

SEASON 2017



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lyrics by **TIM RICE**

Music by **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER**

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ANZ and THE PRODUCTION COMPANY
in association with
THE REALLY USEFUL GROUP
present



JESUS CHRIST SUPER STAR

Lyrics by
TIM RICE

Music by
**ANDREW
LLOYD WEBBER**



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

**ROB MILLS • ALINTA CHIDZEY • ZOY FRANGOS
TREVOR ASHLEY • MICHAEL CORMICK
PAUL HUGHES • ANDREW COOK
MIKE SNELL • STEPHEN McDOWELL**

**Embla Bishop • Jared Bryan • Angelique Cassimatis • Emma Clark • Zoe Coppinger
Sage Douglas • Nelson Gardner • Glenn Hill • Alex Hyne • Luke Jarvis • Kurt Kansley
Andrew Kroenert • Josie Lane • Luigi Lucente • Scott McConnell • John Reed
Thern Reynolds • Pharic Scott • Suzanne Steele • Rachael Ward • Sam Ward**

Director **Gale Edwards**

Musical Director **Anthony Gabriele** Choreographer **Kelley Abbey**

Costume Designer **Kim Bishop** Set Designer **Dan Potra**

Lighting Designer **Trent Suidgeest** Sound Design **System Sound**

Sound Design Associates **Julian Spink, John Scandrett and Kelvin Gedye**

Assistant Director **David Spencer**

Assistant Musical Director and Repetiteur **Richard Montgomery**

Assistant Choreographer **Tracie Morley**

Orchestral Services Manager **James Kempster**

Orchestra Manager **Lauren Jennings**

Technical Director **David Miller**

Production Manager **Mel Robertson**

Company Manager **Michael Norman**

Stage Manager **Meg Deyell**

Assistant Stage Managers **Lyndie Li Wan Po and Jessica Frost**

Wardrobe Supervisor **Mandy Nichols**

Hair and Wigs by **Trent Whitmore**

Sound Equipment Supplied By **System Sound Pty Ltd**

Sound Mix Engineer **David Tonion**

Stage Sound Technicians **Jackson Scandrett and Carley Gagliardi**

Radio Mic Engineer **Cameron Herbert**

Set Construction **Malthouse** Set Scaffolding **Rob Irwin, Element Rigging**

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ORCHESTRA

STATE THEATRE, ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE • 29 JULY – 13 AUGUST 2017

CONGRATULATIONS ON ANOTHER
SUCCESS
FOR THE PRODUCTION COMPANY



ANZ is proud to be a long time supporter
of The Production Company



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WHAT'S THE BUZZ? I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING

Jesus Christ Superstar has been, quite rightly, described as a *global phenomenon that has wowed audiences for over forty years*. Tim Rice, the brilliant lyricist and the extraordinary composer Andrew Lloyd Webber first produced it as a rock opera concept album before its Broadway debut in 1971 and West End run in 1972. It holds a special place in the memory of many Australians from its many tours here. What a privilege it is for The Production Company to present this masterpiece in association with The Really Useful Group.

Our production is directed by the extraordinary Gale Edwards. Gale has directed two major productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* on London's West End, where it was nominated for an Olivier Award, and then on Broadway, where it was nominated for a Tony. Gale also directed a television film of *Jesus Christ Superstar* which won her an International Emmy. So we are in excellent hands with our creative team – Gale, Musical Director Anthony Gabriele, Choreographer Kelley Abbey, Designers Kim Bishop, Dan Potra, Trent Suidgeest and System Sound.

Our cast is something of a miracle too – Rob Mills, Zoy Frangos and Michael Cormick are making their debuts with us, the welcome return of Production Company favourites Alinta Chidzey and Trevor Ashley and the talented cast of old and new faces in the roles of apostles, priests and the varied populace who make up the rich fabric of this extraordinary story - all beautifully accompanied on stage by our own orchestra.

I am so grateful to ANZ, who have been with us from the beginning. We couldn't do this without the support of our Sponsors, Donors and Patrons and our ever-growing loyal audience. It is hard to believe that this is our nineteenth season.

Come on in - for the best in town - Hosanna! Superstar!

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**

Directors **Deborah Beale**
Keith Beecher OAM
Krystyna Campbell-Pretty
Mark Gogoll
John Hay-Mackenzie
Garry Krauss AM
David Mann OAM
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Technical Director **David Miller**

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Megan Ellis
Ebony Wood

Publicity by CAVANAGH PR **Julie Cavanagh**

PA to Jeanne Pratt AC **Chris Gibbons**

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.

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Arts Centre Melbourne welcomes everyone to visit our spaces and experience the performing arts.
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THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ORCHESTRA

Orchestral Services Manager : **JAMES KEMPSTER**

Orchestra Manager : **LAUREN JENNINGS**

Keyboard 1	JACK EARLE	Drums	GERRY PANTAZIS
Keyboard 2	ISAAC HAYWARD	Percussion	TIMOTHY HOOK
Keyboard 3	RICHARD MONTGOMERY	Trumpet	GREG SPENCE
Guitar 1	MARCUS KURBAN	Woodwind	TONY HICKS
Guitar 2	TIM HENWOOD	French Horn	DEBORAH HART
Bass Guitar	CRAIG NEWMAN		





CAST OF CHARACTERS

JESUS CHRIST Rob Mills
JUDAS ISCARIOT, APOSTLE Zoy Frangos
MARY MAGDALENE Alinta Chidzey
PONTIUS PILATE, GOVERNOR OF JUDEA Michael Cormick
HEROD, THE KING OF GALILEE Trevor Ashley
CAIAPHAS, HIGH PRIEST Paul Hughes
PETER, APOSTLE Andrew Cook
SIMON ZEALOTES, APOSTLE Mike Snell
ANNAS, PRIEST Stephen McDowell

APOSTLES

Jared Bryan, Nelson Gardner, Glenn Hill, Luke Jarvis, Luigi Lucente,
Scott McConnell, John Reed, Thern Reynolds, Pharic Scott

PRIESTS AND GUARDS

Alex Hyne, Kurt Kansley, Andrew Kroenert, Sam Ward

DISCIPLES

Embla Bishop, Angelique Cassimatis, Emma Clark, Zoe Coppinger,
Sage Douglas, Josie Lane, Suzanne Steele, Rachael Ward

Temple merchants, lepers, Herod dancers, Superstar dancers,
reporters and crowd played by the Company.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

OVERTURE
Orchestra

HEAVEN ON THEIR MINDS
Judas

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?
STRANGE THING MYSTIFYING
Jesus, Judas and Mary

EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT
Jesus, Judas, Mary, Apostles
and Female Disciples

THIS JESUS MUST DIE
Caiaphas, Annas and Priests

HOSANNA
Simon

POOR JERUSALEM
Jesus, Judas, Mary, Apostles, Caiaphas,
Annas, Female Disciples and Simon

