

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL
A RAUCOUS MUSICAL FEATURING THE HITS OF IAN DURY AND THE BLOCKHEADS

Final UK tour Sep-Nov 2017!
Coventry
Derby
Southampton
Ipswich
Leeds
Liverpool
London

graeae.org

AD
CAP
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Cast/Band

Stephen Lloyd – Vinnie



Stephen trained at ALRA.

Theatre credits include: *Henry V* (UK Tour), *The Deranged Marriage* (Watford Palace/West Yorkshire Playhouse/Rifco Arts), *Reasons To Be Cheerful* (UK Tour/Graeae/New Wolsey/Theatre Royal, Stratford East), *Left Hangin’* (Bush), *Like Father, Like Son* (Theatre 503), *Come Dancing*, *Red Riding Hood*, *Cinderella* (Theatre Royal, Stratford East), *The Wizard of Oz* (Hull Truck), *1888* (Union), *The Visitor* (Edinburgh Fringe), and *Made in LDN* (The Bunker).

Film and TV credits include: Boycie in *Rock and Chips*, *Holby City*, *Silent Witness*, *Gracie!* (BBC), *Paralympics Opening Ceremony* (Channel 4), and *Seat 25* (Red Kite Films).

Workshops include: *Sunny Afternoon* (Sonia Friedman Productions), *So Here We Are* (HighTide/Manchester Royal Exchange), and *Elevensies* (Old Vic New Voices).

Stephen is Artistic Director of Amplified Theatre, an inclusive theatre company that focuses on merging live theatre with alternative music genres.

He would like to dedicate his performance to his Mum and Dad who have continuously supported him and this production.

Stephen Collins – Colin



Stephen Collins is an actor, workshop facilitator and recently debut as a director & Associate Artist for Amplified Theatre. He is also Lead Artist for DH Ensemble and currently teaching mask workshop trained by Vamos Theatre.

Theatre credits: *Summit* (Fuel Theatre), *Nodus Tollens* (DH Ensemble), *The Government Inspector* (Ramps on the Moon/Birmingham Rep), *Threepenny Opera*, *The Iron Man* & previously this show (Graeae), Shakespeare Globe's *Love's Labour's Lost* & *Red Flags* (Definitely Theatre), *Hansel & Gretel* (Red Earth) & *The Winter's Tale* (Taking Flight).

Stephen is a massive DC comic book fan, a Vegan, an explorer and is ecstatic to be back doing *Reasons* once again with some anarchy.

Beth Hinton-Lever - Janine



Beth has recently graduated from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts with an MA in Performance (Musical Theatre) and is absolutely delighted to be joining the cast of *Reasons to be Cheerful*. Before turning her hand to performing, Beth studied Classical Archaeology and Classical Civilisations at University College London. While studying at UCL her choreography of Jason Robert Brown's *Parade* won her the Award for Best Choreography at the National Student Drama Festival, which started her professional performing career.

Credits include: Mona/Georgina in *Dancehall* (CAST Theatre), Princess Aurora/Rosie in *Sleeping Beauty* (CAST Theatre), and Clara in *Welfare* (Arts Theatre). Beth is thrilled to be performing in her first tour with Graeae! She would like to thank her mum for her continued love and support, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Karen Spicer – Pat



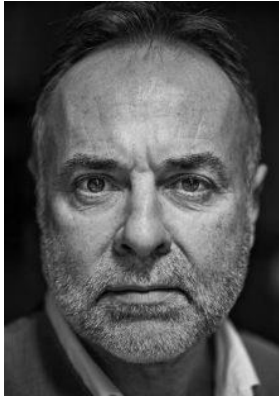
Karen has 30 Years acting experience playing a variety of social workers, single Mums, and teachers in *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale*, *Doctors*, *Heartbeat*, *The Royal*, *No Angels*, *Clocking Off*, *Cast Offs*, and the Channel 4 film *Who Killed Simone Valentine*.

On Stage she has worked with Graeae, Trestle, Red Ladder, Theatre Centre, Roundabout, Quick Silver, Fittings Multimedia, The Nuffield Theatre Southampton, Interplay, Polka, and has specialised in script-in-hand readings of new work for Nottingham Playhouse New writers, Birmingham Rep Transmissions, Bhuchar Boulevard, New End Theatre Beyond and Damn Cheek productions.

