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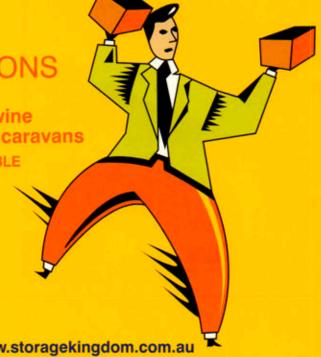
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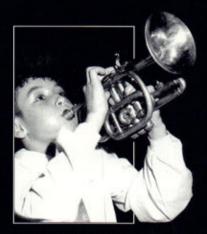
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DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY ROSS COLEMAN

STATE THEATRE, VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE 22 - 25 May 2002



ROSS COLEMAN (WINTHROP) TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY, 1960

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

It has been a daunting but delicious challenge bringing *The Music Man* to you after only twelve days in the rehearsal room. Such a challenge can only be taken on with the collaboration and dedication of a highly skilled cast, orchestra and creative team such as those with whom I have been blessed to work.

I have a deep nostalgia and affection for this musical, having played Winthrop in the original production at the Tivoli Theatre in Sydney in 1960. It was impossible for me to resist the offer to revisit and direct this production in 2002. I thank The Production Company for the opportunity.

Throughout my career I have always been spellbound by the ambience of the final days in the rehearsal room. There with the performers in their rehearsal skirts and the makeshift set pieces and props is an unadorned purity of the work, almost naked, creativity exposed, yet oh so charming. This has been the inspiration for the style of this semi-staged concert version of *The Music Man*.

We welcome you to share with us the joy, brilliance and unashamed romance of Meredith Willson's musical theatre gem, in his own words...'a valentine'.

Ross Coleman

Director / Choreographer

Colema





CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to River City, lowa circa 1912 - the setting for the first musical in our Season 2002. *The Music Man* is a warm tribute to the birthplace of Meredith Willson and the lowans he grew up with. This show is a favourite with audiences who have a nostalgic love of both the recorded stage version starring Robert Preston and Barbara Cook and the colourful film starring Preston and Shirley Jones. In the latter Academy Award-winning director Ron Howard played little Winthrop Paroo. It was with real pleasure that we learned our director Ross Coleman performed the role in 1960/1 in Australia. We hope you enjoy his affectionate tribute tonight.

The Music Man is a tale of personality and the power of music. The spirit in which River City adopts its boys band is the same spirit that brings our musicals to life. Thank you to our company - artists, musicians, children, parents, The Eltham High School Symphonic Band, stage management and crew, designers and the creative team - for their passion and talents. And of course to our wonderful sponsors - individuals and corporations who value the arts and share our vision for bringing first class entertainment to the stage. We share the sentiments of Harold Hill as he allows "I always think there's a band, kid". Long may it play!

Warm regards,

Jeanne Pratt AO Chairman

PRODUCTION



'A Show With a Lot of Love': The marvel of The Music Man

BY FRANK VAN STRATEN OAM

monument to golden unpretentiousness and wholesome fun - one of the happiest chemical explosions to hit the street since John Philip Sousa himself marched grandly into town.' That's how Time magazine hailed *The Music Man* when it exploded onto the stage of New York's Majestic Theatre on 19 December 1957 with all the spellbinding dazzle of a Fourth of July skyrocket.

On that sensational opening night, as the cast marched smartly on stage for the final reprise of 'Seventy Six Trombones' the enraptured audience began to clap to the infectious, compelling rhythm. It had never happened before in any theatre anywhere. But it happened at the end of every one of the 1375 joyous performances of *The Music Man's* initial run. And it's still happening.

The triumph of *The Music Man* was all the more remarkable because it was the creation of a fifty five year-old musician and disc jockey with absolutely no Broadway credentials. His name was Meredith Willson and he was born in 1902 in Mason City, lowa - the town that was the inspiration for *The Music Man's* River City. After studies at the Julliard School of Music in New York he joined the band of 'The March King', the illustrious John Philip Sousa. Playing piccolo and flute, he toured with

Sousa through Europe, Mexico and Cuba. Later he composed and conducted for radio, films and television.

Willson loved to reminisce about his idyllic Mason City childhood and his adventures with Sousa - so much so that one day Frank Loesser suggested that he had the basis for a musical. 'Maybe you can play the fire chief,' said the creator of *Guys and Dolls*,' and maybe, instead of a pit orchestra, you can have a real brass band.'

Willson rashly accepted the challenge: he would write not only the music and lyrics, but the book as well. Over the next eight years he composed over forty songs and produced more than thirty revisions of the script, which he called *The Silver Triangle*. Eventually, towards the end of 1956, Willson and his wife played and sang the entire show for producer Kermit Bloomgarden. Next morning Bloomgarden phoned him: 'Meredith,' he said, 'may I have the privilege of producing your beautiful play?'

As soon as Morton DaCosta came on board as director, the search began for a suitable Professor Harold Hill. Danny Kaye, their first choice, knocked it back, as did Gene Kelly. Dan Dailey didn't even







(LEFT) BARBARA COOK (MARIAN PAROO) AND ROBERT PRESTON (HAROLD HILL) BROADWAY PRODUCTION, 1957

(ABOVE) SHIRLEY JONES (MARION PAROO), RON HOWARD (WINTHROP) AND PERT KELTON (MRS PAROO) IN THE MOVIE THE MUSIC MAN, 1962

turn up for the audition. Other rejects included Ray Bolger, Jason Robards, Art Carney, Jackie Gleason and Milton Berle.

It was DaCosta who suggested Robert Preston. Though he was a skilled screen and stage actor, Preston had no experience as a singer. After a crash course with a vocal coach he mastered Willson's tongue twisting lyrics, investing them with debonair humour and panache. Casting the role of Marian was not as difficult. Thirty-year-old soprano Barbara Cook, whom DaCosta had directed in *Plain*

usie Ma

and Fancy, was a natural choice.

Next came the challenge of finding the \$300 000 needed to finance the production, by now retitled The Music Man. CBS, who had made millions from

their investment in My Fair Lady, decided that Willson's show was corny and turned it down. So did other potential major investors like NBC and Decca. After six dispiriting months, Bloomgarden wheedled the money from dozens of small investors in amounts as modest as \$1000.

Frank Loesser, who'd suggested the project in the first place, was active behind the scenes. He became associate producer, published the score, and controlled the show's performing rights; and he is said to have 'ghosted' the lovely song 'My White

Knight', which reworks two themes from his Most Happy Fella score.

Long weeks of rehearsing, refining and reshaping were followed by the inevitable out-of-town tryouts. One of DaCosta's most innovative adjustments came in Philadelphia. Concerned that audiences seemed indifferent to the brilliant, intricate lyrics of 'Rock Island', the all-important opening number, he decided to silence the orchestra and let the complex antiphonal lyrics take centre stage. It worked brilliantly.

And so, in December 1957, The Music Man marched jauntily onto Broadway. Soon it joined My Fair Lady, Bells are Ringing and West Side Story as one of the hottest tickets in town. It was awarded no fewer than

six Tonys, including Best Musical, Best Actor (Preston) and Best Actress (Cook). The cast album garnered the first ever Grammy Award for a Broadway musical.

In 1961 The Music Man crossed the Atlantic, notching up 395 performances at the Adelphi Theatre in London. There the plum role of Harold Hill went to Van Johnson; prior to his Hollywood career he'd appeared in several Broadway shows including New Faces of 1936 and Too Many Girls. Many years later, in 1985, he replaced Gene Barry in La Cage Aux Folles.



ROBERT PRESTON LEADS "SEVENTY-SIX TROMBONES" IN THE MOVIE THE MUSIC MAN. 1962

London's Marian was Patricia Lambert and the cameo role of her little brother, Winthrop, went to a bright thirteen year-old called Dennis Waterman, sporting a missing front tooth and an engaging lisp.

