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Lyrics by CAROLYN LEIGH Music by CY COLEMAN

Based on a book by PATRICK DENNIS

Musical numbers and dances staged by BOB FOSSE

Directed by CY FEUER and BOB FOSSE

Produced for the Broadway stage by FEUER and MARTIN

DEBRA BYRNE MITCHELL BUTEL

HEATHER
BOLTON

DANIEL
FLETCHER

JOANNA
FRIPP

PETER
LOWREY

ADAM
MURPHY

LUKE ALLEVA PAUL BIENCOURT REBECCA COLAFELLA ROSS HANNAFORD
ROSEMARIE HARRIS GLENN HILL BROOKE LOWERY CAMERON MANNIX
NICHOLAS MCMAHON NICOLE MELLOY GLASTON TOFT
HESTER VAN DER VYVER STEPHEN WHEAT

WITH

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Director ROGER HODGMAN

Musical Director GUY SIMPSON

Choreographer DANA JOLLY

Set and Costume Design RICHARD JEZIORNY

Lighting Design PAUL JACKSON

Sound Designers JULIAN SPINK & MARK BENSON

for System Sound

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Welcome to **Little Me** – *The Intimate Memoirs of that Great Star of Stage, Screen and Television Belle Poitrine.*

Patrick Dennis wrote the book for our very first show, *Mame*. Now, nine years later it is with great pleasure that we bring you another of his stories.

Little Me is Belle's tell-all autobiography, her intimate memoirs chock full of scandals and romance. Neil Simon, Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh turned Dennis's book into this musical, which premiered on Broadway in 1962. It was nominated for 10 Tony Awards and starred Sid Caesar. Its most recent outing on Broadway starred Martin Short and for this, he won the Tony Award for best actor.

The Production Company enjoys some wonderful times and we cherish the opportunities that we have to work with Australia's best musical talent. It is particularly rewarding when we provide these artists with new challenges and opportunities. With this show, we are doing just that.

Debra Byrne is one of the all time greats of Australian musical theatre and what a delight to see her do this extraordinary and demanding comic role. Debra has been thrilling the entire company in rehearsals, and now it is your turn to enjoy her.

What a pleasure it is to welcome back Mitchell Butel as he plays seven different characters in this show! Mitchell is one of Australia's most gifted comic actors. A versatile and talented

cast of actors, singers and dancers join Debra and Mitchell.

Roger Hodgman is a great favourite with our audiences and his ability to direct musical comedy is unique. I am always delighted and thrilled when he agrees to direct a production for us and his affinity with Neil Simon is all to our benefit. The wonderful Guy Simpson, our founding Musical Director conducts the company and Orchestra Victoria. Dana Jolly rounds out the team with her stylish choreography and staging. Richard Jeziorny has cleverly designed the sets and costumes, Paul Jackson has lit all of Belle's many worlds and System Sound will make sure you hear every delicious word.

My thanks go to our friends at *The Herald Sun*. Their support is integral in the success of this production and greatly appreciated. My thanks go to all our Sponsors and Patrons and to you, our dear subscribers and friends.

Now sit back, relax and enjoy the intimate memoirs of Belle Poitrine, a tough little girl who reached for the stars, and the love and laughs she found along the way!

Jeanne Pratt AC
Chairman



DEBRA BYRNE

Belle Schlumpfert

Anyone who has ever heard Debra Byrne sing knows just how special this Australian performer is. Debra has amassed credentials in music, television, film and on stage that few can match.

Whether it be as the 16 year old Queen of Pop, to the heart-breaking thrill of Grizabella's Memory in *Cats*, her career has been full of memorable highlights.

Debra first won Australian Heats as the "little girl with the big voice" on the original *Young Talent Time*, where she performed for four years. Following this, she moved to a recording career and won the Australian Queen of Pop Award for two consecutive years.

With two Logie Awards to her credit, Debra's television career took her to London and appearances on the Cliff Richard's BBC-TV series, her own ABC-TV series with John Farnham, titled *Farnham and Byrne* and her first acting role in the Sammy Award winning TV *Follies*.

