



# Dogfight

music and lyrics by benj  
pasek & justin paul

book by peter duchar

Based on the Warner Bros. film and screenplay by Bob Comfort.  
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

**TRIGGER WARNING:** sudden loud noises including gunshots, depiction of violence, depiction of physical assault, depiction of war scenes, sexual assault themes





Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2012  
Carole Rothman, Artistic Director  
Orchestrations by Michael Starobin



# cast and crew

**director** zoe o'leary cameron

**musical director** jack quail

**assistant musical director** vivian zhu

**producer** claire holland

**assistant producer** brandon tan

**stage manager** georgia van yzendoorn

**assistant stage manager** callum bundey

**choreographer** em roberts

rohan pillutla **BIRDLACE**

tegan braithwaite **ROSE**

jeremy spencer broom **BOLAND**

daisy sibtain **MARCY**

tristan davies **BERNSTEIN**

samuel wilson **LOUNGE SINGER**

**also featuring** sam thatcher, campbell moore, olivia klinger, christian maala, isabel toohey, niroshnee ranjan, alison mount, ashley liang

**band members** jessica coote, jia ying lim, isaac said, angus ogbourne, renee selvey

**set designers** millie bull & kat carrington

**set construction manager** kat carrington

**costume designer** jen murnane

**graphics coordinator** katie ward

**set construction** brad monkhouse, isabel dixon, julia faragher, rashna farukh, cherrie lai, martin huang, ria pflaum, felicity brown

**lighting operators** joseph penington, lachlan mcewen, kat carrington

**follow spot** yiqing wang, jim hu, felicity brown

**front of house** yiqing wang, lily iervasi, qiqi tian, zibing wang, ziechang mai

**bus drivers** xiaolun jia, gary jones

**photographer/videographer** william he

**acknowledgement of country** The cast and crew of the ANU Musical Theatre Company's production of Dogfight would like to show our respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land, of elders, past, present, and emerging, on which this production takes place. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.



# from the director

The emotional heart of the show is the tension of showing vulnerability in a world that often demands façades.

Dogfight is set mostly in flashback, with Birdlace's memories taking the audience back to one liminal night: November 21st, 1963 - the eve of the Kennedy assassination. A group of marines arrive in San Francisco, ready for one last wild night before they ship out to Okinawa and, eventually, Vietnam. They're planning to throw a dogfight, a party where the marine who brings the ugliest, unsuspecting date wins a cash prize. Corporal Eddie Birdlace - along with his friends Ralphie Boland and Dickie Bernstein - is one of the ringleaders of the event, and is under pressure to perform, conning an awkward yet sweet waitress named Rose into being his date. Rose ends up not only changing the course of the night, but creating a space for a significant shift in Birdlace's beliefs, attitudes, loyalties and sense of self.

The axis of this show is the sickening dogfight itself, but the marines' objectification and degradation of women pervades the narrative. The script notes that such objectification in the Armed Forces was not incidental or accidental. Rather, it was used as an informal exercise to practice dehumanising enemy forces, making it emotionally simpler for

marines to carry out their violent orders.

Producing a show examining men's historical mistreatment of women is so challenging, because we know that so many of those attitudes and behaviours are yet to meaningfully change. I was working in student media last year when the results of the AHRC survey, documenting sexual assault on university campuses, were released. Women at ANU are all too aware that rituals and games disconcertingly similar to the pack behaviour of the marines' dogfight have occurred on this campus, and likely still do. To put on a show which very blatantly displays misogynistic behaviour is tough. It's not comfortable for the actors to portray, and it's not comfortable for the audience to watch. But it's important to show the truth of the behaviour - both to be an honest testament to women's experiences with harassment and assault, and to show how these attitudes and behaviour should and must change, and yet haven't changed for so long.

