

SEASON 2019



THE
PRODUCTION
COMPANY

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS



RAGTIME

★ THE MUSICAL ★

STATE THEATRE · ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

presents

RAGTIME

★ THE MUSICAL ★

Book by **Terrence McNally** Music by **Stephen Flaherty** Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**

Based on **RAGTIME** By **E.L. DOGTOROW**

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (NY)

All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia

NOTE REGARDING LANGUAGE

The Production Company acknowledges that some of the language which was current in early 20th Century America and is part of this musical may cause offence. However, given that *Ragtime* deals with race relations, the company has chosen not to censor the use of this language.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ORCHESTRA

STATE THEATRE • ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

2 to 10 November 2019

KURT KANSLEY **GEORGINA HOPSON**
ALEXANDER LEWIS **CHLOÉ ZUEL** **ADAM MURPHY**
SAGE DOUGLAS **MACKENZIE DUNN** **FINN ALEXANDER**
JOHN McTERNAN **JOHN O'MAY** **ANTON BEREZIN**
JOTI GORE **MATT HAMILTON** **LOUIS LUCENTE** **RUVA NGWENYA**

SUMMER HAMILTON **ANNIE SAINSBERY**
KEMPTON MALONEY **HUDSON SHARP** **NOAH NZENZA**
SHAUNTAI BATZKE **KAYA BYRNE** **MIA DABKOWSKI-CHANDLER**
MARK DOGGETT **COURTNEY GLASS** **GARETH JACOBS**
NANA MATAPULE **BARRY MITCHELL** **VICTORY NDUKWE**
GRETA SHERRIFF **JAS SMITH** **ANGELINA THOMSON**

Director **ROGER HODGMAN**

Musical Director **GUY NOBLE**

Choreographer **DANA JOLLY**

Costume Designer **ISAAC LUMMIS**

Set Designer **CHRISTINA SMITH**

Lighting Designer **NIGEL LEVINGS**

Sound Design **SYSTEM SOUND PTY LTD**

Sound Design Associates **KELVIN GEDYE**

PETER GRUBB **DAVID TONION**

Assistant Musical Director **KOHAN van SAMBEECK**

Dance Captain **MIA DABKOWSKI-CHANDLER**

Technical Director **DAVID MILLER**

Production Manager **MEL ROBERTSON**

Company Manager **MICHAEL NORMAN**

Stage Manager **MEG DEYELL**

Assistant Stage Managers **RACHEL NAGY** **NATASHA NOEL**

Head of Wardrobe **KIM BISHOP** Costume Supervisor **HELEN RADBONE**

Head of Wigs **TRENT WHITMORE** Wigs Assistants **ANDREW DESSMANN** **SHARON MASSEY**

Sound Mix Engineer **DAVID TONION**

Sound Effects produced by **DAVID FRANZKE**

Stage Sound Technicians **CARLEY GAGLIARDI** **SALLY HITCHCOCK**

Children's Chaperone **EMMA MOSLEY** Rehearsal Repetiteur **GEOFFREY CASTLES**

Set Construction **MALTHOUSE**

Sound Equipment **SYSTEM SOUND PTY LTD**

Audio Visual **CVP**



Chairman **Jeanne Pratt AC**

Artistic Director **Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM**

Executive Director **Rachel D Taylor**

Hon. Company Secretary	Don Maloney	Development Manager	Simone Goodwin
Directors		Associate Producer	Min McCallum
Hon. Treasurer	Stephen Marks	Technical Director	David Miller
	Deborah Beale AM	Executive Consultant	James Kempster
	Keith Beecher OAM	Marketing AKA Australia	Vas Katos
	Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM		Laura Arcudi
	Mark Gogoll		Nadia Gianinotti
	John Hay-Mackenzie		Sophie Inkster
	Garry Krauss AM		Hannah LiRosi
	David Mann AM		Ebony Wood
	Ross Mollison		Natalie Tantaró
PA to Jeanne Pratt AC	Chris Gibbons	Publicity by CAVANAGH PR	Julie Cavanagh
		Financial Services	McQueen Group



ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

PO Box 7585
St Kilda Road
Melbourne Vic 8004

Telephone: (03) 9281 8000
Facsimile: (03) 9281 8282
Website: artscentremelbourne.com.au

VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE TRUST

Ian Carson AM (President)
Frankie Airey
Paul Barker
Warwick Bray
Andrew Myer AM
Ian Roberts
Nora Scheinkestel
Helen Silver AO

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Claire Spencer Chief Executive Officer
Deirdre Blythe Chief Operating Officer
Leanne Lawrence Executive Director, Human Resources
Fiona Poletti Executive Director, External Engagement
Melanie Smith Executive Director, Performing Arts
Beau Vigushin Executive Director, Customer Experience
Richard Zimmerman Executive Director, Philanthropy

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.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

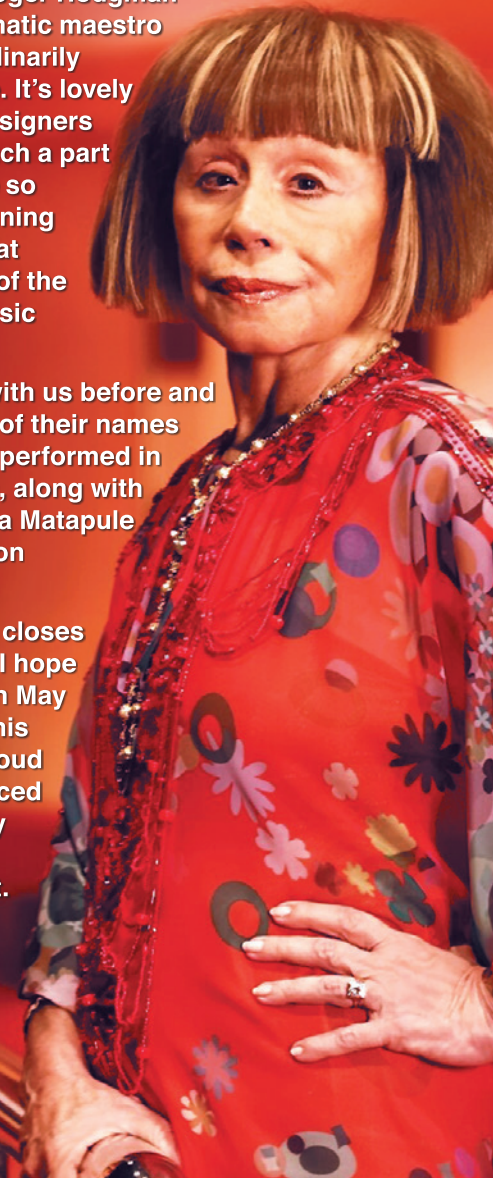
***And there was distant music,
simple and somehow sublime,
giving the nation a new syncopation,
the people called it Ragtime!***

Welcome to *Ragtime, The Musical* – this is our ninth Australian premiere and eight have been directed by the brilliant Roger Hodgman and choreographed by Dana Jolly. Our charismatic maestro Guy Noble has been too busy with his extraordinarily successful career to appear with us for a while. It's lovely to have him back. I feel that our exceptional designers Isaac Lummis and Christina Smith are very much a part of our Production Company family. And we are so fortunate to welcome back the Tony Award winning Lighting Designer Nigel Levings and the team at System Sound to ensure we don't miss a note of the exciting, syncopated and brilliantly diverse music Stephen Flaherty has composed for *Ragtime*.

So many of our beautiful cast have appeared with us before and I am thrilled to welcome them back. Every one of their names gives me a happy memory of shows they have performed in for The Production Company. Alexander Lewis, along with Finn Alexander, Gareth Jacobs, Joti Gore, Nana Matapule and Victory Ndukwe are making their Production Company debuts.

