



PROGRAM
2 - 12 OCT 2025

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS NOTE

Risk is a part of life – and so are the rewards that can come from taking a risk and leaping into the unknown. You hope it will work out, but you never really know until you push the boundaries.

That's one of the driving forces behind our production of *Ulster American* by David Ireland.

As Seton has said, life without risk is safe but it can also be boring and formulaic. So it is with theatre. That's why we wanted to share this show with the amazing audiences here in Bellinghen.

It's Et Tu Theatre's first true comedy – something Amy pointed out during the production process – and David Ireland's savage, dark humour fits so well with our creative vision that we knew we had to produce this play. It's challenging, funny, risk-taking and confronting in the energising way that the best pieces of theatre can be.

As we all find at some stages in our lives, Ireland's *Ulster American* is not straightforward in whose side it's on. It doesn't celebrate these complex, difficult people, living out their chaotic, ambitious lives on stage. What it does is celebrate theatre (and life) in all its messy, thought-provoking glory.

When we first discovered this play, we spoke for hours about the story and what it says about humans.

All of us view ourselves in a particular way, and sometimes it doesn't match up with what other people see. That can be confronting – and sometimes may even stop us from taking a risk. But David Ireland has a masterful way of finding the humour in it, even as he explores meaningful subjects (racism, sexism, cultural identity, geo-political and social-political tensions – it goes on!).

It's a privilege for us to bring this whip-smart, funny and confronting play to life. To take that risk and share it with you all here in Bellinghen. And we hope – after sharing the next 80 minutes or so with us – you feel the risk was more than worth it.



ULSTER AMERICAN

BY DAVID IRELAND

CAST

Leigh Carver: Jonathan Billing

Jay Conway: Seton Pollock

Ruth Davenport: Amy Bradney-George

CREATIVES

Directors: Amy Bradney-George and Seton Pollock

Stage manager: Macy Lane

Voice and dialect consultant: Anna McCrossin-Owen

Production design: Amy Bradney-George, Seton Pollock

Set: Fulcrum Designs and Staging

Lighting and sound technician: Nic Hogan

Official photography: Jamie Barber



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



David Ireland is from Belfast and trained as an actor at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

His first play, *What The Animals Say*, was produced at Oran Mor, Glasgow in 2009.

His other plays include *Everything Between Us* (Tinderbox, Belfast) which won the Stewart Parker

Award and the Meyer-Whitworth Award, *The End Of Hope* (Oran Mor), *Half A Glass Of Water* (Field Day), *Yes So I Said Yes* (Ransom Productions, Belfast), *Can't Forget About You* (Lyric, Belfast) and *I Promise You Sex And Violence* (Northern Stage, Newcastle).

In 2015, he adapted Lorca's *Blood Wedding* for Dundee Rep and Graeae.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

His 2016 play *Cyprus Avenue* (Royal Court London/Abbey Theatre Dublin/Public Theatre NYC) won the Irish Times Award for Best New Play and the James Tait Black Award for Drama and in 2018 *Ulster American* (Traverse, Edinburgh) won a Scotsman Fringe First, the Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh award and the Critics Award for Theatre in Scotland Award for Best New Play.

In 2025 David Ireland's acclaimed new play, *The Fifth Step* premiered on West End and was screened as part of the National Theatre Live program.



JONATHAN BILLING – LEIGH CARVER



Jonathan has long had a passion for the theatre. He was a part of Young Drama in Dorriggo as a child and always enjoys a night out to the theatre.

Over the last few years he has performed as Baird in *The Beast* in 2022 at the Old Gazette Theatre in Dorriggo and again on

that stage as Charles Condamine in *Blithe Spirit*, 2024.

Jonathan finds there is a real special magic about putting work into a show – bringing it to life and sharing this with an audience.

This is his first professional role with Et Tu Theatre, of which he says:

“It has been a tremendous experience and opportunity to work with Amy and Seton, tearing the play and characters apart to find our way through the play. I hope the audience enjoys Ulster American as much as I do.”



SETON POLLOCK - JAY CONWAY



Seton is incredibly proud to be the co-founder and co-director of Et Tu Theatre Company, based here in the beautiful Bellinghen Shire.

For Et Tu Theatre, Seton performed the role of Todd in the 2019 production of *Stockholm* by Bryony Lavery, Iago in Et Tu's workshop of William Shakespeare's *Othello*, Bricks in the Australian premiere of

Maz and Bricks by Eva O'Connor in 2023 and Tristan in *The Effect* by Lucy Prebble in 2024.

A classically trained actor, Seton graduated from NIDA in 2009.

Whilst at NIDA Seton played the lead roles in David Williamson's *Third World Blues* and William Shakespeare's *Pericles*. Seton also performed in Maxim Gorky's *Summerfolk*, Arnold Wekser's *The Kitchen* and Middleton and Barkers *Women Beware Women*.

Other notable roles include Caliban in Sly Rat Theatre's *The Tempest* for their acclaimed Shakespeare on the Maribyrnong River festival, and the title role of *Ajax*, for Burning House Theatre's take on the Greek classic. He also played Prince Hal, later King Henry V, for Circle in the Sand's *Age of Crowns* online productions in 2020.

Seton hopes you enjoy this production of *Ulster American* by David Ireland and thanks you greatly for supporting professional independent theatre on the Mid-North Coast.



