

# SHOW BOAT



ARTS CENTRE  
MELBOURNE  
STATE THEATRE

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY  
GRATEFULLY APPRECIATES



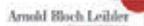
PRESENTING SPONSORS



SERIES SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



DOMAIN FLOWERS



WARWICK

OUR FOUNDATION SPONSORS

Kevin & Colleen Bamford  
John & Janet Calvert-Jones  
Harold & Krystyna Campbell-Pretty  
Henry & Esther Goldberg • Gil & Sandi Hoskins  
Bill & Elaine Montague • Ray Montague  
Michael & Atida Naphtali and Andrew Fairley  
Dr Tim & Mrs Trish Pitt  
Tom & Robyn Warwick • Anonymous (2)



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY PRESENTS

# SHOW BOAT

MUSIC BY **JEROME KERN**

BOOK & LYRICS BY **OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

Based on the novel *Show Boat* by  
**EDNA FERBER**

**Alinta Chidzey • Gareth Keegan • Christina O'Neill  
Eddie Muliaumaseali'i • Philip Gould • Judith Roberts  
Heru Pinkasova • Nicole Melloy • Glenn Hill**

Johanna Allen • Shauntai Batzke • Andrew Broadbent • Stefanie De Castro  
Matt Hamilton • Winston Hillyer • Paul Hughes • Nadia Komazec  
Andrew Kroenert • Bree Langridge • Rubin Matters • Danielle Matthews  
Bronte Muir • David Ouch • Emily Paddon-Brown • John Wayne Parsons  
Jennifer Peers • Anthony Pepe • Timothy Springs • Amalia Stramotas  
Darren Tyler • Dean Vince

Director **Roger Hodgman**

Musical Director **Kellie Dickerson**

Choreographer **Dana Jolly**

Costume Designer **Isaac Lummis**

Set Designer **Christina Smith**

Lighting Designer **Matt Scott**

Sound Design **System Sound**

Sound Design Associates **John Scandrett, Kelvin Gedye and Mark Benson**

Stage Manager **Ashlee Hints**

Dance Captain **Darren Tyler**

**ORCHESTRA VICTORIA**

**ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE STATE THEATRE  
16 TO 24 AUGUST 2014**

*Show Boat* is presented by special arrangement with Origin™ Theatrical,  
on behalf of R&H Theatricals [www.rhtheatricals.com](http://www.rhtheatricals.com)

Chairman **Jeanne Pratt AC**

Artistic Director **Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM**

Executive Director **Rachel D Taylor**

Hon. Company Secretary **Don Maloney**  
 Hon. Treasurer **Keith Beecher OAM**  
 Directors **Deborah Beale**  
**Felicity Beale**  
**Mark Gogoll**  
**John Hay-Mackenzie**  
**Garry Krauss AM**  
**Ross Mollison**  
 PA to Jeanne Pratt AC **Chris Gibbons**

Development Manager **Simone Goodwin**  
 Technical Director **David Miller**  
 Marketing **Kendra Reid**  
**Kate Macdonald**  
**Nick Rudich**  
**www.aka-au.com**  
 Publicity **CAVANAGH PR**  
**Julie Cavanagh**

The question I am asked most, as I greet you at the top of the escalator, is “What is your favourite musical?” I usually say the name of our current production but the truth is, this one.

My sister and I only had two records when we were growing up. One was Frank Sinatra and the other was the soundtrack from *Show Boat*. I love every note of Jerome Kern’s beautiful score and I know all the words too. Be careful that you don’t sit too near me, I may not be able to stop myself from singing along.

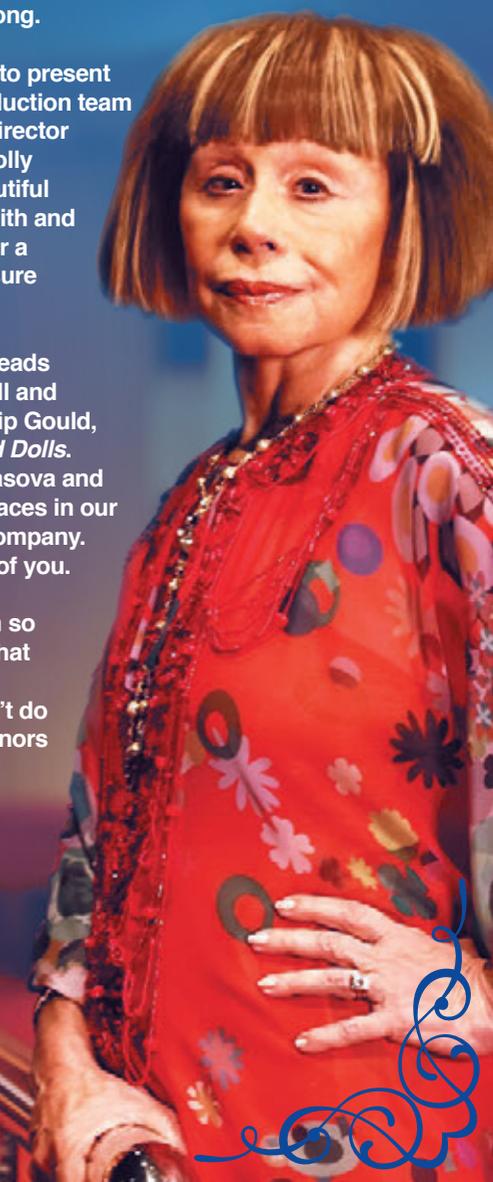
I have always wanted The Production Company to present *Show Boat* and I am thrilled with our expert production team and cast. Our director Roger Hodgman, music director Kellie Dickerson and our choreographer Dana Jolly love this masterpiece as much as I do. With beautiful costumes by Isaac Lummis, set by Christina Smith and evocative lighting by Matt Scott, we are all set for a treat. And the team at System Sound will make sure you hear every magnificent note and word.

I am thrilled to welcome back our two romantic leads Alinta Chidzey and Gareth Keegan and Glenn Hill and Nicole Melloy as well as Judith Roberts and Philip Gould, who have just been with us recently in *Guys and Dolls*. New to The Production Company are Heru Pinkasova and Eddie Muliaumaseali'i. There are some familiar faces in our ensemble as well as some who are new to the company. Welcome to our Production Company family all of you.

You, our audience, are especially welcome. I am so proud of this company and it is hard to believe that this is our sixteenth year of bringing wonderful entertainment to Arts Centre Melbourne. We can’t do it without you and our beloved sponsors and donors who help to keep the curtain up.

*Might as well make believe that I love you.  
For, to tell the truth, I do!*

**Jeanne Pratt AC**  
**Chairman**



**ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE**



PO Box 7585  
 St Kilda Road  
 Melbourne Vic 8004

Telephone: (03) 9281 8000  
 Facsimile: (03) 9281 8282  
 Website: [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

**VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE TRUST**

Mr Tom Harley (President)  
 Mr Sandy Clark  
 Mr Julian Clarke AM  
 Mr Jim Cousins AO  
 Ms Dana Hlavacek  
 Ms Catherine McClements  
 Mr Graham Smorgon AM  
 Mr David Vigo

**EXECUTIVE GROUP**

Mr Geoff Street Interim Chief Executive  
 Ms Jodie Bennett Chief Operating Officer  
 Ms Louise Georgeson Executive Development  
 & Strategy  
 Ms Sarah Hunt Executive Marketing  
 & Programming  
 Mr Kyle Johnston Executive Sales  
 & Customer Services

*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.

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR AND MUSICAL DIRECTOR



**S**how Boat presents great challenges. If all the material Kern and Hammerstein wrote for the early productions of the musical were presented together the evening would last maybe five hours. The treatment of race relations, so enlightened for the time it was written, now sit uneasily with a modern audience. Many recent productions, including the

famous Hal Prince production in the 1990s, have been picketed for this reason.

When we looked at the fine Prince version (the one most frequently performed today) it was immediately clear that the forces required – cast and orchestra size and staging requirements – were beyond the scope of The Production Company model.

Then the Rodgers Hammerstein Organization suggested we read the recent Goodspeed Theatre version. Goodspeed is an eminent US company that specializes in new versions of classic musicals along with initiating new works. My colleagues Kellie Dickerson and Dana Jolly (who had both worked on the Prince production when it came to Australia) and I immediately responded to this libretto. It seemed simple and direct, concentrating on what was important to the story and retaining the best of the music. And, while not shying away from the depiction of racial intolerance in the First Act, it somehow incorporated more enlightened twenty-first century attitudes. It may not be strictly historically accurate but I believe it is faithful to the spirit of the authors' intentions and allows us to appreciate the marvelous music, lyrics and book. We have emphasised this aspect – a kind of parallel speeding up of integration – further in the Second Act.

