



Welcome to The Americas Newsletter

Greetings and welcome to the inaugural edition of The Americas, A Theatre Company quarterly newsletter.

We have a jam-packed issue including an exclusive interview with featured playwright, Allan Staples and a look ahead at our thrilling 2025 Summer/Fall Season.

Without further ado...

A Foreword from Our Artistic Director



Welcome to an exhilarating new chapter in the life of our theatre company. This summer & fall, we are proud to present five dynamic productions that will challenge, inspire, and ignite conversation. As I reflect on our journey since we debuted last August with a sold-out season, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude. The support from our community—our audience, artists, and collaborators—has been overwhelming, and it’s this energy that fuels the vision of our company.

When we launched last year, we did so with a deep belief in the transformative power of live theatre. We wanted to create a space where bold ideas could take root, where stories could be told without restraint, and where all voices could be heard. The response to our inaugural production confirmed that this vision resonates with you as much as it does with us.

This year is a celebration of that momentum, and the productions we’ve curated are as diverse and vibrant as the community that surrounds us. From intimate dramas to sweeping epics, experimental works to beloved classics, each show has been carefully selected to reflect both the complexity of the human experience and the rich diversity of artistic expression.

This season is also about growth. For our company. For our audiences. For our artists. Our debut season was only the beginning, and now, as we move into our second, we’re committed to building on that foundation, exploring new voices, and pushing the boundaries of what theatre can be.

We invite you to join us for what promises to be an unforgettable journey. Whether you're here for your first show or have been with us from the start, we are so grateful to have you as part of our story. Here's to the joy of discovery, the beauty of shared experience, and the powerful, enduring magic of live theatre.

Thank you for being with us.

With excitement & gratitude,

Kai Paynter

The Americas Artistic Director

About The Americas

MISSION

Founded in 2023, The Americas is an American-led ensemble theatre company, operating out of Sydney, Australia. It holds the distinction of being the only American-led theatre company in Australia. The Americas' commitment is to bring diverse, high-standard shows to the beautiful Australian stages.

VISION

To be the premier producer of transformative American theatre in Australia by telling authentic and multifaceted stories of the U.S. experience. The Americas also creates exceptional theatrical experiences by providing an individualistic and intensive growth approach for all artists, cast & crew, alike - honoring a commitment to excellence.

VALUES

The Americas, A Theatre Company believes the arts are essential and create a greater understanding of cultural and political differences. We value theatre as a place where people can be accepted regardless of race, creed, orientation, or color.

Playwright, Allan Staples



Originally from Minneapolis, Allan is a New York-based playwright whose writing has been called, “funny, sexy, intimate and heart wrenching.” Allan’s plays have been developed or produced at the Jungle Theater, Playwright’s Center, Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive, Cape May National Playwrights Symposium, the Dennis & Victoria Ross Foundation and the Playwright/Director Unit at the Actor’s Studio in New York City.

Allan has won the American Theatre Co-op award for best one-act play and the best play award at the Short+Sweet Sydney festival. He’s also been a two-time O’Neill semifinalist and a semifinalist for the Jewish Plays Project. Allan has an MFA in Playwriting from the New School of Drama. In addition to theatrical writing, Allan has also written and performed for Minnesota Public Radio. As screenwriter, Allan is a two-time Austin Film Festival Semi-finalist and a finalist for the PAGE Fellowship at Stowe Story Labs.

Allan is a great friend of The Americas, and his ongoing collaboration with us was crystalised during our debut season of L-O-V-E in 2024. The exclusive 4-night season featured an anthology-style performance of several of Allan’s one-act plays. This year, our Summer/Fall season features a remount - This is L-O-V-E, the debut of Allan’s two-act family comedy-drama No Direction Home (more details below), and many more of Allan’s pieces.

He’s at www.allanstaples.com.

Interview with Allan Staples

Hi Allan! So nice to be chatting with you and really looking forward to having you with us in Australia in early 2025. What are you most looking forward to about the trip?

Getting out of New York in winter isn't a bad thing!

But my wife and I are so fortunate to be able to take two full months to explore Australia and New Zealand. We're looking forward to doing all the usual sightseeing activities, the nature, the culture and generally exploring. But, obviously, an incredible added bonus is getting to see my work performed in Sydney and to meet, in person, so many of the people that I've "met" online. I'm really looking forward to that!

We are so pumped to have you here. You'll be in town for the debut of No Direction Home in The Living Room, and This is L-O-V-E at Qtopia. Starting with NDH, tell me a bit about your writing process for this play.

No Direction Home was my thesis play when I graduated from The New School for Drama with my MFA in playwriting. Michael Weller, a playwright whose work I really admire, was my thesis advisor. The premise was a simple one: two sisters dealing with the death of their mother and how that affects their relationship and their relationship with their significant others. Like a lot of my writing, I'm trying to find a balance between comedy and drama. A good night at the theater for me is one where I laugh and cry and I hope the play lives in that spirit.