PILATE'S DREAM
Pilate

THE TEMPLE
Lepers, Jesus and Company

EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO LOVE HIM
Jesus and Mary

DAMNED FOR ALL TIME
BLOOD MONEY
Judas, Caiaphas, Annas and Priests

ACT 2

THE LAST SUPPER
Jesus, Judas and Apostles

GETHSEMANE
(I ONLY WANT TO SAY)
Jesus

THE ARREST
Jesus, Judas, Peter, Apostles,
Annas, Crowd and Guards

PETER'S DENIAL
Peter, Mary and Crowd

PILATE AND CHRIST
Jesus, Pilate, Annas, Apostles,
Crowd and Guards

KING HEROD'S SONG
Herod and Jesus

JUDAS' DEATH
Judas, Caiaphas, Annas,
Priests and Crowd

TRIAL BEFORE PILATE
(INCLUDING THE 39 LASHES)
Jesus, Pilate, Caiaphas and Crowd

SUPERSTAR
Judas and Company

THE CRUCIFIXION
Jesus and Company

JOHN NINETEEN FORTY-ONE
Orchestra

THANK YOU

PHOTOGRAPHY - Jeff Busby and Colin Page

FILM IMAGES - Phil Einwick AV PROGRAMMING - James Paul

SET ELECTRICS - Stewart Campbell MAKEUP - Gay Gallacher

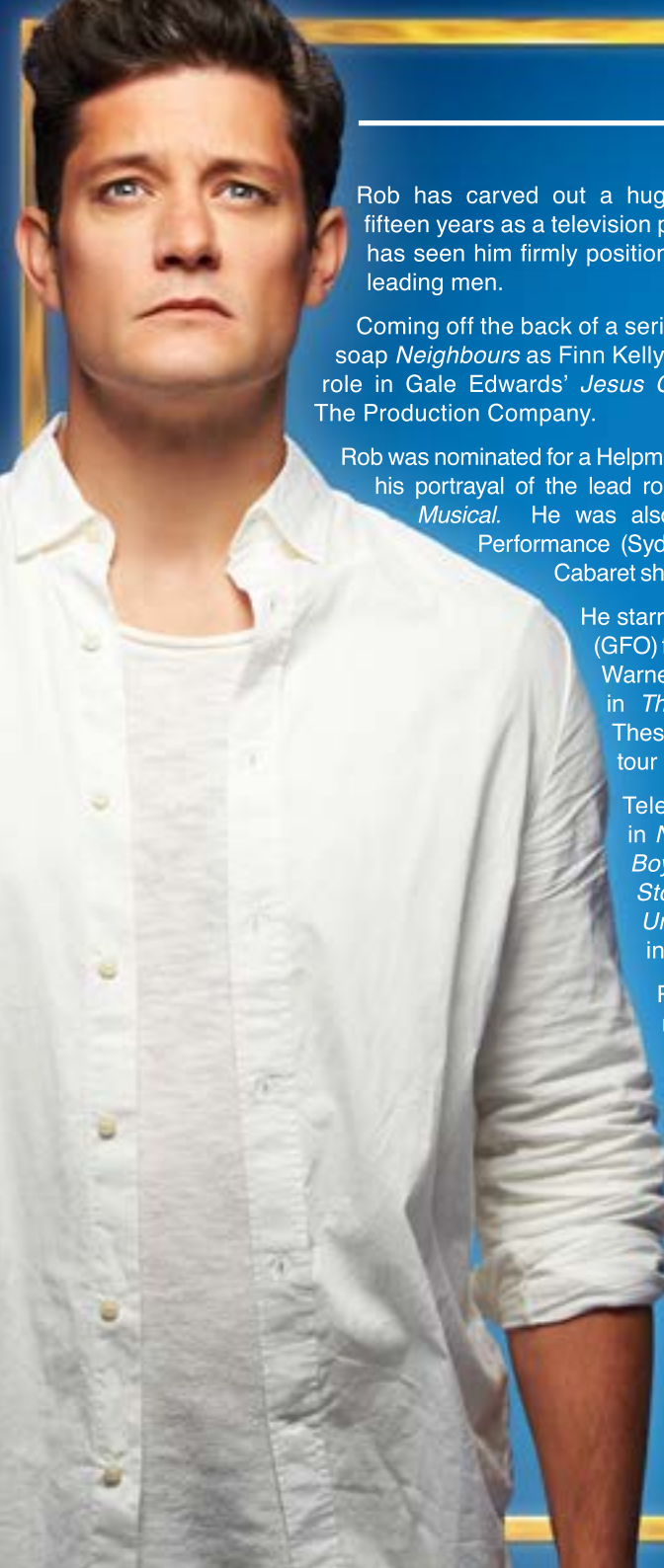
Tiny Good Showtech Australia

Tim Schwerdt

COSTUME MAKERS - Joe Noonan, Sarah Hall, Jo Carney,
Meredith Clements, Peri Jenkins & Maruska Blyszczak

SECONDMENTS

STAGE MANAGEMENT - Jordan Carter (VCA) & Sophie Lucas (VCA) SET DESIGN - Gabrielle Rowe (NIDA)



JESUS

Rob has carved out a hugely successful career, spanning fifteen years as a television presenter, actor and singer - which has seen him firmly positioned as one of Australia's favourite leading men.

Coming off the back of a series regular in the iconic Australian soap *Neighbours* as Finn Kelly, Rob is thrilled to take on the title role in Gale Edwards' *Jesus Christ Superstar* in his debut for The Production Company.

Rob was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Actor in 2016 for his portrayal of the lead role of Sam Wheat in *Ghost – The Musical*. He was also nominated for a Best Cabaret Performance (Sydney Theatre Awards) in his debut Cabaret show – *Rob Mills is Surprisingly Good*.

He starred as the original Fiyero in *Wicked* (GFO) for over five hundred performances, Warner in *Legally Blonde* (GFO), Jamie in *The Last Five Years* (Stories Like These) and Danny in the recent national tour of *Grease*.

Television credits include Finn Kelly in *Neighbours*, Chris Bell in *Not The Boy Next Door: The Peter Allen Story* (Ch7/Shine Australia), Eric in *Underbelly-Razor* (Ch9), and Sean in *Winners and Losers* (Ch7).

Rob is a proud Actors Equity member and would like to dedicate his performance to his idol and secret man-crush, John Farnham.

ROB
MILLS



JUDAS

Zoy is proud to make his debut with The Production Company in the role of Judas. Hailing from Ballarat, Zoy trained as a national level sprinter before discovering his love of the stage. In 2011 he graduated with a BA in Music Theatre from the Victorian College of the Arts. Zoy's professional credits include Jimmy in the world premiere of Deborah Cheetham's Indigenous Opera *Pecan Summer*, Halloran in *An Officer and a Gentleman* (GFO), See Bee in Opera Australia's *South Pacific*, Feuilly in *Les Misérables* (Cameron Mackintosh/Michael Cassel), ensemble in Julie Andrews' revival of *My Fair Lady* (Opera Australia) and Harry in *King of the Air* (workshop GFO).

Zoy has performed the role of Michael McKeeg in *Margaret Fulton - Queen of the Dessert* (Present Tense), Dr Fine/Dr Madden in *Next to Normal* (Doorstep Arts) and Boland in *Dogfight* (Doorstep Arts).

Zoy is a proud member of *Short Black Opera*, with which he has been performing in numerous events including The Karijini Experience, DFAT Naidoc Week celebrations and the ABC Indigenous Staff awards.

ZOY
FRANGOS





MARY

Alinta Chidzey won a scholarship to attend the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. She has since trained at The Howard Fine Academy and 16th Street Actors Studio.

Alinta's credits for The Production Company include Nikki in *Curtains*, Magnolia in *Show Boat*, Kathy Selden in *Singin' In the Rain* and Svetlana in *Chess*. For *Chess*, Alinta won a Green Room Award for Best Female Artist in a Supporting Role.

Alinta starred as Anita in the national tour of *West Side Story*, for which she received nominations for a Helpmann Award, Green Room Award, Sydney Theatre Award, and two GLUGS Award nominations and won the Australian Dance Award for Most Outstanding Performance.

