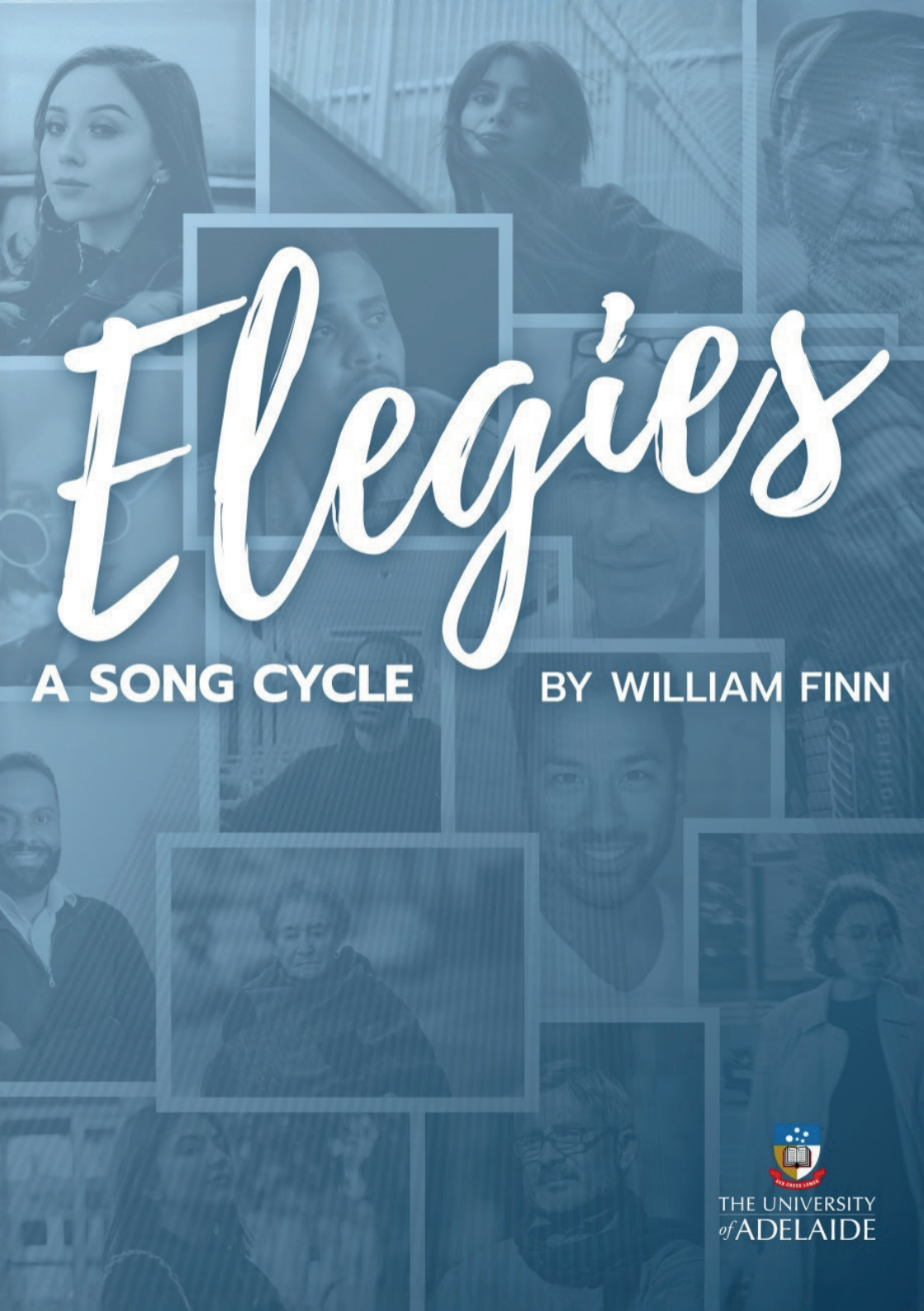




Elegies

A SONG CYCLE

BY WILLIAM FINN



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre presents

Elegies

A SONG CYCLE

BY WILLIAM FINN

Executive Producer
ERIN JAMES

Director
JOSEPH SIMONS

Music Director
NICK HEDGER

Lighting Designer
MARK OAKLEY

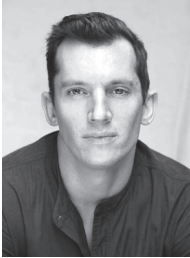
Audio Designer
JAMIE MENSFORTH

By arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical
On behalf of Samuel French Inc.
A Concord Theatricals Company
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Elegy (noun): a poem or song of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead.