The Goodspeed version had a much smaller cast and orchestra than would suit the State Theatre and again the Rodgers Hammerstein organization suggested a solution - to somehow incorporate the original orchestrations with the Goodspeed libretto. Kellie Dickerson undertook the task and what you will see tonight is yet another chapter in the evolution of this great musical.

**ROGER HODGMAN**  
Director

**T**here is a great spirituality throughout the score, just as the image of a great river is a constant and central presence for the characters in this work. Kern's hymn-like *Ol' Man River* brought the song form of the 'spiritual' into Broadway's musical theatre of the time, and was written for the great bass baritone Paul Robeson.

Robeson's inspiring presence and repertoire were a strong influence, giving the character Joe a nobility and dignity that contrasted starkly with the musical representation of African American culture at the time.

The musicalisation of race and time are important factors in the score; we have the deliberate nobility of an oppressed people, the operetta-like arias of the romantic leads, vaudeville and early 20th Century Broadway for the Showfolk, and detailed contrasts between Magnolia who at times expresses herself in a 'black' vocal style (as considered at the time), and Julie who initially sings in a 'white' vocal style (similarly) in order to disguise her heritage.

The sheer scale of *Show Boat* has sometimes been an obstacle to its performance, as has its representation of racial segregation, and there have been many versions of the work created throughout the century to temper these factors. With permission of the estate we have been able to use the original orchestrations by Robert Russell Bennett, and meld this with the dramaturgical structure, scale and underscoring of the contemporary Goodspeed production.

Our intention is to honour the original work and the spirituality of the score, and at the same time allow contemporary audiences a way into *Show Boat* that respects both the musical and political heritage of the people it represents.

**KELLIE DICKERSON**  
Musical Director



Magnolia Hawks	ALINTA CHIDZEY	Jeb, a back woodsman	PAUL HUGHES
Gaylord Ravenal	GARETH KEEGAN	Trocadero dancer	NADIA KOMAZEC
Julie LaVerne	CHRISTINA O'NEILL	Jim Greene	ANDREW KROENERT
Joe	EDDIE MULIAUMASEALI'I	Dottie	BREE LANGRIDGE
Captain Andy Hawks	PHILIP GOULD	Willy, a stagehand	RUBIN MATTERS
Parthy Ann Hawks	JUDITH ROBERTS	Gal	DANIELLE MATTHEWS
Queenie	HERU PINKASOVA	Stevedore	DAVID OUCH
Ellie May Chipley	NICOLE MELLODY	Lottie	EMILY PADDON-BROWN
Frank Schultz	GLENN HILL	Stevedore	JOHN WAYNE PARSONS
Mrs O'Brien	JOHANNA ALLEN	Mother Superior	JENNIFER PEERS
Gal	SHAUNTAI BATZKE	Pete Gavin	ANTHONY PEPE
Steve Baker	ANDREW BROADBENT	Stevedore	TIMOTHY SPRINGS
Trocadero Dance Captain	STEFANIE DE CASTRO	Windy, the pilot	DARREN TYLER
Jake, a piano player	MATT HAMILTON	Sheriff Ike Valon	DEAN VINCE
Stevedore	WINSTON HILLYER	Kim, a child	BRONTE MUIR AMALIA STRAMOTAS

### PRODUCTION CREDITS

Technical Director	David Miller	Sound Mix Engineer	Martin Tyrrell
Production Manager	Mel Robertson	Stage Sound Technicians	Jackson Scandrett Sarah Trevorrow
Company Manager	Adam McGurk	Radio Mic Engineer	Cameron Herbert
Stage Manager	Ashlee Hints	Sound Equipment	System Sound Pty Ltd
Assistant Stage Manager	Sarah Wong	Set Construction	Malthouse
Assistant Stage Manager (rehearsals)	Jacob Gibson	Repetiteur	Isaac Hayward Daniele Buatti
Wardrobe Supervisor	Kim Bishop	Secondment	Stage Management: Jennifer Knight, VCA
Wig Designer	Corrine Day	Special Thanks	Meg Deyell
Wigs Assistant	Rose Parsons		

# CAST

## SETTING

Between 1887 and 1927 along the Mississippi River and in Chicago

### ACT ONE

#### Scene 1: The levee at Natchez on the Mississippi, 1887

Cotton Blossom	Stevedores, Gals, Show Boat Troupe, Townspeople
Captain Andy's Ballyhoo	Cap'n Andy, Parthy, Show Boat Troupe, Townspeople
Where's The Mate For Me?	Ravenal
Only Make Believe	Ravenal & Magnolia
Ol' Man River	Jo & Stevedores

#### Scene 2: The Kitchen Pantry on the Cotton Blossom

Can't help Lovin' Dat Man	Julie, Queenie, Magnolia, Joe, Stevedores & Gals
---------------------------	--

#### Scene 3: The Auditorium & Stage on the Cotton Blossom

Mis'ry's Comin' Aroun'	Queenie, Stevedores & Gals
Ol' Man River (Reprise)	Joe

#### Scene 4: The Fore-deck of the Cotton Blossom, three weeks later

Life Upon The Wicked Stage	Ellie & Girls
----------------------------	---------------

#### Scene 5: The Upper Deck of the Cotton Blossom that night

You Are Love	Ravenal & Magnolia
--------------	--------------------

#### Scene 6: The levee, the next morning

Finale	The Company
--------	-------------

### ACT TWO

#### Scene 1: Various Locations on the river & in Chicago, 1892-1899

'Til Good Luck Comes My Way	Ravenal & Gamblers
Why Do I Love You?	Magnolia & Ravenal
Mis'ry's Comin' Aroun' (Reprise)	Queenie, Stevedores & Gals
Why Do I Love You? (Reprise)	Magnolia, Young Kim

#### Scene 2: A Chicago Boarding house

#### Scene 3: St Agatha's Convent, the same time

Alma Redempteris / Ol' Man River / Make Believe	Joe, Female Ensemble, Ravenal
---	-------------------------------

#### Scene 4: the Trocadero Nightclub, a rehearsal two weeks later

Bill	Julie
Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man (Reprise)	Magnolia, Frank

#### Scene 5: A Chicago Street

#### Scene 6: The Trocadero Nightclub, New Year's Eve, 1899

Goodbye My Lady Love	Frank & Ellie
After The Ball	Magnolia & Partygoers
Ol' Man River (Reprise)	Joe

#### Scene 7: Kitchen Pantry of the Cotton Blossom, 1927

I Still Suits Me	Joe & Queenie
------------------	---------------

#### Scene 8: The Deck of the Cotton Blossom

You Are Love (Reprise)	Ravenal
Finale	The Company

## ALINTA CHIDZEY - MAGNOLIA HAWKS



This is Alinta's third season performing with The Production Company. Previously she has starred as Svetlana in *Chess* and Kathy Selden in *Singin' in the Rain*, receiving Green Room nominations for both roles.

Alinta played the role of Anita in *West Side Story*, where she was nominated for a Helpmann Award, Green Room Award, Sydney Theatre Award and two GLUGS Awards as Best Supporting Actress and was awarded the Australian Dance Award for Most Outstanding Performance.

Other credits include Mickey in *Leader of the Pack!* (Green Room Award), *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary), Demeter in *Cats*, *Dusty - The Original Pop Diva!*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Dirty Dancing* in the Netherlands and Alice in Patrick Marber's play *Closer*.

Alinta's screen credits include the U.S. telemovie *The Frontier* for Sony, the short film *Courage*, two ABC series, *The Dr Blake Mysteries* and *Winners and Losers*, and *Neighbours*.

For the past two years Alinta featured as soloist with The Queensland Symphony Orchestra for QPAC's season of *The Spirit of Christmas*. She fronts her own jazz/soul band *Alinta and the Jazz Emperors* and would like to dedicate her performance to her husband Remco.

## GARETH KEEGAN - GAYLORD RAVENAL



Gareth graduated from WAAPA IN 2007. His theatre credits include Mickey in *Blood Brothers*, Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* for The Production Company, Stormy in the World Premiere of Cat Steven's *Moonshadow*, Gabe in MTC's *Next To Normal* (Green Room Award Nomination), Alternate Frankie Valli in the Original Cast of *Jersey Boys*, *Gaybies* for the Midsumma Festival 2013, Phantom Swing in Gale Edward's *The Rocky Horror Show*, Young Thing in *Hello Again*, Ste in *A Beautiful Thing* at the Stables Theatre, and Les Darcy in Nick Enright's *The Good Fight* (New York Music Theatre Festival).

He performed at the 2013 Adelaide Cabaret Festival in Tyran Parke's *Compositions* and features on the album of the same name. Gareth has also been involved in various workshops of new shows such as *All Out of Love: The Air Supply Musical*, *Dreamlover*, *An Officer and a Gentlemen*, *Truth Beauty and a Picture of You:*

*The Whitlams Story*, Tim Finn's *The Woman in Black*, Matthew Robinson's *Happy People*, *The Silver Donkey*, *Moonshadow* and *Georgie Girl*.