She is also Co-Artistic Director of Brighton Beam, directing "Bees Mouth", a site specific ghost story in the basement of an Old Brighton Bar, and "My Friend Lester", a Musical Romance about Billie Holiday and Lester Young, which sold out at the Brighton Fringe and later travelled onto Sweden and the Jermyn Theatre.

When not acting Karen is a support worker in the field of Mental Health and Supported Living and a drinker of G'n'T by The Sea.

Gerard McDermott - Bill/Bobby



Gerard trained at The Royal Welsh College.

Recent theatre: *Merry Wives* (Broadsides Northern), *Blood Wedding* (Graeae), *Bunny's Vendetta* (Blue Eagle, Derry), *Being Tommy Cooper* (The Old Red Lion), *Fool for Love* (The Riverside Studios), and *Calendar Girls'* tour (Noel Coward Theatre). As a regular member of Northern Broadsides productions include: *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *King John...*, *Christmas Carol* (Vasa Theatre Stockholm), *Whistle Down the Wind* (The Aldwych), *Life Blood* (The Bridewell), *Neville's Island* (Dukes Lancaster), *Northern Trawl* (Remould Theatre), and *Blasted* (Graeae).

Television: *Doctors*, *East Enders*, *Downton Abbey*, and *Badger*.

Film: *Geoffrey's Belt*, *Set The Thames On Fire*, and released this year *Eyes and Prize*.

Radio: A regular with the BBC Radio Drama Company. Productions include: *The Journal of a Joskin 2*, *Home Front*, *The Tempest*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Clare in the Community*, *Silver Street* for the BBC Asian Network, and most recently *Holding Back the Tide*.

Max Runham - Nick/Dave



Max is from a small village in Kent called Hextable. While training at Rose Bruford, he landed his first TV role, appearing in *Hollyoaks*. Since then he has appeared in Graeae's production of *Threepenny Opera*, HOME theatre's production of Simon Stephens' *The Funfair*, *The Family Way* by Bill Naughton at the Bolton Octagon, Greyscale's *Gods Are Fallen And All Safety Gone* and most recently, Max made his debut with The National Theatre and Complicite in *A Pacifist's Guide to The War on Cancer*.

Max has performed in Ramps on the Moon's production of The Who's *Tommy*. Alongside this, Max is a very passionate musician and has been performing extensively as a solo artist and with his band throughout London

over the past 4 years.

Joey Hickman - Cousin Joey (keyboards) and Musical Director



Joey trained on the Actor Musicianship course at Rose Bruford and graduated in 2011.

As a musical director, assistant MD, band leader & arranger his credits include: *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* (Mischief Theatre & Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus), *Oliver!* (Watermill Theatre), *Three Minute Heroes* (Belgrade Theatre), *The Threepenny Opera* (Graeae Theatre/UK Tour), *Our House* (New Wolsey Theatre/UK Tour), *Dreamboats and Petticoats* (BKL Playhouse Theatre, West End), and *Assassins* (Rose Bruford).

Joey is also an actor and has performed in many productions across the country including: *Thisbe* (Door Ajar Theatre), *Cinderella: A Fairytale* (Tobacco Factory & Traveling Light), *Made In Dagenham* (Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch), *Romeo & Juliet* and *The School for Scandal* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory), *The BFG* (Birmingham Rep), *The Snow Spider* (Io Theatre Company), *I Was a Rat!* (Birmingham Rep/UK Tour), *Dreamboats and Petticoats* (BKL Playhouse Theatre, West End).

John Kelly - John (lead vocals)



John has been singing for a lifetime and professionally for the last ten years. His Irish roots and love of music have strongly influenced the energy, passion and fun that John brings to his performance. John is an active campaigner with his music and he continues to attract interest from national and international media.

Over the last seven years, he has completed five UK tours as well as many international performances. John is Artistic Director of DaisyFest, National Associate Artist for Drake Music, musician with circus company ExtraOrdinary Bodies and is Policy & Strategy manager at Merton Centre for Independent Living. Any time off he plays on with the talented musicians of Rockinpaddy.

John sang *Spasticus Autisticus*, live at the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games in London, and has also guested with the Blockheads. John has developed a ground-breaking, innovative new guitar "The Kellycaster". Oi Oi!! John is excited indeed sausages, Lets 'Ave!

