

# CHRISTMAS ACTUALLY

La Boite presents

The Little Red Company production

By **ADAM BRUNES** & **NAOMI PRICE** 

27 **NOV** - 7 **DEC** 2019

90 MINUTES



## CAST

Naomi Price with Stefanie Caccamo, Mik Easterman, Scott French, Michael Manikus, Oj Newcomb, Tom Oliver & Alex Rathgeber

## **CREATIVES**

WRITERS Adam Brunes & Naomi Price LIGHTING DESIGN Sam Gibb SOUND DESIGN Geoff McGahan

## **PRODUCTION**

PRODUCTION MANAGER Dan Sinclair
TECHNICAL COORDINATOR Brandon Duncan
WORKSHOP COORDINATOR Andrew Mills
ASSISTANT SET BUILDER Jamie Bowman
PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS Sophie Watkins
& Bailey McIntosh

SOUND OPERATOR Geoff McGahan
VIDEO TRAILER Pixel Frame and Mitchell Loughleed
PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY Dylan Evans
COVER IMAGE Dylan Evans
REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHY Jade Ferguson
SEASON 2019 GRAPHIC DESIGN Gangplank

# FRONT OF HOUSE

**DUTY MANAGERS** 

Jess Bunz, Rory Killen & Nick Seery

## FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Kayla Cahill, Natalie Callaghan, Marie David, James Gatling, Owen Green, Maddie Little, Mia McGavin, Jessie Men, Bronte Mew, Jaime Ng & Myra Turner

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

At La Boite we acknowledge the country on which we work, and the traditional custodians of this land - the Turrbal and Jagera people.

We give our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

We honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and their ancient and enduring cultures.

This country was the home of storytelling long before we existed, and we are grateful to share our stories here today.

# **CHATTERBOX & AUSLAN**

Wednesday 4 December, at 7.30PM

# **VOLUNTEERS**

Lewe Atkinson, Linda Bulloch, Megan Burnett, Cath Carkeet, Kerrel Casey, Paula Chiverall, Tony Cole, Rebecca Day, Gayle Duncan, Rebecca Faleiro, Bruce Finlayson, Leonie Flood, Tahlya Grennan, Greg Johnson, Jeannie Lloyd-Apjohn, Alex Macdonald, Shirley Markie, Mary Massey, Janetta Mcdiarmid, Helen Musgrove, Dylan Nyerges, Miles O'Leary, Jenny Owen, Jane Paterson, Brooke Reilly, Jenny Rough, Evey Skinner, Molly St Mosse, Werner Stur & Jean Woodyatt

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

Andrew Johnson, Aruga, Becs Easterman, Dextress Hair, Donna Kramer, Dylan Evans, Fernando Hervas, Jacob Brewer, Luke Kennedy, Maitlohn Drew, Millie Adams, Nat Ogbourne, Norwest, Rachel Burke, White Label Noba & Wil Valor















# "IF YOU LOOK FOR IT, I'VE GOT A SNEAKY FEELING YOU'LL FIND THAT LOVE, ACTUALLY, IS ALL AROUND."

At a time when there's much in the world to be genuinely terrified about, *Christmas Actually* is our gift of unashamed entertainment and escapism. Over the next 90 minutes, we hope you'll kick your heels up, let your hair down, and lose yourself in this remarkable soundtrack and our exceptional cast. You deserve it!

This year marks 16 years since the release of Richard Curtis' instant holiday classic, *Love Actually*; yet it remains as poignant and powerful as ever. Its beauty, we think, is that for every tale of love, there's another about heartbreak. There's a widower grieving the death of his wife while trying to connect with his son; a husband (the late, great Alan Rickman) straying from his devoted wife; and a man in love with his best friend's wife. It's love of all kinds – platonic love between a rockstar and his manager; 'unrequited' pre-teen love; the uncompromising, self-sacrificing love between siblings. There are ten completely different love stories but something in each that we can connect with.

For this year's return season, we're thrilled to welcome back to the show Little Red favourites Stefanie Caccamo, Mik Easterman, Scott French, Michael Manikus and Tom Oliver. It's also our great pleasure to introduce the brilliant OJ Newcomb and Alex Rathgeber, making their debuts for The Little Red Company.

In a world of unprincipled princes, wretched world leaders and climate change deniers, what the world really needs now, more than ever, is love. If you give anything this Christmas, please give that.

And if there's someone you love but haven't told, make this Christmas the time you tell them. You've got nothing to lose and you'll always regret it if you don't.