This is our final show in the State Theatre as it closes next year for the start of ongoing renovations. I hope to see you for our last show in the Playhouse in May 2020. What a golden run we have had here at this magnificent Arts Centre Melbourne. I am so proud of the small and devoted team that have produced so many shows starring so much extraordinary talent across the last twenty-one years. I can't thank you enough for all your love and support.

Jeanne Pratt AC
Chairman
The Production Company



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY GRATEFULLY APPRECIATES



PRESENTING SPONSORS



SERIES SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Arnold Bloch Leibler
Lawyers and Advisors



WARWICK

FOUNDATION SPONSORS

Kevin and Colleen Bamford • John and Janet Calvert-Jones

Harold and Krystyna Campbell-Pretty • Miss Val Dyke

Henry and Esther Goldberg • Gil and Sandi Hoskins • Bill and Elaine Montague

Ray and Susie Montague • Michael and Atida Naphtali with Andrew Fairley AM

Tom and Robyn Warwick • Anonymous (1)

BEQUEST

Evan Robert (Bob) Taylor

“THIS IS THE ONE I’VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT FOR TWENTY YEARS.”

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR.

I saw *Ragtime* in 1997 in Toronto during the tryout season with its original cast before it opened on Broadway. I already knew and loved the source material - E.L Doctorow's great novel which depicts early twentieth century in America with dazzling virtuosity, intermingling real and fictional people and events. It seemed impossible that a work of such complexity and sweep could work as a musical. I sat in the theatre and experienced one of the most exciting evenings of my theatrical going life. The creators had brilliantly synthesised the characters and story into a coherent two and half hours. The exhilarating and emotional music was overwhelmingly moving.

When it opened later on Broadway, it was recognised as one of the great American musicals. But after a successful season and many awards, its future life was restricted by the expense of the original production and the size of the cast. Some years later the creators revisited the piece and with some relatively minor changes made it a more practical proposition to mount. This is the version we have worked on. One short song and a small amount of dialogue was cut, and some good structural changes were made in the second act. But it is absolutely the same piece that amazed and moved me so much.

Rehearsing it with this great cast and co-creatives has been a wonderful experience. The piece dextrously juggles so many balls in the air and, in a way, breaks many of the normal rules for a musical. Each scene has a different feel and style, yet they together make up a coherent whole.

In the remarkable opening number we meet three groups of characters and their worlds – the upper middle class white family living in New Rochelle, a group of Harlem revellers gathered around a successful pianist Coalhouse Walker Jr, and the Jewish Latvian immigrant, Tateh and his young daughter.

At the same time we are introduced to a number of famous historical figures. Has any musical been more ambitious? But Terrence McNally's deft book and the wonderful songs by Ahrens and Flaherty somehow pull it off. The procession of different scenes, each with its own dramatic and musical style come together to make up a rich tapestry that encapsulates the fascinating and complex world of the USA.

There are many contemporary resonances: the melding and clash of cultures from different nations, racial tensions, the clash between capitalism and workers' rights and the struggle of women to establish their independence. Above all, the idea of the American Dream which promotes optimism and ambition, but equally often disappoints.

I am grateful to Jeanne Pratt and The Production Company for giving me so many wonderful musicals to direct over the years. This is the one I've been dreaming about for twenty years.

ROGER HODGMAN
Director

MUSICAL NUMBERS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Coalhouse Walker Jr.	KURT KANSLEY
Mother	GEORGINA HOPSON
Tateh	ALEXANDER LEWIS
Sarah	CHLOÉ ZUEL
Father	ADAM MURPHY
Emma Goldman	SAGE DOUGLAS
Evelyn Nesbit	MACKENZIE DUNN
Younger Brother	FINN ALEXANDER
Grandfather	JOHN McTERNAN
Henry Ford	JOHN O'MAY
J.P. Morgan	ANTON BEREZIN
Booker T. Washington	JOTI GORE
Willie Gonklin	MATT HAMILTON
Harry Houdini	LOUIS LUCENTE
Sarah's Friend	RUVA NGWENYA
Little Boy	KEMPTON MALONEY
Little Girl	HUDSON SHARP
Coalhouse Walker III	SUMMER HAMILTON
	ANNIE SAINSBERY
	NOAH NZENZA

ENSEMBLE

SHAUNTAI BATZKE	KAYA BYRNE	MIA DABKOWSKI-CHANDLER
MARK DOGGETT	COURTNEY GLASS	GARETH JACOBS
NANA MATAPULE	BARRY MITCHELL	VICTORY NDUKWE
GRETA SHERRIFF	JAS SMITH	ANGELINA THOMSON

ACT 1

Ragtime	Company
Goodbye My Love	Mother
Journey On	Father, Tateh and Mother
The Grime of the Century	Evelyn and Ensemble
What Kind of Woman	Mother
A Shtetl Iz Amereke	Mother, Tateh, Little Girl and Ensemble
Success	Company
His Name was	
Coalhouse Walker	Coalhouse and Ensemble
Gettin' Ready Rag	Coalhouse and Ensemble
Henry Ford	Henry Ford, Coalhouse and Ensemble
Nothing Like the City	Tateh, Mother, Little Boy and Little Girl
Your Daddy's Son	Sarah
The Courtship	Coalhouse, Mother and Ensemble
New Music	Father, Mother, Younger Brother, Coalhouse, Sarah and Ensemble
The Wheels of a Dream	Coalhouse and Sarah
The Night that Goldman	
Spoke at Union Square	Emma, Younger Brother and Ensemble
Gliding	Tateh
Justice	Coalhouse, Sarah and Ensemble
President	Sarah
Till We Reach That Day	Company

ACT 2

Entr'acte	Orchestra
Coalhouse's Soliloquy	Coalhouse
Coalhouse Demands	Company
What a Game!	Father, Little Boy and Ensemble
Atlantic City	Evelyn, Houdini, Mother, Father and Ensemble
Nothing Like the City (Reprise)	Mother and Tateh
Buffalo Nickel	
Photoplay, Inc	Tateh
Our Children	Mother and Tateh
Sarah Brown Eyes	Coalhouse and Sarah
He Wanted to Say	Emma, Younger Brother, Coalhouse and Ensemble
Back to Before	Mother
Look What You've Done	Company
Make Them Hear You	Coalhouse
Epilogue: Ragtime	Company



KURT KANSLEY COALHOUSE WALKER JR.

Kurt is a London-based Australian and is thrilled to be returning home to Melbourne to be a part of one of his favourite musicals. Kurt's theatrical credits in London include *Wirework*, Bernstein's *Mass*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Miss Saigon*, *Exposure*, *The Lion King*, *Elegies*, *Ragtime*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Love Girl* and *The Innocent*, *Hair*, *The 12 Tenors*, *Rock Around the Clock* and *Robinson Crusoe*. In workshop, Kurt's credits include *Sherlock Holmes*, *Mulan* and *The Last of the Mohicans*.

For The Production Company Kurt has appeared in *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He was recently nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Actor in a Musical for the role of Che Guevara in the Australian tour of *Evita*, performing opposite Tina Arena. Other Australian credits include *The Lion King*, *RENT*, *The Grand Hotel*, *Naked Boys Singing*, *Godspell* and *Show Boat*.

In London Kurt works with Oliver Lidert (Kansley & Lidert), writing musical theatre and producing new works in London, Australia and the USA. Their original works include *The Songs I'll Never Sing* (St. James) and *Confessions* (The Other Palace) produced in June this year. *Confessions* will be given a full-scale production in the UK in 2020. Kansley & Lidert's song cycle/original musical *H#sh'd Out* had its world premiere performance at the VCA last month.