Television credits include Kurt Cobain in *Mr & Mrs Murder*, Constable Archie Cooper in *Underbelly Squizzy*, and Rueben Hayes in *The Dr Blake Mysteries*.

## CHRISTINA O'NEILL - JULIE LAVERNE



Christina graduated from WAAPA in 2005 and has also trained at 16th Street Actors Studio and Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Most recently, she played The Baker's Wife in Victorian Opera's *Into the Woods* and last year she performed the role of Dot/Marie in their production of *Sunday in the Park with George*.

She is currently an ensemble member of Red Stitch Actors Theatre and has appeared in *Belleville* directed by Denny Laurence, *Straight* directed by Dean Bryant and *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat* directed by David Bell. Christina toured in the hit production *Avenue Q*, winning a Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical for her role as Christmas Eve in 2010.

Her other stage credits include *Gaybies* at MTC, part of the Midsumma Festival, *Savage in Limbo* (Workhorse Theatre Co), *Prodigal* (Midsumma Festival) Monty Python's *Spamalot*, *Tell Me on a Sunday* (Kookaburra) and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert, the Musical*. She also features on the *Priscilla Queen of the Desert Original Cast Recording* as a Diva. Christina's film and television credits include *City Homicide*, *Jeopardy* and *The Great Raid*.

Christina is delighted to be making her Production Company debut in *Show Boat*.

## EDDIE MULIAUMASEALI'I - JOE



Eddie studied at the Brisbane Conservatorium of Music and was the winner of the McDonald's Aria Award (Sydney). He became a member of the Tiroler Landestheater (2000-2005) in Innsbruck, Austria, performing in both Opera and Musicals. In Australia, Eddie has worked with Opera Australia's OzOpera since 1999 in productions of *Carmen* (Zuniga), *Rigoletto* (Sparafucile, Monterone and Ceprano), *Madama Butterfly* (The Bonze) and *Barber of Seville* (Basilio) as well *La traviata* (Marquis and Doctor).

Other key roles include Joe in *Show Boat*, Paul in *Kiss Me, Kate!*, Horse in *The Full Monty*, Mephistopheles in *Faust*, Zuniga and *Doncairo in Carmen*, Tom in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Angelotti and the Sacristan in *Tosca*, Colline in *La Boheme* and *the Commendatore*, Leporello and Masetto in *Don Giovanni*. He has performed the roles of Porgy, Crown, Jake and Jim in *Porgy and Bess*.

For Melbourne Opera, Eddie has performed in *Don Giovanni*, *Madama Butterfly* and *La Boheme*. He has also performed with Opera NZ as Angelotti in *Tosca* and Monterone in *Rigoletto* for Opera Queensland, Stopera and Christchurch Symphony.

Eddie developed the Education Workshops for Opera Australia's Ozopera Tours from 2000-2014. He facilitated these workshops in every state and territory in Australia at schools, conservatoriums as well as community groups. He has worked for organisations such as Artology and More than Opera as an educator and team leader working in projects such as creating operas in four days.

## PHILIP GOULD - CAPTAIN ANDY HAWKS



Philip has performed on both sides of the globe, appearing in major shows both in Australia and the UK, including the extremely popular television show, *Young Talent Time*.

Theatre credits in England include lead roles in *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *Show Boat*, *Regina*, *Nite-Club Confidential*, *Oklahoma!* and *Buddy*, along with several Royal Command, Children's Royal and Gala Performances and BAFTA Award Ceremonies.

His many roles in Australian shows include Tony in *West Side Story*, Lieutenant Cable in *South Pacific*, Ralph Rackstraw in *HMS Pinafore*, Bobby Child in *Crazy For You*, The Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, Gaylord Ravenal in *Show Boat*, Paul in *Company* with the MTC, Rooster in *Annie* (Green Room Award) and *Forbidden Broadway*.

For The Production Company, roles include Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes* (Green Room nomination) George in *She Loves Me*, Buddy Hackett in *The Music Man*, Buddy in *Follies* and Arvide Abernathy in *Guys and Dolls*.

Recent roles include The Toymaker in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Pirates to Pinafore* and many concert appearances, including poetic narrations for the *Music in the Round Festival* for five years, the recent *A Life In Music* and Greig's *Peer Gynt* at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Philip is the doting father of six busy children so his life is jam-packed with chauffeuring, fixing computers and all the other things that come with being dad!

## JUDITH ROBERTS - PARTHY ANN HAWKS



Actress, singer, dancer and teacher, Judith has had a long and varied career. Her theatre credits for J C Williamson's include *The Sentimental Bloke*, *My Fair Lady*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Sweet Charity* and *Promises, Promises*. Other productions include *A Cup of Tea a Bex and a Good Lie Down*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Bells are Ringing*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Guys and Dolls* (in which she also performed the role of General Matilda Cartwright for The Production Company last month), *Nunsense*, the Australasian tour of *Fiddler on the Roof* opposite Topol and *A New Brain*, for which she received a Green Room nomination.

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

Her extensive television credits of over twenty programmes begin with *Division 4* right through to an episode of *Miss Fischer*. Film credits include *Lake Mungo*, *Torn*, *You and Your Stupid Mate* and *Strange Fits of Passion*.

## HERU PINKASOVA - QUEENIE



Port Moresby born soprano Heru Pinkasova was raised in Cairns. Having studied in Brisbane with Margaret Nickson OA and Margaret Schindler, Heru has a Bachelor of Music and a Graduate Diploma of Opera Performance. Heru has also lived in the Czech Republic where she studied with Eva Blahova.

In 2011 and 2012 Heru was a Young and Developing Artist with Opera Queensland and performed with Australian and International artists. Her roles include the title role of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, The First Lady from *Die Zauberflote* and Bloody Mary in *South Pacific*.

Heru has been a longstanding member of *OperaQ* and has performed in many operas including *The Pearl Fishers*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Il Pagliacci*, *Andrea Chenier*, *La Traviata*, *Macbeth*, *Carmen* and *Otello* as well as in numerous concerts and corporate events.

Heru has been a recipient of The Margaret Nickson Prize, a Dante Alighieri Scholarship, a RADF grant involving Logohu (a Papuan ladies ensemble) and has won other vocal competitions. She is based in Brisbane, where she is currently performing as part of the *Open Stage* program at *OperaQ*, which provides artists-in-residence programmes for schools and communities.

## NICOLE MELLOY - ELLIE MAY CHIPLEY

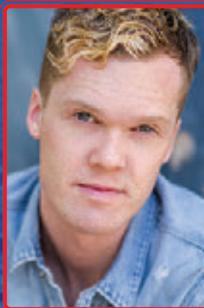


Nicole began dancing at an early age with Julie Cookson and went on to study full-time classical ballet with Christine Walsh where she achieved her Diploma of Classical Dance and then continued her training at the Victorian College of the Arts. She continues to study acting at Q44.

Theatre credits include *Die Fledermaus* (Opera Australia) in the role of Ginger Rogers, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *42nd Street*, *Little Me*, *Damn Yankees*, *Anything Goes*, *The Producers*, (all with The Production Company) Monty Python's *Spamalot* (Louise Withers and Associates) as understudy to the Lady of the Lake, *Eurobeat*, *Almost Eurovision* (Glynn Nicholas Group) in the role of Persephone, the Australian premiere season of *Jersey Boys*, (Newtheatricals), the international tour of *The Rocky Horror Show*, (TML Productions) in the role of Magenta, Dame Edna's *Back with a Vengeance* (Duet Productions) and *Legally Blonde* (GFO) in the role of Elle's mum amongst others.

Most recently, Nicole played the title role in Edward Allen Baker's play *Dolores* with Q44 Theatre Company.

## GLENN HILL - FRANK SCHULTZ



Glenn is the winner of the 2012 Rob Guest Endowment Award. He began his professional career at the age of sixteen, appearing in *Jolson – The Musical* with Rob Guest and was an original cast member and Assistant Dance Captain on both the Australian and Japanese tours of *We Will Rock You*. He appeared in *Pippin* for Kookaburra, *Sweet Charity* and *Little Me* for The Production Company, a Korean tour of *Eurobeat – Almost Eurovision*, Monty Python's *Spamalot* at Her Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne, and *Mamma Mia!* – The 10th Anniversary Australian Tour.

Glenn was a member of the world premiere Australian cast of *Dr Zhivago*. Following the Australian tour, he was Associate Choreographer for the South Korean production of *Dr Zhivago*, which opened in Seoul in January of 2012.

