



Heidelberg Theatre Company

# **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**



HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY (HTC)

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HTC is a member of the Victorian Drama League.

HTC acknowledges financial assistance from the City of Banyule.

**HTC Artspace presents Kobie Swart**

Kobie Swart's colourful work aims to explore the narrative interplay of myth, memory and mark making\*. Her deceptively playful approach juggles the joyous mundane with universal themes of love, belonging, displacement and loss.

Drawing on her experience as a children's book illustrator, the bright colours and visual patterns of her South African childhood, her travels, and her love for her garden, she describes her work as "material gardening" - playing with the elements of colour and texture to create a visual story.

Her paintings are detailed and multi-layered with the tale often extending beyond the frame of the work.

[\* mark making is the act of creating various lines, dots, patterns, and textures on a surface, using any material or tool.]

**Mezzanine Display**

Please visit the upstairs mezzanine to experience our recently refreshed display of HTC set panoramas by our in-house photographer David Belton.

HTC Art Space Coordinator  
Louise Millar-Hoffmann

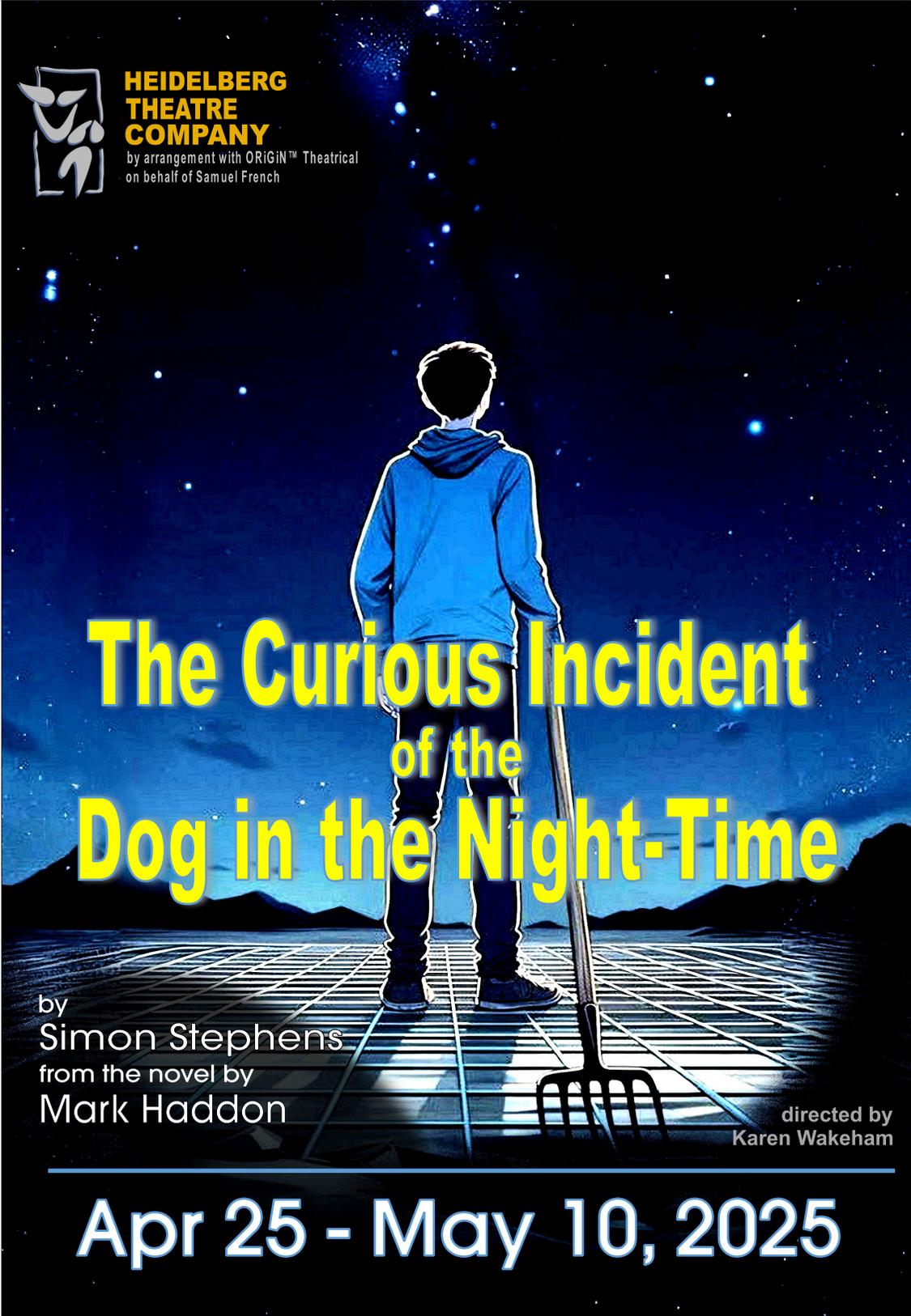
*To assist those with hearing difficulties, a hearing loop  
is installed in the theatre.*