When Warner Brothers announced a film of The Music Man in 1962, Cary Grant good-humouredly refused Jack Warner's offer of the lead role: 'Not only won't I play it, but unless Robert Preston plays it, I won't even go to see it!' So Preston marched into Hollywood, along with director DaCosta, choreographer Onna White and several other members of the Broadway company. But not Barbara Cook - Shirley Jones was cast as Marian Paroo. Winthrop was played by child star Ronny Howard, later famous as Richie in TV's Happy Days and now a respected Hollywood director. The movie received a Best Picture nomination at the Academy Awards, but lost to Lawrence of Arabia, though Ray Heindorf's splendid musical direction was recognised with an Oscar.

Preston went on to further success on Broadway in I Do! I Do! (1966) and Mack & Mabel (1974) and on screen in Mame (1973) and Victor/Victoria (1982). He died in 1987. Willson, conversely, never repeated the glory of The Music Man. The Unsinkable Molly Brown (1960) and Here's Love (1963) were pallid attempts to recapture its warmth and nostalgia, and his last show, a Christopher Columbus operetta called 1491, closed during its Los Angeles tryout in 1969. In 1980 Dick Van Dyke starred as Harold Hill in a

revival at New York's City Center. Sadly, it managed a mere twenty one performances. Meredith Willson died four years later.

Twenty years passed before Broadway rediscovered The Music Man - and again a suitable Harold Hill proved elusive. Tom Hanks, Scott Bakula, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin and Matthew Broderick were possibilities, but ultimately the honour went to charismatic but little-known actor Craig Bierko, with Rebecca Luker as Marian, Susan Stroman directed. It was a triumph. Daily Variety called it a 'happy, hummable, picture-book-pretty show.' After a year, Bierko was replaced by Eric McCormack (Will of TV's Will and Grace), and then Robert Sean Leonard (Neil Perry in Dead Poets' Society). The revival was so successful that a television movie version was announced, with Matthew Broderick (fresh from the stage version of The Producers) starring as Harold Hill, and Kristen Chenoweth as Marian Paroo. The production will premiere on the American ABC network in September this year.

The Music Man Down Under

Thanks to the enterprise of Garnet H. Carroll and his son, John, Australians got to see *The Music Man* a full twelve months before Londoners. Their production, the first outside New York, opened at the <u>Princess</u> Theatre in Melbourne on 5 March







(LEFT) LAURIE FRANKS (MARION PAROO) AND ROSS COLEMAN (WINTHROP) TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY, 1960 (ABOVE) TED SCOTT (HAROLD HILL) AND ROSS COLEMAN (WINTHROP) TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY, 1960

1960, cheekily challenging *My Fair Lady* at Her Majesty's, Tommy Steele at the Tivoli, and Maurice Chevalier at the Comedy.

The Carrolls imported four Americans with modest Broadway credentials: Ted Scott and Carolyn Maye to play Harold Hill and Marian; Harding Dorn to choreograph and also play Tommy; and John Fearnley to direct. Local recruits included Al Mack, Malcolm Phillips, Gordon Wilcock, Lorenzo Nolan, Jeanne Battye and Lorna Forbes. Verdon Williams conducted, Paul Hammond was associate choreographer, Dresford Hardingham designed the sets and costumes and Harry Starling was stage manager.

The first night was one of the most joyous in the Princess' long history. As Winthrop Paroo, 14-yearold Andrew Maver of Glenroy earned an encore with 'Gary, Indiana'. At the end the audience cheered and clapped along, Broadway-style. The reviews were ecstatic. In The Age, Geoffrey Hutton said, This is one of the few first nights I have known where there never seemed any doubt about the verdict. Garnet Carroll has a hit on his hands!' The Herald's H.A. Standish, recalling the sweaty opening night of My Fair Lady, predicted the show would make enough money to get Melbourne its second air conditioned theatre, and Howard Palmer, in The Sun said, There is absolutely nothing wrong with this show. Mr Carroll has just put his Christmas attraction on a little early, that's all!'

When the show transferred to the Sydney Tivoli in December 1960, there were some notable changes of personnel: Marian was played by Laurie Franks, whose husband, Dobbs Franks, was conducting West Side Story in Melbourne. Reuben Fineberg was in charge of the orchestra and Ivan King was stage manager. And the role of Winthrop went to an eager youngster called Ross Coleman - the very same Mr Coleman who is directing this new production!

And so a new Harold Hill is ready to Pied Pipe us back to River City, back to an era when life was simpler, show tunes were memorable and musicals had happy endings. As Meredith Willson recalled, I thought the time had come to send the public out of the theatre light-hearted instead of depressed. I wanted this to be a story about a charming renegade who reforms, a show with a lot of love and no hate, one that a sophisticated viewer could see with pleasure and that a child could watch with understanding. The job of the theatre is not to feed pessimism, but to dispel it.'

(c) Frank Van Straten OAM

Frank is a theatre historian, author, presenter of ABC Radio's popular Nostalgia Show and former director of the Performing Arts Museum, Victorian Arts Centre. At present he is working on a comprehensive history of the Tivoli Circuit.

Rob Guest is principally a theatre performer with thirty-six leading roles to his credit. These include the title roles in Jesus Christ Superstar, Pippin, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Barnum, Half A Sixpence and Grease.

He has toured the world extensively appearing everywhere from Korea to Czechoslovakia, where he performed to a television audience of over 400 million people. Rob won the trophy at the Korean Song Festival in 1978 and was voted New Zealand's Professional Performer of the Year that same year. In 1979 in New Zealand, he was voted Entertainer of the Year and Male Recording Artist of the Year. He also taped his own television special in conjunction with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

1981 took Rob to Las Vegas where he performed at the Dunes Hotel for 8 months then Harrahs Hotel, Atlantic City, Reno and Lake Tahoe.

In 1985 Rob won the coveted F.I.D.O.F. Award in Los Angeles for his performance at the World Song Festival in America.

Rob's musical theatre engagements have seen him performing throughout Australia in the role of Jean Val Jean in *Les Miserables,* for which he received a Best Male Performer in a Leading Role Green Room Award in 1991. In 1992 and 1993 Rob was awarded the Best New Zealand Theatrical Performer of the Year for his roles in *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

On New Year's Day 1994, Rob received an OBE for his services to the New Zealand Entertainment Industry. In 1995 Rob travelled to London at the invitation of Cameron Mackintosh to appear in the 10th Anniversary Concert Performance of *Les Miserables* at the Royal Albert Hall.

On television Rob has hosted Man O Man for Grundy Television and the special Missing Pieces, both for the Seven Network.

Rob's CD entitled Unmasked is available in record stores both in Australia and New Zealand.

In 1998 Rob performed in *The Concert in the Quarry*, Dunedin before an audience of II,000 people and at the Gala opening of the St James Theatre, Wellington with Elaine Paige. He sung the Australian National Anthem and *This is The Moment* at the AFL Grand Final and performed in concert in Canberra, the Cassergrain Winery and the Regent Theatre Palmerston North, New Zealand.

In September 1998 Rob completed a record seven years playing the title role of the Phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera* both in Australia and New Zealand.

Rob released a new CD The Magic of Christmas in New Zealand Christmas 1998.

In 1998-99 Rob performed the role of Jean Val Jean in the Tenth Anniversary Production of *Les Miserables* touring Australia and New Zealand and recently played the title role of Al Jolson in *Jolson* receiving rave reviews for his performance.

Rob played the role of Captain Georg von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. He was guest artist at the *Federation North Tattoo Centenary Concert* in Townsville and *River Festival Concert* on Southbank in Brisbane. He performed at the France vs All Blacks Rugby Test in Wellington New Zealand. In 2002 Rob will be performing in concert at The Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney alongside Georgie Parker, an outdoor concert in South Australia with Marina Prior and Maestro Tommy Tycho for Country Arts SA, an outdoor concert in Outback Queensland for the Orient Express and the *Premier's Concert* at The Sydney Entertainment Centre.





