# HorseHead

by Damon Lockwood SUBIACO THEATRE CENTRE & REGIONAL TOUR (WA), 2015 LA MAMA THEATRE/MELBOURNE FRINGE (VIC), 2014 NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL, 2013 ITALIAN TOUR 2012-2014 BEST PLAY AT THE INAUGURAL ROMA FRINGE FESTIVAL ITALY, 2012 THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE (WA), 2008



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# **Information**

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# **COMPANY PROFILE**

Lockwood Productions (WA) was established in 2012, after previous incarnations such as Rockwood (2005) and Longwood Productions (2007), which were formed with partners. Lockwood Productions is the producing name of any show produced and/or directed by Damon Lockwood, either of his or others' scripts. Lockwood Productions has permanent team members Cherie Hewson (set designer and maker) and Talei Howell-Price (co-producer and publicist) and associated creatives such as George Gayler, Jimmy James Eaton, Paul Goddard, Stacy Gougoulis, Sean Walsh and Sam Longley.

# Vision Statement

To create accessible, entertaining, enjoyable, high quality staged productions in order to encourage new audiences to attend theatre.

# **Target Market**

Lockwood Productions is producing award nominated shows that have a proven high rate of 'new' audience attendance. It is not uncommon for audience members to come up to our creative team and state 'I have never been to the theatre before (or, as in one instance, I have been to the theatre before and wanted to stab my eyes out) but now I will definitely give it a go more often - that was huge fun, thank you!'. The following quotes are just some of the feedback The Blue Room passed on to us after our last show.

"I just wanted you to know that I really enjoyed your show. It has been a long time since I have seen such good independent theatre! Congratulations. I thought it was quick, clever, well scripted and 'whole' conceptually....and very funny. Really enjoyed it." – patron

"Really enjoyed I (honestly) Love You on Tuesday May 22nd. Very funny and I enjoyed how it played with theatrical and film conventions. Damon Lockwood did a great job of writing, directing and producing the show. This was my first time at the Blue Room and I enjoyed it very much." – patron

"We come to the Blue Room quite often – this time we brought along nine friends from our motorcycle club who just don't go to the theatre. They loved it, we loved it, it is the best thing we have ever seen here! It really was just fantastic! Thank you" - patron

Lockwood Productions passionate stance is that we want to create theatre with content that is attractive to the general layperson, from our apprentice plumber or our sports mad grandfather. We want to do away with the mystique of independent, high end, self-fulfilling art without buying into the commercialised, bawdy, low brow comedy. We create professional theatre, with a laugh and a heart and our shows are for the young and the old.

Our target audience would be anyone who enjoys to be entertained and our audience does in fact vary greatly in age from 15 years of age to over 60, but the average theatre audience were females aged between 25-45.

# **SYNOPSIS**

In Francis Ford Coppola's 1975 ground-breaking film The Godfather, the head of a prize horse is savagely cut off and placed in the bed of a hotshot Hollywood film director for the refusal of a favour... ever thought about the two guys that had to put it there?

From the writer of *Domestic Bliss*, *I* (*honestly*) *Love You* and *Nature as Explained by Theatre* comes a whip-cracking tale of two men (The Fonzie Brothers) given this viciously gruesome task to ensure their future with the mob.

FILLIPO: I just made you an offer you can't refuse.EDMONDO: But... but I did just refuse it.FILLIPO: Oh, right... um...that's awkward...

HorseHead opened in 2008 at the Blue Room Theatre and was nominated for the Western Australian Equity Guild Award for Best Play. The premiere season of HorseHead was directed by Mark Storen and performed by Sam Longley and Damon Lockwood. Since then it has been translated into Italian and produced by Les Enfants Terrible (LET) at the Allo Scalo Theatre in Rome, directed by Leonardo Buttaroni (February, 2012). LET re-mounted the production in July 2012 for the Inaugural Roma Fringe Festival and it took out 'Best Play Award'. The Italian creative team (including actors Sebastiano Gavasso and Diego Migeni) re-mounted the show again in New York, August 2013. This show has had five seasons in Italy, one in USA and two in Australia. It was on at La Mama Theatre (VIC) in October 2014 and will soon be at the Subiaco Arts Centre (WA) at the start of a WA regional tour in July 2015.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Playwright/Director/Actor	Damon Lockwood
Co-Producer	Talei Howell-Price
Set and Costume Design	Cherie Hewson
Sound Design	Steve Hearne
Actor	Sam Longely
Lighting Design and Technician	Andre van Vulpen
Line credit	Originally supported by The Blue Room Theatre

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# AUSTRALIAN - KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL



# Producer/Director/Writer/Perth season actor – Damon Lockwood

Damon has been writing professionally for over ten years and has had his work produced all across the country. He won the national Write Now! 2005 competition (NSW) for Best Script with his one man show *Domestic Bliss* and his script *Pri-mates* was selected for the Australian Script Centre Collection #6 publication. *Nature as Explained by Theatre*, for Lockwood Productions, was chosen as the Play of the Month, October 2007 for the Australian Script

Centre. Other scripts include *Muttaburrasaurus* (Spare Parts Puppet Theatre), *Gogo Fish: The Fossil that Changed the World* (Barking Gecko Theatre Company), *Refractions, Forget Me Not* (Deckchair Theatre Umbrella Program), *12:15, Saturday Night* Shortlisted For 2006 Short And Sweet Sydney (Damage Theatre), *HorseHead* Nominated For 2008 Equity Guild Awards Best New Play & Blue Room Theatre Member's Choice and *A Change in the Weather* Nominated for 2005 Blue Room Theatre Award For Best Production (Lockwood Productions). Damon's latest play *I (Honestly) Love You* sold out the entire three-week season at The Blue Room Theatre to rave reviews and youred Edinburgh and New York in 2013.

He was nominated for 'Best Actor' at the 2006 Equity Guild Awards for the role of Mugsy in Patrick Maber's *Dealer's Choice* (Perth Theatre Company/ Red Ryder Production). Other credits include *Hot Dogs, His Majesty's New Clothes* and *Pri-mates* (Barking Gecko Theatre Company), Aquasapiens, The Velveteen Rabbit and The Little Prince (Spare Parts Puppet Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Danger Age* (Deckchair Theatre Company), *Horsehead, I* (*honestly*) Love You (Lockwood Productions), *Taking Liberty* (Perth Theatre Company), *Boundary Street, Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor* (Black Swan State Theatre Company) and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Gasp!* (Queensland Theatre Company). He was nominated for Best Actor at the Ninth Annual WA Screen Awards for his role in the short film *Unky Doom*. Damon has been Artistic Associate at Black Swan State Theatre Company since 2011.

#### **Stage and Costume Design – Cherie Hewson**



Wardrobe, costume and set design & costume and set making have been Cherie's passions for a lifetime. She has worked for: Burswood Theatre, Burswood Dome, Entertainment Centre, Barking Gecko Theatre, Yirra Yaakin Theatre, Deckchair Theatre, Disney on Ice, Damon Lockwood Productions, burlesque, festivals, touring rock bands, fancy dress, and New York Fashion Week. She also has her own fashion label "great pretender". She was winner of the 2007 Star Award for design in her Burlesque range.



Actor – Sam Longley (Perth/Melbourne season) Sam has been working as an actor, since the late nineties. Some of his career highlights include *Hoods* for Barking Gecko Theatre, *The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer* US/Japan tour, *DIY: Disaster Movie* at The Awesome Arts Festival, *Midsummer Nights Dream* for Black Swan State Theatre, *Stones* for Barking Gecko Theatre, *Not* 

*Like Beckett* for Deck Chair Theatre, *Bindjareb Pinjarra* Australian tour, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* for Perth Theatre Company, *Where The Wild Things Are* for Spike Jonze and Warner Brothers and creating and performing in the improv comedy show *The Big Hoo-Haa!*, that is now in its twelfth sellout season.



# Sound Design – Stephen J Hearne

Steve has been a Composer and Sound Designer for many years. He has released music throughout Europe, and won many awards including Best Original Score in the WA Screen Awards and a remix competition for Roots Manuva. He has produced and arranged for well-known local artists, as well as writing for a website dedicated to helping new and emerging artists with production and recording techniques. Steve lives in Melbourne but continues to work Australia wide.

# Lighting Design and Lighting/Sound Operator – Andre van Vulpen

**Co-Producer – Talei Howell-Price** 

# PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

Duration – 50 minutes no interval

#### Suitable venues

Black Box, Studio, Theatre

#### Maximum number of performances per week

8

# Minimum break between performances

120 mins

# **Touring Personnel**

Damon Lockwood - Actor

Sam Longley – Actor

Andre van Vulpen – Technical Operator

#### Audience Engagement

Community engagement – screen Godfather films at venue in the lead up to the show.

