



Captain Moonlite

A New Australian Musical

Created by Jye Bryant

DIRECTED BY
RUHAMA ROWE

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY
NICK NAVARRA

31st July to 15th August
2026

Licensed for amateur performance

MELVILLE●●●
THEATRE●●
COMPANY

MELVILLE THEATRE

COMPANY

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 Bibbulmun 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.

This 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.

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



@melvilletheatrecompany



melvilletheatrecompany.au



@meltheco

Synopsis

Captain Moonlite - A New Australian Musical tells the captivating story of the Irish-born, Australian bushranger, Captain Moonlite, AKA Andrew 'George' Scott, who led a ragged bunch of young misfits to stage a siege and shoot out near Gundagai, NSW.

The musical is set in a death cell of Sydney's Darlinghurst Gaol on the eve of Captain Moonlite's execution in 1880. We hear (told directly from his unsent and previously suppressed death cell letters) about the events that led up to his execution including the birth of the Captain Moonlite legend, the alleged bank robbery and the siege and shoot out that led to the death of his partner and fellow outlaw, James Nesbitt.

Musical Numbers

1. LET SWEET JUSTICE REIGN – George & Company
2. ACES UP YOUR SLEEVE – George, Bruun & Simpson
3. WHAT A MAN SHOULD BE – George
4. COMMIT HIM FOR CONTEMPT – Mr Adamson & Ensemble
5. LET SWEET JUSTICE REIGN (REPRISE) – George
6. INNOCENT – George
7. ANYWHERE BUT HERE – George & James
8. ANYWHERE BUT HERE (REPRISE) – George
9. BOUVERIE STREET – James
10. CAPTAIN MOONLITE – George
11. FIND YOUR FOUR-LEAF CLOVER – Company
12. MAY YOU REST UPON ME – James
13. WHAT A MAN SHOULD BE (REPRISE) – George & Company
14. WHATEVER COMES TOMORROW – George
15. INNOCENT (REPRISE) – George
16. ANYWHERE BUT HERE (REPRISE) – George
17. WHEN THEY TELL MY STORY – George, James & Company
18. MAY YOU REST UPON ME (UNDERSCORE) – Band
19. BOWS – Band
20. EXIT MUSIC – Band

Content Warning

This production contains adult themes with scenes including violence and gambling.





Jye Bryant is the creative force behind an array of spellbinding musical theatre productions that have graced stages around the globe with his most well-known musical, *The Things I Could Never Tell Steven*, having had 11 international seasons including the National Theatre of Parramatta (2020), Pride Arts Chicago (2021), Northwestern State University of Louisiana (2022) and Belfast's Outside The Lines Theatre Company (2019).

The songs from Jye's musicals have also had a life of their own, featuring in countless international showcases and cabarets including London's West End Ribbons of Life Showcase (2016), the Allen & Gray New Voices Concert, USA (2020), New Works

Creator Laboratory (Stray Dog Theatre, St Louis, USA, 2021),

Contempo (Pepperdine University, California, USA, 2021), New Artist Cabaret (Alturas Theatre Company, Union Theatre London, 2024) as well as two seasons of the reality television musical theatre competition Broadway Bound Live (Katharsis Media, USA, 2020 & 2023).

Jye's expertise has been further showcased through workshops and educational initiatives, including the publication of two books, *Writing & Staging A New Musical – A Handbook* (2018) and *Lyric Writing in 5 Easy Steps – A Step-By-Step Guide* (2021).

With a keen eye for storytelling and an ear for melody, Jye continues to push the boundaries of musical theatre, captivating audiences with his vision and imagination.

Creator's Note

The story of Captain Moonlite is one that has intrigued me ever since I read Jane Smith's short book with the same title in 2016. Inspired, I was initially unsure about how I'd turn Andrew George Scott's tragic tale into a captivating piece of Australian historic theatre, so for the next two years the project sat idle, collecting dust in my ever-growing pile of 'new musical ideas'. But in 2018, I fortuitously discovered Stephan Williams' transcriptions of Scott's 'death cell letters' and as I read through the poetic and passionately penned letters (that were unjustly suppressed by the authorities of the day), I knew immediately how I would turn this fascinating story into a stage show – I would write it as a 'soapbox musical'.