Nixon Rosembert - Nixon (bass guitar)



Nixon is an accomplished musician who has performed/recorded either in the recording studio, on television, or live with Mariah Carey, Ronnie Laws (EWF), Angie Brown, Pete Brown, Reasons To Be Cheerful (band), The Honeyz, Sam Moore (Sam & Dave), Ruby Turner, Jools Holland, Juliet Roberts, Billy Paul, ABC, Cleveland Watkiss, Emmett North Jr, Clem Curtis & The Foundations and many more.

He has written music for theatre and toured with theatre companies as a musician and actor.

Nixon's main instrument is the six-string electric bass guitar. Styles include; funk, soul, rock, various dance genres, jazz, Latin, reggae, blues, ska and most popular styles.

His teaching/education roles include music production/technology, project management, careers advice, music industry studies, performance skills, and music workshops.

Nixon performs regularly with various bands.

Paul Sirett - Paul (guitar) and writer



Paul is an award-winning, Olivier-nominated playwright, dramaturg and musician. As a writer, Paul has over twenty productions to his name including two West End transfers (*The Big Life* and *Rat Pack Confidential*) and his plays have been performed in the USA, South America, Australia and around Europe. Paul has also worked extensively as a dramaturg for the Royal Shakespeare Company, Soho Theatre, Royal Court, National Theatre and West End & Broadway producers. Most recently, Paul wrote Stratford East's best-selling pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, and worked as the dramaturg on the *Ramps on the Moon* production of *Tommy*. Paul's new musical *Oxy and the Morons* (co-written with Mike Peters of the Alarm and Steve Allan Jones) opens at the New Wolsey Theatre in October 2017. Paul also has a long history of playing in bands and currently plays guitar in Dr Schwamp. Paul is Associate Dramaturg of the Ambassador Theatre Group, Associate Artist of Soho Theatre, Associate Teacher of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Associate Fellow at the University of Warwick and Literary Associate at Theatre by the Lake.

Paula Stanbridge-Faircloth - Paula (drums)



Paula Stanbridge-Faircloth has been playing the drums for over two decades, and that fact makes her feel really old. From intricate math-rock polyrhythms in *Quadrilles* to touring with *Reasons to be Cheerful* and art-pop grrl rock in *Psycho Delia*, Paula likes to make nice noises in glittery outfits and flings her hair around too much when drumming (according to her chiropractor).

Favourite gigs include playing to 1000 lesbians in a Parisian nightclub (and the stage invasion that ensued), and that intimate little show done at the Paralympic Opening Ceremony a few years back. Future projects include forming a Kate Bush tribute band. If there are any other Kate

Bush obsessed musicians out there that would be interested, Paula would very much like to hear from you.

Louis Schultz-Wiremu - Louis (saxophone)



Louis Schultz-Wiremu was born and raised in Lewisham, South East London. The son of a musician and textile artist, he spent many a childhood evening listening to his dad play funk, soul, reggae and most importantly, Ian Dury & The Blockheads records. He started playing the saxophone at 10 and went on to study at the London Centre for Contemporary Music where he earned his BMus (Hons) in Music Performance & Production. He now gigs, tours and records across Europe for a multitude of different artists including Boy George and Pee-Wee Ellis, as well as working as a textile artist, specialising in costume and set for Schultz & Wiremu Fabric FX Ltd.

Productions include: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Les Miserables*, ENO's *Carousel*, *Matilda*, *Book of Mormon*, *The Addams Family*, plus many more.

Jude Mahon - Debbie (SLI)



Jude trained as an Actor at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Her father always told her to “have something to fall back on” so she trained as a British Sign Language Interpreter at Wolverhampton University. These two skills have worked together in numerous roles on television and in theatre. As a Performance Interpreter Jude won The Best Supporting Actress award from Nottingham Playhouse for her role in Graeae’s *Threepenny Opera*.

Jude is now also writing as well as campaigning. She can be seen at various marches for equality, ‘Women’s Rights’, ‘Deaf and Disabled People Against Austerity’ and more recently marching for the Foxes.

