

SHORT + SWEET THEATRE

MAY 10 - AUGUST 22, 2021

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PROGRAM 2021

SYDNEY

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SHORT+SWEET SYDNEY

2020 HINDSIGHT FINAL SUNDAY MAY 16 — 2PM

2020 HINDSIGHT AWARDS GALA SUNDAY MAY 16 — 6PM

2021 COMPETITION MAY 20 — AUGUST 22, 2021


Get your tickets to Short+Sweet Sydney
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Founder and Artistic Director – Mark Cleary
International Literary Manager – Alex Broun
Festival Director, Short+Sweet Theatre, Sydney – Nick Hardcastle
Festival Producer – Belinda Ling
Festival Production Manager – Karen Ways
Press and Publicity – Geoff Sirmai
Graphic Designer – Emily Maskimovic

MAJOR SPONSOR

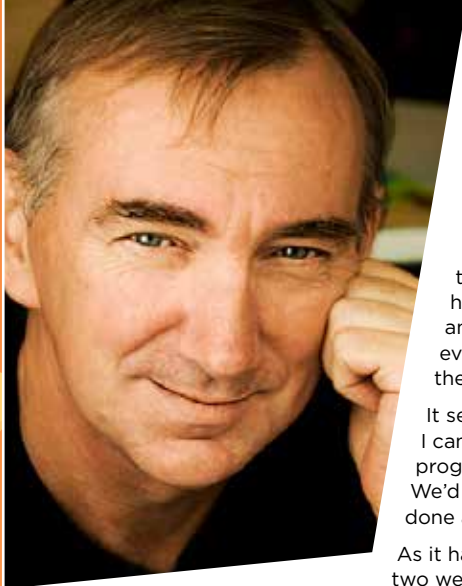


PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNER





A NOTE FROM FOUNDER MARK CLEARY

Welcome (back)

It doesn't seem enough to just welcome you to the theatre today as if nothing has significant has happened... to proceed as though it has been another normal year, without mention of the evil elephant in the room that still lurks around the edges.

It seems like an age ago (in March 2020) when I came back home after a fantastic Short+Sweet program in the UAE (Dubai/Abu Dhabi/Sharja). We'd managed to get the whole 8 week program done and I got a flight the day after it ended.

As it happened, I got back to Sydney days before the two week quarantine came into effect. The festival

in Sydney was halfway through and people were afraid, audiences evaporating, actors didn't want to be on stage (imagine that - actors not wanting to be on stage!). It was palpable. Like a dark cloud.

People didn't want to be inside and certainly not in a crowd. So we bit the bullet. It was a group decision but everyone was instantly relieved. We tightened our belts and took whatever other cliched actions were required to somehow survive. All our other festivals (12 countries worth) also shut down and shuttered, battering the hatches.

Even now as things start to open up with little light peeking through the cracks and around the edge of the metaphorical door, I'm still trying to find the silver lining. Maybe there isn't one. Lots of artists did their best through this time with Zoom and other mechanical solutions. I didn't have the heart for it. Because our heart is 'live' performance. People, in a room, telling their stories to other people, and the more the merrier... So we made plans for our comeback and stepped away a couple of times... it didn't seem right (safe) until now... yes we've just has another scare but we've gotten better at all this and the vaccine is rolling out...

There have been a few minor miracles during the covid time. We presented a fantastic new festival in Perth (finished last month) and that went off without a hitch thanks to a wonderful local team led by Michael Woods. Dubai, rebooted, rebounded with a bang.

So for Sydney I'm so grateful that Nick Hardcastle (your fabulous S+S Sydney Festival Director) decided to give Los Angeles a wide berth, for the moment at least and came back home.

Hollywood's loss is our gain and now it's (finally) Sydney's turn. So, Welcome back! As if it was a normal year...

Mark Cleary

Artistic Director
Short+Sweet

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

2020 was an incredibly challenging year for all of us – particularly those of us working in the theatre. Our 2020 Short+Sweet Sydney Theatre Festival was cut short at week 5 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and I was living in Los Angeles, where rising case numbers and deaths and an incredibly hostile political climate led to at least one silver lining. I came back to Australia. Now, here I am, back in the theatre, well before anyone in the US has been able to be, presenting Short+Sweet Sydney as we turn the lights back on at the Tom Mann.

