

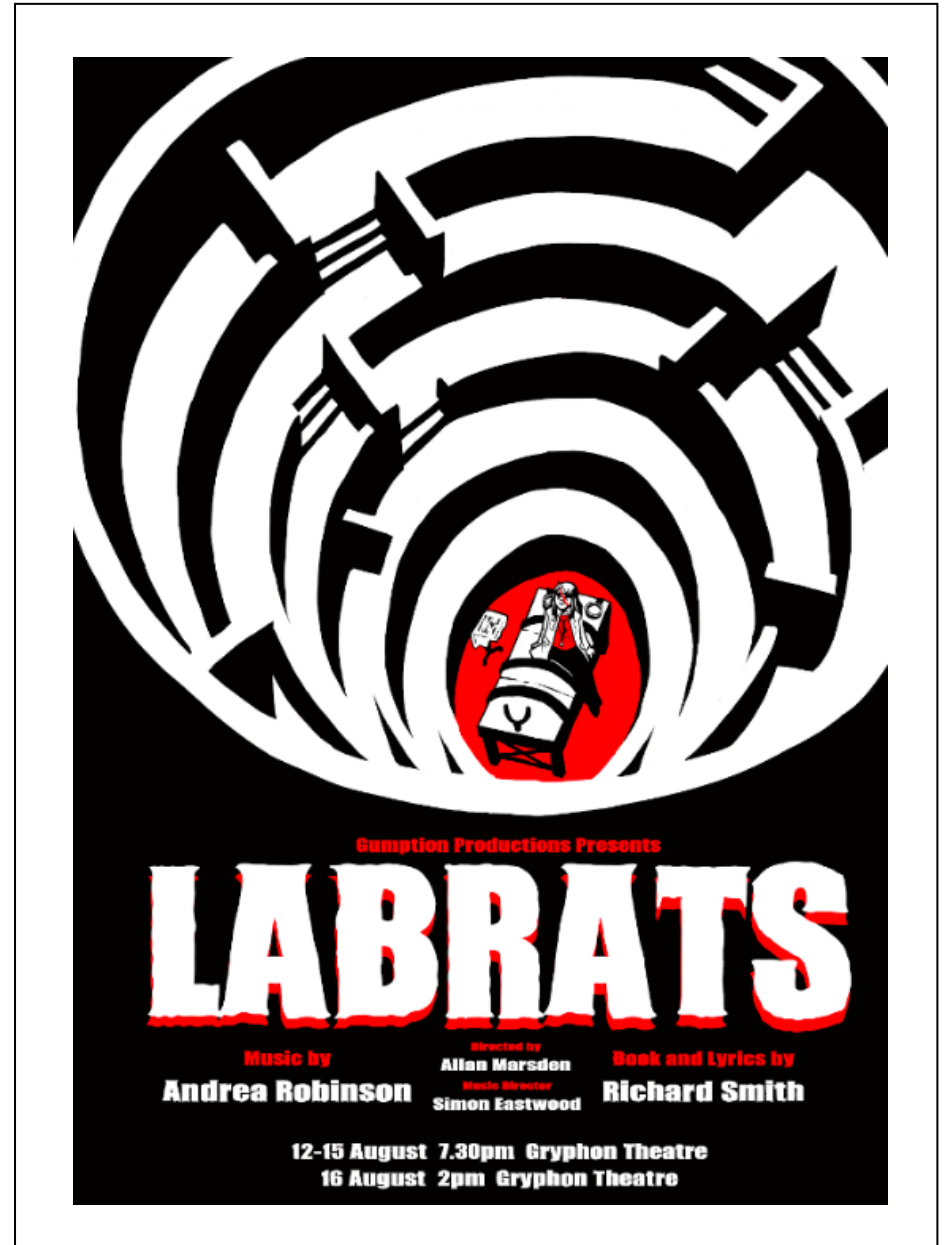
MONOLOGUE

(During Marion's broadcast, an alarm is sounded in the distance. Near the end of her message, guardians with weapons breach the stage-proper door with battering ram.)

Marion This is a broadcast for you, workers of the Pharm. Some of you know me. My name is Marion, Cadet first class, Tier 3. I was born and raised here in the Pharm. In making this, I may forfeit my life, but I can't withhold what I know to be true. They'll tell you I'm a mad-woman but I speak the truth. Discern for yourself.

I've seen the Wasteland first-hand and most of what we've been told about the world out there is false. The people and microbes outside the Pharm are less dangerous than those inside. I've met with Wastelanders and stayed their villages. As you can see, I'm not sick, nor am I a slave. Our top tiers fabricate plagues, dictators, wars, famines, epidemics ... all lies. Yes, these existed in the past but communities outside the Pharm are now free of pandemics and trade in relative peace. The disinformation we're fed is designed to enslave us. It serves the ongoing tyranny of Mother. Why else would they silence inquiry and crush dissent? Here, we're kept in the dark, slaves shackled by addiction to the very chemicals we produce. The top tiers may cancel out my voice, but they cannot shut down the whisper of truth in our minds and hearts. They cannot deceive us forev ...

(The signal is cut off. Marion works at the computer desperately trying to reset the transmission. Guardians ascend the stairs and arrest her then exit, dragging her out.)