Other roles include the Australian premiere production of *Legally Blonde* as Aaron Shultz and understudying the role of Emmett Forrest. Glenn was also a featured cast member *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* in Sydney. Earlier this year he appeared as Lumiere in *Beauty and The Beast* at Melbourne Zoo.

Glenn's other performance credits include Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, the 2008 ARIA Awards, dancing for breakout Australian music duo The Presets, the 2010 ARIA Awards, dancing for Best Female Artist winner Megan Washington and various other corporate, sporting, live and televised events.

# ALL ABOARD!

## FRANK VAN STRATEN TAKES A TRIP ON THE COTTON BLOSSOM

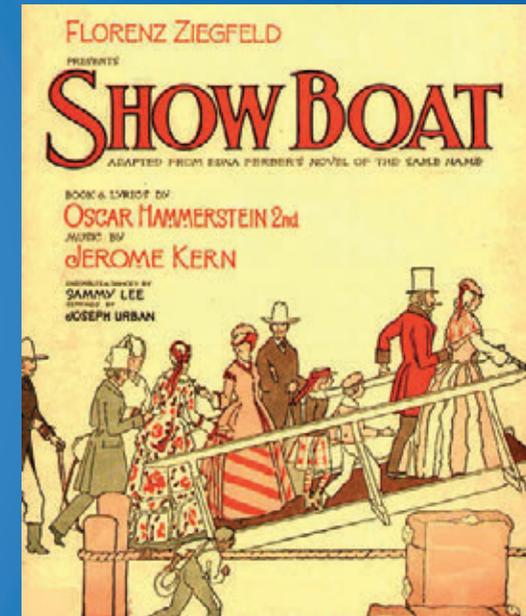
'*Show Boat* is not just another American musical,' says director Harold Prince. 'It is the first great contemporary modern musical: the first to merge the traditional, happy-go-lucky naiveté of Broadway musical comedy with serious themes; the first with a score ranging from light-hearted, popular thirty-two-bar songs to nineteenth century operetta and grand opera.'

*Show Boat* had its origins in 1924, when the celebrated American novelist Edna Ferber stumbled on the long, previously unrecorded history of the 'floating theatres' that for decades had plied the Mississippi, bringing entertainment to the isolated towns that lined its banks. Her epic novel, *Show Boat*, was published in 1926. Its plot spanned four decades, starting in the Deep South in the 1880s in the years following the Civil War, and moving on to industrialized turn-of-the-century Chicago, World War I, the jazz age and the Roaring Twenties. It was an immediate best seller. Recognising the story's theatrical potential, Broadway composer Jerome Kern persuaded Ferber to grant him the stage rights. Kern had collaborated with a number of leading lyricists, including Oscar Hammerstein II, and it was Hammerstein that he felt would be right for the romantic and emotional lyrics he knew the show would need.

Hammerstein came on board when Kern told him that the legendary Florenz Ziegfeld would be producing the show. 'When?' asked Hammerstein. 'Not sure,' replied Kern. 'He doesn't know about it yet.'



Left to right: Composer Jerome Kern, baritone Paul Robeson and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein (New York Public Library)



The poster for Florenz Ziegfeld's original 1927 production

Fortunately, when he did know about it, Ziegfeld was enthusiastic, especially when he realised it would be the ideal attraction to open his splendid new Ziegfeld Theatre on Sixth Avenue. As it turned out, production delays meant that *Rio Rita* was presented first, and *Show Boat* followed on 27 December 1927. The two shows could not have been more different. *Rio Rita* had clichéd chocolate box settings, stock characters, a hodgepodge score and a lightweight plot, while *Show Boat's* people were real, their stories had dramatic tension, and the glorious songs propelled the action in a new and potent way. Furthermore, the show dared to expose racial discrimination, miscegenation, gambling and poverty, and it treated its African-American characters with dignity and sympathy. It was, in fact, the very first musical to use a mixed race cast.



Poster for MGM's 1951 film

The cast of that landmark first production included Norma Terris (Magnolia), Howard Marsh (Gaylord Ravenal), Edna May Oliver (Parthy), Tess Gardella (Queenie) and Charles Winninger (Cap'n Andy). Julie was portrayed by the tragic Helen Morgan, whose heart-wrenching rendition of 'Bill' (which Kern had written with lyricist P.G. Wodehouse years before)



Helen Morgan, the original Julie

became indelibly identified with her. Paul Robeson was the first choice for Joe, but because he was unavailable, the honour of introducing the iconic 'Ol' Man River' went to Jules Bledsoe. *Show Boat* ran for 572 performances. It was Kern's most successful show and the longest-running Broadway attraction of the 1920s.

In May 1928 *Show Boat* reached London, where it clocked up 350 performances at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Paul Robeson at last got to play Joe, along with Cedric Hardwicke (Cap'n Andy), Alberta Hunter (Queenie), Edith Day (Magnolia) and Howard Worster (Gaylord). Julie was played by Marie Burke, who enjoyed a notable career in Australia in musicals and straight plays.

Robeson starred in a 180-performance Broadway revival in 1932. There have been many further Broadway productions, and the piece remains popular with US regional and community theatres. A major London revival in 1971 featured Cleo Laine as Julie and ran for 910 performances. Also in London, in 2006, John McGlinn reconstructed the original 1927 opening night score and recorded it, together with every other note of music ever written for the show. The result was a monumental 221-minute 3-CD set featuring Frederica von Stade (Magnolia), Jerry Hadley (Gaylord), Teresa Stratas (Julie), Bruce Hubbard (Joe) and Paige O'Hara (Ellie).

There have been three film versions of *Show Boat*. The first, in 1929, was in production when sound came to the screen, so some scrappy dialogue scenes were hastily inserted, as well as a sound prologue featuring Jules Bledsoe, Helen Morgan and Tess Gardella from the Broadway production, as well as Ziegfeld himself. Sadly no copy of this introduction is known to exist. Universal's 1936 remake featured Charles Winninger, Helen Morgan and Paul Robeson in their original roles, plus Irene Dunne (Magnolia), Allan Jones (Gaylord) and Hattie McDaniel (Queenie). The director was James Whale, best known for his contributions to the horror genre. Dunne, Jones and Winninger repeated their roles in a Lux Radio Theatre broadcast in 1940. There have been several other radio adaptations, including one with Orson Welles as an unlikely Cap'n Andy.

The 1936 production is preserved in the Library of Congress National Film Registry, and many critics regard it as superior to MGM's 1951 version. In truly glorious Technicolor, this featured Ava Gardner (Julie), Kathryn Grayson (Magnolia), Howard Keel (Gaylord), Joe E. Brown (Cap'n Andy), Marge and Gower Champion (Ellie and Frank), Agnes Moorehead (Parthy) and William Warfield (Joe). George Sidney directed.

While the part-talkie *Show Boat* was screening in Melbourne, the stage version docked at His Majesty's Theatre, where it had its Australian premiere on 3 August 1929. As was traditional with J.C. Williamson productions, the leads were imported: Nydia d'Arnell (Magnolia), Glen Dale (Ravenal) and Muriel Greel (Julie).

Local artists included Frederic Bentley (Cap'n Andy), June Mills (Queenie) and Colin Crane (Joe). Mills and Crane 'assumed sable make-up', prompting a reviewer to note: 'They gave a better impression of a member of a colored race by blacking their faces and acting brilliantly, than many real Negroes could by simply being themselves.' Nevertheless, there was a genuine 'colored' ballet of ten girls. Colin Crane's rendition of 'Ol' Man River' was such a showstopper that it became the highlight of his act when he later played the Tivoli. This led to a murky law case in which Williamson's sued for breach of copyright, while the Tiv ingeniously claimed that the song was really a traditional air. The case was eventually dropped on a technicality.



Barry Otto and Nancye Hayes as Cap'n Andy and Parthy in the 1998 Australian production

There is a strange link between today's federal parliament and this first Australian *Show Boat*. In it the small role of Pete was played by Oscar Lansbury, who was distantly related to actress Angela Lansbury. In 1929, during the Melbourne run, Oscar became the father of a girl, who – in honour of *Show Boat* – was christened Coral Magnolia Lansbury. Coral became an actor and playwright, and then a brilliant writer and academic. She married three times; her only child was born in 1954. His name is Malcolm Turnbull. We didn't see another professional staging of *Show Boat* until 1963. This was a joint production by the

Tivoli Circuit and the Melbourne-based Australian National Theatre Movement. Cid Ellwood directed, Angus Winneke designed the sets and costumes, and Sheila Cruze and David Hamilton created the choreography. The cast included some of the country's best musical theatre talent: Robert Gard (Ravenal), Dianne Barton (Magnolia), Joan Thomas (Julie), Eileen Hattam (Ellie), Colin Croft (Frank), Ernie Bourne (Cap'n Andy) and Judy Champ (Parthy). Jeanne Battye and Ormonde Douglas blacked up to play Queenie and Joe. In smaller roles were Tony Geappen and Jocelyn Terry, later familiar for her work on ABC radio and television. The production played at the Tivolis in Sydney and Melbourne.



