

# KING LEAR

## BIOGRAPHIES

# so what?

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**Houston Ash (Edmond)**  
Bachelor of Arts II

Houston Ash has dabbled in theatre from time to time since he was young. More recently, he spent 2007 studying acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute of Theatre and Film, before choosing to study English literature at the University of Sydney. In 2009 Houston performed for Sydney University Dramatic Society in Caryl Churchill's *Seven Jewish Children* and Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*. He has also directed a nativity play.



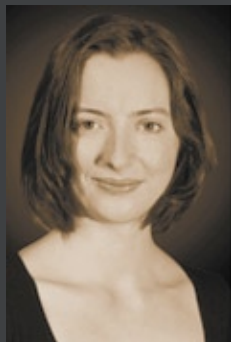
**Oliver Burton (Gloucester)**  
Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) IV

Oliver Burton began his involvement with the theatre as an actor but has since taken on a variety of other roles. His theatre credits include: As Actor- For The Shakespeare Globe Centre Australia: *Titus Andronicus* (2006). For Sydney University Dramatic Society: *Hamlet* (2007), For The Royal Holloway University Drama Society: *Glimpse, Much Ado About Nothing* (2009). As Producer- For Shakespeare in the Rose Garden (Sport For Jove Theatre): *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2009). For The Leura Shakespeare Festival (Sport For Jove Theatre): *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet* (2010). As Director- For SUDS: *Julius Caesar* (2008). As Director/Writer- For SUDS: *The Coming Fall* (2007).



**Alec Bombell (Albany)**  
Bachelor of Arts (2009), Bachelor of Laws II

Alec Bombell wandered onto a stage in primary school and hasn't looked back since. He has been involved in several Sydney University Dramatic Society shows, the Sydney University Law Revue, and Theatresports including the NSW Schools Championship in 2005. Offstage he volunteers as a legal assistant at Redfern Legal Centre, where he helps the disadvantaged access free legal advice. He believes firmly that everyone should have a voice in what sometimes seems an inherently unjust world. The piano is his muse, and he endeavours to take what he learns through his music and life experiences and apply it to the stage.



**Urszula Czarnota (Kent)**  
Bachelor of Arts IV

Urszula Czarnota has been interested in theatre since she first took drama as an elective in high school. She has performed in high school plays and musicals as well as completed a short course at the Actor's College of Theatre and Television (ACTT) and spent a semester attending classes at The Department of Puppetry Art in Bialystok, Poland. On her return to Australia one year ago she finally pushed herself to participate in the Sydney University Dramatic Society and hasn't looked back. *King Lear* is her first major student theatre production. Aside from theatre her interests also lie in ancient history, which she studies at the University of Sydney, and she likes to dabble with photography and filming.



**Jacqueline Breen (Cordelia)**  
Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) IV

Jacqueline Breen combines treading the student theatre boards with studying and building a career in media. She loves the challenges, freedom and fun inherent in student theatre, and enjoyed tackling Martin Crimp's *Attempts on Her Life* in the Sydney University Dramatic Society Major Production 2009. She played Mary Warren in New Theatre's production of *The Crucible* (2008), and is excited to take on Shakespeare for the first time. Offstage she keeps busy writing about the arts and trying to get others to engage in the same, including her appointment as publicity manager for the Verge Arts Festival 2009 and other events.



**Christopher Hay - Director**  
Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours with University Medal) (2009), Doctor of Philosophy Candidate (Performance Studies) *Sydney*

Christopher Hay has directed extensively in student theatre over the last few years, culminating in his presidency of the Sydney University Dramatic Society in 2009. During the year, he initiated a program of staged readings, including *Execution of Justice* (Emily Mann) for the Verge Arts Festival. His major directing credit has been *The Laramie Project* for two runs in 2008 at Seymour Centre and Newtown Theatre for So What? Productions. He also directed a staged reading of the new epilogue, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, as part of the world premiere of that work. His early work was in 2005 for the drama department of Bradfield College, including productions of *Betrayal* (Harold Pinter) and *Huis Clos* (Jean-Paul Sartre) and the teaching of classroom theatre studies, followed by *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Frank McGuinness) with SUDS in 2006. He has also produced and acted with SUDS, including *Romeo and Juliet* (2009), *Julius Caesar* (2008) and *The Importance of Being Ernest* (2008). In 2010, Christopher is directing *The Turn of the Screw* (Benjamin Britten) for the Sydney University Opera Company, and a post-dramatic response to Euripides' *Hippolytos* for SUDS.



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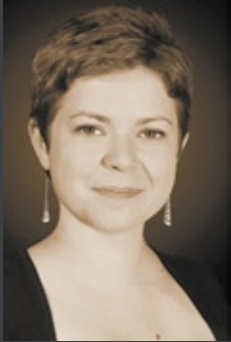
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### Clare Matchett (Fool)

Bachelor of Arts (2009), Masters of Criminology I

Clare Matchett has been involved in productions of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Julius Caesar*, David Williamson's *Dead White Males*, and the Sydney University Dramatic Society 2008 Major Production *The Laramie Project*. For So What? Productions she was also part of the worldwide premiere staging of the play's epilogue, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, in Sydney's Seymour Centre in 2009.

Clare is interested in the intersection of crime, adolescence, mental health and the prison system, and hopes to explore these issues and more as she completes her Masters.



### Sean Ohlendorf (Edgar)

Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws III

Sean Ohlendorf spent his early childhood in Canada and Germany before moving to Adelaide in 1996. He discovered his love for performing at a young age and appeared in numerous high school productions including *West Side Story*, *The Crucible* and *Cloudstreet*, before starring as Fergus in the Network Ten mini-series *Fergus McPhail*. Since moving to Sydney in 2008, Sean has become heavily involved in the Sydney University Dramatic Society, performing in *Julius Caesar* (2008), Martin Crimp's *Attempts on Her Life* (2009) and Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* (2009). Sean recently joined an ensemble cast in Samuel Beckett's *Not I* (2009) for the National Institute of Dramatic Art. Sean is over the moon to be back home for the Adelaide Fringe, deeply honoured to be able to share the stage with such wonderfully talented people.



