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SEASON 2014



LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

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EY & THE PRODUCTION COMPANY PRESENT

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Music and Lyrics by
JERRY HERMAN

Book by
HARVEY FIERSTEIN

Based on the play 'LA CAGE AUX FOLLES' by JEAN POIRET

Todd McKenney • Simon Burke
Rhonda Burchmore • Marg Downey • Gary Sweet
Aljin Abella • Robert Tripolino • Emily Milledge

Spencer Bignell • Josh Gates • Wil King • Evan Lever • Lauren McKenna
Adam Noviello • Taylor Scanlan • Greta Sherriff • Anthony Sheppard
Kyle Stevens • Troy Sussman

*ANNE WOOD PERFORMS THE ROLE OF JACQUELINE
ON SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM



Director **Dean Bryant**

Musical Director **Mathew Frank**

Choreographer **Andrew Hallsworth**

Set Designer **Dale Ferguson**

Costume Designer **Owen Phillips**

Lighting Designer **Matt Scott**

Wig Designer **Benjamin Moir**

Sound Design **System Sound**

Sound Design Associates **David Greasley, John Scandrett & Mark Benson**

Stage Manager **Meg Deyell**

Assistant Director **Natalie Gilhorne**

Repetiteur **Andrew Patterson**

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, THE PLAYHOUSE
21 NOVEMBER TO 7 DECEMBER 2014

La Cage Aux Folles is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC



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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/Graphic Design **Kendra Reid,**
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Arts Centre Melbourne extends heartfelt thanks to our Arts Angels, whose generosity, loyalty and commitment ensure as many Victorians as possible can experience the joy of the performing arts here in Melbourne.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The management reserves the right to add, withdraw or substitute artists and to vary the program as necessary.
- The Trust reserves the right of refusing admission.
- Recording devices, cameras and mobile telephones must not be operated during the performance.
- In the interests of public health, Arts Centre Melbourne is a smoke-free area.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY THANKS

Frank Van Straten OAM for the program article
Colin Page and Jeff Busby for photography
Lighting Equipment by PRG

WELCOME TO ST TROPEZ AND TO GEORGES AND ALBINS NIGHTCLUB,

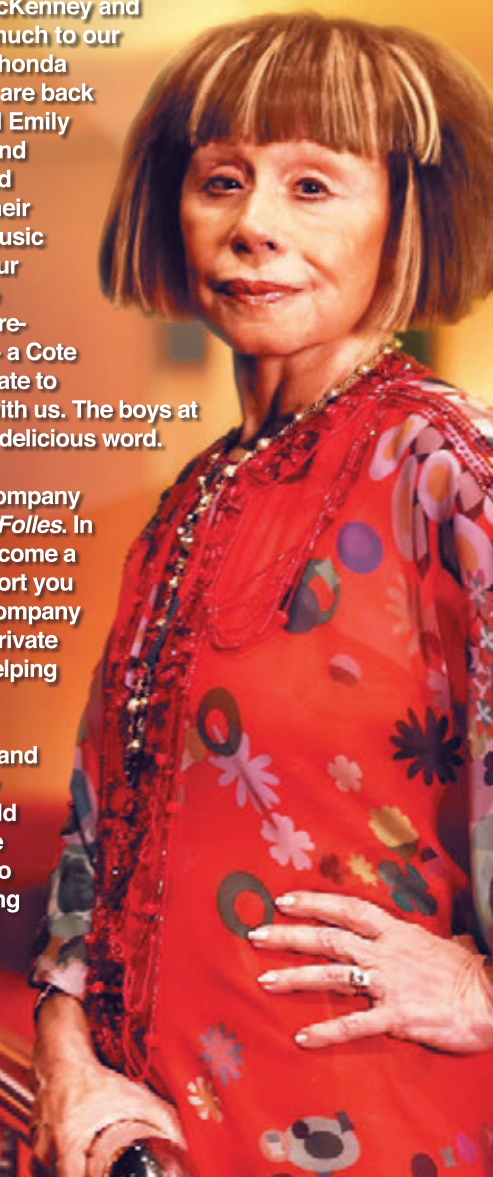
LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

La Cage Aux Folles brings you a dream team of performers. How wonderful to have not one but two leading men, Todd McKenney and Simon Burke who have both contributed so much to our successes over many years. The gorgeous Rhonda Burchmore, Robert Tripolino and Aljin Abella are back and I welcome Marg Downey, Gary Sweet and Emily Milledge. Current Helpmann Award winners and brilliant creative duo Director Dean Bryant and Choreographer Andrew Hallsworth present their fourth show for us and Mathew Frank is our music director. Our young ensemble is superb and our scenery, costume and lighting designers, Dale Ferguson, Owen Phillips and Matt Scott, have re-created the atmosphere of the French Riviera - a Cote D'Azur poster come to life! We are also fortunate to have Benjamin Moir, an expert wig designer, with us. The boys at System Sound will make sure you hear every delicious word.

EY are a major supporter of The Production Company and I thank them for sponsoring *La Cage Aux Folles*. In this program you will find your invitation to become a Patron of The Production Company. Any support you are able to give is greatly appreciated as the company is entirely privately funded and relies on this private support for its ongoing existence. If you are helping us already, I can't thank you enough.

I know you will enjoy this hilarious, touching and contemporary take on a modern family. A gay couple prove their love to a conservative world as the bonds of family are put to the test. Like all good musicals, love wins out in the end. So I think you will agree with me when I sing along with one of Jerry Herman's show-stopping numbers, the best of times is now!

Jeanne Pratt AC
Chairman
The Production Company



CAST OF CHARACTERS

Albin	TODD MCKENNEY
Georges	SIMON BURKE
Edouard Dindon	GARY SWEET
Marie Dindon	MARG DOWNEY
Jacob	ALJIN ABELLA
Jean-Michel	ROBERT TRIPOLINO
Anne	EMILY MILLEDGE
Jacqueline	RHONDA BURCHMORE ANNE WOOD 7.30PM, NOVEMBER 30



PRODUCTION CREDITS

LES CAGELLES

Bitelle	JOSH GATES
Chantal	WIL KING
Hanna	ADAM NOVIELLO
Mercedes	TAYLOR SCANLAN
Angelique	ANTHONY SHEPPARD
Phaedra	KYLE STEVENS
Francis	EVAN LEVER
Babette	LAUREN MCKENNA
Tabarro	TROY SUSSMAN

ST TROPEZ TOWNSPEOPLE

Monsieur Renaud	GARY SWEET
Madame Renaud	MARG DOWNEY
Colette	GRETA SHERRIFF
Etienne	SPENCER BIGNELL

