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SEASON 2016

ANZ



FUNNY GIRL

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PRESENT



FUNNY
GIRL

MUSIC BY
JULE STYNE

LYRICS BY
BOB MERRILL

BOOK BY
ISOBEL LENNART

FROM AN ORIGINAL STORY BY
MISS LENNART

PRODUCED FOR THE BROADWAY STAGE BY
RAY STARK

NEW YORK PRODUCTION SUPERVISED BY
JEROME ROBBINS

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY
GARSON KANIN

THE
COMPANY

CAROLINE O'CONNOR

DAVID HOBSON • NANCYE HAYES

SUSAN-ANN WALKER • DAVID ROSS PATERSON

LUKE ALLEVA • GREG STONE • JUDITH ROBERTS • JAN RUSS

Blake Appelqvist • Daniel Assetta • Amy Berrisford • Jared Bryan • Sage Douglas • Danielle Evrat
Ashleigh Hauschild • Sam Hooper • Laura Inglesi • Sophia Katos • Kiara Kieser • Jessica Lindon
Adam Noviello • Cassie O'Brien • Max Patterson • John Reed • Callum Sandercock
Priscilla Stavrou • Suzanne Steele • Brooke Synnott

Director **Gale Edwards**

Musical Director **Anthony Gabriele**

Choreographer **Kelley Abbey**

Set Designer **Shaun Gurton**

Costume Designers **Tim Chappel, Owen Phillips**

Lighting Designer **Trudy Dalglish**

Sound Design **System Sound**

Assistant Director **David Spencer**

Assistant Musical Director **Richard Montgomery**

Assistant Choreographer **Tracie Morley**

Sound Design Associates **David Greasley, David Tonion, Kelvin Gedye**

Sound Mix Engineer **David Tonion**

Technical Director **David Miller** Production Manager **Mel Robertson**

Stage Manager **Meg Deyell** Company Manager **Min McCallum**

Head of Wardrobe **Kim Bishop** Costume Supervisor **Zoe Felice**

Wig Supervisor **Trent Whitmore** Set Construction **Malthouse**

Sound Equipment supplied by **System Sound Pty Ltd**

Assistant Stage Manager **Lyndie Li Wan Po** Radio Mic Engineer **Cameron Herbert**

Stage Sound Technicians **Jackson Scandrett, Melissa Panettiere**

Wig Preparations **Andy Dolling** Wig Assistant **Kylie McMillan**

Millinery **The Essential Hat, Phillip Rhodes and Lauren Ritchie**

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY
ORCHESTRA

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YOUR WAY



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I AM THRILLED TO WELCOME CAROLINE O'CONNOR BACK TO THE PRODUCTION COMPANY AS FANNY BRICE, A ROLE SHE PLAYED FOR US IN OUR VERY FIRST SEASON IN 1999.

Caroline was already a household name in Australia back then but has since gone on to extraordinary theatrical success, not just here in Australia but on London's West End, New York's Broadway and the Châtelet Theatre in Paris (to name just a few of her triumphs). Those lucky enough to have seen her in our production of *Gypsy*, directed by Gale Edwards three years ago, will know that you are in for a treat. Add award-winning choreographer Kelley Abbey to the mix and we just may have already won the trifecta!

Speaking of heaven, matinee idol David Hobson is making his Production Company debut with us as Nick Arnstein. And another theatre legend, Nancye Hayes, is back with us. If we can't get Nancye for a role then we beg her to direct something. She is one of the most versatile talents Australia has produced. I would like to re-introduce some of Australia's finest actors, Jan Russ and David Ross Paterson and welcome back to the family Greg Stone, Judith Roberts, Luke Alleva and Susan-ann Walker. You will know some of the lovely faces in the ensemble already, some are with us for the first time and some are making their professional theatre debuts.

Our musical director Anthony Gabriele temporarily returns to us from a wonderful career on London's West End and our beautiful designers, Tim Chappel, Owen Phillips, Shaun Gurton, Trudy Dalgleish and System Sound are back because we love them and, of course, because they are the best in the country.

Orchestra Victoria has now been taken over by The Australian Ballet and so, in our typical inimitable style, we have formed our own orchestra – The Production Company Orchestra. Thank you to the brilliant James Kempster, who has played in many of our productions, for taking on the management and coordination of The Production Company Orchestra.

Thank you to our beloved sponsors and patrons. We couldn't do this without you. But I especially want to thank ANZ. Because of your involvement, encouragement and ongoing financial support we are able to produce brilliant entertainment to our ever-increasing and discerning audience.

I am so proud of this company and everyone who works so hard to bring these masterpieces to the stage. We really are the luckiest people in the world!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeanne Pratt'.

Jeanne Pratt AC
Chairman
The Production Company





Chairman **Jeanne Pratt AC**

Artistic Director **Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM**

Executive Director **Rachel D Taylor**

Hon. Company Secretary	Don Maloney	Development Manager	Simone Goodwin
Directors	Keith Beecher OAM Deborah Beale Felicity Beale Mark Gogoll John Hay-Mackenzie Garry Krauss AM Ross Mollison	Technical Director	David Miller
		Marketing	Vas Katos Kendra Reid James Robertson Jeff van de Zandt Nadia Gianinotti
PA to Jeanne Pratt AC	Chris Gibbons	Publicity	CAVANAGH PR Julie Cavanagh

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CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Arts Centre Melbourne welcomes everyone to visit our spaces and experience the performing arts.
Conditions of Entry are available on our website www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The company reserves the right to add, withdraw or substitute artists and to vary the program as necessary.
 - The management reserves the right of refusing admission.
- Recording devices, cameras and mobile telephones must not be operated during the performance.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ORCHESTRA

Orchestra Services Manager: **JAMES KEMPSTER**
Orchestra Manager: **LUCIEN FISCHER** Orchestra Assistant: **ROSE SEJEAN**

Leader	SUSIE NG
First Violins	ISABEL HEDE CAMERON JAMIESON
Second Violins	JESS BELL LISA REYNOLDS SARAH COGHLAN
Principal Cello	BLAIR HARRIS
Cellos	LEAH HOOPER LILY THORNTON
Principal Double Bass	BEN ROBERTSON
Principal Reed	LACHLAN DAVIDSON
Reed 2	BARRIE SHAW
Reed 3	TONY HICKS
Reed 4	TIM WILSON
Reed 5	CARLO BARBARO
Principal Trumpet	GREG SPENCE
Trumpet 2	MICK FRASER
Trumpet 3	LAURA HERTAEG
Principal Trombone	ROGER SCHMIDLI
Trombone 2	DAVE PALMER
Trombone 3	IAN HAINES
Principal Horn	DEBORAH HART
Principal Drums	DAVID HATCH
Principal Percussion	TIMOTHY HOOK
Principal Guitar	JOHN PAINE
Piano	RICHARD MONTGOMERY

A new orchestra – THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ORCHESTRA

It is with great pride and excitement that The Production Company has established its own orchestra – The Production Company Orchestra. We are delighted that the dynamic James Kempster is helming this new addition to Melbourne's musical life.

For the past fifteen years Orchestra Victoria has been a major part of every performance at The Production Company. They held pride of place always being featured on stage and very much part of every performance. Two years ago Orchestra Victoria was absorbed into The Australian Ballet, this has meant that they are no longer available to The Production Company.

The Production Company has met this challenge full on.

James has secured the services of the best musicians working in musical theatre in Melbourne. I know The Production Company Orchestra, under the musical direction of Australia's leading conductors, will provide you with outstanding and thrilling musical performances.

Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM
Artistic Director

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Fanny Brice
Nick Artnstein
Mrs Brice
Mrs Strakosh
Florenz Ziegfeld
Eddie Ryan
Tom Keeney
Mrs O'Malley
Emma
John, Stage Manager
Mr Renaldi
Ziegfeld Tenors

CAROLINE O'CONNOR
DAVID HOBSON
NANCYE HAYES
SUSAN-ANN WALKER
DAVID ROSS PATERSON
LUKE ALLEVA
GREG STONE
JUDITH ROBERTS
JAN RUSS
JARED BRYAN
JOHN REED
BLAKE APPELQVIST
DANIEL ASSETTA

ENSEMBLE

BLAKE APPELQVIST · DANIEL ASSETTA
AMY BERRISFORD · JARED BRYAN
SAGE DOUGLAS · DANIELLE EVRAT
ASHLEIGH HAUSCHILD · SAM HOOPER
LAURA INGLESİ · SOPHIA KATOS
KIARA KIESER · JESSICA LINDON
ADAM NOVIELLO · CASSIE O'BRIEN
MAX PATTERSON · JOHN REED
CALLUM SANDERCOCK · PRISCILLA STAVROU
SUZANNE STEELE · BROOKE SYNNOTT

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture Orchestra

If A Girl Isn't Pretty Mrs Strakosh, Mrs Brice, Mrs O'Malley,
Eddie, Heckie & Chorus

I'm the Greatest Star Fanny

Eddie's Fifth Encore Eddie & Orchestra (Dance)

Cornet Man Fanny & Chorus

Nicky Arnstein No. 1 Fanny

Who Taught Her Everything? Eddie & Mrs Brice

His Love Makes Me Beautiful Fanny, Ziegfeld Tenors & Chorus

I Want To Be Seen With You Tonight Nick & Fanny

Nicky Arnstein No. 2 Fanny

Henry Street Full company

People Fanny

You Are Woman, I Am Man Nick & Fanny

Don't Rain On My Parade Fanny

ACT TWO

Entr'acte Orchestra

Sadie, Sadie Fanny & Chorus

Find Yourself A Man Eddie, Mrs Brice & Mrs Strakosh

Rat-Tat-Tat-Tat Eddie, Fanny & Chorus

Who Are You Now? Fanny

Don't Rain On My Parade Nick

Downtown Rag Orchestra & Chorus (Dance)

The Music That Makes Me Dance Fanny

Finale Act Two
(Don't Rain On My Parade - Reprise) Fanny





CAROLINE O'CONNOR

• FANNY BRICE •

Caroline O'Connor has the kind of career most performers dream of, having recently returned from the USA after creating the role of Lily Malevsky-Malevitch in the world premiere, Broadway bound musical, *Anastasia*.

From the theatres of Broadway and the West End, to the world's preeminent concert stages, Caroline's international renown shines light not only on her immense creative skills and talent, but also her passion, her dedication, her boundless energy and sheer hard work. She remains one of the most respected, admired and sought after triple threats in show business.

Caroline began her professional career as a ballet dancer with the Australian Opera Company after studying at the esteemed Royal Ballet School in London. She went on to perform extensively throughout the UK and Europe, most notably making her West End leading lady debut in 1995 as Mabel Normand in Jerry Herman's *Mack and Mabel*, earning her first Laurence Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress in a Musical.

At home in Australia, Caroline's credits are firmly stamped in theatrical history. Reviewing her most recent role as Rose in The Production Company's sell-out season of *Gypsy*, the Herald Sun wrote, "Gypsy is a star vehicle showcasing luminary Caroline O'Connor in a role that confirms her position in musical theatre royalty." In addition to the recognition she received for her roles as Velma Kelly in *Chicago* (Mo Award, Green Room Award, Australian Dance Award), Anita in *West Side Story* (Mo Award, Green Room Award) and Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha*, Caroline also garnered accolades for her peerless interpreting of Edith Piaf in *Piaf* (Helpmann Award, Green Room Award) and Judy Garland in the world premiere of *End of the Rainbow* (Helpmann Award, Sydney Stage Award) at the Sydney Opera House.

Caroline came to world attention in 2001 as tango dancing 'Nini Legs in the Air' in Baz Luhrmann's Academy Award winning film *Moulin Rouge*. In 2002, Caroline made her Broadway debut as Velma Kelly in *Chicago* at the Shubert Theatre. Following rave reviews, her successful season was extended, and Caroline was later invited to perform at the show's 10th Anniversary Galas in New York and London, alongside legends Chita Rivera and Joel Grey.

The one-woman play *Bombshells*, was commissioned by the Melbourne Theatre Company and written for Caroline by award-winning playwright Joanna Murray-Smith. It played seasons in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide before touring to sell-out performances at the Edinburgh Festival, where it won the coveted Fringe First Award. It also played at the Arts Theatre in the West End, where Caroline received her second Laurence Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress in a Play. Caroline has since taken *Bombshells* to America and Canada and it was filmed for Australian television.

In 2008, distinguished Australian playwright David Williamson, penned *Scarlett O'Hara at the Crimson Parrot* for Caroline.

UK theatre credits include: *Life of the Party*, *Gypsy*, *Chicago*, *Romance Romance*, *West Side Story*, *Hot Stuff*, *Street Scene*, *Hold Tight it's 60s Night*, *Budgie*, *Showboat*, *Talent*, *Baby*, *Salt of the Earth*, *Damn Yankees*, *A Chorus Line*, *Matador*, *Cabaret*, *Is There Life After High School*, *Me and My Girl*, *The Rink* and *Into The Woods*.

US credits include: *Assassins* (Milwaukee Rep), *Follies* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Bombshells* (Milwaukee Rep), *The Hatpin* (New York) and her sold-out concert series *The Girl from Oz* at New York's landmark jazz club, Birdland.

Caroline starred in the English National Opera's production of *On the Town*, and later in Paris at the Chatelet Theatre. She also had the honour of headlining both the BBC Proms' *Hooray for Hollywood* concert, and Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday celebration at the Royal Albert Hall.

In 2010 Caroline's solo show *The Showgirl Within* was produced at London's Garrick Theatre.

Caroline became the "toast of Paris" in La Monde when she played Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* at the Chatelet Theatre.

Caroline has work-shopped two new Broadway musicals with Woody Allen and Hal Prince, both directed by Susan Stroman and in 2012 originated the Broadway role of Miss Shields in the Tony Award nominated *A Christmas Story: The Musical* at the Lunt Fontanne Theatre. She reprised the role the following year at Madison Square Garden, and went on to perform the musical's showstopper "You'll Shoot Your Eye Out", to a televised audience of over seven million people at *The 67th Annual Tony Awards* at Radio City Music Hall.

In a role she seemed destined to play, Caroline was cast as Ethel Merman in the Cole Porter biopic *De-Lovely*, and starred in the Australian film *Surviving Georgia*. She portrayed Les Girls choreographer, Sheila Cruz, in the ABC television film *Carlotta* and has appeared in the cult comedy series *Lowdown*.

Caroline has recorded four solo CDs and appeared on numerous cast recordings and television variety programs.



DAVID HOBSON

• NICK ARNSTEIN •

Australian tenor and composer David Hobson is one of Australia's best-known operatic and recording artists. He has sung many roles for Opera Australia and both state and international opera companies, including his award winning performances of Rodolfo (*La Boheme*) and the title role in *Orpheus*.

Other roles include Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*, Nadir in *The Pearl Fishers*, Lindoro in *L'italiana in Algeri*, Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*, The Architect in the world premiere of *The Eighth Wonder*, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, the title role in *Candide*, Danilo in *The Merry Widow* and Aristaeus/ Pluto in *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

In 2014, David performed the role of Caractacus Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Special engagements include appearing with the San Francisco Opera in the world premiere of *Dangerous Liaisons*, a performance in the Great Hall, Canberra for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Schubert's *Winterreise* for the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and singing the national anthem at the AFL Grand Final. He has performed his own show at the Sydney Opera House and at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

He is also well known from his appearances on *Carols in the Domain*, *Carols by Candlelight*, *Spicks and Specks*, *It Takes Two*, *Dancing with the Stars* and as a presenter on the Foxtel arts channel, *STUDIO*. He has recorded numerous albums with many reaching No 1 chart status. The most recent recording, *Endless Days*, is a collection of Celtic favourites.

David has won awards including Operatic Performer of the Year, the Sydney Critics Circle Award, The Age Performing Arts Award for Best Performer in Opera and an Australian Record Industry Association (ARIA) Award.

More recently, David toured in concert with Lisa McCune, Greta Bradman and Teddy Tahu Rhodes and performed the role of Buddy Plummer in *Follies*.



NANCYE HAYES

• MRS BRICE •

Nancye Hayes AM is one of Australia's favourite theatrical actresses. She is an accomplished actor, dancer, singer, choreographer and director. She began her career with J.C. Williamson Theatres Ltd as a chorus member in *My Fair Lady*. She went on to star in many major musical productions including *Sweet Charity*, *Chicago*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys and Dolls* and *42nd Street*.

For The Production Company, Nancye has appeared in *Grey Gardens*, *Follies*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Music Man*, *Funny Girl* and directed *The Boy from Oz*, *Sweet Charity* and *Gypsy*.

Most recently she has performed in *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Manilla Street Productions), Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* (Harvest Rain), Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (State Theatre Company SA), and *Beyond Desire* (Neil Rutherford Productions/Hayes Theatre Co), Miss Hannigan in the Australian Tour of *Annie* (GFO), *Murderers* and *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* (Ensemble), *A Little Night Music* and *My Fair Lady* (Opera Australia).