Earlier stage credits include the ensemble in the Australasian Tour of *Mamma Mia!* Mickey in *Leader of the Pack*, understudying the role of Reno in the premiere cast of *Dusty: The Original Pop Diva*, Demeter in *Cats*, understudy to the role of Mary in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the Holland season of *Dirty Dancing*, a tour of *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* and *Closer* at Chapel off Chapel.

Alinta's screen credits include *Winners and Losers*, the US tele-movie *The Frontier* (Sony), *The Dr Blake Mysteries* (ABC) and *Neighbours* (Fremantle).

Alinta is frequently asked to perform at special events and concerts, both solo and with her band *Alinta and the Jazz Emperors* and collaborates regularly with *The Roger Young Collective*. She is currently writing original music for her debut album to be recorded later this year.

Follow her on Instagram @alinta.

ALINTA CHIDZEY

MICHAEL CORMICK PONTIUS PILATE



Michael is an internationally renowned singer and actor with a diverse career in Australia, the United Kingdom and Europe.

Australian credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (The Beast), for which he won an Australian MO Award, *Cats* (Munkustrap), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (Pharaoh), *Grease* (Kenickie), *Sunset Boulevard* (Joe Gillis), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Eddie/Dr Scott), *Mamma Mia!* (Sam), *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks), *Next to Normal* (Dr Madden), *Blood Brothers* (The Narrator), *Nine* (Guido Contini) and most recently, *Cabaret* (Ernst Ludwig).

His international credits include lead roles in *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Calamity Jane*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Chess*, *Evita*, *End of the Rainbow* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Woman in White* opposite Simon Callow and

Anthony Andrews. Michael has also performed in concerts in Rome, Paris, Edinburgh and Cyprus.

Along with frequent television appearances which include *Carols by Candlelight* and the *Terry Wogan Show* (BBC London), Michael has featured as a guest performer in the Royal Command performances of *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables* in London, the Australian Football League Grand Final, the official opening of Stadium Australia and the opening of the Christmas Festival at Royal Albert Hall, London.

TREVOR ASHLEY HEROD



Trevor has built a successful career as an actor, writer, director and international queen of cabaret.

He was recently nominated for a Helpmann Award for his role as Thenardier in Cameron Mackintosh's *Les Misérables*. Previously, Trevor played the role of Edna Turnblad in David Atkins' *Hairspray* (Sydney Theatre Award nomination) and was also an original cast member of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert - The Musical*.

Trevor's own creations include *Fat Swan* (Helpmann nominee), *Little Orphan TrAshley*, *Diamonds Are For Trevor* (Helpmann nominee) at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, *I'm Every Woman* (Sydney Theatre Award) and *Liza (on an E)*.

In 2015, Trevor made his directorial debut with *Heathers: The Musical* (Sydney Theatre Award nominee – Best Direction of a Musical) at the Sydney Opera House.

Trevor has enjoyed great success with his Sydney Opera House and QPAC performances of his acclaimed show *Liza's Back! (is broken)*, which debuted in London. He also premiered *Twins* for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival with Rhonda Burchmore.

He made his debut with The Production Company as Franz Liebkind in *The Producers* in 2012.

PAUL HUGHES

Caiaphas

Paul last appeared with The Production Company as Jeb in *Show Boat*.

His engagements with Opera Australia include The Nazarene in *Salome*, the national tour of *The Pirates of Penzance*, Seneca in *The Coronation of Poppea*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni* and roles in *Ariadne Auf Naxos* for Victorian Opera, Morales in *Carmen* for Melbourne Opera, Baron Douphol in *La Traviata* for the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Captain Elliot in *Opium* at the Singapore Festival and in Hong Kong.

Concert appearances include Puccini's *Messe di Gloria* for Victorian Opera, *The Messiah* and Mozart's *Requiem* with Royal Melbourne Philharmonic, The Verdi *Requiem* for Monash Chorale and *Carmina Burana* and Fauré's *Requiem* with The Australian Ballet.



ANDREW COOK

Peter

Andrew has enjoyed an unbroken run in recent musical theatre productions, having recently finished touring Australia in the national tour of *Matilda: The Musical* in the ensemble and also understudying three roles. Prior to this, he originated the role of Wayne Burns in Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom: The Musical* and appeared in *King Kong* for Global Creatures, where he was part of the ensemble.

Andrew started his professional career in the Cat Stevens musical *Moonshadow* as a swing and understudy to the title role of Moonshadow. He was awarded the East End District Award at the Rob Guest Endowment in 2014.

Andrew trained at WAAPA, graduating with a BA in Music Theatre Performance. He will be joining the cast of *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* later this year.



MIKE SNELL

Simon Zealotes

Mike kick-started his career in 2006, working with his idol Hugh Jackman in *The Boy From Oz Arena Spectacular* (Ben Gannon/Robert Fox). A succession of shows quickly followed, *Miss Saigon* (Cameron Mackintosh), *Wicked* (GFO) in which he performed the lead role of Fiyero and *Hairspray* (Dainty/David Atkins).

In 2012 Mike was the winner of the TV series *I Will Survive* (Network 10/Fremantle Media) before joining the cast of *Legally Blonde* (GFO/ATG/Farrelly Productions) playing the role of the UPS Guy and was nominated for the Best Supporting Actor Helpmann Award. Other theatre credits have included Lewis in *Pippin* (Magnormous) and Tony Manero in *Saturday Night Fever* (StageArt).



Mike was an original cast member of Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom* (Global Creatures) in which he appeared in the roles of Ken Railings, Rico, Wayne and Tommy and in the national tour of *We Will Rock You* (GFO). He was thrilled to recently make his Production Company debut playing Rudy in *Hello, Dolly!* and can't wait to take the stage with them again.

STEPHEN McDOWELL

Annas

Stephen studied Music Theatre at The Victorian College of the Arts. His credits include *Reefer Madness* (Chapel Off Chapel), *Heathers* (Showwork/Hayes Theatre and National Tour), two years in the ensemble and swinging more than ten plots in the Australian premiere of *Mary Poppins* (Australian/NZ Tour), the new Hamer Hall opening, *I Can't Believe It's Not Countdown* and *Billy Joel and Me*.

Stephen's television credits include *Neighbours*, *The King – The Graham Kennedy Story*, *Carols by Candlelight* and *The Good Friday Variety Gala*.

Children's theatre credits include *Peppa Pig Live* (Lifelike Touring) *Blue's Party Surprise* (Nickelodeon/X Systems) and *Dorothy's Dance Party* (Entertainment Store Group).



THE ULTIMATE ROCK MUSICAL

EMBLA BISHOP - Disciple

Growing up in London in a Swedish speaking home, Embla's first professional appearance was in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at the London Palladium in the West End. She went on to feature in two operas, *La Bohème* and *The Magic Flute* at Farrar Theatre, before moving to Sydney in 2009.

Embla graduated from WAAPA in 2016. Her credits there included *Legally Blonde*, *The World Goes Round*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Bring It On* and *The Beautiful Game*. Embla also received recognition for her ABBA cabaret *IKEA* from the Jackman Furness Foundation. Embla was recently cast as Madison in Ben Elton's feature film *Three Summers*, to be released later this year.

Jesus Christ Superstar will be Embla's first appearance with The Production Company and she is thrilled to be working alongside such a wonderful cast and creative team.



JARED BRYAN - Apostle



Jared's roles for The Production Company include Action in *West Side Story*, Bobby Pepper in *Curtains* and John in *Funny Girl*.

