



AVENUE Q

Jingeri,

Welcome to Crete Street Theatre, home of the Beenleigh Theatre Group.

BTG celebrates the rich histories of oral and theatrical storytelling. In doing so, we celebrate the sixty-thousand-year-old storytelling traditions of Australia's First Nations that carry forward the oldest living culture in the world.

We celebrate the stories of the Yugambah people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we perform, and acknowledge their elders: past, present and emerging.

We celebrate the voices of our First Nations artists; our identities are shaped by the Dreaming, Songlines, and by our stories.

Beenleigh Theatre Group proudly presents

AVENUE Q

Music and Lyrics by

**ROBERT LOPEZ &
JEFF MARX**

Book by

JEFF WHITTY

Based on an Original Concept by

**ROBERT LOPEZ &
JEFF MARX**

Originally produced on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, Robyn Goodman,
Jeffrey Seller, Vineyard Theatre and The New Group

Orchestrations and Arrangements By
Stephen Oremus

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)

The world premiere of AVENUE Q was presented by the Vineyard Theatre and The New Group, New York City, February 2003. AVENUE Q premiered on Broadway at the Golden Theater on July 31, 2003, produced by Kevin McCollum, Robyn Goodman, Jeffrey Seller, Vineyard Theatre and The New Group.

Avenue Q has not been authorized or approved by the Jim Henson Company or Sesame Workshop, which have no responsibility for its content.



ACT ONE

SCENE 1: ON THE AVENUE

The Avenue Q Theme Voices
Opening (What Do You Do With A B.A. in English / It Sucks To Be Me) Avenue Q Residents

SCENE 2: NICKY AND ROD'S APARTMENT

If You Were Gay Nicky & Rod

SCENE 3: PRINCETON'S APARTMENT

Purpose Princeton

SCENE 4: ON THE AVENUE

Everyone's a Little Bit Racist Kate Monster, Princeton, Gary Coleman, Christmas Eve and Brian

SCENE 5: KATE'S APARTMENT/ON THE AVENUE

The Internet Is For Porn Trekkie Monster, Kate Monster, Rod, Brian, Princeton and Gary Coleman

SCENE 6: ON THE AVENUE

SCENE 7: KATE'S APARTMENT

A Mix Tape Kate Monster and Princeton

SCENE 8: AROUND THE CLOCK CAFÉ

I'm Not Wearing Underwear Today Brian
Special Lucy

SCENE 9: KATE'S APARTMENT / ENTIRE STREET

You Can Be As Loud As The Hell You Like (When You're Makin' Love) Gary Coleman & Bad Idea Bears

SCENE 10: NICKY & ROD'S APARTMENT / KATE'S APARTMENT

Fantasies Come True Rod, Princeton and Kate Monster

SCENE 11: KATE'S APARTMENT

SCENE 12: ON THE AVENUE

My Girlfriend Who Lives In Canada Rod
There's A Fine, Fine Line Kate Monster

ACT TWO

SCENE 1: PRINCETON'S APARTMENT / NEW YORK CITY

There Is Life Outside Your Apartment Brian, Christmas Eve, Trekkie, Gary Coleman and Nicky

SCENE 2: ON THE AVENUE

The More You Ruv Someone Christmas Eve and Kate Monster

SCENE 3: KATE'S APARTMENT

SCENE 4: PRINCETON'S APARTMENT

SCENE 5: THE AVENUE

Schadenfreude Gary Coleman and Nicky

SCENE 6: THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING / STREET CORNER

SCENE 7: THE HOSPITAL

SCENE 8: ON THE AVENUE

SCENE 9: EMPIRE STATE BUILDING / HOSPITAL / A STREET CORNER

I Wish I Could Go Back To College Kate Monster, Nicky, Princeton

SCENE 10: ON THE AVENUE

The Money Song Nicky, Princeton, Gary Coleman and Residents
The Money Song (Reprise) Trekkie Monster

SCENE 11: ON THE AVENUE

There's a Fine, Fine Line (Reprise) Princeton and Kate Monster
For Now Full Company

FROM THE DIRECTORS

New York

When Avenue Q was first staged, same-sex marriage was not legal in any state of USA, home internet averaged at 800 kilobytes per second and the average college tuition was approximately \$12,000.

