

# Hash Honey

*is coming to Bankstown August 2012*

**Director Gael Ballantyne Musical Director Greg Crease**

An adaptation of Bryce Courtenay's *Smokey Joe's Café*

Co written by Lorrae Desmond and Gael Ballantyne,  
with original music by Charlie Hull, Martine DeCock and Doug Parkinson.

*Australia early 70's. After returning home to a country divided by the first television war... Vietnam, a group of Vets reunite in a race against time to save a sick child. Reluctantly they join forces with two strong women and are swept into a world of politics and the social set. What started out as an act of love for a mate accelerates into a fight against injustice.*

## SYNOPSIS

Australia 1971, Thommo has returned from Vietnam War married his sweetheart Wendy, the marriage is going through some rough time, he can't settle back into civilian life, and being forced to live with his mother in law doesn't help! When his beautiful little girl Honey was born, he thinks he's hit the jackpot! But after her 4th birthday Honey is diagnosed with Leukaemia and may need a bone-marrow transplant. Thommo and Wendy have no other family than Mum so there's a million to one chance of finding a donor.

Out of the blue, under the guise of a reunion, Shorty Thommo's ex Sargent rides up with a bunch of the blokes from Vietnam. Shorty reveals his plan to raise money to fight for Honey's life. It may not be completely legal, but what choice do they have!

When Thommo tells about the plan to Wendy, she wants to be part of it. There is no way she is going to leave the fate of her child to a bunch of screwed up Vietnam Vets. Reluctantly the boys agree, and with the special skills of Nam Tran, an ex Viet Cong, this motley crew become our unlikely heroes.

With the help of Wendy's best friend Maureen, it's decided they'll make a drink that is an aphrodisiac guaranteed to spice up your sex life, and sell it to the social set as a non-addictive sweet summer drink!! **Hash Honey!**

It may be too late for Honey; she is now in a bubble in a Sydney hospital. Thommo and Wendy are faced with the realisation that they may lose her.

But Shorty and the boys are not ready to give up...they convert a Kenworth truck into a mobile clinic. Escorted by 150 Vets on Harleys they search Australia for a donor for Honey, helping Vets and their families along the way. As planned, it sparks a media frenzy that brings the plight of the Vets to the public - the shit hits the fan in Canberra!

After almost a year on the road, they get that chance in a million!

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

### Co-Writer and lyricist Lorrae Desmond

In London Lorrae was the star of Meet Lorrae Desmond BBC TV, Swing Along With Lorrae BBC TV, Twelve Thousand Miles From Home BBC Radio. Guest on most TV and Radio Shows, Variety Theatres throughout Britain, Pantomimes, Summer Seasons. She also became a Cabaret Act, writing and performing with many major Stars in the UK i.e Terry-Thomas on stage as well as TV. In America was invited to guest on The Jack Benny Show, Steve Allen Show, played cabaret in Chicago, through Texas, New Mexico and Las Vegas. In Australia she was the first female to win Australian TV's highest accolade - the Gold Logie, in The Lorrae Desmond Show which also won a Logie for the Best National Variety Show. She was a guest on Jack Benny in Australia, Matt Monro Show, Homicide, 77 Sunset Strip. No 96, Arcade. Then came along A Country Practice (she wrote the lyrics and recorded the theme song). Lorrae created the much loved Shirley Gilroy, for which she received a Best Supporting Actress+Logie and a Penguin Award for Best Sustained Performance by an Actress+. She toured Vietnam 5 times for the Australian Government to entertain the troops, Lorrae was awarded an M.B.E. for Welfare of Australian Troops serving overseas and for Contribution to Australian Show Business. She played Margaret in the National Tour of High Society, starred in Legends in Cabaret-Sydney and Melbourne, and her 3rd one-woman show Archival Revival+.

Lorrae's first love has always been lyric writing. As a young singer trying her luck in the UK, she co-wrote the lyric to the flip side of the British cover version of Unchained Melody+.

Whilst recording with producer George Martin (of Beatles fame) she wrote lyrics for a number of her records. She wrote the lyrics for Jennifer Love Hewitt's You Make Me Smile+ on her Let's go Bang+ album. Co created Man of Sorrows rock musical which played Sydney, New Zealand and the Edinburgh Festival, and collaborated on 6 Days, which has been optioned in USA.

The subject matter of Honey is close to Lorrae's heart, she has had a close association with the Vets ever since her tours in Vietnam, and is very aware of their ongoing health problems and shocked by the high suicide rate amongst her boys+ and their children. This has been a labour of love for Lorrae.

### Co-Writer, Director Gael Ballantyne

Gael's original love is performing - Mamma Mia Original Cast, La Cage Aux Folles Original Cast, Blackrock, After the Ball, Summer Rain, Emma, Hope of The World, The Cavalcaders, Così, All Saints, Water Rats, Backburner, Medivac, Wayne Manifesto, Home and Away, Neighbours, Sons and Daughters and Risk, White Lies, Mr Reliable, Monarch Cove.

As well as her collaboration on Honey, Gael has co-written various performance pieces including shows for Grayboy Entertainment on behalf of P&O, and Venebles Entertainment in Sydney and the Cairns Casino. She was Editor/Director on a new play Oh, Strike Me Lucky+ An evening with Roy Rene Mo+, and Directed Margery Forde's Stacy+ for Ensemble Studios.

Her teaching credits include acting and musical performance coaching at Warner Brothers Movie World, ED5 International, Brent St, Ensemble Studios, ACTT, and Grayboy The Agency.

### Musical Director – Greg Crease

He has been accompanist and Musical Director for regular appearances by Peter Cousins, Geraldine Turner and Dale Burridge and was the Principal keyboard player for Australian tours by Michael Crawford and Shirley Bassey. Greg was pianist for the Olympic Arts Festival concert by Barbara Cook and David Campbell and has been a vocal coach for many top Sydney performers. Musical Director for the Australian tour of *A Chorus Line*, *Beauty and the Beast* and is a 1997 Mo Award winner for Outstanding Contribution to Musical Theatre. Greg has worked as a vocal coach for Australian productions of *Irene*, *Pippin*, *The Wiz*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Hair* and *My Fair Lady* and continues to be in constant demand.

### Musical arrangements by Charlie Hull

Charlie Hull is a musician of long standing in Sydney, with wide experience in the Australian entertainment industry. His latest credits include Fame The Musical - 1999/2000 Musical Director, Arranger, Shout (The Story Of The Wild One) - 2000/2001 Musical Director, Arranger, for which Charlie won the 2002 Green Room Award (MD in a musical), Oh What A Night! - 2001/2002 Musical Supervisor, Arranger, Burn The Floor - 1999/2002 Music Producer/Arranger/MD, Fame The Musical - 2002 Musical Supervisor, Arranger, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Shout (The Story Of The Wild One) - 2002 The Tent Tour, Musical Supervisor, Arranger, Footloose - 2002 Musical Director/Supervisor, Arranger, Hair The Musical - 2003 Musical Director/Supervisor, Arranger, Leader Of The Pack - 2003 Musical Supervisor, Arranger.

## THE CHARACTERS

- THOMMO 26 year old male.** Leading man, strong actor, **singing G flat octave above middle C**  
Loves his wife and daughter, good honest easy going country bloke before vietnam. He suffers dramatic mood swings, sickness and nightmares since coming back.
- SHORTY 35-40s Male, Very good contemporary singing voice needed, C 2 octaves above middle C full voice, E two above middle C falsetto.**  
Ex-Regular Army Sergeant He trained and served the men of D Company.  
Driving source throughout the play.
- BONGFACE 35-40s Indigenous male. Good actor, group singing G flat octave above middle C**  
Ex-regular, he was a forward scout in the army. More than once got the boys out of serious trouble. Only speaks when he has something to say.
- FLOW 26 year old male.** Good character actor. **Group singing G flat octave above middle C**  
Not the sharpest knife in the drawer, badly affected by his time in Vietnam. He goes with the flow . hence the nickname
- ANIMAL 26 year male. Good character actor. Group singing. G flat octave above middle C**  
Odd tough bikie character lives in Kings Cross. His priorities are his bike, booze and birds and an undying love for Little Pattie.
- LAWSY late 20's Strong, attractive actor. Group singing G flat octave above middle C**  
Since he got back he is just managing to hold his Law practice together. From a wealthy family, after finishing his law degree he signed up to go to Vietnam, his family have since disowned him. He's smart and has the respect of his mates. He is attracted to Maureen.
- NAM TRAN late 30 early 40s. Male Asian actor. Group singing G flat octave above middle C**  
He was a Dr with North Vietnamese Army. A quiet, smart gentleman, he is hard working and committed to helping Honey. He has another agenda, he wants to take some of the profits and build a hospital in Vietnam.

**MAUREEN 26/27 female actor. Good singer belt C octave above middle C.**

She left Currawong Creek for Sydney and works for this up market

hairdressing salon in Double Bay. She's fun loving, trendy and glamorous. Her brother Mo was killed in the Battle of Long Tan.

She wants to be involved in the scam in his memory.

**MUM 40/50s strong female singer/actor. Good belt c an octave about middle C**

Wendy's mum. She can't stand Thommo, he's a Vietnam Vet! Blames her grandchild's illness on Thommo. In fact everything that's wrong in the world is Thommo's fault.

**DOTTY MARCHE 30-50 Rich influential gossip columnist, client of Hairdressing salon %e Gaye at the Bay+.**

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