Technical Director	David Miller
Production Manager	Mel Robertson
Stage Manager	Meg Deyell
Company Manager	Adam McGurk
Assistant Director	Natalie Gilhome
Repetiteur	Andrew Patterson
Wig Designer	Benjamin Moir
Wardrobe Supervisor	Kim Bishop
Assistant Stage Manager	Chloe Woodman
Costume Makers	Tiffany Abbot Zoe Felice Chloe Greaves Phillip Rhodes Bryn Meredith
Wig & Makeup Supervisor	David Wisken
Wig & Makeup Assistants	Lidiya Kaplun Hannah Mapletoft
Whip Trainer	Robert Shook
Sound Operator	Simon Gregory
Stage Sound Technicians	Jackson Scandrett Martin Tyrell David Browne Cameron Herbert
Radio Mic Engineer	System Sound Pty Ltd
Sound Equipment	Malthouse
Set Construction	Samantha Gardiner
Secondment	WAAPA

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

PRELUDE	The Orchestra
WE ARE WHAT WE ARE (A LITTLE MORE) MASCARA	Les Cagelles
WITH ANNE ON MY ARM	Albin and Les Cagelles
WITH YOU ON MY ARM	Jean-Michel and Georges
THE PROMENADE	Georges and Albin
SONG ON THE SAND	Company
LA CAGE AUX FOLLES	Georges
I AM WHAT I AM	Albin, Les Cagelles and Company Albin

ACT TWO

SONG ON THE SAND (REPRISE)	Georges and Albin
MASCULINITY	Georges, Albin, Monsieur Renaud, Madame Renaud and Company
LOOK OVER THERE	Georges
DISHES (COCKTAIL COUNTERPOINT)	Georges, Edouard Dindon, Marie Dindon and Jacob
THE BEST OF TIMES	Albin, Jacqueline and Company
LOOK OVER THERE (REPRISE)	Jean-Michel
FINALE	Company

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Conductor and Keyboard	MATHEW FRANK
Woodwinds	TONY HICKS MARTIN CORCORAN
Trumpet	TRISTAN REBIEN
Trombone	KIERAN CONRAD
Double Bass	IAN WILMOT
Percussion	GREG SULLY
Drums	DEAN COOPER
Keyboard	ANDREW PATTERSON





TODD MCKENNEY

ALBIN

Inspiring, provocative, compelling and generous are just a few words that describe the critically acclaimed and award winning performer, actor and host Todd McKenney.

A household name in Australia, Todd's versatile career has spanned three decades and shows no sign of slowing down. Already known as Australia's leading man of song and dance musicals, since 1994 he's also been the colourful and often controversial judge on the Seven Network's hit series *Dancing With the Stars*.

Todd began dancing at the age of three at his mother's dancing school in Perth, training in jazz, tap, acrobatics and ballroom dancing. He has represented Australia in ballroom and Latin American dancing, winning many international dance titles. Among his Australian awards for performance in musical theatre are two Mo Awards, the Variety Club Heart Award, the Glug Award, the Green Room Award, two Australian Dance Awards and a Helpmann Award.

He was cast in his first professional musical, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*, in 1983. Leading roles followed in *Cats*, *42nd Street*, *West Side Story*, *Crazy For You*, *Born Yesterday*, *Camelot*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Cabaret*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Singin' In the Rain*, *Anything Goes*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Annie* and most recently Todd headlined in the role of Teen Angel in *Grease*.

It was landing the prized role of Peter Allen in the Australian hit production *The Boy From Oz* that confirmed his star status on stage. *The Boy From Oz* performed over 900 shows nationally and is one of the longest running and most successful musical productions in Australian history.

For The Production Company Todd has re-created the role of Peter Allen in its 2011 and 2012 seasons of *The Boy From Oz* and in 2011 Todd was Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes* for The Production Company.

Todd co-hosted Sydney's MIX106.5FM breakfast radio program with Sonia Kruger in 2008 and 2009.

He regularly fills in for Larry Emdur on Channel 7's, *The Morning Show* with Kylie Gillies. He has also filled in as a judge on *Australia's Got Talent* on the Seven Network.

In 2013 Todd played the role of Pluto in the 2013 Opera Australia season of *Orpheus In the Underworld*.

For the past six years Todd has been studying Auslan sign language and has worked within the deaf community all around Australia. He also works for the Children's Cancer Institute Australia on their Diamond Ball Committee and helps raise funds for research to find a cure for children's cancer.

Todd became a father in 2007 and his daughter Charlotte is the light of his life.

SIMON BURKE

GEORGES



One of Australia's most accomplished, respected and versatile performers, Simon began his career at the age of thirteen when he starred in Fred Schepisi's acclaimed feature film *The Devil's Playground* for which he won the AFI Award for Best Actor. Since then he has enjoyed great success both in Australia and the UK in film, television, stage, concert appearances and cabaret.

Simon returned to the UK in 2007 to star as Captain von Trapp opposite Connie Fisher and Summer Strallen in *The Sound of Music* at the London Palladium. Since then he has appeared as Joe in *When The Rain Stops Falling* at the Almeida Theatre, starred as Georges opposite John Barrowman's Albin in *La Cage Aux Folles* at the Playhouse Theatre, London, and in *Holding The Man* at the Trafalgar Studios as well as reprising his role in *The Sound of Music* at Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre.

Earlier UK theatre credits include Carl-Magnus in *A Little Night Music* at the (Royal National Theatre, Raoul in *Phantom of the Opera* (Her Majesty's Theatre), Leonardo in *Leonardo – A Portrait of Love* (Old Fire Station Oxford) Cliff in *Cabaret* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield) Steve in *Jeffrey* (Greenwich Theatre) and *The Life of the World to Come* (Almeida Theatre).

Australian musical theatre credits include Marius in the original Australian cast of *Les Miserables*, Vernon in *They're Playing Our Song*, Harry Flynn in *Chicago*, Whizzer in *Falsettos* (nominated Best Musical Performance Sydney Theatre Critics' Circle Awards), Burrs in *The Wild Party*, George Puttnam in *Take Flight* and Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes*, for which he received the Green Room Award for Best Actor in a Musical. For The Production Company, Simon performed the role of Dexter Haven in *High Society*.

Sydney Theatre Company productions include *Jonah Jones*, *The Herbal Bed*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Mr Kolpert* and the world premiere of *Up For Grabs*. Simon played Mason Marzac in the Australian premiere of *Take Me Out* for the Melbourne Theatre Company and starred in the world premieres of *October* and *Satango* for Griffin Theatre Company. He created the role of Francis Bacon in Stephen Sewell's acclaimed *Three Furies* directed by Jim Sharman for 2005 Sydney Festival, 2006 Perth and Adelaide Festivals (nominated Best Actor Sydney Theatre Awards 2006).