# NOAMI & ADAM

CREATORS (Christmas Actually)

### THE LITTLE RED COMPANY

Since its inception in 2012, The Little Red Company has established itself as one of Australia's most celebrated independent full-service production houses. At the heart of The Little Red Company's original work is the development of contemporary Australian cabaret, drawing together world-class artists from diverse backgrounds and creating commercially exciting productions of universal resonance.

The company has created three pop-culture cabarets: Rumour Has It (based on the life and music of Adele), Wrecking Ball (exploring the extraordinary reinvention of Miley Cyrus) and Lady Beatle - a kaleidoscopic journey through the music of the Beatles. The Little Red Company's productions have been seen by over 60,000 audience members and have toured nationally and internationally to festivals and venues including Sydney Opera House, Hamer Hall, Queensland Theatre, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Noosa Alive!, Melbourne Cabaret Festival and Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre. The company's debut work Rumour Has It won a Matilda Award for Best Musical or Cabaret.

The Little Red Company has also created two concerts: From Johnny to Jack (based on the life and music of John Farnham) and Christmas Actually - the music of Love Actually live on stage. For more information head to: www.thelittleredcompany.com















**ADAM BRUNES** 

Creator

Adam co-founded The Little Red Company with Naomi Price in 2012 after one too many gins on Naomi's back-deck. To this day, it remains one of his favourite 'accidents'.

Together, the pair has created four original cabaret works: Rumour Has It (2012 - Matilda Award, Best Musical or Cabaret); Wrecking Ball (2014); Lady Beatle (2017); and Christmas Actually (2018). The pair's work has played more than 75 venues nationally and internationally including Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne, Adelaide Festival Centre and Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre.

With Donna Kramer, Adam is co-founder of award-winning creative communications agency Aruga; PR agency of choice for myriad Queensland arts companies and major events including Brisbane Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse, Curiocity Brisbane, La Boite Theatre Company, Metro Arts, Opera Queensland and Woodford Folk Festival.



**NAOMI PRICE** 

Lead Performer

Naomi Price is one of Australia's leading cabaret and theatre performers. She sprang to national attention in 2015 as Ricky Martin's leading lady on *The Voice Australia* which saw her reach the semi-finals as Ricky's last female artist and place sixth overall.

Naomi's extensive performance credits include the original Australian cast of Helpmann Awardwinning Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Michael Cassel Group), Christmas Actually, Lady Beatle, Rumour Has It and Wrecking Ball (The Little Red Company); the original cast of Helpmann Award-winning Australian musical Ladies in Black (Queensland Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company); the Australian premiere of YANK! (Understudy Productions); Sweet Charity (Understudy Productions); I Want to Know What Love Is (The Good Room/Critical Stages Touring - national tour) Kiss Me Kate (Opera Queensland); The Tragedy of King Richard III (La Boite Theatre Company); Gloria (Queensland Theatre Company); and The Wishing Well (La Boite Theatre Company). Her television performances include The Voice Australia, Creative Generation, Channel Nine Telethon, The Morning Show and Carols in the City, as well as performing the national anthem at many nationally televised sporting events.

Naomi is highly sought-after as a special guest vocalist and has performed alongside renowned artists including Ricky Martin, Tim Finn, Guy Sebastian, James Morrison, Kate Miller-Heidke, Troy Cassar-Daley and Broadway composer Scott Alan. In 2019, she became the first female artist ever to record a studio duet with classical-crossover sensation The TEN Tenors.

Naomi has won a Green Room Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical and Matilda Award for Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role as 'Fay' in Ladies in Black (Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company) and a Matilda Award for Best Musical or Cabaret for Rumour Has It. Naomi is also an ambassador for National Trust Queensland and Wildlife Hospital Foundation.

@naomikprice











# STEFANIE CACCAMO

Singer

Originally from Sydney, Stefanie graduated in 2016 from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) with a Bachelor of Music Theatre. During her time at WAAPA, Stefanie played the title role in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Bridget in *Bring it On the Musical* and featured in the Australian Premiere of *The Beautiful Game*. She was awarded the Effie Crump Award in 2014 and the Leslie Anderson Showcase Award in 2016.

In 2017, Stefanie made her professional stage debut in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, playing the role of Betty and understudying the role of Carole King.

Most recently, Stefanie was seen as Crissy in the 50th Anniversary Australian Tour of *HAIR* (Peace Productions, Sydney Opera House). Earlier this year, Stefanie played the role of Girl in the Sydney premiere of *ONCE* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company), she had the thrill of playing Eve Harrington opposite Caroline O'Connor in *Applause* (Neglected Musicals), also appearing with the same company as Agnes in *Meet Me in St Louis* in 2018 and is soon to be seen as the title role in their first 2020 production of *IRENE*.

