

2019 WOW AWARDS SHOW

Creative Team

We are pleased to bring you the 2019 WOW Awards Show creative team. The team includes talent new to the world of WOW as well as returning WOW alumni. The team has been hard at work creating this year's show since June 2018. The 31st season of WOW is on in Wellington from 26 September to 13 October.



ANDY PACKER

Show Director

Andy is an Adelaide-based director of theatre, music theatre and opera who has also worked as a creative producer on multidisciplinary arts programs, large-scale outdoor events and festivals around the world. In 2007 Andy co-founded Adelaide based theatre company **Slingsby**. Andy's theatre productions have received 16 industry awards and toured to more than 100 theatres in over 70 cities and towns across 12 countries including USA, Canada, Spain, Norway, China and India, including two seasons on 42nd Street, New York, two seasons in the Dublin Theatre Festival and five seasons at the Sydney Opera House. He has worked with screen icons including Barry Humphries, Kristen Chenoweth and Molly Ringwald.

Andy is renowned for creating original live performance moments that are emotionally powerful and visually bold. His work across theatre for young audiences, opera, cabaret and symphonic concerts has pushed him to develop a distinctive theatrical form that is at once personal and epic.



DAN POTRA

Set & Costume Design

Dan Potra is an international designer across the full spectrum of the arts. Dan has received six Helpmann Award nominations for his design work in opera and theatre in Australia of which he has won three, including Best Scenic Design in 2008 for **Dead Man Walking** at the State Theatre in Sydney.

International opera and theatre productions include **The Portrait** for Opera North and Opera de Lorraine, **Idomeneo** directed by Graeme Vicks at Coruna Festival in Spain, **Cyrano de Bergerac** for the National Theatre of Greece, **Sweeney Todd** at Southbank London, **The Barber of Seville** for Houston Grand Opera, **A Streetcar Named Desire** and **Norma** for St Gallen Opera in Switzerland, **La Boheme** at Staatsopera in Berlin, **Hoffmans Adventure** with Folkoperan in Sweden and **Dracula** for the Royal Swedish Opera.

Dan has designed many large scale sporting and cultural events including the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, FIFA World Cup, and the Global Creatures/Dreamworks US stage adaptation of **How to Train Your Dragon**. Dan has most recently completed designs for **Jesus Christ Superstar**, **The Almighty Sometimes**, **La Boheme** on Sydney Harbour, **Scrooge the Musical** and **The Adventures of Peter Pan**, both for Music Hall in Belgium.



SARAH FOSTER-SPROULL

Director of Choreography

Sarah Foster-Sproull is an acclaimed choreographer working in New Zealand and internationally. She is the Artistic Director of **Foster Group Dance** and Creative New Zealand's Choreographic Fellow for 2017-2019. Sarah has choreographic relationships with **Footnote New Zealand Dance**, **The Royal New Zealand Ballet Company**, **Tamsyn Russell and DanceBase** (Edinburgh), **Guangdong Modern Dance Company** (China), **T.H.E.** (Singapore), and **VOU** (Fiji). To date, her choreographic work has been performed in New Zealand, Singapore, China, Britain, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and Fiji.

Sarah is a PhD student in creative practice at the University of Auckland - Dance Studies. She holds a Masters in Dance Studies (First Class Hons) from the University of Auckland with a focus on dancer-centred choreographic leadership. Her choreographic research traverses large scale works for up to 35 performers, to intimate performances involving one or two dancers. In 2015 she was one of five choreographers selected internationally by Crystal Pite (Kidd Pivot, Netherlands Dans Theatre, The Royal Ballet) to participate in the **Craft of Embodiment** workshop in Banff, Canada.

This year Sarah will premiere new work with the **Royal New Zealand Ballet Company**, **Footnote NZ Dance**, **Guangdong Modern Dance Company** (China), and **VOU** (Fiji) and act as the Director of Choreography at **WOW** (The World of WearableArt). She will also tour her acclaimed choreography **Orchids** nationally.

In her previous career as a performer, Sarah was a founding dancer and choreographer of **The New Zealand Dance Company**, and additionally danced for kiwi legends **Douglas Wright**, **Malia Johnston**, **Michael Parmenter**, and **Raewyn Hill**. Through her extensive performance career she has traveled to Australia, the Netherlands, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the Middle East, Canada, Germany, Fiji, Japan, Indonesia, and America.