William Finn's *Elegies: A Song Cycle* is, at its heart, a love letter to life. It is a work that mourns, yes, but more importantly it remembers, celebrates, and holds up to the light the fleeting, fragile beauty of our days. To direct it with a company of young artists is both exhilarating and daunting: this text demands courage, honesty, and an unflinching willingness to stand in the presence of memory.

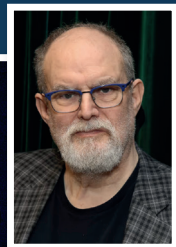
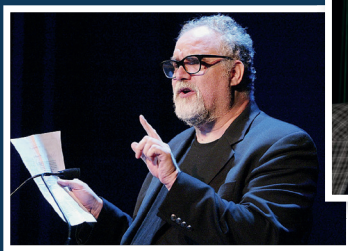
The peculiar challenge of *Elegies* is that nothing “happens” in the conventional sense. There is no plot to drive us forward, no twists or climaxes in the traditional theatrical way. Instead, we are guided through a gallery of recollections—snapshots of friends, family, lovers, colleagues—each gone but not forgotten. It is a tapestry of voices, where grief and gratitude intermingle.

Originally conceived for just five performers, we have expanded Finn's libretto to a cast of eighteen. What might have been a limitation has instead become a gift: every student has been entrusted with a fragment of this vast mosaic, and together they craft a living chorus of remembrance.

And yet, this is not a piece about death. It's about what remains. It is about the joy that lingers in a photograph, the laughter that echoes even when its source has gone silent. It is about the way a song can carry someone forward, long after they have left the room. To be presenting *Elegies* in the year of William Finn's own passing (April 2025) is very special indeed. We dedicate this performance to his legacy.

I am profoundly grateful to Nick Hedger for leading these students through Finn's intricate, sophisticated score with such heart and rigour. To Erin James for producing the show, and to Mark Oakley, Peter Johns and the Mosaic AV team, whose artistry has elevated this production. And above all, to the second-year Bachelor of Music Theatre students: thank you for meeting this work with sensitivity, creativity, and courage. You have taken these challenges with open hands and open hearts, and in doing so, you have given this elegy new life.

Joseph Simons



WILLIAM FINN & THE BIRTH OF ELEGIES: A SONG CYCLE

William Finn—renowned creator of *Falsettos*, *A New Brain*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*—crafted *Elegies: A Song Cycle* in the early 2000s as an intimate reckoning with grief, memory, and communal resilience. At its heart, the piece is both a tribute and a celebration.

Finn interweaves deeply personal remembrances—friends lost to AIDS, the death of his mother Barbara Finn, and snapshots from his upbringing in Natick, Massachusetts—with broader cultural anguish, particularly in the aftermath of 9/11 in New York City. The cycle premiered Off-Broadway at Lincoln Center’s Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater on March 2, 2003.

Critics have attested to the work’s unique emotional alchemy. A reviewer once observed that *Elegies* is “never morbid... touching, funny, and ultimately buoyant; floating on the spirits of those who inhabit its songs.” Another praises Finn’s signature raw honesty: “William Finn is often pointedly autobiographical... his *Elegies: A Song Cycle* is breathtaking in the depth of its commentary on the rewards and woes of being part of a family, a group of friends, and a society in good times and bad.”

Drawn from both comedy and sorrow, his songs—like “Mark’s All-Male Thanksgiving” and the finale declaring, “The living was the prize; the ending’s not the story”—fuse wistful memory with unexpectedly buoyant melodies. A *New York Times* reviewer evocatively described its characters as “loquacious ghosts... resurrected in playful lyrics bursting with internal rhymes”

Over the years, *Elegies* has quietly cemented itself as a standout in modern musical theatre—lauded for its emotionally candid, genre-bending form. Its influence is perhaps most felt among musical-theatre song cycles, offering a deeply human template for exploring grief, memory, and healing through concise, autobiographical storytelling.