**Labrats
Auditions**



Arrival

Participants are welcome to bring whanau or a friend for support. Your audition will be scheduled for a specific time via Google Forms. (Please let us know if your email does not respond to Google software.) Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your audition so we can make a note of your contact details and brief you.

Duration

Your audition will last for approximately 15 minutes.

Who to Expect

You will be welcomed by a host when you arrive at PGC Hall. (They will check we've recorded your contact details correctly and may request a photograph in the foyer.) People will be requested not to enter the audition space until called, when the previous audition is complete.

Drama

Alan Marsden (the director) will be casting and will manage the audition process. (Try to project your voice and listen to Alan's guidance, applying his direction to your delivery.) He will ask you to perform a brief monologue, which is attached.

**Labrats
Auditions**



Music

Composer and accompanist, **Andrea Robinson** will also be present, along with **Richard Smith** (producer) and members of our music team. You are invited to bring a song to perform. We suggest singers select a song they know well so they can communicate it effectively during performance.

Try to choose music in a key suitable for your vocal range, but don't be afraid to reveal the extent of your range. A piano and guitar will be available for accompaniment if required.

Alternatively you may choose to sing unaccompanied or to sing to a backing-track. If you provide a digital file we will try to play it through our speaker system but always be prepared to sing unaccompanied in case your audio track is not compatible. It's possible that Andrea may ask you to sing a refrain or chorus number from the show with support and accompaniment from the casting team.

We very much look forward to meeting you on the day and we'll do all we can to make the audition enjoyable.

The Heart of the Story

In a pharmaceutical sweatshop Marion fights co-dependence and fear to protect her daughter and take back control of her life.

The Creative Team

Andrea Robinson, Composer

Raised in Tauranga, Andrea played keyboards in a variety of bands throughout Australasia then completed a Bachelor of Music in composition at Victoria University of Wellington. While living in Wisconsin, Andrea co-wrote the album *Old Carmylie* with Scott McCutcheon. Having returned to New Zealand, Andrea studied jazz piano with Charmaine Ford, sparking her love of jazz.



Andrea played in the 'Capital City Big Band' for a number of years then in 2017 began leading the 9-piece Wellington jazz band 'Duke Wellington', playing keyboards and arranging over 40 songs and instrumentals. Andrea is a music teacher and song leader, living and working in Wellington with her family. She is the accompanist for the Wellington Community Choir, teaches flute and piano, and leads the Khandallah Singers. She enjoys composing and arranging songs for both choirs. In 2001 Andrea co-wrote the children's musical *Miriam* with Richard Smith before collaborating again to write *Labrats*.

Richard Smith, Writer (libretto and book)

Richard was raised in Wellington and lives with his wife in Porirua. He has worked as a teacher and editor in New Zealand, the UK and Cambodia. In 2015 he was awarded 'New Zealand's Most Inspiring Teacher'. Richard's first foray into songwriting was in partnership with Dave Fuller, resulting in the album *Dream of a Land* recorded by Pete Woolston. Richard has written songs for bands, churches and schools, including musicals for children, often working in collaboration with tamariki.



His poetry has been published in many New Zealand journals such as *Turbine*, *Takahē* and *Trout* but more recently in *Balloons Literary Journal* (Hong Kong), *London Grip New Poetry*, *Relief Journal*, *Ekstasis*, and the anthology *Now and Then* (Landing Press). In 2025 he was runner up for the 'Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems'.

Simon Eastwood, Director of Music

New Zealand-based composer and bass player Simon Eastwood has a diverse practice, including orchestral and chamber works, electronic pieces, and improvisation. He studied composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London and at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington.



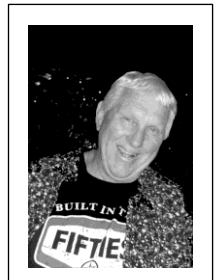
He has attended residencies and festivals in the UK, Bulgaria, Estonia, Alaska, Austria, Turkey, and Lithuania. His works have been performed by artists from around the world including the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, CHROMA, Now Hear Ensemble, Alia Musica, Christopher Redgate, Stroma, Ensemble Gô, the New Zealand String Quartet, and the BBC Singers.

In 2021, GRAMMY-nominated percussionist Justin DeHart included Simon's set '*Silver Wind, Golden Earth, White Water*' on *Landfall*, released by Rattle Records.

In 2024 Simon was appointed Mozart Fellow at the University of Otago/ Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka. He was Musical Director for '*the OGs*', a sold-out operatic showcase at the Auckland Arts Festival that year. As a composer himself, Simon is always excited by new work, and *Labrats* presents a delightfully subversive Kiwi take on the musical theatre genre.

Allan Marsden, Director

Allan is a veteran director and producer, who has been involved with theatre for over 50 years, directing musicals in New Zealand and China. He has been involved in over 80 productions. He has directed many musicals and plays including *Les Misérables*, *Evita*, *Blood Brothers*, *Oliver*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Jesus Christ Super Star*. He has performed in a variety of New Zealand plays including, but not limited to, *Trick of the Light*, *The Raft*, *Memory of Water*, and '*Bert and Maisy*'.



Allan is excited to be involved in this production, especially as it is a New Zealand first. Few musicals progress through development to being performed on stage in New Zealand and he believes *Labrats* has a distinctly New Zealand flavour.