Simon's many television credits include *Hustle*, *Rescue: Special Ops*, *The Alice*, *All Saints*, *Small Claims III*, *Thank God You're Here*, *South Pacific*, *Brides of Christ*, *Scales of Justice*, *Water Rats*, *Danielle Steele's The Ring*, *The One That Got Away*, *Heroes Mountain*, *After the Deluge*, *Grass Roots*, *Preservation and Postcard Bandit*, and his 23-year stint as one of the most popular presenters on ABC TV's *Play School*. In 2006 he hosted his own television variety series *Studio A With Simon Burke* on Australia's FOXTEL network. Feature films include *Passion*, *Pitch Black*, and *Travelling Light*. From their inauguration in 2001 until 2006 Simon hosted and co-wrote the Helpmann Awards - honouring excellence in live performance in Australia.

In January 2009 Simon was thrilled to make his debut at Carnegie Hall, where he hosted and performed in a gala concert *Australia Plays Broadway*.

His new solo show, titled *Something About Always*, had its world premiere at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival on June 17th 2011. His first solo album, also titled *Something About Always*, which he co-produced with Musical Director Daniel Edmonds, was released in 2009 and is available in the foyer and on itunes.



RHONDA BURCHMORE OAM

JACQUELINE

With a smile that could light up the Sydney Opera house and a voice that's as big, bold and colourful as Uluru, Rhonda Burchmore has endeared herself to the hearts of all Australians.

After twenty-five years in the business, this vivacious, flame-haired beauty continues to turn heads wherever she goes and draws thunderous applause wherever she performs.

She has forged a lengthy career in one of the toughest and most unforgiving industries, show business, yet as critics attest, she just keeps going from strength to strength.

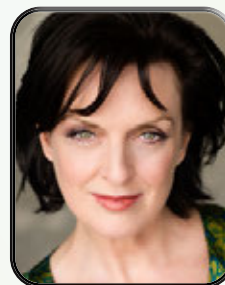
Few Australian entertainers have shared her status and immense popularity amongst her peers, who admire Rhonda for her big personality, big heart and enormous capacity to give back to the industry that has shaped her career.

For The Production Company Rhonda performed the title role in *Mame* in seasons in 1999 and 2008 and in 2009, Rhonda was Madame Dubonnet in *The Boy Friend*.

Rhonda was nominated for a 2002 Mo Award for Female Musical Theatre Performer of The Year for her role as Tanya in the ABBA musical production *Mamma Mia!*, along with another nomination of Female Vocal Variety Performer of The Year.

Rhonda, a fourth generation Australian was awarded an OAM during Australia Day Weekend 2014 for service to the Arts and Community.

Early next year Rhonda returns to Arts Centre Melbourne in her show *Vinyl Viagra*.



ANNE WOOD

JACQUELINE

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER AT 730PM

Anne's career commenced with the original Melbourne production of *Cats*, after which she travelled to Europe to join the German production. She consequently spent six successful years working overseas.

A Swell Party marked her London West End debut when she stepped in for the leading lady on the opening night of the premiere.

Other UK and European credits include lead roles in *Aspects of Love*, *Barnum*, *Crazy for You*, *Romance Romance*, *Into the Woods* and *Closer Than Ever*.

Her Australian credits include the roles of Irene in *Crazy For You*, Elsa Schraeder in *The Sound Of Music*, The Journalist in *Minefields And Miniskirts*, Mrs. Mullin in *Carousel*, The Soap Star in *Menopause The Musical*, Phyllis in *Follies*, Meg in *Damn Yankees*, Magenta in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Evangeline Harcourt in *Anything Goes*, Madame Morrible in *Wicked* and Muriel Eubanks in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Anne is perhaps best known for her portrayal of Donna in the Australian premiere of *Mamma Mia!* earning her a Green Room Award and an invitation to play the role on London's West End. She re-created this award-winning role for the national tour which celebrated the shows 10th anniversary.

Anne most recently revisited the role of Madame Morrible for the Melbourne season of *Wicked* and played the role of Sara Jane Moore in Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*.

MARG DOWNEY

MARIE DINDON / MADAME RENAUD



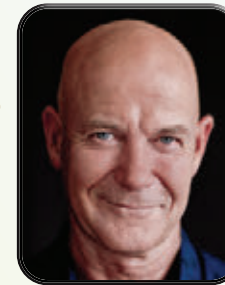
Marg first appeared on television as part of *The D-Generation* in the late 1980s and subsequently appeared regularly in *Fast Forward*, *Full Frontal*, *Something Stupid* and *Kath and Kim*. Marg has also appeared in the popular dramas *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, *House Husbands* and *City Homicide*. Theatre credits include *Skull in Connemara*, *Glimpse*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, Joanna Murray-Smith's *Rapture*, *A Flea In Her Ear* and *Scenes from a Separation*.

Marg is a highly sought-after voiceover artist for commercial/corporate work and for roles in animation projects, including *L'il Elvis Jones and the Truckstoppers*, *Ocean Girl*, *Dogstar*, *Wakkaville* and *The Flamin' Thongs*.

In 2013 she performed in David Williamson's new play *Rupert*, which also toured to Washington in March 2014.

GARY SWEET

EDOUARD DINDON / MONSIEUR RENAUD



Gary Sweet's career started in the early 1980s in the television series *The Sullivans*. In 1984 he was cast in his first major role as Bradman in the mini-series *Bodyline*. *Police Rescue* followed, where Sweet became a household name playing the lead role. This led him to win several awards including an AFI award for Best Actor in a Leading Role in a Television Drama (1991/1992), the Variety Club Heart Award for TV Actor of the Year (1993), and two TV Week Silver Logie Awards for Most Popular Actor and Most Outstanding Actor (1992/1994). Other television projects include *The Great Bookie Robbery*, *Come in Spinner*, *Children of the Dragon*, *The Battlers*, *Blue Murder*, *Cold Feet*, *Stingers*, *The Circuit*, *Rain Shadow*, *The Pacific*, *Small Time Gangster* and most recently, *House Husbands*.

Films include *The Lighthouseman*, *The Dreaming*, *Indecent Obsession*, *Love in Ambush*, *The Tracker*, *Alexandra's Project*, *Getting Square*, *Macbeth*, *2:37*, *Bitter & Twisted*, *Subdivision*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *Two Mothers*, *Fatal Honeymoon*, *Nerve* and most recently, *Charlie's Country*. Though most recognized for his screen roles, Sweet has appeared in *The Club* and *The Recruit* for MTC, and the musicals *Oh, What a Night* and *Little Orphan trASHLEY*. Most recently Gary narrated *Our Don* for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.