In 2023, same sex marriage is legal in all states by federal law, average home internet speeds are 110.4 megabytes per second and college tuition ... Well, let's not talk about that.

Despite Avenue Q first hitting the stage 20 years ago, we are astounded by the relevance the show still holds today. From the onset, our goal as directors was to create an atmosphere of fun on stage, powered by nostalgia and loveable characters. What we didn't account for was the cast taking this vision in their stride and producing something greater than we could have envisioned. Over the past 4 months, the cast have gladly taken on the challenges of learning puppetry, spelling schadenfreude and inserting multiple variations of the box step into this show. We hope audiences revel in the chance to take a stroll down Avenue Q and reflect on what makes us human (or monster.)

Thank you for supporting Beenleigh Theatre Group, and we hope you enjoy the show... but only for now.

Tayla Simpson | Director

Tayla has directed, choreographed and performed for theatre companies across South East Queensland for several years, with her latest credit (Cath, The Chemsex Monologues, 2022) winning her 'Best Female Actor in a Minor Role' at the KSP Drama Festival. Some of her fondest productions include Peter Pan (BTG 2022), Rock of Ages (BTG 2021), Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Phoenix Ensemble 2021), The Best of British (MBTC 2020), Cinderella (Lynch & Paterson 2019), Gaslight (BATS 2019) and her self-produced cabaret Cirque De Seduction (USC Theatre, 2017). Tayla has a Bachelor of Creative Industries from the University of the Sunshine Coast and has taught both dance and drama in several regions in Queensland.



Daniel Dosek | Director

Daniel is an award winning actor, puppeteer and theatre maker from Perth, WA. In 2016, Daniel graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts with a Bachelor in Performing Arts majoring in Performance Making. Since graduation, Daniel has been named a signature artist with Australia's premier puppetry company Spare Parts Puppet Theatre and performed with the company in tours of their shows 'Tom Vickers and the Extraordinary Adventure of his Missing Sock', 'Blueback' and 'Hare Brain'. Between shows, Daniel has also performed in roaming performance works and lead workshops for the company's School of Puppetry.

Since moving to the Gold Coast in 2021, Daniel has performed in Once Upon A Time in Sacramento (Wings Theatre Company), The Importance of Being Earnest, CLUE: On Stage (Javeenbah Theatre), Peter Pan (Beenleigh Theatre Group) and The Chemsex Monologues (Moonlight Ensemble). Daniel is excited to continue his puppetry practice in South East Queensland with productions such as Avenue Q.



New York

New York

Peter Lavrencic | Band Director



Pete has enjoyed a long career as a player, performing in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Orchestra, with Australia's Cantabile choir in the 2012 World Choir Games in Cincinnati, and numerous local acts ranging from jazz to metal.

This is Pete's first opportunity as Band Director with BTG and he is looking forward to the challenges that his previous Band Directors conveniently forgot to tell him about. Thank you to all the band members, cast, crew and especially you, the audience!

THE BAND

Keys

Shari Willner & Kent Lowrey

Reeds

Abbey Schumacher

Guitar

James Dent

Bass

Myles Willis

Drums

Peter Lavrencic

New York



Michael Mills | Princeton

Michael has played such roles such as Beast (Beauty and the Beast) the title role in Jekyll and Hyde, Michael has aspirations in voice acting and in his spare time plays dungeons and dragons, Michael has also played other roles such as Jason Dean (Heathers), Franz (Rock of Ages), Christian Grey (50 Shades of Gray), Squip (Be More Chill) and Dr Fine/Madden (Next to Normal) for which he received a Gold Palm Theatre Award nomination.



