

THE GAIETY

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SAILMAKER

BY ALAN SPENCE

DIRECTED BY LIZ CARRUTHERS

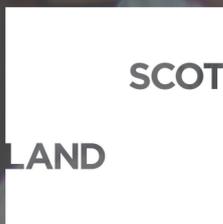
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SAILMAKER

WRITER | ALAN SPENCE

DIRECTOR | LIZ CARRUTHERS

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER | CLAIRE HALLERAN

LIGHTING DESIGNER | WAYNE DOWDESWELL

SOUND DESIGNER & COMPOSER | GARY CAMERON

ALEC | ALEXANDER TAIT

DAVIE | ANDY CLARK

IAN | LEWIS KERR

BILLY | PAUL J CORRIGAN

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It has been such a privilege to direct Alan Spence's beautiful play. It is a glimpse into a world gone but with themes of loss and grief and hope that are universal.

In Scotland we should be celebrating our canon of great plays by putting them on our stages, and it is a great shame that this piece has not had a professional production since 1990. I hope ours goes some way towards righting that wrong.

I am delighted that we are introducing new audiences to *Sailmaker*, and that the young people who study it for English exams can see it brought to life by a cast of brilliant actors. The creative team of designer, lighting designer and composer have come together to breathe new life into this lovely play.

We as a company have loved working on it and so hope you love watching it.

LIZ CARRUTHERS

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SAILMAKER



WRITER'S INTRODUCTION

Sailmaker was my first full-length stage play, commissioned by the Traverse Theatre Edinburgh, and performed there back in 1982. A new version was staged by TAG (Theatre About Glasgow) in 1990. There was a BBC radio version in the 90s and the published script has been in print since that first Traverse production, finding new life as a set text in Scottish schools. (One school librarian told me it was the most stolen book from their shelves, which I'll take as a kind of compliment!) But it's particularly exciting for me that the play is being revived now, in this magical new version by a brilliant company, brought to life as a live production for a whole new audience.

I find the experience fascinating and bittersweet. At one level, the play is deeply personal. There are many autobiographical elements - the story at the heart of it is my own - but I've been gratified to realise its themes are universal. When poet and playwright Liz Lochhead first saw it she said it was a feminist play, where the lack of a female dimension in the (male) characters' lives became a strong presence. A left wing friend said it was a powerful socialist statement, and a Buddhist friend was equally adamant it was a Buddhist play, with its themes of transience and impermanence. For my part, I'm happy with all these responses, as I was with one of the first reviews which simply called it 'a great wee play.' I'll settle for that any day!

So thanks to all involved in putting the play back on stage, and to all the teachers who have taught it, and all the students who have enjoyed it. Cheers!

Alan Spence

CAST

ALEXANDER TAIT AS ALEC

Alexander Tait graduated with a BA Hons in Acting and English from Edinburgh Napier University. Recent theatre credits include *Death Of An Influencer* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), *Kev Campbell Was He*, written and performed by Alexander, which received multiple awards at the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and toured as part of A Play, A Pie and A Pint's Spring 2025 Season.

Other credits include *HER* (Traverse), *One, Two, Three* (Traverse) and *Graveyard of the Outcast Dead* (Duns Play Fest). From 2021 - 2024 he was a performer for The Improverts, Edinburgh's longest running improvised comedy group, and was also the group's director in 2023.

His TV credits include *Gifted* for CBBC & most recently *Blood of my Blood* for Starz.



ANDY CLARK AS DAVIE

Andy studied at Dundee College and RSAMD (now RCS) and was a member of Dundee Rep Ensemble from 2000-03, appearing in over 20 productions including *The Plague*, *The Mill Lavvies*, *Mince*, *The Land of Cakes* and *The Winter's Tale*. Other theatre work includes *Make It Happen* (NTS), *Wild Rose* (Royal Lyceum/Caledonia Productions), *So Young* (Traverse Theatre), *Tally's Blood* (Perth/Cumbernauld/Ayr Gaiety), *Tartuffe*, *The Cherry Orchard* (Lyceum), *A Steady Rain* (Theatre Jezebel/Tron), *Little Sure Shot* (Leeds Playhouse/The Egg), *Gastronauts* (Royal Court), *I'm With The Band* (Traverse), *Vernon God Little* (Young Vic) *Lampedusa*, *The Libertine*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Peter Pan* and *A Handful of Dust* (Citizens).

Radio includes *Killing Kate*, *Boswell At Large*, *Big Sky*, *Five of Spades*, *Rebus* (BBC Radio 4).

Television and Film includes *Float* (Black Camel Pictures), *Shetland* (ITV/BBC1), *The Control Room* (Hartwood Films), *Guilt* (BBC), *Annika* (Black Camel Pictures), *Dog Squad* (CBeebies), *River City*, *Bob Servant* (BBC Scotland), *Rebus*, *Taggart* (STV) and *The Da Vinci Code* (Rose Line).