The emotional heart of the show is the tension of showing vulnerability in a world that often demands façades. For many of the men in Dogfight, becoming





a marine in the early 1960s would have been seen as the only option to rise above their circumstances and better their lives. But pursuing this came at a cost. In the forces, controlling “soft” emotions was essential, and strong bonds with other men were prized above any other connection. Meeting and getting to know Rose, who is so honest and earnestly herself, rattles Birdlace, and works to start cracking apart this façade in search of something more honest. The connection that builds between Birdlace and Rose is so powerful because it’s such an honest and vulnerable connection. They’re telling each other things they’ve never told anyone in the course of one powerful night. To me, Dogfight is less of a straightforward love story, and more of a testament to the power of emotional vulnerability.

Directing Dogfight has been turbulent at times, but so rewarding. I’d like to thank the executive of MTC for the opportunity to direct my first musical, and the production team and their helpers for their hustle, imagination, and support throughout the process. My amazing parents, friends (particularly housemates), and partner for loving, caring for, and putting up with an even more misc Zoe than usual over this period. To my cast: thank you for trusting me along this crazy journey, putting so much energy into every rehearsal, being an incredible group of people, and for looking at the stars. I hope you all continue to participate in and shape ANU

theatre well into the future.

Finally, a special shout out must go to several amazing creatives who’ve pushed me and helped me grow over many years in high school and student theatre. To Essendon Keilor College’s Julie Clark, Hannah Williams, James Rust and Diane Basile, thank you for being the first to truly welcome me into the world of musical theatre, and for shaping my idea of what amateur theatre has the potential to achieve. From ANU, thanks to Ellie Greenwood and Gowrie Varma - two incredible women directors whose drive, methods and passion continue to inspire me and many others - and to Kat Carrington: a wonderful director, a fixer of unsolvable things, giver of expert advice, and a bloody great friend too.

*Zoe O’Leary Cameron*



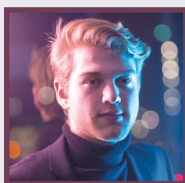
# creative team



## **zoe o'leary cameron** director

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Claire is a second PhB Arts student with a major in Digital Humanities and a keen interest in the theatre! This is Claire's sixth production at the ANU but only her second working behind the scenes. Last year she performed in ANU Arts Revue, the National University Theatre Society production of *The Island of Dr Moreau* and the Bruce Hall Play - *Kill Me, Deadly*. This year Claire is excited to work in production teams. Highlights include producing the 2018 ANU Arts Revue and directing the Bruce Hall production of *Noises Off*. Claire hopes that you enjoy the show!



## **jack quail** musical director

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Performance highlights include touring with James Morrison as a member of his jazz orchestra and appearing as principal trombone of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra. Completed a Diploma of Music at the James Morrison Academy where he received tuition and played with the likes of Grammy Award winning artists Marian Petrescu, Gordon Goodwin and Wycliffe Gordon; as well as many prolific Australian musicians including Ross Irwin (*The Cat Empire*), Phil Stack (*Thirsty Merc*) and James Morrison. Studied conducting with Mario Dobernig (Qatar Philharmonic) and musically directed Holiday Actors 'Company'. He also leads his own jazz orchestra, the 'Bird Brothers' Big Band'.



## **claire holland** producer

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Claire is a second PhB Arts student with a major in Digital Humanities and a keen interest in the theatre! This is Claire's sixth production at the ANU but only her second working behind the scenes. Last year she performed in ANU Arts Revue, the National University Theatre Society production of *The Island of Dr Moreau* and the Bruce Hall Play - *Kill Me, Deadly*. This year Claire is excited to work in production teams. Highlights include producing the 2018 ANU Arts Revue and directing the Bruce Hall production of *Noises Off*. Claire hopes that you enjoy the show!



## **brandon tan**

### **assistant producer**

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Brandon is a 3rd year commerce and international security studies student. Having been surrounded by various theatre shows in high school, he took it upon himself as a “bucket list” goal to give it a go and tryout a production. He achieved this goal when he was on exchange in England and performed the role of “Devil/ TV reporter” in the University of Sheffield’s Light Entertainment society. Having had a good time, he’s volunteering once more, and has learnt more about being a producer this time.