Debra starred with Matt Dillon in *Rebel* where she dazzled cinema-goers with her performance and was nominated for an Australian Film Institute Award.

The next eight years saw Debra build her reputation as one of Australia's leading theatre ladies. She achieved critical acclaim as Grizabella in *Cats*, performed with Judi Connelli in *Jerry's Girls*, and played the role of Fantine in *Les Misérables*. Her voice is featured in the Grammy award winning symphonic recording of *Les Misérables*. In 1988 she performed for the Prince and Princess of Wales at the Royal Bicentennial Concert.

Debra released her first album in 1991 called

Caught in the Act, which proved a huge success by reaching number one on the Australian Charts. After the success of *Caught in the Act*, Debra wrote and recorded her second album *Sleeping Child*.

After nearly two years of waiting, she won the much-coveted role as Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard* and on the 26th of October 1996 she gave the performance of her life.

Debra recorded her third album *New Ways to Dream*, her favourite.

Debra has become increasingly recognised for her dramatic talent, appearing in guest roles in the top rating TV dramas, *GP*, *Police Rescue*, *Law of the Land*, the ABC series *Naked* and more recently *The Secret Life of Us*.

In 1999 Debra returned to cabaret with her show *Caught in the Act Again!!* She is currently performing in her own creation starring with Wendy Stapleton and Nikki Nicholls in *Girls Girls Girls!!!*

In 2004, Debra appeared in the box office smash *Minefields and Miniskirts* for the Malthouse Theatre, which toured nationally in 2005.

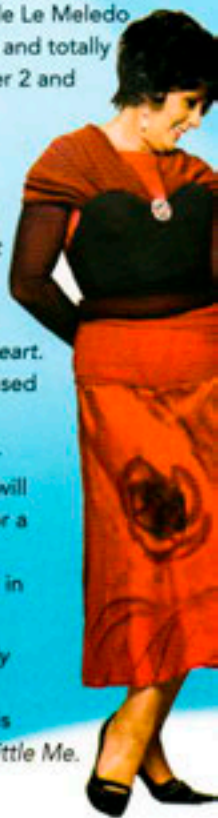
Debra is the very proud mother of Arja Byrne 28, Lauren Byrne 25, and Lucille Le Meledo 7. Debra is also the very proud and totally unbiased grandmother of Oliver 2 and Aaron Byrne 9 months.

In December 2005, Debra chaperoned Lucille's debut performance on the nationally televised *Carols by Candlelight* on Channel 9.

In March 2006 Debra released her latest album *With All My Heart*. In November 2006 Debra released through Pan Macmillan her autobiography *Not Quite Ripe*.

In October of this year, Debra will reprise her role of Grizabella for a production of *Cats* at the Derwent Entertainment Centre in Hobart, Tasmania.

Debra performed in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in 2006 for The Production Company and is delighted to be returning for *Little Me*.



Mitchell is one of Australia's most versatile and respected stage and screen actors. He has previously performed for The Production Company as Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!* for which he received a 2006 Green Room nomination for Best Featured Actor in a Musical and as Woolf in the initial season and subsequent tour of *Hair* for which he received the 2002 Green Room Award in the same category and a Mo Award nomination. Mitchell's other theatre credits include *Tomfoolery*, *Urinetown*, *Piaf* (MTC), *Summer Rain*, *Harbour*, *The Republic of Myopia*, *Holy Day*, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, *Tartuffe*, *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Dead White Males*, *The Café Latte Kid*, *Summer of the Aliens*, *Six Degrees of Separation* (STC), *The Venetian Twins* (QTC), *The Adventures of Snugglepoot and Cuddlepoot*, *The Laramie Project*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Dead Heart* (Company B Belvoir), *Othello* (Bell Shakespeare Company) *Unidentified Human Remains* and *The True Nature of Love* (STCSA), *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Ensemble), *A Hard God* (New England Theatre Co), *The Fantasticks* (Newtown Actors Group), *Blue Remembered Hills* (O'Punksky's Theatre Co), *Mad, Bad and Spooky* (Theatre of Image/Syd Fest), *Grease*, *Man of La Mancha* (Gordon Frost/SEL), *Little Shop of Horrors* (David Atkins Enterprises), *Saturday Night Fever* (DAE/ICA), *Follies and Bernadette Peters in Concert* (Sydney Opera House) and last year was seen as Rodney in *Dusty – The Original Pop Diva* (Dusty Productions).



