



# Amélie

THE MUSICAL

WITCH

The  
Hannah  
/ / / / /

# Amélie

Book by  
**Craig Lucas**

Music by  
**Daniel Messé**

Lyrics by  
**Nathan Tysen & Daniel Messé**

Based on the motion picture *Amélie* written by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Guillaume Laurant

Orchestrations and Arrangements by  
**Barnaby Race**

Directed by  
**Nick Lerew & Maya Handa Naff**

Music Directed by  
**Hayden Taylor**

Choreographed by  
**Leigh Evans**

Presented by  
**WITCH Music Theatre**

Creative Producer  
**Ben Tucker-Emerson**

Technical Producer  
**Joshua Tucker-Emerson**

World Premiere produced in September 2015 by Berkeley Repertory Theatre Tony Taccone, Artistic Director Susan Medak, Managing Director Presented in December 2016 by Center Theatre Group Michael Ritchie, Artistic Director, Stephen D. Rountree, Managing Director, Douglas C. Baker, Producing Director.

Broadway producer credits: Aaron Harnick, David Broser, Triptyk Studios, Spencer B. Ross, Harbor Entertainment, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Simone Genatt Haft, Marc Routh, Saltaire Investment Group, The John Gore Organization, David Mirvish, Terry Schnuck and Jujamcyn Theaters.

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## Content forecast

This performance contains flashing lights, smoke effects and mature themes including sexual references and suicide.  
Recommended for Ages 10+

## Runtime

2 Hours and 20 minutes including a 20 minute interval

# Directors' note

**Everyone's connected though they may not know it's true.**

At its heart, *Amélie* is a meditation on connection. The show invites us into a world where small, everyday gestures like returning a lost item, sharing a walk around the neighbourhood, or listening to someone as they grieve, can ripple out and change lives.

But true connection requires risk. Amélie observes the world from a distance, crafting joy for others while keeping herself safe and unseen. Through Amélie's journey, we are reminded that love, in all its wonder and imperfection, only blooms when we step beyond comfort and certainty. We hope *Amélie* leaves you feeling inspired to embrace the unexpected opportunities for connection that surround you, even if they involve a little risk.

To the extraordinary cast and production team: thank you for diving headfirst into this world of quirk and magic. Your openness, creativity, and generosity have made this process an immense joy.

## The story

### Act I

Amélie Poulain's world is introduced by the people in her life, each observing how the smallest encounters can create connections between apparent strangers (FLIGHT OF THE BLUE FLY). Raised by two highly anxious parents, young Amélie grows up without affection or companionship (WORLD'S BEST PAPA). Her only friend, a pet fish, is taken from her (WORLD'S BEST FRIEND). Her mother is killed when a man leaps from Notre Dame and lands on top of her (WORLD'S BEST MAMA). Amélie's father turns a garden gnome into a shrine for his wife's ashes (POST MORTEM). Amélie, now seventeen, leaves home to create a life of her own in Paris.

Six years later, Amélie works as a waitress at the Two Windmills Café (THE SOUND OF GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES). She relishes in the eccentricities of her colleagues and regulars, but is still unable to make emotional connections, and returns home alone each night (THE COMMUTE HOME). Elsewhere in Paris, Nino Quincampoix collects the discarded fragments of photo booth portraits (WHEN THE BOOTH GOES BRIGHT), imagining the lives of those in the photos.

Alone in her apartment, Amélie learns of Princess Diana's death. Startled, she drops the lid of her perfume bottle, which dislodges a tile, revealing a small box filled with childhood treasures hidden decades ago (THE BOTTLE DROPS). Amélie resolves to find its owner. Her quest leads her through her neighbourhood (THREE FIGS), where she stumbles into Nino, and experiences an overwhelming rush of emotion (HAND OF DESTINY). Amélie's reclusive neighbour, Dufayel, helps her with her search (GIRL WITH THE GLASS). Amélie returns the box to its owner anonymously, observing his reaction from a distance (HOW TO TELL TIME). She now embraces a new mission, giving a beggar a vivid tour of Montmartre (TOUR DE FRANCE). Returning home, she imagines herself being honoured in death like Princess Diana, with a eulogy performed by Elton John (GOODBYE AMÉLIE).