Nancye Hayes has made a significant contribution as a theatre director. Her credits include *Crazy for You* and *The World Goes Round* (Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts), *Australia's Leading Ladies Concert* (Brisbane Festival), *The Wizard of Oz* (GFO/SEL/Macks Entertainment) and *Noel & Gertie* (Christine Dunstan Productions).

Nancye has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from The Green Room, The Sydney Theatre and The Helpmanns.



SUSAN-ANN WALKER

• MRS STRAKOSH •

Susan-ann is one of Australia's most established entertainers. With a successful career that began with Jenny-Any-Dots in *Cats*, she went on to feature in *Les Misérables*, *Godspell*, Elizabeth in Gale Edwards' *Aspects of Love*, *The Secret Garden* (Martha), *Grease* and *Grease – The Arena Spectacular* (Jan), *Possum Magic* (Grandma Poss), *Pinocchio* (Catchup), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Margaretta), *The Ishmael Club* (Mrs Maggia) and *Menopause the Musical* (Earth Mother). For The Production Company she has appeared as Agnes Gooch in *Mame* and Mrs Strakosh in *Funny Girl*.

More recent credits include *Xanadu* (Calliope/Aphrodite), *Hello Dolly!* (Dolly Levi), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Gymnasia & understudy Domina), and the Helpmann nominated, Green Room Award winning Australian premiere of *Once*, playing Baruska.

Susan-ann's other great love is cabaret and her one-woman shows include *Desperately Singing Susan* and *Confessions of a Sex Kitten*. She co-produced and starred in the critically acclaimed *Jacques Brel* (2000 Green Room Award), wrote and performed the hit show *Yummy and the Yummy Burlesque Hour* (nominated for Best Cabaret Writing, Green Room Awards 2013).

Television credits include *Blue Heelers*, *MDA, Winners & Losers*, *The Dr Blake Mysteries* and the ABC Pilot *Moonman*, along with several commercials and voice-overs.

Susan-ann also runs her own business The Voice Place.



DAVID ROSS PATERSON

• FLORENZ ZIEGFELD •

David Ross works as an actor in theatre, film and television in Australia and the US. Film/TV credits include *Hold On*, *Saving Mr Banks*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Lost*, *The Unit*, *The Dr Blake Mysteries*, *Neighbours* and *Blue Heelers*.

David's Los Angeles theatre credits (multiple Stage Scene LA, LA Weekly and Ovation Awards and nominations) include *Ruben Guthrie* for Australian Theatre Company, George Hay in Open Fist's *Moon Over Buffalo*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for LCF Shakespeare, Niels Bohr in *Copenhagen*, Dilwyn Knox in *Breaking The Code*, Bob King in the US premiere of David Williamson's *Sanctuary* and his critically acclaimed Danforth in the 60th Anniversary production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Later this year David appears in Melbourne Theatre Company's *The Odd Couple* directed by Peter Houghton.



LUKE ALLEVA

• EDDIE RYAN •

Luke began his musical theatre career in *Man of La Mancha*, the role of Brains in *Get Happy* and the role of Cliff for the Australian tour of *We Will Rock You*. He has performed in London's West End in *We Will Rock You* at The Dominion Theatre, *Saturday Night Fever* at the Apollo Victoria, covered the roles of Joey, Chester and Cesar and *West End Rocks*.

Funny Girl is Luke's fifth show with The Production Company. He has been seen in *42nd Street*, *Little Me*, *Guys and Dolls* and in the role of Jimmy in *The Boy Friend*.

Luke has appeared in *The Rocky Horror Show*, played the role of Scranon Slim and covered the role of Benny in *Guys and Dolls*, *Mamma Mia*, *Xanadu* playing Young Danny, *Moonshadow* the musical as Dance Captain, *A Chorus Line*, covering the roles of Mike, Al, Don and Larry and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

On the recent tour of *Hot Shoe Shuffle* he covered the roles of four brothers including Spring. Luke has created and starred in his own One Man show *The Dancin' Man*.

Luke is a sought after choreographer and his credits include *Carols by Candlelight*, *Saturday Night Fever* at Chapel off Chapel and, for television, *Always Greener*, *Australia's Got Talent*, *The Paul O'Grady Show*, *Kerrie Anne* and *Sunrise*. Film roles include the Montmartre dancer in Baz Luhrman's *Moulin Rouge*, Dein Perry's *Bootmen*, the role of Tom Usher in *Gallipoli From Above* and *The Divorce* for the ABC.

He would like to thank all his close friends, his children Chiara and Alessio who inspire him every day, and his gorgeous wife Sabrina.

www.facebook.com/thedancinman



GREG STONE

• TOM KEENEY •

Greg is considered one of Australia's finest stage actors and has appeared in over 70 productions for a variety of companies since graduating from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 1983.

Recent theatre credits include *Ladies in Black* (Queensland Theatre Company/ Melbourne Theatre Company), *Once* (GFO), *The Weir*, *The Waiting Room*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Crucible* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Hamlet*, *Babyteeth* (Belvoir), *Pompeii LA*, *A Golem Story*, *Eldorado* (Malthouse) and *The Government Inspector* (Malthouse/Belvoir).

Other theatre credits include: *Clybourne Park*, *Life Without Me*, *Poor Boy*, *Blackbird*, *Love Song*, *Assassins*, *The Pillowman*, *Cloud Nine*, *The Seagull*, *A Little Night Music*, *Angels in America* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Summer Rain*, *Merrily We Roll Along* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Don's Party*, *Twelfth Night* (State Theatre of South Australia); *Wars of the Roses* (Bell Shakespeare); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Life x 3* (Black Swan State Theatre Company) and many other productions for Griffin, Playbox, Hothouse. He is a founding member of the highly acclaimed Keene/Taylor Theatre Project.

Greg's film credits include *The Waterfall*, *Is This Real World*, *Sunset Six*, *Swerve*, *Oranges and Sunshine*, *Van Diemen's Land* and *The Bank*.

Recent TV credits include *Secret City*, *Neighbours*, *The Ex-PM*, *Glitch*, *Offspring*, *Devil's Dust*, *Winners & Losers* and *Underbelly*.

Greg has been nominated for Helpmann and Green Room Awards for various shows and won both The Helpmann and Green Room Award for Best Male Performer in *Stuff Happens*.

He is the lead singer of the Glam Rock band *The Melody Lords*.



JUDITH ROBERTS

• MRS O'MALLEY •

Judith has performed for The Production Company in *Guys and Dolls* and *Show Boat*.

An actress, singer, dancer and teacher, she has had a long and varied career. Her theatre credits for JC Williamsons include *The Sentimental Bloke*, *My Fair Lady*, *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Sweet Charity* and *Promises Promises*.

Other productions are *A Cup of Tea*, *A Bex and A Good Lie Down*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Nonsense*, the Australian tour of *Fiddler On the Roof*, playing Golde opposite Topol and *A New Brain*, for which she received a Green Room Award nomination.

Judith has performed for Tikki and Johns for many years. She has also worked extensively for Hayes Gordon at The Ensemble Theatre Sydney, La Mama Melbourne and for Echelon in *Becky Shaw* at the Lawler Theatre.

Her extensive Television credits include over twenty productions from early days in *Division 4* to guesting in *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*. Film credits include *Lake Mungo*, *Torn*, *You and Your Stupid Mate* and *Strange Fits of Passions*.



JAN RUSS

• EMMA •

Jan started her professional career with J.C. Williamson under the guidance of the legendary Betty Pounder in *Oliver*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Fiddler On the Roof*, and then with Aztec Services with *Charlie Girl* and *Godspell*, touring Australia and New Zealand.

Jan also spent time in New Zealand appearing in many theatre and TV productions before returning to Australia and working in both television and theatre. Her credits include *Division 4*, *Homicide*, *The Clinic* and *City Homicide*.

Jan's twenty-four years behind the camera as a casting director, most notably for *Neighbours*, saw her credited with the discovery of many of Australia's most talented actors and culminated in her life's story being told on the ABC's *Australian Story*. She has now come full circle and is back acting in the theatre, her first love, and is delighted to be working with The Production Company for the first time with the wonderfully talented cast and crew of *Funny Girl*.

JUST THIS SIDE OF PARADISE

THE BACKSTAGE ADVENTURE OF

FUNNYGIRL

Funny Girl celebrates the life and the talent of Fanny Brice, one of the legendary ladies of the American stage. The saga covers her discovery by producer Florenz Ziegfeld, her triumph in his glamorous Follies, her marriage to playboy gambler Jules (Nick) Arnstein, her tenacity during his imprisonment for stock swindling, and the break up of their marriage after his release.