ALJIN ABELLA

JACOB

Originally from Melbourne, Aljin graduated from NIDA in 2006. He has worked as an actor both nationally and internationally in film, television, animation, theatre and voice-over. He made his stage debut in the MTC and Belvoir Street seasons of *The Sapphires* in 2005 and reprised his role in their subsequent South Korean and London tours.

For The Production Company, Aljin has previously appeared in *Anything Goes*. Other selected stage credits include *Monkey...Journey to the West*, *The Good Person of Szechuan*, *Moths*, *Strangers in Between*, *Triumph*, *Three Sisters*, *The Matchmaker*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Kid*, *The Fortunes of Richard Mahony*, *Anything Goes* and *The New Black*. Film, television and animation credits include *I Love You Too*, *Underbelly Files: The Man Who Got Away*, *10 Terrorists*, *Just Punishment*, *Power Rangers Jungle Fury*, *The Dr. Blake Mysteries*, *City Homicide*, *Noah and Saskia*, *Neighbours*, *Guinevere Jones*, *Bootleg*, *Legacy of the Silver Shadow*, *Blue Heelers*, *Horace and Tina* and *High Flyers*.



ROBERT TRIPOLINO

JEAN-MICHEL

Robert graduated from the Victorian College of Arts in 2011 with a BA in Musical Theatre after training at the Sandra Clack Ballet Centre in Geelong.

Credits include *Calvin Berger*, *The Addams Family*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Gaybies*, lead vocalist with the John Farnham Band under the direction of Chong Lim, *Candice McQueen: Nasty!* (Green Room award for Cabaret Production, Green Room nomination for Cabaret Musical Director).

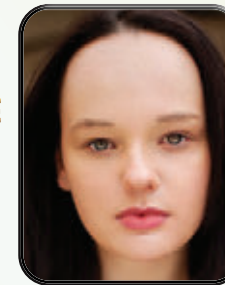
For The Production Company Robert has previously appeared in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

His television credits include Channel Ten's drama series *Mr & Mrs Murder* and ABC's *Upper Middle Bogan*.

Robert is the composer and producer of *DreamSong* which most recently played at Theatretworks as part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

EMILY MILLEDGE

ANNE



Emily is a graduate of 16th Street Actors Studio and *Showfit*, Centrestage Performing Arts School. She made her professional theatre debut in *Gaybies* at the 2013 Midsumma Festival and has since performed at several of Australia's premiere theatres. Most recently, Emily played the iconic pop-cult teenager Carrie White in *Carrie: The Musical*, directed by Terence O'Connell at Chapel Off Chapel for Ghost Light/Moving Light Productions.

Emily has worked closely with THE RABBLE, one of Australia's most exciting and boundary-breaking theatre companies, on *Frankenstein* (Malthouse Theatre), *Room of Regret* (TheatreWorks/Melbourne Festival) and *The Story of O* (MTC Neon), all created by Emma Valente and Kate Davis. Other theatre credits include *The Good Person of Szechuan* directed by Meng Jinghui for Malthouse Theatre, *Out of the Water* directed by Nadia Tass for Red Stitch, Bryant and Frank's *The Silver Donkey* directed by Dean Bryant for *Showfit*, a workshop of *The Women in Black* directed by Simon Phillips and a staged reading of *The Kid* directed by Suzanne Chaundy. Emily's television appearances include *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Paper Giants II: Magazine Wars*, *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab* and *The Saddle Club Series 3*.



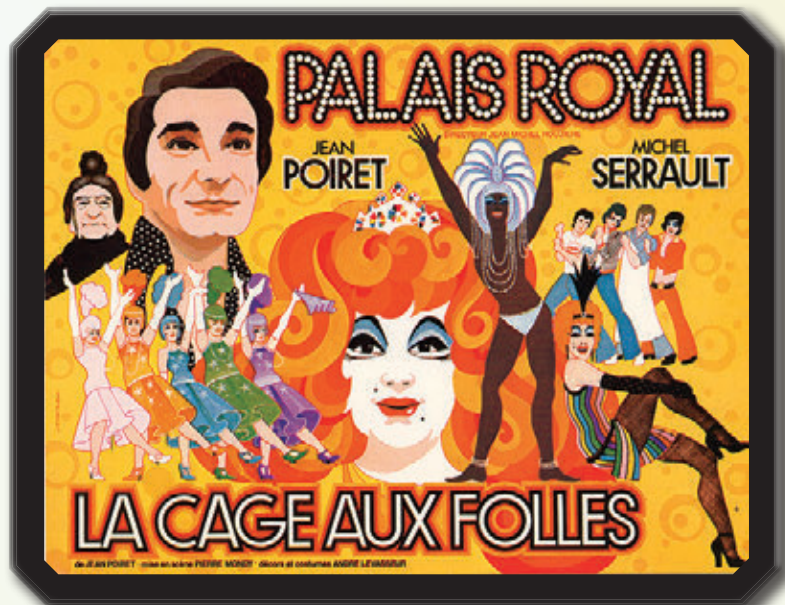
A COMBINATION THAT WORKS LIKE A CHARM...
FRANK VAN STRATEN ENJOYS THE BEST OF TIMES AT
LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO **THE QUEEN OF BASIN STREET**. WELL, NOT REALLY, BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEING IF THINGS HAD TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY.

To make a short story long, let's go back to the Théâtre du Palais-Royal in Paris on 1 February 1973. That's when the curtain rose on an unpretentious little comedy called *La Cage Aux Folles*. There was no music and only one set: all the action took place in the drawing room of the gay owners of an adjacent drag nightclub in the fashionable French resort town of Saint Tropez. The play's author and star was Jean Poiret – the professional name of Gustave Jean Perry, the son of a glazier and a book-keeper. Though he was – and still is – virtually unknown outside France, Poiret's long career included roles in more than seventy films and many stage productions. He also worked on a

dozen screenplays and wrote ten stage comedies, usually designed to display his considerable comedic talents. He was Georges in that landmark first production of *La Cage*, with Michel Serrault as Albin. The two men had met at drama school and enjoyed a long-lasting stage partnership. A huge hit, *La Cage Aux Folles* packed the Palais-Royal for 1800 performances.

In 1978, on a visit to Paris, producer Allan Carr was taken to see *La Cage*. Still basking in the success of his film version of *Grease*, Carr was looking for a new project. He immediately sensed the potential in Poiret's play. 'I wanted to do it as a movie for Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon,' he said. 'It would have been a reminder of what they had done in *Some Like it Hot*.' When he heard that the film rights had already gone to a French-Italian company, Carr thought of staging the play in London, but he soon realised



Poster for the original stage version, Paris, 1973



Jean Poiret as Georges in the original stage version, 1973



Cover of the demo recording of The Queen of Basin Street 1981

that its potential for spectacle and its warm family relationships were the elements 'of those big Broadway musicals we don't see anymore'. He felt that the impending international release of the film was of little consequence, as foreign-language comedies rarely did well in the US.

