

DOG SPOON  
PRESENTS

# TWO GUYS IN A BOX

PRESENTER PACK



[dogspoon.com.au](http://dogspoon.com.au)



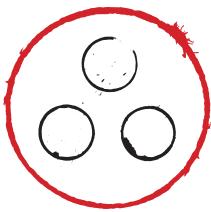
Two Guys in a Box is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland



## ABOUT DOG SPOON

Dog Spoon is a performance company that creates theatre using various permutations of clown, visual theatre and text to explore the human story.

Founded by Andrew Cory in 2017, Dog Spoon works with the highest calibre artists to develop and present theatre that is poetic, immediate and urgent. We aim to make work that uses a heightened theatricality to beguile, seduce, entertain and inspire our audiences. We are not afraid to mix the light with the dark, skillfully balancing both to create theatrical experiences from the hilarious to the haunting.



DOG SPOON

## ABOUT TWO GUYS IN A BOX

### SYNOPSIS

Laurel & Hardy meets Samuel Beckett.

Matthias and Benny are two ordinary guys who live inside a box in the middle of a field somewhere. Their domestic world is a condensed comic cosmos. One day, for the first time in living memory, the phone on the wall rings. What ensues is the weirdest day of their lives.

Featuring Andrew Cory and Leon Cain, two of Brisbane's best clowns, this new show uses a brilliant combination of clowning, dark comedy and satire to present a contemporary dystopian fairy tale.

### CONTEXT

Two Guys in a Box is an original concept by Andrew Cory and is a contemporary absurdist comedy written by Sue Rider and Andrew Cory. The work brings together highly visual clowning with a text that explores the human predicament of learning to live in an unpredictable universe.

The show began its life as a successful application to the 2017 Queensland Theatre's Independents Program. This inaugural program funded the script development and two weeks' creative development. Some of Queensland's best theatre makers form the creative team, including Sean Mee, Josh McIntosh, Ben Hughes and Leon Cain.

The strength of the concept and calibre of the artists gained Two Guys in a Box the attention of Brisbane Festival, which programmed the world premiere of the work in its Theatre Republic program. Two Guys in a Box went on to become one of the most successful shows in Theatre Republic achieving a 90% box office over 5 nights. The work will receive further development in 2018 in preparation for national touring in 2019.



## THE TEAM

Co-Writer

**Andrew Cory**

Co-Writer

**Sue Rider**

Director

**Sean Mee**

Production Design

**Josh McIntosh**

Sound Design

**Thom Browning**

Lighting Design

**Ben Hughes**

Music

**Tyrone & Lesley**

**aka David Megarrity & Samuel Vincent**

Stage/Tour Manager

**Cameron Clark**

Cast

**Andrew Cory and Leon Cain**





## **BIOS**

### **ANDREW CORY - CO- WRITER / PERFORMER**

Andrew has worked professionally as an actor, director and clown for over 20 years. He has worked with The Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre Company, La Boite Theatre Company, The Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Opera Queensland, Queensland Music Festival and The South Australia State Theatre Company. Andrew studied at Ecole Philippe Gaulier (London), Centre Selavy Mask School (France), Todo Performance Academy (Denmark), the School for Mime Theatre (USA) and Bont's International Clown School (Spain). Andrew was the Artistic Director of Backbone Youth Arts (Qld) from 2009 to 2013 and regularly teaches theatre practice in the tertiary education sector.



### **LEON CAIN - PERFORMER**

Leon is an acclaimed award-winning Australian actor. He has performed in productions nationally for over a decade. A Brisbane local, he has performed for companies such as Queensland Theatre Company, La Boite and Shake and Stir Theatre Co. and nationally with companies such as Melbourne Theatre Company and Bell Shakespeare. He has also appeared in many Films, Television and Commercials. He studied acting at the University of Southern Queensland and attended Escola de Clown de Barcelona in Spain.



Awards include Sydney Theatre Critics Award, Nominated for Best Actor (2006) Awarded Best Newcomer (2006), Matilda Award for Best Emerging Artist (2005) and Matilda Award for Best Actor (2010).

### **SUE RIDER - CO-WRITER**

Sue Rider is a Brisbane-based director, writer, dramaturg and producer with over 150 stage productions to her credit in theatre, music theatre, opera and theatre for young people. She is the recipient of nineteen industry awards for writing and direction across Australia and New Zealand, including a Special Matilda Commendation for sustained contribution to Queensland theatre, the Playlab Award for outstanding contribution to the development of new work for performance in Queensland and the Alan Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award. Sue was Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre from 1993 to 2000.



### **SEAN MEE - DIRECTOR**

Sean has worked across the full spectrum of theatrical practice as an actor, director, writer, producer and advocate. He began his career at La Boite Theatre Company as an actor in 1976. From 1981 - 1985, he was a member of the Acting Ensemble of TN! Theatre Company. From 1990 - 1998, Sean taught within the QUT Academy of the Arts in Acting and Direction. In 2000, he was appointed Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre Company. In 2009, he returned to QUT Creative Industries where he is a senior lecturer in Drama. In recent years, Sean has worked with the Queensland Music Festival in Mount Isa, Charleville, Bowen and Gladstone. In 2015, he was the creative director of Under This Sky: Logan's Musical Celebration.



## PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

### **COSTS (EXCL. GST)**

Weekly Fee: \$8,432 | Remount: \$23,787 | Royalty: 18%

### **DURATION**

70 minutes (no interval)

### **BUMP IN**

1 day (same day open)

### **SUITABLE VENUES**

The show would suit a diverse range of venues, with generally Category A and B venues being most appropriate. It is to be noted that due to some of the action taking place inside a box centre stage, venues with a wide audience bank may have intermittent restricted views in the outer seats. Please see Technical Specifications for an example Stage Plan. This plan is flexible and details of impacts on sight lines will be discussed with the venue.

### **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK**

7 performances over 6 days

### **MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES**

120 minutes

### **APRA OBLIGATIONS**

All music is original music and no APRA is payable. This is covered in the royalty package.

### **TOURING PERSONNEL**

The touring party consists of 4 people:  
Stage/Tour Manager | Tour Technician | 2 x cast

### **PERFORMANCE HISTORY**

2017 | Theatre Republic, Brisbane Festival | 5 Performances



# AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

## OVERVIEW

The production presents multiple forms and ideas that can be explored as part of an audience engagement offer that extends beyond and adds value to attending the show.

## WORKSHOPS

Both performers are highly trained and experienced facilitators and can provide participatory workshops that explore both form and content of the production, enabling audiences to have a deeper engagement with the play and to develop participants' skills and knowledge.

Workshops may explore themes such as Theatre of the Absurd or political satire, or offer practical skills in clowning/comedy. Sessions can be tailored to suit the communities' needs as required, be it high school students, university students or the general public.

## Q & A

A post-show discussion with the cast can be made available and, where possible, with the co-writer and/or director. This addition to the programme may encourage audiences to attend and facilitate a deeper understanding of the work.

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES

For deeper engagement with the work and/or its themes and forms, Dog Spoon can work with venues to explore possibilities for artist residencies in the lead up or subsequent to the performance. This would be explored on a case-by-case basis to ascertain the required outcomes and target communities, in order to ensure that the most suitable artist be appointed.

## SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT

Theatre of the Absurd is included in the senior drama curriculum across states, but with few opportunities to see absurdist work. This production offers a unique opportunity to engage students in contemporary Australian absurdist theatre that directly delivers on curriculum outcomes. Both performers are also experienced teachers of clown and comedy and can facilitate workshops addressing curriculum for years 7 to 10. We can work with presenters and schools to create a tailored engagement package to suit the needs of individual schools, all of which can be complemented by our teacher pack.





# MARKETING

## MARKETING COPY

### ONE LINE

Laurel & Hardy meets Samuel Beckett.

### SHORT

Meet Matthias and Benny, two ordinary guys who live inside a box in the middle of a field somewhere. Their domestic world is a condensed comic cosmos.

One day, for the first time in living memory, the phone on the wall rings. What ensues is the weirdest day of their lives.

Featuring Andrew Cory and Leon Cain, two of Brisbane's best clowns, this new show uses a brilliant combination of clowning, dark comedy and satire to present a contemporary dystopian fairy tale.

### EXTENDED

*Two Guys in a Box* is a brand new absurdist comedy that has echoes of Samuel Beckett and Laurel & Hardy. Written by award winning playwright Sue Rider and co-written by one of Queensland's best clowns, Andrew Cory, this work follows an extraordinary day in the life of two guys who are just trying to live normally. Meet Matthias and Benny, two ordinary guys who live inside a box in the middle of a field somewhere. Their domestic world is a condensed comic cosmos. Except on this day, for the first time in living memory, the phone on the wall rings. What ensues is the weirdest day of their lives.

*Two Guys in a Box* is a brilliant combination of clowning, dark comedy and satire to present a contemporary dystopian fairy tale and a hilarious but cautionary tale about being too scared to think outside the box!

The show has a heightened comedic theatrical style that allows the performers, Andrew Cory and Leon Cain, to play to their strengths as clowns whilst honouring the deeper philosophical questions of the work: What is the purpose of life? How do we deal with an unpredictable universe? Can we control the unknown? Finally, the show is an endearing and enduring exploration of the nature of friendship.

*Two Guys in a Box* was a smash hit in the 2017 Brisbane Festival as part of its Theatre Republic program. The show achieved 90% box office and tantalised audiences with both its humour and a rigorous satirical commentary about the 21<sup>st</sup> century.





## COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

"Two Guys in a Box is both for quite a theatre literate audience...but also because of the quality of its comedy and the quality of its clowning I think it is an incredibly accessible show. It could play to a genuinely wide audience. Really funny, really slick and really moving."