ENSEMBLE

IAN DI PIETRO

Jan has been dancing and singing for as long as he has been walking. Currently he is a student at the Victorian College of the Arts. Secondary School. Jan has completed his Certificate II in Dance at Danceworld 30I and attends Victorian Youth Theatre, A whirlwind of a junior career on the competition and Eisteddfod circuit has netted Jan numerous trophies and awards for jazz and tap routines. 1999 saw Jan being nominated The Most Promising Male Dancer (12 years + under) at the Tropicarnival Festival on the Gold Coast. His professional musical theatre debut was with the Melbourne season of Singin' in the Rain as the young Don Lockwood, Jan would like to take this opportunity to thank all his teachers and family for their continuous support.



CHARLIE COWELL

MARK DOGGETT

Mark's career started on a professional basis after completing the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Musical Theatre at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts where he won the prestigious Leslie Andersen Award for excellence. Immediately after graduating Mark was invited to be the feature artist at the Western Australian Premier's Awards and then went on to perform in The Threepenny Opera with the WA Opera Company. Mark's career highlights to date include The Merry Widow, Jack the Ripper, Know Your Mates, Pinocchio, The Magic Far Away Tree, Jumped and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. Mark has also featured in Forbidden Broadway, Follies in Concert and in his own cabaret show Come Fly With Me. He played the role of Harry Witherspoon in the Australian Premiere of Lucky Stiff at Chapel off Chapel. Mark's TV and film credits include Blue Heelers and Cheltenwick City.



ENSEMBLE

KIMBERLEY-ROSE GALEA



Kimberley-Rose is eleven and has been studying all facets of dance since she was three under the guidance of Kevin Coyne and Michelle Slater. Her professional credits include the role of Baby June with Judi Connelli in Gypsy for The Production Company, Duffy in Annie with Anthony Warlow and benefit concerts for the Royal Children's Hospital. She has appeared in numerous television commercials and is delighted to be working with The Production Company again on The Music Man. She hopes you enjoy tonight's show!

ENSEMBLE

BRIAN GILLESPIE



Brian trained in all facets of dance with Janine O'Farrell and later at the Barbara Lynch School of Dance. He is a scholarship winner and graduate of the Dance Factory in Melbourne. Since graduation Brian has performed regularly as a dancer in numerous pantomimes throughout Australia and Asia, cabaret shows, theatre restaurants and various corporate events. His television credits include the TV Week Logie Awards, Good Morning Australia and In Melbourne Tonight. Brian made his musical theatre debut as a clarinet player in Fiddler on the Roof. He then played the role of Quaxo in the 2000/2001 Australian tour of Cats and a sailor in Anything Goes for The Production Company. Earlier this year Brian appeared in the Sydney season of The Wizard Of Oz as a Jitterbug.

ETHEL TOFFELMIER

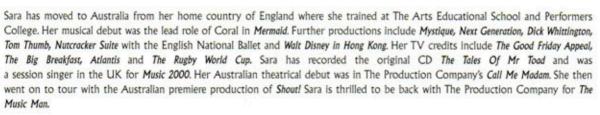
WENDY GROSE

Wendy's numerous credits in theatre and opera include performances with The Royal Opera Covent Garden, Welsh National Opera, Opera de Lyon, London Modern Music Theatre Troupe, Chamber Made Opera, Back to Back Theatre, Voiceworks Theatre, Mainstreet Theatre Company and the Queensland Theatre Company. She regularly performs recitals of diverse repertoire with her accompanist, Len Vorster and has appeared as a featured recitalist in Britain, France and Australia in broadcasts for the BBC and the ABC. As a soprano soloist she has appeared with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestres de Bayonne et Bordeaux, Surrey Sinfonietta, London Civil Services Orchestra and the Australian Pops Orchestra. Her television credits include Blue Heelers, Sea Change, Neighbours and presenting for This Week In Geelong on Channel 31. Recent engagements include Lucky Stiff at Chapel Off Chapel and touring her own show A Different Hat.



ZANEETA SHINN

SARA HIGHLANDS





HANNAH **JOHNSTONE**

ENSEMBLE



Hannah has been dancing since she was five, is currently attending Thelma Williams School of Dance and has sung for four years with Thelma Taylor. Her professional stage debut was as Young Cosette in the Melbourne Production of Les Miserables. Since then her performances include Louisa in The Sound of Music, the Children's Chorus of La Boheme for Opera Australia 2001 and again by invitation in Cavelleri Rusticana and I Pagliacci for 2002 season. Hannah has also sung solo at the Kingston Festival and Showcase, the Melbourne Showbiz Club, the Inaugural James Cassius awards and has won the modern vocal award at Royal South Street for three years in a row. Hannah is excited to be a part of The Music Man and would like to thank her family for their support.

NICK JONES ENSEMBLE



Nick began dancing at the age of three under the tuition of Michelle Rae School of Dance and later at the Victorian College of the Arts graduating in 1998. His professional career in singing, dancing and acting began at the age of ten. His credits include musicals The Wizard Of Oz, The King And I, Scrooge and operas Fiddler On The Roof, The Masked Ball and La Boheme. Television credits include The Man From Snowy River, Fast Forward, Neighbours and Blue Heelers. More recently, Nick has appeared in The Merry Widow and The Boy From Oz and has spent the past twelve months song writing and performing as part of a pop group in China, culminating in the release of a top selling CD. Nick is happy to return to the Australian stage in The Music Man which comes as a welcome interlude to his current dance teaching assignments.

KIRSTEN KING

ENSEMBLE



Kirsten was trained under the guidance of Barbara Lynch in all facets of dance and taught voice by Kate Sadler. Professionally Kirsten has worked extensively for Conrad & Co. and has performed in numerous corporate and cabaret productions. Kirsten's theatrical debut was with the Australian tour of Happy Days-The Arena Mega Musical. In 2001 Kirsten appeared in both Anything Goes and How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying for The Production Company. She is thrilled to be joining them again for The Music Man after which she will join the Melbourne cast of The Wizard Of Oz. Kirsten would like to thank her family and close friends for their constant support.

STEPHANIE LACEY

AMARYLLIS



Stephanie is ten years old and loves performing. She has learnt ballet, jazz, tap, acrobatics, and singing at the May Downs School of Dance with Miss Renie Ann Martini since she was two. Stephanie also learns Suzuki piano with Veronica Stone, and classical guitar at Tintern Girls Grammar School, Stephanie made her professional stage debut as Fanny in the Garry Ginivan production of The Magic Far Away Tree at the Victorian Arts Centre (2000), and again in the farewell season in 2001. Stephanie played the role of July and was Annie understudy in the recent production of Annie. Stephanie has also appeared in Blue Heelers, fashion shows, and telemovies. She is thrilled to be part of this production with her brother Thomas.

THOMAS LACEY

WINTHROP PAROO



Thomas is eight years old and has been performing since he was two, studying all facets of dance and singing at the May Downs School of Dance with Miss Renie Ann Martini. His first stage appearance was in Morning Melodies at the Melbourne Concert Hall when he was three years old. Thomas made his professional stage debut as Jo in the Garry Ginivan production of The Magic Far Away Tree at the Victorian Arts Centre (2000). Thomas performed the role of Young Cosmo in the David Atkins/IMG production of Singin' In the Rain and has also appeared in television commercials, fashion shows, and movies. Thomas also learns the piano and gymnastics. He is thrilled to be part of this production with his sister Stephanie.