### Madeleine McCallum - Stage Manager

Bachelor of Arts (Languages) (Honours) V

Madeleine McCallum's involvement with student theatre began in her first year at the University of Sydney. Since then she has been involved in technical and production capacity with numerous SUDS shows and the stage management of the Architecture (2007) and Arts (2008) Revues. She has been involved with So What? Productions as Stage Manager since its inception with *The Laramie Project* (2008) and *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* (2009). Her love of the stage is long-standing and extends to her performance experiences in opera and choral singing.



### Rebecca Saffir (Oswald)

Bachelor of Arts III

Rebecca Saffir was sent to her first drama class at age five and hated it, declaring 'it was just silly games'. Her faith in the art form was restored, however, at age six when she played an angel in her school play. She then graduated to (slightly) more complex roles at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, including *The Seagull* and Mrs Smith in *The Bald Prima Donna*. For the NSW Public Schools State Drama Company, she performed in *The Musicians*, *Stags and Hens* and *Burn*, and lent her voice to the narration of the 2005 and 2006 Schools Spectaculars. For Sydney University Dramatic Society she has performed in *Julius Caesar* (2008), *L.O.V.E.* (2009) and *Seven Jewish Children* (2009).

In 2009 Rebecca performed the role of Snow White in *Princess Cabaret* for Tumbleweed Theatrical Productions. In 2010 she will hopefully inch closer to her university majors in Performance Studies and English and continue to spend much time working on student theatre.



### Danielle Nakkan (Gonerill)

Danielle Nakkan has acted extensively with the Sydney University Dramatic Society since her first involvement in the 2009 Orientation Week program, including in the devised piece *Lust Over Virtuous Emotion* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She also directed her first full-length play in 2009, as well as participating in the staged reading program, including *Execution of Justice*. Danielle has done short courses at the National Institute of Dramatic Art, the Actors College of Theatre and Television and with the Atlantic Theatre Company in Los Angeles.



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### Khym Scott - Production Manager

Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) (2009) Sydney,  
Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Production) | NIDA

Khym Scott has worked on over twenty shows during his time with the Sydney University Dramatic Society since 2006, leading up to his work with So What? Productions. Khym's keen interest in the (re)creation of Shakespeare's great works has led him to be involved as producer of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2006), *Hamlet* (2007), *Hamlet in the Quad* for the Verge Arts Festival 2007; as technical operator of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2007); and as director of *Romeo and Juliet* (2009) for SUDS. His most recent encounter with Shakespeare was as sound operator of *Julius Caesar* (2009) at the Wharf Theatre for Cry Havoc. Khym was also Technical Director for the *Shake: Intersity Shakespeare Festival* in 2006. He also directed the Sydney University Architecture Revue (2007) and produced the Sydney University Arts Revue (2008, 2009).

For So What? Productions Khym produced both the touring season of *The Laramie Project* (2008) and *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* (2009). He is currently choreographing *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* for the Sydney University Musical Ensemble.



### Ash Vlahos (Regan)

Bachelor of Global Studies IV

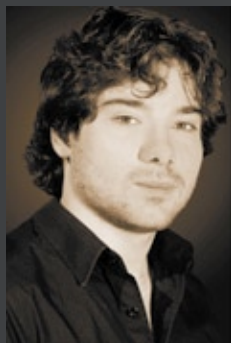
At the age of ten, Ash Vlahos and her cousins staged a play for their family, Banjo Patterson's *The Man From Ironbark*. Ash instantly fell in love with drama and participated in every eisteddfod she could. She was heavily involved in numerous high school productions, but due to her height in an all-girls school Ash was primarily cast in male roles such as Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Baptista in *The Taming of The Shrew*. It was not until Ash joined the Sydney University Dramatic Society that she was truly able to indulge her dramatic side, participating in numerous productions from *Hamlet* (2007) to *Julius Caesar* (2008), among others.



### Stephen Sharpe (King Lear)

Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) (Honours) IV

Stephen Sharpe is terrifyingly thrilled to be playing King Lear. After having his acting ambitions kindled at the awkward age of four when he secured the role of Joseph in his biblical pre-school pageant, Stephen went on to perform numerous times at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, playing roles ranging from driftwood in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* to Shakespeare's Macbeth. As a member of the NSW State Schools Drama Company (2006, 2007) he has performed in *Stags and Hens*, *Burn*, *Our Town*, and toured NSW in *The Miracle*. He has also been involved in several film projects, receiving a Robyn Anderson Film Award for acting in 2007. He has loved regularly performing shows as a member of the Sydney University Dramatic Society and is currently beginning his Honours year in Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney.



### Pierce Wilcox (Cornwall)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) / Bachelor of Laws IV

Pierce Wilcox has spent his time in the Sydney University Dramatic Society alternating between the thrill of being in the spotlight, and the different, but no less thrilling thrill of being the guy holding the spotlight. Onstage, he has appeared in *Julius Caesar* (2008) and *Merrily We Roll Along* (2007). Offstage he has directed Caryl Churchill's *Seven Jewish Children* (2009) and Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* for the Verge Arts Festival 2009. He is currently writing the libretto for a new opera based on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel *Notes from Underground* and preparing to direct Euripides' *Hippolytos* for SUDS in late 2010. Pierce is hoping to spend his Honours year studying Shakespeare, and is honoured to have the chance to explore *King Lear* alongside such a talented group of creative people.



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