After a series of rewrites and workshops across 2018 and 2019 (with some of Sydney's most talented and generous thespians), I planned to premiere the show in 2020 at Flight Path Theatre, yet COVID-19 had other plans and they didn't involve singing and dancing bushrangers. Thankfully Redcliffe Musical Theatre (QLD) was eager to premiere the show which they performed in late 2020, however, due to border closures and lockdowns I was unable to attend. Following the successful Queensland premiere season, I was able to source some encouragingly helpful feedback from theatre critics, audience members as well as the original production team and cast which guided the post-premiere rewrite and the much-more-developed version currently in performance.

As for the legend of Captain Moonlite - well, it continues to engross me as one of Australia's earliest examples of trial-by-media. Yet whether Andrew George Scott was innocent or guilty is, in all truth, of little consequence, for Scott – in my opinion – epitomises the heroes and villains that simultaneously reside in all of us. He symbolises the glaring contradictions and inconsistencies that pervade our beliefs and behaviours and inspire us all to concoct implausible narratives in order to maintain positive relationships with ourselves and others. We may not (I hope!) experience shoot-outs with the authorities, but we are often, just like Andrew George Scott, motivated by perceived injustice, bruised egos and a desperate desire to live freely and on our own terms. I hope you enjoy *Captain Moonlite* half as much as I enjoyed researching, writing and developing it.



Director

Ruhama (Roe) Rowe has had a lifelong love for performing and has a Performance Studies degree from Curtin University. While at university she directed a number of productions, since her main focus has been acting. Ruhama has appeared in many productions in Perth with some credits including *God of Carnage*, *Quiz*, *The Little Good Wolf*, *Things I know to be True*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Incognito*. She created her own production company, Roe Rowe Productions, to produce her show *What to Expect When You're No Longer Expecting*. Ruhama is thrilled to be returning to directing at Melville Theatre Company, the company she considers home.

Director's Note

This time last year if you had told me I would be directing a musical I wouldn't have believed you. I was involved in selecting *Captain Moonlite* for 2026 and loved the script, but didn't think I would be doing any theatre this year with a new baby. However, when the initial season was postponed which resulted in needing a new cast and director I said if I could cast it I would direct it, and what an adventure followed. I'm so grateful to be able to work with this wonderful team, who have welcomed little Luca into the theatre with open arms, to bring this story to life.

As I delved deeper into the script and the history, I have been amazed with the amount of direct quotes Jye has included in the show. The use of primary source material makes it so interesting to work with. Andrew George Scott was a man who consistently used the power of words- speaking passionately on prison reform and representing himself in court on multiple occasions. As his life drew to a close the authorities of the time tried to ensure his voice was taken from him. In his prison cell George wrote letters which he was told would go to the intended recipients but were put in a drawer and remained undiscovered by anyone outside the authorities for one hundred years. George was also denied a chance to have last words on the gallows. A man who lived for words died without them, so working on a show that highlights his words is an honour.

I have loved finding the humour in the script as we look at society through George's eyes. I have had these catchy compositions in my head for months and I can guarantee you will walk out humming them. I have fallen in love with this group of unlikely bandits and hope you will too. Enjoy the humour, heroes and heartbreak in *Captain Moonlite*.





Musical Director

Nick Navarra is a music director/conductor, pianist and multi-instrumentalist, composer/lyricist, and occasional singer of miscellaneous music. Currently studying a bachelor of music in conducting at WAAPA under Jessica Gethin, he is also an experienced classical and musical theatre vocalist, and before he "retired", he performed on stage in over a dozen productions. Nowadays, he is usually found in the orchestra pit, having played for countless shows, including *Shrek*, *Assassins* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. *Captain Moonlite* marks Nick's fourth production as musical director and his second with Melville Theatre Company after 2024's *The Sound of Music*.