Kurt would like to dedicate his performance to his wonderful father, Allan.

GEORGINA HOPSON

MOTHER

Georgina graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium in 2014.

Her recent musical theatre credits include *West Side Story* (Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour), *My Fair Lady* directed by Dame Julie Andrews and *Evita* (Opera Australia/John Frost), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Watch This), *Oklahoma!* (The Production Company), the roles of Cinderella in *Into the Woods* and Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (Harvest Rain), *Mary Poppins* (Arts Centre Gold Coast) and Sue Snell in *Carrie* (Wax Lyrical/Brisbane Powerhouse).

Georgina played Wendy Hogan in the miniseries *Hoges: The Paul Hogan Story* (Fremantle Media). She is the winner of the 2015 Matilda Award for Best Emerging Artist for her work in Queensland theatre and the 2017 Rob Guest Endowment Award.



ALEXANDER LEWIS

TATEH

Alexander is a graduate of WAAPA's Music Theatre Program, the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco and the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

His musical theatre credits include Tony in *West Side Story* for Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour (Helpmann Nomination), George in *Sunday in the Park with George* for Victorian Opera, the title role in *Candide* with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Enoch Snow in *Carousel* for Houston Grand Opera, Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* on London's West End, Anthony Hope in *Sweeney Todd* with Opera Australia and Frederick Barret in *Titanic* for Seabiscuit Productions.

Recent opera and operetta performances include Laca in *Jenůfa* for Santa Fe Opera, Count Danilo in *The Merry Widow* with West Australian Opera, Opera Australia and State Opera of South Australia, John Wormley in the world premiere and return seasons of Matthew Aucoin's opera *Crossing* for The American Repertory Theatre in Boston and BAM's New Wave Festival in New York, the title role of *The Nose* with Opera Australia, the Komische Oper Berlin, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and New York's Metropolitan Opera, Hoffmann in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and Gritsko in *The Fair at Sorochyntys* with the Komische Oper Berlin, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* with West Australian Opera, Flask in *Moby Dick* with Washington National Opera, St. Brioche in *The Merry Widow* and Borsa in *Rigoletto* for The Metropolitan Opera.

This is Alexander's debut with The Production Company.





CHLOÉ ZUEL

SARAH

After graduating from ED5 International Arts Academy in 2007, Chloé has worked extensively as a lead singer across Australia and internationally, including two years at Universal Studios Japan.

This is Chloé's second Production Company show following her performance as Reno in *Dusty* for the Adelaide season in 2017.

Her musical theatre roles include one of the Little Maids from School in *The Mikado* in New Zealand, the Australian tours of *Beautiful: The Carole King musical*, *Dynamite in Hairspray*, *Legally Blonde* and *Les Misérables*, Ronette in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Annie in *Porgy and Bess* for Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and Joanne in *RENT* for The Hayes Theatre.

Chloé most recently starred as Anita in *West Side Story* (Opera Australia and GWB Entertainment) in the Australian and New Zealand seasons.



ADAM MURPHY

FATHER

Adam is delighted to return to The Production Company following previous roles including *Guys and Dolls*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Crazy For You*, *Mame*, *42nd St.*, *Little Me*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Pajama Game*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Carousel*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *The Gilbert and Sullivan Show* and *Call Me Madam*.

Other recent and notable stage credits are the lead roles of Jafar in *Aladdin* and Mr Banks in *Mary Poppins* as well as roles in *Georgy Girl*, *Dirty Dancing*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Graduate*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Les Misérables*. For the MTC, Adam has most recently appeared in *Shakespeare in Love* and previously in *True Minds*, *His Girl Friday*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Urinetown*.

Adam's screen credits include *Sucker*, *Mychonny Moves In*, *Utopia*, *House Husbands*, *City Homicide*, *Eugenie Sandler*, *Halifax f.p.*, *Neighbours* and *Blue Heelers*.

SAGE DOUGLAS

EMMA GOLDMAN



Hailing from Melbourne, Sage began her training at Centrestage Performing Arts School and went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) from WAAPA in 2010. She most recently appeared in The Production Company's *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and the Australian tour of *Jersey Boys* swinging the three female leads. Other credits include *The Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch/Aunt Em cover), *A Fine Romance: The Magic of Fred Astaire*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Funny Girl*, *Anybodys in West Side Story*, *Heathers*, Val in *A Chorus Line*, *Nine*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Loving Repeating*, and *The Damned* by Reg Cribb.

Sage wishes to thank everyone at IWM, and she dedicates this performance to her mum, Kaye.

MACKENZIE DUNN

EVELYN NESBIT



Originally from Perth, Mackenzie is a 2017 WAAPA graduate with a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre). This will be her third show with The Production Company after recently playing the role of Cora/Ensemble in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* as well as Elly Understudy/Teenage Girl Ensemble Swing in the Australian premiere of *Lazarus* earlier this year. Mackenzie played the role of Francine in the National Tour of *Jersey Boys Australia* (2018-19).

In 2018 Mackenzie performed the roles of Bubba Ryan in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and Squeaky Fromme in *Assassins* with Black Swan State Theatre Company for which she won Best Newcomer in Theatre at the Performing Arts Awards WA.

Mackenzie is the recipient of the Bob Taylor Award for 2019.

FINN ALEXANDER

YOUNGER BROTHER



Perth born and bred, Finn graduated from the WAAPA Music Theatre program in 2017. His credits there include principal roles in *RENT* and *Chicago* as well as dance ensemble roles in *Bring It On: The Musical*, *Heathers: The Musical* and *42nd Street*.

Since graduating, Finn played the role of Jason in *Bare*, the Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald in *Assassins* and was a Swing in *Aspects of Love* at the Hayes Theatre. He most recently appeared in the ensemble of Manila Street Production's *The Beautiful Game*.

Ragtime marks Finn's debut with The Production Company.



JOHN McTERNAN

GRANDFATHER

John's career spans thirty years working in theatre, television and film. He has three times been awarded the Silver Logie for his much loved characters in *G.P.* and *Cop Shop*, as well as a Green Room Award for his performance in MTC's *Twelfth Night*.

John's theatre credits for The Production Company are *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Gypsy* and *She Loves Me*.

Other memorable roles include Xanadu for *Xanadu The Musical* and *Shout! The Musical* for Jacobsen Entertainment. His many roles for MTC include *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Crucible*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Take Me Out*, *Born Yesterday*, *Shark Fin Soup*, *Into The Woods*, *Assassins*, *High Society*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Norman Conquests*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Pax Americana* and *The Real Thing*.

Other highlights include *Sunset Boulevard*, *Manning Clark's History Of Australia – The Musical*; Nimrod Theatre's *Valpone*, *Inside The Island*, *Orestia*, *Clouds*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry IV*, *The Comedy Of Errors*; STC's *Sunny South*, *The Venetian Twins*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Young Mo*. Kenn Brodziack's *Godspell* and Harry M Miller's production of *Grease*.

Work in television includes *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Judith Lucy's Spiritual Journey*, *Killing Time*, *City Homicide*, *Scooter: Secret Agent*, *Evil Never Dies*, *MDA*, *Stingers*, *Something In The Air*, *All Saints*, *Good Guys Bad Guys*, *Blue Heelers*, *The Man From Snowy River III*, *The Flying Doctors*, *Nancye Wake*, *Prisoner*, *Shout! – The J.O'K Story*, *The Four Minute Mile*, *The Last Bastion*, *Five Mile Creek*, *Young Doctors*, *No. 96* and *The Toy Factory*.

