The Hollow

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS FLANAGAN

WITH ORIGINAL SONGS BY ALLISON BUTLER & NICHOLAS FLANAGAN

FEATURING ALLI BUTLER

Showbiz is Murder

A HAUNTING MUSICAL SET IN THE WHEATBELT

THE HOLLOW

A MUSICAL

BY NICHOLAS FLANAGAN

" Diva, fresh out of jail, sings in a dive and tells her story of music, mayhem and murder—of how she fell in love with two men and killed them both, and how it all seems as strange, sweet and bitter as a dark country song."

In a city dive, Diva, fresh out of jail sings, plays guitar and tells her story: the story of how she was a young naive, ambitious singer/songwriter who fell in love with an aging famous country singer Johnny Star who'd had a hit on the radio—and how Johnny took her under her wing but wanted to clip hers. Then when Diva had a chance to go her own way, she didn't take it. She didn't go off with the debonair Angel who wanted to produce her music, because she didn't want to hurt the feelings of her beaux—the hard drinking, territorial and possessive Johnny. But this was a bad choice for Diva and she became a drunk just like Johnny. Several years on, after making it big in the city, Angel comes back to rescue her, and there is an altercation in which Johnny dies. Charged but not convicted of manslaughter, Angel then takes Diva to the city and they are successful together. But they come back to The Hollow on tour, and there Diva is hounded by the ghost of Johnny Star, so she goes out of her mind. Angel tells her that it is her conscience talking and not a ghost: Her conscience telling her the truth: that she killed Johnny in an alcoholic blackout; that Diva killed him and Angel's kept it a secret from her all these years. Perhaps Angel should have still kept it a secret, because Diva is driven so mad by the news and by the ghost, she kills Angel. She is deeply grieved, tormented and shocked by what she's done. And this time she does go to jail, but she wants to—she wants to accept responsibility for her crime. And that is her story; a story of a powerful love that went wrong; twice; a story, which is strange, sweet and bitter as a dark country song.

PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER

Nicholas a graduate of NIDA, a postgraduate of VCA Film and TV and a Master of Creating Writing at Sydney Uni, has acted in film, television and theatre; has written for TV and is a published playwright with multiple credits that include books for musicals, which he has also composed. He is a performing arts director, screen director, and a coach of professional actors, having directed and taught acting at main-stream NIDA and lectured in writing at Melbourne University (VCA). Nicholas was also head of acting for three years in the inaugural indigenous acting course at WAAPA. Nicholas has also created, facilitated, and rolled out groundbreaking communication, presentation and leadership programs for Australia's top-tier companies, including Macquarie Capital, BHP Billiton, Telstra and Boston Consulting Group—and coached executive teams in over fifty-billion dollars worth of bid and IPO victories. Most recently Nicholas directed Alan Lovell in I Pilgrim for Edinburgh Fringe and Alli Butler's 40 Year Old Popstar for Fringe World in Perth. His film Burning Time based on his stage play, which was premiered by Black Swan, has just been optioned by Scullface Pty Ltd. for production in WA.

LEAD ACTOR SONGWRITER / COMPOSER

Alli Butler is a singer-songwriter, actor and comedian. Originally from the Wheatbelt town of Bruce Rock, she completed The Journey Program at The Actors Centre Australia in Sydney, and has appeared on TV shows such as All Saints, Crownies and Bite Club. She has performed in bands, cabaret, musicals and as a soloist. Her music has seen her support artists such as Sarah McLeod and Bertie Blackman and her song 'Fire in my Heart' was a semi-finalist in the Unsigned Only music competition. Her stand-up comedy has taken her from one side of Australia to the other, performing in venues such as The Butterfly Club (Melbourne) and The Comedy Store (Sydney). Alli's one woman show '40 Year Old Popstar' was on earlier this year at Fringe World and Busselton Fringe. Alli also creates regular online video content (comedy and music) for her social media following.

LINKS TO A FEW SONGS FROM THE HOLLOW

HERE IS A LINK TO THE SONG ‘MURDER’, BY NICHOLAS FLANAGAN

https://soundcloud.com/user-502942835/murder-master-2

HERE IS A LINK TO THE SONG ‘BABY’S ON A BENDER’ BY NICHOLAS FLANAGAN

https://soundcloud.com/user-502942835/babys-on-a-bender-231116

HERE IS A LINK TO THE SONG ‘LUCKY’, BY ALLI BUTLER

https://soundcloud.com/user-8825325/lucky/s-yfU6Q9FFaxS