Let's talk about where it all started for Allan Staples and The Americas. The Americas launched with an anthology of your works at KxTonBroadway in 2024. How did it feel to know your work was being seen by Australian audiences?

It was a thrill! And it was really interesting because, after the preview performance, I had a chance to speak to the cast and I was struck by how deeply connected the actors felt to the material. Obviously, there are cultural differences and different references, but there's something incredibly universal about the themes of love, regret, uncertainty and possibility. Anton Chekhov is one of my favorite writers and I'm always struck how his plays can still feel so alive, so relevant, even though he wrote them 100 years ago and in Russia! There are certain themes that transcend.

Interview with Allan Staples (cont.)

What is your favourite piece in the anthology?

My favorite piece?!? That's tough. Brave People and Garbage Night have been produced all over the world so it's tempting to say those two. But I don't know. I think each play is kind of attempting something different. Brave People is about a mature married kind of love. The Night Before is about the possibility of a relationship and Garbage Night is about how disappointment makes you jaded to the possibility of a new relationship. So I like them all because they're all sort of approaching the idea of love at a different angle.

Tell me about your relationship with The Americas Artistic Director Kai Paynter? You are a fearsome duo!

Yes! I met Kai through The Short+Sweet Festival, Sydney. I submitted my play, Brave People, and she read it and wanted to direct it. We didn't know each other before that! But during the rehearsal process, she would send me a video of what they were working on and I thought her production was really, really strong. We ended up winning the award for best play and Kai won best director. After that, we had a Zoom call and she asked to read some of my other writing. I sent her a lot of different things; full-length plays, one-acts, screenplays. It was a lot! And she came up with the idea of combining those shorter plays into L-O-V-E. And the rest, as they say, is history.

But I really want to say how much I've enjoyed working with Kai. I think she's smart, talented and is also absolutely fearless in her way of making art. She does it! A lot of people say, "oh we should work together on something," but it never happens. With Kai, it happens. I admire that, truly.

We are bound forever by a mutual love of Kai. Tell me, what do you like about seeing how Australian actors interpret your work?

I've had plays produced in lots of different places in the world; Singapore, India and Dubai. But I think my sense of humor is probably more naturally aligned with what I understand the Aussie sense of humor to be; a love of banter with a healthy dose of sarcasm. So I'm interested in seeing that, how actors do that and how it feels different, or not, to when I've seen my work performed here. I'm excited to see how my work is interpreted.

Interview with Allan Staples (cont.)

And I'm also super interested in how the audience responds. Are the laughs in the same place? Are they not? Does the work still emotionally resonate?

We loved seeing that too - the audience really tells you what is hitting and what isn't. Crazy how that can differ night to night. Your work focuses on complex relationship dynamics, generally with a very small number of people on stage at a time, speaking at pace in thrilling back-forths about the given circumstances. Does this reflect the types of relationships you encounter in the world, or is it more aspirational - you wish we all spoke to each other in such depth about the goings-on of our personal relationships?

That's an interesting question. I feel fortunate that my 20s was spent talking to friends and hanging out at work and at bars and talking about things. I say fortunate because I don't think people talk to each other enough in person these days. As a society, it's not great and, as a playwright, it's really not good.

Style-wise, I've always loved dialogue that has a propulsive, tennis-like quality to it; think Tom Stoppard and David Mamet. And dialogue that has a strong sense of rhythm.

And, yeah, I think most writing is a bit aspirational, especially when writing about interpersonal relationships. We all wish we could revisit moments in our lives and replay them, except now armed with the exact right thing to say at the exact right time. As a playwright, you hope the audience identifies with the situation and, ultimately, finds something comedic or cathartic in what you've written.

Very nicely put. So, to finish - what are you working on at the moment?

I'm working on a new play!

Very cryptic! Can't wait to read it. Thanks for your time, Allan and see you soon!

2025 SUMMER / FALL SEASON



MEGAN Allan Staples

SHORT+SWEET FESTIVAL, SYDNEY TURNER HALL

Heats: **3-9 Feb** Semi: **21 Apr / 28 Apr** Finals: **12 May**

The team who won Best Play and Best Director at Short+Sweet Festival, Sydney 2024, return with another funny, poignant and moving work from New York playwright Allan Staples. Megan explores how, even in grief, love brings us together. Featuring Allan's trademark cheeky, thoughtful tone, THE AMERICAS, A THEATRE COMPANY are excited to start their 2025 season with a return to Short+Sweet Festival, Sydney.



NO DIRECTION HOME Allan Staples Premiere

THE LIVING ROOM, SURRY HILLS

20 - 23 Feb, 27 Feb - 1 Mar

[Get Your Tickets!](#)

THE AMERICAS, A THEATRE COMPANY premiere an intimate look at sisterhood, love, loss and the relationships that make us and break us in No Direction Home. Award-winning writer-director pair Kai Paynter and Allan Staples unite, starring Jordan Thompson, Dominic Di Paolo, Finn Middleton and Georgie Saad, to share a unique experience with Sydney audiences in a thought-provoking performance space. Find your way home with us in February.