Real-life Fanny had two children by Arnstein: a son William and a daughter Frances. In 1939 Frances married an up-and-coming Hollywood producer called Ray Stark.

Now read on ..

Ray Stark's *Funny Girl* adventure began shortly after his mother-in-law's death in 1951. He commissioned author Norman Katkov to write an 'official' biography of Fanny, and supplied him with over three hundred pages of Fanny's notes about her life. The result, somewhat unfortunately titled *The Fabulous Fanny*, was serialised in *The Ladies Home Journal* and published in book form by Alfred A Knopf in 1952. Then Fanny's daughter Frances objected to some of the less pleasant material in the book – even though it was taken from Fanny's own notes – and Stark was forced to pay Katkov \$50,000 to remove *The Fabulous Fanny* from the market.

For some years Stark returned to his principal interest, movie production. Then, in 1961, he commissioned Isabel Lennart to write a treatment for a screenplay on the life of Fanny Brice, a film in the grand tradition of biographical movies such as *The Great Ziegfeld* (1936), *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (George M. Cohan, 1942), *The Jolson Story* (1946) and *Look for the Silver Lining* (Marilyn Miller, 1949). Interestingly, there had already been two films based on Fanny Brice's life: the now forgotten, *Broadway Thru a Keyhole* (with Constance Cummings, Paul Kelly and Russ Columbo, 1933) and *Rose of Washington Square* (1939). In the latter, Alice Faye as Rose Sargent, sang Brice's signature tune 'My Man' and fell for a Nick Arnstein character played by Tyrone Power. Fanny and Nick



The real Fanny Brice

sued Twentieth Century-Fox and settled out of court for \$40,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

Several experts suggested to Stark that Isabel Lennart's treatment would work splendidly as a Broadway musical. Stark had the contacts, expertise and initial finance and went into partnership with producer David Merrick to get the show under way. At various times, three directors worked on the project – Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse and Garson Kanin. Jule Styne was recruited to compose the score (his impressive credits included *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Bells Are Ringing* and *Gypsy*, with Stephen Sondheim, also fresh from *Gypsy*, as lyricist. Coral Haney did the choreography.

The creative process took eighteen months. There was no attempt to use any of the songs Fanny Brice had made famous, but Jule Styne wrote several in period idiom, notably 'Sadie, Sadie'. The stand-out numbers, though, were more contemporary in feel; 'People', a poignant expression of the lonely life of a performer dedicated to making others laugh and the ebullient 'Don't Rain On My Parade', a song strangely similar in style and sentiment to 'Before the Parade Passes By' from *Hello, Dolly*. The latter show opened three months before *Funny Girl* and would pip it to the post as the biggest hit of the season.

The producer's thorniest problem was finding someone to recreate the legendary Fanny Brice, whose unique comedic, singing and dramatic talents were still warmly remembered. The Starks wanted Anne Bancroft, a fine dramatic actress, but with limited vocal capabilities. 'You'll never get anyone to sing those songs', Bancroft lamented, and bowed out. Carol Burnett was offered the role but she considered herself incapable of projecting the ethnic subtleties of Brice's humour. What about Eydie Gormé, Kaye Ballard, Shirley MacLaine? The Starks felt that the show needed a big name in the lead. To Sondheim's amazement they sent the script to Mary Martin: 'Mary Martin? You've gotta have a Jewish girl! And if she's not Jewish, she at least has to have a nose!'



Caroline O'Connor and John O'May in *Funny Girl* (1999).

In the spring of 1962, Jule Styne discovered a girl with a nose. Her name was Barbra Streisand. She had found success in a small-scale musical called *I Can Get It For You Wholesale* and she was creating a sensation in cabaret in Greenwich Village. He took the Starks to see her. They thought her too unsophisticated to play the older Fanny Brice that they remembered. 'That girl will never play my mother,' said Fran. 'My mother was something special.'

Nevertheless Ray Stark was finally convinced of Streisand's potential. She was signed in July 1963. But Stark also recognised the risk. He told a friend that Bancroft would have guaranteed one million in advance sales, Burnett, two million and Streisand virtually nothing. 'But if she clicks, she could bring in five million. If we go with the kid.' Sydney Chaplin, son of the great Charlie and a dependable Broadway leading man, was cast as Nick Arnstein. Kay Medford played Mrs Brice.

By this time David Merrick, Jerome Robbins and Bob Fosse had left the project, and Bob Merrill (*Carnival* and *Hello, Dolly!*) had replaced Sondheim as lyricist – all victims of an incredible tortuous pre-

production process. The situation was not helped by the presence of the real Nick Arnstein, now in his eighties, who Stark had judiciously invited in the hope of avoiding a potential lawsuit. As ever, Arnstein was conning money. Eventually Stark lost patience with him. The old man returned to California where he lived with Lew Brice, Fanny's brother. He died in 1965. He never saw *Funny Girl*.

On 26 March 1964, *Funny Girl* opened at the Winter Garden on Broadway – and, as Shana Alexander wrote in *Life* – 'the entire gorgeous, rattletrap show business establishment blew sky-high.' The reviews were unanimously ecstatic. 'If New York were Paris,' mused the *Times*, 'Broadway could temporarily consider renaming itself the Rue Streisand. She sets the entire theatre ablaze. She is theatre's new girl for all seasons.' *Funny Girl*, added the *World Telegram* and *Sun*, 'is just this side of Paradise.'



Barbra Streisand in *Funny Girl* Movie (1968)

As *Funny Girl* hurtled happily on, Streisand and Stark were locked in negotiations. Finally Stark agreed to release her from the Broadway run provided she would star in the London production. With her eyes on Hollywood, Streisand said she'd play London, but only if she could do the movie.... Eventually all was settled and on 26 December 1965, Barbra gave her last Broadway performance as Fanny. It was one of the most memorable nights of her career. She told the packed house, 'I'd like to pay tribute to a great performer, the woman I play in the show. Oddly enough, I'm standing on the same stage where she did her last Broadway show. So as a tribute to her I'd like to sing this song that she made famous.' She then sang *My Man*.

When she finished she was crying and so was everyone else. As the audience held hands and sang *Auld Lang Syne* no one could know that Barbra Streisand would never return to the Broadway stage.

The marathon 1,348-performance Broadway run continued with Mimi Hines and Johnny Desmond succeeding Miss Streisand and Sydney Chaplin. A twelve month national tour began in October 1965. Marion Michaels was Fanny with Anthony George as Nick.

The carbon copy London production, with Michael Craig as Nick, opened at the Prince of Wales Theatre on 13 April 1966. Barbra found English audiences quiet and undemonstrative. With Princess Margaret the Earl of Snowdon in the house, the reaction was even quieter. Afterwards the Princess told Barbra how much she'd enjoyed the show. Barbra looked her in the eye and said, 'You should come back some night when you're not here.'

Streisand signed a four-movie deal with Ray Stark, guaranteeing her the film version of *Funny Girl* for a salary of \$250,000 and a small percentage of the box office. Stark found that the major studios were reluctant to take a punt on the film if Streisand were to star. True, she had been a success on Broadway and on television, but she had neither big screen experience nor drawing power. Columbia were interested but wanted Shirley MacLaine as Fanny. Stark stuck to his guns and eventually talked Columbia round by agreeing to a comparatively small budget for a musical, \$8.5 million. The stage

musical's best songs were retained for the film but the score was supplemented by three of Fanny Brice's successes: *Id Rather Be Blue Over You*, *Second Hand Rose* and, of course, *My Man*. Miss Streisand's screen debut won her an Academy Award. Leonard Maltin commented: 'Bad as biography, but first-rate as a musical.'

Before this, however *Funny Girl* had come to Australia. J.C. Williamson's managing director, Sir Frank Tait, had seen Streisand in *Funny Girl* in New York in 1964 and had scribbled his thoughts on casting in a program, now preserved in the Performing Arts Museum at Arts Centre Melbourne. Against the character of Fanny Brice he wrote, simply, 'Import'. Clearly he thought that, in the JCW tradition, an unknown American would be preferable to an Australian, no matter how talented. Sir Frank died in 1965 and it was his successor, John McCallum, who acquired rights for *Funny Girl* for 'The Firm'. The deal was confirmed on 19 January, 1966: \$6,000 on signing and 10% of the gross, plus \$575 on signing and \$20 per week for the use of the original scenic and costume designs.

McCallum determined that the leading role should be cast locally. This put him into conflict with the rest of the board and was one of the reasons that he and 'The Firm' parted company later that year.