### Act II

Amélie goes to the cinema, daydreaming about Nino (HALF ASLEEP). She visits her father and is distressed to find he is still obsessed with his garden gnome (BACKYARD). Hoping to jolt him out of his grief, Amélie steals the gnome and asks Philomène the air stewardess to take it around the world with her. Amélie finds Nino's lost photo album, and notices a Mysterious Man whose photo appears again and again – clearly Nino is trying to uncover his identity. She plans to return Nino's book, but runs away at the last moment (SISTER'S PICKLE).

Reflecting on her fear of connection (HALFWAY), Amélie begins taking bolder steps: sending Nino a photo of herself dressed as Zorro, fabricating a letter from Gina's deceased husband (WINDOW SEAT), and nudging Georgette and Joseph into a surprise fling. Nino plasters Paris with flyers of Amélie's masked face (THIN AIR), while her father finally visits her, showing her postcards from his travelling gnome (THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE GNOME).

Amélie is convinced she has found her purpose in life (TIMES ARE HARD FOR DREAMERS). She arranges a meeting with Nino, but when he arrives he finds clues guiding him to a telescope, through which he can glimpse her (BLUE ARROW SUITE). Nino demands they meet in person. As Amélie waits for him at the Two Windmills, she panics (THE LATE NINO QUINCAMPOIX) and flees. When he arrives at the café, Suzanne, Georgette, and Gina grill Nino, ensuring he is right for Amélie (A BETTER HAIRCUT). Satisfied, they send him to her apartment.

Nino arrives at Amélie's doorstep. She is too afraid to open the door, but doesn't want him to go (STAY). With Dufayel's encouragement, she finally lets Nino in. Through their fear, Amélie and Nino approach one another and kiss (HALFWAY REPRISE). Amélie takes Nino to an out-of-order photo booth, where the Mysterious Man appears, concluding Nino's long search. Amélie and Nino imagine what the future might hold for them (WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?), as the company reminds them that every moment is connected, though no one knows why or how.

# Cast



**Rachel McSweeney**  
Amélie Poulain

Rachel McSweeney is a Pōneke-based theatre performer and graduate of Te Auaha with a Bachelor of Performing Arts. Rachel's recent stage highlights include *Sleeping Beauty: The Pantomime* (Circa), *Lizzie and Natasha*, *Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (WITCH Music Theatre), and most recently Capital Theatre Trust's *Mamma Mia!* Rachel had the pleasure of seeing the show live in 2017, with Phillipa Soo portraying Amélie. Since re-entering the world of *Amélie*, she has fallen right back in love with all the magic it has in store.



**Henry Ashby**  
Nino Quincampoix

Henry Ashby is an actor, musician, and performer based in Pōneke, Aotearoa. Recent theatre credits include Anatole in *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (NZ premiere), Alternate Fiyero in *Wicked*, and roles in *Monster Songs* and *Antonio!*. Screen credits include Kent Lawson in *Shortland Street*. Henry also fronts the pop band Skram. Ever drawn to stories brimming with heart and wonder, they are delighted to portray Nino Quincampoix in the magical Australasian premiere of *Amélie* with WITCH Music Theatre.



**Craig Beardsworth**  
Raphael Poulain /  
Collignon's Dad  
(u.s. Bretodeau)

Craig has a B.Mus Opera (Hons) from Victoria University. He has sung in over 20 productions with the NZ Opera Chorus, travelled from Kerikeri to Bluff with Chamber Music NZ, and sung at The Vatican with Tudor Consort. Solo work includes oratorio with choirs in NZ and New Caledonia, CDs for Waitiata Press and Sirius Press, a musical for RNZ, and lead roles for Wanderlust Theatre, and Commons Opera. He has sung in private concert for royalty and an ostrich (sadly separate events). He teaches voice at Te Auaha.



**William Duignan**  
Fluffy / Tourist / Elton John  
(u.s. Raphael Poulain)

William Duignan (he/him) is a Wellington-based actor, musician, and writer, thrilled to return for his fifth WITCH Music Theatre quirky and heartfelt production. Recent credits include "Daddimo" Sam Carmichael in *Mamma Mia!*, Once (Court Theatre), Pierre in *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* (Outstanding Performance nominee, Wellington Theatre Awards 2024), and Antonio in the internationally acclaimed *Antonio!*. His play and the *Lochburns* (Circa Theatre, 2024) received eleven Wellington Theatre Award nominations. Toitū te Tiriti. Free Palestine. Trans lives matter.