In essence, *Elegies* was born of loss, but more significantly, it was born of love: a profound musical testament to the people and moments that shape us, even after they’re gone. It stands as a testament to the notion that remembering can be joyous, communal, and life-affirming.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Looking Up Quintet	Company
Mister Choi & Madame G.....	Gabriella Fernandez and Company
Looking In.....	Company
Mark's All-Male Thanksgiving.....	Teagan Garvey
Only One	Marley Banham
Joe Papp.....	Issy Coomber and Company
Peggy Hewitt & Mysty del Giorno.....	Eligh Dungey and Company
Passover.....	Neve Sargeant
Infinite Joy.....	Natalia Soares
The Ballad of Jack Eric Williams.....	Lorenzo Ravida with Eligh Dungey
Monica & Mark.....	William Lydement, Josh McDonald and Issy Coomber
Anytime (I Am There)	Amelia Beveridge
My Dogs	Sahana-Rose Hoare
Venice.....	Samuel Cannizzaro with Josh McDonald and Company
14 Dwight Ave., Natick, Massachusetts	Grace Cher with Michael Jones
When the Earth Stopped Turning.....	Michael Jones
Saying My Goodbyes.....	Denver Hovercraft
Boom Boom.....	Laura Henderson and Company
Looking Up / Goodbye (Finale)	Company



PRODUCTION

Executive Producer..... **Erin James**

Production Manager..... **Peter Johns**

Director..... **Joseph Simons**

Music Director/Piano..... **Nick Hedger**

Lighting Designer..... **Mark Oakley**

Audio Designer..... **Jamie Mensforth**

Stage Manager..... **Peter Johns**

Front of House Manager..... **Cathy Clark**

Program Design..... **Lisa-May Pellaschiar, Richards Rose**

Poster and Program Cover Design..... **Matt Edwards at Emptyhead Digital**

Production Photography..... **Gregory Balcombe**

Rehearsal Photography..... **Dylan Henderson**

Mosaic Audio Visual Pty Ltd..... **Craig Williams (Director)**

Sound Mixer..... **Cambell Lawrence**

Radio Mic Technician..... **Lisa Burns**



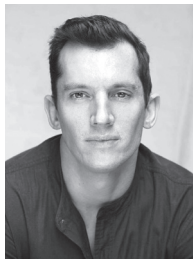
STUDENT PRODUCTION ROLES

Dance Captain	Samuel Cannizzaro
Assistant to the Director	Amelia Beveridge
Assistant to the Music Director	Natalia Sóares
Assistant to the Production/Stage Manager	Will Lydement
Costumes	Gabriella Fernandez (leader) Teagan Garvey (assistant) Natalia Sóares
Hair and Make Up	Issy Coomber (leader) Neve Sargeant (assistant) Laura Henderson
Properties	Michael Jones (leader) Marley Banham (assistant) Amelia Beveridge
Digital Content	Lorenzo Ravida (leader) Sahana-Rose Hoare (assistant)
Stage Management	Will Lydement (leader) Josh McDonald (assistant) Allycia Angeles, Denver Havercroft
Marketing	Grace Cher (leader) Eligh Dungey (assistant) Samuel Cannizzaro
Assistant Stage Managers	Damian Lee, Finn Jaques
Lighting Operator	Joseph Callaghan

WITH THANKS TO

Mosaic AV, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Martine Micklem, Robin Balogh, Therry Theatre, Michael Tyack, Ethan Schoemaker, Dylan Henderson, Renee Marschke-Beveridge, Simon Greer, Josh Rocca, Toni Pihodnya, Bethany Ottaway, Eleanor Danenberg, Lara Pacillo

Creatives



JOSEPH SIMONS (he/him) DIRECTOR

Joseph is a writer, director and choreographer working in music theatre, contemporary dance, opera, theatre and ballet.

As a performer, he has toured throughout USA, Asia, UK and Australia with companies including The Production Company, West Australian Ballet, Opera Australia, Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc., Queensland Ballet, Force Majeure, Victorian Opera, Jack Productions and The Australian Ballet. He has performed in development casts for Australian Dance Theatre and DV8 Physical Theatre, London. As an actor, Joseph played Tom in the original London cast of *Spider Love* by Mick Goldstein and created the role of Malcom in the world premiere cast of *The Death Of Kings* by Colette F Keen.

Following his residency at the International Choreographic Laboratory in Frankfurt, Joseph's physical theatre play *First Things First* premiered in New York. His next play *100 Years of the History of Dance as Told by One Man in 60 Minutes with an Energetic Group Finale*, was then developed in NYC, before touring extensively across Australia. Joseph also wrote *Break*, developed with assistance from Queensland Theatre.