Rachel Love | Kate Monster & Vocal Director



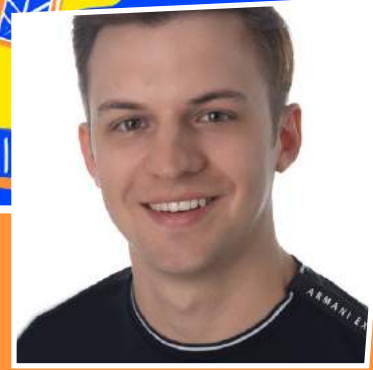
Rachel has appeared in many shows around the Gold Coast and can occasionally also be found offstage in the band. Some of her theatre highlights include Rusty in "Footloose", "Catch Me If You Can", Oz in "We Will Rock you", Eponine in "Les Miserables", Doralee in "9 to 5", "Songs For A New World", Maureen in "RENT", Sister Mary Amnesia in "Nunsense", and Audrey in "Little Shop of Horrors". Rachel was the MD for Javeenbah Theatre's productions of "Songs For A New World", "RENT", and "Spring Awakening", and Spotlight Theatre's "Firebringer". More recently Rachel Co-Directed, MD'd and performed in "Ordinary Days" at Javeenbah Theatre which was an absolute dream project to create.

Mark Rickell | Nicky

Mark is thrilled to be taking on the role of Nicky alongside such a friendly and talented group of performers. Originally from Bristol, England, Mark is finally putting his love of singing to use on stage thanks to his new-found love of musical theatre. 'Avenue Q' is one of Mark's all-time favourite shows since seeing it on the West End back in 2009. Mark's previous roles include Albert from 'It Shoulda Been You' (Phoenix Ensemble) and ensemble roles in 'Legally Blonde' (Sunnybank Theatre Group) and 'SpongeBob: The Musical' (Phoenix Ensemble) in which he was also the understudy for the role of Mr Krabs. Outside of theatre Mark works as a real estate marketing manager, and his other hobbies include board games, sport, and art.



Michael Ware | Rod



Training: Queensland

University of Technology, Trinity College of London, Murrell Academy of Drama.

UK performance credits: 'Evita', & 'Oliver!' (Potters Bar Theatre Co); 'Priscilla, Queen if the Desert: The Musical' (Greenroom Theatre Co.)

Australian performance credits: 'The Wizard of Oz (for BTG); 'Oliver!'

(Savoyards); 'Jersey Boys' (North Queensland Opera and Music Theatre); 'Little Miss Sunshine' (Phoenix Ensemble); 'Ruddigore' (Opera Queensland); '25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' (Javeenbah Theatre); 'A Clockwork Orange' (Brisbane Arts Theatre) 'Mary Poppins', & 'Annie' (HOTA); 'Oliver!' & 'Peter Pan' (Macabre Theatre Co.); 'La Bohème (Opera Queensland); 'Mary Poppins', 'Cosi', & 'The Three Musketeers' (Brolga Theatre and Convention Centre); 'Cosi', 'A Murder is Announced', & 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (Zephyr Street Performing Arts Community Theatre); 'Captain Moonlite', 'Equus', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', & 'The Sound of Music' (The Gold Coast Little Theatre).

Directing credits: 'Newsies Jr.' (BTG); 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (Iona College), 'West Side Story' (Townsville Grammar School', 'Hairspray' (Brolga Theatre and Convention Centre); 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'God of Carnage' (Zephyr Street Performing Arts Community Theatre).



Dan Konstantinos | Trekkie Monster

Dan

is a seasoned performer with a love for all things music and puppetry. Dan's passion for performing led him to the local live music and stand-up comedy scenes, where he received accolades such as winning NOVA 106.9's 'King of Cack'

competition. Now thrilled to be a part of Avenue Q, he combines his lifelong passion for puppets with his love for theatre in a role he can't wait to bring to life. Joining a talented cast, Dan is eager to showcase his unique talents on stage and make his mark in community theatre for the first time.

Lonnie Toia | Brian



Lonnie Toia is a singer/actor from Brisbane returned to the stage in 2022 in 'Little Shop of Horrors' (Savoyards) as the voice of Audrey II.