AMY BRADNEY-GEORGE - RUTH DAVENPORT



Amy is an actress who has worked in Australia and Vancouver, Canada. For Et Tu Theatre, she has played Connie in *The Effect* (2024), Maz in the Australian premiere of *Maz and Bricks* (2023), Kali in *Stockholm* (2019) and Desdemona in their 2021 workshop of *Othello*.

Other theatre credits include Olga in *Summerfolk* (2017), Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream Re-*

Imagined (2016), Sicinius in *Coriolanus* (2016), Nora in *The Plough and the Stars* (2016) and an ensemble actor for MKA Theatre's *HOT!HOT!HOT* (2016).

Screen credits include Henry VI in the international online production of Shakespeare's *Age of Crowns Cycle* (2020), *As You Like It* (2020), *Julius Caesar* (2020), *Liz Drives* (2017), web series *Ninja Panda* (2014) and Canadian thriller *Chain of Fools* (2011).

In 2024, Amy was commissioned by the City of Coffs Harbour to write verbatim monologues and direct young people in audio versions of them for the *Reflections of the Future* project.

Amy has trained with Scott Major, Brett Cousins (Red Stitch), Howard Fine, David Coury and Marilyn McIntyre (Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia) and with Andrea Moor as part of her degree at Griffith University (B.Arts Drama, Journalism).

She also works as a writer, editor, SEO specialist, voice over artist and creative consultant.



JOSHUA BELL - FIGHT DIRECTOR



Joshua Bell is a Melbourne-based fight director and movement trainer, dedicated to creating safe and compelling dramatic combat for stage and screen.

A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (Theatre Practice, Honours), he was apprenticed to fight director Lyndall Grant and is an associate fight director and

teacher with Captivate Action.

Josh has choreographed and consulted on productions across Melbourne, with recent credits including *The Boys in the Band* (Chapel off Chapel), *The Effect* (Et Tu Theatre), *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Whale* (Melbourne Shakespeare Company), and *Macbeth* (an Undoing) (Malthouse Theatre, associate to Lyndall Grant).

An experienced movement trainer, Josh teaches stage combat at institutions such as NIDA Open, National Theatre Drama School, Collarts and Captivate Action, helping performers of all levels approach movement with confidence and clarity.

Josh is a member and current Secretary of the Society of Australian Fight Directors Incorporated.



ANNA MCCROSSIN-OWEN - VOICE AND DIALECT COACH



Voice and Dialect Coach at Melbourne Theatre Company for over 60 productions.

Previously Lecturer & Tutor in Voice, Text & Dialect at the Victorian College of the Arts.

She trains actors, journalists, medical personnel, educators and public speakers.

Recent credits include:

Film/Streaming – *PLAY DEAD*, *Deadloch 2*, *The Witcher*, *Hotel Cocaine*, *The Twelve* (season 2), *Ice Road 2*. She was also the Australian accent advisor on *The Crown* (Seasons 1 and 2).

Theatre – *Til There Were None*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Woman in Black*, *2.22-A Ghost Story*, *The Mousetrap*, *Symphonie de Biclyclette*.

Music Theatre – *HAIR 2025*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Groundhog Day* (GWB Productions), *Sunset Boulevard* (Opera Australia), *GREASE* Australian Tour.

Anna has received a Victorian Green Room Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Melbourne Stage.



MACY LANE



Macy Lane is a recent graduate from Coffs Harbour Senior College with a Cert III in Entertainment Industries.

Working as a production assistant with Et Tu Theatre on *The Effect* last year cemented her desire to be involved in professional theatre and she is delighted to have the opportunity to stage manage this production alongside such a passionate and dedicated team.

As a Bellingen local, Macy has been involved in various productions in and around the area. Her experience includes work on numerous musicals at Bellingen High School, most recently *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2025), as well as serving as a Stagehand for *Wayne the Whale With A Hole In His Tail* (Seacrest Productions) in April 2025.

She also volunteers as a lighting operator at Bowraville Theatre and is assistant directing Tamba Theatre Company's upcoming production of the *Rocky Horror Show* opening in January 2026.



THANKS

It really is a privilege for us to be able to bring theatre like this to life. But it wouldn't exist without the passion, energy and creative force of our entire team. "Thank you" only scratches the surface of the deep gratitude we have for everyone recognised in this program.

We also want to acknowledge the support we've had behind the scenes.

Thank you to our families for the emotional and practical support you've given us.

To David Ireland and Independent Talent in the UK, particularly Rupert Stonehill. They have been a pleasure to work with and we greatly appreciate the support we had from the other side of the world.

To the Bellingen Memorial Hall team and Bellingen Shire Council, especially Phil Nicholas, whose drive and passion for creative work is a true gift to us and the community.

We also want to draw attention to the people you saw before you came through the doors: our wonderful front-of-house team.

It's been a journey for us to get here, and we also want to thank some businesses and organisations that have supported us, including Anglo&Celtic Magazine, Arts Mid North Coast, Bellingen Muse, Bellingen Shire News, Bellingen Youth Hub, Fulcrum Designs and Staging, Mid North Coast Arts Guide, The Happy Frog and Inspired Audio Visual.

Thanks to our industry colleagues in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and around the world who have supported us from afar.

To all the people who have supported us, shared the event details and booked tickets. And to you, our amazing audience, for being here with us and connecting with this story.

Thank you.