MITCHELL BUTEL

Noble Egglestone & All the Men in Belle's Life

Mitchell has written and performed in two solo cabaret shows, *Mitchell Butel's Excellent Adventure* and *And Now For The Weather* and is the voice of the *Playschool* Theme Song. On television, he has appeared in *Stephen King's Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, *MDA*, *Grass Roots*, *In the Swim*, *All Saints*, *Wildside*, *Murder Call*, *Close Ups*, *Twisted Tales*, *Bordertown* and *GP*. His film credits include *Gettin' Square*, *The Bank*, *Strange Fits of Passion*, *Virtual Nightmare*, *Two Hands* and *Dark City*.

Mitchell received 2006 and 2004 Helpmann Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical for *Summer Rain* and *The Republic of Myopia*, the 2005 Helpmann Award for Best Actor in a Musical for *The Venetian Twins*, a 2005 Mo Award nomination for *The Republic of Myopia*, the 2000 Green Room Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for *Piaf* and 1999 and 2003 AFI nominations for Best Supporting Actor in a Feature Film for *Strange Fits of Passion* and *Gettin' Square*.

He will next be seen opposite Magda Szubanski in the Melbourne Theatre Company production of *The Madwoman of Chaillot*.





HEATHER BOLTON

Momma / Mrs Egglestone

Heather's recent theatre productions include the premieres of *3 Cities* for Ranters Theatre in Cardiff, Wales and *The George Fairfax Award Winner Taize* by Teresa Bell for Castlemaine Festival; David Mamet's *Boston Marriage* for Downstage Theatre; and Ariette Taylor's production of Chekhov's *Ivanov*.

A member of Melbourne's Ranters Theatre, Heather has performed in the company's *Roulette* plays, *St Kilda Tales*, and *The Wall* touring Europe and Australia. Other theatre includes MTC's *Assassins* and *Into the Woods*; Playbox Theatre's *Ruby Moon*, *Blak Inside*, *Salt*, *Miracles*, *Speaking in Tongues* and *Eleventh Hour's* Brecht, Beckett, Kane. She has appeared in TV series *Blue Heelers*, *MDA* and *Stingers*. Films include *Angel Baby*, Fred Schepisi's *Evil Angels*, Gaylene Preston's *Mr Wrong* for which she won a GOFTA Best Actress award and the current MIFF feature *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee for The Sydney Theatre Company, *Twelfth Night* for Essential Theatre, *We Will Rock You* (Australia and Japan tour), *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Macbeth*, both for Complete Works Theatre Company and *Fame The Musical* (Australia and Asia tours).

Daniel is also a part of the Green Room Award winning cabaret show *Vaudeville X* that played successful seasons at both the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and most recently the Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

Daniel has been involved in a number of film projects, the most recent *Inanimate Objects* for Adonis Films in which he played the Lead (yet to be released).

As a TV Actor his credits include *Neighbours*, *Thunderstone II* and *Blue Heelers*, and as a singer he has performed on several variety shows as well as *Carols in the Domain*.

Daniel has been involved with the workshopping of new Australian theatre and film. He was part of the original workshop for *Priscilla The Musical*.

Amongst his extensive studies he was recently invited to study acting at The Atlantic Theater Acting School in New York.



JOANNA FRIPP

Ramona

Joanna hails from Perth where she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre at WAAPA. Credits there included *Working*, *My Favourite Year* and *Lysistrata*. She performed regularly in a vocal trio around Perth with the likes of David Campbell and Todd McKenney.

