

ULAITE

the little red accompany

PESTIVAL BRISBANE





Brisbane Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council







ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

At La Boite Theatre, we acknowledge the country on which we work, and the traditional custodians of the land – the Turrbal and Jagera people. We give our respects to their Elders past and present. We honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the first Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and their ancient and enduring cultures. This country was the home of storytelling long before La Boite existed, and we are privileged and grateful to share our stories here today.

RACHEL BURKE'S **FANCY** LONG LEGS

DATES

12 - 22 SFP

DURATION

APPROX. 50 MINUTES (no interval)

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer Naomi Price Composer Waveney Yasso Director Courtney Stewart Rachel Burke Set & Costume Designer **Design Realisation** Josh McIntosh **Arrangements & Music Direction** Alex Van den Broek Lighting Design Teegan Kranenburg Sound Design **Brady Watkins** Angela Ponting Stage Manager Assistant Stage Manager Giai McLaren **Assistant Director** Rebekkah Law Sound Operator Rilev Cameio **Lighting Operator** George Pitt **Access Consultant** Madeleine Little **Education Consultant** Annette Box

CAST

Fancy Mia Lierich Charlotte Tim Carroll Incv Irena Lysiuk Busy Kate Yaxley

Directing Secondment Assistant Creative - Access Director Observers

Mags Doherty Lisa Fa'alafi Amy Chien-Yu Wang

Brooklyn Matthews

Production Intern

Henry Booth Alexandra MacDonald

CONTENT **ADVISORIES**

All shows are relaxed performances. Contains theatrical lighting and effects. haze and music.

ACCESSIBILITY









Every effort has been made to ensure that all information was correct at the time of printing.



What a thrill to welcome Fancy Long Legs to the 2024 Brisbane Festival! We have long been proud collaborators with La Boite Theatre and The Little Red Company, and this partnership brings another gem to our lineup.

Rachel Burke, a true Brisbane superstar, brings her incredible talent to the stage with the adaptation of her new children's book. Fancy Long Legs is a glittery, vibrant musical adventure that promises to capture the hearts of young audiences and the young at heart alike.

I applaud all involved for their incredible care and attention in making this work deeply accessible. With its focus on acceptance, celebrating differences, and harnessing your inner fanciness, *Fancy Long Legs* is set to be one of the very special highlights of this year's festival.

Enjoy the magic and sparkle of this groundbreaking production!

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR -BRISBANE FESTIVAL







You are brave. You can do hard things. Follow your art.

These are mantras that can help us to stay connected to who we are and express our true selves. Everyone deserves to find a sense of belonging. This need to find our place in the world, this yearning to belong, without having to give up who we are is the key message behind *Fancy Long Legs*.

This is a beautiful new work for the youngest people in our community, written with such care by the formidable Naomi Price, based on the gorgeous picture book by the icon that is Rachel Burke. Original music by songstress Waveney Yasso wraps around the audience like the soothing hug we all need.

Making work for young people has been a huge part of my life's work as an actor, director and teaching artist. However, Fancy Long Legs is the first work for young people I've made since I had my two babies Bobby and Nora. It's been an incredibly meaningful process for me, and anything that strives to increase literacy outcomes and engender a deep love for stories is something I want to throw my energy behind.

Making work for young people is a radical act, and I'm so grateful to have made this work with the people you'll meet throughout these pages. I'm also very grateful to our co-producers at The Little Red Company and Brisbane Festival. To our collaborators at AEIOU Foundation and CPL – thank you!

To the grown-ups reading this – THANK YOU. Thank you for being here and bringing the joy of live theatre to the young people in your lives. To the young people reading this – YOU ARE AWESOME! You are such an important part of this world and we can't wait to watch and cheer you on as you weave your web your way and make your mark.

COURTNEY STEWART
DIRECTOR AND
LA BOITE THEATRE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO



Cleaning my art studio had never been quite so magical as the day I went to sweep underneath my craft tool cart and discovered a spider's web shimmering with sequins and confetti dots. At the centre of this dazzling web was Fancy, a wondrous little spider whose marvellous creation immediately sparked my imagination. Inspired by Fancy, I set out to create a world from her perspective, envisioning how this colourful space might appear to her and her spiderling friends.