Jeanne Battye and Colin Crane as Queenie and Joe in the 1963 Australian production

Australia's third *Show Boat* arrived in 1998. Harold Prince's Tony Award-winning 1994 Broadway version was chosen to launch the new Lyric Theatre at Sydney's Star City casino. It was co-presented by its Toronto-based producer, Garth Drabinsky's Livent Inc. and Melbourne-based Mariner Theatres. Again the cast featured some of Australia's finest talent: Barry Otto (Cap'n Andy), Nancye Hayes (Parthy), Marina Prior (Magnolia), Estelle Mays-Cotton (Julie), Philip Gould (Ravenal), Jacqui Rae (Ellie), Simon Hyland (Frank) and Anita Berry (Queenie). American bass Dan Tullis Jr played Joe.

In 2006 acclaimed American director Francesca Zambello created an elaborate semi-staged version for London's Royal Albert Hall. Two years later she restaged it at Carnegie Hall in New York and later came up with a major new 'grand opera style' production for the Lyric Opera of Chicago. This premiered in 2012 and is still touring the United States.

Nearly ninety years have passed since *Show Boat* was launched, and still it sails proudly on. And now it's back in Melbourne, as big, bright and beautiful as ever. Like the mighty river it celebrates so potently, it just keeps rolling along. All aboard!

© Frank Van Straten OAM

# ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Violin 1  
**Concertmaster: Tomomi Brennan**  
**Olga Vakoussevitch**  
**Lisa Reynolds**

Violin 2  
**Matthew Rigby**  
**Tim Veldman**

Viola  
**Catherine Bishop**  
**Matthew Laing**

Cello  
**Tania Hardy-Smith**  
**Zoe Wallace**

Double Bass  
**Matthew Thorne**

Flute/Piccolo  
**Michael Smith**

Oboe  
**Ben Opie**

Clarinet  
**Nick Evans**  
**Lloyd Vant Hoff**

Bassoon  
**Rolf Kuhlmann**

Horn  
**Anton Schroeder**  
**Sharon Hatton**

Trumpet  
**Greg Spence**  
**Michael Fraser**

Trombone  
**Chris Farrands**

Percussion  
**Jennifer Morrish**

Drum Kit  
**Matthias Edwards**

Guitar  
**John Paine**

Keyboards  
**Isaac Hayward**  
**Tony Toppi**

## MANAGEMENT

Artistic Director  
**Nicolette Fraillon**

Director Orchestral Operations  
 & Music Services  
**Julie Amos**

Operations Manager  
**Amelia Davies**

Operations Coordinator  
**Margaret Lloyd**

Librarian  
**Andrew Kimber**

Administration Assistant  
**Elise Lerpiniere**

## BOARD

**Carol Benson**  
**Tony Osmond**  
**Peter Smedley**

**Orchestra Victoria**

Ph (03) 9694 3600

Orchestralinfo@australianballet.com.au

www.australianballet.com.au



## JOHANNA ALLEN



Johanna has worked in musical theatre, opera, film, television, theatre and cabaret. She has a BA (Drama) and B.Mus. Perf(hons). She also studied at the Juilliard School in New York. Her New York credits include **Amadeus** (New York Theatre Project), **Macbeth** (Joseph Papp Public Theater), **The Crucible** (Ensemble NYC) and **Sweeney Todd** (BAM).

Johanna's Australian credits include **Ode to Nonsense** (Slingsby/State Opera of SA), **The Threepenny Opera** (Sydney Theatre Co/Malthouse), the Bakers Wife in **Into the Woods** (GFO/Rob Guest Endowment) **Wicked** and **Dr Zhivago** (GFO), Kate in **The Pirates of Penzance** (Opera Australia), Pitti Sing in **The Mikado** (Opera Australia) **An Evening with Jeremy Sams**, **Dead Man Walking** (State Theatre Sydney). Most recently, Johanna wrote and performed in **The Songs that Got Away** in Sydney and at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival and singing engagements at the Montreal International Jazz Festival and Melbourne International Festival.

## SHAUNTAI BATZKE



Shauntai Batzke is a developing artist with Short Black Opera Company and is the 2014 Harold Blair Opera Scholarship recipient with the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust.

Shauntai's credits include the role of Old Alice in **Pecan Summer**, the chorus of Short Black Opera, **Fidelio** for Melbourne Opera and **Corrugation Road** for Black Swan Theatre. Shauntai is also a gospel and inspirational singer and songwriter and a regular on Channel 9's **Wesley Impact**.

**Show Boat** marks Shauntai's first appearance with The Production Company. She is thrilled to be working with such an incredible team of artists on this exciting production.

## ANDREW BROADBENT



Andrew has performed in The Production Company's **Guys and Dolls**, **The Pirates of Penzance**, **Sugar**, **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**, **Damn Yankees**, **Camelot** and **South Pacific**. A Music Education graduate from Melbourne University and Music Theatre from WAAPA, he has appeared in major Australian productions and DVDs of **South Pacific** (Opera Australia) and **Love Never Dies** (Really Useful) as well as **The Addams Family** and **Jersey Boys** (Newtheatricals), **Priscilla: Queen of the Desert** (Backrow) and **Dirty Dancing** (JEL). Andrew has performed for Black Swan Theatre Company in **The Merry-Go-Round In The Sea** and **rendez-vous: an opera noir**, toured with The Hayloft Project's **Delectable Shelter** and will soon be appearing in MTC/GFO's production of **Once**. Television credits include **The Doctor Blake Mysteries** and **It's A Date**.

## STEFANIE DE CASTRO



Stefanie started training in dance at the age of four, completed VCE Dance in 2004 and was accepted into The National Theatre Ballet School full-time course in 2005, continuing to study commercial dance at Robert Sturrock's Industry Dance full-time course in 2006.

Stefanie performed aboard the Pacific Star Cruise Ship (P&O), and as a soloist and dancer in **Gypsy Moon** (Dion and Randall International) in Seoul. In 2012 Stefanie performed as an ensemble member in the Australian tour of **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** (TML). From 2013 to 2014 she toured Australia in **Grease** (GFO). Stefanie has also performed in **Dora The Explorer** for Nickelodeon, danced for the Australian Tours of Lady Gaga and Rihanna, performed on roller skates for Rolling Entertainment, was a finalist for **So You Think You Can Dance Australia** and performed internationally in circus shows in Brazil and Germany.

Stefanie is thrilled to be a part of **Show Boat** for The Production Company, and would like to thank her family, friends and teachers for their constant support.

## MATT HAMILTON



Matt is thrilled to be making his debut with The Production Company in **Show Boat**. Born and raised in the US, Matt has worked for Tokyo Disney Resort, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Disney Cruise Lines and Paramount Parks. In New York he trained at the Broadway Dance Center, Terry Schreiber Studios and One on One Productions. With multiple band credits as well as TV credits on **All My Children**, **One Life To Live** and **Rescue Me**, Matt now calls Melbourne home.

He was a part of the Australian tour of **Wicked** covering the roles of Fiyero, Dr Dillamond and Father. Following roles in several short films, Matt joined the cast of **Legally Blonde** covering the role of Emmett. Other credits include **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**, Rolf in **The Sound of Music**, a Priest in **Jesus Christ Superstar**, Bennie in **Guys and Dolls**, the Baker in **Into The Woods**, Judas in **Godspell** and **Damn Yankees**.

## WINSTON HILLYER



Since graduating from Rowville Secondary College in 2003, Winston pursued his studies at the VCA (Foundation year Musical Theatre) in 2005. Immediately following VCA he was invited to play Simba in the German Production of **The Lion King**, where he subsequently stayed and performed the role in over 1800 performances.

Other credits include two years touring Europe playing Berger in **Hair** followed by Judah in **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** and recently as lead singer for Cunard Cruises. Winston is very excited to return to Australia and make his Production Company debut with **Show Boat**. He wishes to thank his wife, family and IWM for their love and support.

## PAUL HUGHES



Paul is an experienced opera and concert artist. His engagements with Opera Australia include The Nazarene in **Salomé** and the national tour of **Pirates Of Penzance**, Seneca in **The Coronation Of Poppea**, Leporello in **Don Giovanni** and roles in **Ariadne Auf Naxos** for Victorian Opera, Morales in **Carmen** for Melbourne Opera, Baron Douphol in **La Traviata** for the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Captain Elliot in **Opium** at the Singapore Festival and in Hong Kong and **L'Enfant et les Sortilèges** and **The Long Christmas Dinner** for Melbourne International Festival.