*HTC gratefully acknowledges a City of Banyule grant for this service.*



**HEIDELBERG  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**

by arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical  
on behalf of Samuel French



**The Curious Incident  
of the  
Dog in the Night-Time**

by  
Simon Stephens  
from the novel by  
Mark Haddon

directed by  
Karen Wakeham

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**Apr 25 - May 10, 2025**

#### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Simon Stephens is a prolific British playwright with an impressive list of credits. Working in the UK and Europe, Stephens has been a significant champion of new work, and has written over 20 works—including adaptations of novels and classics—since his first play *Bluebird* premiered at the Royal Court in 1998. His work is a mainstay of modern British theatre, with his plays being staged at iconic venues in the UK such as the National Theatre, The Royal Court, The Bush, the Young Vic and the Lyric Hammersmith. His most critically acclaimed play, an adaptation of Mark Haddon's *A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* won the best new play category at the Olivier Awards in

2013 and Tony Awards in 2015. Other accolades include Olivier Award for best new play for *On the Shore of the Wide World* in 2006 and the Theatre Heute Award for *Motortown* in 2007, *Pornography* in 2008 and *Wastewater* in 2011.

As well as his impressive catalogue of works, Stephens's influence as a 21st Century playwright is amplified by his enthusiastic collaborations with directors. It is through these collaborations that his writing has evolved and shifted constantly throughout his career. This fluidity of style and genre is borne from a forward-looking attitude towards theatre and an appetite for experimentation and theatrical exploration.

#### ABOUT THE PLAY

Our play explores themes of family, honesty and trust, coping with loss, braving the unknown, and the nature of disability and societal expectations, all through the eyes of teenage Christopher.

*The Curious Incident of Dog in the Night-Time* premiered on 2 August 2012 in the Cottesloe Theatre at the Royal National Theatre in London. The production, which ran until late October 2012, was broadcast live to cinemas worldwide through the National Theatre Live programme. The play transferred to the West End's Apollo Theatre in March 2013. It won a record seven Olivier Awards in 2013 (including Best New Play). During a performance in December 2013, the ceiling of the Apollo Theatre collapsed, which forced the production to close. It reopened in July 2014 at the Gielgud Theatre. The West End production closed on 3 June 2017, after playing over 1,600 performances.

The Broadway production debuted at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre in October 2014 and ran until September 2016. It won the 2015 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, 2015 Outer Critics Circle Award Outstanding New Broadway Play, the 2015 Drama League Award for Outstanding Production of a Broadway or Off-Broadway Play, and the 2015 Tony Award for Best Play.

The Australian premiere of the play took place at the Playhouse, Arts Centre in Melbourne in 2018. Following the success of the Melbourne season, the same production made a national tour to the remaining major cities.

### **KAREN WAKEHAM - Director**

Apart from Michael Healey's *The Drawer Boy* in 2019, most of Karen's Heidelberg Theatre productions have been classic texts; plays such as James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter* (2012), Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser* (2013), Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* (2014) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (2016) and two pieces by Noël Coward: *Private Lives* (2018) and *Present Laughter* (2022). Karen's other community theatre work includes *Ballerina* and *The Shifting Heart* at Malvern, *Trugannini* and *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* at Pumpkin, and *Flood* for the Essential Theatre Company. She has also directed several new plays for St Martin's and La Mama, where her most recent show was Adam Yee's vampire opera *Carmilla*, in 2018.