Designing the world of Fancy Long Legs has been a true delight. The set is crafted to feel like a magical, pastel rainbow world - warm, creative and inviting, yet gentle on the senses. It's filled with giant soft pom-poms to climb on, thread bobbins to sit on, and a large-scale thimble that serves as a cozy retreat space. I imagined this area under the cart as Fancy's own creative studio, adorned with her webby wonders and artistic expressions, all while ensuring the space is accessible, ambient, and comfortable for all its visitors.

Creating the costumes involved researching spiders up close and discovering their surprisingly adorable side - with their tiny paws and fuzzy bodies! This inspired me to use my signature techniques of ruffled tulle and layered lace to bring the spiderling costumes to life. I loved the challenge of capturing each spider's character through their "uniforms". Did you notice Busy's gold star, celebrating her web-building accolades? Or how Fancy's costume twinkles with embellishments as if she'd bedazzled it herself? Each element is crafted to reflect something unique about their personalities.

Designing the set and hand-making the costumes in the studio where I first discovered Fancy has been an absolute joy - a lovely reminder that magic is all around us if we're willing to look!

RACHEL BURKE AUTHOR, SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER













I have always been a huge admirer of Rachel Burke's unique creativity, talent and bravery. In 2023, we sat down together over coffee and dreamed about collaborating on a stage show together. I had followed along avidly on social media when Rachel discovered a spider under her craft cart who collected hole punch confetti and sparkles in their web. I was captivated by this tiny gem of creative genius and thought this little spider had legs. Super fancy ones.

Adapting Rachel's newest children's book for stage alongside genius composer Waveney Yasso has been a highlight of my career. The three of us researched spider facts for hours until eventually I had to stop because I am a secret arachnophobe. Fancy's innate creativity, Incy's quiet compassion, Busy's admirable efficiency and Charlotte's extreme caution are spun together to create this rich little world where everyone is valid and valued despite their differences. Our collaboration was effortless and uplifting; this is what work should always feel like.

My deepest thanks to Courtney Stewart and Louise Bezzina for believing in this show, and bringing La Boite and Brisbane Festival along for the ride. I'm so proud of the Little Red team for their formidable work on this project, especially Meg Hamilton, Alex Van den Broek and Angela Ponting.

I recently stumbled across my copy of Roald Dahl's Esio Trot, in which I had carefully inked my name, address and ambitions inside the front cover (nice and neat, because I am a Busy). At the age of 8, I wanted 'to become a playwright and an actress'. I am proud that with this work, I have fulfilled my childhood dream and hopefully inspired a new generation of spiderlings to be who they want to be.

I dedicate my work on Fancy Long Legs to my Olivia.

NAOMI PRICE
WRITER AND
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
THE LITTLE RED COMPANY



The songs began to reveal themselves as we developed each of the personalities of the spiderlings.

In my mind Charlotte was geared up like James Bond, but anxious and very careful, ready to face any attack they may encounter with gadgets on hand and safety equipment at the ready. It began with an apprehensive bassline. I imagined a nervousness in Charlotte's voice and the tension high throughout the song as they studied out loud the implications of venturing outside the safety of their web.

A group song providing steps on how to build a web became clear when during a script read Fancy's line read 'Oh look, a pom pom!'. This song begins with the driving background vocals singing 'Pom pom, pom pom, pom pom' and turns into a disco-inspired instructional number featuring a hip-hop-inspired dance break... of course! The pom pom motif provides an element of the song that each of the Spiderlings can put their spin on.

I wanted Big Feelings to feel like a big hug. Swung in 6/8 time, it's given movement, giving it a swaying feeling. This song invites us to connect with our inner child, and to hear what we might have wanted to hear in a 'Big Feelings' moment of our own.

'You are brave, you try hard. I'm here to listen, open your heart'.

I hope you dance, sway and sing along with Fancy and her friends.

With love and gratitude.

