

THE 39 STEPS



PROGRAM INFORMATION

A 20-minute intermission will be available to you after Act 1.

synopsis

The 39 Steps by Patrick Barlow is a heart-stopping noir thriller based on Hitchcock's 1935 murder-mystery masterpiece and John Buchan's juicy spy novel! This wonderfully deranged comedy features five actors, playing a multitude of roles using fast-paced fun, thrilling action and riotous invention.

Set in 1930s London, the story follows the painfully British and devastatingly handsome, Richard Hannay, who finds himself in the clutches of a mysterious woman, Anabella Schmidt, who has uncovered a plot called "The 39 Steps". Before you know it, Richard becomes a notorious fugitive, hurtled from London to Scotland's most remote highlands, jumping through windows and onto trains as he tries to escape spies and cunning murderers, before finding love whilst handcuffed to a beautiful woman. Will he save Britain from a den of devious spies? Will he uncover the mystery of the 39 steps and clear his name before it's too late?

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Four years ago I came across Patrick Barlow's 'The 39 Steps' for the first time when choosing a play for my Year 10 Drama students. We had so much fun reading the play and staging scenes together, that I knew I just had to direct this play one day! Then while on Maternity Leave in 2020, I got a very random Facetime call from two of my ex-drama students, Robyn and Michael, who called just to share that they missed doing theatre – and that, my dear friends, was all I needed to hear to finally kick off my dream of starting a theatre company of my own – and thus, Introspect Theatre Company was born.

However, starting up a theatre company in 2020 has meant facing a number of unexpected hurdles in this new world of lockdowns, masks, social distancing, quarantines, essential services, and so on. But this is not a challenge that I will easily shy away from, as bringing theatre to my community will always be something I will keep fighting for, as it allows people to laugh and cry together, learn about humanity, history, and culture, while also fostering creativity and expression. I was so saddened to see how quickly theatre was pushed to the wayside in this new world of ours and realised the need for a theatre revival. And if there ever was a play that celebrates the essence of theatre and its power to bring joy and spontaneous hoots and guffaws, it's The 39 Steps!

Now, this is not the year to take financial risks when it comes to the arts, so for us this has meant the cast and crew wearing multiple hats, including Emmilyne acting as not just our stage manager, but our designer, props master and assistant production manager as well, Cein (Richard Hannay) assisting with sound design, Michael being our graphics designer (Clown 1), Ashley (Clown 2) building our set, and Robyn (Pamela) our assistant director. It also meant rehearsing in our garages, particularly on the evenings I was in charge of looking after my toddler and rehearsing at the same time. I have been so blessed with such an understanding cast, despite being interrupted by crying heard through the baby monitor (usually right in the middle of a dramatic moment), or having to work on scenes without me because he'd refuse to go to sleep! I know for certain that if it weren't for these passionate, tenacious, and hard-working individuals, we wouldn't be where we are today, putting on this thrilling show as a tight-knit little family!



CINDY
SYKES

EMMILYNE
MAJOR

CEIN
D'COSTA

MICHAEL
PETRIE

ROBYN
PAYNE

ASHLEY
COYTE

CREATIVE TEAM

CINDY SYKES

Artistic Director & Actress

Cindy Sykes is the Artistic Director for Introspect Theatre Company and is also a Drama Teacher, having taught for seven years. She has directed over a dozen theatre productions over the years, including the musicals *Annie Jr* and *Smithy*, Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Huck Finn* by Greg Banks, Angela Betzien's *The Teenage Alchemist*, *Voices in the Crowd* a Verbatim play she devised with a group of high school students, and *Mismatched Letters* by Sebastian Roncallo, which she workshopped and helped translate. This year she directed *UNRAVEL*, a Forum Theatre performance with young people. She has also performed in theatre productions with El Telon Theatre Company, as well as in Brisbane Arts Theatre's musical parody of *Jurassic Park* and Brisbane Musical Theatre's *Les Misérables*. In 2018, she completed her Master of Applied Theatre Studies, focusing her research on building resilience through drama and theatre. In 2021 she presented her findings at the Australia VISION Conference, encouraging others to effect change in their community through the arts.



