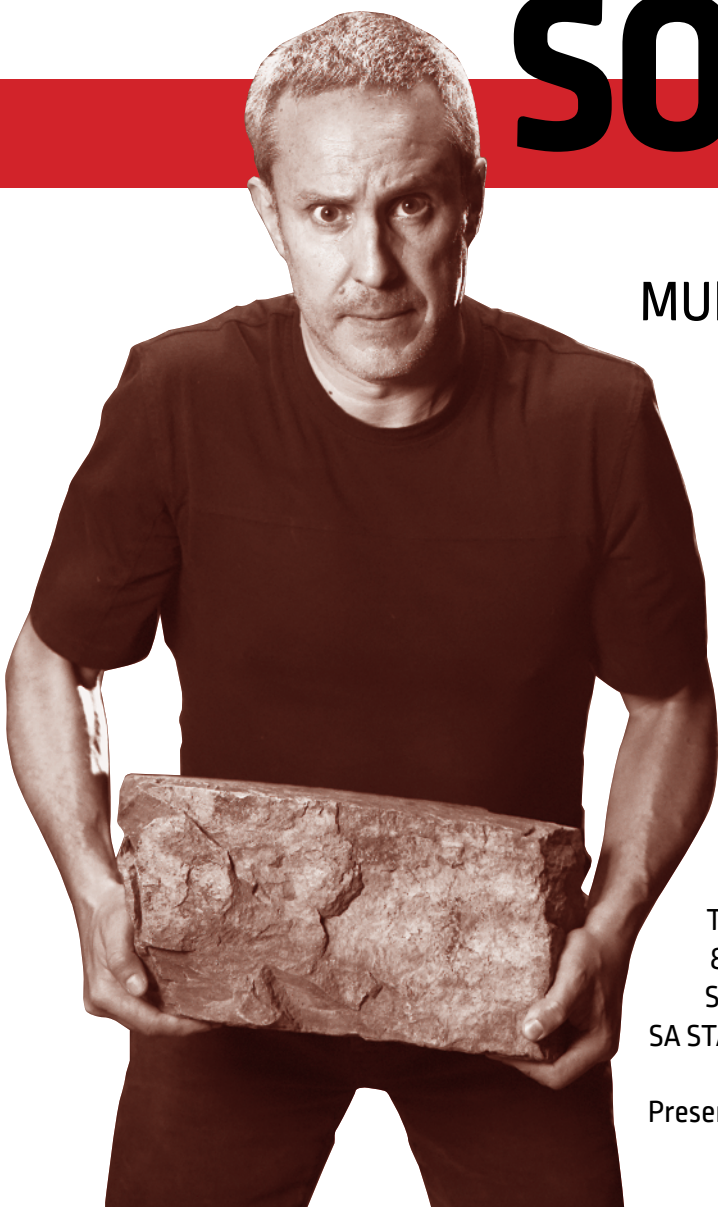


AMERICAN SONG

BY JOANNA
MURRAY-SMITH



**South Australian
Premiere**

Presented by
Flying Penguin
Productions
in association with
The Goodwood Theatre
& Studios as part of the
State Theatre Company
SA STATESIDE Program 2025
24 Oct – 2 Nov 2025
Presented at The Goodwood
Theatre and Studios

**FPP
20 YEARS
IN 2025**

Flying Penguin Productions celebrates
20 years of creating unforgettable, critically
acclaimed, award-winning theatre for
South Australian artists and audiences.

American Song Director's Notes

When I first read *American Song* by Joanna Murray-Smith, I knew I had found a play that would be perfect for Renato and me to work on together again. To find a piece that explored the intersection between parenting and what the hell was going on in America, seemed almost too good to be true. It was just what I wanted to do. And so, we did. It has been a really wonderful thing to do - as a piece of theatre and as a way of thinking about my life and the world.

What are the forces that shape and form our children? As a parent, how responsible am I for the person my child will become? What sort of a world is my child growing up in and how can I help guide them through that? What role does place, and community and country play in the shaping of our children? *American Song* is a beautiful, moving, confronting and insightful play that speaks urgently to many things that I care about and trouble me deeply in 2025.

I have enormous debt and gratitude to everyone who has made the project possible. The theatre can only do small things, but I continue to believe in its power to connect us and to remind us of how wonderful and challenging it is to be alive. Thank you for supporting live theatre.

David Meador

Director, October 2025



Joanna Murray-Smith: Writer

Produced and translated all over the world in over two dozen languages, including on Broadway, the West End and at the Royal National Theatre, London, Joanna's plays have been read or performed by many of the world's leading companies and actors. They include *Honour*, *Julia*, *Berlin*, *The Female of the Species*, *Bombshells*, *American Song*, *Switzerland*, *Songs for Nobodies*, *The Gift*, *Ninety* and many others. Her adaptations include *Scenes from a Marriage for Sir Trevor Nunn* in London, *A Doll's House*, *Hedda Gabler* and *Uncle Vanya*. She also writes for the screen and her film adaptation of *Switzerland* has recently completed filming in Italy and the UK. This year *Julia*, her hit-play about Australia's only female Prime Minister, completed a national tour playing to sell-out audiences. Her adaptation of *The Talented Mr Ripley* completed a very successful season at the Sydney Theatre Company and is about to commence a season at the Victorian Art's Centre. She has recently completed a film adaptation of her play, *Honour*, to film in the UK in 2026 and is also adapting Charlotte Wood's *The Weekend* to the screen. Joanna has been nominated for and won many awards.