As it turned out, he was wrong about the film's American appeal. It was a box office blockbuster, running in New York for more than a year and becoming the highest-grossing foreign-language film released in the US to that time. There were two sequels, *La Cage Aux Folles 2* and *3*. In all three, Serrault was again Albin, but Ugo Tognazzi replaced Poiret. In 1979 the US ABC TV network considered recycling the characters in a TV sitcom to be called *Adam and Yves*, but this came to nothing.

Carr was undeterred, even encouraged. Having paid Poiret a \$100,000 advance, he set about recruiting a creative team for his musical. He spoke with authors John Mortimer and Larry Gelbart, composers Marvin Hamlisch, Peter Allen, John Kander and Fred Ebb, and directors Michael Smuin, Jack Hofsiss and Frank Dunlop. Eventually he announced that Jay Allen Presson would write the book, Maury Yeston (the composer of *Nine*) would write the music and Mike Nichols and Tommy Tune would direct. The action would be relocated from Saint Tropez to New Orleans and the show would be

called – yes – *The Queen of Basin Street*. Yeston made a four-track demo recording designed to attract investors, but eventually the whole project unravelled in acrimony.

Near desperation, Carr hired Barry Brown and Fritz Holt as executive producers. They promptly ditched the original creative team and replaced them with director Arthur Laurents (*Gypsy*), writer Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*) and composer Jerry Herman (*Mame*, *Hello, Dolly!*). For Herman it was a dream come true. He had fallen in love with the film and had tried to get the stage rights himself. The three worked together swiftly and smoothly, restoring the original setting and title, and adding warmth and depth to the characters. George Hearn was cast as Albin and Gene Barry as Georges.

Against all advice, Carr decided to preview the \$5 million show in ultra-conservative Boston. 'Why not?' he reasoned. 'The show's got heart and humanity. It has a touching story. It's really a romantic domestic drama. It's Life with Father or Life with Mother or whatever.' Carr's punt paid off. The first night audience gave *La Cage* a standing ovation. 'There were little old ladies standing up in their walkers and cheering,' Carr recalled. 'They were the oldest theatregoers I ever saw, and they were all cheering!'



Keith Michell as Georges and
Jon Ewing as Albin,
Australia, 1985

La Cage Aux Folles opened at the Palace Theatre on Broadway on 21 August 1983. Though the Boston tryout had virtually guaranteed its success, nobody had dreamed how big its triumph would be. It was nominated for nine Tony awards and won six, including the coveted Best Musical. *La Cage* ran for four years – 1761 performances – during which there were a number of cast changes. Two notable replacement Georges were Van Johnson and Adelaide-born Keith Michell.

Michell also headed the West Coast company and, in 1985, returned to Australia to star with Jon Ewing as Albin in the Australian production, the first outside the US. The supporting cast included David Ravenswood (Dindon), Ronne Arnold (Jacob), Gordon Boyd (Renaud), Leigh Chambers (Francis), Lisa O’Dea (Anne), Arianthe Galani (Jacqueline), Geraldene Morrow (Marie Dindon) and Gerry Sont (Jean-Michel). Todd McKenney was one of the Cagelles. Arthur Laurents directed.

The show played at Her Majesty’s in Sydney and at the Palais in Melbourne. Said Bob Crimeen in *The Sun*: ‘You saw the film, you’ve heard about the musical... now go and see it. What other advice could one offer after Saturday night’s glittering Broadwayish opening of this smash-hit musical?’ *La Cage* sailed gaily on. It hit the London Palladium in 1986 with George Hearn as Albin and Dennis Quilley as Georges. Germany, Colombia, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, Korea, New Zealand, Denmark – on and on it went.

The show returned to Broadway in 2004 for a 229-performance run during which Robert Goulet replaced the original Georges. A second Broadway revival in 2010 featured Kelsey Grammer as Georges and Douglas Hodge as Albin; he was later replaced by Harvey Fierstein. This production went ‘on the road’ with George Hamilton as Georges. Both productions garnered Tony awards for Best Revival of a Musical, making *La Cage Aux Folles* the only show to have won the Best Production award every time it has appeared on Broadway.



Graham Norton as Albin, London, 2009

La Cage was revived in London in 2008 with Douglas Hodge as Albin and Australia’s Philip Quast as Georges. Later London Albins included Graham Norton and John Barrowman, and for a while our own Simon Burke played Georges.

But until now, Australia has not been so lucky – revivals of *La Cage* have been left to enterprising non-professional groups. Adelaide’s Mayfair Theatre Company staged it at Her Majesty’s there in 1997, while the National Theatre in St Kilda saw a Festival Theatre production in 1990 and Quirky Productions’ ambitious 2012 pro-am version with David Rogers-Smith as Albin and John O’May as Georges.

And we mustn’t forget *The Birdcage*, the 1996 United Artists film. It was adapted from the first *La Cage* movie, not from the play or the musical, and was reset in the colourful gay enclave at Miami, Florida. Originally Steve Martin was cast as Armand/Georges with Robin Williams as Albert/Albin, but when Martin withdrew, Robin Williams switched to Armand/Georges and Nathan Lane, in his breakthrough movie role, played Albert/Albin. Mike Nichols directed. The original play has been restaged several times in Paris. The 2009 revival at the Théâtre de Porte Saint-Martin starred

Christian Clavier as Georges and Didier Bourdon as Albin. It was so successful that it was filmed live on stage and screened on French TV in 2011. Though they’re in French, the excerpts accessible on YouTube are well worth checking out: they provide an excellent idea of what that original 1973 Paris production must have been like.

And what of the remarkable Monsieur Poirot, who had created *La Cage* in 1973 and had seen it soar to success around the world. Though *La Cage* made him extremely wealthy, he continued to work on stage and television. He was 65 when he died of a heart attack in Paris in 1992, three months before the release of *Zebra*, the only film he directed. He is buried with many of France’s artistic elite in the Montparnasse Cemetery.

And what of *The Queen of Baker Street*? ‘I still love the music from that show,’ says Carr wistfully. ‘Maybe someday I’ll produce that too.’

**FRANK VAN STRATEN OAM
©2014**



John O’May as Georges and
David Rogers-Smith as Albin,
Melbourne, 2012



Robin Williams and Nathan Lane in *The Birdcage*, 1996



SPENCER BIGNELL
ETIENNE

Spencer graduated last year from Patrick Studios. While still a student he performed in *Twisted Broadway* and at the *Rob Guest Endowment Awards* in 2012.