He started on stage at Savoyards in the 1979 production of Viva Mexico. Trained in singing and dancing throughout his teenage years at Sue Harvey's Academy of Modern Stage Dancing, Lonnie was a key member of the Johnny Young Talent School Brisbane performance group, performing across Queensland in the late '80s and touring with the company to perform in Disneyland in 1990.

Rowena Orcullo Ryan | Christmas Eve

Rowena has been performing musical theatre since high school, which her children estimate was approximately 100 years ago, making her extremely experienced.

More recent shows include 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Miss Saigon' (QMT), Lady Thiang in 'The King & I' and Doris Macafee in 'Bye Bye Birdie' (GCLT) and Diana Goodman in 'Next to Normal' (Jbah). Her favourite role however, is Mum to her two beautiful and talented daughters who share her love for performing.

Playing the eccentric Christmas Eve marks Rowena's first time on the BTG stage, and she thanks her beautiful cast mates and creative team for the truly joy filled experience. She is also grateful to Avenue Q (and musical theatre) for adding yet another Asian language to her list where she has learned to confidently swear.



Zara Lassey | Gary Coleman

Zara quickly learnt the mantra of many theatre nerds- you can't be sad for too long when a show ends if you go straight into the next one. After thoroughly enjoying their first community show 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at BTG, they are honoured to be part of Avenue Q. Zara is excited to draw stage experience from being a choir, rock and jazz band kid, to flex her comedic muscles (hopefully they are decently sized) - a nice contrast to being 'Evillene' in 'The Wiz' in high school. Being part of the BTG world has been a wonderful addition to her day to day as an Occupational Therapist.

Clare Thomson | Lucy

Clare Thomson is an actor, theatre maker and graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAPPA) achieving a Bachelor of Performing Arts in Performance Making. During her studies at WAPPA and Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) in Singapore (2016) Clare trained in physical theatre, devising and acting. Since then, Clare has been a puppeteer performer for 5 years as part of the ensemble at Constable Care, worked in various theatre spaces and musical theatre companies around Perth including 'We Will Rock You' at His Majesties Theatre, 'The Producers' at The Regal Theatre, 'BStreet Smart' at RAC Arena as well as 'Aradia' at The Blue Room as part of her theatre company, MilkBox Theatre.

Clare has recently moved to Brisbane and is thrilled to be apart of Beenleigh Theatre Group in one of her first shows since the move!



Laura Coulton | Bad Idea Bear

Laura is thrilled to be making her Crete Street debut in the vibrant and fuzzy world of Avenue Q! Her previous shows include: 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (Javeenbah Theatre Company), 'Playhouse Creatures' (Javeenbah Theatre Company), 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)' (Javeenbah Theatre Company) and 'The Penelopiad' (Javeenbah Theatre Company). Laura has absolutely loved her introduction to the world of puppetry and would like to thank Tayla and Daniel for the opportunity. Enjoy the show and make sure you follow all the Bears' advice!



Sarah Engelsmann | Bad Idea Bear

Sarah began performing at the age of 4, starting on the violin before moving to theatre. Early productions include 'Beauty & the Beast', 'Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat', 'Seussical' and Jetsam in 'The Little Mermaid' (St John's Anglican College). Sarah has also participated in the staging of 'Cats' and 'Hairspray' (Harvest Rain Theatre Company) and 'Jesus Christ Superstar' (Queensland Musical Theatre). Sarah completed a Bachelor of Theatre (Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music), productions include 'Choices' (Queensland Police), 'Sweet Charity', 'Bells are Ringing' (Ella Peterson understudy), 'Mr Burns: A Post-Electric Play', 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood' (Rosa Bud). Internationally, Sarah starred as Florence Vassy in the Malaysian production of 'Chess: The Musical', a CQCM production with Bentley Music Academy. Since graduating, Sarah has performed in 'Sweeney Todd' (Phoenix Ensemble), 'It Shoulda Been You' (Mimsy/Swing/Dance Captain) (Phoenix Ensemble), 'Shaken and Stirred' (Footlights Theatrical) and 'The Abadon Burlesque Show: My Bloody Valentine' (Miriam Du'Maurier) (Abadon Productions).