Musical Director's Note

Jye Bryant's score for *Captain Moonlite* really is one of the most interesting and unique musical theatre scores I have ever come across. It effortlessly blends the structure of musical theatre songs with the traditional style and instrumentation of Irish folk music into one. Within this score are some absolutely gorgeous ballads, a mock Gilbert and Sullivan patter song, and a good old Irish jig or two! It is also very rare to work with such a unique and brilliant orchestration as this. It really is something special to be able to have traditional Irish instruments featured, and we have certainly taken this to the next level. The addition of accordion and the expansion of the percussion part to add glockenspiel, mark tree (and a sneaky Acme siren) to the traditional bodhrán have brought some beautiful new colours to the score, and we are so tremendously lucky to have genuine Irish whistles added into the flute part. It has been an absolute pleasure working with our cast and our fantastic band, and it's now such an honour to finally get to conduct this fabulous show.

Band

Conductor & Accordion	Nick Navarra	Percussion	Katie Waterhouse
Irish flute & Whistles	Talitha Broughton	Violin	Ben Clapton
Keyboard	Daniel Nievelstein	Double Bass	Ruby Martin





Choreographer

Roisin O'Neill is a classically trained ballet and contemporary dancer and dance teacher. With 17 years of training, she has found a new passion in choreography and teaching. She recently spent a week training with Sydney Dance Company which reignited her love of performing. Roisin also loves trying her hand at acting and is a member of WAYTCO, as well as recently appearing in Grads Theatre Company's production of *Macbeth*. As an actor and dancer she is extremely excited to have the opportunity to be the choreographer for *Captain Moonlite*!



**Intimacy and
Technical Advice**

Clare Talbot's journey in theatre began in High School productions and she pursued her passion by studying Lighting for Production at WAAPA and Education and The Arts at Murdoch. Clare is dedicated to shaping the future of the industry as a Drama Teacher. In recent years, she has focused on directing (*Plaza Suites*), stage management (*Chalkface*, *Macbeth*) and acting (*What If Only*, *Apocalypse Perth*). Clare's involvement in *Captain Moonlight*, has provided the perfect opportunity for her to further develop her acting skills, intimacy training and lighting design showcasing her versatility and commitment to the arts.

Clare was cast and rehearsed as Charlie but was unable to perform in the season.

Special Thanks

To all of those who volunteered their time to help put this show on, whether onstage, offstage or front of house, our sincere thanks.

The Melville Theatre Committee who have all contributed to this show in some way, many of whom are cast or crew.

Our families for supporting our artistic endeavours by allowing us the time to commit to the show and being our biggest fans. For the solo bed time routines with kids at home, the running lines with us, the listening to us as we talk all things theatre and more, thank you.

For loaning material's to assist the production:

Old Mill Theatre, St Mary's Anglican Girls School & Applecross Senior Highschool.

For sponsoring program costs, Melville Mazda.

For discounted instrument hire, Crescendo Music.



Cast



George

Jamie Lea arrived in Perth last year and has since enjoyed immersing himself in the city's vibrant creative community. He made his Perth stage debut earlier this year as Phil in *Brassed Off* at Melville Theatre, and has cherished working alongside such talented casts and crews ever since. Still relatively new to the scene, Jamie has found nothing but warmth and inspiration along the way. He is delighted to return to Melville Theatre as George in *Captain Moonlite*, and can't wait to bring this story to life.



James

Corban Featon has been in love with theater since he was twelve, first performing in a cabaret style show called *Tivolettes*, later going to John Curtin where he proceeded to fall further in love with musicals. Over the years, Corban has been in a variety of musicals ranging from *Bring It On*, *Oliver*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Fame the Musical*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Sweeney Todd*. Corban is very excited to be a part of *Captain Moonlite*!



**Simpson
Rogan**

Adam Gannon is an actor, director and set designer currently studying at Curtin University. Adam has been involved in many productions for The Hayman Theatre Company most notably Antonio in *12th Night*, Sandy in *The Antipodes*, *The Persians*, Blubberer in *The Belly*, King Duncan in *Macbeth* and Reverend Paris in *The Crucible*. He has also enjoyed roles in musicals including Ben in *American Idiot*, *10 Things I Hate About You* and *The Breakfast Club*. Adam is loving the opportunity to be involved in an Australian musical and work with some brilliant people.