Spencer's first professional musical theatre role was Abel in *Children of Eden* with Magnormos in his final year of study. This was followed by his Production Company debut in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

This year Spencer has been working on the development of *Ned - The Musical* with the Capitol Theatre in Bendigo. He also appeared in the *Dr Who Symphonic Spectacular* with the BBC Worldwide.

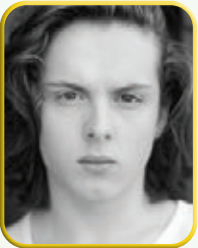


JOSH GATES
BITELLE, A CAGELLE

This year Josh graduated from Patrick Studios. He started his career at a very young age as the understudy of the young Peter Allen in *The Boy From Oz* starring Hugh Jackman. He then performed the title role as Billy in *Billy Elliot the Musical* winning a Green Room Award for Best Actor in a Musical and an Australian Dance Award.

While studying Josh appeared in *Twisted Broadway*, *The Wild Party* and earlier this year in the *Dr Who Symphonic Spectacular* with the BBC Worldwide. For his graduating production Josh played Malchior Gabor in *Spring Awakening* under the direction of Tania Mitford.

Josh is thrilled to be performing in *La Cage Aux Folles* and making his Production Company debut. He would like to thank his mum, brother and grandma for their support and love.



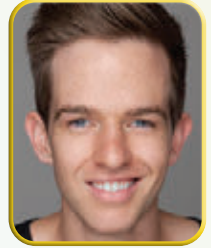
WIL KING
CHANTAL, A CAGELLE

Wil's training includes Young Australian Broadway Chorus (2007-13), TAFTA (2013), NIDA Young Actors Residency (2014) and Patrick Studios Secondary School Program in Dance/Musical Theatre (2014)

While training his Musical Theatre credits include; *Footloose*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Camp Rock: The Musical*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Sweet Charity*, *High School Musical*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Chicago*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, and *13 A New Musical*.

Stage roles include *39 Steps*. Wil also filmed a TV pilot *Party* in 2013.

La Cage aux Folles is Wil's first show for The Production Company and he is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and creative team. He would like to thank his family, friends and teachers for all their support

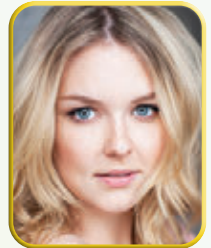


EVAN LEVER
FRANCIS

Evan graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2011 with a Bachelor of Music Theatre. Most recently he played Neville Anderson in David Williamson's *Third World Blues* with Company Eleven and Neville Gruber in the premier of *Dreamsong*, a new Australian musical as part of Melbourne's 2014 Comedy Festival. Previously he appeared in the world premier of Cat Steven's *Moonshadow the Musical* and Australasian tour of *Thomas and the Hidden Treasure*. Evan recently returned from New York City, where he performed his one-man show *Aznavourian*, a tribute to Charles Aznavour, in the New York Music Theatre Festival.

In 2013, with the support of the Ron and Margret Dobell Foundation Music Theatre Award, Evan had the opportunity to study abroad in New York (SITI Theatre Company) and Oxford, England (BADA).

LAUREN MCKENNA
BABETTE



Lauren is a 2011 graduate of The Victorian College of the Arts from the inaugural Bachelor of Music Theatre class. In her final year at VCA she played the role of Oolie/Donna in *City of Angels* directed by Gary Young. Since graduating, Lauren has toured nationally with the children's theatre production, *James and the Giant Peach* and performed as cabaret artist, Valentine in *Love on a G-String* at the Melbourne Fringe Festival. Last year she made her debut with The Production Company in *The Pirates of Penzance* and is delighted to perform with the company again. Lauren will play the role of Gwendolyn Fairfax in Citizen Theatre's upcoming production of *The Importance of Being Ernest* at Como House.

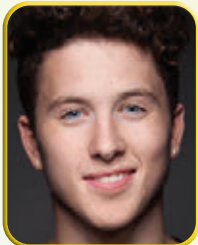
ADAM NOVIELLO
HANNA, A CAGELLE



After studying at the Victorian College of the Arts, Adam completed his Diploma of Music Theatre in 2014 at Patrick Studios where he played Billy in excerpts from *Carousel*, Goldoff in *The Wild Party* and Georg in *Spring Awakening*.

Adam has previously appeared in *Sugartown: A New Musical* at Chapel Off Chapel, his original cabaret *There Was A Boy*, *Twisted Broadway* 2014 and was most recently part of the workshop cast of *Housewarming: A New Musical*.

La Cage Aux Folles marks Adam's debut with The Production Company. He would like to thank his teachers, mentors and loved ones for their support.

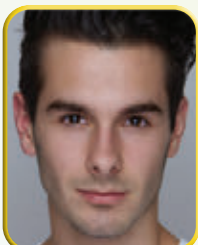


TAYLOR SCANLAN
MERCEDES, A CAGELLE

Taylor is currently studying full-time at Patrick Studio in their Performing Arts program. A graduate from the National Team of Trampolining in 2008, Taylor then found his love for dance and has been training at PSA ever since.

Commercially Taylor has performed for corporate clients including *Icons of Style* - Spring Runway at Chadstone, *Tuxedo Junction*, *The Body Shop*, *AMP & Crown Casino*. Taylor is also a young entrepreneur and manages his own clothing company *Eskimo Fashion*, specialising in dancewear since 2012.

La Cage Aux Folles marks Taylor's professional debut.



ANTHONY SHEPPARD
ANGELIQUE, A CAGELLE

Anthony recently graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School majoring in Dance. Whilst studying at the school, he was involved in many main season dance performances at the Malthouse Theatre including *Carmen* and *Jose*. Film credits include singing in the feature film *Knowing* starring Nicholas Cage. Anthony was chosen to sing the National Anthem in a duet at the *2009 NAB AFL Cup Grand Final*. He has also been involved in a reading of Frank and

Bryant's *Silver Donkey* for the MTC.

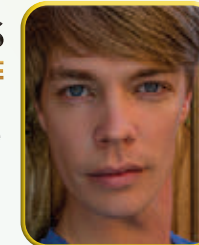
La Cage Aux Folles is Anthony's first show with The Production Company. He would like to thank his agent Ian White and Kylie Nanfro and his family.



GRETA SHERRIFF
COLLETTE

Greta graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music majoring in classical voice. She is delighted to be joining the company of *La Cage Aux Folles*, having recently appeared in *Guys and Dolls* and *The Pirates of Penzance* for The Production Company. Previously, Greta toured Australia and Asia for over two years with *Wicked* (understudying Madame Morrible). Other credits include *Titanic* for Seabiscuit Productions and the national tour of *My Fair Lady* for Opera Australia.

Greta wishes to thank her dear husband and loving family for their support.



