



SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP

Avenue

The Musical 2017

Director John Mordacz
Musical Director Sean Fagan
Choreographer Jacquie Cullen

Music and Lyrics by
ROBERT LOPEZ & JEFF MARX

Book by
JEFF WHITTY

Based on an Original Concept by
ROBERT LOPEZ & JEFF MARX

November 10 - 25

Originally produced on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, Robyn Goodman, Jeffrey Seller, Vineyard Theatre and The New Group
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The world premiere of AVENUE Q was presented by the Vineyard Theatre and The New Group, New York City, February 2003. AVENUE Q premiered on Broadway at the Golden Theater on July 31, 2003, produced by Kevin McCollum, Robyn Goodman, Jeffrey Seller, Vineyard Theatre and The New Group.

About the Show

Part flesh, part felt and packed with heart, AVENUE Q is still the funniest and freshest show in Town! conceived by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, who wrote the music and lyrics, with the book written by Jeff Whitty. Acclaimed for its groundbreaking use of puppets – animated by unconcealed puppeteers alongside human actors – "Avenue Q" is an "autobiographical and biographical" coming-of-age parable, addressing and satirizing the issues and anxieties associated with entering adulthood. Its characters lament that as children, they were assured by their parents and by children's television programs such as PBS's "Sesame Street" that they were "special" and "could do anything." As adults, however, they discover to their surprise and dismay that in the real world their options are limited and that they are no more "special" than anyone else.

This Tony Award-winning musical is now enjoyed on the Sunnybank stage, a must for anyone who's ever pondered life's big decisions or enjoyed a touch of schadenfreude.

The story takes place on a dilapidated street in an outer-outer borough of the city - Avenue Q.

Musical Numbers

Act 1

<i>The Avenue Q Theme</i>	Company
<i>What Do You Do with a B.A. in English?</i>	Princeton
<i>It Sucks to Be Me</i>	Brian, Kate Monster, Rod, Nicky, Christmas Eve, Gary Coleman, and Princeton
<i>If You Were Gay</i>	Nicky with Rod
<i>Purpose</i>	Princeton and Company
<i>Everyone's a Little Bit Racist</i>	Princeton, Kate, Gary, Brian, and Christmas Eve
<i>The Internet Is for Porn</i>	Kate, Trekkie Monster, Brian, Gary Coleman, Rod, and Princeton
<i>Mix Tape</i>	Kate and Princeton
<i>I'm Not Wearing Underwear Today</i>	Brian
<i>Special</i>	Lucy (the Slut)
<i>You Can Be as Loud as the Hell You Want (When You're Makin' Love)</i>	Gary, The Bad Idea Bears, Princeton, Kate, and Company
<i>Fantasies Come True</i>	Rod, Kate, Nicky and Princeton
<i>My Girlfriend, Who Lives in Canada</i>	Rod
<i>There's a Fine, Fine Line</i>	Kate

Act 2

<i>It Sucks to Be Me (Reprise)</i>	Princeton
<i>There Is Life Outside Your Apartment</i>	Brian, Princeton, Christmas Eve, Gary, Nicky, Trekkie Monster, Lucy (the Slut), and Company
<i>The More You Ruv Someone</i>	Christmas Eve and Kate
<i>Schadenfreude</i>	Gary and Nicky
<i>I Wish I Could Go Back to College</i>	Kate, Nicky and Princeton
<i>The Money Song</i>	Nicky, Princeton, Gary, Brian and Christmas Eve
<i>School for Monsters</i>	Trekkie Monster and Company
<i>The Money Song (Reprise)</i>	Nicky, Princeton, Gary, Brian and Christmas Eve
<i>There's a Fine, Fine Line (Reprise)</i>	Princeton and Kate
<i>What Do You Do With a B.A. in English? (Reprise)</i>	Newcomer
<i>For Now</i>	Company

Director's Notes

I have loved *Avenue Q* for years and I am thrilled to be bringing it to life on the stage here at STG.

As only just a member of generation X, the first generation after the Baby Boomers, I saw in the striving, struggling characters' in *Avenue Q* a reflection of myself. Like the musical's lead character Princeton, my cohorts and I have been striving and struggling for a purpose beyond ourselves, something to make us worthy: collectively, of following the Baby Boomers and their incredible contributions to society; and individually, of fulfilling the promise to our parents to build on the prosperity they left us.

