

# HEART LINES

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KERRY BOWDEN

**At only nineteen years of age,  
Noah was the recipient of a heart transplant.**

“Heart lines explores the undefined almost spiritual bond between a heart recipient and his donor. The emotions feel raw and untethered”

-The West Australian

**July  
11<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>  
2025**

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**Melville**

# HEART LINES

**Written and Directed by Kerry Bowden**



**Kerry Bowden**

Kerry Bowden is a West Australian award-winning playwright who has had her plays produced in state, national and international artistic contexts. She won the People's Choice award for the Maj Monologue statewide competition at His Majesty's Theatre for the play *Handy Man* and was a finalist in the National Short and Sweet Competition at Sydney's Seymour Theatre. Her play *Birth, Death and Somewhere in Between* was selected to be included in the Edmonton International Fringe Festival in Canada. At a more local level, Kerry's work has been performed at various venues and festivals in Perth including The Blue Room Theatre, PS Arts Space, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Fringe World, Fremantle Festivals and Subiaco Arts Centre Festival. She also enjoys creating plays for site-specific theatre, including the up-close and personal production of *The Car Project*. After her play *Veneer* was performed at the Blue Room Theatre, it was also performed at Fremantle Men's Shed. Kerry was delighted when *Heart Lines* was published by Australian Plays Transform enabling the script to be distributed as a production-ready play for both professional and community theatre contexts.

As a playwright, Kerry likes to shed light on the connectivity that exists between one person and another. Whether it be familial, friendship-based or sheer randomness, the emotional ruptures that can occur in relationships inform her writing and practice. In its rawest form, *Heart Lines* portrays the unique and almost spiritual bond between two youths; one the heart donor, the other the heart recipient. She wrote the play to be tender-tough, where hope and elation sit beside grief and despair. Kerry enjoys embedding monologues in her script writing as it allows the character to speak from the heart with the opportunity for greater emotionality and interiority. Kerry is thrilled to have the opportunity to have *Heart Lines* performed in a community theatre context at Melville Theatre Company.

Kerry is also an artistic director who has directed many of her own plays and those of other playwrights. She has recently become involved in directing Shakespearean play readings including *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Measure for Measure* at the New Fortune Theatre at the University of Western Australia. Directorially, she immensely enjoys the transformative journey of moving written words into a dynamic theatrical performance. As the director of *Heart Lines*, Kerry enjoys the opportunity to direct such a talented and collaborative cast who have all worked creatively and rigorously to attain authenticity and emotional truth in the characters they play.

# HEART LINES

Written and Directed by Kerry Bowden

## Cast



**Pete** Brandon de Sousa

**Jacob** Travis Koch

**Anna** Poppy Lindsell

**James** Oscar Sheil

**Noah** Nick Stevenson

**Tim** Jack Varley

*Heart Lines contains mild, course language.*

## Crew

**Stage Manager** Michelle Sharp

**Lighting & Sound Design** Lars Jensen

**Bio Box Operator** Barbara Lovell

**Set Construction** Peter Bloor & Ross Bertinshaw

**Costumes** Michelle Sharp

**Stage Combat Direction** Nastassja Norwood

**Poster** Lars Jensen

**Program** Ruhama Rowe

**Publicity** Curtain Call Creatives

**Front of House and Bar** Julia Calvert and her team



# HEART LINES

## Special Thanks

Dr Robert LARBalestier AO- Director Cardiothoracic Unit at Fiona Stanley Hospital and founder of Heart and Lung Transplant Foundation of WA.

Katya Price- Patient Support and Business Development Manager at Heart and Lung Transplant Foundation of WA.

Benjamin Bowden- Front of House Music.

Melville Mazda- For sponsoring printing costs.



## A Worthy Cause



The Heart and Lung Transplant Foundation of WA's mission is to support the heart and lung transplant community so that Western Australians who suffer from heart and/or lung disease have the opportunity to participate fully in their day-to-day life.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation relies on its fundraising efforts and the generosity of sponsors, supporters, and the community to enable it to continue to make inroads into heart and lung disease and support those going through the transplant journey. The Foundation provides practical and emotional support, funds essential medical equipment and advocates for improved care and outcomes.