**LISA MCVILLY (Set & Costume Designer)**. While studying Theatre Design at NIDA, Lisa designed *Summerfolk*, *As You Like It*, *The Heiress*, *Alcestis* and *That's Amore*. Upon graduating, she took a position at Melbourne Theatre Company, working with resident designer, Tony Tripp, and interstate and overseas designers. In organising shows to tour to leading Australian Theatres, Lisa began to link her love of design with education. She designed MTC's first touring educational show of *Macbeth*, workshops for Drama Victoria, tours and classes for the Malthouse Theatre, and shows and workshops for schools and teachers throughout Victoria. This is Lisa's third show with HTC, having worked previously with the inimitable Karen Wakeham on *The Dresser* and *The Drawer Boy*.



**DAVID CHESHIRE (Composer)**. This is David's third outing with HTC. His body of live and recorded work spans more than three decades. Productions include *Henderson Kids*, *Flying Doctors*, *Neighbours*, *Lift Off*, *Li'l Elvis*, *Pig's Breakfast*, *Portrait Painter To The Birds* with Sir David Attenborough and *Winners & Losers*. David has collaborated frequently with composer Bruce Rowland on projects such as *Jasper Morello*, US TV series *Ponderosa* and feature film *The Cup*. A live concert version of *The Man from Snowy River* film continues touring Australia with orchestras performing the score live on stage. David is also delighted to be working again with his brother, John.



**ELISE MOORHOUSE (Choreographer)** Since coming home from London four years ago, Elise has enjoyed returning to the Melbourne theatre scene. Most recently Elise was seen as Mrs Cheveley in Heidelberg Theatre Company's *An Ideal Husband* and as the Judy Garland understudy in *The Boy From Oz* (Theatrical). A graduate of UBAA, other theatre credits include *Ladies in Black*, *The Judas Kiss* and *Under Milkwood* (HTC), *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tempest* (Controlled Chaos), *All Shook Up*, *Singin in the Rain* and *Jekyll and Hyde* (ARC), *Witches of Eastwick* and *Gypsy* (Waterdale) and *Footloose* (OCPAC) for which she was nominated for a Guild Award for Best Supporting Actress. She has had a wonderful time working with this fabulous cast and hopes you enjoy the show.

## CAST

CHRISTOPHER BOONE	Freddy Collyer
SIOBHAN	Amelia Halmarick
JUDY	Cat Jardine
ED	Soren Jensen
MRS ALEXANDER/POSH WOMAN/VOICE SIX	Mandy Murray
MRS SHEARS/MRS GASCOYNE/SHOPKEEPER VOICE ONE/WOMAN ON TRAIN/WOMAN ON HEATH	Keziah Gillam
ROGER/DUTY SERGEANT/VOICE TWO/MR WISE/ STATION POLICEMAN	John Cheshire
POLICEMAN ONE/MR THOMPSON/VOICE THREE/ DRUNK TWO/MAN WITH SOCKS/MAN ON PHONE/ LONDON POLICEMAN	Sam Wyles
NUMBER 40/VOICE FIVE/LADY IN STREET/ INFORMATION/PUNK GIRL	Morgan Thomas- Connor
REV. PETERS/STATION GUARD/UNCLE TERRY/ VOICE FOUR/MAN BEHIND COUNTER/RHODRI/ DRUNK ONE	Jackson Langelaan
ENSEMBLE	Eva Parton
ENSEMBLE	Christina Percival

## SETTING

You are inside the mind of Christopher Boone as he acts in, and occasionally directs, a play. It's about a book he has written. Some things that happen may not seem to make a lot of sense at first. Then, suddenly, happily, they will make all the sense in the world

In our play, scenes run into one another without interruption regardless of alterations in space or time or chronology

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*During the interval between Part 1 and Part 2, refreshments are available in the foyer.*

## PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	Karen Wakeham
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Margaret Hassall
STAGE MANAGER	Melanie Belcher
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER	Lisa McVilly
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Deryk Hartwick
COMPOSER	David Cheshire
SOUND DESIGNER	John Rowe
CHOREOGRAPHER	Elise Moorhouse
PROPERTIES	Melanie Belcher & Lisa McVilly
LIGHTING/SOUND OPERATORS	Bruce Moorhouse, Jeff Edwards, Margaret Hassall, John Rowe
SET CONSTRUCTION	Doug McNaughton, Owen Evans, Norm Munks, Phil Holmes, Dave Belton, Brett Hunt, Blake Egan, Tim Scott, Jerome Pollard, Sean Tessari, Nick Bartholomew & HTC members
SCENIC ART	Lisa McVilly & Mal Cother assisted by Anne Woodward
SIGN WRITING	Mal Cother
PHOTOGRAPHY	David Belton & Aislinn Ryan
PROGRAMME & POSTER	Chris McLean
PUBLICITY	Jim Thomson
BOX OFFICE	Sally Scott, Carol Farr, Margaret Hassall, Fiona Campbell, Jenny Gilbert
FRONT OF HOUSE	Jenny Gilbert and HTC members