It's wonderful to be able to present the top plays that were performed last year, with our 'HINDSIGHT 2020' Final to launch this year's Festival. Our thanks to JJ Splice, Simona Janek and Casting Networks for honoring their promised 2020 prizes to the 2020 winners and their for continued support. My thanks also to our esteemed judges joining us at the finals and throughout the Festival.

I'm thrilled to be able to welcome back so many of our 2020 participants for HINDSIGHT and this year's competition. Our greatest challenge this year was simply to get the Festival back open amidst continued lockdowns, restrictions, border closures and a range of new protocols and procedures that need to be adhered to in this 'New World'.

Well, we made it! Now, our mission is to bring to you, our audience and our participants, an experience really worth waiting for! We've made some changes to programming and have two groups performing each week, all named after one of our iconic Sydney beaches. We've done away with Wildcard entries, opening the festival right up and focused our attention on making Short+Sweet a truly inclusive festival with the creation of our Diversity and Inclusion Programming Committee. Thank you to Mark Cleary and my team, especially Belinda Ling, Karen Ways and Geoff Sirmai and everyone who has become a part of our first ever D&I Committee. You can request a copy of our D&I strategy through our website shortandsweet.org/ Sydney.



We have also introduced the Inaugural Short+Sweet Actor's Circle, which instead of awarding a Best Actor or Best Actress, is acknowledging 5 outstanding performances irrespective of gender identity.

In the interest of reducing unnecessary contact and increasing a commitment to sustainability, we have gone digital with ticketing and voting this year and have introduced upcycled, re-useable and recyclable drinkware from One Green Cup. This is thanks to our Major Sponsor, Screenwise, Australia's leading screen acting school.

Finally, we have a professional development program that offers free workshops and panels for our participants, with writers, actors, directors, casting directors, industry thought leaders and mental health professionals, which kicks off in July and promises to add enormous value to the Short+Sweet experience.

While we continue to navigate many new and unpredictable circumstances outside of our control, we hope that you'll join us for the journey and come back often to share in some incredible stories from around the globe with some truly brilliant local talent.

Thank you for having me Sydney- it's great to be back!

Nick Hardcastle
Festival Director



@nickcastlehard

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Short+Sweet 2021 takes place on Gadigal land. We are honoured that Matthew Doye has generously prepared our very special Welcome to Country. Matthew Doyle is a descendant of the Muruwari people from the Lightning Ridge area of NSW and was born and raised on Gadigal land. He is a professional musician, composer, dancer, choreographer, cultural consultant and educator, with a passion for passing on the indigenous languages of Sydney.

From 1985-1988 Matthew completed an Associate Diploma in with the prestigious Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre (now, NAISDA Dance College). In 1990 he returned to AIDT to become a founding member of their professional company, where he worked on several productions.

Matthew's company, Wuriniri Music & Dance, is comprised of professional indigenous musicians and dancers who create and present both contemporary and traditional performances.

Matthew has toured extensively in Australia and abroad, performing in many countries as both a Soloist and a Collaborator. He has performed in many major international events including the 1996 Olympic Games Closing Ceremony in Atlanta and the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Matthew played didgeridoo on top of the Sydney Opera House, as part of the ABC Millennium Broadcast. Other performing credits include the opening of the Indigenous Gallery Musée Du Quay Branly in Paris, World Expo Japan, World Youth Day 2008 and the production of "I am Eora" at the 2012 Sydney Festival.

SHORT SWEET SYDNEY

Your Stories, Your Voice, Your City. YOUR FESTIVAL Since 2002!

This year all of our short works have been programmed in to groups that are named after one of Sydney's iconic beaches. Each group will present a minimum of 3 performances over four days, ahead of being considered for our Finals Week.

All performances are at the Tom Mann Theatre in Surry Hills.