KYLE STEVENS
PHAEDRA, A CAGELLE

Melbourne-born Kyle is thrilled to be making his Production Company debut in *La Cage Aux Folles*. Kyle has a Diploma in dance performance from the New Zealand School of Dance. His ballet credits include *Concerto* (MacMillan), *Jardi Tancat* (Duato), *Divertimento no.15* (Balenchine), *Six Dances – Pas de Quarte and Finale* (Kilian) and *Concerto Barocco – 2nd Movement* (Balenchine). Kyle danced with the Royal New Zealand Ballet and West Australian Ballet.

Musical theatre credits include the 2007-09 Australasian tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats* (The Really Useful Company), *Thomas and the Hidden Treasure*, (Smile Live Entertainment), *La Traviata* (Victorian Opera), Princess Cruises and Choreographer/Dancer for the Perth Bride Fashion Festival.



TROY SUSSMAN
TABARRO

Troy has had a significant career in Australia, Asia and London playing both principal roles and major understudies. He has always enjoyed working with The Production Company and shows with them include *Mame*, *Sweet Charity*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Mack and Mabel*, *The Gilbert & Sullivan Show* and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Roles in other theatre productions include, *Passion*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the Donmar Warehouse *Guys and Dolls*, *We Will Rock You*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Honk!*, *Chang and Eng*, *Masterpiece - The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber in China*, *Noises Off*, *The Singing Forest*, *Jolson*, Both the 10th Anniversary production and the Original Australia New Zealand productions of *Les Miserables*, *Chess*, *Miss Saigon*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Hair*, and *Oliver*.

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DEAN BRYANT

DIRECTOR

Dean directed *Sweet Charity* for Hayes Theatre Company, receiving the 2014 Helpmann Award for Best Director of a Musical. This production tours Australia in 2015. Other credits with The Production Company include *The Pirates of Penzance* and (co-direction of) *The Producers* and *Anything Goes*. He directed Miriam Margolyes in *I'll Eat You Last* for MTC, playing concurrently at the Arts Centre Fairfax alongside *La Cage*. Other credits include *Next to Normal* (MTC), *DreamSong* (Theatreworks), *Straight* (Red Stitch), *Hansel and Gretel* (OzOpera), *The Last Five Years*, *Prodigal*, *Once We Lived Here* (2014 London premiere at Kings Head Theatre) and *Virgins: A Musical Threesome*. He created *Gaybies* for the 2013 Midsumma Festival and directs the Sydney premiere for Darlinghurst Theatre Company next year. He directs *Anything Goes* for GFO/Opera Australia in 2015.

With composer Mathew Frank he wrote the musicals *Prodigal* (off-Broadway season at York Theatre, Green Room – Best Original Score), *Once We Lived Here* (Green Room – Best New Musical), *Virgins: A Musical Threesome* and *The Silver Donkey* as well as the songs for the Amy Winehouse musical episode of Channel 10's *Mr and Mrs Murder*. www.bryantandfrank.com

His cabaret credits as writer/director include *Britney Spears: The Cabaret*, Rhonda Burchmore's *Vinyl Viagra*, *Liza (on an E)* (West End season 2013), *In Vogue: Songs By Madonna* (2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Sweet Dreams: Songs by Annie Lennox* (2014 Adelaide Fringe Award - Best Cabaret), *I'm Every Woman* (Sydney Theatre Award – Best Cabaret), *Newley Discovered* (Sydney Opera House), *Experiment: Cole Porter* and *Josie in the Bathhouse*.

He is Worldwide Associate Director of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert – The Musical* and is a graduate of WAAPA.



ANDREW HALLSWORTH

CHOREOGRAPHER

Andrew is a leading Australian choreographer working alongside the country's most esteemed theatre directors. He won the 2014 Helpmann Award for Best Choreography in a Musical for the Hayes Theatre's inaugural production of *Sweet Charity*.

Andrew's recent credits include *Rupert* (MTC and Daniel Sparrow Productions), *Dream Song*, *Shane Warne the Musical* (concert version), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and the world premiere musical *An Officer and A Gentleman*. Further MTC credits include *Private Lives*, *Hamlet*, *Next to Normal*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Andrew co-choreographed the international production of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* with Ross Coleman. He restaged *Priscilla* for Broadway followed by Italian and Brazilian seasons, US and UK Tours and very recently, the Swedish, Korean and Spanish productions.

For The Production Company he has co-directed and choreographed *The Producers* and *Anything Goes* and choreographed *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Gypsy*, *The Boy from Oz*, *Carousel*, *Mame* and *The Boy Friend*. He also co-choreographed *The Music Man* and *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Further credits include *Eurobeat - Almost Eurovision* (Edinburgh Festival, West End, and UK tour), *Menopause - the Musical* and *Leader of the Pack - The Ellie Greenwich Musical*. Cabaret shows include *Doris Day - So Much More Than The Girl Next Door*, *Tegrity*, *Newley Discovered*, *Todd McKenney-Songs and Stories of Peter Allen* and *Cry Me A River - The World of Julie London* starring Rhonda Burchmore.

MATHEW FRANK

MUSICAL DIRECTOR



Mathew was recently the Musical Director of *The Pirates of Penzance* for The Production Company. Other shows include *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* with Geoffrey Rush and *Private Lives* (Composer/Musical Director), *Next To Normal* and *The Drowsy Chaperone* for the MTC. Mathew was also Associate Musical Director on the company's productions of *Poor Boy*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (also the STC) and *Urinetown* (also STC) and Assistant Musical Director on *The Sapphires*. He was Musical Director and Arranger of the smash-hit *Britney Spears: The Cabaret*, which has played Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, and recently did the same jobs on Rhonda Burchmore's *Vinyl Viagra* for the Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

With writing partner Dean Bryant, he composed the musical *Prodigal*, first produced at Chapel off Chapel in 2000 (Green Room Award for Best Original Score) and revived at fortyfivedownstairs. *Prodigal* became the first Australian musical produced in New York City, with its off-Broadway debut at the York Theatre Company in 2002. Other shows with Bryant include *Once We Lived Here* (Green Room Award for Best New Musical), *Virgins: A Musical Threesome* (six Green Room nominations) and at the New York Musical Theatre Festival and an adaption of Sonya Harnett's *The Silver Donkey*.

Mathew is a WAAPA graduate and is the Musical Director of the performing arts course, *Showfit*.

DALE FERGUSON

SET DESIGNER



Dale designed *The Pirates of Penzance* for The Production Company in 2013. Most recent work for MTC includes *The Speechmaker*, *The Crucible*, *Top Girls*, *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Life Without Me*, *God of Carnage*, *The Sapphires* and *August: Osage Country*, which received the Helpmann Award for Best Set Design. For Malthouse, his designs include *Night on Bald Mountain*, *Dance of Death*, *Exit the King*, *Woman Bomb*, *Rapture* and *Nightfall*. For STC he has designed *Les Liaison Dangereuses*, *The Convicts Opera* including UK Tour, *Summer Rain*, *Howard Katz* and *A Cheery Soul* and *King Lear* for Bell Shakespeare.