John McCallum's announcement that Australia's Fanny was to be Jill Perryman was greeted with amazement and enthusiasm. At thirty-two, Jill was already a music theatre veteran. She had understudied Evie Hayes in *Call Me Madam* and had played second female lead in *Holly Dolly!* *Funny Girl* premiered at Her Majesty's Theatre in Sydney on 4 March 1966. Jill's success was sensational. McCallum reminisced: 'I knew that Jill could play the part better than anyone that I had auditioned in New York. When the lights went up for the interval on the first night, I knew that we had a success'.

Fred Hebert, the highly experienced American director, cast Bruce Barry as Nick Arnstein. The supporting cast included Bill Yule, Leslie Baker, Jeanne Battye, Neville Burns, Walter Sullivan, Tommy Dysart and Beverley Dunn. The great favourite Evie Hayes – best remembered as the star of Australia's *Annie Get Your Gun* – played Fanny's mother, Mrs Brice. Evie's husband, sprightly vaudeville veteran Will Mahoney, had the character role of Tom Keeney. Will was a living history book.



Jill Perryman in *Funny Girl* (1966)

Not only did he remember the real Tom Keeney, he'd known Arnstein, Ziegfeld and Fanny herself.

The Sydney critics were unanimous in their praise. In *The Australian*, Mungo MacCallum said, 'Jill Perryman is nothing short of brilliant. It is next to impossible to imagine anyone, including Barbra Streisand, in the part.' And *The Telegraph's* Griffin Foley hailed 'A night of theatrical enchantment.'

Funny Girl transferred to Sydney's Theatre Royal in May and played there until it transferred to Her Majesty's Melbourne in August. Sadly during the heat of the Melbourne summer, Will Mahoney collapsed on stage. He was forced to leave the company and died in February 1967. Evie bravely stayed with the tour: Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and back to Adelaide, where the final curtain fell on 6 May 1967 – a splendid fourteen-month tour of packed, happy houses.

©FRANK VAN STRATEN OAM, 1999

Frank van Straten wrote this article for The Production Company's *Funny Girl* in 1999. This show had a bumpy start as Ian Judge, the contracted director, withdrew three days before rehearsals were to start. Gary Young nobly stepped in. The production starred Caroline O'Connor as Fanny Brice and John O'May as Nick Arnstein. Guy Simpson was Musical Director, Ross Coleman Choreographer, Dale Ferguson Set Designer and Bob Murphy designed the costumes. It is hard to believe, looking back, that, in that first season, there were only three performances. It was a triumph with the Herald Sun's Kate Herbert saying '*Caroline O'Connor is a card-carrying musical comedy phenomenon. As Fanny Brice, she is stunningly versatile, attacking with equal skill, gags or drama, choreography or song.*'

In recent years there have been several attempts to bring *Funny Girl* back to Broadway but many of them have been stumped by the difficulty of finding a suitable leading lady. A recent production is still running on London's West End (for the first time since Streisand in 1966) but it has not been without its problems. Transferring from a sell-out season at the intimate Menier Chocolate Factory to the Savoy Theatre, it stars Sheridan Smith as Fanny Brice and Darius Campbell as Nick Arnstein. Directed by Michael Mayer with choreography by Lynne Page, Smith received rave reviews with The Times describing her as 'as funny as any girl has ever been' and Time Out saying 'only a fool would rain on Sheridan's parade'.

Frank van Straten has written more than fifty program articles for The Production Company and he have made a unique contribution ensuring that our audiences have a history on each musical as well as its Australian connections. In 2016, Frank has taken time off to work on a new project. The Production Company greatly appreciates Frank and we will miss him.

ENSEMBLE



BLAKE APPELQVIST

Canberra-born Blake recently graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre) where he played Bobby Strong in *Urinetown* and Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street*. He was the Leading Soloist in the 68th Annual Dance Sport Championship Opening, was the recipient of the Orloff Family Charitable Trust for excellence, as well as winning the New York Global Atelier Scholarship. Blake's professional debut was playing Diesel in The Production Company's *West Side Story*. In 2015 he reached the finals for the 2015 Rob Guest Endowment Award and most recently understudied the leading role in The Ambassador Theatre Group's *Ghost: The Musical*.



DANIEL ASSETTA

Daniel trained at the Glenda Yee School of Dance, and graduated from ED5 International with a Diploma of Performing Arts. He made his musical theatre debut in the tenth Anniversary production of *Wicked*, touring Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. In 2015 Daniel was the winner of the prestigious ANZ Trustees Rob Guest Endowment and was also awarded the Playbill Future Prospect Award the previous year. He performed the role of Rum Tum Tugger in the Australian/New Zealand tour of *Cats*. Other credits include *Follies In Concert* (StoreyBoard Productions) and *Carmen*, *The Magic Flute* and *Tosca* for Opera Australia.



AMY BERRISFORD

Amy graduated from Dance World Studios in 2004 and has worked consistently since in musical theatre, television and film. Her theatre credits include the Asian tour of *We Will Rock You* (Louise Withers), Rosie in *Sweet Charity* and *Promises Promises* for The Production Company, ensemble and Havana Girl cover in *Guys and Dolls* Melbourne season (ATG), June/ Velma cover in *Chicago* Australasian Tour (GFO) and the world premiere cast of *King Kong Live on Stage* (Global Creatures). She played the role of Demeter in the 2014/15 South Korean, Singapore and Macau tours of *Cats*. She returned to South Korea, to play the role of Bombalurina in this production and subsequently revived the role of Demeter for the Australia/NZ tour, for which she received a 2016 Green Room nomination. Most recently she played the role of Kathy in *Company* (Watch This).

Amy's screen credits include the Australian film *Boytown* (assistant choreographer), Channel 7's *TV Turns 50*, where she performed alongside *Dancing With The Stars*' judges and Foxtel's *The Singing Office* (Lead Singer).

Amy is delighted to be apart of the cast of *Funny Girl* and would like to thank her family and friends for their ongoing love and support.

JARED BRYAN



Originally from Hobart, Jared started dancing at the age of three. At the age of sixteen he moved to Melbourne to further his training at the full-time course at Dance World Studios.

Jared's recent professional theatre credits include the Australian tour of *Fiddler on the Roof* (TML Enterprises), the role of Action in Gale Edwards' *West Side Story* (The Production Company), *Grease -The Musical* (GFO) understudying Kenickie and Sonny for the Australian/Asian tour, *Carmen* and *Madame Butterfly* (Opera Australia), *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Flinders St – The Musical* and *Hello Dolly!* – A Jerry Herman Triptych (Magnormos) which he co-choreographed.

Commercially, Jared has performed with a huge array of Australian and international artists including Guy Sebastian, Ricki-Lee, Anthony Callea, Jessica Mauboy, Tim Campbell, Todd McKenney and Brian McFadden. Television credits include *Dancing With The Stars*, *The AFL Footy Show*, *Australia's Got Talent*, *The Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards*, *Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala*, *TV Turns 50* and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* along with numerous music videos, television commercials and corporate events.

SAGE DOUGLAS



From Melbourne, Sage began her training at Centrestage Performing Arts School. After dancing full time in 2007 with Robert Sturrock, she headed to WAAPA, graduating with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre in 2010.

Theatre credits include Anybodys in *West Side Story* (The Production Company), *Heathers*, *Valin*, *A Chorus Line* (Perth & Brisbane seasons), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Loving Repeating*, *Thomas and The Hidden Treasure* (Smile Live Entertainment), *The Damned by Reg Cribb* with the Black Swan State Theatre Company WA, *Twisted Broadway* and *Hats Off*.

Sage is delighted to be in *Funny Girl* and wishes to thank everyone at IWM for their hard work and support. She dedicates her performance to her mum, Kaye.

DANIELLE EVRAT



Danielle toured with the Australian Company of *Wicked The Musical* (GFO) performing in New Zealand, the Philippines and the Australian Tour from 2013 to 2015. She was also a featured dancer in Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby*, also performing at the Australian premiere.

Other credits include performing with artists Kanye West, Jay Sean, Sneaky Sound System and Short Stack on *X Factor*, *Australia's Next Top Model Finale* and *Celebrity Splash*. Dani was Dance Captain for *Bindi Irwin and the Jungle Girls* from 2009 to 2012.

She is thrilled to be in the cast of *Funny Girl* and dedicates her performance to her Grandma Pam.



ASHLEIGH HAUSCHILD

Originally from Adelaide, Ashleigh appeared in various productions including *Spring Awakening* (Wendla) for Gin and Vodka Productions; *Hansel and Gretel* for The State Opera of South Australia and studied all facets of the performing arts with Rachel Symons Dance Studio and Pauline Jamieson.