WAVENEY YASSOCOMPOSER

<u>CAST</u> MEMBERS



MIA LIERICH (she/her)

FANCY

Mia is beyond grateful to be weaving webs and making her professional debut in Fancy Long Legs. As a recent Bachelor of Acting graduate (2023) of the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Mia was fortunate enough to study under some of the industry's best, while

embodying characters such as Irina in *Three Sisters*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, Pia in *Festen* and Electra in *Oresteia*. Mia has had a deep love for the performing arts her whole life. Being able to work with the Fancy team as her most authentic self is an experience she will never forget.



TIM CARROLL (he/him)

CHARLOTTE

Tim is thrilled to be making his La Boite Theatre and The Little Red Company debut! Graduating from the Queensland Conservatorium in 2015, he is a passionate and versatile performer with a broad range of stage and screen credits.

Tim recently joined the cast of *Upright* (Foxtel)

for its second season, filmed the pilot for WTFitness, and appeared in the Godzilla VS Kong franchise. Tim was last seen onstage at the Sydney Opera House in James and the Giant Peach as Earthworm/Aunt Sponge.

Tim's notable musical performances include *Blood Brothers, Carrie, Wicked, Grease, Spring Awakening, The Boys of Sondheim, Hansel & Gretel, FiZZ, and Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.* Other stage credits include Andy Griffith's *The 78-Storey Treehouse, The Gruffalo's Child, The Midnight Gang, and Australian Open* at Queensland Theatre. Tim also featured as a guest in two-time Tony nominee *Shoshana Bean's* Australian concerts.





IRENA LYSIUK (she/her)

INCY

Irena Lysiuk is a versatile operatic soprano, music theatre and pop singer. A graduate of Queensland Conservatorium majoring in Classical Voice, Irena has worked extensively with companies Opera Queensland, The Little Red Company, Queensland Ballet, QSO and Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra.

Irena made her debut with Queensland Theatre in 2022 as the lead role of Rose in their musical *The Sunshine Club*, written and directed by Wesley Enoch. Irena played Carmen in *Sweet Charity* at the Brisbane Powerhouse and Anne Egerman in Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra's production of *Sondheim's A Little Night Music*.



KATE YAXLEY (she/her)

BUSY

Since graduating from Queensland
Conservatorium Griffith University with a
Bachelor of Musical Theatre (2016), Kate has
performed nationally in an array of shows. Most
recently she starred in Tim Minchin's hit musical,
Groundhog Day, for its Australian Premiere. Her

other theatre credits include: The Sunshine Club (Queensland Theatre), Animal Farm (Shake & Stir Theatre Co), The Mystery of Valkyrie, A Very Naughty Christmas and Sweet Charity (Woodward Productions), Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts (Shake & Stir Theatre Co), The Gruffalo's Child (CDP), Songs from Stage and Screen (The 7 Sopranos), The Spirit of Christmas (QPAC), I Really Don't Care (Melbourne Cabaret Festival) as well as touring Australia with National Theatre for Children. Kate also recently featured in White Fever (ABC).

Kate is thrilled to be joining the fabulously fancy team on Fancy Long Legs for her La Boite Theatre and The Little Red Company debut!





RACHEL BURKE (she/her)

AUTHOR, SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

Rachel Burke is a multidisciplinary artist, designer, and author based in Brisbane, Australia. Renowned for her vibrant, tactile wearable artworks and iconic tinsel creations, Rachel draws inspiration from naive craft

materials, transforming the mundane into the magical. Her work has been exhibited across Australia, including at The Museum of Brisbane, Saint Cloche Gallery, and The Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Rachel has authored five books, including Fancy Long Legs (2024), Craft Roach (2023), and Be Dazzling (2018).



NAOMI PRICE (she/her)

WRITER

Naomi Price is the Artistic Director of The Little Red Company which she co-founded with Adam Brunes in 2012. Together they have created acclaimed productions including *Your Song, Christmas Actually, Lady Beatle* and *Rumour Has It*. Over 3.5 million

people have enjoyed a Little Red production since the company's inception.

Naomi's performance credits include Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Drizzle Boy, Sweet Charity, The Tragedy of King Richard III and The Wishing Well. Naomi is the Executive Producer of The Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols, has won multiple awards including the 2023 Australian Women in Music Award for Live Creative Production and was named one of Queensland's 40 Under 40.