Jared's recent professional theatre credits include *Carmen* and *Madama Butterfly* for Opera Australia, Jack Stone in *Reefer Madness* (Chapel Off Chapel), the Australian tour of *Fiddler on the Roof* (TML Enterprises), *Grease* (GFO) for the Australian/Asian tour, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Flinders St – The Musical* and *Hello, Dolly! – A Jerry Herman Triptych* (Magnormos) which he co-choreographed.

Television credits include *Dancing With The Stars*, *Australia's Got Talent*, *TV Turns 50 for Channel 7*, *The AFL Footy Show* for Channel 9, *The Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards* for Nickelodeon Channel, the *Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala* for Network Ten and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*

for the ABC, along with numerous music videos, television commercials and corporate events.

ANGELIQUE CASSIMATIS - Disciple

Angelique trained with Dance Works in Brisbane and The Australian Dance Performance Institute. She made her professional musical theatre debut in *Annie* in 2000.

Theatre credits include Mabel in *Mack and Mabel* at the Hayes Theatre, Handa Opera's *Carmen* on Sydney Harbour, Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Sally Bowles understudy in *Cabaret* at the Athenaeum Theatre. Other credits include Mimi in *Rent*, Stephanie Shanks in *Strictly Ballroom*, Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Show*, King Kong, Mary Poppins, *High School Musical*, and Handa Opera's *Sydney Opera House -The Eighth Wonder*.

Angelique has previously performed for The Production Company in *Guys and Dolls*. She was a 2013 Rob Guest Endowment Award finalist and has performed to critical acclaim in her one-woman show *Guilty Pleasures*.



EMMA CLARK - Disciple

This is Emma's fourth show with The Production Company, having also appeared in *Promises Promises*, *The Producers* and *The Boy From Oz*.

Credits include Bombalurina in *Cats* on London's West End and on the South Korean Tour (RUG). Other ensemble credits include *The Addams Family* (New Theatricals), *Rock of Ages - Swing* (New Theatricals) and Cassandra in *Cats* on the Australian Philippines and Taipei tours (RUG).

Her television credits include Featured Dancer in *Carols by Candlelight*, *Hey Hey It's Saturday*, *Mad as Hell* and *The Good Friday Appeal*.

Emma is thrilled to be working with this incredible creative team and cast and is excited to be able to tick this show off her bucket list.



ZOE COPPINGER - Disciple



Zoe made her professional music theatre debut at age of eighteen in The Production Company's *Gypsy*. Since then she has appeared with the company in *Guys and Dolls*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and as Bambi in *Curtains*.

Zoe has toured Dubai with *Thomas and the Hidden Treasure* (Gary Young), performed in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (James Anthony Productions), the Australian Tour of *Fiddler On The Roof* (TML Enterprises), where she understudied the roles of Chava and Tzeitel and *Follies in Concert* (Storeyboard Entertainment).

Zoe studied dance at Michelle Slater Coyne Performing Arts. She would like to thank her Mum, Dad, sisters and Nan for their unconditional love and Helen Pandos Management for their ongoing support. She is

delighted to be returning to The Production Company with the stellar cast and creative team of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

SAGE DOUGLAS - Disciple

Melbourne-born Sage began her training at Centrestage Performing Arts School before graduating from WAAPA in 2010. Her appearances with The Production Company include *Funny Girl* and the role of Anybodys in *West Side Story*.

She recently completed a tour of Queensland playing Ginger Rogers in *A Fine Romance: A Tribute to Fred Astaire*. Other theatre credits include *Heathers*, Val in *A Chorus Line* (Perth and Brisbane seasons), *Nine* (Manilla Street Productions), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Loving Repeating*, *Thomas and the Hidden Treasure* (Smile Live Entertainment), *The Damned* by Reg Cribb (BSSTC - WA), *Twisted Broadway* and *Hats Off*. Sage was also a semi-finalist in the Rob Guest Endowment Award for 2016.

Sage is delighted to be in the cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and wishes to thank everyone at IWM for their hard work and support. She dedicates her performance to her Mum, Kaye.



NELSON GARDNER - Apostle

Nelson graduated from VCA's inaugural Bachelor of Music Theatre course.

Nelson created the title role in *Ned - A New Australian Musical* in Bendigo (Groaning Dam Productions).

For The Production Company he has appeared in *The Producers* and *Chess*. He has appeared in *Beauty And The Beast* (Adam Lowe Group), Citizen Theatre's season of *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, both runs of Company 11's *Third World Blues* and Watch This Productions' season and regional tour of *Company*. Most recently, he performed as Charley in *Merrily We Roll Along* at the Lawler Studio.

He is delighted to return to The Production Company, where he made his professional debut.



LUKE JARVIS - Apostle

Luke is from Newcastle where he performed in local theatre productions from an early age. After graduating from the Hunter School of Performing Arts in 2013, he moved to Melbourne to continue his training at the Victorian College of the Arts. At VCA Luke appeared in *42nd Street*, *The Hatpin* and played Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*, Tube Man/Pawn Man in *How To Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* and Otto in *Spring Awakening*.

Jesus Christ Superstar marks Luke's professional debut and he is honoured to be making it with The Production Company.



GLENN HILL - Apostle



A graduate of Rodwell's Studio of Dance and Brent Street School of Performing Arts, Glenn began his career at sixteen. He was a cast member and Assistant Dance Captain in *We Will Rock You* (Australia, Japan), a member of the Australian cast of *Dr Zhivago* and Associate Choreographer for *Dr Zhivago* (South Korea).

For The Production Company, Glenn was recently seen as Cornelius Hackl in *Hello, Dolly!*, Frank Shultz in *Show Boat* and in seasons of *Little Me* and *Sweet Charity*.

Other roles include Aaron Shultz in *Legally Blonde*, the title role of Calvin Berger for MTC and Escapologist in *Matilda*.

Glenn also appeared in *Spamalot* and *Mamma Mia!*

ALEX HYNE - Priest/Guard

Alex is a proud graduate of Laine Theatre Arts in London and Dance Factory here in Melbourne.

He has recently returned to Australia from Europe where he worked on London's West End and toured the UK and Germany. Some highlights include *Evita* (Dominion Theatre London; Bill Kenwright), *Mamma Mia!* (Stage Entertainment Germany), *West Side Story* (Wuppertal Oper), Roman Polanski's *Dance of the Vampires* (Stage Entertainment; Germany) and *New Jersey Nights* (UK tour; Spirit Productions).

Alex is incredibly excited and grateful to be performing in his hometown of Melbourne and with The Production Company for the first time.



KURT KANSLEY - Priest/Guard



Kurt is thrilled to be back and working in Australia after thirteen years.

London credits include; *Miss Saigon*, *Exposure*, *The Lion King*, *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens*, *Ragtime*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Love Girl* and *The Innocent*, *Hair*, *Rock Around the Clock*.

Australian credits include; *The Lion King*, *Rent*, *Show Boat*, *The Grand Hotel*, *Naked Boys Singing*, *Godspell*, *HMS Pinafore* and *Hair* (The Production Company).

Kurt writes in a collaboration (Kansley and Lidert) developing productions in London, with a successful run of *The Songs I'll Never Sing*.

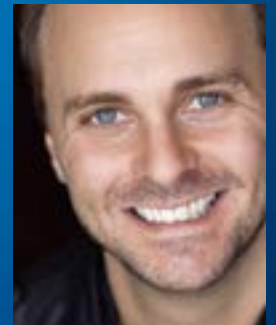
Kurt dedicates his performance to his parents, Allan and Jean.