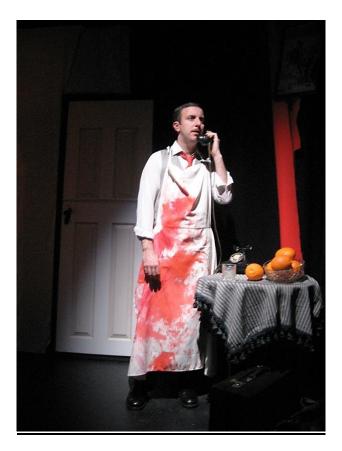
Youth or Adult, inexperienced or experienced -1 .5 hour improvisation-acting workshop (both actors trained at iOTheater in Chicago)

Adult, inexperienced or experienced – 2 hour playwriting workshop (Damon Lockwood teaches playwriting at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts)

One workshop per venue included in production fee.

# **REVIEW QUOTES**

'a kooky, thoroughly enjoyable play... the two actors bounce off each other with perfect comic timing... it is a cleverly imagined farce with a serious question at its heart – what price fame?' - Pip Christmass, West Australian Newspaper



# Damon Lockwood as Edmondo

'a 50-minute slapstick gallop full of lots of laughs... a well timed fast-paced farce with the two well-matched actors playing brilliantly off each other...' – Sarah McNeil, Post Newspaper

'a very witty and amusing, clever and highly entertaining piece of theatre.' – Jill Page, Melbourne Observer 'Damon Lockwood's HorseHead truly is a great piece of theatre... with no prior knowledge of The Godfather's plot, this reviewer had no problem understanding the content, and thoroughly enjoyed the night... Lockwood and Longley truly command the audience's full attention...' - Emma Bergemier, X-Press Magazine



Sam Longley as Filippo

'Four and a half stars out of five. The play cleverly challenges notions of family, American Italy, and even naval duty, so you'd better be laughing, eh, wise guy?' – Izzy Tolhurst, themusic.com.au

Marketing images: <u>https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yht0yosnku0nttz/AAD9bP1cPq7\_-</u> <u>MauRGVeXxNZa?dl=0</u>

# **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

#### <u>Lighting (minimum – venue to supply)</u>

Lighting desk

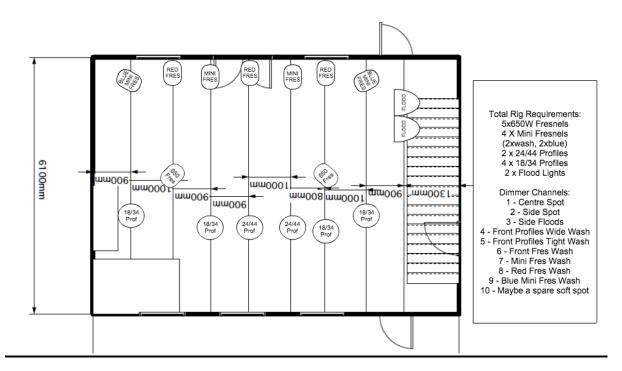
1 x 12 Channel Dimmer Rack

Warm wash

Cool Wash

2 x Profiles, or similar lamps for small area illumination

# Lighting plan (ideal)



#### Sound (venue to supply)

1 x Mixing Desk

1 x Amplifier

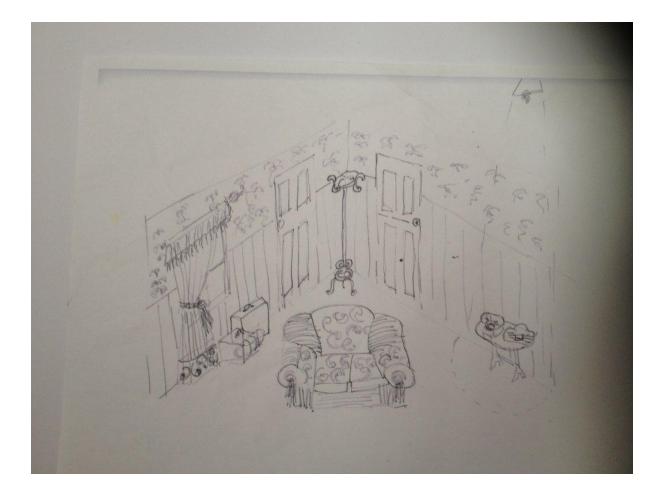
2 x Speakers

# <u>Other</u>

Overhead clearance of at least 3m Performance space width of 6m (flexible) Performance space depth of 4m (flexible) Bump-in time approx. 4 hours (depending on lighting requirements) Bump-out time approx. 1 hour Dressing room required.

Freight – set will be touring with creative team in a truck access to loading dock required. Set elements are: couch, hat-stand, side table.

Venue is required to be able to do a complete blackout.



# THIS IS THE ORGINAL SET DESIGN – THE PRODUCTION NOW HAS NO BACKDROP/REAR WALLS. A PAINTED BLACK BOX IS SUFFICIENT.

SET IS COUCH, TABLE, HAT STAND.