EULALIE MACKECKNIE SHINN

Robyn recently produced and appeared in the Australian premiere of Stephen Sondheim's musical review Putting It Together with Martin Croft, directed by Jon Ewing at Chapel Off Chapel. After completing Annie with Anthony Warlow last year she returned to Melbourne in Mack & Mabel for The Production Company directed by Jo-Anne Robinson. With a theatrical career spanning almost thirty years there are many highlights. She kept the tea flowing as Mrs Potts in Disney's Beauty and the Beast and is well remembered as Madame Thenardier in the original Australian production of Les Miserables directed by Trevor Nunn for which she was honoured to receive a Victorian Green Room Award. Appearing in the Australian smash hit The Boy from Oz directed by Gale Edwards Robyn toured Australia for over two years and sings on the Aria award-winning recording. In 2000 Robyn took up the opportunity to go to the Edinburgh Festival with Craig Christie's Crusade directed by Gary Young at Greyfriars Kirk.

Other credits include; Jesus Christ Superstar for Harry M. Miller, Harold Prince's production of Evita, Side By Sondheim for the Qld Theatre Company then directed by Richard Wherrett for the Sydney Theatre Co., the role of Sister Robert Anne in Nunsense, The Villain of Flowers by Anthony Crowley for the NIDA Company and Away (Vic) directed by Michael Gow for the S.T.C. followed by How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying for Gordon Frost starring Georgie Parker, Tom Burlinson and Noel Ferrier in which she co-starred as Smitty. Robyn is soon to be seen on Blue Heelers for the Seven Network.



CLIVE HEARNE

MAYOR SHINN

Clive Hearne, a versatile actor/singer is pleased to include *The Music Man* in his repertoire. With a career spanning over forty years in theatre, radio, television and movies there have been many memorable moments, too many to list here. However it is interesting to note his debuts. In radio it was Gladys Moncrieff and his stage debut was in J.C. Williamson's production of *Call Me Madam* with Evie Hayes. Clive's television debut was *In Melbourne Tonight* hosted by Graham Kennedy and finally his film debut was with Mel Gibson in *Mad Max*.

Clive's first love has always been musical theatre and he has played major roles in many productions including Paint Your Wagon, Can Can, Irma la Douce, South Pacific, Showboat, Kismet, Carousel, Promises Promises, Man of la Mancha, Gypsy, Evita, Cabaret, Follies, Metropolis, Oklahomal, A Little Night Music, Dimboola, Forty Carats, Voyage Round My Father and Sunset Boulevard. In television, Clive started as a singer in popular shows including Sunny Side Up and ABC Variety shows. He has appeared in dozens of drama series and has just finished working on MDA soon to be seen on the ABC. On film, he will soon be appearing in the soon to be released Richard Franklin film The Visitors playing the Commodore. Quite a fitting role as his lifetime passion is sailing on his boat "Leading Lady" and he has been a real Commodore of one of the finest yacht clubs on the bay.



CAST OF CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

CHARLIE COWELL HAROLD HILL MAYOR SHINN THE QUARTET: **EWART DUNLOP OLIVER HIX JACEY SQUIRES** OLIN BRITT MARCELLUS WASHBURN TOMMY DJILAS MARIAN PAROO MRS. PAROO **AMARYLLIS** WINTHROP PAROO **EULALIE MACKECKNIE SHINN** ZANEETA SHINN

Mark Doggett Rob Guest Clive Hearne

Barry Mitchell Simon Corkeron Jonathan Densem Graeme M Russell Philip Gould Martin Martini Fiona Benjamin Nancye Hayes Stephanie Lacey Thomas Lacey Robyn Arthur Sara Highlands THE PICK-A-LITTLE LADIES:
ETHEL TOFFELMIER
MRS. SQUIRES
ALMA HIX
MAUD DUNLOP
CONSTABLE LOCKE
RIVER CITY TOWNSPEOPLE

Wendy Grose Kerryn O'Donnell Judith Roberts Patricia Vivian-Lall Paul Biencourt Louise Bell Lisa-Marie Charalambous

Brian Gillespie
Nick Jones
Kirsten King
Sophie Viskich
Stephen Wheat

RIVER CITY KIDS Jan Di Pietro
Kimberley-Rose Galea
Hannah Johnstone
Nathan Pinnell

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

CONCERTMASTER

CELLO

DOUBLE BASS REEDS

TRUMPET:

TROMBONE BASS TROMBONE PERCUSSION DRUM KIT PIANO Mara Miller

Ellen Mentiplay
Iseult Stephenson
Seung Baik
Matthew Hassall
Anna McAlister
John Noble
Martin Reddington
Christine Ruiter
Philippa West
Margaret Baker
Raymond Fraser
Sarah Cuming
Andrea Taylor
Kristy Conrau
Matthew Thorne

Paula Rae John Armstrong Tony Hicks Grania Burke Lucinda Cran, Ian Godfrey

Mark Skillington Paul McConkey Colin Doley

Scott Evans, Peter Brosnan Geraldine Evers Paul Sablinskis Dave Beck Greg Roberts

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL AND CREDITS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR COMPANY ADMINISTRATOR STAGE MANAGER ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER **HEAD MECHANIST** WARDROBE SUPERVISOR HAIR & MAKE UP CHILD SUPERVISOR SOUND ENGINEERING & **PRODUCTION** MIX ENGINEER/ ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER HEAD RADIO TECHNICIAN RADIO TECHNICIAN REHEARSAL REPETITEUR SECOND REHEARSAL PIANIST MARKETING

PUBLICITY

SET CONSTRUCTION BY
FREIGHT AND STORAGE
WORK EXPERIENCE
STAGE MANAGEMENT SECONDMENT

David Miller
Paul Celigoj
Annie Reid
Kirsten Marr
Ryan Paine
Merideth Clements
Helen Magelaki
Stephanie Kamasz

System Sound

Antony Lloyd,

Nick Reich Ondine Savage Jason Graham Greg Roberts Kellie Dickerson Jason Souter, Charmaine Adamson and Susan Daly for Mollison Consulting Suzie Howie, Paul Taylor, Andrea McGough, Lucy Rowe & Liz Woodcock for Howie & Taylor Publicity Show Works **KDS** Cartage James Cook, Marcellin College



Box Hill Institute of TAFE

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture

The Orchestra

ACT ONE



The Railway Coach, morning July 4th, 1912. SCENE I

Salesmen, Charlie Cowell & Newspaper Readers

River City, Iowa. Centre of Town. Immediately following. SCENE 2

Iowa Stubborn

Townspeople, Farmer & Farmer's Wife

Yn Got Trouble

Harold & Townspeople

SCENE 3 A street. Immediately following.

SCENE 4 Paroo's house that evening.

Piano Lesson & If You Don't Mind My Saying So

Mrs. Paroo & Marian Goodnight My Someone

Marian & Amaryllis

SCENE 5 Madison Gymnasium. 30 minutes later.

> Columbia, Gem of the Ocean Eulalie & Townspeople Ya Got Trouble (Reprise)

Harold

Seventy-Six Trombones Harold & Townspeople Ice Cream/Sincere Harold & Quartet

SCENE 6 A street, Immediately following,

> The Sadder But Wiser Girl Harold & Marcellus

Pick-A-Little, Talk-A-Little & Goodnight, Ladies Alma, Ethel, Eulalie, The Ladies, Harold & Quartet

Interior of Madison Library. SCENE 7

Marian, the Librarian

Harold

SCENE 8 A Street. The following Saturday afternoon.

SCENE 9 Mayor Shinn's house. Immediately following.

SCENE 10 The Paroo's porch. That evening.

Gary, Indiana Harold My White Knight

Marian

SCENE II Centre of town. Noon the following Saturday.

The Wells Fargo Wagon

Townspeople, Quartet & Winthrop

Entr'acte The Orchestra

ACT TWO



Madison Gymnasium. The following Tuesday evening. SCENE 1

Shipoopi

Marcellus & Townspeople Pick-a-Little, Talk-a-Little (Reprise)

Alma, Ethel, Eulalie, Maud, Mrs. Squires & The Ladies

SCENE 2 The Hotel porch. The following Wednesday evening.