## **vivian zhu**

### **assistant musical director**

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Vivian is in her 2nd year of a Bachelor of Psychology. Her love of music started with the piano at age 5. She obtained her AMusA in 2015 and has performed at various competitions and recitals both nationally and internationally. Her work with ensembles has been a highlight of her musical career, and Dogfight has been no exception. This production has successfully delivered on another few months of #life, #love and #laughter; she feels very lucky to have been accepted back as Assistant MD, following MTC’s Into the Woods in 2017.



## **georgia van yzendoorn**

### **stage manager**

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Whilst Dogfight is Georgie’s debut production for the ANU Musical Theatre Company as Stage Manager, don’t be fooled, because she has spent many hours behind the scenes including backstage, or in the booth, ensuring that every show she’s worked on is totally fabulous. Hating the spotlight, she’s loved working on productions backstage since high school without actually having to be seen. Georgie is a second year Law/Criminology student who is hoping that Dogfight will be a first in a long line of amazing productions to come and is so excited for the performances to begin.



## **callum bundey**

### **assistant stage manager**

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Callum is a Second Year IT/ Physics student who loves working in theatre productions. This is his first MTC production and has loved every minute of it. The dynamic duo of Georgie and Callum helps keep the stage managed as well as making sure the actors enter on cue and with the needed props!

His prior experience includes Technical Director for the NUTS production of 'The Importance of Being Earnest', as well as working productions over the past few years jumping around from running the sound or lights, to being stage manager.



## **em roberts**

### **choreographer**

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Emma is in her 6th year of an Arts/Law Degree. Originally from Melbourne, Emma trained in gymnastics before finding her true love in dance at the age of 16. She completed full-time dance training at Dance World Studios before moving to Canberra. Though deciding that dance wouldn't be her career, Emma has continued to dance and choreograph as a passion. Emma most recently appeared on stage in the Canberra Philharmonic Society's production of Chicago (2017). Emma most enjoys teaching dance to adults who never thought they could dance before. All bodies are good bodies, and all bodies are dance bodies.



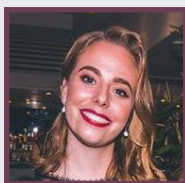
## **kat carrington**

### **set designer and set construction manager**

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Kat is a PPE/Economics student who balances out her love for Arrow's Theorem and the Prisoner's Dilemma with a healthy dose of theatre. Over the past six years, she has taken on almost every role of a production team with credits including producer/founder of the inaugural ANU Women's Revue, director of the NUTS production of Buried Child, stage manager of ANU IHP's Spamalot, and lighting/sound designer for John XXIII College Dramatic Productions (2013 - 2015). She is currently a producer for Crack X Festival, This is Not Art (Newcastle) and part of the 2018 technical team for Canberra Youth Theatre.

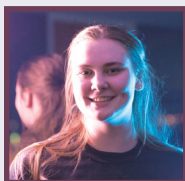




## **millie bull** set designer

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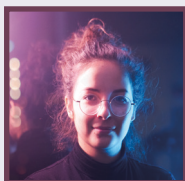
Millie is a third year Art History and Sociology student. This is her third production at ANU, having done set design for NUTS Buried Child in 2017 and The Importance of Being Earnest in 2018. Despite being on exchange this semester, Millie couldn't turn down the opportunity to get involved in another production, taking up the role of co-designer with Kat Carrington.



## **jen murnane** costume designer

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Jen is in her second year at ANU studying a Bachelor of Design. She has been involved in many theatre productions over the years, however this year has marked her first behind the curtain as part of the production team. This is Jen's second time costuming for a production after co-designing costumes for Fenner Hall's production of City of Angels at the start of 2018. She has thoroughly enjoyed the experience as nothing can beat the feeling of locating the perfect Amish costume or fake teeth that don't resemble vampire fangs.



## **katie ward** graphics coordinator

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Katie is in her penultimate year of an Engineering Degree. She cannot sing or act to save her life, so has settled for graphic design to quench her creative needs. She started designing for the Interhall Arts Committee in 2015, and from there went on to design campaign material for her stupol friends. In 2017, she worked for Woroni as a design sub-editor, with her most notable work being a very poor drawing of someone eating straight from a 1kg tub of hummus. Designing for Dogfight has been an absolute joy, and Katie has enjoyed every moment of it.