Joseph's choreography has been performed by West Australian Ballet (*Man Alive, A Few Moments Of Your Time*), Footlight Productions (*Miss Saigon*), The Seven Sopranos (*Popcorn*), Queensland University

of Technology (*Skank: A Tragic Love Story*), Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (*Self Destruct*), Flying Fruit Fly Circus (*Storm*) and Amplified House (*Simply Brill*) with Michael Griffiths, Amelia Ryan and Michaela Burger. Joseph was awarded the Tanja Liedtke Fellowship – awarded to one Australian choreographer every two years.

From 2015-2021 Joseph was a contributing creative with Queensland Academy of Excellence in Music Theatre, Griffith University on shows including *Carousel*, *Little Women*, *Company*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Legally Blonde* and *Elegies*.

Joseph was the Artistic Director of Altitude Theatre, where he directed and choreographed the sold-out and extended production of *The Producers*, and the sold-out season of *Out!*. With Millicent Sarre, Joseph is one half of writing team Sarre & Simons, whose current project, *PRIMETIME* a new Australian musical had its first development at the 2025 Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

Joseph is currently a lecturer in Music Theatre at Elder Conservatorium, where he has directed *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Songs and Scenes: Magic, Myths and Monsters*, and choreographed *In Pieces*, *On The Town: In Concert*, *Shrek the Musical* and *Little Women*. He is a 2025 nominee of the Stephen Cole the Elder Award for Excellence in Teaching.



NICK HEDGER (he/him)

MUSIC DIRECTOR / PIANO

Nick Hedger is a composer, music director, and producer dedicated to championing new Australian musicals. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music Theatre from WAAPA in 2012.

After graduating, Nick made his professional debut with The Production Company in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2013). That same year, he premiered his one-man cabaret *Crap I Found in My Room* at The Butterfly Club. He went on to appear in workshops and readings of new works including *All Out of Love* (Air Supply musical), *Hook Up* (Melbourne Fringe), and *Playground* at Chapel Off Chapel—a showcase of his own original songs—along with Chapel Off Chapel’s 20th Anniversary Celebrations in 2015.

As a music director and educator, Nick has helmed productions including *The Boy from Oz*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Chicago*. He has directed and taught across a wide range of schools and academies, including Xavier College, Whitefriars College, Emmaus College, and Ivanhoe Grammar, alongside lecturing at the Elder Conservatorium of Music Theatre and previous teaching roles at VCA, VCASS, and Patrick School of the Arts. Through his private coaching, Nick mentors performers in vocal technique and artistry, with a particular focus on preparing artists for the demands of new work.

In 2014, Nick co-founded Home Grown Musicals Australia, a national company dedicated to the development of original Australian musicals, funded by Creative Australia. Under his co-direction, Home Grown has become a leading platform, partnering with Chapel Off Chapel, Hayes Theatre Co, MTI Australasia, and APRA AMCOS. The company has delivered landmark showcases and readings—including Yve Blake’s *MacKenzie*—and secured over \$140,000 in federal support.

Alongside collaborator Ben Nicholson, Nick’s songs appear in the AMEB Music Theatre syllabus, and he has worked with and gained mentorship from celebrated artists including Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty, Carmel Dean and Matthew Lee Robinson. He has also served as a panellist for the APRA AMCOS Professional Development Awards and was recently commissioned with Nicholson to create a new Australian musical theatre revue for MTIA, currently in development with ECMT’s graduating students.

Cast



ALLYCIA ANGELES (she/her)

SWING

Allycia, a second-year student, returns to Elder Conservatorium for her second show, *Elegies*. She recently made her professional debut as Delia McDaniels in the Australian premiere of the Tony Award-winning musical *Kimberly Akimbo* at Adelaide's Her Majesty's Theatre (STCSA and MTC), followed by a season in Melbourne. Allycia's prior theatre roles include Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line* (G&S Society) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ECMT). With a background in commercial dance, she remains active in Adelaide's dance scene and co-owns Venture Dance Company.



MARLEY BANHAM (she/her)

Elegies is Marley's second ECMT production. She was most recently in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay), and Miss Sherman in *Fame* (AYT, dir. Georgia Broomhall). Through the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, she performed in the choir for the cantata *Carmina Burana* and the choral symphony *Beethoven's 9th Symphony* alongside the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Marley has previously completed a Bachelor of Music: Education and Pedagogy (University of Adelaide) and a Diploma of Musical Theatre (GWB Studios).