**Gemma Hoskins**  
Amandine Poulain / Philomène  
/ Sylvie / Madam / Prompter  
(u.s. Georgette, and others)

Gemma is thrilled to join WITCH Music Theatre's *Amélie the Musical*, playing the complex and neurotic Amandine, along with a host of other far more delightful characters. Previous stage highlights include Donna in *Mamma Mia!*, Glinda (Alternate) in *Wicked*, Fantine in *Les Misérables*, and Ellen in *Miss Saigon*. She will next perform with country band Tararua Moonshine at Wairarapa's Music In The Country festival in 2026.



**Frankie Leota**  
Julien Dufayel / Stranger  
(u.s. Suzanne)

Frankie is a storyteller drawn to bold characters and resonant tales. Recent portayals include the indomitable Marya Dmitrievna in the Aotearoa New Zealand premiere of *Great Comet of 1812*, Madame Morrible *Wicked*, The Beggar Woman *Sweeney Todd*, Kate Sheppard *That Bloody Woman*, Tanya *Mamma Mia!*. Her solo creations have featured in national festivals with eightTEEN at the Measina Festival'19, Unseen debuted at the 2023 Karukatea Literary Festival and she was honoured to sing backing vocals for daughter Moana's show *Poets Before Me* at NZ Fringe'24.





## Jared Pallesen

Lucien / Beggar /  
Good Looking Lug  
(u.s. Garden Gnome)

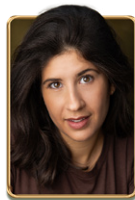
Jared's professional New Zealand credits include *Something Rotten!* and *RENT* (both Court Theatre), *Starlight Express* (The Really Useful Group) and multiple seasons as a lead vocalist in *Cringeworthy* at both Centrepunt and Circa theatres. Highlights from their time living in Sydney include Leaf in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Boq in *Wicked*, and Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*. WITCH audiences will recognise them from underscore, *ROXY*, and as Toby in *Sweeney Todd*.



## Jody McCartney

Suzanne  
(u.s. Amandine)

Jody is thrilled to be making her WITCH debut. Her theatrical credits include principal and other roles in *Mamma Mia*, *The Addams Family*, *Cats*, *Annie*, *Ovation*, *Les Misérables*, *42nd Street*, *Songs for a New World*, *My Fair Lady - in concert with the NZSO*. As part of a large fundraising initiative for the Life Flight Trust, she co-produced the acclaimed musical *Cabaret* also playing the iconic Sally Bowles. Jody also performed with the Royal NZ Ballet in the charitable event 'Breathe'.



## Adriana Calabrese

Gina  
(u.s. Collingnon's Mum  
and others)

Adriana Calabrese is an Italian-Australian actor and performer with a Bachelor of Creativity, majoring in Musical Theatre. Calabrese graduated in 2022, and has since performed in Te Whanganui-a-Tara in a number of professional and award-nominated productions. Some of her most notable credits include her professional theatre debut at Circa Theatre as Elinor Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility*, and being the swing for both Lizzie Borden and Alice Russel in the New Zealand professional premiere of *Lizzie the Musical*.



## Glenn Horsfall

Bretodeau / Collingnon  
(u.s. Fluffy, Elton John, Priest,  
Collingnon's Dad)

Glenn Horsfall is a Wellington-based performer whose career spans musical theatre, opera, and cabaret. He recently played Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia!* (Capital Theatre Trust) and created the award-winning solo show *This Wasn't the Plan* (Outstanding Solo Show, Auckland Tour Ready Award, Best in Fringe nomination, NZ Fringe 2025). Other credits include *Natasha*, *Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* and *Into the Woods* (WITCH Music Theatre), *End of the Rainbow* (Pinana Productions), *Les Misérables* (Capital Theatre Trust), and *The Mikado* (Court Theatre).