ANDREW KROENERT - Priest/Guard

Andrew has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Music and Drama from Monash University. Performing credits include *Swing* in the world premiere of *Dream Lover* (GFO), Peter in *Company* (Watch This), Avram in *Fiddler On The Roof* (TML), Angel City Tenor in *City Of Angels* (Life Like Company), Fisherman in *Pacific Overtures* (Watch This), Sid in the Australian Premiere cast of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (TML), the title role in productions of *The Buddy Holly Story* (Showbiz Christchurch and LTPA) and the World Premiere of *Virgins; A Musical Threesome* (Echelon).

For The Production Company Andrew played Jim Greene in *Show Boat*.

He is proudly represented by Ian White Management and has been a member of Equity since 2008.



JOSIE LANE - Disciple

For The Production Company, Josie has featured in *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Jerry's Girls* and is very excited to be returning for *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Other credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (STC), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Back Row), *Avenue Q* (Arts Asia Pacific), *Fame* (GFO), *Into The Woods* (Victorian Opera), *Miracle City* (Luckiest Productions) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Luckiest Productions/ Tinderbox Productions).

Josie is also an award winning cabaret artist (*Asian Provocateur*, *Josie in the Bathhouse*), regularly sings backing vocals for David Campbell, and has been a proud member of Equity since 2007.



JOHN REED - Apostle

Born in Houston, Texas, John relocated to Melbourne in 2004 and graduated from Federation University Arts Academy (Music Theatre) in 2015, performing in *Urinetown*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Since graduating, John has appeared as *Jack in Connected: A New Musical*, Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Adrian in *The Tempest* (Melbourne Shakespeare Company) and most recently Ru in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Watch This).

John made his debut with The Production Company in *Funny Girl* and is thrilled to return in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and dedicates his performance to his father, Tom Reed.



LUIGI LUCENTE - Apostle



Luigi made his professional theatre debut at the age of twenty-one in the Donmar Warehouse production of *Guys and Dolls*. Since then he has appeared in *Jersey Boys*, *Wicked*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Assassins*, *Pippin*, *The Last Five Years*, *Dogfight*, *Parade*, *West Side Story*, *Tick Tick Boom* and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. Television credits include *The Pacific* and *Neighbours*. Luigi has also toured his one-man show *Jim Morrison: Kaleidoscope* throughout Australia.

Jesus Christ Superstar is Luigi's debut with The Production Company and he is thrilled to be performing alongside this exquisite company in one of his most beloved musicals.

SCOTT McCONNELL - Apostle

Graduating from the University of Ballarat Arts Academy in 2009, Scott has spent several years working in professional musical theatre, most recently as part of the Australian tour of *We Will Rock You* (GFO). Other credits include Doody in *Grease* (GFO), *King Kong Live On Stage* (Global Creatures), *Mary Poppins* (Disney Theatricals) and the original Australian cast of *Hairspray* (Dainty).

Scott has also appeared on television in the ABC mini-series *The Divorce* as well as performances on *Sunrise*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Kerri-Anne* and *The Helpmann Awards*.

Jesus Christ Superstar is Scott's first show with The Production Company and he is thrilled to be working with such a great team.



THERN REYNOLDS - Apostle



Thern's extensive theatre credits include *42nd Street*, *West Side Story*, *Easter Parade*, *Red Hot and Rhonda*, *My Fair Lady*, *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, *Happy Days*, *Miss Saigon*, *Chess*, *The Boy from Oz*, *Rent*, *Chicago*, *Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Play The Game*, Lewis in *Pippin*, The Mayor/Paul Gill in *Rock of Ages*, *An Officer and A Gentleman*, *Mary Poppins*, *South Pacific* and most recently, Brit in *We Will Rock You*.

West End credits include The Cherries Man in *Fosse*, *Tonight's The Night*, *Mind The Gap* and the *Chicago* Lebanon Tour.

Thern was the Resident Director on *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Cabaret*.

Previous appearances for The Production Company include Tulsa in *Gypsy* and Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street*, for which he received a Green Room Award Nomination.

PHARIC SCOTT - Apostle

Pharic is originally from London and relocated to Australia in 2010. Since then he has appeared in the Australasian tour of *Wicked* (GFO) and *Love Never Dies* (RUG).

Pharic's international credits include *Wicked* on the West End (covering Fiyero & Dr Dillamond), *White Christmas*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Gotta Sing Gotta Dance*, *Music of Dirty Dancing*, *Cinderella* and *Aladdin*. He also played the role of Eddie in *Whitechapel*. In Germany, Pharic was a Principal Swing in *Starlight Express*, where he performed as Rusty, Electra and Caboose.

Pharic is thrilled to be a part of the cast for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and would like to thank his wife, Michelle and his family for their ongoing love and support.



SUZANNE STEELE - Disciple

Suzanne is thrilled to be returning to the stage for The Production Company in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, having appeared in *Funny Girl* and *Hello, Dolly!*

She began her training in Brisbane with Lenore Robbins and the Australian Acting Academy, going on to graduate from Queensland Dance School of Excellence and Dance World Studios.

Her theatre credits include *Dream Lover The Musical*, Hugh Jackman's Arena Tour *Broadway to Oz*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, the original Australian tour of *Wicked*, Barry Humphries' 50th Anniversary Australian tour *Back With A Vengeance*, Universal Studios Japan and lead singer for corporate events (Crown, SMA Productions).



RACHAEL WARD - Disciple



Rachael graduated from full-time courses in classical ballet and musical theatre in Australia and completed further study with the Associated Studios in London where she danced for Kanye West in his live concert.

Her roles include Mona in *Chicago*, Blue Girl in *Shout! The Mod Musical*, Bombalurina in *Cats* for Royal Caribbean and at the Theatre Mogador in *Paris* (RUG), ensemble in the Australian tour of *Singin' In The Rain*, which also recently toured to Tokyo.

Rachael made her Production Company debut in *Hello, Dolly!* and is ecstatic to be joining the company again for *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

SAM WARD - Priest/Guard

Sam is a recent graduate of the VCA Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre), where he was awarded the Cassidy Bequest Scholarship in 2015. Earlier this year he played the role of Marius in Free Rain Theatre Company's *Les Misérables*. While at the VCA, Sam played the roles of Georg/Ulbrecht in *Spring Awakening*, Charles Makin in *The Hatpin* and Oscar in *42nd Street*. In 2015 he was selected as a soloist for Broadway composer John Bucchino's Concert *Grateful - The Songs of John Bucchino* and was one of four students chosen to represent the VCA at the International Musical Theatre Educator's Alliance conference at WAAPA.

Sam is thrilled to be making his debut with The Production Company.



The Gospel According to Gale.

Director Gale Edwards talks to John Hay-Mackenzie

Gale Edwards' long and involved history with *Jesus Christ Superstar* goes back more than a quarter of a century. She says: 'It's thrilling to visit such a masterpiece again, with fresh eyes, because, like all great classics, its universal appeal lies in its contemporary, evolving relevance to generation after generation.' For her, the musical is primarily an investigation of humanity: how, although much has changed over the past 2000 years or so, the essential issues we all face, trying to live our lives meaningfully, remain the same.

'*Jesus Christ Superstar* is packed with timeless hit songs, breath-taking drama, wit, and even moments of comedy,' says Gale. 'But it has a very serious and political message. Its themes include the nature of love, loyalty, honesty and betrayal, the burden of leadership and the challenge of pure faith. It examines ordinary people caught up in an extraordinary situation.' This all shines through, she says, in Andrew Lloyd Webber's sublime score and Tim Rice's brilliant lyrics.