In 2011, Ashleigh moved to Melbourne where she graduated from APO Arts Academy, studying Musical Theatre and Dance. Following this she performed in *Hello, Dolly!* with Magnormous, sang at the Victorian Cancer Council's Tuxedo Junction Raise *The Roof* and played Lilly in *Cinderella* with the Victorian Opera. Ashleigh was a lead vocalist at the Port Adelaide Fundraiser Gala Dinner at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and performed in the Australian tour of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* with TML Enterprises. Most

recently Ashleigh performed in the Australian and New Zealand tour of *Cats* and *Follies In Concert* with Storeyboard Entertainment. She was also a semi-finalist in the prestigious Rob Guest Endowment.

Ashleigh is thrilled to be working with The Production Company and joining the cast of *Funny Girl*.



SAM HOOPER

Sam is a 2011 graduate of the VCA Bachelor of Music Theatre, where he was awarded the Cassidy Bequest Scholarship in his graduating year. He began performing at the age of eleven when he commenced dance training at the May Downs School of Dancing under the direction of Renie Ann Martini.

At the age of thirteen, he appeared in Cameron Macintosh's *Oliver!* He was recently in the original cast of the world premiere production of *King Kong Live on Stage*. Other credits include performing with Robert Sturrock's Industry Dance Company in *Exogenesis*, his own cabaret *Sounds of Silence*, which he wrote and choreographed.

Sam is the current President of the Old Carey Performing Arts Club (OCPAC).

While at the VCA, Sam choreographed the new musical *Dreamsong*. He has performed in *Cats* throughout Australia and internationally in the roles of Tumblebrutus, Skimbleshanks and George. Most recently, Sam devised and premiered in his one-man show for the Melbourne Cabaret Festival.



LAURA INGLES

Laura recently graduated as a scholarship student from the Diploma of Music Theatre at Patrick Studios under the guidance of Andrew Hallsworth. During her time there she performed the role of Connie McKenzie in *A Chorus Line* and also performed in *Spring Awakening*.

Laura's professional performances include *Twisted Broadway* in 2014, Universal Studios in Singapore and P&O's Pacific Star. Laura also danced at Isolation Performing Arts.

This is Laura's first musical and she is thrilled to be working alongside this amazing cast in *Funny Girl*. Her performance is dedicated to her loving, supportive family.

SOPHIA KATOS



Trained at NIDA, Sophia's credits include *Wild World - The Cat Stevens' Story* (HIT Productions), *Café Rebetika!* (The Follies Company), *Kismet* (The Production Company), *Reefer Madness* (Squabbalagic), *Bacharach Retrospective* (PACD Productions) and *Packed to the Rafters* (7 Network).

The last two years have seen Sophia tour the country in Baz Luhrmann's production of *Strictly Ballroom the Musical* (Global Creatures), playing the role of Liz Holt and understudying the lead role of Fran.

Sophia is currently appearing in the fourth season of the Australian drama series *Wentworth* (Fremantle Media), and will be returning to television later this year in ABC's *7 Types of Ambiguity* (Matchbox Pictures).

She is thrilled to be back on The Production Company stage.

KIARA KIESER



Kiara completed her training with the Australian Ballet School and won a scholarship at Spectrum School of Performing Arts. In 2013 she made her professional debut with the world premiere of *Moonshadow*. Since then, she has gone on to work with David Atkins Enterprises, performing in the 2014 Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony in Glasgow and Baz Luhrmann's Emporium launch. In 2015, Kiara was assistant choreographer to Yvette Lee for Stage Art's production of *In The Heights*. Kiara recently finished performing in Tim Lawson's and Simon Painter's *Cirque Adrenaline*.

Kiara has worked with Kate Cerebrano, Bonnie Anderson, Guy Sebastian, Samantha Jade, Jessica Mauboy, Redfoo, Anthony Callea and Tim Campbell. Television credits include, *Dancing With The Stars*, *The Logie Awards*, *So You Think You Can Dance* and the *Grand Final Footy Show*.

Kiara wants to thank those who have shown her endless love and support and is honoured to be making her Production Company debut in *Funny Girl*.

JESSICA LINDON



Jess originated from Central NSW where she started dance at the ripe old age of 4. At 14 she was offered a scholarship at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School where she graduated receiving the Principles award, as well as a perfect score in VCE VET dance. Jess continued her studies and became a graduate of the inaugural year of Patrick Studio Australia's musical theatre course under the direction of Andrew Hallsworth.

Most recently, Jess was apart of the Australian Premiere of *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (The Production Company). Prior to this Jess toured nationally and internationally with *Grease the Musical* (GFO) understudying the role of Cha Cha & Patty Simcox. Other theatre credits include *Le Grande Cirque* (TML), *Shout! The Mod Musical*, *We Will Rock You* and *Encore* (NLC) and most recently *Song Contest - Almost Eurovision*.

Jess is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Funny Girl* and working for The Production Company again and would like to thank her agent Emma Raciti, family & friends for their unwavering love and support.



ADAM NOVIELLO

Adam completed Music Theatre studies at Patrick Studios Australia and The Victorian College of the Arts. PSA credits include *The Wild Party* and *Spring Awakening*. After making his professional debut with The Production Company as Hanna From Hamburg in *La Cage Aux Folles* in 2014, theatre credits have included *The Broadway Gala* (China Tour), *Housewarming: A New Musical* (45 Downstairs), *Barney LIVE!* (Life Like Touring - International Tour) and *The Girlie Show* (La Mama).

Writing/cabaret credits include successful seasons of *The Last Five Queers* (Midwinta Festival) and *There was a boy...* (Chapel Off Chapel).

Adam is thrilled to be returning to the Production Company with such an amazing cast and creative team.



CASSIE O'BRIEN

Cassie is currently one of the resident artists at Sydney's PACHA at the prestigious Ivy. She has featured in *The Doctor Who Spectacular* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and *Sydney After Dark*, which premiered at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

Cassie has performed alongside artists including Flo-Rida, Zoe Badwi and Kate Alexa as well as for Katy Perry's perfume launch. She is thrilled to be returning to The Production Company, where she made her theatre debut in *The Boy From Oz*. She would love to thank her family and is proudly represented by Jeep Management.



MAX PATTERSON

At nine years old, Max made his theatre debut as a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*. His credits include Helpmann Awards, *Australia's Got Talent* and The Dally M Awards. He has also worked alongside choreographers Dein Perry, Matt Lee and The Squared Division.

In 2013 Max made his adult debut as Tap in David Atkins' *Hot Shoe Shuffle*. He also played the role of Big Deal in The Production Company's *West Side Story*. Max is thrilled to be back with *Funny Girl* and would like to thank his family for their ongoing love and support.

JOHN REED



Born in Houston, Texas, John relocated to Melbourne in 2004 where he studied at the May Downs School of Dancing and Centrestage Performing Arts School. John graduated from Federation University Art Academy (Ballarat) with a BA in Music Theatre in 2015, with credits including *Urinetown*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

After graduating, John played Jack in *Connected: A New Musical* (Ruby's Music Room) and Francis Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Melbourne Shakespeare Company).

John is thrilled to make his first appearance with The Production Company and dedicates his performance to his mentor, Charles Slucki.

CALLUM SANDERCOCK



Callum has a Certificate IV in Performing Arts from Brent Street Studios and graduated from WAAPA in 2015. Whilst there, his credits included Warner in *Legally Blonde*, Officer Barrel in *Urinetown* and Dance Captain in *Carrie*. Since graduating he has performed in the Human Nature tribute show *Soulmates* and will be understudying Fiyero in the Packemin production of *Wicked*. Later this year, Callum will be appearing as Brad in Harvest Rain's *Hairspray*.

The Production Company's *Funny Girl* is Callum's professional theatre debut and he is ecstatic to be working with this creative dream team. He would like to thank his family, friends and agent, Emma Raciti, for their continued support.

PRISCILLA STAVROU



Priscilla's love for performing began at the age of three when she commenced her dance training at Attitudes Dance Studio. Her passion for dance and the performing arts led her to further her skills at Patrick Studios Australia. She made her musical theatre debut in 2010 performing in *West Side Story*. She was also Assistant Choreographer for The Production Company's *West Side Story* in 2015 as well as being one of the female ensemble in *Kismet* in 2011. Her onstage credits include Cosentino's Live Nation Tour 2012-2015, Michael Ralph's *Now and Then* and *Hollywood Honky Tonk* and the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Professionally, she has danced alongside Havana Brown, Redfoo, Flo Rida, Cosentino The Grand Illusionist, Ashley Roberts from the Pussycat Dolls and Natalie Bassingthwaighe.