BONDI & MANLY

WEEK BEGINNING MAY 17



Thursday 7:30pm BONDI
 Friday 7:30pm MANLY
 Saturday 2pm MANLY
 Saturday 7:30pm BONDI
 Sunday 2pm BONDI
 Sunday 6pm MANLY

COOGEE & NEWPORT

WEEK BEGINNING MAY 24



Thursday 7:30pm COOGEE
 Friday 7:30pm NEWPORT
 Saturday 2pm NEWPORT
 Saturday 7:30pm COOGEE
 Sunday 2pm COOGEE
 Sunday 6pm NEWPORT

BRONTE & FAIRLIGHT

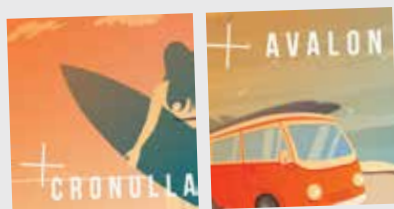
WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 7



Thursday 7:30pm BRONTE
 Friday 7:30pm FAIRLIGHT
 Saturday 2pm FAIRLIGHT
 Saturday 7:30pm BRONTE
 Sunday 2pm BRONTE
 Sunday 6pm FAIRLIGHT

CRONULLA & AVALON

WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 14



Thursday 7:30pm CRONULLA
 Friday 7:30pm AVALON
 Saturday 2pm AVALON
 Saturday 7:30pm CRONULLA
 Sunday 2pm CRONULLA
 Sunday 6pm AVALON

TAMARAMA & CURL CURL

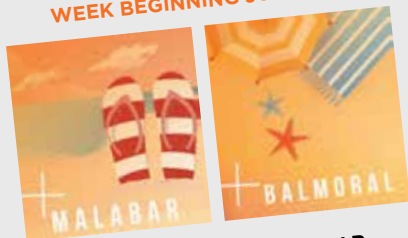
WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 21



Thursday 7:30pm TAMARAMA
 Friday 7:30pm CURL CURL
 Saturday 2pm CURL CURL
 Saturday 7:30pm TAMARAMA
 Sunday 2pm TAMARAMA
 Sunday 6pm CURL CURL

MALABAR & BALMORAL

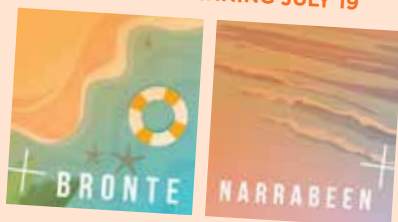
WEEK BEGINNING JULY 12



Thursday 7:30pm MALABAR
 Friday 7:30pm BALMORAL
 Saturday 2pm BALMORAL
 Saturday 7:30pm MALABAR
 Sunday 2pm MALABAR
 Sunday 6pm BALMORAL

MAROUBRA & NARRABEEN

WEEK BEGINNING JULY 19



Thursday 7:30pm MAROUBRA
 Friday 7:30pm NARRABEEN
 Saturday 2pm NARRABEEN
 Saturday 7:30pm MAROUBRA
 Sunday 2pm MAROUBRA
 Sunday 6pm NARRABEEN

CLOVELLY & PALM BEACH

WEEK BEGINNING JULY 26



Thursday 7:30pm CLOVELLY
 Friday 7:30pm PALM BEACH
 Saturday 2pm PALM BEACH
 Saturday 7:30pm CLOVELLY
 Sunday 2pm CLOVELLY
 Sunday 6pm PALM BEACH

SEMI FINALS WEEK

WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST 9

Thursday 7:30pm CREW CUT SEMI 1
 Friday 7:30pm JUDGE'S CHOICE SEMI 1
 Saturday 2pm PEOPLE'S CHOICE SEMI 1
 Saturday 7:30pm PEOPLE'S CHOICE SEMI 2
 Sunday 2pm CREW CUT SEMI 2
 Sunday 6pm JUDGES CHOICE SEMI 2
 SUNDAY AUGUST 22 - GALA FINALS!



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MEET OUR TEAM

BELINDA LING FESTIVAL PRODUCER

As a newbie to the Short+Sweet world I did not know quite what to expect but what I have found is a beautiful community of creatives who are bonded by one thing - Storytelling in an extraordinary way!

