

THE REBEL ALLIANCE PRESENTS

THE VALENTINA

BY ANDERS FALSTIE-JENSEN



HAWKE'S BAY ARTS FESTIVAL, OCT 11
TAURANGA ARTS FESTIVAL, OCT 26
NELSON ARTS FESTIVAL, OCT 30 & 31



NAU MAI HAERE MAI!

Welcome onboard *The Valentina*.

This play started out as a short story that I wrote a long time ago for my six-year-old son, Anton. I was really proud of that story and spent a long time thinking "*I think this could be a great play*".

By the time I decided to do something about it, Anton was quite big, so I took inspiration from my daughter, Clara, when I wrote the stage version.

Clara performed the role of Ellen in the very first public reading of *The Valentina*. She came up with the original design for Ellen's spaceship and also gifted the production the name for our annoying trillionaire, Dr Dichter.

While working on *The Valentina* I thought a lot about the 'Overview Effect' - a term coined by Frank White in 1987. It is a sensation described by astronauts and cosmonauts alike, including Yuri Gagarin and Michael Collins, who from orbit were suddenly struck by a sense of our planet's fragility and incredibly beauty. That and the children on it is for me what *The Valentina* is all about.

I hope you enjoy the show.

Anders

CREDITS

Writer / Director: **Anders Falstie-Jensen**

Ellen: **Talia Pua** (Tauranga & Nelson) & **Jorja Baylee** (Napier)

Mum / Valentina / Others: **Bronwyn Turei (Ngāti Porou)**

Dad / Neil / Gork: **Estevez Gillespie**

Narrator / Yuri / Others – **Kevin Keys**

Set Designer / Illustrator: **John Verryt**

Lighting Designer: **Jane Hakaraia (Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Kapu)**

Sound Designer / Associate Director: **Sean Lynch**

Costume Designer: **Elizabeth Whiting**

Stage / Production Manager: **Chiara Niccolini**

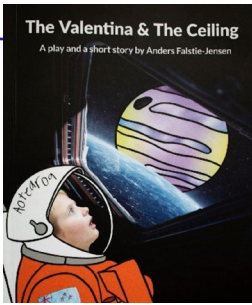
Operator: **Stuart Phillips**

Graphic Designer: **Ivan Muller**

Photography / image formatting and editing: **John Rata**

Cast and crew portraits: **Jinki Cambroner**





THE BOOK

If you are interested in purchasing the book *The Valentina & The Ceiling*, it is for sale from Anders directly after the show.

\$20



THE ILLUSTRATED AUDIOBOOK

The Valentina also lives online so if you'd like the link to the illustrated audiobook you can purchase access from Anders directly after the show.

\$10



THE MISSION PATCH

Do you dream of travelling far? Are you a Toroa at heart? Join The Rebel Alliance and get your own *The Valentina* mission patch.

\$5

STAY IN TOUCH

If you'd like to be kept in the loop on rebellious activities, email us on anders@therebelalliance.co.nz to join the mailing list for our irregular newsletter Rebellious Times. You can also follow us on facebook ([@rebeltheatrecompany](https://www.facebook.com/rebeltheatrecompany)) and Instagram ([@rebeltheatrecompanynz](https://www.instagram.com/rebeltheatrecompanynz), [@afalstie](https://www.instagram.com/afalstie)). So many options!

THANK YOU

Megan, Reena, Jade and Janelle for incredible support - *The Valentina* would not be flying without you; all the generous supporters of our Boosted campaign that helped make this tour a reality and all of our families, who make it possible for us to do what we do.

TheRebelAlliance.co.nz

CAST AND CREW BIOS



Talia Pua

[Talia Pua](#), is a performer, theatre-maker and set designer based in Tāmaki Makaurau. She is a co-founder and Creative Director of independent theatre company, Hand-Pulled Collective. In 2021, Talia made her award-winning playwriting and directing debut with *Pork and Poll Taxes*, which premiered at the Herald Theatre and went on to win the b425 award. Her most recent acting credits include: *Heart Go...Boom!* (Massive Theatre Company), and *The Whale Rider* (Tim Bray). When she's not gallivanting in outer space, Talia is writing and devising her second play, a modern day fable called *Dani and the Age of Wonder*.



Jorja Baylee

Jorja is an Ōtautahi-based actor and improviser with a passion for playful, engaging storytelling. She is over the moon to be joining the Rebel Alliance for *The Valentina*. An award-winning actress, Jorja is also a core member of The Court Jesters, performing regularly in the long-running improv favourite Scared Scriptless. She is a proud member of Equity New Zealand.

CAST AND CREW BIOS



Bronwyn Turei

Bronwyn Turei (Ngāti Porou) is a graduate of UNITEC's Performing and Screen Arts degree, majoring in acting. Screen credits include 4 seasons as core cast member Cody on the hit NZ show *Go Girls*, Holly Collins in season 2 of *The Brokenwood Mysteries*, Aroha in *Dirty Laundry*, Ariana in *The Tender Trap*, Arataki in *Awkward Love*, *The Bad Seed*, *The Gone*, and most recently finished filming for *The End of the Valley*.

Bronwyn has performed with theatre companies across the country including *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Shortland Street The Musical* (Auckland Theatre Company); *Hemo is Home* and *Raising the Titanics* (Te Pou Theatre); *Prison Songs* (Darwin Festival); *Little Black Bitch* (Tuatara Collective); *La Casa Azul*, *Three Days in the the Country*, *Weed*, *The Father*, *The Life*, *Modern Girls in Bed*, *Rants in the Dark*, *Elling* (Circa Theatre) and *School Dance* (Centrepoint Theatre).

She is also a recorded singer/songwriter.