Dale designed the production of *The Judas Kiss* originating at Belvoir, starring Rupert Everett at the Hampstead Theatre and later on the West End. Other work at Belvoir is *Brothers Wreck*, *Neighbourhood Watch*, *The Seagull*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Power of Ye*, and *Antigone*. And for Daniel Schlusser Ensemble, *Menagerie*.

Recent opera designs include *The Riders* for Victorian Opera/Malthouse, *Otello* for Cape Town Opera, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Houston and Chicago Opera, *Ariadne of Naxos* for Welsh National Opera and Canadian Opera and *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Eugene Onegin* for Opera Australia.

Musical theatre designs include *An Officer and a Gentleman* (GFO), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Dainty) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (MTC). Dale received Tony and Drama Desk nominations when *Exit the King* transferred to Broadway in 2009.



OWEN PHILLIPS
COSTUME DESIGNER

Owen's recent credits include set design for the Helpmann award-winning *Sweet Charity* for Hayes Theatre Company, set and costumes for *I'll Eat You Last* starring Miriam Margolyes for MTC, costumes for Sisters Grimm's *The Sovereign Wife* for MTC Neon (Green Room Award Nomination for Best Design- Independent), set for *Psycho Beach Party* for Little Ones Theatre/Theatre Works (selected tour to Brisbane as part of Brisbane Festival 2013), set for *DreamSong* (Theatre Works/MICF), set for Wael Zuiater: *Unknown* (Theatre Works/Next Wave), costumes for *The Myth Project: Twin* (MTC Neon/Arthur), costumes for *Master Class* starring Maria Mercedes (Left Bauer Productions/ fortyfivedownstairs), set and costume for *Gaybies* (Midsumma Festival) and set and costumes for *Straight* (Red Stitch Actors Theatre).

La Cage Aux Folles marks Owen's second costume design for The Production Company, following *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2013, co-designed with Tim Chappel. Owen is a graduate of NIDA.



MATT SCOTT
LIGHTING DESIGNER

For the past 20 years Matt has lit over 200 productions for theatre, opera and dance. He returns to the Production Company this year having previously lit *Showboat*, *Grey Gardens*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *42nd Street*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Oklahoma!*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate* and *They're Playing Our Song*.

He has worked extensively in Australia and New Zealand designing for opera, dance, ballet and theatre. His most recent credits include: *The Riders* (Victorian Opera); *The Red Shoes* (Expressions Dance Company); *The Magic Flute* (OzOpera); *Don Pasquale and Rigoletto* (Opera Australia); *La Traviata* (New Zealand Opera & State Opera of South Australia); *As You Like It, A Streetcar Named Desire* (Black Swan State Theatre); *The Mountaintop* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *La Boheme* (West Australian Opera) and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (TML Enterprises).

He has been nominated for and received numerous awards most recently receiving a 2005 Helpmann Award for his lighting on *Urinetown* for Melbourne Theatre Company which followed his 2003 Helpmann Award win for *The Blue Room*, also for the Melbourne Theatre Company.



BENJAMIN MOIR
WIG DESIGNER

Benjamin started his career as a hairdresser but soon realized salon work was not for him. At the age of eighteen, after completing his apprenticeship, he took a break from hair and fell into the world of professional drag in Sydney, becoming Vanity Faire, a successful drag queen.

Benjamin has been able to take the skills from his career as a gender illusionist and move into the world of musical theatre, working backstage in the wig and makeup departments. Since 2006 he has worked on many musicals, most notably as the Head of Wigs and Makeup, Associate Makeup Designer, and Wig Supervisor for *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* on the Australian tour and London's West End, Broadway, Milan, Sao Paulo, and Stockholm.

Other theatre credits include *Holding the Man*, *Over the Rainbow*, *Tap Dogs* and *The Wizard of Oz* on London's West End and, in Australia, *Hairspray*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Addams Family*, *Grease*, *Sweet Charity*, *I Love Lucy* and *Miracle City*. His film and television credits include *Priscilla - I Will Survive*, *Love Child* and *Gods of Egypt*.

SYSTEM SOUND



DAVID GREASLEY

As a senior supervisor for System Sound, David has been Head of Sound for many System productions including *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon* and *Mamma Mia!*. He is Assistant Designer for the international touring production of *Phantom of the Opera*, currently touring Asia, and was Supervisor for the productions of *King Kong*, *Love Never Dies* and *Billy Elliott*.

David was responsible for the sound of *Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake* and *The Last Confession*.

MARK BENSON

Responsible for orchestral staging and sound reinforcement, Mark joined System Sound in 1996 after twelve years as Deputy Sound Master of the Victorian Arts Centre.

He has associated on all Production Company musicals and many others including *The Pirates of Penzance*, *My Fair Lady*, *Iolanthe* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

With System Sound Mark has supervised the *Hong Kong* and *Macau Handover Farewell Concerts* and *Mahler's 8th Symphony* for the Olympic Arts Festival and the MSO at the Exhibition Buildings and many concerts for the *Australian Philharmonic Orchestra* and *Hong Kong Philharmonic*.

JOHN SCANDRETT

Managing Director, John Scandrett started System Sound in 1979.

The System Sound team has provided the sound for forty-nine Production Company musicals and designed and/or engineered the productions of *Mamma Mia!*, *The Producers*, *We Will Rock You*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Mary Poppins*, *Billy Elliot*, *Rock of Ages*, *A Chorus Line*, *Love Never Dies*, *Jersey Boys*, *War Horse*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Addams Family*, *King Kong*, *Wicked*, *Phantom*, *Les Miserables*, *Strictly Ballroom* and *Once*.

NATALIE GILHOLME
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Natalie has been involved in numerous theatrical productions in Australia, Asia, Europe and New York and is currently the Resident Director/Choreographer on the Australian tour of *Grease*. She was Associate Choreographer for the Australian tours of *The Secret Garden*, *Man of La Mancha*, *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Full Monty*. Her performance credits also include *Fiddler On The Roof*, starring Topol, *The Wizard of Oz*, and the European tour of *Cats*. Most recently Natalie has joined *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* as Associate Choreographer for international productions, including Italy and Brazil.

Natalie is thrilled to return to The Production Company after performing in their previous productions of *She Loves Me*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Anything Goes*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Annie Get Your Gun*; as well as being Assistant Choreographer on the critically acclaimed production of *Gypsy* in 2013.



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