With 2020 cutting the entire world off from the theatre, I am proud to be a part of this year's festival where we turn the lights back on, hear and see stories presented unlike any other year and continue to grow into 2021.

Our new Diversity and Inclusion Programming Committee have opened us up to creatives and audiences we have not previously reached and I am excited to be a part of not only the legacy of Short+Sweet but also a new day in history of this remarkable festival.

To our returning participants, thank you for coming back. To my fellow newbies, thank you for joining us! Most importantly, to our audience thank you for filling our theatre and supporting live performance once again.

And now.... on with the show!!!!



KAREN WAYS PRODUCTION MANAGER

Already having extensive experience working in Film & Theatre and having lived in the USA on and off for the past 10 years, I graduated from the New York Film Academy (LA) with a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts (Acting) in 2018. My Short+Sweet journey began in Hollywood in 2019 when I asked then Festival Director Nick Hardcastle if he "needed any help." The next thing you know, I'm the Festival Coordinator for Short+Sweet Hollywood, and then the following year the opportunity came up to do it in Sydney before it was all cut short. This year I get to do it all again, while reconnecting with some wonderful people and making new friends. I look forward to seeing what 2021 will bring!

GEOFF SIRMAI PUBLICITY

This is my 19th Short+Sweet (!) and I can honestly say it's my favourite festival of the year. No other fest gathers together such a rich and varied collection of talent to create theatrical gold. Short+Sweet is true 'alchemy' and it's my pleasure and privilege to help spread the good word and gain media profile for our generous, passionate participants.

I'm especially delighted that this year Nick and the creative & production team have highlighted diversity and inclusion - and not just in theme or theory... but in practice! Doing what Short+Sweet does best - delighting audiences with short, tasty treats while hosting a creative melting pot - is only enhanced by welcoming more and varied, mouth-watering ingredients.

The meal is set. Now... come and get it!

Geoff Sirmai

Sirmai Arts Marketing



ALEX BROUN INTERNATIONAL LITERARY MANAGER

A former winner of the Sydney Theatre Company's Young Playwrights' Scheme, an Inscription Script Award winner and AWGIE nominee, playwright and screenwriter Alex Broun is a graduate of both the NIDA Playwrights Studio and the Australian Film Television and Radio School. Often referred to as the "Shakespeare of short plays" Alex is one of the world's leading experts on 10-minute plays and one of the world's most produced 10-minute playwrights, with over 150 different 10-minute plays produced in over 2000 productions around the world in over 40 countries including: Australia, Canada, China, Chile, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, UAE, UK and USA. His most popular short play 10,000 Cigarettes has enjoyed over 300 productions across the globe including being produced in 42 states of the USA. His plays have also been translated into many languages, including Arabic, and published around the world. In mid-2008 he launched www.alexbroun.com, where you can read and download many of his plays for a small fee. As at July 2019 the website had accumulated over 35 million hits and was rated as high as number 2 in the world on Google for "ten-minute plays". Alex has worked extensively with Short+Sweet, since the very first Festival back in 2002. Indeed he had a play performed on the very first ever night of Short+Sweet, directed by one Mark Cleary! From 2004 to 2006 and again from 2008 to 2010 Alex was the Festival Director of Short+Sweet Sydney and from 2005 to 2008 he was the Festival Director of Short+Sweet Melbourne. In 2007, he was the Artistic Director of the inaugural Short+Sweet Singapore.

Alex has launched Short+Sweet Festivals in Brisbane (2009), Auckland (2010), Delhi (2010), Rockhampton (2010), Bangalore (2012), Dubai (2013) and Abu Dhabi (2016). In 2010 he was Artistic Director of the national tour of Shorter+Sweeter, the best of Short+Sweet that performed in over 40 venues across the country. He currently serves as the Literary Manager for Short+Sweet International, a position he has held since 2019. He lives in Dubai currently where he is the Head of Drama at Studio Republik.



PRIZES

Short+Sweet would like to thank all of its prize partners this year.