> Lida Rose & Will I Ever Tell You? Harold, Quartet & Marian

SCENE 3 The Paroo's porch. Immediately following.

Gary, Indiana

Winthrop, Mrs. Paroo & Marian

Lida Rose (Reprise)

Quartet

It's You - Ballet

The Orchestra

SCENE 4 The Footbridge. 15 minutes later.

Till There Was You Marian & Harold

SCENE 5 A street. Immediately following.

Goodnight & Seventy-Six Trombones (Double Reprise)

Harold & Marian

SCENE 6 Madison Park, A few minutes later.

Till There Was You (Reprise)

River City High School Assembly Room. SCENE 7

Immediately following.

Finale

Entire Company

LOUISE BELL ENSEMBLE



Louise was trained in all facets of dance from the age of three with the May Downs School of Dancing and currently studies singing with Kathryn Sadler. Recent theatre credits include Anything Goes, Mack & Mabel, Guys and Dolls, Gypsy (for The Production Company) and most recently the Sydney (and upcoming Melbourne) season of The Wizard Of Oz. Louise appeared in the Adelaide and Perth seasons of The Boy From Oz followed by Simon Ghallaher's tour of A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum. Prior to this she performed in My Fair Lady, Iolanthe, Sesame Street Live and Hocus Pocus. Louise is a resident performer at the Lido Cabaret Restaurant and also conducts her own dance school, Dolly's School of Dance.

PAUL BIENCOURT

Constable Locke



Paul is passionate about theatre and from an early age he has aspired to be a performer. Last year a role in *Shout! The Legend Of The Wild One* saw Paul living the dream as he toured Australia playing Noel Wiederberg - one of the Delltones. The pursuit of becoming a performer has given him experiences such as playing an opera singing beggar in the yet to be released film *One Perfect Day;* performing with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra as part of the ABC's Quest series; performing for royalty at the Victorian Freemasons 100th Anniversary celebration and touring Singapore as part of a theatrical science education program. His career has spanned musical theatre, television, film, theatre restaurant and ironically accountancy at Price Waterhouse Coopers.

LISA-MARIE CHARALAMBOUS

ENSEMBLE



Lisa-Marie graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1997 with a Bachelor of Musical Performance majoring in classical voice. Her musical credits include the world premiere of Crusade-The Concert, Call Me Madam, the 10th Anniversary production of Les Miserables, the Australasian premiere of Songs For A New World; 2001 Hats Off and most recently featured in Putting It Together at Chapel Off Chapel. She performs regularly in various concerts, cabaret and corporate events throughout Melbourne. She has worked extensively in children's entertainment compering for ABC For Kids and Walt Disney Special Events. As well as appearing in various television commercials she has also performed in local productions of West Side Story, The Sound Of Music, My Fair Lady and Carmen.

SIMON CORKERON

OLIVER HIX



Last year, Simon had the pleasure of making his professional musical theatre debut as Andy in The Production Company's Mack & Mabel. He also found time to work fulltime as a Drama/Music teacher, be Vocal Director for the Marcellin College/Our Lady of Sion College co-production of Pippin, and complete a Graduate Diploma in Opera at the Victorian College of the Arts. His prior training had been at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts (Musical Theatre) and at Monash University from which he holds a Graduate Diploma in Education. At WAAPA, Simon appeared in Sweeney Todd, Rags, Grand Hotel, The Voyage of Mary and performed in Kalgoorlie in the cabaret show Isn't It Romantic. VCA Opera productions included A May Night, The English Eccentrics and the northern NSW tour of Fish n Ships. Simon has played the trumpet for over twenty years. When not performing, he continues working as a Drama and Music teacher specialising in Voice and Brass.

JONATHAN DENSEM

JACEY SQUIRES



Jonathan has been pursuing dual careers as an actor and as a musician for more than ten years. His solo piano/vocal show, which features both his own and his father's compositions, played to rave reviews at Jazz Festivals in New Zealand before recent shows at the Melbourne Fringe and Chapel Off Chapel. As an actor Jonathan has played roles in *The Merchant of Venice, Saint Joan, Blood Wedding, Sexual Perversity in Chicago, Three Sisters* and *Only Heaven Knows*. Musicals include *My Fair Lady, Blood Brother, Putting it Together, Jesus Christ Superstar* and the original Australian company of *Miss Saigon* before touring with *Les Miserables*. This is his sixth show for The Production Company following *Funny Girl, Call Me Madam, Gypsy, Guys and Dolls* and *Mack &t Mabel*. This year, following on from writing the arrangements for *I Should Be So Lucky*, Jonathan will be the musical director for the August premiere of William Finn's *A New Brain*.



Flona began her training in Australia studying acting at the Queensland University of Technology and singing at the Brisbane Conservatorium of Music. Her musical theatre interest began while still at school when she played the lead role in the original musical *Crocodile Creek* directed by Baz Luhrmann.

Her first professional engagement was in the Australian production of *Les Miserables* playing in the ensemble and understudying the roles of Cosette and Fantine. This was soon followed by a world tour of *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* with Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman. On her return to Australia, Fiona joined the Sydney production of *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* understudying the lead role of Rosemary.

On her arrival in London Fiona was asked to stand-by for the lead role of Polly in *Crazy For You* and subsequently played the role on numerous occasions. When the National Tour was announced Fiona was asked to star in her own right and received outstanding personal notices throughout the eighteen-month tour. She also appeared at the Royal Albert Hall in a Gala Gershwin Concert in which she performed two show-stopping numbers. Fiona was then asked to return to Australia to play the role of Polly in the Melbourne and Brisbane seasons of *Crazy For You* during which she was nominated for a Green Room Award.

Once back in London, came the lead roles of Mary in Of Thee I Sing and Millie in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. She also featured as a soloist in Sondheim and Bernstein concerts at the Normandy Festivals in France.

Fiona has recently made Australia her home again and has taken the last year off to be with her one-year-old daughter Chloe.



Philip has enjoyed his love for theatre since the age of seven when he first appeared in a panto for J.C.Williamsons. Not only did his success come through the theatre but also in television with the ever-popular *Young Talent Time*.

Philip lived overseas in London from 1984 - 1993 where he represented Australia in both theatre and television events. Performing in such shows as *Nite-Club Confidential, Show Boat, Oklahomal, Buddy* and the famous 42nd Street as well as a production of Kurt Weill's Street Scene for the English National Opera at the Colosseum Theatre London not only for one season but for four of them and performing his song 'Moon Faced Starry Eyed' with the likes of Catherine Zeta-Jones and Caroline O'Connor. Other credits include several Royal Command Performances for all the Royals and a special night at the Covent Garden opera house where he got to work alongside Diana, Princess of Wales.

Philip has performed many shows in Australia such as South Pacific, HMS Pinafore, Show Boat, She Loves Me, Company and Forbidden Broadway. Most recently he played the role of Rooster in Annie and Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in The Production Company's Anything Goes. For both he has earned a Green Room Award nomination. Apart from The Music Man you will next see Philip playing Tinman in The Wizard of Oz at the Regent Theatre.



NANCYE HAYES

Mrs Paroo

Actor, dancer, choreographer and director, Nancye Hayes OAM is a theatrical institution. She began her career in J.C Williamson's production of *My Fair Lady* in 1961. However it was the title role of Charity in *Sweet Charity* in 1967 that established her name. Since then she has sung and danced her way through a cavalcade of musical successes including *Pippin, Irene, Annie, Chicago*, and *Guys and Dolls* which won her a Green Room Award and the Sydney Theatre Critic's Circle Award for Best Actress, *Sweeney Todd, Nine, 42nd Street, Showboat* and *Funny Girl* for The Production Company. Other onstage credits include *Broadway Bound, Same Time Next Year, The Glass Menagerie, Steel Magnolias* and *Stepping Out*.

Nancye has also made numerous television appearances including guest roles in Home & Away, Blue Heelers, The Dismissal, The Last Bastion, The Sullivans, Carson's Law, Rafferty's Rules and GP. Her choreographic credits include My Fair Lady for V.S.O. [Melbourne, Sydney & Brisbane seasons], Falsetto's [S.T.C] and Guys and Dolls for NIDA. Nancye's directing talents have most recently been on display in the delightful Annie (Gordon Frost Organisation), The Wizard Of Oz (GFO & SEL Macks Entertainment) and Gypsy starring Judi Connelli for The Production Company.

Nancye's first cabaret show *Nancye With An E*, written and directed by Tony Sheldon has played throughout Australia and in 1997 Nancye was honoured by the Variety Club with a "Lifetime Achievement Award".





OLIN BRITT

Adelaide born Graeme completed his Bachelor of Music in 1987. Since beginning his career thirteen years ago he has performed with the State Opera of South Australia, Opera Australia and the Victoria State Opera. Graeme was a member of the original Australian casts of The Phantom Of The Opera and The Secret Garden. He has also appeared in My Fair Lady and as Moose, the double bass playing hick in Crazy For You. In 1998 Graeme created the role of Terry Smythe-Higgins in Chamber Made Opera's production of Doctor Forbes Will See You Now, a new Australian opera. Last year Graeme was privileged to perform in the world premiere production of the opera Batavia by Richard Mills and Peter Goldsworthy for Opera Australia and the Federation Festival. This is Graeme's second show with The Production Company, having played Mr. Gibson in Call Me Madam.

GRAEME M RUSSELL



TOMMY DILLAS

Martin was reared by a mad show-biz family and graduated from W.A.A.P.A in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre. His musical theatre credits include Adam Guettel's Riddle Song From Floyd Collins, Edwin Drood, My Favourite Year, Merrily We Roll Along, How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, Nick Enright's Summer Rain and the role of Kenickie in the Australian tour of Grease The Mega Musical. Martin's cabaret credits include Three Moustaches and a Piano, What You'd Call A Dream, Marty and Damo are back in town...and so is Eddie and he has appeared as a special guest in John Bucchino in Concert. Most recently, Martin has been involved in a young peoples group workshop for Disney and wishes everyone well in this, Year of the horse.

MARTIN MARTINI



Barry's professional career spans more than twenty years in theatre, jazz, cabaret, comedy, radio and television. He is a graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts School of Opera during which time he sang the lead role Vaudemont in the Australian premiere of Tchaikovsky's Iolanta, Levko in Rimsky-Korsakov's Maynight and many more. Barry also appeared in Britten's Albert Herring and is a regular member of the Opera Australia chorus. He performed the role of Harry in the world premiere of Prodigal Son. Barry's credits for The Production Company include Call Me Madam, Guys and Dolls, The Gilbert and Sullivan Show, How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, Mack & Mabel and Anything Goes. His television appearances include Good Morning Australia, The Midday Show and Hey Hey It's Saturday. He has also written and performed comedy on Radio 3XY's Breakfast Show, as well as touring schools performing in children's theatre.

EWART DUNLOP BARRY MITCHELL



MRS SQUIRES

Kerryn O'Donnell graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Music Performance in 1996. Having studied all aspects of musical theatre Kerryn has performed in The Magic Flute for Opera Australia, She Loves Me and Mame for The Production Company and A Portrait of Love for Leonardo Productions. In 1998 and 1999 Kerryn understudied and performed the role of Magnolia in Showboat for Livent. In 2000 Kerryn joined the touring cast of Cats appearing as Jemima and on occasion as Jellylorum and Jennyanydots. Kerryn has recently released her solo CD entitled What More Do I Need? Her other passion in life is swing dancing!

KERRYN O'DONNELL



ENSEMBLE

Nathan is now fifteen years old and started dancing at six. It was soon obvious that his passion for performing would set the pattern for his next nine years. Jazz and tap classes with Rhonda Lee Dancers and Bev Palmer Dancers, singing and piano lessons with various teachers, numerous performances in concerts, eisteddfods, television and radio shows as well as commercials, performances with Opera Australia and Classical Ballet training for the last five years. He is in his third year at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, studying a range of dance styles. Nathan is thrilled to be involved with The Music Man and would like to thank his parents, sister and grandma for their total love and support.

NATHAN PINNELL



JUDITH ROBERTS ALMA HIX



Judith is a versatile performer who has done her training with the 'best in the business'. Her appearances in many musicals include My Fair Lady, The Sentimental Bloke, Sweet Charity, Bye Bye Birdie, Bells are Ringing, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Promises Promises, Guys and Dolls and Cabaret. She was a member of the cast of the outstandingly successful revue A Cup Of Tea, a Bex and a Good Lie Down and has worked extensively in drama at The Ensemble Theatre, La Mama and Chapel Off Chapel. Television credits include The Sullivans, Blue Heelers, Neighbours and Prisoner. In 1998 she played the role of Golde opposite Topol in Fiddler On The Roof. When not performing Judith writes, produces and choreographs and is currently Director Of Music Theatre at The National Theatre.

SOPHIE VISKICH ENSEMBLE



After studying classical singing at the Victorian College of the Arts, Sophie spent several years working with both the Victoria State Opera and Opera Australia appearing in the chorus and touring with their schools programs. She has performed leading roles in *Kismet, Marriage of Figaro, Cosi Fan Tutti* and *Albert Herring* for companies such as Opera Alivel, F.A.M.P.A.C. and the Eastern Metropolitan Opera. She toured Australia with *The Sound of Music* as an ensemble member and understudying and playing Sister Margaretta. Most recently Sophie appeared in *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* which toured to China. Sophie performs regularly as a soloist for the Heidelberg Choral Society and her television appearances include performances on *Good Morning Australia*.

PATRICIA VIVIAN-LALL

MAUD DUNLOP



Born in England, London-trained Patricia played in many London musicals; appeared regularly for Anglia TV, then starred as Polly in *The Boy Friend* in the West End before coming to Australia. For J.C. Williamson's she played in *My Fair Lady, Carousel* and *Pippin* before joining the Victoria State Opera. She appeared in fourteen operas and played Mrs Eynesford-Hill in *My Fair Lady* several times; appeared as Elle in Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* and choreographed *The Owl and the Pussy–Cat.* She covered Eileen Hannan in *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* by Richard Mills and is no stranger to the concert platform singing the Contralto solos in Handel's *Messiah* among others. She has directed operas for Opera Melbourne and Cameo Opera; appeared in *Rafferty's Rules* on TV; toured with Simon Gallagher's production of *The Merry Widow*; appeared in *Funny Girl* and *Call Me Madam* for The Production Company; sings with Opera Australia's Melbourne Chorus and is currently touring Victoria with Jack Webster in *Our Gracie*, a show she has written on the life, times and songs of Gracie Fields. She has just founded a voice orchestra with opera colleagues called Voices, Inc.

STEPHEN WHEAT ENSEMBLE



Originally from Brisbane Stephen studied classical voice at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music before moving to Perth to train at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. In 2001 he graduated with a BA in Music Theatre. Productions at WAAPA included Lysistrata, My Favorite Year, Working, The Boys From Syracuse and Bye Bye Birdie. He also appeared in And The World Goes Round directed by Nancye Hayes and the workshop musical Mrs. Delvecthio Schwartz by Colleen McCullough and Max Lambert. Stephen is delighted to be working with The Production Company on The Music Man which marks his professional theatre debut.

THE ELTHAM HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic band is the senior of the four concert bands at the school and is not only recognised as a 'flagship' for Eltham High School but also for the entire school concert band movement throughout Australia. The band's reputation, under the baton of Ken Waterworth, is justified by its outstanding record of achievements over the last ten years.

