

THE RED SHOES

NIDA

FESTIVAL OF EMERGING ARTISTS

25 - 28 MARCH

SPONSORED BY PRIME VIDEO

Reg Grundy, NIDA
8:00 pm | 40 min (no interval)

Based on the folk tale by Hans Christian Andersen | Poems by Anna Maria Murphy | Adapted by Emma Rice | Directed by Jason Forrest | Music by Stu Barker

This production includes depictions of violent illusions and simulated bodily separations. Some scenes may be distressing for audience members. Viewer discretion is advised. Subject to change in the development of the production.

This bold new adaptation of *The Red Shoes* reimagines the classic tale through a queer lens.

After losing his mother, an orphaned boy is taken in by a wealthy old widow who offers him shelter, fine clothes, and a striking pair of red shoes from a local shoemaker. The shoes awaken something within him, becoming a powerful symbol of his true self and his unspoken desire.

When he dances in the red shoes, the boy discovers freedom, passion and love, sharing a tender moment with a young soldier that changes everything. But in a town ruled by fear and tradition, his joy is met with judgement. Rejected by the church and shunned by the community, he is forced to choose between conformity and authenticity.

Defiant and determined, the boy steps into his future, toward a life shaped by courage, identity and self-expression.

THE COMPANY

CAST (in order of appearance)

Lady Lydia:	Jennifer Roache
The Boy:	Marcello Aliberto*
Storyteller A/Preacher /Butcher:	Rashie Kase
Storyteller B/Old Lady /Justine:	Jenny Guigayoma*
Storyteller C/Soldier /Shoemaker:	Giani Fenech
Storyteller D/Preacher's Wife/Martha:	Kathleen Thomas*
Church Congregation:	Played by the Storytellers
The Angel:	Played by the Storytellers

Director:	Jason Forrest
Musical Director:	Joanna Fabro*
Choreographer:	Natalie Cunzolo*
Costume, Props & Set Designer:	Brooke Bostock
Costume, Props & Set Designer:	Edward John
Lighting Designer:	Lila Browning
Sound Designer:	Shevon McCormack-Edwards
Intimacy Consultant:	Bree Peters*
Voice Coach:	Angela Sullen*
Production Manager:	Chaii Ki Chapman*
Company Stage Manager:	Jay Cairns

Production Assistant: Luke McGilvray*
Construction Manager: Jonathon Hartley
Costume Supervisor: Jackson Lorrigan
Systems Manager: Brent Russell

*Guest Artist
** NIDA Staff

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Hans Christian Andersen's 1845 folktale *The Red Shoes* examines the cost of following one's true desire and what it means to "dance a different dance." Set against oppressive Christianity, it pits an orphan's passion for a pair of sinful red shoes against a world demanding obedience and conformity; a clash between a rigid establishment that says "conform" and a counterculture

that says "rebel". Yet the tale is also about resilience and recovery of self, suggesting that our wounds can become our strength. In this adaptation by Emma Rice and Anna Maria Murphy, the play moves toward hope, proposing that "you make your own fortune when you dance your own dance." [More on website: nida.edu.au]

DIRECTOR JASON FORREST



Jason Forrest has spent 30 years working as a performing artist and educator across a variety of sectors internationally, interstate and locally. Prior to

completing a Bachelor of Educational Theatre and a Graduate Diploma in Education in Adelaide, Jason was a member of touring acapella choir Before You Were Blonde and featured in several theatre productions including Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*. During this time, Jason also worked as a freelance dancer, touring shows locally and interstate.

As an experienced Drama and Media Studies teacher and educational leader, Jason has worked with primary and secondary school students in Adelaide, Melbourne, Japan, China, and United Kingdom to develop their expressive skills as performers and cultivate their aesthetic as emerging artists in film and theatre.

Jason has directed and produced numerous theatrical productions and events with young people and their respective communities for a wide range of purposes. Most recently, Jason completed his Graduate Certificate in Journalism and has continued to explore his interest in media studies through the completion of various radio, film and podcasting courses.

Jason's long and storied career in the Arts is testament to his creative drive, versatility and commitment to all aspects of theatre and filmmaking.

Thank you to the students from Diploma of Live Production & Technical Services for assistance during bump-in.