Sam McLaughlin | Mrs. T

Sam (she/they) has been performing within the South East Queensland community theatre scene for the past 10 years. With notable role such as Gingy/Ugly Stepsister/Bluebird (Shrek the Musical, Brisbane Arts Theatre), Rapunzel (Disenchanted!, Footlights Theatrical Inc), Cinderella's Prince (Miscast Showcase, Beenleigh Theatre Group), Florinda (Into The Woods, Redcliffe Musical Theatre), Silly Girl (Beauty and the Beast, Queensland Musical Theatre), Laker Girl (Spamalot, Brisbane Arts Theatre), Bev (50 Shades the Musical, Brisbane Arts Theatre), as well as other supporting roles in Mamma Mia! (Queensland Musical Theatre), Ladies in Black (Brisbane Arts Theatre), Heathers! (Spotlight Theatre) and Curtains! (Beenleigh Theatre Group), their greatest role would have to be that of the Tyrannosaurus Rex (Jurassic Park the Musical, Brisbane Arts Theatre). Sam is currently completing a Certificate III In Electrotechnology through an electrical apprenticeship.



Andrew Engelsmann | New Kid / Nicky Arm



Andrew has always had an interest in performing, originally taking up the trombone in 2013 and then joining his school's college chorale in 2016 until 2019. Upon performing in his first musical in 2017 'The Little Mermaid' (SJAC) he realised his love for acting on the stage and took every opportunity he could from then. Some of his acting credits of his involve, President Roosevelt in 'Annie' (SJAC) and Roy in an excerpt from 'Good Grief' (SJAC). While studying at Central Queensland University, he has played Mr Mushnik in 'Little Shop of Horrors' (CQCM), Danny Maguire in 'Xanadu' (CQCM), and Frank in 'Ladies in Black' (CQCM). At the end of 2022 he had the opportunity to perform overseas, playing Augustin Magaldi in Evita (Bentley Music Academy). He is looking forward to playing New Kid in Avenue Q.



Jack Barrett | Ricky / Trekkie Arm

Jack is thrilled to be taking the BTG stage once again for the hilarious Avenue Q, still new to the world of outside theatre Jack has nonetheless thrown himself into it since graduation of high school. Previous shows include 'Freaky Friday' (BTG), 'Legally Blonde' (Dance Fever), 'Pirates of Penzance' (BJT), and a number of straight shows as

ILT. Jack hopes you enjoy the show.

Samantha Graham | Dance Captain



Samantha's performance credits include 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' (Phoenix Ensemble) as a Speciality Dancer (Mrs Teavee & Mrs Gloop swing), 'A Chorus Line' (Fame Theatre Company), 'Bogan Bingo' (Sit Down Comedy Club), 'Meet our Magpies' (Redlands City Council), 'Fright Night' (Warner Bros Movieworld), 'Raw Comedy Showcase' (Sit Down Comedy Club), 'Yesteryear for the New Year' (Brisbane Arts Theatre), 'Carbon Footprint Cabaret', (Switchboard Arts) and 'No No Nannette' (QMT)

Samantha has worked as a dance teacher and facilitator in primary schools across South East Queensland and travelled to rural indigenous communities to share her love of dance. Samantha is looking forward to performing in 'Love's Labours Lost' a new musical based on the play by William Shakespeare, playing the role of Rosaline (Footlights Theatrical Inc) at Ron Hurley Theatre this June.

Nyisha Bill-Eteson | Ft. Dancer

Nyisha is a classically trained dancer in ballet, tap and modern. Over the last three years she has also been performing burlesque as her onstage alter ego Mimi Moxie. Most recently she performed in 'Abadon Burlesque: My Bloody Valentine' (Abadon Productions). Highlights in her performing career include 'Shane Warne the Musical' (The Cabaret Club) and 'An Evening in Moonlight' (Moonlight Aviators). She also co-wrote, directed and choreographed the children's pantomime 'The Story of the Grumbly Green Grouch' (Hobart Repertoire Theatre).