## Medhi Angot

Joseph / Garden Gnome  
(u.s. Beggar, Mysterious Man)

Medhi Angot trained at the Paris Opera Ballet School and built an international career as a dancer. He has performed with the English National Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet, and Nice Opera Ballet, touring worldwide in classical, neoclassical, and contemporary works. Renowned for his technical skill and versatility, he has danced many principal roles. Expanding into musical theatre, Medhi appeared as an Angel in *Kinky Boots*, Chistery in *Wicked*, and Pepper in *Mamma Mia!* (G&T/Capital Theatre Trust).



## Bethany Graf

Georgette / Collingnon's Mum  
(u.s. Amélie, Madam, and others)

Bethany Graf, 19, is a performer from Queenstown now based in Wellington, studying Musical Theatre at Te Auaha. Since moving to the capital, she has performed in *Mamma Mia!* at the St James Theatre and Te Auaha's grad show *Colour and Light*. Grateful to be learning from Wellington's most talented creatives, Bethany is thrilled to make her WITCH Music Theatre debut in *Amélie*. In 2026, she is relocating to Melbourne to study at the Patrick School of the Arts.

# Cast



## Monēt "Wiljo" Faifai-Collins

Hipolito / Priest

(u.s. Collingnon)

Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāi Tahu and  
Ngāti Kua. Manunu, Lufilufi and  
Savaia, Lefaga.

Monēt is a Samoan – Māori performer from Naenae. He recently just finished his degree at Te Auaha for musical theatre. He has always enjoyed performing from a young age and continues to try and live out that dream. So far, he's enjoyed some good success, some shows he's been a part of over the years have been, *One Bedroom Available...* (Riley), *HE INGOA* (Ensemble) and *Urinetown: The Musical* (Caldwell B. Cladwell).



## Kevin Orlando

Mysterious Man / Additional  
Vocals

(u.s. Julien Dufayel, Tourist, Hipolito,  
Joseph, Stranger)

Kevin Orlando is pleased to be performing with WITCH Music Theatre once again for this season of *Amélie*. You may have seen Kevin previously as Dolokhov in *The Great Comet of 1812*, Boq in *Wicked*, or as the Mysterious Man/ Narrator in WITCH Music Theatre's *Into The Woods*. Kevin would like to thank the incredible cast, crew and production team of this show, his incredible friends and beloved partner.



## Rachel Te Tau

Swing / Additional Vocals

(u.s. Gina, Philomène, Lucien,  
Prompter)

Rach Te Tau loves being part of the *Amélie* whānau, singing BVs and swinging into roles as needed. Off stage, she plays the lead role of 'māmā' to Matiu—her favourite child. Rach also recently debuted as a director for *Alice in Wonderland JR* at Upper Hutt Musical Theatre and, last year, played Mimi in *RENT* for Kauri Theatre. Her mission for this show? Sing, swing, and breadcrumb a little mischief wherever she can!



## Alistair Davies

Nino Quincampoix Cover  
/ Additional Vocals

Alistair is excited to be performing in his first WITCH show as Nino Cover and backing vocals. Alistair has extensive stage credits, and was most recently seen as Sky in *Mamma Mia!* Alistair is also currently directing *Catch Me If You Can* for Kauri Theatre company, which will be staged at the Gryphon Theatre in April 2026. Day to day, Ali works to increase our resilience to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanic activity and tsunamis, across Aotearoa New Zealand.

# Band

Piano/Conductor  
**Hayden Taylor**

Keys 2  
**Madelaine Telford**

Clarinet  
**Kaia Holborow**

Flute/Piccolo  
**Sarah Dillon**

Accordion/Trombone  
**Elliot Lee**

Cello  
**Esther Lee**

Guitar  
**Steve 'Shack' Morrison**

Double Bass  
**Rachael Hinds**

Percussion  
**Bec Watson**

Violin  
**Sarah Lawrence**

# Team

## Production

Stage Manager **Jennifer Petrovich**  
Production Manager **Vanessa Woodward**  
Rigger/Mechanist **Scott Maxim**  
Intimacy Coordinator **Ace Dalziel**  
Production Assistant **Sha Bliss**

## Lighting

Lighting Designer **Alex 'Fish' Fisher**  
Projection Designer **Rebekah de Roo**  
Lighting Operator **Tom Smith**  
Lighting Programmer **Riley Gibson**  
Lighting Crew **Riley Gibson, Tom Smith, Ethan Cranefield, Imogen Vlugter, Alex Dickson**  
Lighting Supplier **Grouse Lighting Aotearoa**