We provide prizes that allow our winners to continue on their professional development journey. From headshots, casting memberships, audition tools, workshops and scriptwriting software, we have them covered!

This year's Prize categories are;

BEST PRODUCTION

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BEST DIRECTOR

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BEST SCRIPT

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THE INAUGURAL ACTOR'S CIRCLE

See next page

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Mentorship package

CREW CUT AWARD - PRODUCTION

Certificate

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD - PRODUCTION

Certificate

The winners of the Best Production and People's Choice Production will be invited to participate in Global Festivals when international participation can resume.

INTRODUCING THE ACTOR'S CIRCLE

This year we have created the inaugural Short+Sweet Actor's Circle. Instead of just identifying and rewarding one Best Male Actor and one Best Female Actor that appear in our Gala Final, we are creating a prestigious group of 5 performers that will be recognised for their outstanding work across the festival, irrespective of gender identity.

This year's inductees in to the Actor's Circle will receive;

- An Actor's Circle Trophy
- A 6 week introduction to screen acting course with thanks to Screenwise
- A premium 1 year membership to Casting Networks
- A headshot package with thanks to Simona Janek
- A 12 month membership to We Audition

We hope that the tradition of The Actor's Circle will continue with the festival around the World and will become recognised as a brilliant and special achievement for those individuals that become a part of it.



ACTOR'S
CIRCLE



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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMMING TEAM

To ensure that we have the opportunity to see the full breadth of our community here in Sydney represented on stage, we have been building a Diversity and Inclusion Programming Team. Everyone on this team has been engaging with specific community groups of writers, directors and actors to make sure that those artists have an opportunity to participate in the festival and that their stories can be shared. Whether they be diversely abled, BIPOC, new immigrants, LGBTQ+, have English as a second language or are elderly – our mission is for everyone to know that we have room for them at Short+Sweet and want them to be seen and heard.

This year is the first year that we have established a Diversity and Inclusion team and prepared a Diversity and Inclusion strategy in the way that we recruit talent and reach audiences. You can enquire to receive a copy of that strategy through our website.

The 2021 D&I Committee members include; Hunter Page Lochard, Garry Scales, Tracie Sammut, Vitas Varnas, Dan Graham, Sara Elizabeth Joyce, Rati Mambo, Jessica Orscik, Cris Bocchi, Olga Tamara, Jack Walton, Tiffany Wong, Aunty Uma Kali Shakti and Krassy Nova.

Thank you to everyone on our Inaugural D&I team for all your efforts – we hope that it will provide a lasting legacy of inclusion for Short+Sweet.







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SIDE **89.7**
FM

SIDE
BY **SIDE**
WITH
THE ARTS

2021

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“MIRANDA?! MIRANDA, DON'T GO UP THERE COME BACK!!!! AHHHH!”

Any lover of late night radio growing up in the 90's will know that the Sunday night theme to Artery on the national youth broadcaster was one of the scariest production pieces ever put to air.

However for lovers of film, theatre, musicals, indigenous, exhibitions as well as other art forms it was a portal into the underground world of the Arts.

And it was being heard, albeit late at night, on the radio!

Which is why Community Radio is so important to the cultural landscape of Australian media. Here you can find more support for local and independent artists than on any of other source for free! We want to know about the finer details of your creative production; we want to know what inspired you to develop this work; and we want you to be the one to tell our audience, live on air.

At EASTSIDE RADIO we devote 5 mornings to the Arts with our unique

90-minute program. Simply titled 'Arts', the show is presented every weekday by over 11 different presenters and producers. From poetry festivals to collector exhibitions: the role of women in Shakespeare as well as the architectural design of Sydney; there's indigenous installations and independent abstract theatre productions; plus of course Short + Sweet!

We're incredibly proud to be the Media Partner for Short + Sweet in 2021. We recognise the immediate need to provide support to an industry that provides immeasurable inspiration and joy to people's lives. And we believe that the Arts should be front and centre of everyone's attention, not just late at night, which is why we've been standing Side By Side with the Arts here on Eastside Radio since 1983.

Tune into Arts every weekday from 10:30am on 89.7FM, streaming and On Demand via eastsidefm.org or on DAB+ Digital Radio under 'Eastside Radio'.