Wayne ‘Pickles’ Norman - Pickles (AD)



Wayne been working professionally for forty years; his first job was the Artful Dodger in the West end production of *Oliver!* in 1977. His list of many TV shows include Worzel Gummidge’s naughty nephew Pickles, *Terry and June*, *Dr Who*, *The Bill*, *EastEnders*, *Murphy’s Mob*, *Grange Hill*, *Inspector Morse*, *The Harry Enfield Show* and *Shine on Harvey Moon*. Theatre work includes Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Waltham*, *Welcome Home*, *The Coming of Gowf*, *Afters* and *Counting the Ways*. Pickles has been working for Graeae for fifteen years as an access worker and also an audio describer appearing in their hit shows *Reasons To Be Cheerful*, *The Iron Man* and *The Threepenny Opera*.

Creative Team

Jenny Sealey – Director

Jenny Sealey has been Graeae’s Artistic Director since 1997. In 2009, she was awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Honours and became an Artistic Advisor for Unlimited 2012 Festival. Recent theatre credits for Graeae include: *The House of Bernarda Alba* (co-produced with Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester) *Blood Wedding* (co-produced with Dundee Rep Ensemble and Derby Theatre), *The Threepenny Opera* (co-directed with Peter Rowe, co-produced with the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, Nottingham Playhouse, Birmingham Rep and West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Belonging* (co-produced with Circo Crescer e Viver) *Reasons To Be Cheerful* (2010 co-produced with The New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich and Theatre Royal Stratford East, 2012 national tour co-produced with the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich); *Signs of a Star Shaped Diva*; *Static* (co-produced with Suspect Culture); *Blasted*; *Whiter than Snow* (co-produced with Birmingham Rep); *Flower Girls* (co-produced with The New Wolsey, Ipswich); *peeling* and *Bent*.

Recent outdoor productions for Graeae include *Against the Tide*; *The Iron Man*; *The Garden* (co-produced with Strange Fruit); *Sequins and Snowballs* and *The Limbless Knight – A Tale of Rights Reignited*.

Jenny co-directed the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony alongside Bradley Hemmings (GDIF). She also won the Liberty *Human Rights Arts Award* and was named on the Time Out London and Hospital Club *h.Club100 2012* list of the most influential people in the creative industries. Since 2012 Jenny has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree in Drama from Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, in Performing Arts from Middlesex University and a Fellowship at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Daryl Beeton – Associate Director

Daryl Beeton is a Director and Performer who has worked extensively within the Theatre, Disability and young people's arts sector for the last 20 years. He's a recognised cultural leader in youth arts participation as well as a high profile advocate for disabled artists.

The core of all of Daryl's work is the belief that arts can enrich the quality of our lives and those of the communities we inhabit. He's an active advocate for improving the rights of disabled by promoting access and inclusion.

Daryl has worked for a variety of companies over the years and began working with Graeae in 1996. Since then he has worked for companies such as Half Moon Theatre, the BBC, and was Artistic Director at Kazzum for 10 years.

In 2010 he was named a Cultural Leader for creating work in the outdoor arts sector. In 2012 he was part of the specialist aerial ensemble for the Paralympic opening ceremony and in 2013 was recognised with an Action for Children's Arts Members Award for his commitment to enriching children's lives through the arts.

Liz Ashcroft – Designer

Liz graduated with a BA Hons from Wimbledon School of Art. She has been awarded the Arts Council Trainee Design Bursary, the UNESCO award for Promotion of the Visual Arts, and TMA Best Designer.

These are a few of her favourite shows from the last 30 years: *The House Of Bernarda Alba*, *The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice* and *On The Shore Of The Wide World* (Royal Exchange), *Apocalyptica* (Hampstead Theatre), *Peggy For You* (Comedy Theatre, London & Tour), *Of Mice And Men* (Birmingham Rep), *The Man In The Moon* (Liverpool Everyman), *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Dukes Playhouse Lancaster), *Afterplay* (The Spoleto Festival, South Carolina, The Gielgud Theatre, Sydney Festival), *One For The Road* (St Martin's Theatre, Lincoln Centre – New York For The Pinter Festival), *The Carmelites* (Grange Park Opera), *Porgy And Bess* (The Royal Danish Opera), and *Lucia Di Lammermoor* (Scottish Opera, Houston Grand Opera And World Tour).