2025 SUMMER / FALL SEASON



THIS IS L-O-V-E

QTOPIA, SYDNEY

4 - 8 Mar, 11 - 15 Mar

[Get Your Tickets!](#)

L-O-V-E, back by popular demand following its sold-out debut last August, has a new name with a fresh take. This is L-O-V-E explores the dynamics of love and relationships in modern America. Created by New York artist Kai Paynter, and NY-based playwright Allan Staples, This is L-O-V-E is performed by a dynamite Aussie cast. The anthology-style show shares stories of queer and straight connection, community, health, politics, bodily autonomy, and death. Get ready to fall in L-O-V-E again in 2025.



IN CONVERSATION WITH ALLAN STAPLES

BRANDX, SYDNEY CBD

9 March

THE AMERICAS is honoured to present this exclusive, invitation-only event with special guest, Allan Staples. Recipient of the American Theatre Co-op award for best one-act play, Allan's Why Actors Can't Love will be read and performed by Tristan McKinnon, Kate Jirelle and Georgia Britt. Megan, one of Allan's most riveting short plays will also be performed by Alex Baum & Rhett Wilks. Join us afterwards for an intimate Q&A with Allan where he will discuss his journey as a playwright, seeing his work performed in Australia and what he is working on next.

2025 SUMMER / FALL SEASON



THE MONEY SHOT

Neil LaBute Premiere

May 2025

Fasten your seatbelts Australia! THE AMERICAS is ecstatic to announce this premiere event. Neil LaBute needs no introduction, but we'll give him one anyway - friend of THE AMERICAS, A THEATRE COMPANY, Mr. LaBute is a renowned American playwright, screenwriter and director. His works have been seen the world-over, from Broadway, to the silver screen, to Netflix. He is known for his barrier-pushing, intelligent, thought-provoking, modern work which says the quiet part out loud. The Money Shot explores power, intimacy, insecurity, ego and the state of showbiz in America. We are honoured to be premiering this play in Australia... details coming soon.

Meet Our Behind the Scenes Folk...



Boipelo Mawasha

BearTiger Productions Web Applications Designer

Boipelo Mawasha is an accomplished Engineering Manager with 13 years of expertise entrenched in software testing within the dynamic finance industry. His background spans a range of organizational environments, from ambitious startups to established corporations, equipping him with a unique vantage point on test management and team dynamics.

His dual experience in both large-scale organizations and nimble startups has enriched his expertise in strategic problem-solving. He is passionate about nurturing relationships that drive team success while staying focused on his goal of continuous professional growth.

“B”, as we call him, is responsible for all things web-design.



Andrea Magpulong

The Americas RA/Photographer & Graphic Designer

Andrea is a Filipinx-Australian actor and improviser who holds a BA in Media Arts (Honours).

Her theatre credits include: ALIVE as Phoebe, L-O-V-E as Patricia/Stephanie, Short Blanket as Lainey, The 8 as Blitz, 12 Angry Jurors as Juror 4, Ate Lovia as Lovia Understudy, Wasted as Charlotte. Screen credits include: Nothing In Between, Queen of Oz, Strife. Andrea is part of the improv group Fallow Talk, their show Pamamanhikan was a finalist in ‘Best in Comedy’ at the Sydney Fringe Festival 2023. Most recently, they performed at New Zealand Improv Fest for the first time with a completely sold out show.

If you're curious to know who shot and designed our promo images, it's the work of wiz-kid, Andi aka “Hammy”.

Meet Our Behind the Scenes Folk...



Eddie Langford

BearTiger Productions Marketing Lead

Eddie Langford is a musical theatre performer who graduated from AIM with a Bachelor of Music (Music Theatre) in 2022.

He is most proud of his role as Leo Bloom in Holroyd Musical and Dramatic Society's 2023 production of 'The Producers'. His other theatrical credits include Officer Lockstock in 'Urinetown' (MUSE, 2024), Ensemble in 'Avenue Q' (Blackout Theatre Co., 2024), Anthony the Squirrel in 'Nutz!: A New Musical' (MUSE, 2023), Whiffle/Ensemble in 'Cry Baby' (MUSE, 2023), Voice 5 in '35MM: A Musical Exhibition' (MacMS, 2023), Mr. and Dennis in 'Sunday in the Park with George' (MUSE, 2022), and the Typesetter in 'Personals' (AIM, 2022).

The man behind the design, layout, and send-out of our newsletter is none other than our "Steady-Eddie".

**Special thanks to our BTS team, promo models, Co-Producer, Ruby Jenson and Executive Producer, Kirk Hastings.



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