Stefanie also had the joy of appearing alongside Naomi Price and Luke Kennedy in their 2018 productions of *Christmas Actually* and From *Johnny To Jack* (The Little Red Company).

In 2017, Stefanie was a finalist in the Rob Guest Endowment competition, winning the Melbourne East End Theatre District Award.

Stefanie's screen credits include the role of Courtney the TV Series *Fighting Season* (Foxtel) and Shannon in Ben Elton's feature film *Three Summers*.











## MIK EASTERMAN

Drums

Mik is one of Australia's most revered musicians and producers and original drummer for The Little Red Company's Rumour Has It, Wrecking Ball, Lady Beatle and Christmas Actually. With Naomi Price, Mik has played several iconic Australian venues including Sydney Opera House, Adelaide Festival Centre and Brisbane Powerhouse.

Other notable collaborators include acclaimed Australian singer-songwriter Suze Demarchi (Baby Animals) and star of stage and screen Luke Kennedy (The Voice Australia).

As a producer, Mik has worked on remixes for The Roots, Bertie Blackman, Blue Juice, Blood Red Shoes and Scroobious Pip, and has recorded with Jeff Martin, Bullrush, and award-winning Gold Coast band The Lamplights.



**SCOTT FRENCH** 

Guitars

Scott French is a multi-instrumentalist and music producer from the Gold Coast performing in a wide range of productions across the country and internationally. Recent performances include the 2019 national tour of The Little Red Company's highly-acclaimed *Lady Beatle*, Allensworth (USA), Luke Kennedy, Cheap Fakes and many more, playing at some of the country's biggest festivals and venues.

When he's not on the road, Scott can be found in the studio producing and mixing for a wide range of artists from classical to heavy metal and everything in between.











**GEOFF MCGAHAN** 

Sound Design & Production Operator

Geoff is a Brisbane-based Audio Engineer and Producer with extensive and diverse experiences across a number of audio related fields.

After graduating from the Queensland Conservatorium (Griffith University), he has worked both nationally and internationally with renowned musicians, orchestras and other audio projects to high acclaim. A multi-faceted freelance career followed, becoming highly sought-after for Studio recording, Film and Television Sound Design, and Live Sound Design projects. 2019 Live Audio and Sound Design projects include ongoing collaborations with Queensland Symphony Orchestra (Film concert series and Commercial Audio projects), Opera Queensland (2019 Season). Queensland Music Festival (Mission Songs Project, Archie Roach, Opera at Jimbour), Bravo - The Cruise for the Performing Arts (Bryn Terfel, David Hobson, Marina Prior, Mark Vincent, Tommy Flemming, Melinda Schneider, The Metropolitan Orchestra), Bleach\* The Gold Coast Festival (Verdi's Requiem), Brisbane Festival (Symphony for Me) and the Queensland Pops Orchestra (2019 Season).

To date, Geoff has recorded corded countless CD Productions for ABC, ABC Kids, ABC Classics, Warner Music, Universal Music and Deutsche Grammophon. Awards for these projects have included ARIA Awards and nominations, Daytime Emmy Awards and nominations, along with a number of Gold Album projects.

As an educator, he regards the future of music and related creative technology as an important factor in education. He has inspired students at the Queensland Conservatorium for over 20 years across a range of Audio Technology subjects and projects.











**SAM GIBB**Lighting Design

Sam's passion and expertise within the theatre and live events industry, combined with his excellence in the execution of what he does, makes him a sought-after individual.

With a professional career spanning almost 20 years, Sam has managed and designed for countless national and international theatre productions, events and festivals in a variety of roles. Sam has worked in a freelance capacity as production manager, event operations manager, technical manager, technical designer, stage manager, tour manager, technical operator, theme designer, FOH audio engineer, audio monitor engineer and lighting designer.

From the dense Rainforest of FNQ, beautiful lands of PNG, Rural Outback Australia, beautiful theatres of New Zealand or the Sydney Opera House, Sam has worked in a variety of dynamic and challenging roles around Australia and overseas. Sam is well known for his extensive work on new works and with many cultural and community based organisations of broad diversity - specifically Indigenous organisations, events, theatre productions and festivals.

Sam has been called upon to provide consultancy and technical planning for a variety of large venue infrastructure changes and most notably, engaged recently as the lead theatre consultant on the build of a new 667 seat theatre.

Sam is both honoured and humbled to provide a lighting design for The Little Red Company's *Christmas Actually*.