AMELIA BEVERIDGE (she/her)

Amelia is in her second year of studying and living in Adelaide. Earlier this year she was thrilled to embrace the iconic Adelaide Fringe season as a Lead Vocalist Understudy in *Broadway Off-Broadway* (Gluttony Fringe Festival, dir. Emma Kavanagh). Last year, she performed in the ensemble of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay). Her other theatre credits include Bombalurina in *CATS* (Queensland Musical Theatre, dir. Caley Munro) and a swing in *The Wedding Singer* (Beenleigh Theatre Company, dir. Hayley Gervais). Amelia grew up in Brisbane surrounded by music and theatre, where she also achieved AMEB Grade 7 Violin.



SAMUEL CANNIZZARO (he/him)

DANCE CAPTAIN

Born and raised in South Australia, Samuel is an upcoming performer currently studying at the Elder Conservatorium of Music completing a Bachelor of Musical Theatre. He has been involved in Musical Theatre since the age of eight, being a part of multiple performances with local theatre companies across South Australia. Samuel also took part in the *Class of Cabaret* program as part of the 2023 Adelaide Cabaret Festival. This is Samuel's second ECMT production, with his first being *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay).



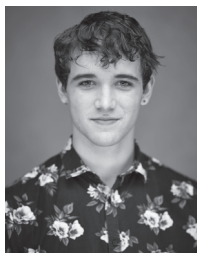
GRACE CHER (she/her)

Elegies will be Grace's second musical with ECMT, following *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay), where she featured as a Dancer/Ensemble. From the Gold Coast, she performed at Warner Bros. Movie World as a Vocalist and Character Performer. Grace completed a Certificate IV in Musical Theatre at the National Academy of Performing Arts. Credits include *Chicago*, *Jennyanydots* in *CATS* and *Rapunzel* in *Into the Woods* (dir. Hollie Andrew/Kim Reynolds). Grace is a passionate performer, singer, songwriter and looks forward to her second-year production with the Elder Conservatorium of Music.



ISSY COOMBER (they/them)

Issy is a non-binary artist who specialises in cabaret, industrial tap dance and general silliness. Their notable previous credits include The Bride of Frankenstein in *Universal Monsters Live: Rock and Roll Show* (Universal Studios Japan, dir. Ryan Wilson), Student/Cook in *Innocence* (State Opera South Australia, dir. Simon Stone), and Featured Ensemble in *Love is a Game: An Adele Song Cycle* (Adelaide Fringe Festival, dir. Oliver John). Issy has previously obtained a Diploma of Musical Theatre from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).



ELIGH DUNGEY (he/they)

Elegies is Eligh's second production with ECMT. His first performance was in the ensemble of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay) in 2024. Originally from Toowoomba, they have previously completed a Diploma of Music Theatre at the Queensland College of Dance, where they played John the Baptist in *Godspell* (dir. Tim Hill). Other accomplishments include writing, directing, and producing his original musical, *Baitman: The Super Musical* through the Empire Theatre Homegrown Program. Eligh is an experienced pianist, playing keyboard for shows such as *Be More Chill* and *Urinetown* (Crescendo Theatre).



GABRIELLA FERNANDEZ (she/her)

Gabriella is a second-year Music Theatre student at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. She trained in dance and voice on the Gold Coast from the age of seven. Her ECMT credits include Crowd Soloist in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay). Other recent roles include Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors* (dir. Jamie Watt) and Serena in *Legally Blonde* (dir. Chantelle Flint). At the start of this year, she performed as Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz* precinct at Movie World. Gabriella has also worked with Drax 4 Kids, appeared on screen, and performed in Opera Australia's *The Marriage of Figaro* at HOTA. She is thrilled to be part of *Elegies*!



TEAGAN GARVEY (he/him)

Teagan is thrilled to finish off his second year by sharing the late William Finn's *Elegies* with Adelaide audiences. Some of his recent credits include Andrew/Priest/Ensemble in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay AM), JD in *Heathers* (Pelican Productions, dir. Georgia Broomhall), and Mark Anthony in *A Chorus Line* (The G&S Society of SA, dir. Gordon Coombs). Teagan has also had the privilege of directing the South Australian Premiere of *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals* for Funk Soul Productions, and musically directing Adelaide Youth Theatre's *Seussical Jr.*



DENVER HAVERCROFT (he/him)

Denver's first professional performance was in *Tosca* (The Royal Opera Company 2012) and he has been performing ever since. Last year Denver was part of ECMT's *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay). His hobbies include reading, tabletop games, video games and having an impractically large amount of knowledge on every piece of media he has ever consumed. He is excited to continue his degree with ECMT and hopes you enjoy *Elegies*.