Claudia Chen Shaw, Presenter Arts Friday



Paul Neeson, Presenter Arts Wednesday



Anthony Frater, Presenter Arts Wednesday

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- Television Presenting

Short courses run over 6 weeks and occur
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ABOUT **SCREENWISE**

Screenwise was established 21 years ago to provide specialist, career-focused training in acting for film and television. In today's industry, without a strong screen profile, it is difficult for actors to progress in any facet of acting.

Overseen by Denise Roberts (*Grey Nomads, Wonderland, Schapelle, Always Greener, GP*), Screenwise employs the crème de la crème of industry professionals: award-winning actors, directors and casting consultants who are articulate and inspirational tutors.

ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF **SCREEN ACTING**

The Advanced Diploma of Screen Acting is a two-year full-time comprehensive creative and technical screen acting program. It covers the full spectrum of skills training required to produce a highly skilled, professional screen actor.

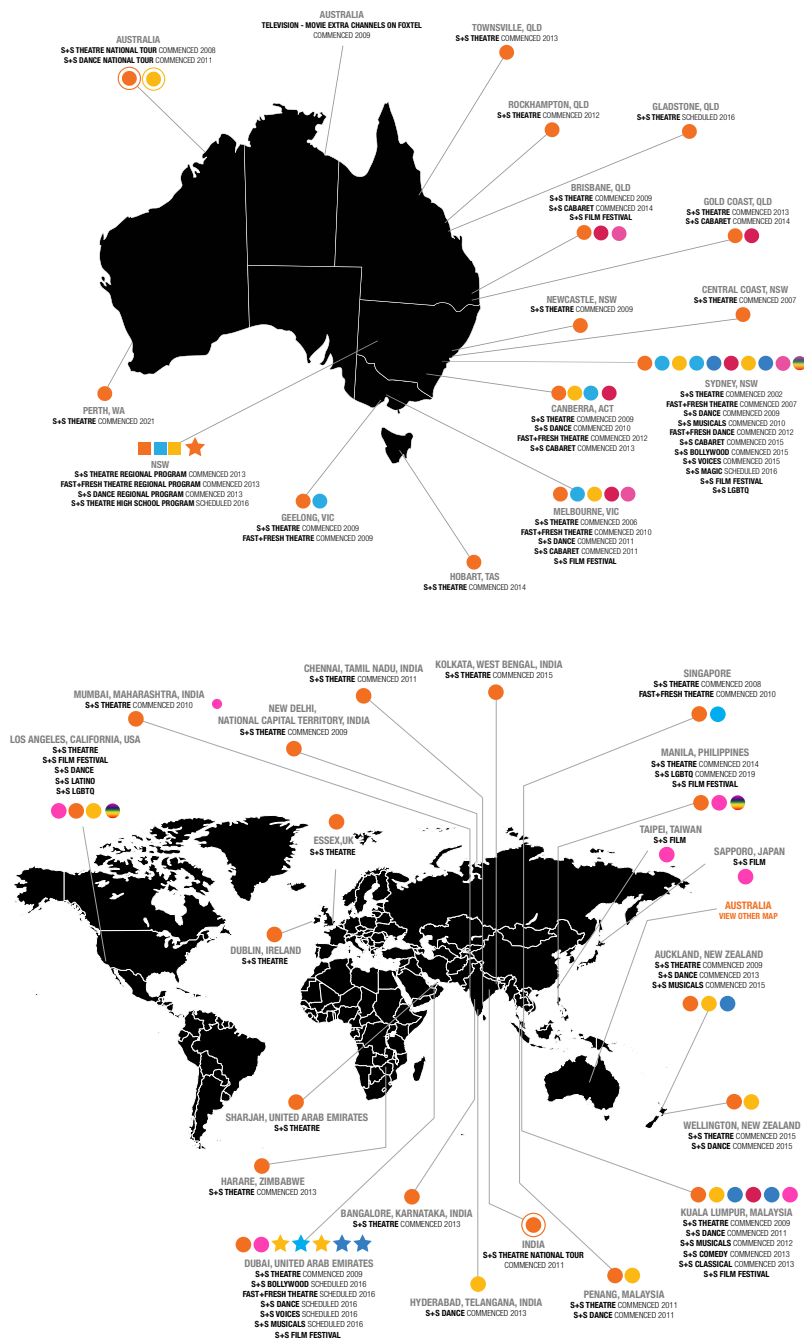
Based on the "Roberts Method", it mixes a strong academic element with a hard-nosed professionalism, providing total focus and immersion training in the skills and techniques required for screen acting to meet the demands of today's industry.