LEWIS KERR AS IAN

Lewis [he/him] is a Scottish born and raised actor. While having a prominent background in Musical Theatre, he also has a business degree which he has put to use as a producer and founder of Scottish a cappella group, Perfect Forth. He has a particular interest in accessible theatre, not only for audiences, but for aspiring performers too.

Theatre credits include: Aladdie in *Aladdie* (The Gaiety Theatre, Ayr); Performer in *Broadway in the Bar* (Insideout Productions, Oran Mor); Soloist in *Borders to Broadway* (Eastgate Theatre); Moe/Understudy in *Mother Goose* (The Gaiety Theatre, Ayr); Soloist in *Encore!* (Cumbernauld Theatre Company, Cumbernauld Theatre); Ensemble/Swing in *Aladdin* (Perth Theatre Panto); Jack Frost in *Santa's Invitation* (Kevali Productions, Dubai Tour); Tybalt/Paris in *Romantic Romeo* (Captivate Theatre, Edinburgh Festival Fringe); Cobweb in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Scottish Opera Tour)

TV Credits include: Bogart in *Crazy Daisys* (Short Film - HeeHaw Ltd)

Other credits include: Ensemble in *Warped* (Perfect Forth, Edinburgh Festival Fringe); Performer in *Drive Lounge Vol.3* (Drive, August House); Ensemble in *Athena* (Perfect Forth, Edinburgh Festival Fringe)

Instagram: lewis_kerr



PAUL J CORRIGAN AS BILLY

Paul's TV credits include playing Stevie Burns in the BBC's *River City*, Gaz in the much loved *Still Game*, Adam in the hit comedy *Gary: Tank Commander* and many more.

His theatre credits include *Tally's Blood* with Perth Theatre, Cumbernauld Theatre and Ayr Gaiety, which toured Scotland. He also toured the UK with the West Yorkshire Playhouse production of *Sunshine on Leith*. Paul also toured *Black Watch* around the globe with the National Theatre of Scotland.



CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTED BY LIZ CARRUTHERS

Liz has been a theatre director for nearly 40 years.

She was trainee director at Perth Theatre, Staff Director at Chichester Festival Theatre and Artistic Director of Cumbernauld Theatre.

She has directed plays for the Royal Lyceum Theatre, the Traverse, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, MacRobert, Dundee Rep, Perth Theatre, the Tron, His Majesty's Aberdeen, Eden Court, Tramway and The Citizens Theatre Studio, as well as middle and small-scale touring venues all over Scotland and England. She has directed 31 productions for A Play, A Pie and A Pint at Oran Mor, Glasgow.

Her most recent work includes *Chanelling Jabez* at Nottingham Playhouse; *Faye's Red Lines* at Gilded Balloon; *Rollers Forever* at the Pavilion Theatre; *People in Cages* at The Drayton Arms; *90 Days: How Scotland Saved the 1994 Women's Rugby World Cup* at the Traverse; *Dead Dad Dog* at Finborough Theatre and the Traverse; *Quality Street*, *Para Handy* and *Perfect Days* for Pitlochry Festival Theatre; and a Scottish tour of *The Straw Chair* by Sue Glover.

Past productions have won the Scottish Theatre Awards on the Fringe Leading Light Award, the Guinness Pub Theatre Award, the LWT Plays on Stage Award and been nominated for the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland for Best New Play and Best Production for Children and Young People. She has also been nominated for the Gaelic Awards for Best Arts Event.





LIGHTING DESIGN BY WAYNE DOWDESWELL

After training at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Wayne spent several seasons with Contact Theatre, Manchester, before joining the Royal Shakespeare Company. He spent many years as resident Lighting Supervisor at the Swan Theatre, Stratford on Avon, where numerous designs include: *The Fair Maid of the West*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Edward II*, *The Seagull*, *Tamburlaine the Great*.

His freelance design credits include: *Medea* (Wyndham's, UK & Longacre Theatre, New York), *The Birthday Party* (Bristol Old Vic), *Carousel*, *The Lady in the Van*, *The Last Witch*, *Chicago*, *Heritage* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre), *The Signalman*, *Tally's Blood*, *The Snow Queen* (Perth Theatre), *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Jamie and the Unicorn*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Mother Goose* (Ayr Gaiety), *Dr Faustus*, *The Duchess of Malfi* (Stage on Screen), *Private Peaceful* (Theatre Royal, Haymarket & UK tour).

Designs for opera include: *Don Giovanni*, *Tosca*, *La Boheme*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Magic Flute* (Longborough Festival Opera), *Eugene Onegin*, *Madama Butterfly* (Grange Park Opera), *The Mikado* (D'Oyly Carte, Savoy Theatre), *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Scottish Opera, Glasgow & Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg)

www.wdlighting.com

SOUND DESIGN & ORIGINAL SCORE BY GARY CAMERON

Gary is a Glasgow based composer and sound designer for stage and screen. His extensive, eclectic specialism in sound and music has been heard in countless productions across the UK and Europe.