Her first major contract was as a cabaret singer on the Superstar Gemini Cruise, Singapore. Since arriving in Melbourne



DANIEL FLETCHER

Lucky Malone

Daniel has a long list of theatre and musical theatre credits to his name, including

three years ago she has worked for The Entertainment Store hosting children's shows, No Mates Productions, Theatre in Decay at the Adelaide Fringe Festival and appeared in Anthony Crowley's *The Wild Blue*.

Ensemble Four is one of her ongoing projects, a group of four actor/directors producing new Australian works and who will be launching with a full length play this year.

Last year was Joanna's The Production Company debut in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She is delighted to be part of the team who are again bringing a new musical to the Australian stage.



PETER LOWREY

Benny Buchsbaum

Peter began his career with the Royal Queensland Theatre Company's production of *Gypsy* and since then has worked extensively as an actor, singer and dancer.

His credits include the national tour of *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and the original productions of *Evita* and *Me and My Girl*. Peter performed *Coricopat* in *Cats* and during his association with that show also performed the roles of Alonzo and the *RumTumTigger*. A change of style followed with the Q Theatre's production of *The Sentimental Bloke*, followed by the national tour of *My Fair Lady*. In 1989 Peter appeared in Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*, after which he toured Australia and New Zealand with *Les Misérables*. In 1992 Peter performed the role of Ed in *Torch Song Trilogy*, he then performed in *South Pacific* for Gordon/Frost in Thailand, returning to Australia to perform in *The Secret Garden*. In 1996 Peter once again performed in *My Fair Lady* in Brisbane and was the Artistic Director for the One

Night Stand concert for the Victorian AIDS Council. In 1997 Peter returned to IMG's production of *My Fair Lady* as associate choreographer. Also in 1997 he played the role of Peter in *Crazy For You* in the Australian tour. In 1999 Peter was assistant choreographer in the Essgee production of *Merry Widow*. From 2001 – 2002 Peter played Fr Alex and understudied Sam and Harry in the fabulous *Mamma Mia!* He is a sort after marriage celebrant in his "other" job. Peter appeared in *Sunset Boulevard* as Manfred, after also appearing in the highly acclaimed *Kiss Me, Kate* again for The Production Company. Peter has recently joined the corporate entertaining group *The Rat Pack's Back*.



ADAM MURPHY

Bernie Buchsbaum

Adam has lived a large portion of his life in New Zealand but now calls Melbourne home. He studied Drama and Film Studies at the University of South Australia and trained at the Bay of Plenty Academy of Performing Arts (NZ).

Adam has appeared in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Pajama Game*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Carousel*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *The Gilbert & Sullivan Show* and *Call Me Madam* for The Production Company as well as the Pratt prize workshop of *Sideshow Alley*.

Other stage credits include *Guys and Dolls* (NZ), *In The Family* (Positive Women), *Urinetown* (MTC), *Mamma Mia!* (Dainty Consolidated), *Les Misérables* (Cameron Mackintosh) and the cabaret *Beautiful Losers*.

Screen credits include *The Trivia Company* (NZ), *Shortland Street* (NZ), *Eugenie Sandler*, *Halifax f.p.*, *Neighbours*, *Blue Heelers* and *The Forest* (a short feature film).

Here's to little me

Frank Van Straten meets Belle Poitrine -
and the man who made her



Virginia Martin and Sid Caesar in the original New York production, 1962

Patrick Dennis's comic biographies *Mame*, *Little Me* and *First Lady* tell the stories of three lovable, larger-than-life ladies: Mame Dennis, Belle Poitrine and Martha Dinwiddie Butterfield. Though the first was very loosely based on an eccentric relative of the author's, there was, of course, never a real Auntie Mame, a real Belle or a real Martha – or, for that matter, a real Patrick Dennis.