Hannah Davies | Ft. Dancer

Hannah has never before appeared as a featured dancer - but she has embraced the challenge and is keen to show off her newfound passion. Hailing from the UK, she is a relative newcomer to Brisbane's theatre scene.

Some of her favourite roles have been in 'Dusty - The Original Pop Diva', 'Keeping Up Appearances', 'Much Ado About Nothing', and 'The Foreigner'.

She was last seen on the BTG stage in the 2017 performance of 'Blood Brothers', and most recently played Mrs Sowerberry in Savoyards' production of 'Oliver'.

Hannah would like to thank the dance captain for her patience. She promises to nail the box step by closing night.



Marina Pennisi | Ft. Dancer

Last year Marina had her community theatre debut in Sweeney Todd (Phoenix Ensemble), and is excited to be part of this unique laugh-out-loud musical. Having won two silver medals in the World Choir Games as part of the Cantabile Choir in 2012, singing has always been Marina's strength. As Featured Dancer in Avenue Q, she's loves the quirky change of pace and the opportunity to put on her dancing shoes.



Georgia Waters | Ft. Dancer

Georgia is no fresh-faced new kid to this Beenleigh stage. From a young age Georgia has always loved to sing and dance. She fell in love with musical theatre at eleven years old, but it would be a few more years until she joined the community theatre scene. Her most recent show was 'Jekyll & Hyde' (Gold Coast Little Theatre, 2022), before that it had been three years since Georgia performed on stage due to the sickness that shall not be named. Georgia's other theatre credits include 'Jekyll & Hyde', (Phoenix Ensemble, 2019) 'Beauty & the Beast' (Phoenix Ensemble,

2019) 'Oklahoma' (BTG, 2018) 'A Little Princess' (BTG, 2018) 'Xanadu (Phoenix Ensemble, 2018) 'SHOUT!' (BTG, 2016) 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' (BTG, 2016).




PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director Tayla Simpson
Director Daniel Dosek
Vocal Director Rachel Love
Band Director Peter Lavrencic
Choreographer Tayla Simpson
Observational Director Nicholas Hargreaves
Dance Captain Samantha Graham
Stage Manager Mary Nield
Dep. Stage Manager Scott Fulton
Sound Operator Donovan Wagner
Lighting Design Perry Sanders
Lighting Operator Tyson Habler
Technical Liaison Donovan Wagner
Follow Spot Charlie Habler & Alyssa Burnett
Stage Crew Lionel Habler
Tech Swing CJ Avery
Costume Design Tayla Simpson
Costume Construction Tayla Simpson,
Nyisha Bill-Eteson, Sam McLaughlin
& Celeste Konstantinos
Set Design Tayla Simpson & Daniel Dosek
Set Construction Lachlan Hibbins,
Donovan Wagner, Tyson Habler,
Lionel Habler, Daniel Dosek,
Tayla Simpson, Bradley Chapman
Mary Nield & CJ Avery
Video Design & Editing Tayla Simpson &
Daniel Dosek
Props Tayla Simpson, Daniel Dosek,
Alyssa Burnett & Mary Nield
Promotional Photography & Program
Benjamin Tubb-Hearne
Production Photography Kenn Santos
Animation Zach Rosing
Puppets Spotlight Theatre, Daniel Dosek,
Clare Thomson, Sam McLaughlin
Special Thanks Chris Art,
Mikaela Murphy, Bradley Chapman,
Justin Tubb-Hearne



BEENLEIGH THEATRE GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS

Disney · PIXAR
**FINDING
NEMO** 
JR.

AUDITIONS

MAY 27 & 28

REHEARSALS

JUNE/JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

**LOOK OUT ON OUR SOCIALS
FOR AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENT**