

Image: Andf Crown Photography



Nightsong | Aotearoa/New Zealand

Mr Red Light

Mr Red Light Trygve Wakenshaw

Eva Jennifer Ludlam

Joker Richard Te Are

Chrys Jess Sayer

Trevor/Ant/Italian soldier/Alan Simon Ferry

Written by Carl Bland

Directed by Ben Crowder and Carl Bland

Line Producer Chloe Klein

Set Designer Andrew Foster

Sound Designer John Gibson

Lighting Designer Nik Janiurek

Costume Designer Elizabeth Whiting

Video Designer Charley Draper

Dramaturg Philippa Campbell

Production Manager Nik Janiurek

Stage Manager Renaye Tamati

Props Maker Alex Guthrie

Technical Operator Emma Laverty

Sound Operator Ollivier Ballester

Set Build Tāwhiri Workshop

Assistant Stage Manager Alice Pardoe

Custom Fire Realisation Filament
Eleven 11

Fight Choreography Alex Holloway

Ant speech written by Peter Bland.

Dung Ball speech written by Peta Rutter.

Carl Bland gratefully acknowledges the Grimshaw Sargeson Fellowship for their support in writing *Mr Red Light*.

Nightsong gratefully thanks official pie partner for *Mr Red Light*:



Wed 4 - Sat 7 Mar, 7pm

Sat 7 Mar, 1pm

Sun 8 Mar, 2pm

Circa Theatre

1hr 30mins

Artist Talk

Post-show, Thu 5 Mar,
Circa Theatre. Facilitated by
Mark Amery.

*Commissioned by New Zealand
Festival of the Arts and developed
with the support of Auckland Live.*

Note: *Contains coarse language,
scenes with a gun and loud
gunfire, strobe lighting and haze.*

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**New Zealand
Festival** OF THE ARTS

21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020

Words from the Directors

I remember that feeling of living outside of life. To be honest I still feel it sometimes. This sense of isolation from other people is a dangerous place to be. It distorts you and how you perceive the world. The solution is connecting with people. But that's not always easy. Thankfully sometimes these connections are forced on us or are accidental. When I think back on my life now there are a handful of people that have changed me forever, people I have loved, or people I have shared a certain experience with. The characters in *Mr Red Light* are all forced to spend time together. This experience transforms their lives. I do believe there are some people who are brought to this earth as catalysts of change. Their own lives are often a disaster but somehow they change other people's lives for the better, *Mr Red Light* is such a man. — **Carl**

I've been making shows with Carl for the past 15 years. I am constantly surprised by his writing and am always struck by how resonant it is. *Nightsong* faces an uncertain future at this time, but what I do know, is I am blessed to be immersed in this great work. — **Ben**

The Company

Ben Crowder and Carl Bland are the creative force behind *Nightsong*, one of New Zealand's most innovative theatre companies. Together they create work that ricochets between the absurd and the profound. They've shot people out of cannons, introduced a life-size giraffe into Bruce Mason's study, and greeted audiences with a gorilla holding an ice-cream. Carl writes the plays and then helps Ben direct. Supported by leading designers and actors, Ben and Carl have been working together for at least 14 years.

Biographies



Carl Bland
Writer and Director

Carl is a writer, actor, director and painter. He wrote and created his own shows with Peta Rutter. Their shows included *The Bed Show*, *The House of Doors and Camels*, *Peta and Carl at the Last Supper*, and *Sofa Stories*.

Collaborating with Ben Crowder, he has also made *Head and 360 – A Theatre of Recollections*, *Spirit House* and *Te Pō*.



Ben Crowder
Director

Ben is a talented and respected theatre director and creator, and co-founder of *Nightsong*. He creates bold theatre that is hallmarked by striking visuals and a sense of thrill – coupled with dramatic integrity. He has directed all of *Nightsong's* productions since 1999. Past productions include: *360 – A Theatre of Recollections*, *Head*, *The Young Baron*, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the national tour of *Blossom*.

Ben also works extensively as a freelance director and creator. He's worked with Auckland Theatre Company, Silo Theatre, Red Leap, Dust Palace and The Edge (now Auckland Live) amongst others. He is often engaged on the development of new works. Recent productions include *Nui Sila*, *The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate* and *Famous Flora*.



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