Gale's relationship with the show began in the early 1990s, after she directed the Australian production of Andrew's *Aspects of Love*. This so impressed the composer that he took the production back to England, with Gale directing a British cast. It was highly successful, and so a collaboration and friendship with the composer began, which bore more fruit over the next decade and a half.

Andrew asked Gale to direct a new version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* to reopen the refurbished Lyceum Theatre, in London's West End. The show opened in 1996, and ran for more than 18 months. A second production, also by Gale, played in London, on tour through the UK and on Broadway. Gale's filmed version of the production won an International Emmy Award.

The genesis of the revised *Superstar* is a tale worth recalling. It all started with dinner at Andrew's country house. Gale recounts:

'He opened an exquisite bottle of wine and a beautiful art book, which contained a full-page image of Holbein's painting, *The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb*. It was a confronting and heart-breaking painting of a grey/white corpse on a slab. There was no redeeming ray of beautiful golden light coming through the window, no pre-Raphaelite hair flowing down. It was a savage and sad view of a cadaver of a man who had been crucified. As we gazed at this image, Andrew said, 'This is what *Superstar* is about in the new millennium.'

Andrew's instincts for audience taste and expectations are impeccable says Gale, 'I instantly agreed, thrilled by the challenge of re-interpreting what I had only ever seen from the original (remarkable, but now dated) film, in fringed jackets, in the early 70's. Of course it is first and foremost a rock opera, but here was a chance to take a tougher look at the psychology of the story.'

'The premise of this production is: 'If Jesus came back today, he would probably be crucified all over again,' Gale says. 'Everything he stands for, believed in and taught would be a confrontation to our capitalist system. Jesus would likely be appalled by Donald Trump, multi-national corporations, war, corrupt governments, our exploitation of, and lack of care for, each other and the planet, and our emphasis on acquisition and greed.'

So Gale's Jesus is very much a 21st-century superstar. 'Because this could be happening today, the visual world we try to create onstage, through set and costumes, in this production, deliberately becomes a metaphor for now.'

Jesus Christ Superstar is a powerful political story set in an occupied country where the local population are victims of oppression, cruelly dominated by the Romans. Jesus preaches non-violence, equality, tolerance, self-worth, and gives them confidence and hope. He explains to them a new meaning for the words power and glory. Very dangerous weapons in any oppressive regime...'

The thing to remember, Gale says, is that *Superstar* is a show about a man called Jesus, but not God himself. 'When I was rehearsing the show with Andrew Lloyd Webber, he commented: 'I chose not to score 'God'. He is silent in the musical. He is not an instrument in the orchestra. He is not a sound.'

She adds, 'this is partly why, in the 1970s, it was regarded as shocking and blasphemous, because it depicted Jesus as just a man, not a deity. The other reason is that Andrew and Tim chose not to write *The Resurrection*. Protests abounded. Nuns and priests picketed the theatres.'

Why all the fuss? Perhaps Tim Rice had the answer, when he said at the time, 'It happens that we don't see Christ as God but simply the right man at the right time in the right place.'

Gale believes, beyond any doubt, that the historical Jesus really existed. 'The lasting impact he has had on 2000 years of civilisation is because he was such an extraordinary teacher, mentor and visionary. But this musical leaves it ambiguous whether Jesus is the Son of God, although it certainly depicts him as a special, enlightened being who was definitely in touch with something greater than any of us know or understand,' says Gale. 'He is driven, through blind faith, towards a destiny that he knew he had an obligation to fulfill. Yet this does not mean that he is free of fear and doubt. Jesus embodies our human frailness as well.'

'At the centre of the story are two friends; the spiritual visionary Jesus and, the highly intelligent Judas - and the complexity of the relationship between them, as Jesus hurtles towards celebrity status and replaces Judas as his 'right hand man', with the more comforting Mary. If you listen to Tim Rice's lyrics, the Judas in the musical is not the

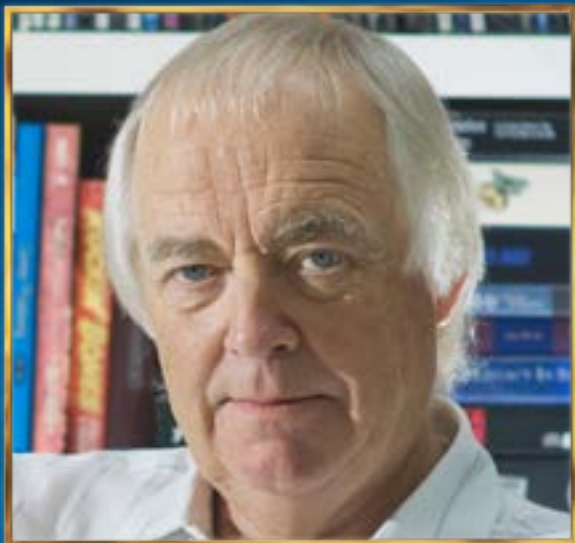
villain of the piece. He seems, in fact, to be trying to save Jesus, and them all, from inevitable destruction, until he realises that he too, like Pilate and all the others, are caught up as unwilling participants in the same inevitable fate as Jesus himself.'

Jesus Christ Superstar is Gale's sixth musical for The Production Company. It reunites her with her colleagues from last year's *Funny Girl*, musical director Anthony Gabriele and choreographer Kelley Abbey. Designers Dan Potra, Kim Bishop and Trent Suidgeest are teaming up with her for the first time. She describes her cast as an ideal company of young actor/singers with fabulous rock voices and perfect qualities for the roles they are playing, who all bring an energy and a fascination to explore the piece afresh.'

'As a Theatre Director, I regard myself as a story teller,' says Gale, 'and it's a great privilege to bring this wonderful story to life in all its human complexity, with one of the greatest scores of the 20th Century - a story that still astounds us, intrigues us, and touches us deeply. The greatest story ever told...'

John Hay-Mackenzie is a Director of The Production Company.





TIM RICE

Lyricist

Tim Rice has worked in music, theatre and films since 1965 when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim's ambitions to write rock or pop songs they turned their attention to Andrew's obsession – musical theatre. Their first collaboration (lyrics by Tim, music by Andrew) was an unsuccessful show based on the life of Doctor Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist, *The Likes Of Us*. Their next three works together were much more successful – *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*.

Tim has since worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (*The Lion King*, *Aida*), Alan Menken (*Aladdin*, *King David*, *Beauty and the Beast*), Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (*Chess*) and most recently, Stuart Brayson (*From Here To Eternity*).

A new production of *From Here To Eternity* made its début at the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre, New York, in June 2016, and plays this summer at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine. In December 2016 selections from the score were performed at three official events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbour. Further US productions are in the works.

In March 2017, two films with new Tim Rice material were released. Disney's fresh interpretation of *Beauty and the Beast*, directed by Bill Condon, features three new songs written with Alan Menken, and the latest Roger Goldby film, *Time of Their Lives*, starring Joan Collins and Pauline Collins, features a song written with Pete Hobbs, sung by Sophie Ellis-Bextor. Tim is also an executive producer of the latter movie.

He formed his own cricket team in 1973 and was President of MCC in 2002. He is a regular broadcaster/presenter on BBC Radio 2, drawing on his extensive knowledge of the history of popular music since Elvis was a lad. He has won several awards (*three Oscars, three Tonys, three Golden Globes, five Grammys, thirteen Ivor Novello Awards, Hollywood Walk of Fame etc.*), mainly for the wrong thing or for simply turning up.



ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Composer

When *Sunset Boulevard* joined *School Of Rock*, *Cats* and *The Phantom Of The Opera* on Broadway this year, Andrew Lloyd Webber became the only person to equal the record set in 1953 by Rodgers and Hammerstein with four Broadway shows running concurrently. Other musicals he has composed include *Aspects Of Love*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Love Never Dies*.

His production of *School Of Rock* is the first British musical to have world premiered on Broadway. He has co-produced his own shows including *Cats* and *The Phantom Of The Opera* and as a solo producer he presented the ground breaking *Bombay Dreams*, which introduced the double Oscar winning Bollywood composer AR Rahman to the Western stage.

Other productions include the Olivier Award Winning *Daisy Pulls It Off* and *La Bete* and the record breaking Palladium productions of *The Sound Of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

He owns seven West End Theatres including the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, the Palladium and most recently the St James, which will reopen this year as The Other Palace and provide a unique London home for new musicals in development.

He is passionate about the importance of music in education and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has become one of Britain's leading charities supporting the arts and music.

His awards, both as composer and producer, include seven Tonys, seven Oliviers, a Golden Globe, an Oscar, the Praemium Imperiale, the Richard Rodgers Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre, a BASCA Fellowship, the Kennedy Center Honor and a Grammy for Best Contemporary Classical Composition for *Requiem*, his setting of the Latin Requiem mass which contains one of his best known compositions, *Pie Jesu*.

He was knighted by Her Majesty The Queen in 1992 and created an honorary member of the House of Lords in 1997.

GALE EDWARDS AM

Director

Gale is one of Australia's most acclaimed international Theatre directors, whose thirty-five year career has spanned all genres: plays, operas, musicals, films, Shakespeare as well as developing brand new works. She has directed for all State Theatre Companies, Opera Australia, Victoria State Opera, South Australian Opera Company, New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, and in the commercial arena for Cameron MacIntosh and Andrew Lloyd Webber. She was the original (creating) director of landmark musical, *The Boy From Oz*.



Gale spent fifteen years in the UK directing on The West End, at The Chichester Festival, for The Royal Shakespeare Company, The English National Opera, and mounted both new and re-interpreted works for Andrew Lloyd Webber. Some of these productions transferred to Europe.

In the USA Gale has worked on Broadway, as well as at the prestigious B.A.M (Brooklyn Academy of Music) in New York, The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

Gale has won multiple awards for her directing: three Sydney Critics' Circle Awards, two Helpmann Awards, three Green Room Awards, a Mo Award for Outstanding contribution to Musical Theatre and a Centenary Medal from the Federal Government for her Contribution to Australian Society through the Arts.

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

Highlights of other Australian productions are, *Coriolanus*, *The White Devil*, *The God of Carnage*, *Woman in Mind*, *Festen* and *The Way of the World* (STC); *The Tempest*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Hitchcock Blonde*, *M Butterfly*, *Ghosts* and *Uncle Vanya* (MTC); *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Rover*, *The Glass Menagerie* (SATC); *The Shaughraun* (QTC); *Jerry Springer the Opera* for the Sydney Opera House. Her operas include *La Bohème*, *Manon Lescaut*, *The Magic Flute*, *Salome*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Katya Kabanova* (N.Z Arts Festival) and both *Carmen* and *Aida* on Sydney Harbour. Most recently, she directed the world premiere season of the opera, *Cloudstreet* for the State Opera of SA, for which she has been nominated for a 2017 Helpmann Award.

Gale's first production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* opened the fully refurbished Lyceum Theatre (which had been closed for twenty-five years) on The West End in 1996. It ran for three years. She later directed a different production of *Superstar*, this time with designer Peter Davison, which played on The West End, toured the UK, and later transferred to Broadway. She won an International Emmy Award for her filmed version of this later production for RUG and Universal studios, which was released world wide on DVD in 2000.

Gale was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours for her outstanding contribution as a Theatre Director, a mentor and a teacher in her field.

ANTHONY GABRIELE

Musical Director

Anthony works extensively as a freelance musical director, conductor, pianist, orchestrator, arranger and vocal coach. He is the principal conductor of the British Sinfonietta.

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, UK Tour, International Tour & West End Revival), *Grease*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Lion King* (London's West End, Sydney, Melbourne and Shanghai), *Forever Plaid*, *King of Hearts*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* (London's West End and 25th Anniversary UK Tour). For The Production Company, Anthony has been Musical Director for *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Funny Girl*.



Anthony's operatic credits include *Don Carlo*, *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Barber of Seville*, *La Cenerentola*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute* and *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

Later this year Anthony will make his conducting debuts with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra (Dublin) and the Gulbenkian Orchestra (Lisbon).

Anthony is thrilled to be back at The Production Company, working alongside Gale Edwards and Kelley Abbey on this new production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

KELLEY ABBEY

Choreographer

Kelley Abbey is one of Australia's most accomplished performers and choreographers in film, television and musical theatre.

Her Creative Director and Choreographer credits in theatre include the critically acclaimed 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*, both of which 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.

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 Luhrmann on *Strictly Ballroom the Musical*.

Most recently Kelley choreographed another production of Opera Australia's *Carmen*, The Production Company's *Funny Girl* and the Australian tour of *Cabaret*.



DAN POTRA

Set Designer

Dan is a Helpmann Award-winning designer across the full spectrum of the arts, designing sets, costumes, concepts and animation, theatre, large-scale events, dance and film.

International opera and theatre productions include *The Portrait*, *Idomeneo*, *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Barber of Seville*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Norma*, *La Bohème*, *Theodora* and *Hoffman's Adventure*.

Dan has designed many large scale sporting and cultural events, including segments in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, the opening and closing ceremonies for 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games and the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games, the 2010 FIFA World Cup opening ceremony, the 2008 opening and closing ceremonies of the Liverpool European Capital of Culture and the upcoming 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Dan has designed the costumes and projections for *How To Train Your Dragon*, designed *A Perfect American*, a new opera by Phillip Glass, the Opening Ceremony for the PNG Pacific Games as well as set and costumes for *Double It*.

Dan's most recent productions include *Turandot*, *Sydney Opera House – The Opera*, *Le Compteur* and international theatre productions with Oper Leipzig in Germany, Folkoperan and Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm.



KIM BISHOP

Costume Designer

For The Production Company, Kim has designed costumes for *Singin' In The Rain*, *The Producers*, *Kismet*, *The King and I*, *The Boy Friend*, *Crazy For You*, *Mame*, *Damn Yankees*, *42nd Street*, *Sweet Charity* and *The Boy From Oz*.

He was nominated for a 2016 Green Room Award for his costume design on *The Light In The Piazza* (Life Like Company). Other costume design work includes *City Of Angels* (Life Like Company), *Cross Roads - a new Australian Musical* (Chapel Off Chapel), *Doubt: A Parable* (RL Productions), *The 39 Steps* and *They're Playing Our*

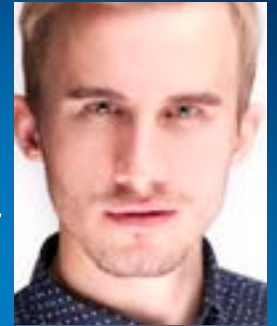
Song (HIT Productions, National tours) and *Barassi - The Stage Show* (The Athenaeum Theatre). As well as designing, Kim has a successful career in many other facets of the theatre costume industry. He has toured as Head of Wardrobe on many large scale musicals including *The King and I*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *South Pacific*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Aida – The Spectacular*, *The Merchants Of Bollywood*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Shout*, *Moonshadow*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *The Boy From Oz* and *Dusty*.