## Set

Production Designer **Ben Tucker-Emerson**  
Head of Production **Joshua Tucker-Emerson**  
Set Construction and Scenic Painting **Scott Maxim, Joshua Tucker-Emerson, Taylor Joynes, Ella Madsen Brough, Penny Nell, Ben Tucker-Emerson, Courtney Ilton, Sha Bliss, Justin Cheung, Tom Smith**  
Set Design Concept Artist **Justin Cheung**

## Sound

Sound Designer and Operator **Oliver Devlin**  
Sound 2 **Isla Richards**  
Audio Supplier **HardKase Audio**

## Props

Prop construction and design **Courtney Ilton, Scott Maxim, Nick Lerew, Ben Tucker-Emerson, Joshua Tucker-Emerson**  
Puppet Designer **James Fisher**

## Costume

Production Designer **Ben Tucker-Emerson**  
Costume Designers **Polly Crone & Dorothe Olsen**  
Wardrobe Management **Polly Crone**  
Wardrobe Coordinator **Dorothe Olsen**  
Costume Technicians **Renske Gordon, Polly Crone, Dorothe Olsen, Khristie Rhodes, Rhys Tunley**  
Dressers **Renske Gordon, Polly Crone, Dorothe Olsen, Rhys Tunley, Sha Bliss**

## Marketing

Marketing Manager & Graphic Designer  
**Ben Tucker-Emerson**  
Videography & Content Editor **Maeve O'Connell**  
Promotional Photography **Roc Torio**  
Production Photography **Maeve O'Connell, Bentley Stevenson**

## Front of House

Box Office Manager **Aislinn Sederel**  
Hannah Playhouse Manager **Eleanor Strathern**  
Venue Technicians **Michael Lyell-O'Reilly**  
Front of House Manager **Neal Barber**  
The Tasting Room **Andy Stone**  
The Hannah Playhouse Trust  
Front of House **Anna Smith, Emily Brown, Meg Leadbeater, Josh Franken, Margaret Hill, Kate Bain, Helen Oliver, Emma Salzano**

# Ngā mihi

**Wellington City Council, Four Winds Foundation, iTICKET, Te Aro Astanga Yoga Studio, Te Whaea, Toi Whakaari, Grouse Lighting Aotearoa, S\*LK Event Design & Signage, MESH, Hanging Around, The Royal New Zealand Ballet, YOO Crew, Hardkase Audio, Upper Hutt Musical Theatre, Regional News, The Post, Phantom Billstickers, Access Radio, The Big Picture, Milne Print, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, A-Z Flooring, Sign Biz, Footnote Dance**

**Kim Ransley, Jackie Newman, Emmanuelle Girard, Izzy Mercaldo, Eliana Zahalsky, Rowan Mcshane, Stephen Blackburn, Kathryn Graham, Kate Marshall, Eleanor Strathern, Maeve O'Connell, Bentley Stevenson, Sharron Pardoe, Simon Howard, Evan Phillips, Madeline Empson, Frances King, Lexi Boddy, Cath Rogers, Stevie Biernerhasset, Jade Merematira, Steve 'Shack' Morrison, Gloriana Meyers**

WITCH Music Theatre would like to extend our gratitude to the many friends and whānau of the cast and crew of *Amélie the Musical*, who have helped make this production possible

# Creative team

## Nick Lerew

Co-Director

Nick Lerew is très enthousiaste to be co-directing *Amélie* alongside his creative partner and wife, Maya Handa Naff. After spending over a decade working as a professional actor across the US and being based in New York City, Nick is beyond grateful to have the opportunity to continue directing and acting in Aotearoa New Zealand. Select NZ credits include: *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Co-Director), *Into the Woods* (Director), *Sweeney Todd* (Assist. Director/Dramaturg) with WITCH Music Theatre. *Wicked* (Fiyero) and *Les Misérables* (Marius) with Capital Theatre Trust and G&T Productions.

## Maya Handa Naff

Co-Director

Maya Handa Naff is thrilled to be back working with WITCH alongside her favourite creative partner, Nick Lerew.

Maya directed this year's hit production of *Mamma Mia* at the St. James, and is currently starring in 9 to 5 at The Court Theatre. Other directorial highlights include *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*, *Cabaret*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *BUG*. Maya is also a vocal director (*Lizzie*, *Into the Woods*, *This Wasn't the Plan*).

