

LANNY – Director’s Message

From its conception over a year ago, I have mischievously referred to this play as a 'world premiere'. While technically true (it has never existed on a stage before) I say this tongue in cheek because *Lanny* is an unofficial adaptation of Max Porter's wonderful novel of the same name. The idea of bringing Max's beautiful language to life on stage for school age artists to perform was too tempting to ignore. Upon first reading Max's work, the poetry, lyricism and joy of language, the imagery and evocation of moments between people has been a source of constant inspiration.

Alongside the inimitable and wonderful Glenn Saunders, we wrote the first draft over six months then the following seven drafts into September 2021. From then, following auditions and casting nearly 40 incredible young artists, the meaning, message, potency, and imaginative world of *Lanny* has become as much theirs as ours.

You will, of course, see the skill and dedication of the students on display for yourself, but I wish to commend them on their willingness to remain imaginative, curious, and playful throughout the rehearsal process. Much of the work developed was built from their creative ideas and dedication, I merely shaped a little when they brought these ideas to the fore.

At its heart *Lanny* is about the impact of an unexpected, terrible event on a tight-knit community. It explores how humanity is tested in trying times, how our inhumanity can rise when discord and fear take over and how we need trust, not fragmentation, when the world tilts in unexpected ways. In this way this is a performance very much for 2022. It nods, subtly, to the devastation of our environment, the impacts of climate change, and the increasing danger presented by single mindedness and digital communication.

I am extremely proud of this work, as it marks numerous 'firsts' for the Trinity/Ruyton Senior School Play. We are using immersive headphone theatre as our medium, an original 'world premiere' script written for the students and developed by the students, and the use of the play process as training for Theatre Studies and Drama work. We also double-cast the show, ensuring the actors are watching one another and learning from each other throughout the play. The process has been, from the very beginning, entirely collaborative. To their absolute credit, the students have taken all these new approaches in their stride and have committed fully to the process. The result is what you will see, a unique, delightful, and exciting new Australian play.

Remy Prichard
Director

Taken from the production's program