WAVENEY YASSO (she/her)

COMPOSER

Waveney Yasso is a proud South Sea Island, Yuwi Burra descendant. Based in Meeanjin she is dedicated to preserving language, songlines, and history through art.

After graduating from WAAPA (Contemporary Music) Waveney became known for her work with Pub Choir and has toured globally, playing alongside artists like Ben Lee, Paul Kelly, Powderfinger, Lior and The Cat Empire.

As a composer, she has created music for film, TV and theatre and in June of 2023 she released a children's album titled *Our Backyard*. She is featured on ABC TV's *We Are Australian* campaign and while away from music she is actively working to educate and maintain culture and connection to Country.



COURTNEY STEWART (she/her) DIRECTOR

Courtney Stewart is an acclaimed Australian director, dramaturg, actor, and teaching artist, passionate about intercultural works and multicultural dramaturgies. She has worked on notable productions including *Top Coat, The*

Poison of Polygamy, Single Asian Female, The Hate Race, Miss Peony and White Pearl. A proud Queenslander, Courtney began as an actor before becoming a director and artistic leader for companies like Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, and La Boite Theatre. She has served on several committees, including as Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee, and is currently the Artistic Director & CEO of La Boite Theatre and a board member of Creative Australia.





JOSH MCINTOSH (he/him)

DESIGN REALISATION

Josh is an award-winning Production Designer for theatre, opera, musical theatre, dance and festivals. Josh regularly designs for Shake & Stir, Queensland Ballet, Opera Queensland, Flipside Circus, RAD Theatre, Playlab Theatre, Strut'n'Fret, and many other companies and

organisations. Recent productions include Shake&Stir's James and the Giant Peach, Frankenstein and Tae Tae in the Land of Yaaas!, as well as Breathe In for Crossroad Arts in Mackay. Josh's current Australasian touring productions include Shake&Stir's Fourteen and James and the Giant Peach and Homunculus Theatre's High Tea with Booff and Bolster & Lee. In Site Design, Josh is continuing his role as Site Designer for Brisbane Festival. Josh received a Gold Matilda Award in 2011 for his Body of Work and Silver Matilda Awards in 2015, 2017, 2018 & 2019.











ALEX VAN DEN BROEK (she/her)

ARRANGEMENTS AND MUSIC DIRECTION

Alex is excited to be working with La Boite for the first time as a creative. Alex is a versatile vocalist, arranger, music director and singersongwriter from Brisbane, and has worked extensively with The Little Red Company as

vocal director/arranger on Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves, Your Song and There's Something About Music, as well as The Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols broadcast on Channel 9. When she's not arranging for stage, Alex directs the Little Red Choir, runs music workshops for school students across Brisbane, and can often be found on many corners of the internet singing to her broad online following.



TEEGAN KRANENBURG (she/they)

LIGHTING DESIGN

Teegan is a lighting designer and production manager based in Brisbane/Meanjin. They hold a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary and Applied Theatre from Griffith University and have worked across theatre, dance, circus, performance art, drag and live music in many

capacities. Teegan has served as Venue and Technical Coordinator at Metro Arts and is currently the Production Manager at La Boite Theatre. As a lighting designer, Teegan's credits include *Matriarchs* and *[gameboy]* (Metro Arts), *The Norman Mailer Anecdote* (Queensland Theatre, Bis Scary Animal Productions), *She* (Indelability Arts, Metro Arts), and *Bliss* (The Good Room, Bleach Festival). They are particularly passionate about design-led theatre making, continually seeking innovative approaches to storytelling and visual aesthetics.





BRADY WATKINS (she/her)

SOUND DESIGN

As a Composer and Sound Designer, Brady has brought productions to life with work on *Tiny Beautiful Things* at Belvoir St Theatre and with Queensland Theatre on shows including *The Appleton Ladies Potato Race, Othello,* and *Metamorphoses*. Her soundscapes have

shaped productions such as Meet Your Maker for Blak Social at Brisbane Festival, SWARM with Dead Puppet Society, and La Boite's Away and The Neighbourhood.

