

GRAA 2024 AWARDS CEREMONY SOCIAL STORY - WORKING DOC

THE CEREMONY: GENERAL INFORMATION

Please note: much of the award ceremony will be subject to change in the moment and there are and will be elements of an unpredictable nature. We apologise for the lack of description pertaining to the movements happening on and the set-up of the stage.

The Green Room Awards Ceremony will begin at 7:00pm in the theatre and will run for at least 3hrs with no intermission. Audience members and nominees are welcome to move around the auditorium during the ceremony, and to leave the theatre at any time. If you require the use of our designated Quiet Space, an usher will be able to direct you from the auditorium. We welcome you to bring any stim toys, headphones, or anything else that will aid self-regulation.

This ceremony contains moving lights, flashing lights a visual slide-show and loud music/voice amplification.

The house lights will remain at mid-level for the duration of the ceremony except during performances when they will be dimmed. There will be flashing lights and lots of moving lights during the performance pieces. This will include some spotlights, lighting directed onto the audience, different coloured lights, and lights that will change quickly.

The stage includes the following setting:

Silver disco balls in front of the podiums. This will create some light reflection.

Silver curtains hanging over the stage wings that may reflect light.

There will be patterns of light over the stage

There will be slides projected at the back of the stage throughout the awards presentations with the names of nominees and award winners. These projections will include static imagery.

There will be pre-recorded voice-over played throughout the ceremony. Before and after people have finished speaking, performing or accepting an award, there will likely be loud applause and supportive cheering. There may also accidentally be microphone 'pops' or unpleasant microphone feedback. This ceremony will be conducted primarily in English, with two alternating Auslan interpreters - stationed to the right of the stage when facing it from the audience. They will both be dressed in all black clothing.

THE CEREMONY: RUNNING ORDER (AUDIO/VISUAL/CONTENT WARNINGS)

To transition to the beginning of the ceremony, lights will come up on stage and the pre-ceremony music will fade out.

First nations matriarch Mandy Nicholson will then welcome us to the unceded lands of the Woiwurrung and Boonwurrung language groups of the Eastern Kulin Nation. 'First Nations' here means a person who is an original custodian of the lands of so-called Australia. Specifically,

Mandy is a custodian of Naarm (the First Nations word for Melbourne). Matriarch means a woman who is the head of a family or tribe. Mandy will speak both in Woiwurrung language and English.

There will then be a short performance by the Groundhog Day cast of the song There Will Be Sun from the musical *Groundhog Day* that runs for approximately 2 minutes and 32 seconds. It will feature the company of Groundhog Day as well as musicians on the Accordion, Guitar, Keys and Fiddle. There will be 5 microphones on stands set up for the performers.

Groundhog Day:



Image Depictions: A production photo from Groundhog Day featuring Andy Karl and Elise McCann sitting in an amusement park carriage. Andy Karl is a white man with dark brown hair, pictured wearing a black overcoat, white shirt, dark tie and a striped scarf. Elise McCann is a white woman wearing a curly dark brown wig (will potentially be with her natural blonde curly hair onstage), blue jeans, a white top and a maroon jacket.

Audio/visual/lighting/content warnings

"There Will Be Sun" is a song from the musical adaptation of "Groundhog Day." In this song, the protagonist, Phil Connors, reflects on his experiences of being stuck in a time loop, reliving the same day over and over again. Despite the repetitive and seemingly hopeless situation, he finds a glimmer of hope in the idea that there will eventually be a new day, symbolized by the rising sun. The song explores themes of resilience, optimism, and the belief that better days are ahead, even in the face of adversity.

The performance will include five microphone stands, two guitar, electric piano, accordion and Violin on stage with the cast of Groundhog Day. There will be spotlights and warm-coloured stage-lights creating patterns over the stage floor.

After the performance finishes, there will be an introduction from our hosts, Miss Friby (she/her) and Raphael Wong (he/him), introducing the Hon. Colin Brooks MP (Minister for Creative Industries) to the stage for a speech. Miss Friby is a white woman with dark red hair. Raphael Wong is a man of Malaysian descent with black hair. Hon. Colin Brooks MP is a white man with light brown hair.



Image Description: The left-hand image is a headshot of Raphael Wong, He is sitting face-on to the camera with his left elbow leaning on his knee. The image is from the chest up. He is wearing a black t-shirt. He is smiling with teeth. The background is dark gray with a cream strip on the right side of the photo. The right-hand image is a full-body portrait of Miss Friby posing in a contorted position where she is bent at the waist leaning forward with her arms raised above her head, her knees bent inward and her face posed in an expression of comedic shock looking directly towards the camera. She is wearing silver pointed boots, a black and white singlet crossover top and an assortment of black and silver jewelry (bracelets and earrings). Her red hair is slicked back and she is wearing a natural base of makeup with smokey eyeshadow and red lipstick.