The prestigious Royal South Street Competitions have been an important part of Victorian musicians lives for many years and since Eltham's first entry in 1987, it has won the coveted award in 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993 through to 2001. In 1989 the Melbourne School Bands Festival held its inaugural competition, now involving some 250 school bands from Victoria and interstate. The Eltham High School Symphonic Band has maintained its outstanding performance standard at the festival, being judged the 'most outstanding band' of the festival from 1990 - 2001. In December 1997 the band toured the USA, culminating in a performance at the International Mid West Band Clinic in Chicago, the band being the first and only Australian school band to perform at this international conference.

This list of achievements has seen the band become one of the most highly profiled school bands in Australia. International adjudicators continue to acclaim the symphonic band as the finest school band in this country, and also compare the band with the very best in the world. The band continues to strive for excellence in every way and it is through its high level of commitment that the standard of its performance has continued to improve each year. Its members are not only recognised as fine ambassadors for their school but for young people throughout this country.



PREMIERE SEASON 1999

JMAM

Rhonda Burchmore ... has not only the voice, the presence and the looks, but also that essential star quality ... HELEN THOMSON, THE AGE

SHE LOVES ME

... this cast overflows with talent. Lisa McCune is sweet, vulnerable ... and her clear, soprano voice does justice to the role ... Gina Riley's timing is flawless ... Dennis Olsen is impeccable ... Under Roger Hodgman's direction ... this musical set in a perfume shop is a fragrant joy.

JIM MURPHY, THE AGE

FUNNY

Simply a knockout. The uniformly excellent cast made Funny Girl a rare and welcome treat.

BRYCE HALLETT, THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Move over Babs, this Funny Girl triumphs. Caroline O'Connor has everything it takes to make a triumph of Funny Girl: a cheeky presence, slick timing ... a talent for clowning ... and a big voice ... Supporting her is an absolutely top-flight company ...

IIM MURPHY, THE AGE

SEASON 2000



The musical comedy is America's true theatre art form. Such classics should be preserved - and presented, even in semi-concert form such as this. Overall: rollicking.

GRAHAM PEARCE, SUNDAY HERALD SUN



Great things come to those who wait. In Judi Connelli they have a wondrous performer ... Connelli triumphs ... JEREMY VINCENT, THE AUSTRALIAN

This Production Company show ... marks the undoubted success of the enterprise ... A show to remember. HELEN THOMSON, THE AGE

Above all, Guys and Dolls confirms the quality of The Production Company's shows.

SARAH HUDSON, HERALD SUN



Dennis Olsen ... is an electrifying and comical presence on stage ... hilarious ... a delightful night. KATE HERBERT, HERALD SUN

SEASON 2001



The standard of The Production Company's Broadway musicals continues to astound. The short rehearsal time and limited resources are barely evident in the quality of its annual shows.

CATHERINE LAMBERT, SUNDAY HERALD SUN



One of those rare miracles of music theatre was brought to the stage on Wednesday night, leaving an ecstatic audience caught between tears and laughter as title actors John Diedrich and Caroline O'Connor took their bows. ZELDA CAWTHORNE, HERALD SUN



The final result is a tribute to the top-drawer performers who came to the two-week rehearsal period with their heroic and generous preparation.

XENIA HANUSIAK, HERALD SUN



ROSS COLEMAN DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER

Ross has choreographed professionally since the age of fourteen working in every facet of the industry. His first musical was the original Australian production of *Grease* staged in Melbourne in 1972. Since then his musicals include for the Sydney Theatre Company I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On The Road, Chicago, The Stripper, The Conquest of Carmen Miranda, Summer Rain, Jonah Jones, Company, The Threepenny Opera, Merrily We Roll Along, Miracle City and The Doll's House. For

other production companies Side by Side by Sondheim, The Rocky Horror Show, Jerry's Girls, How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, High Society, Cabaret, Grease—The Arena Spectacular and most recently Shout! The Legend of the Wild One.

He has choreographed and directed internationally since the age of eighteen throughout Asia and more recently in Europe. From 1994 until 1999 he lived in Berlin where he worked at the Friedrichstaadtpalast and Metropole Theatre. He choreographed The Russian Opera *The Demon* for the Bregenzer Festspiele in Austria in 1998 and again at the Zurich Opera House, Switzerland in 1999, the British National Tour of *High Society, Pomp, Duck and Circumstance* in New York, *Revue* in Paris and the St Petersburg Music Hall in Russia.

Other credits include Follies, Love Burns and Trouble in Tahiti for the Melbourne Festival. For the Melbourne Theatre Company High Society, Company and The Seagull. Ross has choreographed two previous shows for The Production Company; Funny Girl in 1999 and Call Me Madam in 2000.

In 2001 he directed *Turandot* for the Canterbury Opera in Christchurch and will be directing Bellini's opera *Norma* again for the Canterbury Opera immediately following *The Music Man*. With his third nomination Ross has just won the 2001 Green Room Award for his choreography in *Shout!* He will be directing the regional tour of *Shout!* later in 2002.



GUY SIMPSON MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Musical Director Guy was born in the UK, was educated at the Sydney Conservatorium and now lives in Sydney. He has been working professionally as a Musical Director for 20 years in Australia and Asia and has worked for all the major producers of music theatre on an extensive variety of musicals.

The Music Man is Guy's fourth show for The Production Company. Previous shows are Funny Girl, Call Me Madam and Mack & Mabel.

Most recently Guy has been in Seoul, Korea as Musical Supervisor of *The Phantom Of the Opera*. He was Musical Director of the IMG international production of *Miss Saigon* in Singapore & Hong Kong and the Cameron Mackintosh productions in Sydney and Manila. For Cameron Mackintosh and RUG, Guy has been Musical Supervisor, Musical Director or Conductor of *Cats, The Phantom of The Opera* and *Les Miserables* in Australia and New Zealand. He was Musical Supervisor and Musical Director of the IMG production of *Chicago* that played in Australia and Asia.

Guy has over twenty productions in his musical theatre credits including *My Fair Lady, Zorba, Seesaw* and *They're Playing Our Song.* He has worked closely with composers on new works, most notably the new Australian musical *Crusade* which enjoyed a successful season at the 2000 Edinburgh Festival.

Guy also has a large number of recording, concert & TV credits including appearances with many of Australia's top music theatre stars and major orchestras. His next project after *The Music Man* is the new production of *Cabaret* starring Tina Arena in Sydney and Lisa McCune in Melbourne later this year.

ANDREW HALLSWORTH CHOREOGRAPHER

Andrew is thrilled to be working with Ross Coleman again after a very successful tour of **Shout!** The **Legend of the Wild**One for which he was assistant choreographer.

Andrew's theatrical career started when he was seventeen appearing in the Australasian tour of 42nd Street followed by Me and My Girl, Red Hot and Rhonda, West Side Story, Jolson and for The Production Company Funny Girl, Call Me Madam, Gypsy and Guys and Dolls. Andrew was associate choreographer/director of the 1998 Australian production of Fiddler on the Roof starring Topol alongside Sammy Dallas Bayes.

Most recently Andrew was resident director on Jon Nicholls' production of *Oh What A Night!* starring Marcia Hines and Gary Sweet. The Music Man marks Andrew's first engagement as Choreographer.



LEON SALOM SET DESIGNER

Leon completed a Diploma of Performing Arts (Production and Design) majoring in design at the WA Academy of Performing Arts in 1995. On arrival in Melbourne he designed set and costumes for *Madame Butterfly* - In MODD (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne Theatre Company, The Australian Ballet and the Victoria State Opera).



Since then he has designed set and costumes for Thieving Boy/Like Stars in My Hands (Playbox) for which he was nominated for a Green Room award for Best Design, Gaelforce Dance (Jacobsen Group) touring internationally, The Journey Girl (Particular Productions), The Dogs Play/A Few Roos Loose in the Top Paddock (Playbox), Diving for Pearls (Melbourne Theatre Company), The Sign of the Seahorse (Playbox / Melbourne Symphony Orchestra), City Life (Oz Opera), The Bridge (Hothouse Theatre) and costume design for Going Home (West Australian Ballet) part of the Perth International Festival of Arts.