His work in film includes *The Brown Out Murders*, the ABC feature *Fuzzy*, and *The Understudy*.

JOHN O'MAY

HENRY FORD

John O'May is one of Australia's most experienced actors. He began his career in 1972 in the original Australian production of *Godspell*. Since then, he has performed in over fifty productions both on stage and the screen. Although many highlights with the MTC and STC, he is probably best known for his portrayal of Che in the original Australian production of *Evita*, and Monsieur André, a role he played for three years in the original Australian production of *The Phantom of The Opera*.

For The Production Company, John appeared in the first season, playing Nicky Arnstein in *Funny Girl* opposite Caroline O'Connor. Other roles with the company are General Howell in *Kiss Me Kate*, Elijah Whitney in *Anything Goes* and Major Bouvier in *Grey Gardens*.

John is also proud of the roles he has played in six Sondheim musicals: Bobby in *Company*, Ben in *Follies*, Booth in *Assassins*, The Baker in *Into The Woods*, Frederick Egerman in *A Little Night Music* (Green Room Award winner) and Dr. Tambourri in *Passion*.

John has been a proud member of Actor's Equity since November 1972.



ANTON BEREZIN

J. P. MORGAN

Anton recently performed in *Sweeney Todd* for TEG-Lifelike and *Evita* for Opera Australia.

He has appeared with The Production Company in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Anything Goes* and as Eichelberger in *Promises, Promises*.

Anton has previously had roles in Australian productions of *Wicked*, *The Producers*, *Side Show Alley*, *Cabaret the Musical*, *Follies*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cats*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Rain the Musical*, *Doctor Zhivago* as the alternate lead and starred in the musical *The Light in the Piazza* at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Television roles include *Newton's Law*, *Jack Irish*, *Neighbours*, *The Secret Life of Us*, *Marshall Law*, *MDA* and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*. In 2015, he was in the cast of Princess Pictures' television opera *The Divorce*. Most recently Anton has been Managing Director at Life Like Touring, Australasia's leader in live family entertainment.



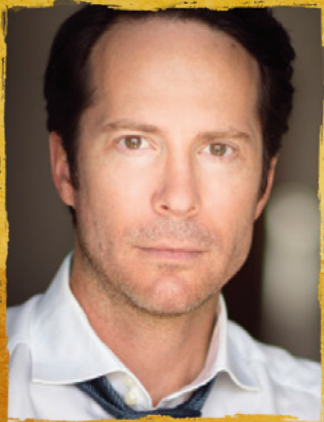
JOTI GORE

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Joti's music performances include *A Night of Motown* with Joe Hunter of The Funk Brothers at the Mill Valley Film Festival and the *I Get So Caught Up* International Tour with performances at Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, and Tivoli Jazz Festival Copenhagen.

Joti's favourite roles include General in *Eubie* directed by Broadway's first black music director Neal Tate, Bernardo in *The Broadway 50th Anniversary of West Side Story*, Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls*, Junie and Miss Roj in *A Colored Museum*, Richie in *A Chorus Line* and Aaron in *Titus Andronicus*. Joti has originated roles in *Memphis*, *Jonnie in My Gypsy*, York in *Sacagawea* by Mary Bracken Phillips and Craig Bohmler, Dealer in *RENT* and Jay in *Hunters*.





MATT HAMILTON

WILLIE CONKLIN

Born and raised in the Midwest of the United States, Matt started his career as a dancer/singer at the age of eighteen working for Disney Tokyo Resort, Disney Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and Paramount Parks. His aspirations led him to training both in New York and Los Angeles.

Matt has appeared with The Production Company in *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Show Boat*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Damn Yankees*. Other theatre credits include the Australian premiere of *Wicked*, *Legally Blonde*, *Georgy Girl the Seekers Musical*, *Once*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Into the Woods*, *Dream Lover*, *Barnum* and most recently the Australian Tour of *School of Rock*.

His television credits include *All My Children*, *One Life To Live* and *Rescue Me*. Matt can currently be seen in the short film *The Drowning Pool* and the feature film *The Spirit of the Game*, Channel 7's Olivia Newton John's

Hopelessly Devoted to You and the feature *I'm not Dead Yet*.

Matt is represented by Emma Raciti Management and is a proud member of MEAA. He is thrilled to be a part of The Production Company's *Ragtime* and thanks his children Summer and Beau and wife Jacquie for their love and support.



LOUIS LUCENTE

HARRY HOUDINI

Louis is thrilled to return to The Production Company after appearing in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He has most recently completed performing in the Australian tours of *Hair* and *Jersey Boys*. Major theatre credits include *RENT*, *Muriel's Wedding the Musical*, *Assassins*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Wicked*, *Dogfight*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Last Five Years*, *Pippin*, *Tick Tick Boom*, *West Side Story*, *Parade* and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*.

Screen credits include *The Pacific*, *Whatever Happened to That Guy?*, *Neighbours* and the feature film *Mormon Yankees*. Louis has also toured his one-man cabaret show, *Jim Morrison: Kaleidoscope* extensively throughout Australia.



RUVA NGWENYA

SARAH'S FRIEND

Ruva is an Australian based Singer/Actor of Zimbabwean descent. She studied at the VCA. Her stage career began when she was cast as Shenzi in *The Lion King*, continuing her musical theatre journey as Killer Queen in the Australian national tour of *We Will Rock You* followed by The Production Company's *Dusty The Musical*.

Other roles include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and most recently, the role of Winnie Mandela in the first English production of *Madiba The Musical* celebrating the life of Nelson Mandela through drama, song, and dance and the Australian premiere of *Caroline or Change* at The Hayes Theatre.

Ruva's second EP, *Humble Brag*, was released in 2018.

She is thrilled to be part of telling this powerful story of *Ragtime* and wishes to thank her family and Ian White Management for all their support.

KEMPTON MALONEY

LITTLE BOY - (Matinees Nov 7 & 9, Evenings Nov 2, 6 & 8)

Kempton's professional credits include playing the role of Portly in The Australian Shakespeare Company's *Wind in the Willows*, Elliot Smithson in STC's *Blackie Blackie Brown*, and Freddy in GWB Entertainment's *School Of Rock The Musical*.

Kempton is a talented drummer and currently holds the National title of Australia's Best Up and Coming Drummer, twelve years and under.

Kempton is honoured and thrilled to be performing with The Production Company in the Australian premiere of *Ragtime*. This incredible journey would not be possible without the wonderful support of his agent MP Talent, his teachers, family and friends.



HUDSON SHARP

LITTLE BOY - (Matinees Nov 2, 3, 6 & 10, Evenings Nov 7 & 9)

Hudson is thrilled to be reunited with The Production Company in *Ragtime*, having performed the role of Young Peter in *The Boy from Oz* in 2018. He has been training for eight years at the May Downs School of Dance under the guidance of principal teachers Renie Ann Martini, Thomas Lacey and Georgia Hayden.

His previous professional work includes the role of Billy the Stylist in the Melbourne, Brisbane and China tours of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *School Of Rock The Musical* (GWB), the role of Young Bobby in the Melbourne season of *Dream Lover* (GFO) and the role of Nigel in the Melbourne season of *Matilda The Musical* (RSC).

Hudson would like to thank his representation at Derrick Talent Elite as well as his family for all their continued support.



SUMMER HAMILTON

LITTLE GIRL - (Matinees Nov 7 & 9, Evenings Nov 2, 6 & 8)

Summer was born into a theatrical family and has been singing since she could talk. *Ragtime* will be her professional debut. Summer started dancing in 2015 under the direction of Kelly Aykers at Studio One and has been studying at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance since 2016.