*Sam Strong, Artistic Director, Queensland Theatre*

"It's very playful but it also touches on some very deep areas of existentialism and absurdism. It treads over deep waters lightly. An Australian reimagining of 20<sup>th</sup> century absurdism, *Two Guys in a Box* will add tremendous value to any annual programme. There's not a whole lot like this out there in the market at the moment. We truly believe it has a significant touring life moving forward."

*Damien Cassidy, Theatre Republic Producer, Brisbane Festival*

"The dream-team of clown and slapstick, Andrew Cory and Leon Cain have created a seriously funny and insightful new work. *Two Guys in a Box* might be an absurdist piece but I was left wondering if the world around us might be infinitely more absurd!"

*Luke Harriman, Creative Broker, Artour*



## AUDIENCE REVIEWS

"The Brisbane Festival pick. Wonderfully privileged to have been part of the audience. Two guys on top of their craft. If I wasn't laughing in tears, it was deeply meaningful on many levels. Encore!!!"

"Loved it. Belly laughs and tears coming out of my eyes and I loved the finesse and the pathos."

"It's absurd and philosophical and very funny. Very funny!"

## MARKETING MATERIALS

A range of marketing materials will be available for the production.

These include:

- Trailer (30 sec online-ready trailer)
- Extended Trailer (4 minute online-ready trailer)
- High resolution production photography (example photos on page 10)
- Poster, flyer and print advertisements
- Social media posts and campaign material
- Media release







## VIDEO LINKS

### 1 MINUTE PROMO LINK

[https://youtu.be/r\\_MfLjOE-8U](https://youtu.be/r_MfLjOE-8U)



### 4 MINUTE PROMO LINK

<https://youtu.be/9gy13ouWOBM>



A full recording of the Brisbane Festival season's production is available on request.

### **SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Specific logo and text acknowledgements will be provided as part of the full marketing pack.

### **TEACHER RESOURCES**

Teacher Resources are currently being developed and will be made available to presenters.





## PRODUCTION DETAILS

### FREIGHT

The set, costumes, props and technical requirements will fit in a LWB van (Toyota Hiace or similar). Access to a loading dock that feeds into the stage space is required.

### STAGE

Flat unimpeded hard stage floor required, preferably low sheen black, minimum depth 9m, minimum width 8m.

The set is minimal and is not screwed down. Upstage or sidestage wingspace is needed for the set to be removed to as part of the performance. Minimum grid height 4000mm.

It is to be noted that due to some of the action taking place inside a box centre stage, venues with a wide audience bank may have intermittent restricted views in the outer seats. Example Stage Plan included in Technical Specifications and details of sight line issues to be discussed with the venue.

### SET

The set is a box that remains centre stage until the final scene of the performance, when it is removed by the Tour Stage Manager. Dog Spoon to supply all set, props and hardware.

### LIGHTING

Lighting for *Two Guys in a Box* is dependent on the touring venues and a detailed lighting plan will be completed upon finalising the tour. Please see Technical Specifications as a guide to requirements. An adapted LX plan will be provided to use in-house lighting fixtures where available.

### PRE RIG AND SETUP

Lighting as per generic plan, patch notes and focus notes. All lighting units to be rigged, coloured and patched as per the lighting plan prior to the Company arriving at your venue.

Lighting to be focused during Company Bump In.

### SOUND

Sound is predominantly playback through the venue PA, with additional spot speakers integrated into the set as listed in the Technical Specifications.





## **OPERATION**

The company will operate the show through their own hardware and software that will patch into the venue's system.

## **WARDROBE**

Two simple costumes of everyday clothing worn for the duration of the performance. No costume changes.

## **DRESSING ROOMS**

A minimum of 1 dressing room with direct access to the stage is required. These are to accommodate 2 male performers.

## **LAUNDRY**

Access to washing machine, a clothes rack/horse, dryer, iron and ironing board and clothes rail.

## **EXAMPLE SCHEDULE**

To be negotiated with the venue

10:00 -13:00 LX, Audio and Set bump-in & focus

13:00-14:00 lunch

14:00-15:00 tech cue flash-thru

15:30-17:00 tech & dress (if req'd)

17:00-19:30 dinner, show prep

19:30-20:40 PERFORMANCE

21:00 bump-out set and vacate premises

## **CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE**

Crew required to assist with bump in. No crew required for operating. Company to operate the show.

## **CRITICAL ISSUES**

During the show one actor needs to appear to leave the venue through the auditorium doors, slam the door and await a cue from the same access. If he can be seen by the audience when waiting inside this access a monitor system must be available for him to wait outside this access for his cue.

Towards the end of the show the set is wheeled off stage on a pallet jack/trolley and needs to be totally out of sight from audience for remainder of the performance. This can be done with legs SL and SR or taken backstage, in negotiation with the venue.

## **CONTACTS**

Please initially direct all enquiries through Andrew Cory, Artistic Director.

Andrew Cory

Artistic Director, Dog Spoon

Email. [info@dogspoon.com.au](mailto:info@dogspoon.com.au)

Tel. 0401 246 048

Web. [dogspoon.com.au](http://dogspoon.com.au)