She runs a private studio teaching voice and acting: [mayahandanaff.co.nz](http://mayahandanaff.co.nz)

## Hayden Taylor

Music Director

Hayden has been working as a pianist and MD across Aotearoa since returning home from the UK in 2019. He has musical directed many shows for WITCH including *Into the Woods*, *The July Project*, *Lizzie*, and *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*. Hayden is the music tutor for the acting course at Toi Whakaari and has worked on many plays with music including *Mr Burns: a post apocalyptic play* and *...and the Lochburns*. He is also the keyboard player for The Tiwhas, the iconic Māori drag group. Hayden has enjoyed the musical challenge of *Amélie* piecing together a complex score and making a new and exciting piece of theatre.

## Leigh Evans

Choreographer

Leigh is a Director, Choreographer and Educator and has been working in the industry for four decades. She has worked on many musical theatre, stage productions and stadium events around the country and has been teaching the Musical Theatre and Commercial Dance Students at Whitireia for 24 of those years. For A24 Films, she worked alongside Joseph Gordon Levitt and Debra Winger on Apple TV's *Mr Corman* and was Mia Goth's movement coach for the slasher movie *Pearl*. Being part of the creative team for *Amélie* and spending time with the super talented onstage family has been la joie.

## Ben Tucker-Emerson

Creative Producer & Production Designer

Ben is thrilled to be the Creative Producer and Production Designer of *Amélie the Musical*. Over the last decade, Ben has worked as a producer, director, designer, and marketer across large-scale events, musicals, national arts festivals, and theatre companies. As the Director of WITCH Music Theatre, he is proud to have produced the acclaimed season of *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*, *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* and *Lizzie*. *Amélie* is one of Ben's favourite contemporary musicals, and he is excited to see audiences fall head over heels as he did. He is looking forward to bringing more new work to Wellington, with the Aotearoa premiere of *Ride the Cyclone* at Circa Theatre in April 2026.

## Joshua Tucker-Emerson

Technical Producer & Head of Production

Joshua has worked professionally as a theatre practitioner in Pōneke since 2016. He is the Technical Director of WITCH Music Theatre and is proud to have produced and designed numerous productions for the company over the past six years. Joshua is the Head of Lighting at the Royal New Zealand Ballet and has previously been a Project Manager with Grouse Lighting. His credits include: *Firebird* and *Nutcracker* with RNZB, *Diwali*; Background Lighting – WOMAD; Set Design (Wellington Theatre Awards Nominee) – *Into the Woods*, *Lizzie*, *Great Comet*; Lighting Design – Circa Theatre; and Head of Lighting Systems – NZ Opera.



## Oliver Devlin

### Sound Designer

Oliver Devlin is a theatre-maker, sound designer and songwriter based in Wellington. He has worked full time in the arts for over a decade. As a company member of theatre group Binge Culture, he has developed and toured shows through NZ, Australia and to the Edinburgh Fringe. He creates music for installation, film, and TV as well as with his band Hans Pucket.

## Alex 'Fish' Fisher

### Lighting Designer

Born and raised in Manuhierikia/Alexandra, Alex 'Fish' Fisher (he/him) is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Alongside his work as Kaitiaki Waihangā Production at Toi Whakaari, Fish works as a lighting designer and independent contemporary jeweller. This will be the third production Fish has lit for WITCH, following *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* & *Lizzie the Musical*. Other recent designs include *Ka Tito Au* (Toi Whakaari/Kia Mau Festival), *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (NZ School of Music).

## Aislinn Sederel

### Box Office Manager

Aislinn (Ash) Sederel discovered her love for theatre at fifteen. Since then, she has performed in numerous productions and contributed behind the scenes in choreography, stage, and production management across several theatre societies throughout the Wellington region. Now stepping into the role of Box Office Manager for *Amélie the Musical*, Ash is excited to work with WITCH Music Theatre for the first time and is grateful for the opportunity to help share this charming production with Wellington audiences.