Summer is thrilled to be a part of this Australian premiere with The Production Company and would like to thank her parents for their encouragement. She can't wait to share the stage in this production with her dad, Matt!



ANNIE SAINSBERY

LITTLE GIRL - (Matinees Nov 2, 3, 6 & 10, Evenings Nov 7 & 9)

Annie began singing at age five and continued with vocal, dance and drama training when she moved to the Mornington Peninsula. Her passion is classical singing and musical theatre. She recently performed the National Anthem at a Victorian sporting event, which remains a career highlight.

Annie has performed in both *Annie* and *Kisses - A Musical Fairytale Adventure* for the Peoples Playhouse Theatre Company. She is represented by MP Talent and is delighted to be making her professional debut in *Ragtime*.





SHAUNTAI BATZKE

Wiradjuri Soprano, Shauntai is a graduate of the VCA and the Melba Opera Trust. Shauntai sings as a principal artist with Short Black Opera and is an emerging composer.

Some of Shauntai's credits include *Corrugation Road*, *Pecan Summer* (Old Alice), *Show Boat* (The Production Company), *The Beginning of Nature*, *Ein Deutsches Requiem* (Soprano Solo), *Tippett Five Negro Spirituals* (Soprano Solo) and *La Bohème* (Mimi).

Ragtime is Shauntai's second appearance with The Production Company.

Shauntai is thrilled to be part of this Australian premiere and team and dedicates her performance to her late father, Wally Carr.

MARK DOGGETT



Mark studied Musical Theatre at WAAPA, graduating in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts. For The Production Company he has appeared in *Sunset Boulevard*, *Sweet Charity*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Hair*, *The Music Man* and *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*.

Mark's other theatre credits include *Aladdin* (Disney), *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific* (Opera Australia), *Fiddler on the Roof* (TML Enterprises), *Batboy* (MTC), *The Threepenny Opera* (WA Opera), *The Merry Widow*, *Songs for a New World* (Tipoki Productions), *Les Misérables* (Drum Theatre) and *Sweeney Todd* (CLK Theatre).

Film credits include *STEM* (Blumhouse Productions), *Purge* (DK Productions) and *The Forest* (ABC). Television credits include *Glitch* (ABC) and *Neighbours*.



KAYA BYRNE

Kaya is a graduate of VCA where he completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre. Since graduation he has performed in *Handa Opera On Sydney Harbour: West Side Story* (Opera Australia), appeared in multiple seasons of *The Wind In The Willows* (Australian Shakespeare Company) in both Melbourne and Adelaide, *Gilligan's Island: The Musical* (Left Bauer Productions) and has completed three educational theatre tours with Echelon Productions.

Kaya made his Production Company debut earlier this year in *Lazarus* where he understudied the roles of Ben and Zach.

COURTNEY GLASS



Courtney made her Broadway debut in *The Woman In White*, understudying and performing the title role. In years to follow, she established herself as a leading lady in regional theatres across the United States. Recent credits in Australia include *Sweeney Todd* starring Anthony Warlow and Gina Riley, the Victorian tour of *Sunday In The Park With George* and two appearances for The Production Company in *Oklahoma!* and *Brigadoon*.

Her best roles, however, are wife to Pete and mum to their rescue dog, Tippi.



MIA DABKOWSKI-CHANDLER

DANCE CAPTAIN

Born in Melbourne, Mia is a 2015 graduate of the VCA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre. Shortly after graduating, Mia made her professional debut in the original Australian cast of Disney's *Aladdin the Musical*.

Most recently, she has been touring Australia playing the role of Lorraine in *Jersey Boys* (New Theatricals). Mia choreographed Cosmos' Midnights music video *Mind Off* (Sony Music) and also played the role of Tess in *The Fall of Eve*, an online web series.

For The Production Company, Mia appeared as Ruth in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and is thrilled to be returning to the company as Dance Captain in *Ragtime*. Mia would like to thank the company, her family and friends for their ongoing support.

GARETH JACOBS



Gareth graduated with a Bachelor of Music Theatre from the Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts in 2003. After graduation he worked internationally for various cruise liners and theme parks. Gareth's theatre credits include the role of Jimmy Early in *Dreamgirls*, *In The Heights* as Piragua Guy, Jason Coleman's *Razzle Dazzle*, and most recently, as the Genie in *Aladdin*.

Ragtime is Gareth's first musical with The Production Company and he is thrilled to be working on this amazing piece. He would like to thank his family and friends for their ongoing love and support.



NANA MATAPULE

Nana most recently appeared on stage in *Saturday Night Fever* (GFO) as a lead vocalist. Prior to this he toured Australia in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Michael Cassel). His other credits include *RENT* (Highway Run Productions), *The Boys in The Band* and *Swoon the Mad Men of Swing* (SMA Productions), Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean, *Light the Night* and Grand Prix Singapore.

Nana is a graduate of the NIDA Musical Theatre Course and is proudly represented by T&E Management. He is thrilled to be making his debut with The Production Company in *Ragtime*.



BARRY MITCHELL

A graduate of the VCA Opera, Barry's professional career spans more than thirty years. For The Production Company he has appeared in *Promises, Promises*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Mame*, *Call Me Madam*, *Guys and Dolls*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Anything Goes* and *The Music Man*.

Other musical theatre credits include *Spring Awakening*, *Titanic*, *Dirty Dancing* (2014/15 Australian Tour), *The Boy From Oz*, *A New Brain*, *Is there Life after High School?*, *Hello Again* and Harry in the world premiere of *Prodigal Son*.

Theatre credits include *Driving Miss Daisy* (2013 Australian tour), *The Seafarer*, *Breathing Corpses*, *The End of Civilization*, *Four Dogs and a Bone* and *Human Resources*.

Opera performances include Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Maynight*, Britten's *Albert Herring*. Barry has also performed the tenor solos of Bach's *St Johns Passion*.

Barry would like to dedicate his performance to his agent, Peter Derrick.



VICTORY NDUKWE

Victory trained at 16th Street Academy, where he trained with Chris Edmund, Elizabeth Kemp and Justin Lehmann. His theatre appearances include the critically acclaimed *Mr Burns* and he starred in *The Flick* as Avery.

Victory also appeared in *Festen*, which was staged at the Rippon Lea Estate and produced by Play Dead Theatre.

This is Victory's first appearance with The Production Company.

GRETA SHERRIFF

Originally from Townsville, Greta graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music majoring in classical voice.

For The Production Company, Greta has appeared in *Oklahoma!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *La Cage Aux Folles* and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Greta's other theatre credits include *An Ideal Husband* (MTC), the 60th Anniversary production of *My Fair Lady* directed by Julie Andrews, the arena tour of *Broadway to Oz: Hugh Jackman Live in Concert* and the Australian tour of *Anything Goes* (Opera Australia/GFO). Greta has also toured Australia and Asia with *Wicked* (GFO), appeared in the 2009 national tour of *My Fair Lady* (Opera Australia) and in *Titanic* (Seabiscuit Productions).



JAS SMITH

Jas Smith-Sua Aolele Geralmaine last appeared with The Production Company in *The King and I* and is thrilled to be joining the Australian premiere cast of *Ragtime*. Her theatre credits include Danielle in the Australian tour of *Bring It On* and as a solo vocalist in *Morning Melodies* (Hamer Hall). Born and raised in the heart of Melbourne, Jas is completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre at the VCA.

Jas dedicates her performance to the family, friends and teachers that have given their time, energy, guidance and support.