*Thanks to Wendy Drowley.*

*Our special thanks to Bruce Akers  
for all his support in the preparation of this production.*



**FREDDY COLLYER (Christopher Boone).** Freddy's love for acting sprouted from a childhood playing minor roles for the Victorian Youth Theatre. Entering High School, Freddy starred as leads in productions such as *The Lion King*, *Puffs*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and Thornbury High's feature film *Thorn of the Dead*. Throughout Year 12, Freddy broadened his acting experience through studying at the NIDA young actors studio, where he refined movement, devising, and characterisation. Freddy joined Heidelberg Theatre in 2024, playing Peter in Heidelberg Youth Theatre's *Peter Pan*. Freddy is extremely excited to bring Christopher to life, and is dedicated to illustrate and embody difference, resilience, and growth within his role.



**AMELIA HALMARICK (Siobhan).** Amelia is a Naarm based actor and has just graduated with both a Diploma and an Advanced Diploma of Acting at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). She recently performed in an original play at the 2025 Perth Fringe Festival. Other appearances include Rosalind in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, and Mrs Alving in Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*. Amelia has a passion for acting, dance and the visual arts, and loves having the opportunity to immerse herself in it all, whenever she can.



**CAT JARDINE (Judy).** Cat is very excited to be performing here in one of her favourite plays, and with such a wonderful and talented group of people. Cat has been acting in theatre productions for over 20 years. Recently she's received the VDL Best Actress in a Comedy award for Margery in *Hand to God* [Stag], and for Sabrina Daldry in *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play* [Brighton], and a VDL Best Supporting Actress award for Monica in *Present Laughter* [HTC]. In her spare time Cat enjoys drawing and painting as a member of the Victorian Artists Society, and she recently won ABC Brisbane's Bradley award for her portrait of Gardening Australia favourite Costa Georgiadis.



**SOREN JENSEN (Ed).** Soren works professionally in Theatre, TV, Films, Commercials and Voiceovers. THEATRE: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Pts 1 & 2) as Hagrid/Sorting Hat. In over 70 stage shows, roles include Juror 8 (*12 Angry Men*) Prior (*Angels in America 1&2*), Don (*Don's Party*), Lewis (*Cosi*), Franz Liebkind (*The Producers*), Gary (*Noises Off*), Oberon (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and many more. TV: *Warnie*, *Romper Stomper*, *Informer 3838*, *Dr Blake Murder Mysteries*, *Wentworth* and *Home and Away*, with commercials for King Gee; Suzuki, Coles, Auspost and Tafe. Soren works as a roleplay actor, simulation specialist, presenter and voiceover artist. He will next be seen in Peacock's "All Her Fault", and in the Feature Film "First Moon". Soren is a proud member of MEAA Equity and is represented by Ian White Management!



**MANDY MURRAY (Mrs Alexander etc.).** Mandy is delighted to be back at Heidelberg sharing the stage with such a talented group of actors, in this unique play. Last year, Mandy played here as Lady Basildon in *An Ideal Husband*. Earlier in 2024 Mandy appeared in the Encore/Peridot production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* for which she received a VDL award. Being part of the Melbourne community theatre scene for many years, Mandy has performed with most of the local companies. Favourite plays include *Crown Matrimonial* (Malvern), *Stepping Out* (1812), *The Dining Room* (Encore), and *Death of a Salesman* (Lilydale). Previous HTC shows include *Blue Stockings*, *Amadeus* and *When Dad Married Fury*. Mandy has immensely enjoyed being part of this lively production under the expertise of director Karen and choreographer Elise, along with a most proficient production and creative crew.



