

Andrew Strano – Bios

200 WORD BIO

Andrew (they/them) is an Australian writer living and working in New York. They're a Fulbright Scholar, a NYFA City Artists Corps member, and have been awarded the Australian American Arts Fund and Performer's Trust Foundation Grants, the George Fairfax Memorial Award, and a major Mike Walsh Fellowship.

Full length works include *Nailed It!* (Winner: Greenroom award, 'Best original songs', Selection: Adelaide Cabaret Festival), *Jack Of Two Trades* (Winner: Jeanne Pratt Artists in Residence Program), 'Voyagers' (Winner: City Of Melbourne 2020 Arts Grant, Commissioned by Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre), and 'SKIN' (Off Broadway: Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, Selection: Global Forms Theatre Festival, Semi Finalist: O'Neill National Musical Theatre Conference).

Andrew's short works 'STARSONG' and 'Anticipation' were featured at Rattlestick, with STARSONG also selected for the 2022 Chain Theatre Festival. Their piece 'Space' was featured in the Lincoln Centre's 'Future Broadway Songbook'. Their short opera, *CHICKEN/EGG* was featured by the American Opera Project as a part of *Losing Control*.

Andrew holds an MA in writing for performance from the Victorian College of the Arts/Melbourne University, an MFA from the NYU-Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program (Shubert and Peerce named scholarships), and has taught extensively in theatres and universities worldwide.

FULL LENGTH BIO

Andrew (they/them) is an Australian lyricist, playwright, director, performer, teacher and Fulbright scholar living and working in New York City, with musicals and cabarets produced all over the world, including Off-Off, and Off Broadway.

Andrew began their writing career as a performer, graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts musical theatre performance program in 2008. They studied theatrical improvisation with the iO theater Chicago in 2014, and returned to the VCA in 2016 to complete their M.A. (Writing for Performance).

In order to pursue their career, Andrew has since been awarded the 2019 Victorian Fulbright Scholarship, the 2020 Schubert scholarship, a major Mike Walsh Fellowship, a PPCA performer's trust foundation grant, the George Fairfax Memorial Award in and an American Australian Association Arts Fund Grant, all of which were integral in them completing their MFA at New York University Tisch's graduate musical theatre writing program in May 2021.

Their debut full length show, *Nailed It!* (written with composer Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer) won the 2014 Greenroom Award for Best Original Songs, and saw Andrew's performance nominated for theatrepeople's best cabaret performer. It toured globally to 5-star reviews (BroadwayBaby, Theatrepeople, 3WEEKS etc) including a sold out Edinburgh Fringe Festival season at the acclaimed Assembly Halls, and was selected for the 2016 Adelaide Cabaret Festival, the largest curated festival of its kind globally.

In 2017, Andrew and composer Lucy O'Brien were chosen as the inaugural Jeanne Pratt Artists in Residence. In addition to being the highest monetary prize for new musical theatre writing in Australia, the JPAiR included the development and debut of *Jack of Two Trades*, their adaptation of the classic Goldoni comedy *A Servant of Two Masters*.

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In 2021, Andrew and Japanese composer Yuriko Shibata were named members of the New York Foundation for the Arts' City Artists Corps, where they presented a sold out concert of songs from their original musical *SKIN* at FirstLive in Brooklyn. *SKIN* went on to be selected by the 2022 Global Forms Theatre Festival, which led to a professional workshop and sold-out series of presentations Off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre.

Additionally, *SKIN* has been selected as a semi-finalist of the O'Neill Theatre's National Musical Theatre Conference, has been featured as a part of *The Latest Draft* Podcast (rated 5-stars on iTunes), Musical Theater Radio's *Follow Spot*, the *TinPan Alley 2.0* showcase and as a part of the 2021 *Australian Theatre Festival Cabaret*.

Voyagers, a musical written with Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer, was originally commissioned by the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, and later won a City of Melbourne 2020 arts grant. It received a reading with Mira theatricals, and was first presented live at La Mama's Courthouse Theatre, later touring to be presented at the Riverina Playhouse.

Short works include: *STARSONG* (Chain Theatre's Play Festival Off-Off Broadway 2022, Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre 2021) and *Space* (Lincoln Centre's *Broadway's Future Songbook*), both written with composer Erika Ji, *Anticipation* written with Nori Hung (*Village Song*, Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre 2021), and their short opera, *CHICKEN/EGG* written with Erin Hoerchler was commissioned and presented by the American Opera Project as a part of *Losing Control*.

Andrew has taught for New York University, Melbourne University, the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Stage School Australia, LMA Melbourne, The Improv Conspiracy Theatre, ABC theatre (Scotland) and Base Jump theatre (New Zealand), in high schools as a singing teacher and drama teacher, and frequently works as a corporate trainer specialising in negotiation techniques and teamwork.