Melville Theatre Company is very pleased to contribute to the fundraising program of the Heart and Lung Transplant Foundation of WA. For every ticket sold \$1 is donated to the Foundation. Audiences are also encouraged to buy a raffle ticket which will be drawn on closing night of Heart Lines, 26th July. Dr Robert LARBalestier AO will draw the winning ticket. Dr LARBalestier established the Heart and Lung Transplant Foundation of WA and is the director of cardiothoracic surgery at Fiona Stanley Hospital.



# HEART LINES

## Cast

### Brandon de Sousa



Brandon de Sousa

Brandon is a dedicated actor who discovered his passion at a young age, starring in leading comedic roles such as Wolfie in a reimagined *Little Red Riding Hood* and the title character in the parody production, *Cinderfella*.

Brandon refined his craft over five years at John Curtin College of the Arts and three years at Murdoch University, developing a disciplined and professional approach to acting. Some of his notable theatre credits include Jedediah Schultz in *The Laramie Project*, Mike in *Dead by the Minute*, and Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*. Brandon also has a wealth of experience acting on screen, playing prominent roles in shorts, commercials, and feature films. He plays the role of Danny, an uncouth lout, in the upcoming feature film, *Skeleton Girls: A Kidnapped Society*.

Brandon plays the role of Pete, a 23-year-old tradie and best friend of Noah. Brandon has particularly enjoyed unearthing the complexities of Pete's duality, striving to authentically balance his comedic larrikin nature with his genuine care for his struggling friend. Brandon welcomes audiences to come and watch *Heart Lines*, and looks forward to sharing the work that he and the cast and crew have worked hard to bring to life.

Represented by Artist Management Australia.

### Travis Koch



Travis Koch

Travis studied Theatre Arts at Curtin University, where he also completed his Honours as an actor with distinction. During this time, he accumulated a number of stage credits at Curtin's Hayman Theatre, headlined by productions such as *A Single Act*, *The Laramie Project* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Since graduating, Travis has mainly focused on screen acting, training under a number of esteemed coaches through 2024 at the PAC Advanced Studio, and earlier this year continuing his practice in LA via The Hollywood Initiative. Represented by Artist Management Australia, his screen credits include background work in a number of major shows, including STAN's *Scrublands S2* and *The Twelve* on Binge, alongside playing Brendan, the male lead in upcoming independent feature *Wreckage* by CHRAVE production company.

Travis has enjoyed returning to stage and mapping Jacob's substantial arc, in a play with subject material that has become tragically close to his heart. His wish is that audiences will see this production as a message of hope.

Represented by Artist Management Australia.

### Poppy Lindsell



Poppy Lindsell

Poppy Lindsell is an actor, director and stage manager based in Boorloo. Whilst completing her Bachelor of Theatre Arts at Curtin University she gained experience performing in many shows including *Festen* (dir. Helen Trenos, 2021), *Packing Heat* (dir. Adam Mitchell, 2022) at the Blue Room Theatre, and *Kid's Stakes* (dir. Helen Trenos, 2022), for which she was awarded "Best Performer in a Major Production 2022" at the Hayman Awards.

Poppy has also worked closely alongside directors as a stage manager for multiple shows, including *The Antipodes* and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at Hayman Theatre, directed by Leah Mercer, *Legally Blonde the Musical* and *Wizard of Oz the Musical* at Crown Theatre, as well as Weekly Award Winning Perth Fringe Festival shows, *Gatho at Mine* and *Sweating Like a Stuck Pig*. Poppy graduated from Curtin in 2023 as "Haymanite of the Year 2023".

She is looking forward to bringing Kerry Bowden's *Heart Lines* to stage at Melville Theatre as Anna; a driven and passionate law student who is a loyal and loving friend to her two housemates.

# HEART LINES

## Cast



Oscar Sheil

### Oscar Sheil

Oscar found his love for the stage when he was cast in the lead role for his high school's production of Louis Nowra's *Summer of the Aliens* and has been avidly involved in the Perth performing arts scene ever since.

Studying Theatre and Drama at Murdoch University gave him the opportunity to develop his skills, from student and indie films to Shakespeare and Children's Theatre. He was awarded 2nd place in Best Monologue and 3rd place in Best Adult Performer for New Faces Talent Academy's Showcase Performance. He has been a core member of *Booze & The Bard: The Shakespearean Drinking Game* as both an actor and sound designer, with back-to-back sell-out seasons in Perth Fringe Festival and successful runs touring to Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

In *Heart Lines*, Oscar takes on the character of James; a happy go lucky musician, surfer and theatre arts student. Oscar enjoys the challenge of creatively sculpting the way James navigates his upbeat and fun-filled university life as a contrast to Noah's melancholic struggle to connect with his heart donor's family.