MICHAEL MANIKUS

Keys

Few musicians can say they've performed in more than 40 countries across the globe, but piano virtuoso Michael 'Flashy' Manikus is one of them. As music director for Australia's international touring act The TEN Tenors for more than a decade, Michael has performed at some of world music's biggest venues and events, including Royal Albert Hall, Colorline Arena, and The Governor's Ball Emmy Awards Dinner in Hollywood.

Queensland Conservatorium trained, Michael has established himself as one of Australia's most celebrated accompanists and music directors, working alongside numerous industry legends including Lionel Richie, Katie Melua and Hot Chocolate, plus Australian stars Naomi Price, Luke Kennedy, Mirusia and Busby Marou.

Michael is a foundation member of The Little Red Company and has collaborated on all of the company's productions to date, including *Rumour* Has It, Wrecking Ball, Lady Beatle, From Johnny to Jack and Christmas Actually.











**OJ NEWCOMB** 

Bass

Oj currently works as a bass educator on acoustic/ electric bass and brass as well as manager, producer, studio engineer, composer, arranger, graphic designer and freelance bassist / musician nationally and internationally specializing in all styles of music. Jazz (small group & Big Band), Cabaret Shows, Brazilian, Cuban, Funk, Reggae, Rock, Folk, Soul & Hip Hop. Owen graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 1999 with a Bachelor of Music majoring in classical double bass.

Current performance credits: John Butler Trio (2019 HOME Tour Europe & USA), Afro Dizzi Act, Band of Frequencies, Ash Grunwald, Xavier Rudd & the United Nations (Tour AUS & NZ), THUMP, The View From Madeleine's Couch, Robert Randolph 'THE WORD' (USA), Andrea Kirwin Band, OKA, Resin Dogs, Zee Star (UK), Yemanja, Zambabem, The Dawn Light, Brodie Graham Trio, Low Pressure Sound System, The Threads Jazz Collective, Swing Central, Darren Percival Band + many for freelance & session work.

Oj has also performed with musicians such as Trilok Gurtu (India), Marnix Van Bruggen (Holland), John Foreman, Libor Smoldas (Prague), Jesse van Ruller (Amsterdam), Kristen Berardi, Doug DeVries, Don Burrows, James Sherlock, Ralph Thomas (Paris), Katie Noonan, Tyrone Noonan, James & John Morrison, John Hoffman, Robert Burke, Shelley Scown, Ken Edie, Elly Hoytt, Dale Barlow, Scott Tinkler, Simon Barker, Christine Sullivan, David Jones, Graeme Lyall, Mike Nock, Christine Sullivan, Peter Skelton, Mick Skelton, Matt Smith, Grace Knight, Tony Gould, Keith Casey (USA), Annum (Brazil), Marcio Bahia (Brazil), Alberto Farah (Brazil), Vince Genova (USA), Don Rayder (USA), Frank Bennett BIG BAND & was in the support band for Al Jarreau's 1999 Gold Coast Show (US) + many more.











**TOM OLIVER**Singer

Tom Oliver is one of Australia's brightest young stars with a broad portfolio that includes music, theatre, film, TV and cabaret. He's worked with some of the greats, from Kylie Minogue on *The Voice Australia*, to co-starring opposite Marcia Hines in the Australian & New Zealand tours of disco phenomenon *VELVET*.

Since his first appearance in the lead role, Marcia and her team invited Tom to join The Marcia Hines Band and tour Australia with global pop stars Sister Sledge, KC & The Sunshine Band, The Village People and many more.

Tom has appeared on numerous live TV broadcasts across Australia. His cover of Peter Allen's hit 'I Go To Rio' was used as the theme song for Telstra's coverage of the Rio Olympics on all media & his cover of Gordon Lightfoot's 'If You Could Read My Mind' was recently released worldwide.

His versatility as a performer boasts lead roles in the musical *RENT* (Mark Cohen) and *Into The Woods* (Jack); in plays like *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo); and in his own cabarets *More Than A Boy* and *Jive Talkin: the songs of the Brothers Gibb.* 

In 2019, Tom created a regular variety night for professional performers in Brisbane called *Dionysus BNE*, starred in *A Midnight Visit* in Perth & reprised his role in *VELVET* for the inaugural production onboard one of the world's biggest cruise ships, The Norwegian Breakaway across the USA, Mexico and West Indies. While in the USA, he recorded a cover of the Bee Gee song *Stayin' Alive* in the same studio the hit was recorded back in 1978.