ANGELINA THOMSON

After graduating with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre from the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, Angelina made her professional debut as a swing in the Australian premiere production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Michael Cassel Company). She went on to perform in Opera Australia's production of *West Side Story* on Sydney Harbour (HOSH) as Consuelo and Anita cover. Angelina then played the role of Megan Jones in the play, *PUFFS*.

Most recently Angelina made her Production Company debut in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ORCHESTRA

Leader/Violin 1	ZOE BLACK	Trombone	KIEREN CONRAU
Violin	MIRANDA MATHESON	Tuba	ALEX HURST
Viola	MATT LAING	Horn 1	ANTON SCHROEDER
Cello	ALEXANDRA PARTRIDGE	Horn 2	KATIE PRYCE
Bass	SHANNON BIRCHALL	Banjo	DOUG de VRIES
Flute/Piccolo	HELEN HARDY	Drums	DEAN COOPER
Oboe/Cor Anglais	SUSAN BATTEN	Percussion	LARA WILSON
Clarinet	LUKE CARBON	Keyboard 1	JOE CHINDAMO
Trumpet 1	PATRICK McMULLIN	Keyboard 2	GEOFFREY CASTLES
Trumpet 2	DANIEL BEASY	Keyboard 3	KOHAN van SAMBEECK

Orchestral Services Manager: JAMES KEMPSTER
Orchestra Assistants: SABRINA YEH and DAVID YOUINGS

The Production Company Orchestra is proudly sponsored by



KAWAI

THANK YOU

PHOTOGRAPHY

Colin Page and Jeff Busby

MILLINERY

Phillip Rhodes

SOUND

Molly Ward

BUYERS

Deb Hallam
Helen Radbone

PROP MAKER

Jevon Ellison-Scowcroft

DESIGN - VCA

Thomas Bevans
Bianca Pardo

COSTUME MAKERS

Jessica Allison
Freya Barrett
Melinda Brodie
Janice Chalmers

Jo Foley
Natalie Gillis
Deb Hallam
Rachel McWha

Tirion Rodwell
Tristan Seebohm
Susan Skinner
Madeleine Somers

STEVE DUBOCK & DUBOCK FUNERALS

RAGTIME

IS FOR ALL TIME

By John Hay-Mackenzie

E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*, which was published in 1975, took the US by storm. The effect, as *The New York Times* wrote, was one of 'lighting up the first two decades of the American century with skyrocketes and cherry bombs'.

The fireworks continue well into the 21st century. In 1998, the musical version of *Ragtime* opened on Broadway to critical acclaim. This production is the work's Australian premiere.

Ironically, *Ragtime* was not E.L. Doctorow's original choice for a title. Then he heard the fabled Joshua Rifkin recordings of Scott Joplin's rags. The very word - Ragtime - was, Doctorow later wrote, the perfect metaphor for the age, 'when all of America was finding a new sexy rhythm.'

He continued: 'A modern sensibility was forming that scandalised the old. There were new ideas, bold ways

of thinking and behaving, ever-increasing technological changes, and above all, in a country marked by the great wealth of a few, and the terrible poverty of many, new and strident demands for social justice. There were Negroes, there were immigrants, and they could not be ignored'.

In essence, the musical sticks closely to Doctorow's original vision. But its creators have invested *Ragtime* with their own particular genius. Terrence McNally's book, Stephen Flaherty's music and Lynn Ahrens' lyrics retell and enhance the original story.

Ragtime revolves around three different ethnic groups in New York



Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Collection.

at the start of the 20th century: African-Americans; white upper-class suburbanites from New Rochelle; and Jewish European immigrants.

In addition, the narrative is peopled by real people. Making special appearances are escapologist Harry Houdini (Louis Lucente), controversial chorus girl Evelyn Nesbit (Mackenzie Dunn), financier J.P. Morgan (Anton Berezin), tycoon Henry Ford (John O'May), and activist Emma Goldman (Sage Douglas).

To get the true flavour of *Ragtime*, cast your mind back to New York 1906. To paraphrase Doctorow, Teddy Roosevelt was president, everyone wore white in the summer, trolley cars ran along the avenue: 'This was a cosy, confident, self-satisfied America.'

So, what happens in *Ragtime*? Basically, the lives and destinies of the three ethnic groups intersect, crossing various cultural, social and economic divides. Not for nothing was the New York of the time called a melting pot.

The lynchpin is the white Mother (played by Georgina Hopson), who brings into her home a black unmarried mother, Sarah (Chloé Zuel) and her child. Sarah has run

away from her boyfriend, Harlem piano player Coalhouse Walker Jr. (Kurt Kansley). Then Mother encounters a member of the third group, Jewish immigrant Tateh (Alexander Lewis). Going on here would spoil the story.

Far from being stereotypes, the main characters in *Ragtime* are, in fact, revolutionaries. Take Coalhouse Walker Jr. Kurt Kansley, who performed the role in London's West End in 2012, likens Coalhouse to Scott Joplin himself, especially since, like Joplin, Coalhouse was a first-generation free man. 'I've modelled him on a leading African-American musician of the time, Jim Europe, who was famous for saying "This is our music",' Kansley says.

The life of the Mother, as Georgina Hopson sees her, changes dramatically after she takes in Sarah and her baby. 'Another whole world opens to her,' Hopson says, 'She starts to realise that world is so much bigger.'

The look of *Ragtime* has been enhanced by Christina Smith's evocative projections and Nigel Levings' lighting. Isaac Lummis' striking costumes contrast the three ethnic groups: checks, stripes and patterns-on-patterns for Harlem;

white linen gauze and lace for New Rochelle; and greys and browns for the immigrants.

The score of *Ragtime*, although Joplin-inspired, also contains many elements of the music of the period, including Creole, Yiddish, Italian. While a student, the composer, Stephen Flaherty, played ragtime piano in a dance band. Other musicals he has written with lyricist, Lynn Ahrens include, *Seussical*, *Anastasia*, and *Rocky*.

Terrence McNally's long and illustrious career includes such hit plays as *Master Class*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and *Love! Valor! Compassion!*

What better way to encapsulate the evergreen spirit of *Ragtime* than McNally's instructive quote? 'I think theatre teaches us who we are, and what our society is, where we are going. I don't think theatre can solve the problems of a society, nor should it be expected to ... plays don't do that. People do. But plays can provide a forum for the ideas and feelings that can lead a society to decide to heal and change itself.'

John Hay-Mackenzie is an author, former publicist and Director of The Production Company.



Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Collection.



Inspection room, Ellis Island, New York, N.Y.



ROGER HODGMAN

DIRECTOR

Roger has directed over a hundred and thirty plays, musicals and operas in Australia and internationally and many hours of television drama.

He was Artistic Director of MTC for twelve years, during which time highlights included several acclaimed productions of Sondheim musicals. Before that he was Dean of Drama VCA and Artistic Director of the Vancouver Playhouse, where he twice collaborated with Tennessee Williams on productions of new plays. Roger has directed productions for STC, QTC, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Black Swan Theatre Company and Shaw Festival (Canada).

Roger's opera credits include *Lakmé*, *Don Pasquale*, *Rigoletto* for Opera Australia, *Xerxes* for Victorian Opera and New Zealand Opera and, for Victorian Opera, *Nixon in China* and *The Flying Dutchman*, both winning him Green Room Awards for Best Director, *Banquet of Secrets* and *Parsifal*.

Television credits include *Stepfather of the Bride* (Chicago Film Festival Silver Bear Award for Best Telemovie), *The Secret Life of Us* (AFI Best Director nomination), *Packed to the Rafters*, *A Place To Call Home*, *Wentworth*, *Lockie Leonard* (BAFTA nomination for best Children's Series) and *Mustangs FC* (International Emmy nomination for best Children's Drama Series).