**Bruun
Warnecke**

Madison Mercer is excited to be having her very first performance with Melville Theatre. She's enjoyed playing Warneke, Bruun and ensemble in *Captain Moonlite* with such a talented and amazing cast. At 15 this is Madison's fifth musical production after *Mary Poppins*, *Anastasia* and *Legally Blonde* with MSJ Productions, and Esmerelda in *Once Upon a One More Time* at Playlovers Theatre. She's excited to share the stage with her mum for the first time and is thankful to be a part of this wonderful production.



Cast



Josie McAllister is a 19 year old writer, director and performer based in Boorloo. She has participated in several community theatre productions and most recently made her professional debut in the original musical *Mates* at the Old Mill Theatre. After a year at UWA, she chose to pursue a degree in Performance Making at WAAPA, and is so excited for you to see *Captain Moonlite*, which is the first show she has officially assistant directed.

Charlie

*Josie is the **Assistant Director** and has stepped into this role for the season.*



Mr Adamson
Ensemble

Craig Menner has been involved in theatre long enough to perform in front of *Captain Moonlite*. Having taken a step back from theatre several years ago after performing in *Little Women* at The Old Mill Theatre, Craig's passion has always been musicals laced with comedy; and *Captain moonlite* has it all. Having the freedom to use his craft to create several characters in this wonderful performance, Craig is delighted to be back in front of the audience to perform these roles; laced with just a subtle bit of comedy.



Judge Barry
Ensemble

Laura Mercer has been involved with Melville Theatre on and off, for the past 25 years – onstage, backstage, FOH and committee member. Her recent acting credits include *Letters to Lindy*, *Brassed Off* (both for Melville Theatre) and *The Lovely Bones* (Arena Theatre). She loves being an ensemble member and playing a variety of characters and has relished the challenge of bringing five characters to life in *Captain Moonlite*. She is thrilled to have this opportunity to perform alongside her daughter for the first time and has had so much fun working with such a lovely bunch of supportive and creative human beings.



Crew

Stage Manager	Michelle Sharp
Assistant Stage Manager	Nate Tonkin
Assistant Director	Josie McAllister
Production Advisor	Neroli Sweetman
Lighting Design	Lars Jensen
Sound Design	Chris Rowe
Lighting/Sound Operation	Jessica Bates
Sound Mixing	Mack Chidlow
Stage Combat	Thomas Dimmick
Intimacy	Clare Talbot and Michelle Ezzy
Photography	Alan Gill and Thomas Dimmick
Set Design	Ruhama Rowe
Set Construction	Peter Bloor, Ross Bertinshaw and Jamie Lea
Set Painting	Cast and crew
Costumes	Michelle Sharp
Wardrobe Assistant	Kate Welch
Sewing Assistance	Zeta Welch, Barbara Lovell and Lois Lange
Front of House	Julia Calvert and her volunteers



History

1872

The London Chartered Bank in Mt Egerton was robbed by a man claiming to be Captain Moonlite.

Andrew George Scott was charged with the Mt Egerton bank robbery.
Judge Barry found him guilty, sentencing him to 10 years at Pentridge Prison.

1879

Scott was released from Pentridge Prison after serving 7 years for good behaviour.

He lived with Nesbitt in Melbourne while speaking publicly on prison

Scott set out with Nesbitt, Williams, Warnecke and Rogan towards NSW to find work.

Scott and his gang were turned away from Wantabadgery Station where they were expecting shelter and work.

After a night camped in the rain, Scott's gang returned to Wantabadgery Station where they held the residents captive.

A shoot out occurred between the Wagga Wagga Police and Scott's gang.
The police retreated.

While at McGlede's farm, the Police surrounded the bushrangers.

In the shoot out, Warnecke was killed, Constable Bowen was injured and Nesbitt was killed.