**KEZIAH GILLAM (Mrs Shears etc.).** Keziah is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a long hiatus. She has recently been on film in the independent horror-comedy feature *Residence*, and in the multi-award-winning short film *The Wavy-Handed God*. On stage, Keziah has performed with Williamstown Little Theatre Company in *RolePlay*, and was nominated for a Best Actress in a Comedy VDL for her portrayal of Babe Botrelle in *Crimes of the Heart* with Mordialloc Theatre Company. This is Keziah's first show with HTC, and she is grateful to be a part of telling this beautiful, neuro-sparkly story.



**JOHN CHESHIRE (Roger etc.)** A Conservatorium dropout, John graduated in Performing Arts at Deakin University, then worked at Arena Theatre for three years, touring 12 plays to schools and festivals in Australia and Canada. Leaving a career in the arts for social work, John took to community theatre because in his heart, 'the play's the thing'. John has performed with numerous community and independent theatre companies. This is his 14<sup>th</sup> production at Heidelberg Theatre Company and his 5<sup>th</sup> production directed by Karen Wakeham. John has thoroughly enjoyed the creativity and camaraderie this ensemble has generated and hopes you enjoy our performance.



**SAM WYLES (Policeman One etc.)**. Sam is 23 and has a profound passion for live theatre. In 2020 Sam completed his Diploma in Theatre Arts at Melbourne Polytechnic. Throughout high school he was heavily involved in the performing arts and since leaving, has continued his love of acting by working with the likes of Beaumaris, Mordialloc and Brighton Theatre Companies. Last year, he was lucky enough to receive a nomination for 'Best actor in a Lead (Drama)' at the VDL awards. Sam is very excited to be debuting at HTC.



**MORGAN THOMAS-CONNOR (Punk Girl etc)**. Morgan has been involved with numerous HTC productions both on and off stage. Morgan directed *Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense* at HTC earlier this year. Her acting credits with HTC include *Rumors* (2024), *Così* (2023), *The House of Bernarda Alba* (2018), *Pride and Prejudice* (2017), *Three Sisters* (2015), *Treasure Island* (Youth 2015) and *The Wind in the Willows* (Youth 2014). She also appeared in Eltham Little Theatre's production of *Dinkum Assorted* (2016). Morgan is an active member of HTC Youth; directing, producing and designing for previous productions such as *Grimmish* (2023), *The Legendary Robin Hood* (2022), *A Christmas Carol* (2019), *Alice in Wonderland* (2018), *The Adventures of King Arthur* (2017) and *The Wizard of Oz* (2016).



**JACKSON LANGELAAN (Reverend Peters etc.)**. This is Jackson's first show with HTC and he is very excited to be part of this prestigious company, working alongside this talented cast. Jackson's previous acting credits include Bob in the panto *Puss In Boots* (Encore), Meyer Wolfsheim and Chester McKee in *The Great Gatsby* (1812), Jonathan Harker in *Dracula*, (Playhouse Players Inc) Mr Boddy in *Clue* (ELT), Simon Chester in *Yes, Prime Minister* (ELT), and Laertes in *Hamlet* (GTC). When not on the stage, Jackson enjoys working as a bartender at some of the city's leading theatres, and hunting down every single version of Defying Gravity (from *Wicked*) known to man on every corner of the internet. He is also currently studying a Diploma of Theatre Arts at Melbourne Polytechnic. Jackson hopes you enjoy this extremely important piece of theatre.



**EVA PARTON (Ensemble)**. Having performed in musicals and choirs throughout her childhood, teens and 20's, Eva has returned to the stage in her 40's for her first part in a play and is thrilled to be a member of the ensemble. When she's not at Heidelberg Theatre she is with her two children; working as a kindergarten educator; studying; painting in her art studio; or volunteering as an art therapist in aged care.



**CHRISTINA PERCIVAL (Ensemble)**. Christina spent most of last year's Sundays training at Melbourne's NIDA Actors Studio, and finally has her Sundays back to instead spend them (happily) at rehearsals here at Heidelberg Theatre Company. She is no stranger to ensemble work and transforming time and space, as the training culminated in a showing of *Electronic City*. In 2024 she was in the opening short play for The 1812 Theatre's *Boardshorts*, and in 2023 was in *Fracked!* with both Brighton and Lilydale Theatres. She remembers reading *Curious Incident...* in high school, and while she didn't get on with it then, finds that revisiting it years later has given her the time to view it with more understanding. She is very excited to present it.

# THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Heidelberg Theatre Company ♦ Season 2025 ♦ Play 2