Nikki Charlesworth – Assistant Designer

Nikki is a recent graduate of Theatre Design at Nottingham Trent University, and is thrilled to be working on *Reasons to be Cheerful*. She has previously worked in creating accessible theatre on both a large a more intimate scale, her most recent credit of which is Design Assistant on the UK tour of

The Who's *Tommy*, by the New Wolsey theatre in association with Ramps on the Moon. Through experiencing access barriers in attitudes in her early performance work, Nikki developed a want for accessibility in mainstream theatre, believing there are great opportunities when access is thought of artistically, and not as a hindrance. Nikki hopes to learn from her experience working on *Reasons to be Cheerful* and to continue to advocate for access in design.

As well as stage design, Nikki is a keen puppet maker and puppeteer, her latest credit being a self-directed verbatim puppet show entitled '*The Luckiest Girl Alive*', in association with City Arts, Nottingham, and charity *28 Too Many*.

Ian Scott – Lighting Designer

Ian has worked on many Graeae shows including *Blasted*, *Peeling*, *Static* (with Suspect Culture) and most recently *The Secret Life of Sugar Water* (with Theatre Royal, Plymouth).

Current work: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Aldeburgh Festival), *The Royal* (Royal Court, Liverpool), *Messiah* (Bergen National Opera) and *All My Sons* (Nottingham Playhouse).

Other work includes: *Fish Eye* (Theatre Alibi), *Lonesome West* and *Down The Dock Road* (Royal Court, Liverpool), *Fawty Towers Live* (Roslyn Packer Theatre, Sydney), *Blok/Eko* (The Wrestling School), *The 39 Steps* (Criterion Theatre), *Owen Wingrave* (Aldeburgh and Edinburgh International Festivals), *Taylor's Dummies* (Gecko), *Frozen* (Fingersmiths); *Our Friends Up North* (Northern Stage), *My Name is...* (Tamasha), *Curlew River* (White Light Festival, New York / UCLA Berkeley / Barbican), *Sinner* (Stan Won't Dance), *Animal Farm* (West Yorkshire Playhouse) and *Observe The Sons Of Ulster Marching Towards The Somme* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin).

Lewis Gibson – Sound Designer

Lewis studied music at Dartington College of Arts. He has been a long term collaborator with Graeae, writing music and designing sound for a number of their productions including *Cosmic Scallies*, *The Solid Life Of Sugar Water*, *The Iron Man* and *The Garden*. He is an associate artist with Uninvited Guests and a founding member of the international touring company SABAB.

He has written and directed theatre for young audiences with The Royal Exchange, Tangere Arts, Fuel and The Unicorn.

Other theatre includes Complicite Associates, National Theatre, The Young Vic, Nigel and Louise, Made In China, Tim Crouch, Battersea Arts Centre and Cardboard Citizens.

Mark Smith – Choreographer

Mark Smith is the founder and artistic director for his own dance company Deaf Men Dancing.

Choreography credits: *Paralympic Opening Ceremony - London 2012*, *Blood Wedding* (Dundee Rep), *Marry Me A Little*, *Peter Pan*, *Just So* and *Starting Here*, *Starting Now* (Chichester University), *As You Like It* (Oxford Shakespeare Company), *Hear! Hear!*, *Rosa*, *TEN*, *Sense of Freedom*, *Corazon a Corazon*, *Embrace*, *Let us tell you a story...* and *Alive!* (Deaf Men Dancing), *The Threepenny Opera* (New Wolsey Theatre/Graeae Theatre), *Die Fledermaus* (Oslo Opera House), *Reasons To Be Cheerful*

(Graeae), *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Noah* and *A Marvellous Year for Plum* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Aladdin* (Hammersmith Lyric), *Shoes* (Sadler's Wells), *Iolanthe*, *Call Me Madam & Ace of Clubs* (Union Theatre/Wilton's Music Hall), *My Silent World* (Ballet Boyz/Channel 4's *Random Acts*), *The Who's Tommy* (Greenwich Theatre & Ramps on the Moon).

Christopher Holt – Voice Coach

Mark Haig – Video Designer

Duncan McLean – Projection Design

Robert Hyman – Music Supervisor and Arrangements

Sarah Hughes CDG – Casting

Daryl Jackson – BSL Consultant

Maria Oshodi – Audio Description Consultant