While the humour of this show is undeniable, and an obvious attraction for me, I was also really keen to explore the message behind the humour. In that Princeton and his friends learn that relationships friendships, and community are ultimately more important than money and ambition.

Puppetry is usually thought to have puppeteers hidden behind a stage or hidden out of view of the camera, but *Avenue Q* is a unique experience that lets you see the puppeteers and the effort that goes behind making fur and felt come to life. Thank you so much for coming to see *Avenue Q* and for supporting Brisbane's friendliest theatre.

Director – John Mordacz

John has had a long association with STG behind the scenes and as part of the management committee. He has been a part of many shows produced at STG including *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Good Business Sense*, *The Sound of Music*, *Stepping Out* and *Guys and Dolls*.

Avenue Q is a testament to John's wicked (some might say warped) sense of humour. He is excited to take STG in this new direction as this is the first show of its kind for the theatre. Puppeteering has been a new concept for our members and they have successfully taken on the challenge. The growth the cast have shown from early rehearsals to final performances has been personally rewarding for John. He has learnt so much from the experience and has thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

He hopes you now sit back, relax, and enjoy this unique, hilarious, albeit a little naughty, show.



Musical Director - Sean Fagan

Sean Fagan is making his second appearance at STG not only as a Keyboard player but also as the musical director this time round. Sean has known about *Avenue Q* for over a year and has been very excited about getting to do this musical.

Sean started learning the piano at the age of 12 and has loved it ever since. The very first song that he learned was Any Dream Will Do from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Sean is originally from Ireland and trained with the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Musical Theatre Singing and completed Grade 8 with top marks. Sean has had the privilege of being the assistant musical director for *Blood Brothers* at BTG 2017 and then went on to being the repetiteur for the South East Queensland premier of *City of Angels* at BTG 2017. Since arriving in Australia only two years ago, Sean has played keyboard in 7 musicals including *La Cage Aux Folle*, Phoenix Theatre and Musically Directing *Bugsy Malone* at Beenleigh Theatre Group/-Jets.

Sean trusts you will sit back and enjoy the show and the catchy tunes.



Assistant Director - Kayleen Zoethout

Kayleen is a regular, both on and off the STG stage, making her debut back in 2006 in *Nunsense* and has appeared in several productions since, including attempting to tap in *Stepping Out* and last year's comedy *Anyone for Breakfast*. She has also appeared in many concerts as part of the QPAC Choir. Being the official STG photographer we normally find Kayleen behind the camera and spending many hours of editing after actor requests "can you make me look, thinner, younger or someone else"

This is Kayleen's debut in a directorial role and she has risen to the multiple new learning curves that come about. Her mothering, meditating, facilitating, collaborating, consulting, administrating and many other words ending in 'ing' skills have come in very handy during the course of rehearsals. Liquorland are now at a loss due to the production starting.



Choreographer - Jacquie Cullen

Jacquie Cullen, always busy with a little bit of this, and a little bit of that...studied theatre, dance, and dance education, and has had a career in teaching both theatre, and dance for many years. Before moving to Australia, Jacquie lived and worked in Mozambique, Africa where she started dabbling with stage productions, and choreography. Many of the musicals Jacquie worked on, had casts of more than 100, which has contributed to the essential, and continuous dying of her grey hair. *Oliver Twist*, *Peter Pan*, *Grease*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* were some of the highlights. Since moving to Australia, Jacquie has been involved in the world of community theatre in Brisbane, where she has choreographed *Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nonsense Jamboree* (STG) and *City of Angels* (Beenleigh). Jacquie is loving feeling tall in comparison to the gorgeous puppets of *Avenue Q* and trusts you will enjoy her quirky choreo...



The Band

Back Row: Nikki Maples (*Reed 1*), Sean Fagan (*Musical Director/ Keyboard*), Sarah Landis (*Assistant Musical Director/ Keyboard 2*), Catherine Robertson (*Reed 2*)

Front Row: Steve Maples (*Bass Guitar*), Jarrod Rehbein (*Percussion*), Ian Ahles (*Guitar*)

Thank you to David Chivers for taking the role of accompanist on the day of the auditions.

Scott Richards

Princeton

Scott's theatrical debut was in his high school's musical back in 1996. He was recognised with Cultural awards for his involvement in Performing Arts and Music in 1997 and 1998.

After such a fantastic start he decided to retire from the stage at the top of his game at the ripe age of 17.

With role models such as *Fozzie Bear*, *Cookie Monster*, *Mr Squiggle*, *Alf* and *Agro*, it was inevitable that Scott would wind up in puppetry. In 2015 he returned to theatre, albeit behind the scenes, as puppet builder for productions of *Avenue Q*, and *My Dead Bunny*.

What he lacks from stage experience he makes up with performing and entertaining as a clown and puppeteer at various community events. *Avenue Q* marks Scott's return to the stage and first performance at STG.



Sophie Rohweder

Kate Monster

Sophie Rohweder is a regular here at STG from Musicals to comedies and again in a role that seems to be made for her. *Kate Monster* is a gorgeous kindergarten teacher searching for her dreams and loves teaching little monsters. During the day Sophie is a primary school



teacher who uses her extensive acting training to liven up the classroom and develop creative skills in her little ones. Sophie has successfully completed more than 8 years with the Trinity College of London for speech and drama and graduated from Queensland University of Technology with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Drama and a Diploma in Secondary Education. She was instrumental, in the re-establishment of the youth theatre at STG, as the director, and successfully set up and ran the school holiday musical theatre programs for both primary and high school students.

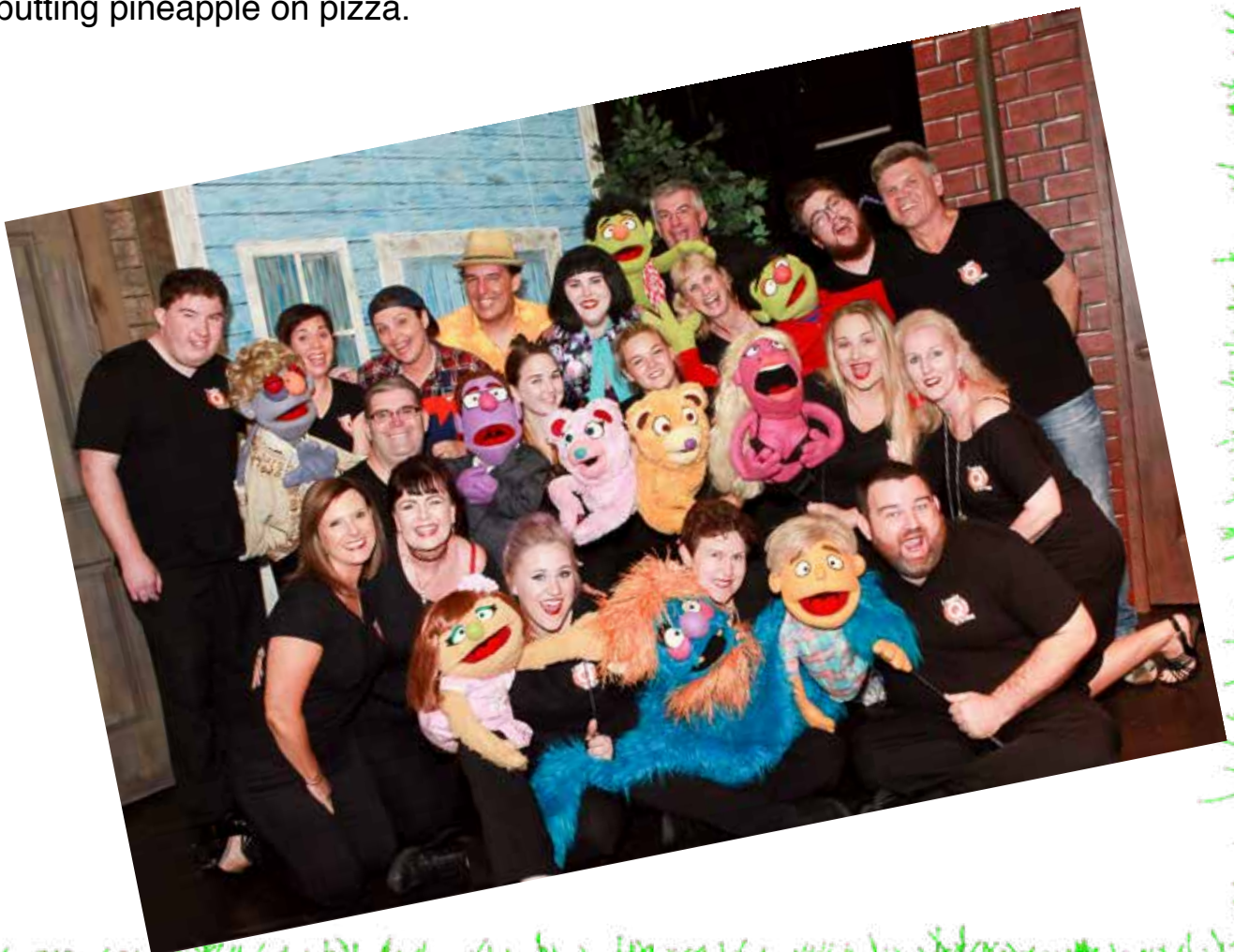
Kate Monster has taken over Sophie's apartment leaving *Monster* hair everywhere and giving her *Monster* nightmares, but trusts through therapy with *Christmas Eve*, all will be resolved before the end of the season.



Jason Lawson

Rod

Jason was born, on probation, in a small house in Moonee Ponds, Melbourne. His father, Arthur Lawson, a scrap metal dealer and TV quizmaster was well known to police and a devout Catholic. His mother, Kitty Jones, was an up and coming western suburbs boxer. Having no brothers and sisters, Jason was constantly sick of being the middle child, and left home at the age of 18 to pursue his dream of eating his weight in chocolate. When he awoke from his coma several years later, Jason instead opted for the less health draining pursuit of acting. He had small roles in such straight to DVD British sitcoms as *Oooh Me Plums!* and *Where's My Pint?*, but his big break came as a mute concrete mixer in the Norwegian drama *Excuse Me, Your Moose Vomited In My Kettle*. Nowadays, you can usually find Jason working as a Senior Payroll Officer, or angrily shouting at clouds needlessly in the Queen St Mall. Jason is thrilled to play the part of Rod in *Avenue Q*, as the puppet is the perfect outlet for the demonic voices in his head asking him to do strange things....like barrack for Collingwood, or putting pineapple on pizza.



Zander McGrath

Nicky

Zander McGrath has been involved in the theatre all his life with his first lead role at age 10 as Cuddlepie in *Snugglepup and Cuddlepie*. Since then he attended performing arts company Kidz-N-Co Talent



where his love for musical theatre grew through competing in eisteddfods, and examinations with Trinity College of London Musical Theatre. Zander has been in numerous children's pantomimes, several amateur musical productions including *Wicked*, *Gypsy*, and *Hairspray* where he played Tracey's mother, Edna Turnblad. Zander has also been in musicals here at STG from *Breaking Up is Hard to Do* and *Guys and Dolls*. Zander is a big kid at heart and has a huge love for collecting animated t-shirts from Pixar movies like *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo* and *Monsters Inc.* so he is right at home playing the role of Nicky in *Avenue Q* where he can be the biggest kid of all and is excited to share it with our audiences.

Jacqui McKell

Gary Coleman

If you have ever wondered how Gary Coleman returned to life, found his way to Australia, and joined the cast of STG's *Avenue Q* then wonder no more! It's not actually Gary Coleman! Shh!!! It's really 12 time Academy Award ceremony TV viewer Jacqui McKell! Over her entire acting career Jacqui has appeared in many locations outside her house, and occasionally in this very theatre.



Jacqui's lifelong dream was to become a trapeze artist in the circus. She quit her job at a psychiatric hospital to travel to Guam and study with a prestigious trapeze group. She quickly realised however, that she experienced extreme motion sickness while swinging and gave up this dream. Jacqui has now settled for pursuing crocheting while working at a mundane retail job to pay off her trip to Guam. When not performing onstage Jacqui trains and breeds professional racing Daschunds and loves to spend weekends studying *Grease 2* and the comic stylings of Maxwell Caulfield.

Jane Rapley **Trekkie Monster**

Jane's initial dream to become the world's first singing and dancing polar bear was brought to an abrupt halt the moment she was born human and raised by her Earth parents Jonathan and Martha. Since then she took vocal and dancing lessons while embarking on a career as a marine biologist in Alice Springs. When that dried up she decided to follow her dream and wrote/starred/directed/produced/served drinks/ushered at *Did I Do That? - The Steve Erkel Musical* which opened at the Wynnum Plaza food court and closed after a very successful run of 12 minutes. In her spare time Jane enjoys refilling soap dispensers and counting the sum total of speed limit signs on long drives.

Now she finally achieves her other lifelong dream of hiding behind more fabric than a Spotlight store and speaking/singing in a deep voice. Enjoy!



Steven Days **Brian**

After 10 years as a professional musician in New Zealand, Steven was drawn into the world of Musical Theatre. Steven did everything off-stage from playing in orchestras to managing productions. He then decided it was time to venture onto the boards, as Eric Rubber Legs Devine in *A Slice of Saturday Night*. After seeing the light and crossing the ditch in 2004, his first role in Australia was as Oscar in *Sweet Charity*. Since then Steven has kept himself busy with his involvement in a multitude of community theatre projects.

Last year Steven worked with STG on *Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nonsense Jamboree* as the Musical Director. He is excited to be back at STG and back on stage, making people laugh.



Emily Rohweder ***Christmas Eve***

Emily Rohweder has been a drama queen all her life. She started Speech and Drama and Musical Theatre training when she was ten years old at performing arts company Kidz-N-Co Talent and has absolutely loved performing and attending performances since then. She has completed numerous musical theatre examinations through Trinity College of London with her highest achievement of being awarded her Associate Diploma in Musical Theatre Performance. Emily has had heaps of experience including children's theatre pantomimes such as *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty* as well as numerous musicals, including *Guys and Dolls*, *Rent* and the role of Tracey in *Hairspray*. This is Emily's third performance at STG and she has loved creating the character of Christmas Eve as she gets in touch with her "inner asian" and she knows you will "RUV" the show!



Lisa Alsop ***Lucy the Slut***

Lisa is new to STG but not to the stage. Showing an interest in performing from a young age, Lisa spent her school years in Eisteddfods and completing examinations with Trinity College in Musical Theatre and Speech & Drama. She has performed as 'Cinderella' in *Into the Woods*, and been a part of other shows like *Sweeney Todd* and *All Shook Up*. When she's not on the stage, Lisa likes to be in front of it, teaching young people with disabilities skills such as singing and dancing. Lisa dedicates her performance to her ever-supportive parents, ridiculously handsome fiancé and fur child, Bella.



Katie Thomas

Girl Bad Idea Bear and 'Second Hand' for Trekkie

After finding out that *Avenue Q* would be showing at STG, Katie knew she had found her purpose. After completing a Diploma of Arts (Acting) at SBIT, she moved on to a Bachelor of Secondary Education majoring in Drama and Biology. Katie spends a lot of her time discovering different aspects of a person's 'purpose' in the world so it's no surprise that this is her favourite musical. As an avid lover of shows such as *Sesame Street*, *Bear in the Big Blue House* and *Johnny and the Sprites*, puppetry has always fascinated Katie so she was very excited to be given the chance to try her hand at such a demanding art form. This will be her second show at STG after appearing in *Holmes and the Ripper* in 2014. It will be her first musical and she is delighted to be able to bring her passion and enthusiasm to the stage.



Georgina Glen

Boy Bad Idea Bear and Newcomer

Georgina is from a little island you may have heard of called England. She has travelled an extraordinary distance to learn and experience the way of life Down Under. We don't quite know what she's doing here, presumably lost on her way to Byron Bay or perhaps drawn to us by the horrifyingly relatable content of the show, but either way we're happy to take her in. Georgina requested that her bio includes an interpretive dance depicting her journey from England to her involvement in *Avenue Q* here at Sunnybank Theatre. Due to budget restrictions she has agreed to allow her story to be told through the powerful medium of emojiis instead. To be read to the music of any Fleetwood Mac song.



Venessa Kohl

Mrs. Thistlewat and 'Second Hand' for Trekkie Monster

Venessa is SUPER excited to be part of her first musical production since doing 'Rock Eisteddfods' in the 90's and learning the art of Puppetry. Most recently Venessa was cast as 'Naomi' and 'the Maid' in *Secret Bridesmaid's Business* performed earlier this year at STG.

Venessa has always been interested in the Arts and was lucky enough to develop her craft from a young age through the Priority Country Area Program in Charleville QLD as a Clarinettist/Saxophonist. She performed in the local Dinner Theatre, Marching Band, Big Band, did street busking to raise funds for charities and played in the MacGregor Summer School Orchestra (Toowoomba). She is a big believer that dancing is the BEST activity around and has done Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Salsa, Belly dancing; and attends classes most weeks. Venessa is passionate about sharing her love of performing and in her current role as an Employment Consultant assists aspiring Actors/Musicians into making their dreams a reality.



Lynette Wockner

'Second Hand' for Nicky & Mrs. Thistlewat

Lynette has been involved with theatre for many years either on stage or as a choreographer for various theatre companies in and around Brisbane. The last time she appeared on stage was in a production of *Stepping Out*. Lynette has been involved in several shows at Sunnybank Theatre the last of which was *Dusty* which she choreographed.

Lynette has thoroughly enjoyed being on stage again with the challenges of puppetry and working with such a talented group of people. She hopes you enjoy this wonderful production and all the characters in *Avenue Q!*



Andrew Cosier

Ricky

Andy is new to the STG family. He was asked to assist backstage for our last production *The 39 Steps* and proved more than a worthy crew member..

Andy arrived in Brisbane 6 years ago from Luton in the UK and is a cricket and football (soccer) enthusiast. He is also passionate about musical theatre and has seen most West End (London) shows. He also loves his music and listens to anything from the 60's to present day. Favourite era is the 80's. He won't be leaving us any time soon as he has been commandeered to work backstage with *Avenue Q* and also with a cameo role as Ricky. Great to have you with us Andy.



Brett Hansen

Puppeteer Consultant - Larrikin

Puppets

Puppeteer Brett Hansen began practicing puppetry when he was just three years old. His business Larrikin Puppets has been delighting Australian audiences since 2012 with original puppet character "Trogg" the blue monster and all of his furry friends. Brett has performed and trained in the USA with Jim Henson puppeteers from *Sesame Street* and *The Muppets*. This included a performance at the Puppetry Arts Festival of Brooklyn (NYC).



Closer to home, Brett has performed puppet shows at the Woodford Folk Festival, the Mary Poppins Festival in Maryborough, and a special corporate puppet show at QPAC for the cast and company of the Julie Andrews-directed *My Fair Lady*. TV productions such as *Juiced TV* and a Tia Gostelow music video has also featured Brett's puppetry.

Brett is very excited to be providing puppetry training and assistance on the Sunnybank Theatre Group's wonderful 2017 production.

Our Production Team

Stage Manager	Dierdre Robinson
Crew	Andrew Cosier, Jessica Pal
Set Design	Ashley Worsman
Set Construction	John Mordacz, Ashley Worsman, Mark Zoethout
Set Décor	Ashley Worsman, Chris O'Leary, Richard Williams
Lighting & Sound Design	Joanne Sephton, Chris O'Leary
Operators	Joanne Sephton, Allan Hare, Georgia Cooper, Richard Williams
Puppeteer Consultant	Brett Hansen (Larrikin Puppets)
Production Assistants	Lesley Davis, Pam Cooper
Props	Lesley Davis, Loretta Donnelly
Digital Creations	Chris O'Leary
Photography, Marketing & Media	Kayleen Zoethout
Program	Chris O'Leary
FOH	Dierdre Robinson, Chris O'Leary & Kayleen Zoethout
Green Room	Debe Dewey, Col Seed and our wonderful volunteers



Join us for our 2018 Season

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP
cnr Mains & Beenleigh Rds, Sunnybank
2018 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

by arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd

the wedding singer
the musical comedy

director **Pam Cooper**
musical director **Sean Fagan**
February 2 - 17

in association with ORIGIN Theatrical Pty Ltd

GOD OF CARNAGE
a comedy of manners without the manners

by **Yasmina Reza**
translated by Christopher Hampton
director **Leonie Walsh**
April 6 - 21

by arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd

The Foreigner
a comedy by Larry Shue

director **Marcus Thomas**
June 1 - 16

featuring performances by
STG Youth Theatre
STG Senior Theatre
&
an Actors Piece

July 20 - August 11

in association with ORIGIN Theatrical Pty Ltd

Kindly Leave the Stage
a comedy by John Chapman

director **Chris Guyler**
September 14 - 29

in association with Dorrinie Pty Ltd

Ladies Day
a comedy by Amanda Whittington

director **Debe Dewey**
November 9 - 24

performances
8pm evening
2pm matinee

to book ph: **3345 3964**
online at **www.stg.org.au**