

Umbrella Foundation presents:

DRIFTWOOD

THE MUSICAL

**An epic story of love, courage, survival... and foldable umbrellas!
Based on Eva de Jong-Duldig's memoir**

Directed by Gary Abrahams
Based on an original stage play by Jane Bodie
Composition & musical direction by Anthony Barnhill



A brilliant new Australian musical

About Driftwood The Musical

A magical story of art and creativity, survival and perseverance, family, freedom and love.

Driftwood The Musical tells the inspirational story of the renowned Austrian/Australian sculptor Karl Duldig and his artist/inventor wife, Slawa Horowitz-Duldig. We follow their lives in pre-war Vienna, Slawa's ingenious invention of the foldable umbrella, and an incredible chain of events: miraculously escaping the Holocaust and rebuilding their careers as artists in Melbourne. A magical story of art and creativity, survival and perseverance, family, freedom and love.

This epic story traverses three continents and three generations and is based on an original stage play by Jane Bodie, and memoir of Eva de Jong-Duldig. Book by Gary Abrahams and Jane Bodie, music and lyrics by Anthony Barnhill, additional lyrics by Jane Bodie and Tania de Jong AM. The show is directed by Gary Abrahams.

“Driftwood The Musical is a moving, enthralling story of a family surviving the ravages of war. It is so timely, that it’s both poetical and painful. The stage craft is mesmerising. The music is sublime. The acting and singing are superlative. This world premiere production is set to take the world by storm. This story and stunningly-crafted musical deserves to tour the world as a beacon of hope, and a reminder to avoid history repeating itself.”

– Stephanie Johnson, Australian Stage

“Driftwood The Musical is a must-see production that tells a powerful and inspirational story of survival, perseverance, and creativity. Expertly brought to life by a gifted cast and a visionary creative team, Driftwood stands as a magnificent display of theatrical brilliance that leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of all who witness it.”

– Dance Life Australia



Reviews

“Driftwood comes together with so much talent and commitment. The singing is excellent. Based on a true story, this show has heart.”

– **Cameron Woodhead, The Age**

“This is a heartfelt show...the inventive storytelling and excellent performances, along with a not-unwelcome dose of nostalgia, make it hard to resist. Anthony Barnhill’s impressive score, which deserves a bigger band, melds razor-sharp narrative and big showstoppers with the emotional jolt of traditional Jewish prayer song. Meanwhile, director Gary Abrahams stitches together the complicated, stop-start episodes with clarity and pace.”

– **Sue Williams and Harriet Cunningham, Sydney Morning Herald**

“Driftwood ticks all the warm and fuzzy boxes. That’s what audiences need and want! To leave the theatre feeling uplifted and grateful for their lot in life. Maybe some will gain a desire to find out more about their own stories. This musical might be ‘small in scale, but it’s big on emotion!’ Don’t miss it!”

– **Jonathan Cox, Stage Whispers**

“Some people either love Musicals or not. Driftwood The Musical is one that all will enjoy. This true story will not only tug on your heartstrings with a rollercoaster of emotions, but it will also be an uplifting memorable experience. This an exceptional musical led by an incredible cast and creative team. I was totally in awe of the cast’s talent and throughout the production, I felt my eyes sting with tears. I was extremely moved and reminded of the strength of the human spirit. I fully recommend you all attempt to see this fabulous production of an important historic story.”

– **Weekend Notes**

“An extraordinary musical with emotion, heart and compassion to spare. Not enough superlatives exist to extend to the cast. The ultimate feeling viewers are left with afterwards is one of hope, happiness and a renewal in faith of the human spirit.”

– **Tinsel and Tap Shoes**

“An Australian musical of impressive quality and innate humanity, Driftwood the Musical deserves every success as it spreads its inspiring message of joy and hope.”

– **Man in Chair**

[Read more reviews and testimonials here.](#)

Videos & Photos

View the 2023 highlights reel: [Click here](#)

View the Driftwood videos here: [Click here](#)

Production photos: [Click here](#)



Key Audiences

- General audiences
- Jewish, European and other migrant communities
- First Nations communities
- Secondary school students and teachers
- Musical and theatre lovers, particularly 40 + female
- People interested in history, art, design, creativity, invention, Holocaust and WWII



Technical Requirements

Theatre Format – Proscenium Arch or end on Black box

Staging requirements – Depth of 8000mm from stage edge, 12000mm stage width

Plus offstage wings and crossover.

Standard Legs and Borders will be utilised if performed in a Proscenium Arch venue. A black smother is requested US of the set.

Ability for Overhead Rigging of Screen totalling 60kgs.