David Meador: Director & Co-Producer

David is a multi-award winning and critically acclaimed theatre director, producer and educator. He was a founding member of Brink Productions, has been an associate artist with the State Theatre Company South Australia and is the Founder and Artistic Director of Flying Penguin Productions. Recent productions include *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Oleanna* by David Mamet for Flying Penguin Productions and *Prima Facie* by Susie Miller for the State Theatre Company. David holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide and is an Honors Graduate of the Flinders University Drama Centre. He teaches regularly at Flinders University Drama Centre, Adelaide College of the Arts and a range of other institutions and acting schools.



Renato Musolino: Performer

Renato Musolino is one of South Australia's most respected and experienced actors and actor trainers. He trained as an actor at the Centre for the Performing Arts in Adelaide. He has worked nationally and internationally with leading companies including State Theatre Company South Australia, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir Theatre, Bell Shakespeare Company, Griffin Theatre Company, Windmill Theatre Company, ABC Radio National, Flying Penguin Productions, Doppio Parallelo, Country Arts SA, and the South Australian Film Corporation. Renato is a Lecturer in Drama at Flinders University Drama Centre [Bachelor of Performance].



Kathryn Sproul: Set & Costume Designer

Kathryn designs nationally for theatre, dance and large arts events. Theatre projects include *Prima Facie*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Cathedral* (State Theatre Company South Australia), *Anatomy of A Suicide* (Flinders University), *Sons & Mothers* (No Strings Attached), *Muckheap* (Polyglot Puppet Company, Shanghai & Australia) and Costume Design: *GUURANDA*, director Jacob Boehme, Adelaide Festival 2024. A graduate in Stage Design from NIDA, Kathryn was Resident Designer for Magpie Theatre and State Theatre Company of South Australia from 1988 – 1993. Festival Event Design includes: *Flamma Flamma*, *Fire Requiem*, Adelaide Cabaret Festival 2005 – 2011 & 2016 – 2018, OzAsia Festival & Moon Lantern Parade 2007-2014 and Adelaide International Guitar Festival 2007-2014. Flying Penguin Productions: *True West*, *The Dark Room*, *Sea Wall*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Oleanna*.



Nic Mollison: Lighting & Projection Designer

Nic has been working as a freelance lighting and projection designer for 30 years and has created lighting and projection designs for many local, national and international productions for theatre, dance, opera, concerts, festivals & visual art installations. Nic's lighting work includes *The Children*, *Prima Facie*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Euphoria*, *Gaslight*, *The Appleton Ladies Potato Race*, *Dry*, *Maestro*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Lion Pig Lion*, *Honk If you are Jesus*, *Between Two Waves*, *When the Rain Stops Falling* and *Monolith*. Nic has lectured in lighting at the Adelaide College of the Arts and the University of South Australia, School of Creative Industries.



Quentin Grant: Composer & Sound Designer

Quincy is a freelance composer and musician based in Adelaide/Tandanya, South Australia. He has written and performed a lot of music for the theatre, working with companies including Slingsby, Flying Penguin Productions, Circa, Brink Productions, Queensland Theatre, Gravity and Other Myths, and State Theatre Company South Australia, and has toured extensively to the USA, UK, Japan and Ireland.

AMERICAN SONG CREDITS

Playwright: **Joanna Murray-Smith**

Director & Co-Producer: **David Mealor**

Performer: **Renato Musolino**

Set & Costume Designer: **Kathryn Sproul**

Lighting & Projection Designer: **Nic Mollison**

Composer & Sound Designer: **Quentin Grant**

Co-Producer: **Joanne Hartstone**

Assistant Director: **James Watson**

Stage Manager: **Charlotte Welden**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Kory Ellis**

Dialect Coach: **Patrick Klavins**

Goodwood Theatre Managers: **Chris Iley & Simone Avramidis**

Head Technician: **Steven Durey**

Set Electrics: **Alexander Ramsay**

Wall Realisation: **Patrick Duggin, Casey Van Seville and Adelaide College of the Arts - Props Students**

Scenic Artist: **Wendy Todd**

Stage Crew: **Tom Sutton, Tyrone Dutreix-Sampson, Alec Jardine, Tim McBeath, David Bailiit, Silk Productions & Entertainment**

Graphic Design: **Gregg Mitchell**

Publicity & Promotion: **Connie Kosti**

Production Photography: **Tom Roberts**

Poster & Publicity Photographer: **Matt Byrne**

Videographer: **Adam Ovadia**



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The Goodwood Theatre and Studios: Chris Iley, Simone Avramidis and team
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Flinders University Drama Centre: Chris Hurrell, Andy Bailey
Adelaide College of the Arts: Casey Van Seville, Tess Ryan, Greg Piki
Slingsby Theatre Company: Andy Packer
Patch Theatre
Adelaide Festival: Julian Hobba, Michelle Reid
Boral Quarries Para Hills
Individuals including Seth Bate, Mitchell Butel, Michelle Delaney.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS OVER 20 YEARS...

Flying Penguin Productions was formed in 2005 by David Mealor to forge new opportunities for the leading actors of South Australia. The company has developed a reputation as the State's most successful and sustained independent theatre company.

Always associated with, and centred around, acting of the highest calibre, Flying Penguin consistently realises unforgettable theatre experiences that provoke, amaze, and entertain. It has presented 15 critically acclaimed productions - most of them SA premieres - attended by nearly 40,000 patrons, engaging over 200 artists and arts workers, and winning more awards in that time than any other independent arts company in South Australia.

And soaring into the future

Flying Penguin Productions is grateful to everyone who has played a hand in these achievements and welcomes a conversation with anyone who would be interested in helping it soar in the future.

“Flying Penguin Productions are a jewel in the crown of Adelaide’s vibrant theatre scene.”

The Advertiser

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www.flyingpenguinproductions.org
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