In fact, Mr Dennis was as much a fabulous fiction as the 'real live girls' that he created, and his life was every bit as bizarre as theirs. In reality, Patrick Dennis was Edward Everett

Tanner III. Born in Evanston, Illinois in 1921, he drove ambulances in North Africa and Saudi Arabia during the war and, in 1948, married and fathered two children. In the early 1950s he published two novels, *Oh What a Wonderful Wedding* and *House Party*, using the pseudonym Virginia Rowans. It was for *Auntie Mame: An Irreverent Escapade*, in 1955, that he adopted the name Patrick Dennis – and achieved fame and fortune.

Auntie Mame spent 112 weeks on the best seller list and eventually sold over two million copies in five languages. Rosalind Russell

Sid Caesar as Mr Pinchley and Virginia Martin as Belle in the original New York production, 1962



starred in the hugely successful stage version and the subsequent screen adaptation. The latter inspired Jerry Herman's 1966 Broadway musical *Mame* with Angela Lansbury, and the 1974 film with Lucille Ball.

Little Me: The Intimate Memoirs of that Great Star of Stage, Screen and Television Belle Poitrine, as told to Patrick Dennis was published in 1961. An immediate best seller, it was a stinging parody of the cult of celebrity and self-importance. Its pages were richly illustrated with mock 'vintage' photographs by Cris Alexander, who had been a member of the original *Auntie Mame* company. There was extra spice when linguists revealed that Belle Poitrine was French for 'beautiful bosom' or, more prosaically, 'great tits'.

It was inevitable that *Little Me* would, like *Mame*, become a major musical. Indeed, producers Cy Feuer and Ernest Martin, whose credits included *Where's Charley?*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Can-Can* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, had optioned it before it was even published. Initially, Patrick Dennis was to do the adaptation. After he came up with a three-page outline he gave up, telling Feuer and Martin, 'Let someone with a fresh viewpoint tackle it for the stage. As long as the cheque clears, I don't care if they do it in blackface.'

In the end it was the brilliant Neil Simon who crafted the adaptation. The songs were written by Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh; they had made an auspicious Broadway debut with *Wildcat* in 1960. Bob Fosse, who'd worked with Feuer and Martin on *How to Succeed...*, came on board as choreographer, and he and Feuer co-directed. As the crusty Broadway critic Frank Rich reminisced: 'For one all-too-brief moment, a sassy group of young Broadway talents came into glittering conjunction.'

Dorothy Provine, Julie London, Edie Adams, Janis Paige and even Joan Collins were considered for the role of Belle, but eventually the part went to one of the stars of *How to Succeed...*, Virginia Martin. It was Simon

The unreality of a musical freed him. And *Little Me* is a wonderful example of a comic musical, possibly the funniest made until its time.'

The show began its tryout tour in Philadelphia on 8 October 1962. Though the reviews were enthusiastic, the creative team cut and polished ruthlessly. Two songs, 'Mama's Little Girl' and 'Lafayette' were jettisoned, and some characters were written out. 'Sure we're tough,' Feuer told a reporter, 'but in this business, nice guys finish in Philadelphia.'

Little Me reached New York's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on 17 November 1962. In the *Herald Tribune*, Walter Kerr called it, 'A happy holiday of a show ... a blockbuster so genial it looks like a breeze.' *The New York Times*' Howard Taubman agreed: 'It gleams with show biz savvy.' And the song 'Real Live Girl' swiftly became a real live hit.

Little Me was nominated for nine Tony Awards, but in a year dominated by *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Oliver!* it won only one – for Bob Fosse's



who came up with the idea of making the show a star vehicle for the seven men in Belle's life – all to be portrayed by one man. And the man they chose was Sid Caesar, the quick-witted comedian for whom Simon had toiled as a scriptwriter on TV's *Your Show of Shows*. Caesar had appeared on Broadway only once before, in 1948, but his television clowning had made him famous. Caesar and Simon worked closely on the *Little Me*'s comedic elements. As music theatre guru Martin Gottfried put it: 'With *Little Me*, Simon found an exuberance and a comic lunacy that he did not often display, even in his most successful comedies.'