For some years, Kim had the pleasure of touring the world as Wardrobe Manager with Torvill and Dean and their international ice skating companies, playing everywhere from his home town of Melbourne to Las Vegas, Madison Square Garden and Wembley.

Visit Kim's web site at kimbishop.com.au

TRENT SUIDGEEST

Lighting Designer



Trent is thrilled to be back at The Production Company, having lit *Dusty*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *The King and I* and *Kismet*.

In 2017 Trent has completed designs for *Talk* (STC), *Calamity Jane*, *Only Heaven Knows* (Hayes Theatre), *The Homosexuals or 'Faggots'* (Griffin/Malthouse) and the Melbourne Season of *Carmen* (Opera Australia). Other recent lighting designs include STC's *Hay Fever*, *Sydney Opera House – The Opera* (The Eighth Wonder) and *The Beast*. Trent lit the multi-Helpmann Award-winning opera *The Rabbits* (Opera Australia) as well as *Jasper Jones* and *Duck, Death and the Tulip* for the Barking Gecko Theatre Company.

Trent has enjoyed collaborations with Director Wesley Enoch on *The Sapphires*, *I Am Eora* and *Waltzing the Wilarra*. As a Resident Designer at Black Swan State Theatre Company, he designed the lighting for over twenty productions including *When The Rain Stops Falling*, *Shrine*, *Boy Gets Girl* and *Next To Normal*.

In 2015 Trent received the Mike Walsh Fellowship and the WA Department of Culture and the Arts Young People Fellowship. He assisted at Toneelgroep Amsterdam with Ivo van Hove and Jan Versweyeld on their Shakespearean epic *Kings of War*.

Trent is currently working on upcoming productions of *Muriel's Wedding The Musical*, directed by Simon Phillips and *The Show Goes On*, starring Bernadette Robinson, at the Sydney Opera House.



SYSTEM SOUND ASSOCIATES

Julian Spink



Having toured as mix-engineer for international artists including *Split Enz*, *Crowded House* and *The Little River Band*, Julian joined System Sound in 1993 as Head Sound Engineer for productions including *Les Misérables*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *West Side Story*.

He has collaborated on Sound Design for *Man of La Mancha*, *Cabaret*, *Hair*, *Chicago*, and was Associate Sound Designer for *Legally Blonde*, *Once*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Addams Family* and *Jersey Boys*, and designed *Georgy Girl*.

Julian has also designed many orchestral events for System Sound, including the Mahler *Symphony of a Thousand* and the annual *Symphony Under The Stars* concerts for The Hong Kong Philharmonic.

John Scandrett



John founded System Sound in 1979. His company has sound engineered the original tours of *Mamma Mia! The Producers*, *We Will Rock You*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Billy Elliot*, *Rock of Ages*, *Love Never Dies*, *Jersey Boys*, *Wicked*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *War Horse*, *Legally Blonde*, *King Kong* and *Once*.

System Sound recently completed the sound design and sound engineering for the world tours of *Les Misérables* and *The Phantom of the Opera* and currently *Matilda the Musical*, *Kinky Boots* and *The Book of Mormon*.

Kelvin Gedye



Kelvin's first jobs with System Sound started in 1982, mixing the sound for *Candide*, *Oliver*, *Oklahoma!* *Cats*, *Les Misérables* and *The Phantom Of The Opera* before joining System Sound in 1991, supervising and designing for touring productions of *Phantom*, *Cats* and *Wicked*. His Sound Design credits include *West Side Story*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Mother and Son* and last year, *Violet* and *Songs For A New World*.

Kelvin has co-designed over sixteen Production Company shows including *Show Boat*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Curtains*, *Funny Girl*, *Dusty* and *Hello, Dolly!*

DAVID SPENCER

Assistant Director



David is a graduate of the National Theatre Drama School and Sydney University.

As an actor he appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Eureka!* [title of show], *Flowerchildren*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Mary Poppins* and UK tours of *Carousel*, *Chicago* and *Copacabana*. For The Production Company, he has appeared in *Mame*, *The Pajama Game* and *The Producers*.

As a Resident Director he has worked for Life Like Touring, Vic Opera (*Into the Woods*) and GFO/ Opera Australia (*Anything Goes*).

He assisted Gale Edwards in last year's production of *Funny Girl* for The Production Company and is thrilled to be working with this team again.

RICHARD MONTGOMERY

Assistant Musical Director



Richard has worked in Australia, Asia and Europe. He was Music Director of the recent Australian production of *The Lion King* and the Singapore and Taipei productions of the same show. Other 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!* *Funny Girl* and *The Rocky Horror Show*.

In 2015 Richard had the pleasure of working with Hugh Jackman in preparation for his *Broadway to Oz* tour. Richard is excited to be involved in his fifth Production Company show.

TRACIE MORLEY

Assistant Choreographer



Tracie has established herself as a highly regarded, diversely skilled creative with a long-standing career. Choreographic credits *Absinthe*, *Top of The Lake Season Two*, *Danny Deckchair*, *Absinthe Tour Le Mond*, *Empire Spiegelworld* and *Dancing With The Stars*. Tracie was Choreographic Assistant on the films *South Pacific*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Bootmen* and Assistant Choreographer on *The Boy From Oz*, *Funny Girl* and *So You Think You Can Dance*. She has been Resident Director/Choreographer on *Sisterella*, *High School Musical* and *Oh What a Night!* and Resident Choreographer/Dance Captain for *King Kong*, *Singin' In the Rain* and *My Fair Lady*.

Tracie's many roles include Travesty/Dance Captain in *Moulin Rouge*, *Happy Feet*, *Happy Feet Two*, *Goddess*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *West Side Story*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Carmen* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

A Background Note on THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

The Production Company's ambitions centre on two key policies.

The first is to provide employment to artists living and working in Melbourne. When Jeanne Pratt AC started The Production Company in 1998, there were few professional opportunities for young performers in musical theatre. In the 19 years since then, the situation has vastly improved.

The company's second ambition is to bring quality entertainment at the best prices to Melbourne musical-theatre goers. In 2017, anybody under the age of 18 can enjoy one of our performances for just \$22, and an adult subscriber can pay as little as \$38 to see a performance.

The Production Company has always employed all artists at above Equity Award pay rates and provided them with first-rate directors, choreographers and musical directors working with a full orchestra. The bulk of our budget goes towards realising these crucial goals. Given that our musicals are usually staged for fewer than twenty performances, the budget line for scenery and costumes is limited.

This year, The Production Company is engaging more than 130 artists on four-week minimum contracts. This amounts to more than 500 weeks of full-time employment for artists in Melbourne. In addition The Production Company has established its own orchestra and each musician is engaged on full commercial rates.

The Production Company is fully supported with private funding, for which we thank our legion of generous supporters and private patrons. We have never sought Government arts funding.

In terms of repertoire, a great deal of research goes into selecting the best works to suit available talent. We take great care in ensuring that our artists are cast in roles that display their talents to the finest level. Our success rate can be judged by the many performers who have gone on to star in major commercial musicals.

Our repertoire is balanced between the great classic shows that audiences know and love, such as *West Side Story* and this year's *Hello, Dolly!*, and lesser-known works that we hope audiences will come to love — among them, the Australian premieres of *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Curtains* and the multi-award winning *Grey Gardens*.

The shows of the future are also a significant part of The Production Company's life. To assist with the creative development of new musicals, the company has made many awards to professional composers and writers through Pratt Foundation Commissions and Awards. We have been able to provide some of the best and brightest with professional workshops and project funding to help realise their creative dreams.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING PATRONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

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