Host Biographies:

Raphael Wong:

Raphael made his professional debut in Opera Australia's 2012 Melbourne season of *Turandot* and, since then, has performed on stage and in concert across Australia, the USA, China and Germany. A versatile classical-crossover artist, he is a two-time finalist in the prestigious Herald Sun Aria Competition, a runner-up in the National Liederfest, a 2-time Green Room Award nominee, and was a Top 6 Finalist in the Inaugural Artists of Colour (AOC) Initiative Music Theatre Competition in 2020. Raphael played the role of Passarino in *The Phantom of the*

Opera with Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, followed by the role of Buquet in Opera Australia's touring production of the same show. In both productions, Raphael understudied the lead role of the Phantom. Most recently, Raphael performed in Victorian Opera's *Candide* and originated the role of Ella's Father, in the new Australian musical, *Midnight*. Other Credits include: *Diavolo 5* in *Galileo* (Victorian Opera), *Rapunzel's Prince/ Lucinda* in *Into the Woods* (Watch This) and a featured soloist in *The Music of the Night—Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber* (Spears Entertainment). Raphael holds a Diploma of Education, and has over 15 years in the Education sector. His Music and Vocal Directing credits include: *Songs for a New World*; *Little Women the Musical*; *West Side Story*; *School of Rock*

Miss Friby:

Sequinned satirist, cabaret clown and award winning showgirl, Miss Friby, is a tornado of high energy choreography and sharp wit, entertaining audiences worldwide with her unique brand of cabaret, vaudeville and burlesque. 'An adept vocal mimic capable of emulating Winehouse and Weimar' (scenestre.com), Miss Friby's genre defying work has seen her host the 'World's Greatest Freakshow', fresh from it's Vegas season, perform as a resident artist in the National Gallery of Victoria and produce/perform numerous cabarets at Australia's largest festivals (Splendour in the Grass, Falls festival, Woodford). 'Reminiscent of a 21st Century Lucille Ball' (Adelaide Theatre Guide), Miss Friby's fuses 'old world charm' with 'new world idiocy', guaranteed to have you 'eating out of the palm of her hand' - arts hub.

'Best Cabaret' weekly Adelaide Fringe | 'Green Room' nominee 2012/15 | 'Fields Award - contribution to Australian Vaudeville'

Further Speeches

Following the Hon. Colin Brooks MP's speech there will be a voice over introduction for the Lord Mayor Sally Capp (she/her) who will give a speech. Sally is a white woman with short blonde hair and glasses. Following that there will be another voice over introducing the President of the Green Room Awards Association, Anton Berezin (he/him), who will be making a speech. Anton is a bald white man with light stubble.

After that series of speeches the award presentation for Ensemble Performances will begin, presented by Cherine Peck (she/her) and Angus Grant (he/him).

Awards:

Award nominees will be announced by a voice-over, with their names on the projected slideshow at the back of the stage. The winner will then be announced, and make their way from the auditorium to the stage. Light music will play to fill this time. When they reach the stage they will receive their award, and then have approximately a minute of speaking time before making their way backstage and then back into the auditorium. Their return to the auditorium will also be accompanied by light music. This combination of audio, visual and lighting will repeat each time an award is presented.

Following the Ensemble awards, the Design awards will begin presented by Victoria Chiu (she/her) and Angela Conquet (she/her).

After the Design awards there will be a performance by Rhonda Burchmore (she/her) and the Jack Earle Trio of the song Inside Out by Imelda May (she/her). "Inside Out" by Imelda May explores the complexities of love, vulnerability, and self-discovery through honest lyrics and soulful melodies. The performance will last approximately 3 minutes. Jack (he/him) is a white man with short dark hair. Rhonda is a white woman with long orange/red hair.



Image Depictions: Pictured above is Jack (L) in a black suit with a white shirt, black tie and black flat cap and Rhonda (R) in a red dress and long silver earrings. They are in a relaxed state with Rhonda holding her dress slightly out of frame. It is natural looking lighting with a dark red background.

Following the performance, the Writing awards section will begin, presented by Scott Gooding (he/him) and Danny Dalehanty (he/him). Please refer to the "Awards" section for lighting and sound descriptions (p.4).

Following the Writing awards, the Direction awards will be presented by Sophie Smyth (she/her) and Weng Yi Wong (she/her).

Midway through the Direction awards there will be a performance by Christian Charisiou (he/him) from Kinky Boots. Christian will be performing Soul of a Man from *Kinky Boots*. In this song, Charlie struggles with the weight of his father's legacy and what it means to be his own man. This will run for 3 minutes and 22 seconds.

Kinky Boots:





Image Depictions: Production images featured above from the show. Main focus should be put on the performer feature in the center of the bottom left hand photo Christian Charisiou as he is the solo artist performing for this show. Christian stands front and center in a hero pose in light brown pants, dark blue top and warm brown jacket whilst holding a glass of champagne. Christian is a white man with light brown curly hair.