Direction credits for musical theatre includes *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Sydney Critics' Award for Best Musical); *Fiddler on The Roof*, *A Little Night Music* (Green Room award for best director), *She Loves Me* and *Wonderful Town* (both for Shaw Festival in Canada).

Roger has been associated with TPC since directing *She Loves Me* in its first year and has directed fourteen productions for TPC including eight Australian premieres. For one of those, *Grey Gardens*, he won a Helpmann Award for Best Director. His most recent productions for The Production Company have been *Show Boat*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Curtains* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*.

GUY NOBLE

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Guy has conducted the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Western Australian, Tasmanian, Queensland and Canberra Symphony Orchestras, the Auckland Philharmonia, and the Hong Kong, Malaysian and Bergen Philharmonic Orchestras.

He is the host and accompanist each year for *Great Opera Hits* (Opera Australia) in the Joan Sutherland Theatre of the Sydney Opera House. He conducted Opera Queensland's 2014 production of *La Bohème*, is conductor and host for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's *Classics Unwrapped* series at the Adelaide Town Hall and conductor and host for the Queensland Symphony's Music on Sundays series at QPAC. His Opera the Opera was premiered at WAAPA in November of 2016 and has since been workshopped by Opera Australia. Guy is also the host of Concert Hall on Qantas Radio.

Guy has worked with a wide variety of international performers with orchestras across Australia, including Harry Connick Jr, Ben Folds, The Beach Boys, The Pointer Sisters, Dianne Reeves, Glenn Frey, Randy Newman, Clive James, Conchita, The Two Cellos, Alfie Boe, Olivia Newton-John and Paloma Faith.

Guy's previous engagements as Musical Director with The Production Company were *Gypsy*, *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* and *South Pacific*. He was Music Director of *Sunset Boulevard* (RUG), Musical Supervisor of the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera* and also conducted *Kiss Me Kate* for Opera Queensland, which starred Peter Coleman-Wright and Cheryl Barker.

Guy is thrilled to be back with The Production Company for the magnificent score of *Ragtime*.



DANA JOLLY

CHOREOGRAPHER

For The Production Company Dana has choreographed *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Little Me*, *Follies*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Grey Gardens*, *Show Boat*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Curtains* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*.

Dana's career began at age nine in *Gypsy* at Her Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne. She then studied at the VCA, before performing with Victoria State Opera and the Australian Contemporary Dance Company.

Some of Dana's overseas credits include Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*, *The Royal Variety Performance*, *British Music Awards*, *National Music Express Awards*, the Winter Olympics in Norway and *Shall We Dance UK*.

Dana's Musical Theatre credits include *Everybody Loves Rhonda* (Adelaide Cabaret Festival), *Respect* (Rhonda Burchmore), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (TML Enterprises), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Theatre Royal) the Australian musical *Sexercise*, for MTC, *Jumpy*, and *Last Man Standing* by Steve Vizard, *Fiddler On The Roof* and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*.

Dana was inducted into the Victorian College of the Arts Hall Of Fame in 2015, and is also the founder of the Music Theatre Mentorship Program.

Dana is thrilled to be back choreographing *Ragtime* for The Production Company, and would like to thank her family, students, fellow colleagues, and Emma Raciti Management for their continued support.





CHRISTINA SMITH

SET DESIGNER

Christina trained at WAAPA and has worked extensively as a set and costume designer for the stage for the last twenty years.

She has designed sets for The Production Company for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Brigadoon*, *Curtains* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*.

Her extensive design credits include the operas *Madama Butterfly* (Seattle Opera), *La Traviata* (New Zealand Opera), *The Flying Dutchman* (set), *The Magic Flute* (costumes), *Banquet of Secrets*, *Voyage to the Moon*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *Così fan tutte* (Victorian Opera).

Her drama credits include *Gloria*, *The Architect*, *Hay Fever* (set), *The Odd Couple*, *Elling*, *Clybourne Park*, *A Behanding In Spokane*, *Boston Marriage*, *Blackbird*, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf* (MTC), *Angels in America – Part One: Millenium Approaches*, *A Streetcar*

Named Desire, *As You Like It*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Rising Water* and *The Year Of Magical Thinking* (Black Swan State Theatre Company), *Porn.Cake*, *Black Medea* (Malthouse Theatre), *Troupers* (STC) and *Mother Courage and her Children* (QTC).

For The Australian Ballet Christina designed the costumes for *Personal Best* and *Ruby Moon* and *Inside 01* for Playbox.

Christina is an APDG, Green Room and Matilda Award Nominee. In 2005 she won the Green Room Award for Theatre Design for *Honour*, *Daylight Atheist* (MTC) and *Julia 3* (Playbox).



ISAAC LUMMIS

COSTUME DESIGNER

Isaac graduated in 2005 from Perth's Curtin University with a Bachelor's degree in Fashion and Textile design. For The Production Company his design credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *Oklahoma!*, *Brigadoon*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Dusty*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Show Boat* and *Promises, Promises*. Isaac's other design credits include *Georgy Girl*, the new Australian musical based on the story of The Seekers, *Alice's Adventures in Operaland* and *Rush Hour* for Victorian Opera, *La Cage aux Folles* for Quirky Productions, *Melbourne Loves the Burlesque Hour*, *Glory Box & Caravan Burlesque* for Finucane & Smith, *My Life in the Nude* for Maude Davey, *Waltzing the Wilarra* for Yirra Yaakin, *Down Pour* for A4 Circus, *Oliver!* and *Anything Goes* for WTG, *As You Like It* and *Memmie LeBlanc* for Deckchair Theatre and *Dash*, *Powder Monkey & KissXX* for the STEPS Youth Dance Company.

Isaac also created the Adorable Florable characters for Kings Park Botanical Gardens Wildflower Festivals. Since 2008, he has been the resident costume designer and wardrobe coordinator at the DET Performing Arts Unit, where he has designed the costumes for eleven Victorian State Schools Spectaculars as well as the costumes for their 2009 production of *Barnum*.

NIGEL LEVINGS

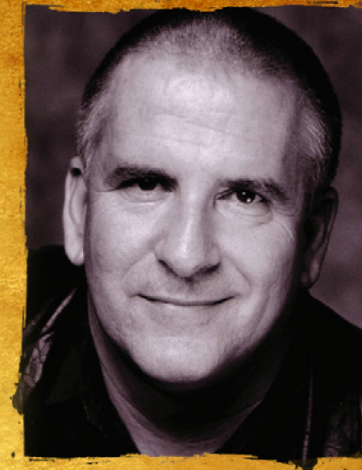
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Nigel has designed lighting for over five hundred and fifty productions including two hundred operas and thirty-three musicals.

He has lit opera in St Petersburg, Paris, Washington, London, Cardiff, Berlin, Baden Baden, Innsbruck, Bregenz, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Dallas, Seoul, Nanjing, Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Toronto.

He is a Fellow of the Illuminating Engineering Society of Australia. His awards for lighting design include a Helpmann Award, a Green Room Award, a Los Angeles Ovation Award, a Canadian Dora Mava Moore, and on Broadway he has won two Outer Circle Critics Awards, a Drama Desk and a Tony Award.

Nigel lit *Hello, Dolly!* for The Production Company in 2017. Other recent work includes *170 Days in Nanjing*, an opera for Jiangsu Performing Arts Centre in China, *Simon Boccanegra* for Opera Australia, *Memorial* for Brink at the Adelaide Festival of Arts, Brisbane Festival and the Barbican Theatre in London, *Romeo et Juliette* for Korea National Opera, the opera *Cloudstreet* for State Opera of South Australia, *Tartuffe* for State Theatre Company and Paul Dean's opera *Dry River Run* for the Queensland Conservatorium.