Pictures from left to right:

Nancy Andrews with lyricist Carolyn Leigh and composer Cy Coleman during *Little Me* rehearsals, New York, 1962

Eileen Gaurley and Bruce Forsyth in the London production, 1964

Author Patrick Dennis, 1960



Nancy Hayes as Belle on the cover of the program for the first Australian production, Sydney, 1968

choreography. After notching up a respectable 257 Broadway performances, it toured the United States for many months.

Almost exactly two years after its Broadway debut, *Little Me* opened at the Cambridge Theatre in London. This time Eileen Gourlay was the young Belle, while variety veteran Bruce Forsyth played the seven gentlemen in her life. Forsyth, who'd started his show biz career as 'Boy Bruce - The Mighty Atom', was familiar as the genial host of TV's *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, but this was his first 'book' show. *Little Me* ran for 334 performances in the West End.

Over the years *Little Me* has earned a devoted cult following and has been revived several times. Neil Simon revised the book when the show played at New York's Eugene O'Neill Theatre in 1982, and two of the original songs were replaced; more importantly - and less successfully - the Caesar-Forsythe roles were split between James Coco and Victor Garber. In his *New York Times* review, Frank Rich called it 'a spotty, sloppy substitute' for the 'zestier and grander' 1962 original. It survived for only 36 performances. A 1984 presentation at the Prince of Wales in London was similarly lacklustre. In the Roundabout Theatre Company presentation in New York in 1998, Belle was played by Faith Prince, who delighted cabaret audiences in Australia last year. Martin Short played all her beaux; his efforts were rewarded with the Tony for Best Actor in a Musical.



Opening night invitation - May 7 Menzies Hotel Theatre Restaurant in Sydney in 1968

What about Australia? Up till now, there's been only one fully professional production of *Little Me* in this country. Perhaps because of the casting challenges it presented, the show seems to have been studiously ignored by major local producers such as J.C. Williamson Ltd. It finally arrived, albeit in somewhat scaled down form, at Menzies Hotel Theatre Restaurant in Sydney in 1968. Fresh from her triumphs in *Sweet Charity*, Nancy Hayes sparkled as the younger Belle, while debonair Tivoli revue favourite Colin Croft played her suitors. Others in the cast included Laurel Veitch, Henri Szeps, Sue Walker and ex-Kiwi comedian Phil Jay. Tivoli stalwart Sheila Cruze choreographed, Enzo Toppiano conducted the orchestra, and Jon Ewing directed.

Since then we've had to be content with several amateur productions. The most

notable, in 1983, was presented by Festival Theatre Company at the National Theatre in St Kilda. This featured Maggie Kirkpatrick – then best known as Joan 'The Freak' Ferguson in the TV series *Prisoner* – as Belle; Rex Callahan directed.

And what of the man who started it all – Edward Everett 'call me Patrick Dennis' Tanner III? Well, that's another story, and an extraordinary one. The various permutations of Auntie Mame made him a fortune, which he proceeded to enjoy to the full. He was tall, good looking, had twinkling blue eyes and sported a fashionable beard. He was devastatingly witty, dressed stylishly and became the darling of New York society.

But ... in the middle of all the glamour and clamour he discovered that he was gay. This, plus the stresses of success, led to a drinking problem. Eventually he fell in love with a man, but it took an extended stay in a sanatorium for him to realise that he would have to leave his marriage.

By the early 1970s his writing had fallen out of fashion, and he began to self-destruct. According to an acquaintance, 'He was always ending up naked in fountains.' Finally he pulled himself together and got himself a job. To his friends' astonishment he became a butler. Not just any butler, mind you: he worked for Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's.

By then he had dropped his pseudonym, but his employer had no idea that his impeccable manservant Tanner was the world-famous author Patrick Dennis.

Edward Everett Tanner III died of pancreatic cancer in 1976. He was 55.