After the *Kinky Boots* performance the Direction awards will recommence. Please refer to the “Awards” section for lighting and sound descriptions (p.4).

At the conclusion of the Direction awards there will be a performance from Cuddle.

Content warning: the cast of Cuddle will begin their performance from the audience and will then make their way towards the stage as the performance progresses. The performance will include a series of stylised choreography exploring different genres of contemporary dance. The performance will run for approximately 4 minutes.

Cuddle:



Image Depictions: The four images above depict two actors in various fighting stances. Three of the images (top L, bottom L and bottom R) includes the two actors wearing balaclava masks, bright red long-sleeve shirts, blue denim jeans, with black nylon shorts layered over with the label "Bauer" printed on the waist and on the bottom of the right leg. Both are wearing black sneakers with silver and red accents to them. In the top two images (top L and top R), the actors are facing each other holding hands while standing on a silver stage. There is an audience of approximately 20 people in the background of both images. The second image (top R), has both actors shirtless, wearing balaclavas and blue denim jeans. The bottom L image has the two actors in their fighting stances against a beige backdrop, while the bottom R image has the actors against a dark backdrop with a projector screen, Led-long LED lights, scaffolding and theatre chairs.

Following the performance from Cuddle the Performance awards will commence presented by Katie Sfetkidis (she/her) & Kat Chan (she/her). Please refer to the “Awards” section for lighting and sound descriptions (p.4).

Following these awards, there will be a Vale/In Memoriam slide-show. Content warning: images of people who are deceased will be projected onto the stage.

The Vale/In Memoriam slide-show will be accompanied by a performance of the song For Good from Wicked sung by Sheridan Adams (she/her) and Courtney Monsma (she/her). The performance will last approximately 4 minutes and 30 seconds. Sheridan is a white woman with long deep-brown hair. Courtney is a white woman with hazel-brown hair.

"For Good" from Wicked reflects on how friendships change and shape us, leaving lasting impacts and gratitude for each other.



Image Depictions: The first image (L), depicts Sheridan and Courtney sitting and posing in front of a teal wall with a forest-green floor. Sheridan (L) sits with her arms crossed over her knee with her body facing the camera and her eyes looking beyond to the left of the room. Her brown hair hangs loose over her left shoulder. Sheridan is wearing a lime-green, floor-length, strapless tulle gown. Courtney (R) sits facing Sheridan with her right hand splayed over her face as if she is whispering to Sheridan. Courtney's hair also hangs loose behind her shoulders. She is wearing a baby-pink, floor-length, strapless tulle gown. The next two images (top R and bottom

R) depict Courtney and Sheridan dressed in their Gahlinda and Elphaba costumes. The Top R image has Courtney (L) wearing a blonde wig, a baby-blue princess gown and a silver crown and necklace. She holds a brown leather book in her left hand and holds Elphaba's hand in her right. Sheridan stands to her left with her skin painted green, wearing Elphaba's black gown and cape with a black witches hat. She faces Courtney and holds Courtney's right hand with both of hers. They are standing in front of a backdrop depicting a view from a window looking over the city of "Oz." The bottom left image depicts Sheridan to the left in the same costume with green sunglasses. Courtney stands to her right in a blonde wig, yellow thin-strapped summer dress holding a yellow purse and wearing green sunglasses. The both stand in front of the ensemble of Wicked, where approximately 20 people stand in various poses, all wearing costumes of different shapes and sizes, but all wearing the same shade of emerald green. The cast stands on stage with a black backdrop alluding to a starry night sky.

Following the Vale/In Memoriam, the Special awards will be presented. Please refer to the "Awards" section for lighting and sound descriptions (p.4).

After the Special awards, the Patron Speech and an introduction to the Production awards will be given by Liz Jones (she/her).

The Production awards will be presented by Elise McCann (she/her) and Andy Karl (he/him).

Following the Production awards, the ceremony will close with a performance of Song for a New World, from the cast of *Songs for a New World*. Song for a New World encapsulates hope, resilience, and embracing change amidst uncertainty, navigating life's transitions with courage and determination. This performance will run for approximately 5 minutes and 18 seconds. They may be wearing their costumes from the show.

Songs for a New World:



Image Depictions: The cast of Songs for a New World. Each cast-member is wearing costumes in different shapes and sizes, varying in shades of brown, beige and white. They stand in a triangular formation facing the audience. The cast stands in various poses while holding onto a

rope, creating the imagery of a crew standing at the front of a ship. The lighting casts their shadows over the front of the stage. The background includes a set of white curtains and warm hanging lights.

Ceremony Conclusion

The performance of *Song for a New World* will finish and the stage curtains will close, concluding the 2024 Green Room Awards Ceremony.

If you have any further questions or have any feedback on the document itself, please reach out to Weng Yi Wong at secretary@greenroom.org.