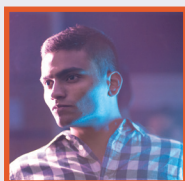
# cast



## tegan braithwaite rose

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As a first year studying a double degree of Music/Arts, Dogfight is Tegan's debut production at ANU. Most recently, she performed as understudy Mary Magdalene/Soul Sister in Canberra Philo's Jesus Christ Superstar (2018). She's also been seen as Martha in the highly acclaimed Spring Awakening (2016) as well as ensemble roles in Strictly Ballroom (2017), A View From the Bridge (2017), Cinderella (2015) and various high school productions. Still, Dogfight stands out as one of the more breathtaking productions she's had the chance to work on. She can't thank the production team enough for the opportunity to play Rose. You'll catch Tegan next in the very contrasting role of Dragon in Free-Rain's Shrek the Musical!



## rohan pillutla birdlace

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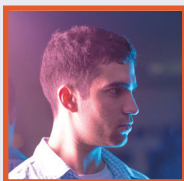
Rohan had only been in Canberra for a week when he found himself auditioning for Fenner Hall's Grease (2016) and since then he's been in shows including Sweeney Todd (2016) Lenin: A Rock Opera (2017) The Island of Doctor Moreau (2017) and the ANU Arts Revue (2016 and soon in 2018), also directing City of Angels (2018). Rohan is super excited to be back onstage for this emotional, intense show and hopes that by the end you'll be wowed enough to say his patented catchphrase "Holy Smokes!"



## daisy sibtain marcy

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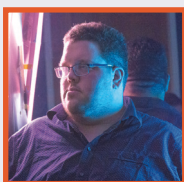
Daisy is a first year doing a diploma of music at ANU. She had been in many shows over the years such as Danny in the Toybox and Snow White at Marian Street Theatre for Young People in Sydney and shows such as Crazy For You at her high school Barker College. As a die hard musical fan, she is super excited for her first ANU musical.



## **tristan davies bernstein**

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Tristan has been involved in music theatre since he was 12. His favourite roles have been Doody in QCC's production of Grease (because he looks great in a leather jacket), and Rapunzel's Prince in ANU IHP's production of Into The Woods (because he looks great in tights). Tristan has received a CAT award nomination for his role as Willard in LHS's Footloose, and has played many ensemble roles around Canberra including a pilot, a beggar, a doctor, and most notably, a tree. Tristan is pursuing a career in performance music, and is in his 2nd year at the ANU School of Music.



## **jeremy spencer broom boland**

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Starting his Theatrical career at the age of 16 at Lake Tuggeranong College, Jeremy has worked in a wide a range of amateur and professional cast's. His musical roles include Ernst Ludwig in Cabaret, Sergeant Krupke in West Side Story and Samuel in the Pirates of Penzance. He studied acting at the Canberra Academy of Dramatic Arts before making his Motion Picture debut as Cousin Shane in the British film The Inbetweeners 2. He has also performed in professional companies for the Urban Theatre Company in Sydney. This is his first production in 4 years.



## **samuel wilson lounge singer**

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Samuel is in his second year, studying a Batchelor of Engineering/ Finance double degree. Last year he was cast in ANU IHP's Into The Woods as Cinderella's Father, and Burgmann College's play The History Boys. This year he is producer for the Burgmann Play A Flea in Her Ear. Before university, Samuel played the role of Baker in Blue Mountains Grammar School's Into the Woods. He was involved in Sydney Theatre Company's inaugural "Young Wharfies" program, and was an ambassador with the Griffin Theatre Company. Samuel is thrilled to be a part of the superb team taking on Dogfight.



## **samuel thatcher**

### **lounge singer**

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Samuel is a first year student studying a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He was raised on a farm near Armidale, NSW, and attended The Armidale School (TAS). Samuel performed in school productions of West Side Story, Once Upon a Mattress and Bye Bye Birdie. The son of an ANU alumna and opera singer, Samuel developed an interest in singing from an early age and has been involved in numerous choirs, including the Gondwana National Choirs. Samuel is also a professional organist and plays rugby union. He is thrilled to be involved in his first ANU MTC production.