KOHAN van SAMBEECK

ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Kohan graduated with First Class Honours in Classical Music from WAAPA in 2016, majoring in piano. His theatre credits include *Aladdin* and *The Lion King* (Disney), *The Wizard of Oz*, *Wicked*, and *The Sound of Music* (GFO), *Les Misérables* (Michael Cassel Group) and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (TML Enterprises).

In 2014 he performed with Hugh Jackman at the launch of the Jackman Furness Foundation for the Performing Arts. Other highlights include performing with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and appearing as a guest conductor with the Perth Symphony Orchestra.

As a composer, Kohan has written the music for *Pisca* (Auspicious Arts), *Sincerely Yours* (Stray Cats Theatre Company), *Closer* (Fresh Bred Productions) and *Happily Never After*, which won the Julie Michael's prize for best cabaret in 2016.

Ragtime marks Kohan's first appearance with The Production Company.



SYSTEM SOUND PTY LTD

Managing Director John Scandrett founded System Sound in 1979 and is proud to have been associated with The Production Company on over sixty productions in twenty-one years. "System" is currently engineering sound for the tours of *School of Rock*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Come From Away*, *Billy Elliot* and *Chicago*.



PETER GRUBB

A director of System Sound, Peter was Associate Sound Designer for the original productions of *Les Misérables*, *Spamalot*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Matilda*, and Sound Designer for tours of *Cats*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Oliver*, *Avenue Q*, *Miss Saigon*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Strictly Ballroom*.

For The Production Company, he has co-designed sound for *She Loves Me*, *Call Me Madam*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Follies*, *Chess*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Jerry's Girls*, *Brigadoon*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *Lazarus* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.



KELVIN GEDYE

Joining System Sound in 1991, Kelvin supervised sound for many productions, notably *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats* and *Wicked*. Design credits include *West Side Story*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Mother & Son*, *Violet* and *Songs For A New World*.

For The Production Company, Kelvin co-designed the sound for *Show Boat*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Curtains*, *Funny Girl*, *Dusty*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Brigadoon*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *Lazarus* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.



DAVID TONION

Joining System Sound in 1995, David was Associate for *Miss Saigon* and *Strictly Ballroom* and has engineered productions of *Cats*, *Oliver*, *We Will Rock You*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Billy Elliot*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Addams Family*, *Once*, *Kinky Boots*, and *The Book of Mormon*.

He co-designed the sound for The Production Company's *Anything Goes*, *Kismet*, *Chess*, *West Side Story* (Green Room Awards), *Gypsy*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Jerry's Girls*, *Funny Girl*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Brigadoon*, and *Lazarus*.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY IS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PATRONS

Susan Alberti AC
Michael & Louise Allen
Helen & Maurice Alter
Janet Arndt
Robyn & Ted Baillieu
Ian Baker & Cheryl Saunders
Meredith Baldwin
Marilyn & Peter Bartels AO
Bruce & Adela Bartrop
John & Lorraine Bates
Judy Becher
Trevor W. Brown AM
Sally Browne Fund
Linda Bruce & Alan Tootell
Ita Buttrose AO, OBE
B. Cain
Terry Campbell AO & Christine Campbell
Maria Casalbuono & Tania De Carli
Chef's Hat Australia Pty Ltd
Rob Craig
Felicity Cull
Kerry & Brendan Danaher
Brian M. Davis
Margaret & John Dickman
Matt & Nathan Duckworth
Andrew & Joy Duncan
Jeff & Jenny Egan
Susan & Don Fry
Raphael & Fiona Geminder & Family
Adele & Don Givoni
Alan Gormley & Neil Young
Clare & Matt Handbury
Paula Hansky OAM
Jill & David Heathershaw
Adeline Hiew
Brian J. Hurlock
Jim Ilievski, CKI Group
Dr Alastair Jackson AM
Christopher Jackson
David A. Jackson
Larry & Stephanie Kallenbach
Ruth & Robert Kaye
Robert & Mem Kirby
Coral Knowles
George Krawat
Miriam & Michael Lasky
Geraldine Lazarus & Greig Gailey
Rosie Lew & Family
Eve Mahlab AO & Frank Mahlab
Robert & Nicole McIntosh

Greg McManus
Dr Mark & Dr Alla Medownick
Tom Morris OAM & Roslyn Morris
Dr Chris Moss Plastic Surgery
Mrs Joan Muir
Dr Paul Nisselle AM
Barry Novy & Susan Selwyn
Genevieve Nunan
OGLIA-LORO Couture
Marylou & Raymond Orloff
Diane & Glen Orwin
Jenny & Stuart Packer
Jill Page OAM
Ronald Peel & Keith Chivers
Peter Philpott & Robert Ratcliffe
Tim & Trish Pitt
Heloise Pratt AM
Gina Rentzis
Sara & Syd Robenstone
Kay Rodda
Lois Roffey
Zelda Rosenbaum OAM & Maurice Rosenbaum
Hannah & Michael Roth
RR Partners
Vince & Kelly Sabatino
Mr & Mrs Alfredo & Mirella Salera
Phil Scanlan & Julie Singer Scanlan AO
Michael Schwarz & David Clouston
Ziva Shavitsky
C Shay
Gary Singer & Geoffrey Smith
The Smalley Family
The Jack & Robert Smorgon Families Foundation
Ezekiel Solomon AM
The Spencely Family
Ron & Anne Stobaus
The Sunraysia Foundation
Eva Sweet
Joel & Liora Symons
Dr Valerie Tarrant OAM & Dr Peter Wyllie Johnston
Michael Troy
Leon & Sandra Velik
Sefton Warner
Nechama Werdiger
Paul Wheelton AM KSJ
Ed Worsley
Aaron Zachariusz

Anonymous (5)

Our Patrons are our loyal supporters who assist TPC to bring the best musicals to Arts Centre Melbourne. Funds raised through the Patrons Program enable the company to showcase Australia's brightest professional musical theatre talent. Enquiries : email Simone Goodwin sg@theproductioncompany.com.au or call 9247 4800.



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF MARVELLOUS MUSICALS AT ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

1999

Mame
She Loves Me
Funny Girl

2000

Call Me Madam
Gypsy
Guys and Dolls
The Gilbert and Sullivan Show

2001

How To Succeed in
Business Without Really Trying
Mack & Mabel
Anything Goes

2002

The Music Man
HAIR
Hello, Dolly!

2003

Bye, Bye Birdie
South Pacific
They're Playing Our Song

2004

High Society
Carousel
Annie Get Your Gun

2005

Kiss Me, Kate
Sunset Boulevard
Oklahoma!

2006

The Pajama Game
Camelot
Thoroughly Modern Millie

2007

Sweet Charity
Little Me
42nd Street

2008

Follies
Damn Yankees
Mame

2009

Crazy for You
The Boyfriend
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

2010

The King And I
The Boy From Oz
Sugar

2011

Anything Goes
Kismet
Grey Gardens

2012

The Producers
CHESS
Promises, Promises

2013

Gypsy
Singin' in the Rain
The Pirates of Penzance

2014

Guys and Dolls
Show Boat
La Cage Aux Folles

2015

West Side Story
Nice Work If You Can Get It
Jerry's Girls

2016

Funny Girl
Curtains
Dusty

2017

Dusty – Adelaide Festival Centre
Hello, Dolly!
Jesus Christ Superstar
Brigadoon

2018

Oklahoma!
The Boy from Oz
A Gentleman's Guide to
Love & Murder

2019

Lazarus
Thoroughly
Modern Millie
Ragtime