



THE
PRODUCTION
COMPANY

MEDIA RELEASE

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SEASON 2016
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

“NOBODY, NO, NOBODY IS GONNA RAIN ON MY PARADE”

Today Jeanne Pratt AC, Chairman of The Production Company, announced her Company's 2016 season, starring **CAROLINE O'CONNOR, DAVID HOBSON, NANCYE HAYES, SIMON GLEESON, AMY LEHPAMER and TODD MCKENNEY**

Jeanne Pratt said *“The Production Company's new season opens with the classic Broadway musical, **FUNNY GIRL**. Our second show is an Australian premiere. It's the musical comedy whodunnit from Kander and Ebb, **CURTAINS**. Our final show is the great Australian musical, **DUSTY**. With a great line up of stars for these shows, there is so much to love in Season 2016.”*

***Subscriptions for the season are now on sale.
Our prices are highly competitive with a subscription to see
all three shows costing as little as \$108.***

FUNNY GIRL opens in Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre on July 23 for a season of ten performances.

The brilliant **Caroline O'Connor** stars in **Gale Edwards'** new staging of this classic Broadway musical about the great Broadway comedienne, Fanny Brice. **Caroline O'Connor**: *“I'm so excited to be returning to The Production Company this year to reprise one of my favourite roles, Fanny Brice in **FUNNY GIRL**. This show has a very special place in my heart and brings back a lot of wonderful memories particularly as it was in the first season The Production Company ever staged back in 1999. I'm really looking forward to working with our incredible director **Gale Edwards** again. It's been 3 years since we worked together on *Gypsy* and that experience is something I'll always treasure. I'm proud and honoured to be part of The Production Company family.”*

Told in flashback, we follow her life from stage-struck teen to stardom in the Ziegfeld Follies, and her stormy relationship with the debonair gambler, Nick Arnstein.

The sensational Australian tenor, **David Hobson** makes his debut with The Production Company as Nick Arnstein and the legendary **Nancye Hayes** is Fanny's mother, Mrs Brice. **Nancye Hayes**: *“I'm very excited to be part of this season. The opportunity to work with **Gale Edwards** and **Caroline O'Connor** (in the same production this time) has me very, very excited. These two women have had wonderful careers and are highly regarded in this country, and to spend time with them both in the rehearsal room and on stage is going to be truly wonderful”.*

Jule Styne's incredible score includes the hits: *Don't Rain on My Parade*, *People* and *I'm the Greatest Star*.

Directed by award winning **Gale Edwards** and the Musical Director is **Anthony Gabriele** who returns from London West End seasons of *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Lion King* and *CATS*.

FUNNY GIRL is proudly sponsored by ANZ.

CURTAINS opens in Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre on August 20 for a season of ten performances.

Boston, 1959, it's the opening night of *Robbin' Hood of the Old West* when suddenly at the curtain call, its supremely untalented leading lady is murdered onstage. The entire cast and crew are suspects. Enter Lieutenant Frank Cioffi, local detective and passionate amateur theatrical who unravels the mystery, fixes the show and falls in love with the ingénue, Miss Niki Harris.

Simon Gleeson, (*Les Misérables* and *CHESS*) stars as Lieutenant Frank Cioffi. **Simon Gleeson**: "**CURTAINS** is a stunning piece, it is a hell of a lot of fun, we have an amazing cast and a wonderful director, **Roger Hodgman**. It's going to be fun, impulsive and a laugh a minute".

In the role of Niki Harris is **Alinta Chidzey**. **Melissa Langton** is the brassy Broadway producer, Carmen Bernstein. **Lucy Maunder** and **Alex Rathgeber** are Georgia and Aaron, the show's song writing team. Director is Helpmann Award winner, **Roger Hodgman** (*Show Boat*, *Grey Gardens*), Musical Director **John Foreman** (*The Boy From Oz*, *Singin' in the Rain*) and Choreographer is **Dana Jolly** (*Show Boat*, *Grey Gardens*).

CURTAINS is proudly sponsored by Warwick Fabrics.

DUSTY opens in Arts Centre Melbourne's Playhouse on November 12 for a season of 17 performances.

In the 1960's, Dusty Springfield took the world by storm with her unique, sensual soul singing and a score of hits including *I Only Want To Be With You*, *Wishin' and Hopin'*, *The Look of Love*, *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*, *I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself*, and *Son of a Preacher Man*. **DUSTY** the musical features these hits and many more! It's the story of the shy, young Londoner, Mary O'Brien who transforms herself into the blonde, pop-icon Dusty Springfield.

Amy Lehpamer returns to The Production Company in the role of Dusty Springfield. The brilliant **Todd McKenney** will play Dusty's loyal hairdresser and long time confidant, Rodney. **Todd McKenney**: "I'm really thrilled to be asked to play Rodney in **DUSTY** working with the beautiful **Amy Lehpamer**. Rodney is probably the only gay character I haven't played up to this point in my career so I can tick this one off my bucket list! I love the adrenaline I get from doing a Production Company show because everything is so fast."

DUSTY the musical is the creation of the Australian writers John-Michael Howson, David Mitchell and Melvyn Morrow. Ten years since its premiere, it's time to fall in love with **DUSTY** all over again.

Jason Langley directs **DUSTY**, his first musical for The Production Company, **Michael Tyack**, an outstanding expert on musical theatre conducts and **Michael Ralph** will choreograph **DUSTY**.

DUSTY is proudly sponsored by EY.

FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE SHOWS PLEASE VISIT WWW.THEPRODUCTIONCOMPANY.COM.AU



THE
PRODUCTION
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THE 2016 SEASON DIARY

FUNNY GIRL

THE CLASSIC BROADWAY MUSICAL

FUNNY GIRL
STATE THEATRE
23 to 31 July

KANDER & EBB'S

CURTAINS

THE MUSICAL COMEDY WHODUNNIT

CURTAINS
STATE THEATRE
20 to 28 August

DUSTY

THE LOOK. THE LEGEND. THE MUSICAL.

DUSTY
PLAYHOUSE
12 to 27 November

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW ON SALE AT
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au or call 1300 182 183
TICKETS FOR SINGLE PERFORMANCES GO ON SALE 2 MAY

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