

HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

presents

RABBIT HOLE

WINNER OF THE 2007
PULITZER PRIZE
FOR DRAMA



A drama by **David
Lindsay-Abaire**

Directed by
Anna Baird

LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY BACK
6 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

RABBIT HOLE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

iTICKET

HLT.NZ/RABBITS

**Howick
Local Board**
Auckland Council



Please switch off cellphones before entering the theatre.
It is strictly forbidden for audience members to make
any form of recording of this production.

Waiting for Gertie!



Yes, legendary diva Cynthia Fortitude (Helen Moulder) is coming to Howick to give a musical lecture to the Howick Opera Guild (HOG). Her indefatigable accompanist, the equally legendary Miss Gertrude Rallentando, is nowhere to be found, so Cynthia must battle on without her.

Don't miss out. One performance only.
Limited seats available.

For bookings, see hlt.nz

Howick Little Theatre, Saturday, 4 October, 4pm.

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RABBIT HOLE was commissioned by South Coast Repertory (Martin Benson, Artistic Director; David Emmes, Producing Artistic Director) in Costa Mesa, CA. Originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer, at the Biltmore Theatre on January 12, 2006.

RABBIT HOLE

Setting: Becca and Howie Corbett's home in Larchmont, New York.
The play is set in 2006.

ACT ONE: Sc I: A Saturday in February. **Sc II:** Later that evening.
Sc III: A week later. **Sc IV:** Later that night.

ACT TWO: Sc I: Two months later, early May. **Sc II:** A week later.
Sc III: A few days later. **Sc IV:** Dusk that evening.

THE CAST

Becca

Julia Kellett

Howie

Hāmiora Jackson

Izzy

Gracie Cullen

Nat

Ami Coster

Jason

Astrid Adamson

PRODUCTION CREATIVES

Director

Anna Baird

Production

Co-ordinator

Beate Wiebel

Set Design

Anna Baird

Ian Milnes

Wardrobe Design

Senica Calder

Stage Manager

Trevor Hynes

Assistant Stage

Managers

Bruce Wighton

Paul Gapper

Ginny Jones

Lighting Design

Vic Leilua

Lighting Assistants

Crystal Livingstone

Parag Londhe

Hanneke Beets

Sound Design

Mike Daley

Rhys Owen

Décor

Sue LaFleur

Properties

Sarah Watt

Décor and Props Mentor

Laurie Mills

Technical

Operators

Rosie Elder

Tony Simmons

Prompt

Jan Saussey

Intimacy Adviser

Anna Baird

Graphic Design

Emma Love

Photography

AJ Johnson

Set Construction Crew

Nathan Hey

(Set Foreman)

David Gifford

Pat Hudson

Doug Johnston

Ian McMahon

Laurie Mills

Dan Vlad

Andrew Walden

Chris Woodhead

SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to Martha's Backyard, stockists of American food and grocery items, 44 Mount Wellington Highway. Open Mon-Sat, 9.30am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm. marthasbackyard.co.nz

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As an actor myself, I am drawn to plays that offer strong roles for actors, and *Rabbit Hole* most certainly fits the bill. It is a beautifully written observation on grief after one of the most tragic things that can happen to anyone. The ripple effects are felt far and wide and even as you, the audience member, watch the show, you will be affected by the ripples, too. But this is not a play of dark morbidity. Rather, it is a show of hope. There are moments of humour, deep love, family connection and family arguments. It is raw truth and shows us, as Lindsay-Abaire always does, with our flaws, our ugliness and our vulnerability all bound together.

The set design by Ian Milne and decor by Sue LaFleur are deliberately minimal. It echoes the hollowness of grief, with only Danny's bedroom still filled with colour and joy. The lighting by Vic Leilua is also a character in the show, reflecting the moods and feelings in the moment right up until the curtain call. The soundscape by Mike Daley will transport you through the scenes and the journey of the play.

Finally, after watching the play, you may ask yourself who was right, who was wrong? Is there even an answer to that question? There are no rules to navigate grief, but perhaps just being there for each other is the hardest thing we can do ...

My thanks to Howick Little Theatre for gifting me this brilliant play to direct. It has been a very rewarding journey.

Anna Baird

ANNA BAIRD

Director

Anna Baird is a professionally trained actor, having graduated from The Actors' Program in 2015.

She has performed in numerous plays at Howick Little Theatre, most recently in the role of Molly in *Old Love*. She has performed at many Auckland theatres both professionally and on the community circuit. Her acting credits include screen, theatre and web.

This will be Anna's directing debut and she feels honoured to be directing such a moving play by David Lindsay-Abaire, with a truly gifted cast and a very supportive crew.

She would like to thank every single person who has offered a helping hand and been so generous with their time and energy in bringing another wonderful piece of theatre to life. And she thanks you, the audience, for being here to watch the magic happen....



HĀMIORA JACKSON

Howie

In his debut performance for Howick Little Theatre, Hāmi takes on the role of Howie, rounding off an active year of musicals and theatre. Earlier this year, he played Tony in Ardent Performing Arts' *West Side Story* and Aaron in Toitō Collective Theatre's original production of *Three Forty One*. At Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre, he delivered a moving performance as the vulnerable Billy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

He says stepping into Howie's world has been both confronting and meaningful, allowing him to explore themes of love, loss, and the ways we carry grief.



