

## **Sons & Mothers**

### **Collaborator/Performers**

The Men's Ensemble of No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability (NSA)

In addition to individual accomplishments listed below, Men's Ensemble members have each performed in annual workshop touring productions that include: Hit da Roof (2005), Shades (2006), Xplorations (2007), Needs (2008), Black White & Read All Over (2009), I Am Not an Animal (2010) and Superheroes (2011).

**Abner Bradley** is a multi-instrumentalist (violin, trumpet, percussion, recorder, blues harmonica). Mental health permitting, he has performed with NSA on & off since 1998. He was a musician in Touched (1998) and Retouched (1999). In 2001, he toured regional SA and to the KickstART Festival in Vancouver BC with In Your Wildest Dreams, a cabaret about disability and sexuality. In 2010, he graduated from NSA's 18-month training program called Preparing the Garden, and has been a support tutor with NSA recreational drama workshops.

**Kym Mackenzie** is a life long theatre enthusiast. Deep focus & ever-present joy define his work on the stage. Kym joined NSA in 1999 to take on a key role in Retouched. In 2001, he toured regional SA and to the KickstART Festival in Vancouver BC with In Your Wildest Dreams. Other NSA productions include Hidden (2002) and Catching The Juice (2003). In 2005 and 2006, he created and performed Trapped with Alirio Zavarce. Trapped toured to Vanuatu in 2010 & won the inaugural Graham F Smith Foundation Peace Award at the 2011 Adelaide Fringe (see Alirio's bio above). Kym is a proud graduate of Preparing the Garden.

**Duncan Luke** has been a member of NSA since 1994. His stage performances include: Norwood At Work (1994), Ability Rules, OK? (1996), Retouched (1999), Hidden (2002) and Catching The Juice (2003). In 2007, with Julian Crotti, Duncan co-created the roles of the original Toms and performed in the critically acclaimed Tom The Loneliest in Adelaide and Melbourne (2009). For his performance at LaMama, he received a Melbourne Green Room Award nomination for Best Actor. Duncan is a proud graduate of Preparing the Garden.

**Ryan Rowland** has been a member of the Men's Ensemble since 2007. Performing annually in workshop touring productions, Ryan was selected to perform in a 2009 SHINE SA DVD about disability and dating. He's an avid heavy metal guitarist and lives at home with his family (including his mum). Before he came to NSA, Ryan was an active member of the Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble.

**Richard Samai** is a Torres Strait Islander born in Adelaide. At 33, he began to explore his connection with his culture and country (Western Torres Strait Badu mob). Ricky brings intense physicality and grace to performance. He joined NSA in 2003 as an ensemble member of *Catching The Juice*. For the 2006 Adelaide Fringe, with dancer and choreographer Tina Barry, Ricky created *Lionheart* to explore connections of place and loss, including the passing of his mother. Now 41, Richard wants to honour his mother Rosie in *Sons & Mothers*.

**Damien Turbin** spent his first four years in hospital with a rare chromosomal defect; doctors told his mother that he would never walk, talk or eat. Now 27 (walking, talking and eating), he has been a performer with NSA since 2003 (*Catching The Juice*). In *The Ride Of Babs & Sonny* (Adelaide Fringe, 2006), Damien and Jo Zealand discovered their connection as clowns in a dream about friendship & consequence (and Damien's favourite 'song', *The Ride of the Valkyries*).

**Ben Wishart** has been a performer with NSA since 1999 when he was part of the original creative development of *In Your Wildest Dreams*. He re-joined the Men's Ensemble in 2004, and performs annually in workshop touring productions.

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### **Collaborator/Performer, Writer/Director**

**Alirio Zavarce** was born in Caracas, Venezuela, migrated to Australia in 1992 and graduated from the Flinders University Drama Centre in 2000.

He has been an artistic associate of No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability since 1999, and has performance credits with Brink Productions, The Yashchin Ensemble, Parallelo, State Theatre Company of SA and Sydney Theatre Company.

Alirio is a founding member of the Border Project and has co-created and performed in all of its productions.

In 2001 he performed the one-man show *Fronteras Americanas* by Canadian playwright Guillermo Verdecchia, and toured it nationally in 2003 as part of Kultour.

Since 2009, he has performed locally, nationally and internationally with Windmill Theatre, and was one of three featured writers for *Gorge09*.

During 2010 he played the role of Narrator in *Maria de Buenos Aires* with Leigh Warren and Dancers and the SA Opera.

Currently he is writing and developing his own independent production called *The Book of Loco*.

Alirio's Awards include: 2001 Adelaide Critics Circle Emerging Artist of the year, 2006 Helpmann Academy Foundation Front Award, 2011 Graham F Smith Peace Foundation Award for *Trapped*, multiple Awards for *Sons & Mothers* in 2012.

His film credits include *Look Both Ways* and *The Marriage of Figaro*.