Nick Stevenson

### Nick Stevenson

Nick has had a passion for acting from a very early age. He won a Performing Arts Scholarship at John Curtin College of the Arts. Throughout his secondary schooling, Nick was instructed by both highly skilled drama teachers and specialist tutors from the creative industry sector, enabling him to gain a diverse range of performative skills and techniques.

Nick has performed in local, regional and international theatre contexts.

After performing at Perth Fringe World, Nick then took the same performance to the Edmonton International Fringe Festival in Canada. He has also performed in many short films. Nick was awarded West Australian Best Actor of the Year for his role in the film, *The Department of Nowhere* and has continued professionally in the industry of both film and theatre. Nick was nominated for Best Male Actor in the Performing Arts WA Awards for his lead role in the play *Whisper White*. When not performing, he has also provided drama workshops for all ages.

Nick was drawn to the character of Noah as he felt a strong connection to him within his own life. "Having been born with heart complications myself, I felt Noah embodies the turmoil and understanding one can feel when confronting something life changing."



Jack Varley

### Jack Varley

Jack has always had a passion for acting and performance ever since primary school. In his high school years, he showcased his artistic talents, taking lead roles in productions such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

After Jack completed his secondary education, he attended Joondalup Entertainers Theatre School (JETS) where he further developed and enhanced his performing arts skills and his creativity. He also had the opportunity to attain skills in back stage work such as stage management and technical skills. Jack performed in major productions at JETS and received very positive feedback from audience members and reviewers. Jack has also had the opportunity to participate in Perth Fringe World where he had a major acting role in the play, *Mentality*.

This year, Jack makes his debut at Melville Theatre Company and is very much enjoying rehearsing and performing on the new and expansive stage. He is looking forward to audiences meeting Tim, the character Jack plays in *Heart Lines*. He enjoys portraying Tim's charismatic and witty nature as well as balancing his boldness with his caring personality.

Jack is very pleased to be performing in *Heart Lines*, as he feels the play is beautifully written and the characters are very real.

# MELVILLE THEATRE COMPANY

A community theatre company that has been running for over 40 years.  
Our first production was in 1983 and we have members who have been involved continuously since our first show, *The Sound of Music*.

As a theatre company we are committed to putting on high quality shows and this has been recognised through many awards throughout the years.

We are run by a dedicated committee of volunteers and every aspect of our productions is put together by volunteers. We are lucky to have an exceptional group of members. Some bring professional theatre experience and some bring willingness to learn. All bring a huge amount of enthusiasm and we value each and every one of them.

If you enjoyed the show and would like to find out more about how to get involved we would love to hear from you!

## Become a MTC member today

Members receive:  
Discount tickets to shows  
Invitations to MTC events  
The ability to get involved in shows!



Family  
Membership  
(up to 4  
family  
members)  
\$20



Individual  
Membership  
\$10

This theatre stands on Country where jarrah forests once grew, and where Yagan called his lookout and home.

We pay our respects to the Elders of this place and acknowledge their continuing connection with Country.

We acknowledge the Bibulmun People as the traditional custodians of this land where the koolbardi (magpie) sings and the biyara (banksia) grows.

The Noongar People have a rich history of coming together as a community to share through dance, stories and songs.

It is a privilege to gather, perform and reflect on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar.



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The background is a collage of Australian desert landscapes. At the top, there are green leaves and a small illustration of Uluru. The main text is on a white paper-like surface. At the bottom, there is a QR code on the left, a silver and gold pen in the center, and a Melville Theatre Company logo on the right.

# Letters to Lindy By Alana Valentine

Directed by Melissa Merchant

"There are three things that have divided this nation right down the center. Conscription, Whitlam and Lindy Chamberlain."

Melville Theatre Company,  
10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon

September 2025

7.30pm 12, 13, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27.

5.00pm 14 & 21

Bookings through Trybooking

MELVILLE  
**THEATRE**  
COMPANY