

Peter Feeney Director/ Manager



Peter has been a professional actor for 15 years. Prior to that he was a graduate student in Politics. He has participated in workshops, theatre and Film productions with Cicely Berry (Royal Shakespeare Company, London), Robert Benedetti (US Film producer and Broadway theatre Director), Rob Marchant (Sydney Film Director and proponent of the Mike Leigh method) and Dean Carey (Director, Actors Centre Australia). He has worked extensively in television, film and theatre, including at Fortune, Court and Circa theatres in New Zealand, and The Queensland Theatre Company in Australia.

Peter's TV and telemovie credits include *Cold Feet & Dark Knight* (UK); *Johnny Kapahala, You Wish, Legend of the Seeker, Hercules, Xena* (US); *All Saints, Stingers, A Difficult Woman* (Australia); *Shortland Street*, and regular roles in *Secret Agent Men, AEF: The Amazing Extraordinary Friends, Rude Awakenings* and *This is not your Life* (NZ). Peter was also casting director for *AEF*. Credits for film include the feature *Toy Love* & lead roles in *Black Sheep* and the internationally acclaimed short *The Platform*. In 2007 Peter also acted in David Slade's US Feature *30 Days of Night*.

Since 2001 - in Australia, New Zealand, and at Toi Whakaari The NZ Drama School - Peter has run acting workshops for professional actors. In 2003 he formed *Feeney McSweeney (FMS) Productions* to create his own theatre and film projects. He directed and starred in *Feeney McSweeney's* first production, the play *Milo's Wake*, which played to full houses in Auckland for six weeks in 2005, and toured nationally to similar success in 2006. In 2007 Peter wrote, produced and acted in the Auckland season of the one man theatre show *A Night with Beau Tyler*. The show continues the FMS tradition (begun with *Milo's Wake*) of site specific theatre with the audience pulled into the action. *A Night with Beau Tyler* is touring NZ in 2008 and 2009 to over 30 centres, including Downstage Theatre in Wellington in May 2009.

Peter is also a published author (*Blind Bitter Happiness*, Harper Collins) and short story writer. He's written articles, short stories and travel stories for *Quote Unquote* magazine, *Australian Left Review*, *North & South*, the *Listener* and *Metro* magazines. A husband and father, he is an advocate for CFA, the Centre for Attachment, helping them convey their message to parents and policy makers about the emotional early needs of toddlers and infants.

Peter has a BA (1st Class honours) from the University of Melbourne in Politics and History, and a Diploma of Drama from Auckland University. He was a nominee for Best Actor at the 2003 NZ Film Awards.

Ash Jones Creator/Performer



Auckland-area native Ash Jones has been acting for as long as he can remember. Both theatre and film credits lay under this talented youngsters belt. Theatre highlights include *Titus*, an abridged version of the infamous Shakespeare play; *The Last Taniwha*, a homegrown story performed in the Waipapa Marae, written by Chris Molloy and being a co-deviser in *Up Close Out Loud* with *Massive Theatre Company*, a show that was performed both here and in Manchester, England as part of the Contacting the World festival. *Green Room*, a comedy piece, co-written, co-produced and performed by Ash had a very successful season this year and looks to have a future in another extended Auckland season, touring NZ, and international festivals.

Film and TV roles include the recent Narnia film, *Prince Caspian*, in which Ash was flown over to Prague, working alongside the four young stars of the film and Andrew Adamson. Ash also attended the World Premier of the film in New York last year. Two projects that are yet to be released are a speaking role in a Disney tele-feature, *Skyrunners* and core cast in *The Warriors Way*, working alongside Oscar winner, Geoffrey Rush and Hollywood starlet, Kate Bosworth.

Ash has also starred on the New Zealand 'small screen' bringing his talents to *Shortland Street* and the soon-to-be released, *The Cult*.

Ash's training has been varied; Ash has been a student at *Jan Saussey's Aspiring Young Actors* for five years, learnt speech technique from the lovely Sylvia Rand, Standard American Dialect from Chris Stewart and trained under the likes of Peter Feeney, Miranda Harcourt and Stephanie Paul.

Ryan Richards Creator/Performer



Ryan Richards (born 26 January, 1984) is a New Zealand actor currently residing in Auckland.