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

## NADIA KOMAZEC



Nadia studied singing, dancing, and acting at her mother's dancing school, Barbara Jayne Dance Centre in Adelaide. She made her musical theatre debut playing the role of Brigitta in the SEL/GFO production of **The Sound of Music** and in 2006 she performed the role of Meg Giry in the Australasian touring production of **The Phantom of the Opera**. Nadia's other credits include the 10th Anniversary Australian tour of **Mamma Mia**, Cat Steven's world premiere of **Moonshadow The Musical**, the Australian tour of **Legally Blonde The Musical**, the role of Maggie in **A Chorus Line**, Michael Ralph's production of **Hollywood Honky-Tonk** and most recently, **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**.

## ANDREW KROENERT

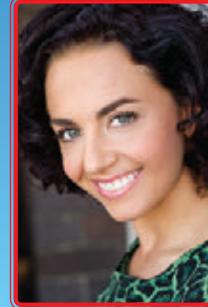


Andrew has a BA majoring in Music and Drama from Monash University. His performing credits include **Pacific Overtures** (Watch This), the Australian premiere cast of **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** (TML), **The Buddy Holly Story** (Showbiz Christchurch and LTPA), **I Can't Believe It's Not Countdown**, **Virgins** and **A Musical Threesome** (Echelon).

Film and television engagements include **Mornings With Kerrie Anne** and as vocal arranger and on screen conductor in the feature film **Knowing** (Ezekiel). His cast recordings include **Virgins; A Musical Threesome** and **Once We Lived Here**.

Andrew is also the Musical Director of the current National Tour of **Peppa Pig Live, Treasure Hunt** (Life Like Touring). Andrew is proudly represented by Ian White Management and has been a member of equity since 2008.

## BREE LANGRIDGE



Bree is a proud, Indigenous woman raised and trained as a singer and dancer in Hobart. She relocated to Melbourne where she graduated from Musical Theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Recent credits include a regional tour of **Queens of the Outback** (Simonsez Productions), the Australian Tour of **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** covering the role of Truly (TML Enterprises), **10 Days on the Island** and **Festival of Voices** in Hobart, **Wicked** in Sydney and on the 2010-12 Asian tour (GFO), a finalist in the 2011 Rob Guest Endowment, **Into The Woods**, **Down the Rabbit Hole**, the Australian tour of **Lazy Town Live** (Andrew Kay and Associates), **Yo Gabba Gabba Live Onstage** (Lifelike Touring) and **Tribe** for Anthony Crowley at Arts Centre Melbourne.

In 2008, Bree resided in Japan for a year where she played Wendy in Universal Studio's version of **Peter Pan** and Dorothy in **The Land of Oz**. Bree is excited to be making her Production Company debut with **Show Boat**.

## RUBIN MATTERS



Rubin Matters studied at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and then trained with the Ministry of Dance. Soon after graduating, Ruben was cast in the original Australian touring Production of **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** (TML Enterprises). More recently Ruben performed in Michael Ralph's **Hollywood Honky-Tonk**. His performance paid tribute to Fred Astaire and in contrast he also created the role of The Husband.

Rubin is currently working closely with Dana Jolly, Gary May and is studying acting at the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia.

Rubin is a proud member of Actors Equity, and would like to thank his family and his agent for their continuing love and support.

## DANIELLE MATTHEWS



Danielle Matthews is a Graduate of the VCA and the inaugural winner of the Rob Guest Endowment Award. Her theatre and concert credits include the voice of Shirley Bassey in **Where Do I Begin**, An Evening with Stephen Sondheim, **Respect the Musical** (Australia Tour), **Big Band Beat** (Tokyo Disney), **Another Opening Another Show** (Manilla St Productions) **Ship of Fools** (Gary Young), **TRIBE** (Anthony Crowley), **Twisted Broadway**, **Light the Night**, **Hats Off** For Sondheim, **Musical Melodies**, **Carols by Candlelight**, **Morning Melodies**, **Sing for a Cure**, The Rob Guest Endowment Concert and The Helpmann Awards.

She released her debut classical album Dream Song with Move Records Australia.

Danielle is the Victorian Ambassador for the Miracle Babies foundation of Australia and recorded their theme song My Miracle.

## BRONTE MUIR



Bronte began her love for performing at the age of three at the May Downs School of Dance, where she continues to study all genres of dancing, singing, acting and musical theatre. Bronte has successfully performed in numerous dance competitions, winning aggregates and tap championships.

Professional theatre roles already include playing Tessie in the Melbourne season of *Annie*, *Romeo and Juliet* for The Australian Ballet and *The Candy Man* and *Gypsy* for Nova.

Bronte wishes to thank her family, her dance teacher Miss Renie Ann Martini and Alisa Meadow from Triple Talent Management for all their support.

## DAVID OUCH



A recent graduate from WAAPA, David trained in dance from a young age. He studied at the Australian Dance Performance Institute and the Queensland University of Technology.

Roles at WAAPA include Herold/Ford in *Assassins*, Ching Ho in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Agwe God of Water in *Once On This Island*, Wenst Robel in *Spring Awakening* and Dr Pinch in *The Comedy of Errors*.

David was chosen as one of the Andrew Sisters Tribute in a production of *Privates on Parade* earlier this year. He is thrilled to be making his Production Company debut in *Show Boat*.

## EMILY PADDON-BROWN



Emily trained at NASDA prior to gaining a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theatre from WAAPA. She made her professional debut in *Guys and Dolls*, in which she was understudy for the role of Sarah Brown played by Lisa McCune. Other stage credits include the Korean tour of *Jekyll and Hyde* understudying the lead role of Emma, *Breast Wishes* and *Macbeth*. Most recently Emily was first understudy in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Emily's screen credits include the feature films *Only The Good Die Young* and *Last of The Living* as well as many short and corporate films including *The Melbourne Appreciation Society*.

Emily is thrilled to debut with The Production Company in *Show Boat*.

## JOHN WAYNE PARSONS



John Wayne Parsons is a Yugerra and Ugar man with a high baritone voice and is a developing artist with Short Black Opera Company.

John's performance experience includes singing with The Café at the Gates of Salvation, performing lead and ensemble roles in Australian's first Aboriginal opera *Pecan Summer*, *Fidelio* for Melbourne Opera and also providing backing vocals for various artists including the legendary Archie Roach.

John is excited to be working with The Production Company for their season of *Show Boat* and sees this as a great opportunity towards living his dream of classical singing and performing.

## JENNIFER PEERS

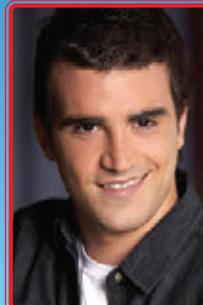


Jennifer is a music theatre graduate from WAAPA and has a Bachelor of Music (Voice) from the Queensland Conservatorium.

Jennifer made her West End debut in London as the lead soprano in *Shoes*. She also played the role of Miss Lark in the Australasian tour of *Mary Poppins* and most recently, the role of Isabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Other credits include Karen in the BBC drama *The Kangaroo Gang: Thieves By Appointment*, Sharon/Sophie cover in the UK tour of *Master Class*, *57 Hours* at the National Theatre Studio London, Peaches in *Jerry Springer the Opera*, *My Fair Lady*, Frieda/Betty in *Sunday In The Park With George* and Minnie Davies in the original cast of *The Hatpin*.

## ANTHONY PEPE



Anthony is a 2009 WAAPA graduate. He made his professional debut in 2008 alongside stage legend Debbie Reynolds in Peach Productions *Irene In Concert*. Anthony's WAAPA credits include Benny in *Rent*, Andy Lee in *42nd Street* and Matt Galloway in *The Laramie Project*. In 2010, Anthony played the role of Will Parker in IAJ Internationals *Oklahoma!*

For The Production Company he has appeared in *The Boy from Oz*, *Sugar*, *Anything Goes*, the second season of *The Boy from Oz*, in which he covered and performed the role of Greg, *The Producers* and *Chess*. In 2013/14 Anthony toured Australia in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* understudying and performing the role of the Child catcher.

## TIMOTHY SPRINGS



Timothy studied at the Juilliard School in New York and the Manhattan School of Music.

Timothy has toured the United States with Wynton Marsalis and performed at the Lincoln Center in *Abyssinian A Gospel Celebration*. Other American credits include Fred in *Smokey Joe's Cafe* with the Ocean City Theatre Company, Duane in *Hairspray*, Riah in *Rip Tide*, Doo Wop Singer in *Book of Love*, *Aida* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, Bongo in *Benny the Baboon* at the Manhattan Rep Theater, the Joe understudy in *Show Boat* with Opera Naples. Nubian/Mereb understudy in *Aida* the musical at SSMT. Off-Broadway credits include *Mama I want to Sing*. He toured throughout Europe in *Porgy and Bess*.