Sarah was born in Dunedin, and is now based in Auckland where she runs her company **Foster Group Dance**, co-directs **Trigger Dance** (with Sarah Knox) and lectures in dance at the University of Auckland, and Unitec Performing and Screen Arts. Sarah received her tertiary dance training at the New Zealand School of Dance where she is a distinguished graduate. She is the mother of two young children, and married to theatre director, actor, and designer Andrew Foster.



PAUL MCLANEY

Music Director

In a recording and performance career spanning 20 years, Paul McLaney's music offerings have spanned the acoustic music of his solo career, the rock and pop of **Gramsci**, and the ambient electronica of **The Impending Adorations**. Added to this is his ever-expanding body of work for theatre with **ATC** and **SILO** amongst others. There is a common thread: "I believe that the essential ingredient for a piece of music to work is empathy. One mind speaking to another, and for there to be a consensus of thought and feeling in that conversation. It follows then that within this there must be a fundamental truth that is communicated honestly."

Paul came on board as the Music Director for World of WearableArt in 2018. He is the Director of Music for the **Pop-up Globe** having composed all of the music for their 16 shows and has presented his own musical settings of some of Shakespeare's greatest soliloquies in the acclaimed **Play On** show. He is currently the Deputy Chair of the **New Zealand Music Commission Board** and **Atamira Dance**.



CHRIS PETRIDIS

Lighting Designer

Chris is a lighting and video designer from Adelaide, South Australia. Following his completion of the Technical Production course at the Adelaide Centre of the Arts, Chris has continued to develop his experience across theatre, dance, and other live events in Australia and internationally.

Chris has worked with State Theatre Company of South Australia on **Brothers Wreck**, **In The Club**, **Terrestrial**, **Mr Burns**, **Red Cross Letters**, **Eh Joe** for the Beckett Tryptych, **Gorgon**, **Masquerade**, **The Kreutzer Sonata**, **Maggie Stone** and **Little Bird**. Chris has completed designs for Theatre Republic's **Lines**, **Is This Yours' Angelique**, **Brink Productions' Long Tan**, **Tiny Bricks' Deluge**. Australian Dance Theatre's **The Beginning of Nature Part 1** and **Ignition 2016**. Restless Dance Theatre's **Touched**. Slingsby Theatre Company's **Songs for Those Who've Come Across the Seas**, **Emil and the Detectives**, **The Mouse**, **The Bird and The Sausage**. Windmill Theatre Company's **Beep**, **Grug and the Rainbow**, **Big Bad Wolf** and **Story Thieves**. Force Majeure's **Never Did Me Any Harm**. Vitalstatistix' **Quiet Faith**, Flying Penguin's **Bitch Boxer** and **Seawall**. Torque Show's **MALMÖ**, The Border Project's **Half Real**, Ludwig's **Fleck and Flecker**, five.point.one's **Muff** and a multimedia performance project for Country Arts SA called **If There Was A Colour Darker Than Black I'd Wear It**.



JOHN STRANG

AV Designer

John is a Visual Communication Designer with a wide range of visual storytelling skills. He has worked on large scale projects across multiple platforms and countries with 15 years industry experience. John has been the creative and business leader of **Dusk** since its inception in 2011.

His philosophy is that all work should be crafted with love and mindful attention. John has VFX supervised many projects for film and television and been the Creative Director for many motion graphics projects including 3 years on WOW Awards Shows from 2012-14.

The nature of John's background, being both technical and creative, positions him well to oversee the full width of any screen based project. John's fascination with large scale visuals and the ability to enhance the emotive experience at WOW is what attracted him to be part of the team. *"Being surrounded by people with so much creativity and passion for the show really makes you appreciate why you do what you do".*



SOPHIE HAM

Head of Costumes and Co-designer

Sophie Ham has been working on WOW Awards Shows since 2011, and this year sees her returning as Co-designer of the numerous costumes that adorn the dancers and performers onstage. She and her wardrobe team will be working to create these costumes and then working with the dancers and performers during the show season. Since moving from hospitality into the world of theatre, Sophie Ham has worked with a number of the top theatre and dance companies including **New Zealand Opera, Auckland Theatre Company, Indian Ink Theatre Company** and the **Touch Compass Dance Company**.
