impinging on his available time to dedicate to this, his creative passion. He delights in the mystery of a creative team assembling to create and produce a quality product, in this instance, for the young and young at heart to enjoy.

Long term audiences may have a distant recollection of his first appearance with us in *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* in 1999. He has since played in a number of our shows over the years: Chief Sitting Bull in *Annie Get Your Gun*; The Mikado in *The Mikado*; Potiphar and Pharaoh in *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; Capitan Bertorelli in *Allo Allo* and many others.

He acknowledges the talent of *Red Riding Hood To The Rescue* creator Ashley Worsman and indeed, all the creatives that have brought this production to life!

He has enjoyed playing Wolf in this his first visit to the stage since his last some 4 years ago when he played Ratty in the VP's production of *The Wind And The Willows*. He does have a slight concern over a developing pattern of being cast as part of the animal kingdom



Andrew Herrmann

The Handsome Prince

Andrew makes his big comeback to the stage after last performing in STG's *Pack of Lies* in 2015 and is proud to be returning for such a fun show. In the distant past he played Frank Butler in *Annie Get your Gun*, Hinse in *The Pyjama Game* and Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*. These days Andrew is usually off the stage working in the sound department and hoping that Clem Fandango can hear him.



Liz Hull

Detective Bribe

After being a prolific performer at school (many years ago!) Liz has always had a penchant for comedy/farce plays. After a LONG hiatus, Liz returned to community theatre in the last decade, enjoying roles in panto in the UK in *Cinderella* (Narrator) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere). Liz recently moved to Brisbane and was keen to join community theatre, to have fun and meet new people. She is absolutely loving being part of the Red team, everyone is so talented and lovely, and she can't wait for everyone to see the show and check out her dodgy cockney accent. Liz has also performed at the Royal Opera house in London alongside Kiri Te Kanawa in *la Boheme*, which makes NO sense if you have heard Liz sing.....



Loretta Donnelly

Red's Mother/Villager

Loretta has been working in theatre, both backstage and onstage, in New Zealand, overseas and Brisbane for several years. She has also studied acting and drama in these places. She has performed in a wide variety of plays and musicals and has been a Stage Manager, ASM or Props Coordinator, Assistant Director and Director. She was Stage Manager for our most recent play *Eventide* and she was last on stage in the very funny *Tally Hall* in 2019. Loretta is enjoying being back on stage singing & dancing as part of this great team for *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue*.



Charli Mills

Village Child/Witch

This is Charli's debut theatre performance! She has been having a ball doing drama as part of her Year 4 school curriculum and has dabbled in dance and singing lessons in the past. To be able to combine all of those in the one show and meet a great bunch of talented, young & young at heart people in the process has been an amazing experience!



Lacey Hemmens
Village Child/Mermaid

Lacey has been participating in the Sunnybank Youth Theatre Group for 2 years and has a real drive for being on stage. Lacey likes singing, dancing, acting and love performing as part of a team. *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue* is Lacey's first full stage performance and has really enjoyed the process in being a part of a large team and she can't wait to be on stage as one of the children.



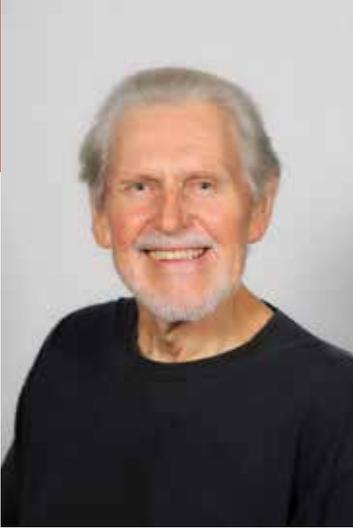
James Rapley
Village Child/Giant

As a member of the world famous musical troupe, The Von Raps, James is enjoying the variety of characters he gets to portray in *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue*. After appearing earlier in the year in his school musical, *Chicago* with his sister, Daisy, he is loving his first production with Sunnybank Theatre.



Megan Humby
Villager

Megan is thrilled to be back on the STG stage and working with such a wonderful cast and crew. She has a background in dance and music and has performed in a number of dance groups and music ensembles. She is currently working towards her Gold Latin and Bronze Star Modern Ballroom medals. Earlier this year, Megan performed in QMT's production of *Beauty and the Beast* (2021) as part of the dance ensemble. She has also previously performed in STG's *The Wedding Singing* (2018) and *Dusty* (2015), both of which she absolutely loved. Megan recently completed her Bachelor of Science/Arts at UQ, majoring in biomedical science and music and has since gone on to attain first class honours in music. She is interested in pursuing further research regarding music and health. Megan hopes you enjoy the magic of *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue*.



Ian Stevenson
Villager

Over the past 15 years, Ian has been cast in many roles in musicals, drama and comedy in the Brisbane, Logan, and Redland areas. This is his second production with Sunnybank but his very first pantomime where he is breaking both of W. C. Fields' rules of never working with children or with animals.



Linda Stevenson
Villager

Linda has been performing since age four - both in musicals and dramatic productions.

Since moving to Queensland she has been active with a number of theatre groups - mainly in the Redlands. Her last appearance with Sunnybank Theatre Group was as Mrs Hudson in *Holmes and The Ripper* (2014). Linda is delighted to be performing with STG again. It is her long held ambition to be part of a pantomime - where ageless wisdom can be found amongst all the silliness and fun, and audiences

can abandon adult inhibitions to share the innocent wonder of childhood.

Please lose yourself in the magic - and enjoy!



Jane Rapley
Villager/Wolfette

Jane was born at a very early age. Then, as an adult, grew much taller. Years later, after discovering the power of speech (and the skills to fill a small apartment with IKEA furniture), Jane found Sunnybank Theatre. Then she realised she could talk good in front of an audience. In her personal time Jane enjoys "Norwegian Goat Herding Monthly" magazine, counting cows on long rural drives, and watching re-runs of *Neighbours* from 1993 specifically. When asked if she's hungry she often replies "yes".



Jacqui McKell
Villager/Wolfette

Jacqui is no stranger to the STG stage. You may have seen her as 'Gary Coleman' in *Avenue Q*, 'Sr Robert Anne' in *Nun-crackers*, 'Gertie' in *Oklahoma* or in many of her ensemble roles. When not treading the boards, she can be found singing with the Ignite Choir as a featured soloist and chorister. Jacqui is thrilled to be in STG's latest production of *Red Riding Hood to the Rescue*

Our Crew

Stage Manager	Annette Page
Stage Crew	Pam Cooper
Set Construction	Ashley Worsman
Lighting/Sound Design	Ashley Worsman
Lighting/Sound Operators	Carolyn Mills Chris O'Leary
Costumes Main Cast	Maree Griffiths Ashley Worsman
Costumes Children and Chorus	Pam Cooper Cast and helpers
Props	Ashley Worsman

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.

Special thanks to the following businesses that have helped make the magic happen

Botanicafe - Moorooka

The Learning Sanctuary - Tarragindi

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STG YOUTH THEATRE

Have you heard about our Youth Theatre?

Sunnybank Theatre Group's Youth program strives to introduce children to the wonderful world of theatre. The program includes drama activities, stagecraft, singing and choreography. Young performers are also taught skills beyond the stage such as team building, self-confidence and problem-solving.

If you would like more information please contact Bec, our youth coordinator, at becteese@gmail.com



Join us at the theatre on **Sunday, 5th of December** from 12pm for a members and friends bar-b-que to be followed by our **Season 2022 Launch.**

It will be a great day of fun, food, laughter and friendship.
Register your interest by calling the box office on 3345 3964



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