In recent years there has been renewed interest in the life and work of the surprising Mr Tanner. His books have been republished, several with affectionate introductions by his son, Dr Michael Tanner, and, of course, great shows like *Mame* and *Little Me* continue to delight new generations of theatregoers.

So here's a toast to Edward Tanner – and to his greatest creations, Patrick Dennis, Auntie Mame and Belle Poitrine. And, ladies and gentlemen, as Belle sings as she brings down the curtain on *Little Me* – 'Here's to Us'.

© Frank Van Straten OAM

Frank is a theatre historian, author, broadcaster and former director of the Arts Centre's Performing Arts Museum. His recent books include Tivoli, a colourful history of the much loved Australian variety circuit, and Huge Deal, a biography of controversial entrepreneur Hugh D. McIntosh, both published by Lothian Books.



Maggie Kirkpatrick as Belle in the Festival Theatre Company production, Melbourne, 1983



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- 🎵 Overture Orchestra
- 🎵 Little Me Belle, Quartet
- 🎵 The Other Side of the Tracks Belle
- 🎵 Rich Kids Rag Orchestra
- 🎵 I Love You (As Much As I Am Able) Noble, Belle, Ensemble
- 🎵 Deep Down Inside Belle, Pinchley, Junior, Ensemble
- 🎵 Be a Performer Benny, Bernie, Belle
- 🎵 Oh! Dem Doggone Dimples Belle, boys
- 🎵 The Boom Boom Song Val du Val, girls
- 🎵 I've Got Your Number Lucky
- 🎵 Real Live Girl Fred, Ensemble
- 🎵 Finale Belle

ACT II

- 🎵 I Love Sinking You Noble, Belle, Ensemble
- 🎵 Poor Little Hollywood Star Belle
- 🎵 Be a Performer (reprise) Benny, Bernie
- 🎵 Goodbye Prince, Yulnick, Ensemble
- 🎵 Here's To Us Belle, Ensemble
- 🎵 Finale Belle, Noble, Ensemble



CAST OF CHARACTERS In order of appearance

Belle Schlumpfert	Debra Byrne	Colette	Hester van der Vyver
Quartet.....	Paul Biencourt	Fred Poitrine	Mitchell Butel
	Ross Hannaford	Sergeant.....	Cameron Mannix
	Glenn Hill	Preacher	Peter Lowery
	Cameron Mannix	Bert.....	Ross Hannaford
Charlie	Luke Alleva	German Soldier	Glaston Toft
Momma	Heather Bolton	General.....	Adam Murphy
Lucky Malone	Daniel Fletcher	Nurse.....	Nicole Melloy
Ramona	Joanna Fripp	Soldier in Hospital.....	Luke Alleva
Cerine.....	Rebecca Colafella	The Captain.....	Peter Lowery
Bruce	Nicholas McMahon	Steward	Daniel Fletcher
Noble Egglestone.....	Mitchell Butel	Sailors	Glenn Hill
Mrs Egglestone.....	Heather Bolton		Stephen Wheat
Greensleeves.....	Adam Murphy	Assistant Director	Cameron Mannix
Pinchley Junior	Ross Hannaford	Secretary	Rosemarie Harris
Miss Kepplewhite.....	Hester van der Vyver	Delivery Boy	Mitchell Butel
Nurse.....	Brooke Lowery	Otto Schnitzler	Mitchell Butel
Amos Pinchely.....	Mitchell Butel	Victor	Hester van der Vyver
Kleeg	Glaston Toft	Yulnick	Stephen Wheat
Bernie Buchsbaum	Adam Murphy	Prince Cherry of Rosenzweig ...	Mitchell Butel
Benny Buchsbaum.....	Peter Lowery	Doctor	Paul Biencourt
Prosecutor.....	Glaston Toft	Drunk.....	Mitchell Butel
Defence Attorney	Cameron Mannix		
Belle's boy.....	Paul Biencourt	Other parts played by members of the company.	
	Ross Hannaford		
	Glenn Hill		
	Stephen Wheat		
Maitre'D (Skylight Roof Hotel) ...	Paul Biencourt		
Val du Val.....	Mitchell Butel		
Val du Valettes	Rebecca Colafella		
	Rosemarie Harris		
	Brooke Lowery		
	Nicole Melloy		

TIME AND PLACE

Belle Poitrine's Southampton home, as she launches her tell-all autobiography 'Little Me'.