## **campbell moore**

### **fector**

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Campbell is a first-year music student at ANU who is specialising in Jazz vocals. He comes from Newcastle, NSW where he learnt singing at a young age, singing in choirs, school bands and other various productions such as Schools Spectacular. This is Campbell's first musical production and first acting role and he has thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



## **olivia klinger**

### **gibbs/chippy**

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Olivia is a third-year Visual Arts student from Sydney. Since age 5, she has been involved in a variety of plays, ranging from Alice In Wonderland to the BFG (performed at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts). She also had the privilege of playing Marty in Fenner Hall's production of Grease (2016). In general, college life brought Olivia even more hobbies than she could physically handle. These include running, touch footy, snowsports,.. and the list goes on. Olivia is thrilled to be playing charismatic Marine Gibbs, and the bold female Chippy in her very first interhall musical, Dogfight! She thinks the cast and crew are the 'bee's knees', and she hopes that the audience will have 'some kind of time' watching this show!



## **christian maala**

### **waiter/marine**

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Christian is a second year studying a Bachelor of Science. His fondness for music began at an early age where he remembers singing along to Do-Re-Mi from the Sound of Music on repeat and pretending to be one of the Von Trapp children. Since then he has performed in concerts and school musicals as part of an orchestra. Dogfight will be his first time as an actor in a musical production and is thrilled to be performing alongside such a wonderfully talented cast.



## **isabel toohey**

### **peggy/big tony/hippy**

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Izzy is a first year International Relations and International Security Studies student who has loved musical theatre her entire life. She prides herself on her outstanding track record of playing a guy in every single musical she has ever been in, this one no exception. Come for the sweetness of Peggy and stay for the sass of Big Tony. She has met friends for life in the musical and is so proud of what it has become.



## **niroshee ranjan**

### **librarian/hippy**

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Niroshee is a first year, studying Law and International Relations. Originally from Sydney, she then moved to Sri Lanka in 2012. This is her first ever musical but she's been singing since the age of 5, training in Carnatic and Western avenues of music. She's so excited for this musical to go on stage and can't wait for all the laughter and all the tears the audience is in store!



## **alison mount**

### **mama/ruth**

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Ali is a first year undergraduate who couldn't decide what to do with herself so enrolled in a flexible double in arts and science, and now spends her days on programs and courses and ISIS switching between majors. The best decision she has made this year (and stuck to) was joining the Dogfight team. This will be her first university production, but 3rd musical; having played Kim Easton in *Back to the 80s*, and sharing the role of bad guy Bud Frump with her identical twin sister in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. When not on stage, you can be sure to find Ali either in the library or out on the footy field (Go the Griffs!).



## **ashley liang**

### **suzette/hippy**

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Ashley is a first year Arts/International Relations student from Melbourne. She's been in love with musicals since she first heard *Les Mis* (and no matter how overhyped you say it is, she is convinced it is a work of art) and has seen a lot of shows but never been involved. After working up the courage to sing (in public!) in her final year of high school, she is finally trying to live out the 'new year, new me' mantra by taking part in *Dogfight*, attempting to sing, dance and act all at the same time for the first time on stage. She hopes you love this show as much as she does!

# band



**jessica coote**  
cello



**jia ying lim**  
violin



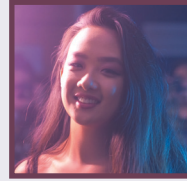
**isaac said**  
electric/double bass



**angus ogbourne**  
drums

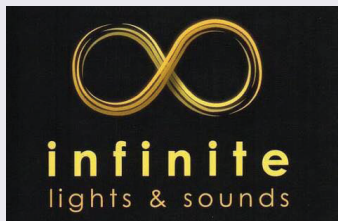


**renee selvey**  
guitar



**vivian zhu**  
pianist





**thank you** infinite lights & sounds, canberra area theatre awards, burgmann college, william he, brad monkhouse, d'arcy pierce and elizabeth page