Timothy is thrilled to be making his Production Company debut in *Show Boat* with this amazing cast!

[www.TimothySprings.com](http://www.TimothySprings.com)

## AMALIA STRAMOTAS



Amalia is 13 years old and is in year seven at Sacre Coeur. She has a passion for dance and studies ballet, tap, jazz, singing and acrobatics at Crazy Feet Dance Studio. Amalia's first professional engagement was in the ensemble for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*'s Melbourne season.

She is thrilled to be performing the role of Kim in The Production Company's season of *Show Boat*, and would like to thank her family, Katie from Crazy Feet and Alisa Meadow from Triple Talent Management for all their support.

## DARREN TYLER - DANCE CAPTAIN



Darren's theatre credits include the Australasian production of *Cats* (RUG), *Miss Saigon* (Cameron Mackintosh/ LWAA) as Dance Captain, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* as Dance Captain and assistant to Choreographer Dana Jolly (The Production Company), *Saturday Night Fever* as Bobby C (DAE), *Show Boat* (Livent/Marriner), *Happy Days* (Paul Dainty), *Pan* where he understudied and performed the role of Peter Pan (M.E.A.G./Kevin Jacobson),

*Anything Goes* (The Production Company) Dance Captain in *Oliver* (Cameron Mackintosh/IMG), *Legally Blonde* (GFO), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and John Frost's production of *Annie*, where he also worked as Resident Director.

Darren is delighted to return to the stage with The Production Company.

## DEAN VINCE



Dean graduated from WAAPA in 2002. His credits include *Cats*, *Damn Yankees*, *Chicago* (Green room Award-Ensemble Performance), *The Producers*, *Chess*, *Promises Promises*, *The Venetian Twins* and the world premieres of *Dirty Dancing*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *KING KONG*.

Dean played Gangle in *Love Never Dies* (Green Room Nomination) and also features in the hugely successful filmed version of the production.

Most recently Dean played the role of Munkustrap in the 2014 Harvest Rain Theatre Production of *Cats*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support.

Dean is a proud member of Equity.

## ROGER HODGMAN - DIRECTOR



This is the tenth musical Roger has directed for The Production Company. He has directed well over a hundred plays, musicals and operas in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and England as well as many hours of television drama.

He was Artistic Director of MTC for twelve years until 1999 (Green Room Awards for Best Director for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *A Little Night Music*). Before that he was Dean of Drama at the VCA and Artistic Director of the Vancouver Playhouse, where he collaborated with Tennessee Williams on premieres of two plays.

Highlights of his busy freelance career since leaving MTC include many episodes of *A Secret Life of Us* (AFI best director nomination) and *Stepfather of the Bride* (Telemovie by Geoffrey Atherden, Chicago Film Festival Award for Best Telemovie). In the last three years he has directed *Grey Gardens* (Helpmann Award for Best Director), several episodes of *Packed to the Rafters*, the first episode of *A Place To Call Home*, *Don Pasquale* (Opera Australia, Tokyo, Sydney), *Rigoletto* (OA, Sydney, Melbourne), the National tour of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Nixon in China* (Vic Opera, Green Room award for Best Production), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Sydney Critics Award for Best Musical) and *As You Like It* for Black Swan.

## KELLIE DICKERSON - MUSICAL DIRECTOR



Kellie is recipient of a Bachelor of Music (Honours, Performance) from the University of Sydney, the Donald Peart Memorial Award for Music, the Brian Stacey Memorial Trust Scholarship to Young Conductors and a place in the Symphony Australia Young Conductor's Programme.

Her career began as pianist/keyboardist on *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon* (both Cameron Mackintosh), *Turandot* (Opera Australia) and *The Three Divas*, continuing as assistant or associate musical director with *Beauty and the Beast* (Disney/Jacobsen Entertainment), *Show Boat* (LiveEnt/Marriner Productions), *The Sound of Music*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Producers* (Gordon Frost Organisation), *The Mikado* (Carl Rosa Opera Company), and *The Witches of Eastwick* (Cameron Macintosh/Jacobsen Entertainment).

As musical director and/or conductor, engagements include *Amici Forever* (Sydney Opera House), *Die Fledermaus* and *The Merry Widow* (Opera Queensland), *Respect* (Jim McPherson), *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (The Production Company), *Australia Plays Broadway* (Carnegie Hall) and *Wicked* (Gordon Frost Organisation/Marc Platt/Universal) for which she won a Green Room Award. As the late Rob Guest's musical director Kellie toured Australia and New Zealand extensively, and with the establishment of an Endowment in his name she continues to be dedicated to the development of young singers, musicians and technicians in our industry.

Kellie was involved in the development of the new Australian musical, *Strange Bedfellows* (Instinct Entertainment), and was honoured to conduct the Australian premiere season of *Dr Zhivago* (GFO). More recently she conducted the Australian premiere of *Grey Gardens* for The Production Company, supervised the Korean language production of *Dr Zhivago*, and continues to supervise *Wicked* for the Australasian tour. Through 2012/2013 she was the musical director for the Australian production of *Legally Blonde*, and joined the supervising team for the Korean language production of *Wicked*.

Earlier 2014 Kellie traveled on a Churchill Fellowship for professional studies in new music theatre works (New York and Boston), and later this year will be a part of the team supervising the Melbourne and Seoul premieres of *Once* (GFO, MTC). She is thrilled to be working on a revival of *Show Boat* with The Production Company, celebrating one of the great scores of musical theatre.

## DANA JOLLY - CHOREOGRAPHER



Dana's career began at the age of nine, when she played Gypsy Rose Lee as a child in *Gypsy* at Her Majesty's Theatre Melbourne. She trained at the Victorian College of Arts and after graduation, danced with the Victorian State Opera and the Australian Contemporary Dance Company.

Dana spent ten years in London, performing and choreographing in the UK, Europe, Scandinavia and Japan. Shows included Wayne Sleep's *Hollywood and Broadway*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*, The Royal Variety Performance, British Music Awards, National Music Express Awards, Winter Olympics in Norway, various fashion, corporate and hair shows, TV, film, video clips, world pop tours, and the Miss World Competition. Dana has worked with Ray Charles, Madonna, Prince, East 17, Cliff Richard, The Kinks, Ewan McGregor, Ray Charles, Michael Ball and Michael Crawford to name just a few.

Various projects in Australia include choreography for several Australian pop artists, corporate jobs for companies such as Crown Casino, Australia Post and The Liberal Party and several television commercials for Channel 9. For three years she was choreographer and movement consultant to Melbourne's Moomba Parade and Water Festival. Dana was Resident Choreographer for the Australian production of *We Will Rock You*, and *The Producers*, before choreographing a cast of 2,000 dancers and puppeteers in Citrawarna Colours Of Malaysia Festival celebrating 50 years of Independence. Dana choreographed two productions for The Victorian Opera and the cabaret show *Everybody Loves Rhonda* for the opening of The Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

Dana's Musical Theatre credits include *Respect* the musical starring Rhonda Burchmore, the recent Australian tour of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the Sydney premiere of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. For The Production Company she has choreographed *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me, Kate!*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Little Me*, *Follies*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Show Boat*.

Dana also runs her own entertainment company, Voltage International Productions, and is in demand as a freelance teacher throughout Melbourne and Australia. She dedicates all her work to her late parents, who made this all possible, and Ewen and Darcy.

## ISAAC LUMMIS - COSTUME DESIGNER



Isaac graduated in 2005 from Curtin University with a Bachelors degree in Fashion and Textile design. Since 2008, he has been the resident costume designer and wardrobe coordinator at the DEECD Performing Arts Unit. Whilst with the Performing Arts Unit Isaac has designed the costumes for the **2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013 Victorian State Schools Spectaculars**. He also designed the costumes for their 2009 production of *Barnum*.

Isaac designed *Promises, Promises* for The Production Company in 2012. His other costume design credits include *My Life in the Nude* for Maude Davey, *Rush Hour* for Victorian Opera, *La Cage Aux Folles* for Quirky Productions, *Melbourne Loves the Burlesque Hour*, *Glory Box* & *Caravan Burlesque* for Finucane & Smith, *Waltzing the Willara* for Yirra Yaakin, *The Greeks - Electra & Orestes* for NIDA Open Program, *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 STEPS* Youth Dance Company.

Isaac has also worked as a maker and art-finisher on other projects such as *Irene in Concert* for Peach Productions, *Strange Bedfellows - A New Musical* for Instinct Entertainment and McLaren House, *Singin' in the Rain*, *The King & I* and *The Boy from Oz* for The Production Company, *The Drivers Wife* for Steamworks Productions, *Velveteen Rabbit* for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre and *The Odyssey* for Malthouse Theatre and Black Swan Theatre.