Screenwise is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO Code 91699) and is a member of Australian Council For Private Education & Training (ACPET).

The Screenwise Diploma of Screen Acting (10065NAT) is accredited with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

NATIONAL & WORLDWIDE FESTIVALS



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S+S THEATRE

FAST+FRESH
FAST+FRESH THEATRE

SHORT+SWEET
S+S DANCE
S+S BOLLYWOOD

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S+S MUSICALS
S+S VOICES
S+S DANCE
S+S CLASSICAL

SHORT+SWEET
S+S CABARET
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* Probably





THANK YOU

Short+Sweet is, at it's heart, a community event. As a result, it relies heavily upon the community that it has built in order to come back year after year. This is now the 19th Festival in Sydney, the birthplace of Short+Sweet and just like the other 18 events behind us, there are a huge amount of people to thank.

First of all – the participants. To the Writers, Directors and Actors who have returned to Short+Sweet, or joined us for the first time. THANK YOU! You're the reason this festival has become the Biggest little play festival in the World! We are so grateful for your enthusiasm, joy and creativity and to be able to provide a platform to share that with our audience.

Without an audience it would be all for naught – so a huge thank you to our audience for joining us to see and hear these stories. That exchange is ultimately what theatre is all about!

A huge thank you to our judges that volunteer to come in every week as well as our HINDSIGHT 2020 and Gala judges including Rachael Beck, Jessica Rowe, Luke Jacobz, Martin Crewes and Tony Bonner.

We simply would not have been able to deliver this year's festival without the support of:

- Bernie Ryan, Richard Block and the team from StageCenta
- Denise Roberts, Renee Currie and Tim Hope from Screenwise
- Dannielle Johnston from One Green Cup
- Jaudyn Cavanagh and Chris Ventura from AMPA
- Emily Maskimovic from Design Thread
- Greg Khoury and the Team at Century Venues and The Concourse at Chatswood
- Colin Laidlaw and the team from Joi Events
- The marketing team at Final Draft
- Katya Shmaiger from Kaligraphic
- Richard and Simone Salmon from SAE and their brilliant student Perle Isimbi for creating our Festival Opening Trailer.

We'd like to individually thank; Matthew Doyle, Olga Tamara, Jessica Orscik and Robbie Ryde from AAFTA, Jom from JOM Photo, Olivia Ansell, Pete Malicki, Our D&I Committee, Katrina Douglas, Gregory Dolgoplov, Holly Matheson, Ash Dougalss, Glen Marsden from the Imperfectly Perfect Campaign, David Smith and Tania Macdonald from Smith and Macdonald Creative management, Tim and the team at Kegs On Legs, Treasury Wine Estates, Michaeljon Slinger, Dean Francis from JJ Splice, Simona Janek, Reena Akhtar from Casting Networks, Gareth Cruickshank from Olde English Interiors, Lauren Brown from That Story, Lydia Kelly and finally... all of our Front of House and Stage Management volunteers that keep us going every night, especially Addie Fowler and Alex Liang.

SHORT+SWEET+

THERE'S ROOM
FOR EVERYONE
IN THIS FAMILY





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PART OF THE
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REVOLUTION.**



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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT SHORT+SWEET 2021!

We hope to welcome you back many times over the festival and again next year when we celebrate our 20th Anniversary!

Submissions will open for our 20th Birthday Celebration Festival as soon as the curtain closes on our 2021 event!

Be sure to stay in touch and to go to shortandsweet.org/Sydney for updates!

See you soon!

SHORTANDSWEET.ORG

