

## ***Cast and Creatives List of Hot White Kiss—Midsumma 2025.***

Not even twelve months since Hot White Kiss made its theatrical debut as a fully fledged production at The Butterfly Club's One Act Play Festival, James WF Roberts has brought it back to the Butterfly Club as a part of Midsumma 2025. A new tighter, edgier, funnier version, with an almost all new cast, new music, new lights, new scenes. This version of Hot White Kiss will have you questioning your own morals, relationships, the point of romance; who is the toxic one in the relationship and so much more.

A twisted love story of addiction, obsession and misery. 'Some love is fire, some love is rust, but the purest, most dangerous form of love is lust'.

Five 30-somethings are involved in a twisted love story of drugs, addiction, betrayal, polyamory, bisexuality and abuse.

John, a 30-something down on his luck writer is miserable, trying to leave his lover Leena, a heroin addict and childhood sweetheart that he can't leave, nor can he remain with her.

Leena, a tragic woman trapped in a never-ending cycle of abuse and addiction, her only lifeline of sanity is John. Leena is in a twisted, manipulative relationship with both John and Cilla.

Cilla, Leena's jealous female lover and her main drug-dealer sees her hold and control of Leena gradually slipping away.

Taylah, a frustrated young woman married to Bill, a lawyer. Taylah works in the same office as Leena and both are instantly attracted to each other, but are a little reluctant to become lovers.

Bill, a lawyer, John's male lover and his most trusted confidant, is married to Taylah and tries to convince John to leave Leena.

### ***Meet the Cast:***

***Olivia Buckton-Smith as 'Leena Broughtman'***



Olivia Buckton Smith has recently returned from NYC after completing her diploma of acting at HB studios in 2022. She feels most at home in Fringe settings, performing and writing in every Adelaide and Melbourne Fringe festival from 2014-2020. Olivia is excited to be back at The Butterfly Club after her last time in the international tour of BYTE's "What Country Friends, is This?" (2019). Since her return to Aus, she has mainly been working in improv-based performances and can't wait to finally be back to her acting roots as Leena Broughtman in Hot White Kiss

Olivia is a powerhouse as Leena. Sexuality, vulnerability and tragedy. Olivia gives an authenticity to a young woman trapped in abusive relationship, addiction and love slipping through her fingers.

***Savier Darsie-Marquez as "John".***



A passionate actor and writer whose work combines an inventive outlook while trying to combine enthusiastic creativity and substantial professional work in stage and short film acting. Backed by a network of stage and screen contacts and reputation for artistic integrity, who's most recent stage credits include: 'Merciless Gods – Vince/Mickey/Paul - 2024 Dr Oblong's Ottoman of Oddities – Performer - 2024 The Weight of Dreams – Dylan/Geoff – 2022 Those Well-Oiled Members – Brett – 2050 Theatre Company – 2022 Fisher – Roy/Norman – Plain English Theatre Company – 2022.

Savier's portrayal of John shows a man almost broken by his love of Leena, his desire to leave her and his addiction to abuse she causes him.

***Bridgette Kucher as "Cilla".***



Originally from Canberra, Bridgette trained at the Howard Fine Acting Studio. She has since been working with independent theatre companies in productions such as Madwomen Monologues, The Year of Our Lord, Hot White Kiss (2024), and To The Moon and Back as part of Melbourne Fringe, A Twist of Fate (2025).

Bridgette brings a malice to Cilla that you rarely find in Queer productions. Bridgette's portrayal of Cilla oozes sexuality, intelligence, fire and toxicity.

***Taylor Bogrand as “Taylah Styles”.***



Taylor Bograd is an American performer playing the role of Taylor Styles. She can be spotted supporting the ensemble on “Thank God You’re Here” seasons 5&6, has worked on the feature film “Sleeping Dogs” directed by Adam Cooper, and can be seen regularly on various short-form web dramas online.

Taylor brings a sophisticated, sexy socialite feel to her role as John’s lover, Bill’s wife and Leena’s boss.



Taylor brings a warmth, a humour and sense of joy to what is mostly a fairly dark play. With a seductive smile and a sarcastic wit Taylor brings a lot of brightness to this work.

### **Cyrus Raco as “Bill Styles”.**



Dedicated actor with a passion for complex roles and a background in theatre, he brings depth and versatility to every project, with recent stage credits including: Boyhood and Other Traumatic Injuries Cain (Lead) | 1812 Theatre Co, Dir. Daniel Parton, Backstabbers James (Lead) | 1812 Theatre Co, Dir. Liv Carlisle, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Guildenstern (Lead) | GSOV, Dir. Sarah Berry, Comedy and Tragedy Duc D’Orleans (Lead) | GSOV, Dir. Ben Klein, I Used to Tell the Future Apollo/Chorus | 1812 Theatre Co, Dir. Pip Criss-Chisolm, The Hooligan Warder Joe | GSOV, Dir. Naomi Tooby, Paper Lanterns, Paper Cranes Hiroshi/Stretcher Bearer | CGTC, Dir. Oscar Lanigan.

Cyrus brings an earnestness and a sense of balance to his performance as Bill. Bill and Taylor are John’s only life-lines out of his toxic dark triad, John spurns Bills help and pushes him away.

All Bill wants to do is to help his lover and his friend. As a lawyer he is bound by his oath to uphold the law, his duty to his wife and his duty to his lover.

***James WF Roberts, Writer/Director.***



James WF Roberts, Queer, He/him. High functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder

James WF Roberts is a Melbourne-based award-winning playwright, published poet and writer. He is host of Spoken Word on Joy Radio and has performed his poetry around Melbourne and country Victoria. Highly commended for the John Shaw Neilson poetry prize, his interests include Absurdist philosophy and literature. Transgressive Art and meta-fiction/horror.

James podcasts his own show plus Saturday Magazine on Joy.org.au/Joy 94.9

Hot White Kiss, is based on an award winning, that was published and earned James a second place award in the PageSeventeen Poetry Prize 2012.

James has recently completed two consecutive master's from Monash University, Journalism and Communications and Media studies. James holds a BA Honours in philosophy and literature, has been published in many anthologies. Most recently James' first play 'Dull Blade' was awarded the script Development Award for the Cracked Actors Theatre, Summer Reading Series. James has been published in over a dozen poetry and short-story anthologies in Australia and internationally. Has published several poetry collections and is heavily involved in the Melbourne Spoken Word scene. He presents a weekly radio show for Monash University called: Monash Spoken Word featuring presentations of local, national and international film makers, writers and performers. James was recently diagnosed with bi-polar 2, has high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder and identifies as bisexual. Most of James' writing deal with sexuality and mental health issues. James is the podcaster for the news magazine show, Saturday Magazine on Joy94.9 and presenter/podcaster of his own show Spoken Word.

In 2022 Hot White Kiss, in its first theatrical form won Best Comedy writing at the Midsumma reading at Cracked Actors Theatre.

James is overwhelmed by the professionalism, the talent and the abilities of the actors in Hot White Kiss.

James' most recent collection: Modern Virtues volume 1 is available on Amazon.

All music arranged by James WF Roberts

'Winter Largo from the Four Seasons' by Antonio Vivaldi.

All other music composed, performed and arranged by James WF Roberts

All photography by James WF Roberts (Red Wolf Photography)

## ***CAST PHOTOS:***

































































