Brady worked as a Sound Designer on *Unconditional* at Brisbane Powerhouse, *First Casualty*, and *Bernhardt/Hamlet* with Queensland Theatre, and Associate Sound Designer for the National Tour of *The Wider Earth* with Dead Puppet Society. She also worked on *Bananaland* at QPAC and Brisbane Festival, and *Hamilton: An American Musical* with Michael Cassell Group in different capacities.

Brady holds a Bachelor of Music Technology from Queensland Conservatorium of Music and currently serves as Sound Associate at Queensland Theatre and Academic Mentor at QUT Creative Industries.



REBEKKAH LAW (they/them)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Rebekkah Law is a white, disabled, queer director/facilitator/maker living on stolen Yuggera, Jagera and Yugambeh land. They are excited to be welcomed back to La Boite Theatre after joining Assembly last year as a Director. Recent directing credits include: *Pop!*

- a creative development supported by Studio 1 through the workroom program, *The Nestmakers* by Betty Sweetlove - Desfest, *Starter Boyfriend* by Squirt Productions and Bazil Grumble's *Active School Travel, Waste Smart Kindies* and *The Bazil Grumble Christmas Show.* In their other more slashes than a flat tire (multi-hyphenate) life, Bek has been Festival Producer for Undercover Artist Festival, a learner of many dance styles and is making a foray into library land over at State Library of Queensland in the Children and Families team.



ANGELA PONTING (she/her)

STAGE MANAGER

Ange is a queer artist based in Meanjin.

A versatile professional, she holds a Bachelor of Theatre Arts in Stage Management and Technical Production from the University of Southern Queensland. Ange has extensive experience as a Stage Manager, Set and Costume Designer,

Writer, and Performer. She is currently working for The Little Red Company as their Company Manager and has stage managed *The Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols, Rumour Has It* National Tour, *Christmas Actually* and many more. She has also performed and tour managed *Charlotte's Web* for RAVA Productions, so has a long history with spider-based children's work.



GIGI MCLAREN (she/her)

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Gigi is excited to join the La Boite team as an Assistant Stage Manager. She is currently completing a Bachelor's dual degree in Business Management and Arts majoring in Drama. Her recent credits include working for Opera Queensland and on The Little Red Company's

productions There's Something About Music and The Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols 2023.





MADELEINE LITTLE (she/her)

ACCESS CONSULTANT

Madeleine Little is a performer, theatre maker and access consultant for the performing arts. She is also Undercover Artist Festival Director, leading Australia's premier disability-led performing arts festival. Maddie holds both a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama) from QUT and a Master of Arts

(Creative Arts) from USQ. Her theatre credits include *The Normal Heart* (Ad Astra Theatre, 2022) for which she won a Matilda Award for Best Supporting Actor in an Independent Production. For her leadership in the disability arts sector, she has received multiple awards, including 40 Under 40 Queensland (2024), and Early Career Artist – Creative Australia National Arts and Disability Awards (2022).



ANNETTE BOX (she/her)

EDUCATION CONSULTANT

Annette Box (BA/BEd, MEd) has over 20 years of experience teaching Drama, Dance, Visual Art, Japanese, and English in primary and secondary schools. She has held leadership roles at Sheldon College, Somerville House, and St Margaret's, including Head of Drama and

Head of Faculty – Arts and Design. Annette is a past president of Drama Queensland and has been an Education Consultant and Producer for companies such as The Good Room, Brisbane Powerhouse, Dead Puppet Society, MYTHS MADE HERE, Out of the Box Festival and Playlab. She is a past recipient of the NCWQ Women in Leadership Bursary and is currently Assistant Head of Primary – Wellbeing and Operations at St Margaret's.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

Set Builder Andrew Mills

Photography Credits
Joel Devereux (hero)
Steph Do Rozario
(creative development)
Stephen Henry
(rehearsal images)

Video Trailer PixelFrame

Program DesignDowling &
Dowling Design

Creative DirectionAndy Geppert

Scenic Artist Regan Henry Consultation Don Mackenzie, Queensland Ballet







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Min Collie-Holmes

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Kath and Dean Merlo

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