Previous credits include: *Inside Culture* (BBC), *Moorcroft* (Tron Theatre), *The Celtic Story* (SEC Armadillo), *Educating Rita* (Perth Theatre), *The Events* (Wonder Fools), *Rollers Forever* (Pavilion Theatre), *Tin Forest* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Pig* (New Diorama), *Don Jon* (Hull Truck Theatre), *Lysistrata* (Capital Theatres), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Royal Lyceum), *The Steamie*, *The Blue Road*, *For The Love of the Nightingale* (Dundee Rep), *Catafalque* (Scissor Kick) and many more.

Gary has composed songs and score for the works of Julia Donaldson and Quentin Blake among others. He is also the Director of the award-winning Dumfries Community Choir



SET AND COSTUME DESIGN BY CLAIRE HALLERAN

Claire Halleran is a performance designer based in Glasgow. A graduate of Glasgow School of Art and Queen Margaret University.

Her recent theatre design credits include *The Addams Family* (Perth Youth Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (Royal Conservatoire Scotland), *A Giant on the Bridge* (K T Producing) and *A Christmas Carol* (Platform). In addition, she has designed shows for National Theatre of Scotland, Independent Art Projects, Sleeping Warrior, Scissor Kick, Polar Bears, Macrobert Arts Centre, Grid Iron, Heroica Theatre Company, Stellar Quines, Fish & Game, Aberdeen Arts Centre and Showroom, Borderline/Hirtle, Ros Sydney, A Moment's Peace, Grinagog, Cultured Mongrel Dance Theatre, Visible Fictions, Active Inquiry, Strange Town, Smallpetitklein, Eco Drama, Magnetic North, Birds of Paradise, and has been an Associate Designer with Punchdrunk/Imagine.

Claire has designed several events with Itison, *Glasgow* (2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025) and *Elfingrove* (Ice Rink 2021 & 2022) along with two film festivals for Tilda Swinton and Mark Cousins. For many years she has developed and created many interactive events and workshops for the Edinburgh International Science Festival including *Moments in Time* and *Ecoville* on the Mound in Edinburgh.

In 2013 she co-founded The Envelope Room, a network funded by Creative Scotland to support, promote and engage with performance designers in Scotland.

Teaching and mentoring include Design Tutor for Tron Design, Edinburgh College of Art, the University of the West of Scotland and Design Mentor with Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Claire is currently designing *Sweeney Todd* for Perth Youth Theatre and *Sailmaker* for Ayr Gaiety.

For other information and images of her designs, please go to www.clairehalleran.weebly.com

For information about The Envelope Room visit www.enveloperoom.org.uk



CAST LIST

Alexander Tait.....Alec
Andy Clark.....Davie
Lewis Kerr.....Ian
Paul J Corrigan.....Billy

CREATIVE TEAM

Alan Spence.....Writer
Liz Carruthers.....Director
Claire Halleran.....Set & Costume Designer
Wayne Dowdeswell.....Lighting Designer
Gary Cameron.....Sound Designer & Composer
Kirsty MacArthur.....Assistant Director
Mat Page.....Producer & Production Manager
Emma Yeomans.....Company Stage Manager
Ailsa Munro.....Costume Supervisor
Bekah Pattison.....Lighting Supervisor
Tristan Aplin.....Lighting Technician/Relighter
Ali Biggs.....Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager
Megan Yeomans.....Scenic Artist
Ruth Murdoch.....Scenic Artist
Raymond Short.....Fight Director
Perth Theatre/Re-Set Scenery.....Set Construction
Rachel McIndoe.....Print Design
Tommy Ga-Ken Wan.....Photography
Ruari Barber-Fleming.....Videography

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David McWilliams.....Duty Front of House Manager
Florence Logan.....Creative Engagement Facilitator
Fraser Emslie.....Head of Technical
Gillian Brydson-Young.....Creative Engagement Administrative Assistant
Heather Watters.....Creative Engagement Facilitator
Iain Campbell.....Theatre Technician
Jacquii Gavigan.....Head of Creative Engagement
Jade McEwan.....Creative Engagement Facilitator
Jeanette Rooney.....Cleaning Operative
Joshua MacFarlane.....Deputy Head of Technical
Katherine Clarkson.....Casual Front of House Co-Ordinator
Laila Noble.....Creative Director & CEO
Laura Scott.....Box Office Manager
Lauren Jeffrey.....Administrative Assistant
Mat Page.....Head of Programming & Producing
Margaret Baxter.....Casual Front of House Co-Ordinator
Michael Rooney.....Buildings Maintenance Manager
Nathanael Wood.....Cleaning Operative
Niamh McGill.....Finance & Production Administration Officer
Nicola Thorne.....Marketing Assistant
Rachel Dalziel.....Duty Front of House Manager
Rachel McIndoe.....Head of Marketing & Communications
Sally Rennie.....Operations Director

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Michael Docherty, Michael Stewart, Rhianna Crompton, Steven Shaw

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THANK YOU

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