Estevez Gillespie

Estevez Gillespie began his acting career as *Shortland Street's* villain Bailey Finch, quickly establishing himself as a dynamic screen performer. In recent years he has appeared in series such as *Auckland Love*, as well as numerous national television commercials. One of his most meaningful roles was narrating Prime TV's acclaimed documentary series *Living With Tourette's*.

Estevez's most recent screen role is playing the villain in the new Warner Bros. television series *Tangata Pai*.

On stage, his work includes performing as King Arthur in Eric Idle's *Spamalot*, multiple play readings with the N8TV Stage Collective, and developing new creative work through his production company, Maxima Productions. Maxima has recently secured funding to begin work on a new adaptation of *12 Angry Men*, featuring the voice of Sam Neill as Juror #4.

CAST AND CREW BIOS



Kevin Keys

Kevin is a father of two awesome kids and partner of a powerhouse wahine. He's a recent Heretaunga emigrant after nearly 20 years in Tāmaki Makaurau freelancing as an actor, narrator, presenter, and sometimes musician. He's worked with ATC, Pop-up Globe and, of course, the fabulous The Rebel Alliance.

He's emceed with the Auckland Philharmonia and the NZSO and narrates for Blind Low Vision NZ as well as Audio Describing for the fabulous Audio Described Aotearoa (providing commentary to blind and low vision patrons for live theatre and events).

He dreams of rock stardom with the supremely dormant 6-piece band Moongoat, but anticipates said stardom arriving in his mid-70s. So, there's time.



Anders Falstie-Jensen

Anders hails from the plains of Jutland, Denmark. He is the co-founder of The Rebel Alliance and the company's main producer, writer and director.

Playwright credits: *The Rehearsal*, *The Bomb*, *Standstill*, *Centrepont* (2015 ADAM winner for Best new New Zealand play), *Watching Paint Dry* (Nominated - Most Innovative Work, 2019 New Zealand Fringe), *Let Me Tell You About Auckland* (2020 Auckland Fringe Winner - Best Community Engagement), *Back to Square One?* (Shortlisted for the 2020 ADAM award for Best new New Zealand play) and *The Valentina* (2022 Winner of Plays For The Young - 8 12 year-old category)

Director credits: *The Orderly*, *A Night of French Mayhem*, *The Bomb*, *Standstill*, *Yours Truly*, *Manifesto 2083*, *Watching Paint Dry*, *Back to Square One?* and *The Valentina*.

In 2025 Anders was the recipient of The Bruce Mason Playwriting Award.

CAST AND CREW BIOS



John Verryt

John has created designs for a diverse range of projects from *Badjelly the Witch to King Lear* to *The Magic Flute*. John Trained in design for live performance at Theatre Corporate and Mercury Theatre and is an established practitioner in the New Zealand performing Arts industry. John has and is working extensively with many companies including Silo Theatre, Auckland Theatre Company, Indian Ink Theatre Co, Live Live Cinema, Nightsong, World of Wearable Arts, The Large Group, Auckland Arts Festival, Tawhiri Productions, Opera NZ, MOTH, Michael Parmenter Dance, Douglas Wright Dance, Atamira Dance, Okareka Dance, Black Grace Dance, NZDC and Red Leap Theatre.



Jane Hakaraia

Jane Hakaraia is a freelance lighting and TV designer. Theatre companies she works with regularly include Auckland Theatre Company, Bullet Heart Club, Silo Theatre and Massive Company. She also works with Blue Bach Productions as Art Director on their TV offerings and is currently working with Māoriland Film Festival in the design of their outdoor. Jane has a degree in design from Unitec and undertook an honours degree in design at AUT.

CAST AND CREW BIOS



Sean Lynch

Sean Lynch has been working in New Zealand professional theatre for more than 30 years. He is a musician, actor and lighting and sound designer. He did the sound design for The Rebel Alliance productions of *Yours Truly* and *The Valentina* and has performed the company's niche theatre piece *Watching Paint Dry* in several cities including Hamilton, New Plymouth and Copenhagen. As a lighting designer Sean works regularly with Auckland Theatre Company and Silo Theatre.



Elizabeth Whiting

Elizabeth has designed costumes for Auckland Theatre Company, Silo Theatre, New Zealand Opera, Court Theatre, Nightsong, Indian Ink, Te Pou Theatre, The Rebel Alliance and many other performing arts companies.

She won a Chapman Trip Award for her costume design for Red Leap's *The Arrival* and was awarded MMNZ for her services to theatre in 2025.

Elizabeth represented New Zealand and the Pragma Design Quadrennial.

CAST AND CREW BIOS



Chiara Niccolini

Since completing a Bachelor of Performing & Screen Arts at Unitec in 2019, Chiara has been working as a professional Stage Manager for a number of theatre companies, such as: Auckland Theatre Company, Massive Theatre Company, and Tim Bray Theatre Company.

Chiara entered The Rebel Alliance orbit on the premiere season of *The Valentina* Chiara and has subsequently worked with the company on Anders' solo show *Back to Square One?*. She also saw Anders on very thin ice as he did 3 schools shows, in a row, as a test for a kids show called *Come on in*.

In her spare time, Chiara enjoys rock climbing, tramping, plus various other outdoor activities.



Stuart Phillips

Stuart has been involved in the New Zealand performing arts scene for the last 15 years. Predominantly working as a Senior Lighting Technician at Auckland Live, Stuart has also toured with local shows both around NZ and internationally as an operator and technical manager, such as with Massive Company's *The Brave*, Red Leap Theatre's *Kororāreka: The Ballad of Maggie Flynn* and Silo's *Brell*. Stuart's interests are in lighting, sound, and set construction.

Stuart lives in Tāmaki Makau-rau with his partner and two retired racing greyhounds, Daisy and Timmie, but enjoys travelling Aotearoa to go hiking in our beautiful wilderness.

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