Leon has been set designer for The Production Company since 2000. His work has included Guys and Dolls, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Mack & Mabel, and Anything Goes, and is currently working on the 2002 season.

STACY GARDOLL COSTUME DESIGNER

Originally from Perth, Stacy began her studies with a BA from Curtin University, majoring in Three Dimensional Design, and graduating with Honours in 1993. Following this she studied set and costume design at the WA Academy of Performing Arts, graduating in 1997. Since graduating Stacy has designed sets and/or costumes for theatre, television and short films. Highlights include costumes for The Production Company's How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,



and Darwin's Dangerous Idea for La Mama Theatre. As part of the Perth International Festival of the Arts, Stacy designed costumes for The Mule's Foal for Perth Theatre Company, as well as sets and costumes for Masquerade, Bed Among the Lentils, Soldiering On, Two and Marry Me A Little for the Effie Crump Theatre Company, Long Gone Lonesome Cowgirls for Blazing Star Productions, and Blackrock for the Rockingham Youth Arts and Culture Council. In 2000 Stacy worked with Rocky Bay Inc to design sets and costumes for The Mona Lisa Mermaid, a self-devised piece for people with disabilities. In October 2001 Stacy was set designer for Babirra Music Theatre's Camelot which earned her a Lyrebird Award for Best Set Design.

Stacy was Assistant Set Designer for WA Ballet's Coppelia in 1998 (designed by Andrew Carter) and also for The Woman in the Window for Melbourne Theatre Company, The Barber of Seville for the Australian Opera (both designed by Richard Roberts) and La Boheme for Deutsche Staatsoper, Berlin (designed by Dan Potra). Short film work includes Art Direction for Inaflash, for Cecil B deux Mels Productions and television credits include Assistant Costume Designer on Barron Films' Fast Tracks.

This is Stacy's second production with the Production Company and she is delighted to be back in 2002.

GAVAN SWIFT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Gavan Swift graduated from NIDA in 1994. Since then he has been in constant demand as a lighting designer for plays, musicals, dance and corporate events. His musical lighting designs include The Mikado, The Pirates Of Penzance, Hot Shoe Shuffle, Little Shop of Horrors, Sweet Charity, Fiddler on the Roof, Jolson, Buddy and Oh What A Night!



He has also designed the lighting for The Production Company's Mame and Mack & Mabel. Gavan's most recent work includes the Melbourne Theatre Company/Melbourne Festival's production of The Aunt's Story, the Sydney Theatre Company's production of Stones in his Pockets, the Ensemble Theatre's Productions of All My Sons, Noises Off and Lush, and the Australian tour of Burn The Floor.

Gavan has also designed the lighting for productions at the Sydney Theatre Company, the Melbourne Theatre Company, the Bell Shakespeare Company, The Ensemble Theatre, Australian Theatre for Young People, Marian St, and the Q Theatre. His corporate and special events work includes the Snowy Mountains Scheme 50th Anniversary Dinner, Reef Casino Cairns, The Stars Come Out Concerts for Mardis Gras, Jazz and Symphony in the Domain, and the opening night parties for Saltimbanco and Sunset Boulevard. Gavan is currently a lecturer in stage lighting at NIDA.



KELVIN GEDYE SOUND DESIGNER FOR SYSTEM SOUND

Kelvin's theatre career began in 1975 as the resident technician with the Australian Performing Group at the Pram Factory in Carlton. In 1978 he became a founding member of Circus Oz and toured nationally and internationally as sound designer/operator over a period of nine years. Kelvin operated his first musical, *Candide*, in 1982 and then went on to operate *Barnum*, *Oliver* and *Oklahoma!* for System Sound during breaks in the Circus Oz schedule. Since 1987 Kelvin has

worked exclusively for System Sound, starting as sound operator and head of the sound department on the original Australian tours of Cats, Les Miserables and The Phantom of the Opera. In 1991 Kelvin was offered a full time position at System Sound as sound supervisor and later became associate sound designer for the Australasian tour of The Phantom of the Opera. Other Music Theatre credits include sound supervisor and assistant sound designer for the Australasian tour of West Side Story and sound supervisor for the Sydney and Melbourne seasons of Show Boat.

In Asia, Kelvin has worked as sound operator for the Hong Kong Handover Ceremony in '97, the Macau Handover Ceremony in '99, and designed and operated two concerts in 2001 and 2002 for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also associate sound designer and operator for the Hong Kong Handover 4th Anniversary concert in July 2001.

Kelvin's sound design for *The Music Man* will be his third for the Production Company having previously worked on the 1999 production of *Mane* and the 2001 production of *Mack & Mabel*.



DAVID MILLER TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Commencing his career as a stage manager with Melbourne Theatre Company in 1979, David spent the next 14 years as a Stage Manager, Tour Manager and Production Manager working for many of the state theatre companies, commercial producers and festivals throughout Australia. Included in these shows were *The Wizard of Oz, Jerry's Girls, The Rocky Horror Show, Are You Lonesome Tonight?*, A Man For All Seasons, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, The Hunting of the Snark,

several tours with Pam Ayers as well as numerous Melbourne Festivals.

More recently, David has worked as a Production Manager for Victoria State Opera and International Management Group on projects including West Side Story, The Puccini Spectacular, My Fair Lady, two tours with Shirley Bassey, the Werribee Park Festival, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and the Australian and Asian tours of the award winning Chicago.

David now runs his own production company, the surprisingly titled David's Company, specialising in theatre and concert management. Recent projects have been *Jolson, Buddy – The Musical, Always ... Patsy Cline, Oh What A Night!* and the upcoming tour of *Spirit of the Dance* as well as being Technical Director for all The Production Company presentations throughout 1999, 2000 and 2001.



ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Orchestra Victoria, formerly the State Orchestra of Victoria, is one of Australia's most versatile orchestras, bringing passion and vitality to each performance. Recently corporatised, Orchestra Victoria was formed in 1969 and performs for 360,000 people each year with Opera Australia and The Australian Ballet.

In previous successful partnerships with The Production Company, Orchestra Victoria has been the music behind productions such as Call Me Madam, Gypsy, Guys and Dolls, The Gilbert and Sullivan Show, How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, Mack & Mabel and Anything Goes.

Orchestra Victoria is also directly involved with the development of the country's finest young musicians. Key initiatives include mentoring students from the Victorian College of the Arts, performing with finalists of the Herald Sun Aria competition and premiering the winning composition of the 3MBS Readings National Composer Award. Each year hundreds of school students enjoy Orchestra Victoria performing with the Scared Weird Little Guys at the Melbourne Concert Hall.

A growing catalogue of fine recordings has seen Orchestra Victoria achieve national and international recognition. In addition to selected recordings of repertoire with The Australian Ballet and Opera Australia, including *Don Quixote, Madam Butterfly, The Merry Widow* and *1914*, Orchestra Victoria has recordings as varied as Broadway, historical Australian music and Celtic music.

For information about the Orchestra Victoria's donations and sponsorship program, please call Marita O'Callaghan on 03 9694 3636 or email marita.ocallaghan@orchestravictoria.com.au



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For more information please contact The Production Company on (03) 9921 7136



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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SPECIAL THANKS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Frank Van Straten OAM

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Victorian Concert Orchestra

Payroll management and generous assistance with props

Generous assistance with props

Melbourne Theatre Company

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The Victorian Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of its donors through the Arts Angels Programme.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The management reserve the right to add, withdraw or substitute artists and to vary the programme as necessary The Trust reserve the right of refusing admission. Please check your tickets for the correct starting time.

Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable break in the programme.

Cameras, tape recorders, paging machines and portable telephones must not be operated in the auditorium. In the interests of public health, the Victorian Arts Centre is a smoke free area.





THE PRODUCTION COMPANY - SEASON 2002

www.theproductioncompany.com.au