## CHRISTINA SMITH - SET DESIGNER



Christina has worked extensively as a set and costume designer throughout Australia since graduating from WAAPA in 1995.

Recent productions include *La Traviata*, *Madame Butterfly* (NZ Opera), *Elling*, *National Interest*, *Clybourne Park*, *A Behanding In Spokane*, *Boston Marriage*, *Blackbird*, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf*, *Clean House* and *Things We Do For Love* (MTC), *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), *Troupers* (STC), *Mother Courage and her Children* (QTC), *The Marriage of Figaro* (costumes), *The Magic Flute* (costumes), *The Turn of the Screw* and *Cosi fan tutte* (Victorian Opera), *Personal Best* (costumes) (Australian Ballet) and *Ruby Moon* and *Inside 01* (Playbox).

In 2005 Christina won the Green Room Award for Theatre Design for *Honour*, *Daylight Atheist* (MTC) and *Julia 3* (Playbox), having been nominated for the same award several times in preceding and following years. Other design projects include the scenic elements for the Tim Burton exhibition at ACMI, the renovation of the Circa Theatre installation at the National Museum of Australia and the 2006 Commonwealth Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies as part of the design team.

## MATT SCOTT - LIGHTING DESIGNER



For the past twenty years Matt has lit over two hundred productions for theatre, opera and dance. He returns to The Production Company this year, having previously lit *Grey Gardens*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *42nd Street*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Oklahoma!*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me, Kate!* and *They're Playing Our Song*. Other companies he has worked with include Opera Australia, Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Company B Belvoir, Bell Shakespeare, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Victorian Opera, Expressions Dance Company, Queensland Ballet and New Zealand Opera.

His most recent credits include *The Red Shoes* (Expressions Dance Company), *The Magic Flute* (OzOpera), *Rigoletto* (Opera Australia), *La Traviata* (New Zealand Opera and State Opera of South Australia), *As You Like It* and *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).

Matt has been nominated for and received numerous awards, most recently receiving a 2005 Helpmann Award for his lighting on *Urinetown* for MTC which followed his 2003 Helpmann Award win for *The Blue Room*, for the same company.

## CORRINE DAY - WIG DESIGNER

Corrine began her career in wigs back in 1981 with Reg Livermore in *Barnum*. Since then she has worked and toured on a myriad of Australian musicals including *Jerry's Girls*, *Anything Goes*, *Song and Dance*, *Big River*, *Wizard of Oz*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Cabaret*, *The King and I*, *The Boy from Oz*, *Chicago* and *Dusty*. Corinne also toured internationally with stars such as Torvill and Dean, Sarah Brightman and Anthony Warlow.

As well as her work on musical theatre, Corinne has created wigs and make up for many concerts, plays including Max Gillies' *The Big Con* and *Steel Magnolias*, casino shows and television programs such as *Beyond 2000*, *Country Practice* and *The Middy Show with Ray Martin*.

Corinne has been involved with The Production Company since its inception in 1999 and had created wigs and make up for many productions.



## SYSTEM SOUND

The System Sound team has engineered many productions throughout Australasia over the last thirty-three years including *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of The Opera*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Spamalot*, *The Producers*, *We Will Rock You*, *Billy Elliot*, *Rock of Ages*, *Love Never Dies*, *Jersey Boys*, *War horse*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Addams Family* and currently, *Wicked*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *The Phantom of The Opera* tour and *Les Misérables*.

## JOHN SCANDRETT

Managing Director, John started System Sound in 1979 with a staff and technical crew of creative sound engineers with unmatched experience in musical theatre. The System Sound team has designed and engineered the sound for forty-eight Production Company musicals and 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* and *King Kong*.

Current productions include *Wicked*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *The Phantom of The Opera* world tour and *Les Misérables*, and opening soon *Once*.

## KELVIN GEDYE

Kelvin has designed, supervised and mixed numerous musicals over the last twenty-five years, including *CATS*, *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of The Opera*, *West Side Story*, *Show Boat* and *Fiddler on the Roof* and associated on The Production Company's *Mame*, *Mack & Mabel*, *The Music Man*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Sweet Charity*, *Kiss Me, Kate!*, *The Producers*, and *Promises, Promises*.

Kelvin's Sound Design for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* was nominated for a Green Room Award. He is currently managing the sound production for the Australasian tour of *Wicked* and designed the sound for *Mother and Son* at the Comedy Theatre.

## MARK BENSON

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

He has worked on many musicals such as *The Pirates of Penzance*, *My Fair Lady*, *Iolanthe*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and The Production Company's *Hair*, *Kiss Me, Kate!* and *Oklahoma*.

With System Sound, Mark supervised and the Hong Kong and Macau Handover Farewell Concerts, and Mahler's 8<sup>th</sup> for the Olympic Arts Festival, and for the MSO at the Exhibition Buildings.

## THE PRODUCTION COMPANY IS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF THESE PATRONS

Annette Allison  
Maurice & Helen Alter - Pacific Shopping Centres P/L  
Isaiah Ambrose  
Bruce Armstrong & Assoc. Pty Ltd  
Robyn & Ted Baillieu  
John & Meredith Baldwin  
Joan & Ian Ball  
John & Rosemary Barr  
Marilyn & Peter Bartels AO  
Bruce & Adela Bartrop  
J. G. & Elizabeth Bate  
Judy Becher  
Trevor W. Brown AM  
Linda Bruce & Alan Tootell  
Ita Buttrose AO, OBE  
Terry Campbell AO & Christine Campbell  
Maria Casalbuono & Tania De Carli  
Robert Cavaggon & David Freeman  
Chef's Hat Australia Pty Ltd  
Shani Cossins  
Brendan & Kerrin Danaher  
Brian M. Davis  
Margaret & John Dickman  
Matt & Lina Duckworth  
Jeff & Jenny Egan  
Mrs Susan Fry  
Geoffrey Gannoni  
Raphael & Fiona Geminder & Family  
Peter & Judith Gipps  
Adele Givoni  
Alan & Rachel Goldberg  
John & Marg Goodall  
Alan & Wendy Guest of Guest Nominees Pty Ltd  
Matt & Clare Handbury  
Paula Hansky OAM & Jack Hansky AM  
Brian J. Hurlock  
Dr Alastair Jackson  
Christopher Jackson  
David A. Jackson  
Mrs Amy Jasper  
Mr Paul Jasper  
Judy Johnstone  
Mrs Merle Joseph  
Robert & Mem Kirby, Village Roadshow  
Coral Knowles  
George Krawat  
Krulis Family Endowment  
Miriam & Michael Lasky  
Geraldine Lazarus & Greig Gailey  
Rosie & Solomon Lew & Family  
John & Erin Lidgerwood  
Eve Mahlab AO & Frank Mahlab

Annette Maluish  
Miike McGuire  
Robert & Nicole McIntosh  
Victoria McLellan  
In memory of David McMullan  
Dr Mark & Dr Alla Medownick  
Roslyn & Tom Morris  
Dr Chris Moss  
Mrs Joan Muir  
Donald Murray  
Dr Flaviana (Nervo)-Benedetti  
Barry Novy & Family  
Genevieve Nunan  
Diane & Glen Orwin  
James Ostrobuski  
Jenny & Stuart Packer - Airtron Services Pty Ltd  
A. J. Potter  
John Prescott AC & Jennifer Prescott  
Quest Clocktower Serviced Apartments  
Gina Rentzis  
Sara & Syd Robenstone  
Kay Rodda  
Lois Roffey  
Jan Rogers  
RR Partners  
Vince & Kelly Sabatino  
Alfredo & Mirella Salera  
Michael Sassella  
Max & Jill Schultz  
Max & Ziva Shavitsky  
Gerard Sheehan & Children  
Gary Singer & Geoffrey Smith  
The Jack & Robert Smorgan Families Foundation  
Mrs Margery E. Snowball  
Ezekiel Solomon  
The Spencely Family  
Ron & Anne Stobaus  
The Sunraysia Foundation  
Eva Sweet  
Dr Susan Trainor  
Michael Troy  
Peter Varagiannis & Aphrodite Mandikos  
Leon & Sandra Velik  
Alex & Heloise Waislitz & Family  
Ruth Waislitz  
Philip Webb  
Nathan & Nechama Werdiger  
Paul Wheelton OAM  
Brian Wilson & Robert Burkitt  
Dr Peter Wylie Johnston  
Helen M. Yorston  
Aaron Zachariusz  
Anonymous (5)

TODD MCKENNEY AND SIMON BURKE IN

# LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

22 NOVEMBER – 7 DECEMBER

**EY**  
Building a better  
working world



**TICKETS SELLING FAST!**

CALL ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE 1300 182 183  
OR VISIT [TICKETMASTER.COM.AU](http://TICKETMASTER.COM.AU)