Her recent television credits include *Australia, Asia* and *Vietnam's Got Talent*, *Dancing With The Stars*, *The Good Friday Appeal* and television's *Logies*. Priscilla is beyond thrilled to be apart of this production of *Funny Girl* and to be working alongside Caroline O'Connor and the creative team. She dedicates each performance to her family.



SUZANNE STEELE

Suzanne began her training in Brisbane with Lenore Robbins and the Australian Acting Academy and graduated from the Queensland Dance School of Excellence and Dance World Studios. Most recently Suzanne appeared on stage alongside Hugh Jackman in *Broadway to Oz*. Other credits include *The Rocky Horror Show* (GFO) Ensemble, Magenta/Janet/Columbia cover, the original Australian Tour of *Wicked* (GFO) crossover swing/Nessarose cover, Barry Humphries' 50th Anniversary Australian Tour *Back With A Vengeance* (Dainty Group), Universal Studios Japan and lead singer for numerous corporate events (Crown, SMA Productions).

Funny Girl is Suzanne's first appearance with The Production Company.



BROOKE SYNNOTT

Brooke trained at the Barbara Lynch Dance Studio, the Victorian College of the Arts and the Bartuccio Dance Centre. She toured Australia with *Cats* playing the role of Cassandra.

For The Production Company, Brooke has appeared in *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Crazy For You*, *Guys and Dolls* and *The Producers*. Other roles include *Monty Python's Spamalot* and *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* with Geoffrey Rush.

Brooke's involvement in calisthenics has seen her twice nominated for sportswoman of the year, as well as a nomination for the sport's ambassador in 2016.

Brooke is thrilled to be a part of *Funny Girl*.



GALE EDWARDS

• DIRECTOR •

Gale has been directing all genres of theatre and opera nationally and internationally for over thirty years, her great love being the Classics and Musical Theatre. She has directed for all of Australia's State Theatre Companies, Opera Australia, Victoria State Opera, South Australian Opera Company, New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, English National Opera, Royal Shakespeare Company and the Chichester Festival.

Gale has won multiple awards for her directing, including a Sydney Theatre Award for *Festen*, Helpmann Awards for *The Boy From Oz* and *Sweeney Todd*, Green Room Awards for *The Boy From Oz* and *Manon Lescaut*, *Salome* and Sydney Theatre Critics Awards for *Coriolanus*, *The Rover*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Les Misérables*.

For The Production Company, Gale has directed *Chess*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Gypsy*, *West Side Story* and *Sideshow Alley*.

Gale directed a new production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which had seasons on the West End and on Broadway, receiving a Tony Award nomination and an International Emmy Award for Best Filmed Video Production. Other international work includes *Romeo and Juliet* for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Macbeth* for Oregon Shakespeare Company, *Hamlet*, *Edward II*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Richard III* for Washington Shakespeare Company, *Far Pavillions* at the Shaftsbury Theatre London, *Don Carlos* for Royal Shakespeare Company London transferring to BAM in New York, *The Taming of The Shrew* and *The White Devil* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, both transferring to the Barbican Theatre in London, *St Joan* for The Strand Theatre London and *Aspects of Love* for the Really Useful Company London.

Gale has directed many theatre productions in Australia, some highlights are, *Coriolanus*, *The White Devil*, *The God of Carnage*, *Woman in Mind*, *Festen* and *The Way of the World*, for the Sydney Theatre Company and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Hitchcock Blonde*, *M Butterfly*, *Ghosts* and *Uncle Vanya* for the Melbourne Theatre Company. Gale directed the original production of *The Boy From Oz*, *Jerry Springer the Opera* for the Sydney Opera House and a new production of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Her operas include *La Boheme*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Manon Lescaut*, *The Magic Flute*, *Maria Stuarda*, *Salome* and *Katya Kabanova* and most recently, *Aida* on Sydney Harbour and the world premiere season of the opera, *Cloudstreet* for the State Opera of SA.

THANK YOU

FRANK VAN STRATEN OAM FOR HIS FINAL PROGRAM NOTE
COLIN PAGE AND JEFF BUSBY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

HER MAJESTY 'S THEATRE FOR JILL PERRYMAN PHOTO

JACK EARLE - PIANIST

SECONDMENTS

VCA

STAGE MANAGEMENT - RUTH BLAIR

LIGHTING - JAKE JOBLING

WARDROBE - JOSEPH NOONAN

GORDON INSTITUTE GEELONG

COSTUME - CHONTAL HICKEY





ANTHONY GABRIELE

• MUSICAL DIRECTOR •

Anthony works extensively as a freelance musical director, conductor, pianist, orchestrator, arranger and vocal coach. He has conducted the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the British Philharmonic Orchestra, the Guernsey Camerata Orchestra and the Britten Sinfonia. In January 2014 Anthony was appointed Principal Conductor of the British Sinfonietta after making his debut with the orchestra in concerts featuring the internationally renowned percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie.

Anthony's musical theatre credits include *South Pacific*, *Blood Brothers*, Ken Hill's *Phantom of the Opera*, *A Grand Night For Singing*, *Chess*, *Dear World*, *Cats* (Australian Tour), *Grease*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Lion King* (London's West End, Sydney, Melbourne and Shanghai); and a tenure of almost three years as Musical Director/Conductor on the West End production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* - during which time he conducted the record-breaking 10,000th performance of the show. He then was appointed Musical Director for its 25th Anniversary UK Touring Production. Anthony was Musical Director for the UK/International Tour & the 2014/2015 West End Revival Production of *Cats* at the London Palladium. This was followed by workshop/showcase productions of two new musicals, *This Is Also England* and *Just A Man*. Most recently, Anthony was Musical Supervisor/Arranger for *Seasons of Larson* at London's Lyric Theatre.

Anthony's operatic credits include *Don Carlo*, *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Cenerentola*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Moonrakers Opera*, *The Happy Prince* plus numerous gala concerts.



KELLEY ABBEY

• CHOREOGRAPHER •

Kelley is one of Australia's most accomplished performers and choreographers in film, television and musical theatre. Her creative director and choreographer credits for the stage include Opera Australia's *Salome*, The Handa Opera of *Carmen* on Sydney Harbour, *Follies*, *Footloose*, *Grease the Arena Spectacular*, *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*, *Xanadu*, *Miracle City* and Hugh Jackman's *The Boy from Oz* and *Fame the Musical*, which both earned her a Helpmann Award for Best Choreography.

As choreographer and guest judge her television credits include *So You Think You Can Dance* (Australia and USA), *Superstars of Dance* (USA) and numerous awards shows and television specials. She has also been the creative director on Australia's *Dancing With The Stars*.

Kelley's film choreography credits include *In Her Skin*, *Goddess* and choreographer, lead performer and creative motion capture consultant on the OSCAR winning, feature film *Happy Feet*. Her choreography was awarded a Hollywood Media Honours.

Recently, Kelley was the artistic director on John Farnham and Olivia Newton John's *Two Strong Hearts* tour, before working as the associate director to Baz Luhrman on *Strictly Ballroom The Musical*.

Most recently Kelley choreographed another Opera Australia production of *Carmen*.

Kelley is thrilled to be working with Caroline O'Connor, Nancye Hayes and Gale Edwards, and the terrific cast in this production.



TIM CHAPPEL

• COSTUME DESIGNER •

Tim's costume design for feature film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* received an Oscar, a BAFTA and an AFI award.

Following the international success of *Priscilla* Tim relocated to Los Angeles where he continued his work as a designer, while there he worked across various mediums including music videos for Cher and Missy Elliott, television series *VIP* starring Pamela Anderson and feature films including *Miss Congeniality*.

Returning to Australia, Tim crossed over into musical theatre, revisiting *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical* earning him a Tony, a NYC Drama Desk award, an Olivier, a Helpmann, a Green Room Award along with Spain's Premios Teatro award and Canada's Dora award.

For The Production Company Tim has worked with director Gale Edwards designing costumes on *Gypsy*, *Guys and Dolls*, *West Side Story*, and *The Pirates of Penzance* with director, Dean Bryant.

Since then, Tim has worked with Dean Bryant on stage productions *Sweet Charity* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Continuing his work on television, Tim has designed costumes for *Dancing With the Stars* and *Australia's Got Talent*.

Future design projects include the costumes for the new musical, *Dream Lover*.