## Madelaine Telford

### Assistant Music Director

Having spent the last two years away from the theatre on travels around the world, Maddy is thrilled to be making her Aotearoa theatrical debut in this production of *Amélie*. Previous work includes: Musical Director for South London Youth Theatre (2021-2023) for the following shows - *The Little Mermaid* (2023), *The Lion King* (2022); Vocal Coach for SLYT's *Legally Blonde* (2022); Musical Coordinator for Musicality, the University of Nottingham's Musical Theatre Society (2019-2020)

## Rebekah de Roo

### Projection Designer

Rebekah de Roo (she/her) is a video visuals and production designer based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. She completed an MFA in Theatre at Victoria University of Wellington. Her recent credits include design for Untitled Warehouse Project's *ENTRY* (NZ Fringe Grand Design Award) and *Omnia*, projection for *Prima Facie*, and lighting for award-winning show *Only Bones* - Daniel Nodder.

## Polly Crone

### Wardrobe Manager

Polly Crone is thrilled to be back with WITCH Music Theatre, managing the organised chaos and quirky costumes for *Amélie*. With a fashion design background and a decade in Wellington theatre, Polly's recent credits include *Ladies in Black*, *The Great Comet*, *Toxic Avenger*, and *Mamma Mia*. Polly's mission is ensuring every garment performs as flawlessly as the cast.

## Vanessa Woodward

### Production Manager & Rehearsal Stage Manager

Vanessa is ecstatic to be working with WITCH Music Theatre, to bring the magic of *Amélie* to New Zealand audiences. Vanessa has been working behind the scenes in Wellington theatre for over five years, most recently as Stage Manager for WITCH Music Theatre's *Lizzie The Musical* and *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*. Vanessa would like to thank the cast, crew and production team, and her friends, family and wonderful partner for their unwavering support.

## Jennifer Petrovich

### Stage Manager

Her love for the theatre and the people she meets there began in the 1980s, following a brief career as a dancer. Many tours with RNZB, Wellington Opera, and Australian and New Zealand Musical Productions were to follow, along with running a set construction and prop building business with her husband. There was a pause for a while to produce the next generation of theatre goers, her other most favourite job. She is very excited to be involved with WITCH Music Theatre for the first time, a group she has admired for a while now.



# Ride the Cyclone

## Buckle up for the ride of a lifetime!

Darkly funny, wildly imaginative, and surprisingly heartfelt, *Ride the Cyclone* is the viral musical phenomenon that has taken the world by storm.

In this hilarious and exhilarating story, the lives of six teenagers of the St. Cassian Chamber Choir are forever changed after they board a doomed rollercoaster ride. Thrown into the abyss, they awake to find an ominous mechanical fortune teller offering them the chance to compete for the prize ... to return home in one piece.

Now confronted with their darkest desires, shameful secrets and each other, the characters in this *"supremely witty ... and just plain delightful"* (New York Times) musical make a uniquely uplifting and outrageous case for what makes a life worth living.

An Aotearoa New Zealand Premiere

## Presale Registration Nov 24

Gain exclusive access to presale tickets, with registration live from November 24. Only available on the **WITCH Music Theatre** website.

## WITCH Music Theatre

Championing LGBTQIA+ art, creative programming, and fostering spaces of excellence for our artists to create work. WITCH Music Theatre prides itself as an alternative production house for music theatre in Aotearoa, producing engaging, entertaining and high-quality music theatre shows and experiences across Pōneke's stages.

Over the last seven years, we have produced shows such as: *Spring Awakening*, *Monster Songs: A Supernatural Pop Concert*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *ROXY: A New Hollywood Cabaret*, *Into the Woods*, *The Purple People Eater Pop Concert*, *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* and *Lizzie*. We are also proud to have collaborated with Wellington City Council Creative Capital Arts Trust (CubaDupa) BATS Theatre, Auckland Live and the Hawkes Bay Arts and Events Centre.

WITCH Music Theatre values imaginative productions, powerhouse performances, and showcasing the talent of Pōneke. We are committed to supporting our artists and practitioners by providing a space to develop and hone their craft as well as sharing the success of any show's proceeds in the form of box-office profit share.

## Circa Theatre Opens April 10 2026

*"...utterly charming, utterly bonkers, and utterly wonderful..."*

ArtsHub Australia

★★★★★

*"combines teen existentialism, and sophisticated wit and theatricality"*

Sydney Morning Herald

★★★★½

 **CIRCA**  
THEATRE