Scott wept openly over Nesbitt's body.

Constable Bowen died from his injuries.

Scott, Williams and Rogan were charged with the wilful murder of Constable Bowen.

The trial ended with the jury returning a verdict of guilty but strongly recommending mercy for Rogan and Williams. The judge however sentenced all of the men to death by hanging.

Williams' sentence was soon commuted to life imprisonment.

1880

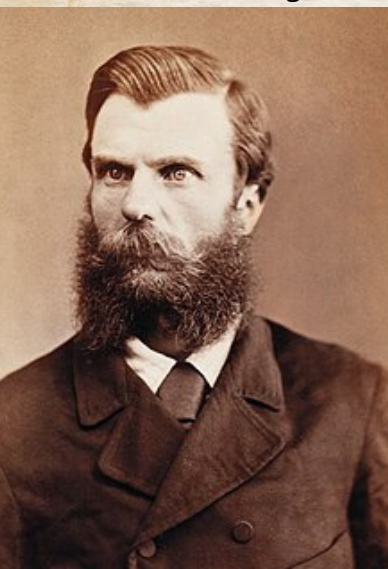
Scott and Rogan went to the gallows in Darlinghurst Gaol.

Scott was wearing a ring woven from a lock of Nesbitt's hair and his final request was to share his grave. Scott and Rogan were buried in unmarked graves in Rookwood Cemetery.

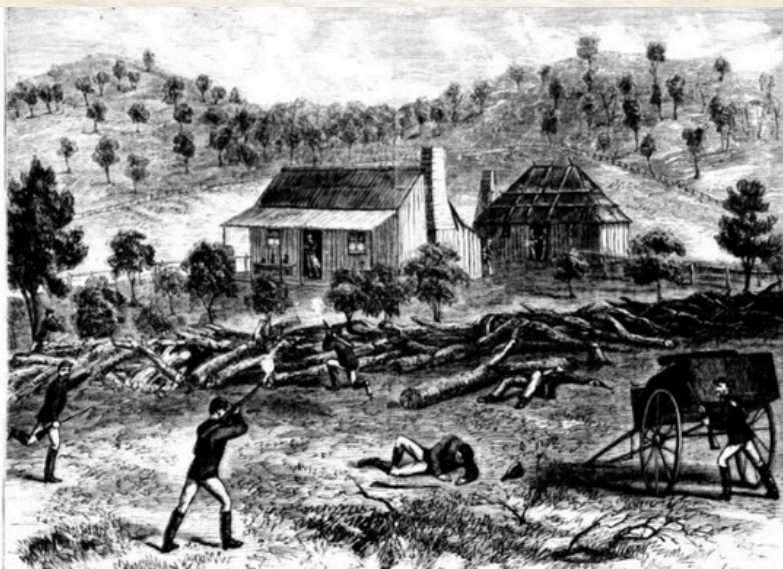
1995

Scott's body was moved to Gundagai cemetery where Nesbitt was buried.

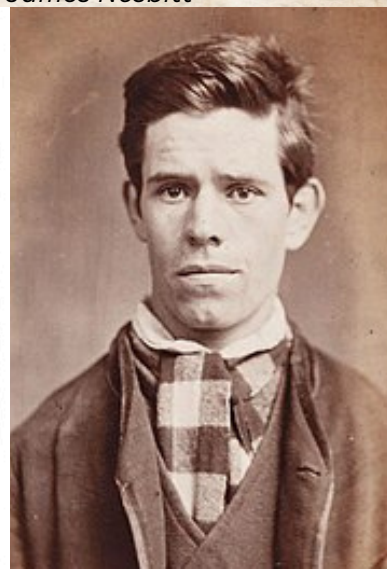
Andrew George Scott



The final encounter



James Nesbitt



SPEAKING IN TONGUES

by Andrew Bovell

Directed by
Brendan Ellis

20th November to 5th December 2026



Melville Theatre
10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon

MELVILLE●●●
THEATRE●
COMPANY

Licensed for amateur performance

Tickets