In 2020, Tom will tour Australia again with *Rolling Thunder Vietnam* and then reprise his role in *VELVET* at the Hansa Variete Theater in Hamburg, Germany. Tom is thrilled to be returning to his favourite Christmas show!

@tomoliver\_au









## **ALEX RATHGEBER**

Singer

Alex is one of Australia's most accomplished young leading men, with a diverse range of credits to his name. Most recently, he appeared as Simon Stride in the critically acclaimed 25th Anniversary concert of *Jekyll & Hyde* (Concertworks), starring Anthony Warlow and Jemma Rix.

At 24 Alex landed the role of Raoul in London's West End production of *The Phantom of the Opera* (Cameron Mackintosh), following which he returned to Australia to play Robert the blindfolded, roller-skating, tap-dancing groom in the acclaimed Melbourne Theatre Company production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Alex received a Helpmann Award for his performance as Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* (John Frost and Opera Australia), other nominations include the Sydney Theatre Awards for the role of Sid in *An Officer and a Gentleman* (GFO) and a Green Room Award nomination for Older Patrick in *Mame* (The Production Company).

A graduate of The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Alex's stage credits include Tin Man in recent Australian tour of *The Wizard of Oz* (GFO), Aaron in *Curtains* (TPC), Carl in *Ghost the Musical* (Ambassador/GWB/Red Live); Greg in *The Boy From Oz* (TPC); Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show* (TML); Joe Kennedy Jr and Jerry in *Grey Gardens* (TPC); Dr Fine/Dr Madden in *Next To Normal* (Doorstep Arts at Hayes Theatre); and Lancelot in *Camelot* (TPC).

On screen Alex has appeared in Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries (ABC), Rush (Network Ten) and Winners and Losers (Seven Network).

Alex's debut album *Easy To Love* celebrates Broadway's favourite composers, featuring duets with Caroline O'Connor, Lucy Maunder and Claire Lyon – it's available on iTunes and Spotify.









# 11 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT LOVE ACTUALLY

- 1. Love Actually was never intended to be a Christmas film. Richard Curtis called the film's first edit "a catastrophe", and has claimed he was still unhappy with it by the time it hit cinemas.
- 2. The film originally contained 14 separate love stories, but four of them ended up being cut. Two of these additional storylines were shot before being abandoned. One of them was about an African couple supporting each other through a famine. And the other was about a stern headmistress who was nursing her lesbian partner through cancer.
- 3. Curtis wanted to cast a mixture of famous and more unknown actors. Some of the cast members he considered less famous were Martin Freeman from *The Hobbit, Mad Men's* January Jones, and BAFTA winner Chiwitel Ejiofor. Curtis's daughter plays one of the lobsters in the nativity play.
- 4. Curtis knew he wanted Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson to play the PM and his sister from the very beginning.
- 5. Martine McCutcheon's role was also written for her. Curtis first spotted her in EastEnders, which he was a huge fan of. In fact, her character, Natalie, was originally called Martine. This was changed for the audition to ensure she didn't think she already had the part. One of the first scenes McCutcheon shot was kissing Hugh Grant.
- 6. Claudia Schiffer was never meant to be in the film. Curtis wanted to cast someone who looked like her, but he couldn't find anyone. He ended up offering her the part and she took it.
- 7. Similarly Laura Linney, who plays Sarah, was cast after Curtis struggled to find an English "Laura Linney-type" actor, so he decided to ask Laura herself. Sarah's love interest Karl, played by Rodrigo Santoro, was originally meant to be English, but they couldn't find the right actor.
- 8. Curtis had two other people in mind to play Billy Mack and couldn't make his mind up until Nighy nailed the audition. But he's never told anyone who the original options were. "I'll put it in my will," he said.
- 9. He claims that the best bit of casting for the whole film was making Thomas Brodie-Sangster Sam. Brodie-Sangstar says that because he played the kid in *Love Actually*, girls thought he was cute. But "not in a One Direction way". He was 13 years old when he played Sam the same age as his character in *Game of Thrones* was meant to be (despite the fact he was actually 23 by this time). His dad taught him to play the drums for the film. He still plays now.
- 10. Hugh Grant, who plays David, and Brodie-Sangster are second cousins. "He'd call me cousin and ruffle my hair," Brodie-Sangster said.
- 11. Bill Nighy has said he feels bad for suggesting that Blue have tiny pricks in his scene with Ant and Dec. He recorded "Christmas Is All Around" in Abbey Road Studios.

Source: Buzzfeed

# **LA BOITE 2019 PARTNERS**









La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland La Boite Theatre Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its funding advisory body

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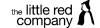


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