Bump In (hrs) – 7 hours with 1 x multi-skilled crew for 7 hours and 2 x multi-skilled crew for 5 hours

Duration	Task
3 hrs	Unload Truck / Set Bump-in Run circuits for floor lx Install toured audio equipment
2 hrs	Lighting Focus, LX re-plot
1 hr	Dark time – for projection
1 hr	SND level check & quiet time

Bump Out (hrs) – 2.5 – 3 hrs ; 3 x MX

Lighting Requirements:

12 x moving head wash lights
3 x Infinity S601's or equivalent
6 x RGBW Profiles 25-50 degree
5 x 150 Watt footlights
6 x SL PAR 155's or 4x LED bars

Audio Requirements – FOH speakers, subs, fill speakers (front fill, delays, in-fill (venue dependent))

- 2 x FOLDBACK – USL & USR - 10" – 15" Speaker Stands at head height as side fill
- 2 x FOLDBACK – DSL & DSR - 10" – 15" Speaker Stands at head height as side fill
- SFX – USL - 10" – 15" Speaker
- SFX – USR - 10" – 15" Speaker

1 x 30m 16 channel analog XLR Multicore, 2 x cat 5 & 2 x tall microphone stands

Music requirements - 1 x baby/grand piano & stool, 2 x music stands, 4 x sconce lights, 2 x chairs for musicians

AV Requirements – 1 x 12000 lumen laser projector and remote

Appropriate data patching for vision between FOH ops position and projector
Appropriate data patching to shutter system or projector's AV mute functionality
HDMI Input at FOH Ops position

Backstage requirements – 2 x trestle tables, 2 x clothes racks, 2 x tall mirrors

Touring party - 11 (5 cast, 3 musicians & 3 crew)

[Download full technical specifications here.](#)



Creative Team

Full [cast](#) and [creative team](#) biographies.



Gary Abrahams Director

Since graduating from The Victorian College of The Arts Gary has directed the Australian premieres and national tours of several contemporary plays, as well as classic texts, new Australian works, and devised projects. His recent credits include *Admissions*, *Buyer and Cellar* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Yentl*, *Ghetto Cabaret* (Kadimah Yiddish Theatre), *Iphigenia in Splott*, *Pomona* (Red Stitch), *Hand to God*, *Bad Jews*, *You're a good Man Charlie Brown* (Vass Theatre Group), *33 Variations*, *Angels in America*, *Resident Alien* (Cameron Lukey Productions). For his own company *Dirty Pretty Theatre* he has written, adapted and directed *Therese Raquin* (Theatre Works), *The Lonely Wolf* (MTC Neon Festival), *Something Natural but Very Childish*, *Acts of Deceit Between Strangers in a Room* (La Mama). He is a recipient of the Grace Wilson Trust Award for writing, the Jim Marks Scholarship for Artistic Practice and the Mike Walsh Fellowship for directing. He is also a Greenroom Award Winner and multiple nominee for his directing, playwriting and dramaturgy work.



Anthony Barnhill Composer, Lyricist, Arranger & Musical Director

Anthony is a leading Australian conductor, pianist, and composer. He was recently Musical Director for Opera Australia's production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, the best-selling show of all time at the Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne. Critics hailed that "*nothing thrills more than the music, with conductor Anthony Barnhill on board to coax a commanding richness from the orchestra*" [The Guardian]. For the 2019 international tour of *West Side Story*, Anthony conducted performances at renowned opera houses around the world, such as the Dresden and Berlin State Opera. His involvement with the show continued, music supervising the 2021 Perth and Brisbane seasons. As Musical Director for Australian International Productions, Anthony led concert performances in twelve cities throughout China. His other musical theatre credits include *Chicago*, *Evita*, and *Oklahoma!*. Anthony studied at Monash University achieving the university's highest performance result in each year of study.



Tania de Jong AM Creator, Producer & Additional Lyrics

Tania de Jong AM is an acclaimed soprano who performs across classical, music theatre, contemporary, sacred, spiritual and world genres. She also MCs and presents keynote speeches, voice workshops, immersive sound experiences and uses voice as a healing modality. She creates heartfelt music and performances for meditation and prayer, tribute, reflection, inspiration and illumination and has released 6 solo albums.

Tania performed with the Victoria State Opera and has appeared in operas, musicals and for orchestras, festivals, corporate and special events globally. Her internationally renowned singing group Pot-Pourri have released 7 albums and performed in over 40 countries. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2008. Her TED Talk: '*How singing together changes the brain*' has sparked international interest. Tania is the Founder of four charities - Umbrella Foundation, Mind Medicine Australia, The Song Room and Creativity Australia and the *With One Voice* program, and Creative Universe, Creative Innovation Global, Pot-Pourri and MTA Entertainment & Events. Tania's mission is to change the world, one voice at a time.

Driftwood in the Media

Herald Sun, 13 May 2023

"Passion Play"

[Full article](#)

Sydney Morning Herald, 24 May 2023

"Saga of three generations unfolds from an umbrella"

[Full article](#)

Australian Jewish News, 28 April 2023

"Survival, Hope, Art, and Above All Else, Family"

[Full article](#)

The Stage Show with Michael Cathcart, ABC Radio National, 18 April 2023

"Featuring the cast of Driftwood The Musical"

[Listen here \(Audio begins at 30min\)](#)

ABC Nightlife with Phillip Clark, 18 April 2023

"Driftwood The Historical Musical Story"

[Listen here](#)

The Sunday Telegraph, 16 April 2023

"Driftwood, a mother daughter legacy on the Sydney stage"

[Full article](#)

Limelight Magazine, 11 April 2023

"Building bridges out of Driftwood"

[Read more](#)

The Daily Telegraph, 19 May 2023

"Slawa's invention is a ray of sunshine to all"

[Full article](#)

[Read more articles here.](#)





UMBRELLA
FOUNDATION

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Availability from February 2024

"We are spread out in every direction of the wind."
Karl Duldig, 1941



Learn more at: www.driftwoodthemusical.com.au