

# ***NORTH BY NORTHWEST*** →

**DIRECTED BY SIMON PHILLIPS  
ADAPTED BY CAROLYN BURNS**



## **Director & Co-Set Designer**

Simon Phillips

## **Lighting and Co-Set Designer**

Nick Schlieper

## **Costume Designer**

Esther Marie Hayes

## **Composer & Sound Designer**

Ian McDonald

## **AV Designer**

Josh Burns

## **Voice & Dialect Coach**

Leith McPherson

## **Assistant Director**

John Kachoyan

## **Cast** Nicholas Bell (as cast),

Ian Bliss (as cast), Justin Stewart Cotta (Gruzinsky/as cast), Matt Day (Roger O Thornhill), Sheridan Harbridge (as cast), Matt Hetherington (VanDamm/as cast), John Leary (as cast), Tony Llewellyn-Jones (Professor/as cast), Amber McMahon (Eve Kendall), Deidre Rubenstein (Mother/as cast), Lucas Stibbard (as cast), Lachlan Woods (Leonard/as cast)

## **Venue**

Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse

## **Season dates**

Monday 1 June –

Saturday 4 July 2015

## **Opening night**

8pm Thursday 4 June 2015

## **Production Briefing**

6pm Monday 25 May 2015

## **Tickets**

From \$51-\$129; Under 30s \$36

Tickets for 1-20 June currently on sale

## **Bookings**

Southbank Theatre Box Office

03 8688 0800 or [mtc.com.au](http://mtc.com.au)

Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183

or [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

#mtcNorthwest

@MelbTheatreCo

[mtc.com.au/Northwest](http://mtc.com.au/Northwest)

By special arrangement with  
Warner Brothers Theatre Ventures

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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**Melbourne Theatre Company**, in collaboration with **Kay + McLean Productions**,

presents the theatrical spectacular **North by Northwest**. Adapted by **Carolyn Burns** and directed by MTC luminary **Simon Phillips**, this stunning stage adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's infamous spy thriller stars **Matt Day** as man-on-the-run, Roger O. Thornhill, and **Amber McMahon** as the cool blonde, Eve Kendall. This world premiere production opens on **Thursday 4 June** at **Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse**.

Declared 'the Hitchcock picture to end all Hitchcock pictures' by its screenwriter Ernest Lehman, the 1959 American spy thriller was an instant classic. Now, using 21st century stage technology, Hitchcock's supreme suspense caper is brought to life, with every twist, every thrill, each pass of the crop-duster, and the thrilling climax on Mount Rushmore writ large on stage.

**Matt Day**, returning to MTC after last appearing in *Scarlett O'Hara at the Crimson Parrot*, and **Amber McMahon**, making her MTC debut, are joined on stage by a stellar cast featuring **Nicholas Bell** (*The Speechmaker*), **Ian Bliss** (*Hamlet*), **Sheridan Harbridge** (*The Beast*), **Matt Hetherington** (*Next to Normal*), **John Leary** (*Private Lives*), **Tony Llewellyn-Jones** (*Realism*), **Deidre Rubenstein** (*His Girl Friday*), **Justin Stewart Cotta** (*Glengarry Glen Ross*), **Lucas Stibbard** (*Boy Girl Wall*) and **Lachlan Woods** (*Hamlet*).

When Roger O. Thornhill, a suave and successful advertising executive, is abducted by thugs who insist he is a man called George Kaplan, there's obviously been a mix up. When they don't believe him, that's infuriating. When they try to kill him, that's frightening. And when they pin a murder on him, that's time to run! From New York to North Dakota, Thornhill is chased by spies, Feds and the glamorous, cool blonde.

Director **Simon Phillips** said, 'North by Northwest has long been one of my favourite films and when the offer came to work on a stage adaptation, I couldn't resist. It's the perfect challenge. Like so many of the Hitchcock greats, large sections of the film have a taut, sometimes claustrophobic intensity that makes for a perfect stage experience. But of course it's the 'impossible' bits that really get theatrical juices flowing. Who'd be stupid enough to try to depict on stage a man chased by a crop-duster? I would. You don't get this much crammed into a theatrical experience all that often so it's going to be an action-packed, audacious and occasionally pretty steamy ride!'

During his twelve years as MTC Artistic Director, **Simon Phillips** directed 60 productions including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Hamlet*, *Richard III*, *August: Osage County*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Visit*, *The Blue Room*, *Life x 3* and *Bombshells*. Last year he directed *Pennsylvania Avenue* for MTC, reuniting with Joanna Murray-Smith and Bernadette Robinson after the runaway success of *Songs for Nobodies*. Across his 30-year career, his directing credits range from new works, Shakespearean classics, musicals and opera. Phillips' musical credits include *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, the Australasian version of *Love Never Dies*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *High Society*.

**Carolyn Burns** began her career in New Zealand, devising and writing *The Retrievers*, an 18-part TV comedy thriller for children. Her first play for adults, *Objection Overruled*, was performed in all major New Zealand theatres. After moving to Australia, she worked as a journalist with SBS before attending the screenwriting course at AFTRS and writing for ABC children's television. In Adelaide she wrote four plays, including adapting both *Haxby's Circus* and *High Society* for the stage. *High Society* later toured Australia and the UK. Since then, Burns has worked as a dramaturg and script editor, and is currently collaborating on three new works for the stage.

**Steph Gavlak**

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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