OWEN PHILLIPS

• COSTUME DESIGNER •

Funny Girl is Owen's fourth show for The Production Company, following costume design for *Jerry's Girls* and *La Cage Aux Folles* and co-costume with Tim Chappel for *The Pirates of Penzance*. Other credits include set and/or costume design for *Little Shop of Horrors* and the Helpmann Award winning *Sweet Charity* (Tinderbox Productions/Luckiest Productions), *I'll Eat You Last*, starring Miriam Margolyes for Melbourne Theatre Company, *Egg* (MTC/Terrapin Puppet Theatre), *Master Class* starring Maria Mercedes (Left Bauer Productions), *The Dust and Us* (Human Animal Exchange), *Sisters Grimm's The Sovereign Wife* and *Arthur's The Myth Project: Twin* (MTC Neon), Wael Zuiater: *Unknown* (Creative Nonfiction/Next Wave), *Bock Kills Her Father* (She Said/Melbourne Fringe Festival 2015), *Psycho Beach Party* for Little Ones Theatre, and *Gaybies*; both for the Midsumma Festival and Darlinghurst Theatre Company productions.

Owen's work has been nominated for multiple Green Room Awards, a Sydney Theatre Award and an Australian Production Design Guild Award. In 2015 he was a recipient of the Australia Council's ArtStart grant.

Owen is a graduate of NIDA, and a member of the Australian Production Design Guild.



SHAUN GURTON

• SET DESIGNER •

Shaun has designed nationally and internationally since 1973. From 1990 to 1994 he was associate Director/Designer for the State Theatre Company of South Australia. Recent designs include the highly acclaimed productions of *Pennsylvania Avenue*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Ghosts*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Other Place*, *Red*, *Hamlet* and *Richard III* for MTC. Other recent designs for MTC include *The Heretic*, *Apologia*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *King Lear* and *Inheritance*. He has designed the national tours of *Georgy Girl - The Seekers Musical*, *Mother and Son* and *Yes Prime Minister*. Other designs include *Cheech*, *Romeo and Juliet* for Centaur Theatre in Montreal Canada, *Talking Heads* for Kay Mclean productions, *Equus*, *Taking Liberty* for Perth Theatre Company, *Australia Day* and *The One Day of the Year* for HIT productions.

For The Production Company Shaun has designed *West Side Story*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Chess*, *Sweet Charity*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Boy From Oz* and *Sugar*.

Shaun has received Green Room Awards for *Steaming*, *Masterclass*, *Rivers of China*, *Festen* and *Richard III*. In 2004 he was presented with the John Truscott award for excellence in design. He has been nominated for the Helpmann award in design for *Inheritance* in 2004 and *King Lear* in 2005.



TRUDY DALGLEISH

• LIGHTING DESIGNER •

Trudy Dalglish studied technical production at NIDA and has won numerous awards including the 2001 Helpmann Award for *White Devil*, 2002 'Entech' Award and the John Truscott Design Award for Excellence and Best Lighting Design for *Eureka* and *Hairspray* at the Green Room Awards. Recent lighting design credits in Australia include *Georgy Girl* for Georgy Girl Productions, *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, *Proof*, *Rapture Blister Burn*, *The Act* (Ensemble Theatre), *Moonshadow*, *Annie* and *Legends* (GFO), *Orlando*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Manon*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Trial by Jury*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *My Fair Lady* for Opera Australia. She has also been Associate Lighting Designer on *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Once*, *Grease* and *The Sound of Music* for GFO.

International engagements have included the lighting design for *City of Friends* (Millennium Entertainment) in Bergen, Norway, *The King and I* (Broadway and Asia), *Dusty*, *Shout* and *The Boy From Oz*, *And The World Goes Round* (LaSalle, Singapore), *Hairspray*, the Opening of the Arab Games in Doha (DAE); *Certified Male* and *Eurobeat* in the West End (Glynn Nicholas Group).

Funny Girl is Trudy's third engagement with The Production Company, having designed the lighting for *West Side Story* in 2015 and *The Boy from Oz* in 2010.



SYSTEM SOUND

DAVID GREASLEY

David, System Sound Supervisor, sound engineered *King Kong*, *Love Never Dies* and *Wicked* tours of Australia and Asia, *War Horse* and *Billy Elliott*. He also designed the sound for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* in Sydney, and *Dream Girls* in Kuala Lumpur and was Assistant Designer for *The Phantom of the Opera World Tour* through South Africa, Asia and Australia. He is currently Associate Sound Designer for *Georgy Girl* and *Matilda*.



DAVID TONION

With System Sound since 1995, David sound engineered original production tours of *Miss Saigon*, *West Side Story*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Cats*, *Oliver! We Will Rock You*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Billy Elliot*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Addams Family* and *Once* and as Sound Design Associate on *Miss Saigon* and *Strictly Ballroom*. For The Production Company, he has designed sound for *Anything Goes*, *Kismet*, *Chess*, *Gypsy*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Jerry's Girls*, *Gypsy* and *West Side Story*, for which he won a Green Room Award.

He designed the sound for *Defying Gravity* with Stephen Schwartz and Betty Buckley, *The Mousetrap* and *A Murder Is Announced* and is currently Assistant Sound Designer for *Kinky Boots*, Australia.



KELVIN GEDYE

With System Sound since 1982, Kelvin was Associate Sound Designer for the Australasian tours of *Wicked*, and co-designed The Production Company's *Mame*, *Mack and Mabel*, *The Music Man*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Sweet Charity*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate* and *The Producers*.

Kelvin has designed the sound for many productions including an Australian tour of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, the stage version of *Mother and Son*, all Australian productions for *Circus Oz*, and recently, *Violet* and *Songs For a New World* for Blue Saint Productions.



DAVID SPENCER

• ASSISTANT DIRECTOR •

David was resident director for the 2016 seasons of *Anything Goes* (Opera Australia & GFO), for Victorian Opera's *Into the Woods* and for Life Like Touring Company. As an actor David has performed in the Australian productions of *Mary Poppins* (von Hussler), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Eureka* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

For The Production Company he appeared in *The Producers*, *The Pajama Game* and *Mame*. For Magnormos he appeared in *Pippin* (Charlemagne), *Flowerchildren - the story of the Mamas and the Papas* (Lou Adler), [title of show] (Jeff), and *Dear World*. He co wrote and performed in the cabaret 'I'm Playing Me' at the Butterfly Club. In the UK he performed in *Chicago* (Fogarty), *Copacabana* (Rico Castelli),

Carousel and *Lust*. Most recently he played the roles of Vice Principal Douglas Panch / Olive's Dad in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

On television David has appeared on *Neighbours*, *MDA* and *Winners and Losers*. David was the medical advisor and presenter for *Good Morning Australia* and *9am with David and Kim*. He is a graduate of the National Theatre Drama School and Sydney University.



RICHARD MONTGOMERY

• ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR •

Richard has just finished two and a half years as music director of the Australian production of *The Lion King*. In recent years he was also music director of the Singapore and Taipei productions of the same show.

Richard has worked in Australia, Asia and Europe. Theatre credits include *Jersey Boys*, *Shane Warne the Musical*, *Chicago*, *Crazy for You*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Merry Widow*, *Sweet Charity*, *Little Me*, *Hello Dolly!* and *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Last year Richard had the pleasure of working with Hugh Jackman in preparation for his *Broadway to Oz* tour.

Following a classical piano education, which included achieving an L.Mus.A and reaching the finals of the ABC Concerto competition, Richard gained experience in the jazz world, playing in groups from trios to big bands.

Richard is excited to be involved in *Funny Girl*, the fourth show he has worked on for The Production Company.



TRACIE MORLEY

• ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER •

Tracie's credits include choreographer for the television series *Top of The Lake*, *Absinthe Tour Le Mond*, the role of Pam Short in *Strictly Ballroom* in Melbourne/ Brisbane, resident choreographer and dance captain for *King Kong Live On Stage*, associate choreographer for *Empire Spiegelworld*, assistant choreographer on the movie, *The Great Gatsby*, dance captain for the movie *Moulin Rouge*, assistant choreographer on *Bootmen*, choreographer for *Danny Deckchair* and feature motion capture performer on the movies *Happy Feet* and *Happy Feet 2*.

Tracie worked on the film *South Pacific*, was assistant choreographer/dance captain on *The Boy From Oz* with Hugh Jackman, choreographer for *Love Bites*, resident choreographer for *Sisterella*, resident director resident choreographer *Oh What a Night*, resident director/ resident choreographer for *High School Musical*, associate choreographer/lead female performer in *Candyman*, choreographer for *Entwined* and associate choreographer for *Syncopation*.

Tracie has been dance captain for *My Fair Lady*, *Singin' in The Rain*, *West Side Story*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Carmen*, *Iolanthe*, *The Tales Of Hoffman*, *Don Quixote*, *Faust*, *Don Giovanni*, *Snow White*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Stars Of Illusion*. Tracie was choreographic consultant on *Dancing With The Stars* and *So You Think You Can Dance*.

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