EMMILYNE MAJOR

Designer & Stage Manager

Emmilyne is a young, passionate artist currently based in Brisbane, Australia. She has a profound passion for the arts and musical theatre and is committed to producing the best content for any audience. With a go-getter attitude and a keen eye for detail, Emmilyne thrives out of the spotlight and behind the scenes. She is enthusiastic about creating props, sets and scenery for live performance, using a hands-on approach. Gaining experience as a stage manager and props master in the production of *Huck Finn* by Greg Banks with Northpine Christian College, and production designer in Vena Cava Productions' *Talking to Brick Walls*. Emmilyne has broad but well-rounded knowledge and skills to produce shows and performances from the ground up. In 2020, she studied Technical Production at Queensland University of Technology, and now uses the abilities she learned in a real-world environment with Introspect Theatre Company. Emmilyne has also begun a personal venture of designing and building props for theatre out of EVA foam. Her ambition knows no bounds as she is always looking for a new challenge within the entertainment industry.

CREATIVE TEAM

CEIN D'COSTA

Actor

A lover of performing arts, Cein has always been fascinated by theatre. In fifth grade, he starred in his first role as a charismatic Raggedy Andy doll in an original school play entitled *The Toy Shop*. Following this, he had the opportunity to play Baloo and The Mad Hatter in his school productions of *Jungle Book* and *Alice in Wonderland* respectively. During his secondary schooling years, Cein played Jack Worthing in a school performance of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, while directing, writing and performing in several other drama projects. In 2017, Cein wrote a short play for 'Queensland Theatre's Young Playwrights' Award', for which he received one of two Highly Commended awards. Cein has enjoyed playing the protagonist, Richard Hannay, in Introspect Theatre Company's rendition of Patrick Barlow's *The 39 Steps*.



MICHAEL PETRIE

Actor & Graphic Design

Michael's passion for the arts has led down many paths throughout his life, from wedding videography to graphic design, to playing keys in bands, and of course, theatre. While he has always had a profound appreciation and love for theatre, Michael withdrew from past productions due to mounting health concerns. Nearly six years on from his last on-stage appearance in 2015 as Edward Rochester from Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. Michael is taking to the stage once again, and is thrilled to bring a cacophony of brilliant characters to life in his role as one of the two Clowns in Introspect Theatre Company's debut production of Patrick Barlow's *The 39 Steps*!



CREATIVE TEAM

ROBYN PAYNE

Actress

Robyn had a love for theatre from a very young age and was involved in school productions throughout primary school. She started playing violin from the age of four and performed in a multitude of performances, ensembles, amateur orchestras, and more. During high school, her first lead role was Cecily in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Following this, she had lead roles in other productions, including Angela Betzien's *The Teenage Alchemist* and Simon & Jo Denver's *Smithy*. In 2020, she joined Introspect Theatre company and not only enjoyed exploring her role as Pamela Edwards in Patrick Barlow's *The 39 Steps* but also discovered a newfound passion for directing through assisting Cindy.



ASHLEY COYTE

Actor

Ashley has always had an affinity for the arts, from playing instruments to roles in musical theatre shows. He played a supporting role in the musical *Lucky*, studied Drama throughout high school and tenaciously took on the lead role in the musical, *Smithy*, with only three weeks until opening night! In 2020, he joined Introspect Theatre Company building set pieces and props, while also expanding his skill set by taking on a wide array of roles as one of the Clowns in Patrick Barlow's *The 39 Steps*.



CREATIVE TEAM

NARELLE COYTE

Wardrobe Coordinator

LOUISE BUCKLEY & KALIESHA COYTE

Costumes

DWANE HEDGES & LEIGHTON HEDGES

Sound & Lighting

CINDY SYKES & CEIN D'COSTA

Sound Design

ASHLEY COYTE

Set Design & Construction

JESSE PINKOWSKI

Understudy

**KALEB COYTE, JORDAN GOLDSMITH,
JESSE PINKOWSKI & REESE McMAHON**

Backstage Crew

SIOBHAN D'COSTA

Photography

*A special thanks to all our Front of House volunteers,
we greatly appreciate you!*