LAURA HENDERSON (she/her)

Laura is a multi-faceted performer from Scotland who lived both in England and Australia growing up. Laura moved to Melbourne from Sydney to complete full-time musical theatre training at APO Arts Academy and moved to Adelaide last year to study Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Recent performances include Student and the Wedding Photographer in the Australian Premiere of Kaija Saariaho's opera *Innocence* at the Adelaide Festival (State Opera South Australia, dir. Simon Stone), Matilda/Team Australia in *Club Eurovision* at the Adelaide Fringe, and Christmas Soloist at *A Candle and a Song* in Woodville Town Hall.



SAHANA-ROSE HOARE (she/her)

Sahana-Rose Hoare is currently completing her second year at Elder Conservatorium of Music. *Elegies* will be her second production with ECMT after being seen last year in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay). Sahana moved to Adelaide from the Sunshine Coast where she completed a year of Musical Theatre training at Loic Valmy Broadway Academy. A few of her previous roles include Sandy in *Grease* (Marina Dejager Productions and Riley Cope Creative, dir. Marina Dejager and Riley Cope), Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* (MFAC) and Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors* (LVBA, dir. Loic Valmy).



MICHAEL JONES (they/them)

Elegies will be Michael's second production with ECMT, previously performing in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay). Back home in Melbourne, they appeared as Mr Brownlow/Mr Sowerberry in *Oliver! Jr* (YABC, dir. Robert Coates), Ensemble/Cat cover in *Honk! Jr* (YABC, dir. Robert Coates), and Ensemble in *CATS* (YABC, dir. Robert Coates). A former trombone player, Michael was a member of the Superband in both the Premier Division of the 2022 Victorian All-State Jazz Festival and Division 2 of Generations in Jazz 2023.



WILLIAM LYDEMENT (he/him)

Will is ecstatic to be performing in William Finn's *Elegies*, his second production at ECMT. Last year Will was part of the ensemble in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay). Earlier this year he performed in the Adelaide Fringe Festival in *C'este Le Fete* (dir. Craig Hryhorec) as an Aerial Artist. Will has a passion for Aerial Arts where he trains multiple times a week in Silks, Straps and Hoop, and is also a certified Aerial Coach within the disciplines of Silks and Hoop.



JOSH MCDONALD (they/them)

Josh is thrilled to perform their second production at ECMT. Their first production was in the ensemble of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay). Other roles include: Nikos in *Legally Blonde* (Pelican Productions, dir. Adam Goodburn) and Willard in *Footloose* (King's Baptist Grammar School, dir. Laura Nitschke). Josh can speak conversation German and is an aspiring drag queen under the drag alias 'The Final Girl'.



LORENZO RAVIDA (he/him)

Lorenzo is a Filipino-born performer in his second year with ECMT. His most recent theatre credits include Ensemble/Soloist in ECMT's *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. George Torbay), the Minister in the South Australian Premiere of *A New Brain* (dir. David Gaudi) and self-written work in the Adelaide Cabaret Festival's *Class of Cabaret*. As part of Disney World's entertainment team, Lorenzo worked in Florida for six months before returning to Adelaide. Lorenzo would like to acknowledge the Kaurna people as the original custodians of the Adelaide plains and pays his respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.



NEVE SARGEANT (she/they)

Born and raised in Adelaide, Neve is in her second year of studying music theatre at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Her credits include performing at the Australian Music Theatre Festival and in the ensemble of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay). Neve has also performed as Karen Smith in the pilot program of *Mean Girls Jr* (dir. Erin James), Violet Newstead in the pilot program of *9 to 5 Jr* (Junior Theatre Festival, dir. Marty Johnson) and is featured as Bowerbird Belle/Ensemble in the cast recording of *Dot and the Kangaroo Jr* (Music by Daniel Mertzluft, Lyrics by Kate Leonard, Libretto by Daniel Stoddart).



NATALIA SÓARES (she/her)

Most recently, Natalia played Simon Zealots in ECMT's 2024 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Other theatre credits across Perth and Melbourne include Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Melville Theatre Co.), Jane Porter in *Tarzan* (Laughing Horse Productions) and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (Padua College of Arts). In 2022 Natalia made her debut as a Music Director in Perth on the show *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and was later asked to return as the Musical Director for LHP's production of *Les Misérables*. Natalia is proud to be representing her Latinx community on stage.