JULIA KELLETT

Becca

Jules is delighted to be bringing her dodgy American accent and talent for breaking props back to Howick Little Theatre after a couple of years away. She first performed here in 2023 as a hyperactive housewife in *The Book Club Play*, and followed it up that same year with the role of blind woman Susan in *Wait Until Dark*. More recently, she cheated on Howick with the wonderful Dolphin Theatre, playing the down-to-earth Rose in Kiwi classic *Joyful and Triumphant* at the end of 2024.



Outside of the theatre, she is attempting to get fit again and has made the mistake of signing up for a half-marathon series this summer. She's always been addicted to travel, so is constantly daydreaming about the next backpacking trip or interrogating people about their holidays.

She says it's been a huge privilege to work on this play with such an emotionally vulnerable, hugely talented, beautifully playful cast and crew, and she hopes you enjoy the story as much as they've enjoyed exploring it.

GRACIE CULLEN

Izzy

Trained in both theatre and film, Gracie has performed in NZ and London after graduating from Unitec where she completed her Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts. Ranging from Shakespeare and physical comedy to screen time, she enjoys all aspects of the craft and the depth of each character she brings to life. Her most recent performances have included *Proof* and *The Country House* at the Dolphin Theatre, but this is her first performance at Howick Little Theatre. She is very excited to bring Izzy and all her layers out to play.



AMI COSTER

Nat

Ami is delighted to be back at Howick Little. She says, "It has been a fantastic opportunity to explore this profoundly challenging piece alongside such a dedicated and talented cast and crew." Ami hopes audiences will connect with the story and characters and be touched by their journey.

Other recent roles include Rose in *Call Girls* for Phoenix Theatre, Mammy in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* for Titirangi Theatre, Gracie in *The Big OE* for Ellerslie Stables Theatre and Carla in *Grand Horizons* for HLT.



ASTRID ADAMSON

Jason

While Astrid has done plenty of acting in high school and amateur short films, this is her first time on stage at HLT. She's always been interested in acting and roleplay, through vessels like *Dungeons & Dragons*, and has been acting for most of her life.

She hopes this will be her first role of many, and mostly, she hopes that you enjoy the show. Offstage, Astrid's interests lie in writing fantastical fiction, playing and listening to all sorts of music, and trying to solve the secrets of the universe at the top of a windswept mountain.



THE PLAY

Becca and Howie Corbett are struggling to find their way after losing their young son in a tragic accident. As they drift apart, Becca's family try to offer well-intentioned support, but their own complicated lives only add to the troubles. When the teenage driver involved in the accident reaches out, the family are forced to confront their loss and the possibility of finally moving forward.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

David Lindsay-Abaire (born 1969) is an American playwright, lyricist, and screenwriter celebrated for his wit, emotional depth, and ability to blend humour with heartbreaking honesty. Known for creating characters as flawed as they are deeply human, his work moves effortlessly between absurdist comedy and profound drama.

He first gained attention with *Fuddy Meers*, a quirky, dark comedy written while attending the Juilliard Playwriting Program, which established his offbeat voice in the New York theatre scene. His other acclaimed plays include *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Wonder of the World*, and *Good People*, the latter earning a Tony Award nomination for Best Play. In 2007, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Rabbit Hole*, a poignant exploration of grief and resilience.

Lindsay-Abaire has also written the book and lyrics for musicals including *Shrek the Musical* and the stage adaptation of *High Fidelity*, as well as screenplays such as *Rise of the Guardians*. His work continues to be recognised for its rare ability to find humour and hope in life's most challenging moments.



PATRON

Jennifer Ward-Lealand CNZM
Te Atamira

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A year's membership fee is \$20, or \$30 for a couple

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INFORMATION

Office hours
9.30am-1.30pm Mon-Fri

ph 534-1401 (general)
info@hlt.org.nz
PO Box 82-003,
Highland Park, Auckland 2143
hlt.nz

BOOKINGS

Book at ticket.co.nz
or phone 361 1000.



COSTUME HIRE

HLT hires costumes.
Phone office for details.

ACTING CLASSES

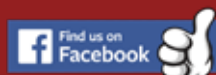
Weekly acting classes for all ages are taught by leading professionals. For details, see hlt.nz or call the office.

FUNDRAISING AND GROUP BOOKINGS

Is your group looking to fundraise or socialise?

A PlayDate booking reserves all the theatre for a performance, and your guests can enjoy the friendly social atmosphere before the show and at the interval.

For details of PlayDates and smaller group bookings, contact the office.





COMING NEXT TO HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
HELL...**

8 - 29 NOVEMBER

**A comedy by Bernard Farrell/Ireland/2005
Directed by Matthew Cousins**

Irene and Arthur have decked out their modest Dublin farmhouse for the holidays in anticipation of their friend Declan's return from New Zealand. A self-made millionaire, Declan is the focus of their meticulously crafted image of prosperity, which hides a cunning plan to secure their financial future. However, the festive cheer turns to disquiet as secrets start to unravel.



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