His biggest success to date is playing the role of "Slug" in the –yet to release- large-scale feature film, *The Warriors Way (U.S.)*. Ryan played opposite, Oscar-winning actor, Geoffrey Rush. The film also stars Kate Bosworth and is produced by Barrie Osborne.

Ryan spent the first 21 years of his life in Dunedin. Ryan graduated from secondary school and completed a further three years of tertiary education in Dunedin, studying Television, Theatre and Radio at *Aoraki Polytechnic* and the *University of Otago*.

During his time in Dunedin, Ryan played various roles in many theatre productions both for the *University of Otago* and independent projects for the *Dunedin Fringe Festival*. In 2004 Ryan was given an opportunity to direct a home-grown piece of theatre, *Famous Violent* at Dunedin's *Globe Theatre*. For two years Ryan worked part-time for *Theatreworks* playing simulated patients for the *University of Otago* medicine student's examinations.

At the start of 2005 he relocated to Wellington after acceptance into *Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School* – New Zealand's oldest and most prestigious actor-training institution. During his three years of training he was able to take-on professional screen-roles outside of the classroom – this included roles in New Zealand Television series, *Ride with the Devil*(TV2) and *My Story*(C4)

After graduating with a "Bachelor of Performing Arts" in November, 2007 – Ryan's career brought him to Auckland for his role of *The Warrior's Way*. In the past two years Ryan has shot various New Zealand TV Commercials including *KFC- Wicked Wings* and *Tower-Business Insurance*. In early 2009 Ryan played a role on New Zealand's most popular locally made TV soap-opera, *Shortland Street*(TV2).

In terms of live-performance, Ryan's theatre credits include roles in *Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard and Shakespeare's *Othello*. Ryan mounted a solo-performance of *Iphigenia in Orem* by Neil Labute and in 2008 he spent two months in Steamboat Springs, Colorado (U.S) where he was invited by *The Great American Laughing Stock Company (GALSCO)* to rehearse and perform community theatre.

Nic Sampson Creator/Performer



Nic began acting professionally at an early age, securing his first television role on William Shatner's *A Twist In The Tail* at age 11. He studied theatre and film at Wellington College and attained an ATCL in acting through Trinity College London. Since leaving school Nic has been working consistently in Film, Television, and Theatre throughout New Zealand.

Nic currently studies the Sanford Meisner acting technique in Michael Saccente's master-class, and has also studied under Peter Feeney (*A Night With Beau Tyler*), teachers at the Globe Theatre, London (as part of the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Young Shakespeare

Company 2005), and LA casting director Nick Anderson (*True Blood*).

Finishing school, Nic was cast as a lead in Disney's *Power Rangers Mystic Force* (2005), which screened internationally and had a huge following in America as part of the *Power Rangers* franchise. Since it's completion, he has returned for every subsequent season to provide voice-over for various monsters and ghost-knights. Nic's other screen work includes two short films for director Peter Jackson: *Over The Front* and *Crossing The Line*. Set in World War 1 these shorts were filmed in Masterton and have been seen worldwide (most notably by Steven Spielberg). In 2007, Nic secured a core-cast role in the Korean-American feature *The Warrior's Way* along side Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush and starlet Kate Bosworth filmed in Auckland and set to release world-wide in 2010.

This year has seen Nic land roles in a myriad of New Zealand productions, including *Go Girls*, *The Cult*, Simon Bennett's feature *Spies and Lies*, Short film *Choice Night*, and a TVC for McDonalds.

As well as acting, Nic is an experienced voice-over artist, and has a passion for writing, music, and comedy. Nic has created, written, and starred in two plays for the International Comedy Festival, receiving positive reviews and packed houses in Auckland and Wellington theaters. He was also a finalist in the 2008 Raw Comedy Quest for his off-beat style of guitar-comedy. Beyond this, Nic has aspirations to develop his skills towards writing for screen.

Nic was a nominee for Best Newcomer at the 2006 Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards in Wellington for his role as a malfunctioning hologram in Ken Duncum's 2006 production of *Picture Perfect* at Circa Theatre. Along with his writing and performing partner he was a Best Newcomer nominee at the 2008 International Comedy Festival for their play *Tim & Andy: An Adventure*.