THE COMPANY

Luke Alleva, Paul Biencourt, Rebecca Colafella, Ross Hannaford, Rosemarie Harris, Glenn Hill, Brooke Lowery, Cameron Mannix, Nicholas McMahon, Nicole Melloy, Glaston Toft, Hester van der Vyver, Stephen Wheat

THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE GENIUSES

little me

NEIL SIMON Book

America's most beloved playwright, Neil Simon's works include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, *God's Favorite*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound*, *Rumours*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *London Suite*, *Proposals*, *Hotel Suite*, *The Dinner Party*, *45 Seconds from Broadway*, *Oscar and Felix*, *Rose's Dilemma*, *The Out-of-Towners*, *The Heartbreak Kid*, *Max Dugan Returns* and the books *Rewrites* and *The Play Goes On*.

His plays have won numerous Tony Awards and he received the Pulitzer Prize for *Lost in Yonkers*.

CY COLEMAN Music

'Cy Coleman is a permanent gem in Broadway's musical crown,' wrote *The New York Post*. His Broadway shows have won Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards, Critics Awards and many others. Included among them are such favourites as *Sweet Charity*, *City of Angels*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Barnum*, *The Life and Little Me*. Cy Coleman

received three Emmys, two Grammys and countless Grammy nominations. Some of his songs include *Big Spender*, *If My Friends Could See Me Now*, *Hey, Look Me Over*, *Witchcraft*, *The Best Is Yet to Come* and the list goes on. Mr Coleman's awards and honours include the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters' Hall of Fame, the Dramatists Guild's Frederick Lowe Award and ASCAP Foundation's Richard Rodgers Award.

CAROLYN LEIGH Lyrics

Carolyn Leigh wrote for radio and pop music and her songs include some of the most famous ever recorded, including Frank Sinatra's *Young at Heart* and *Witchcraft*.

On Broadway she wrote lyrics for the legendary Mary Martin in *Peter Pan* and collaborated with Cy Coleman on *Wildcat* and *Little Me*. Her final Broadway show was *How Now, Dow Jones* with film composer Elmer Bernstein. Carolyn Leigh was nominated for Broadway's Tony Award four times: in 1963, as Best Composer and Lyricist, with collaborator Cy Coleman, and her lyrics as part of a Best Musical nomination for *Little Me*; and in 1968, as Best Composer and Lyricist, with collaborator Elmer Bernstein, and her lyrics as part of a Best Musical nomination for *How Now, Dow Jones*. She was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1985.

Orchestra Victoria

Musical Director	Guy Simpson
Violin	Matthew Hassall
Double Bass	Matthew Thorne
Reed 1/ Piccolo, Flute, Soprano and Alto Saxophone	Tony Hicks
Reed 2/ Flute, Clarinet Alto Saxophone	Grania Burke
Reed 3/ Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone	Martin Corcoran
Reed 4/ Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Baritone Saxophone	Stuart Byrne
Trumpet	Greg Maundrell Shane Gillard
Trombone	Ian Bell Simon Myers
Drums	Dean Cooper
Piano	Richard Montgomery
Guitar / Banjo	John Paine

Production Credits

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Company Administrator	Michael Norman
Rehearsal Repetiteur	Richard Montgomery
Assistant Stage Manager	Bonnie Walsh
Wardrobe Supervisor	Kim Bishop
Hair & Make Up	Michelle Skeete
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Projection	Baird McKenna
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Mix Engineer	Christian Gusterson
Radio Mic Technicians	Nick Hammond Cameron Herbert
Dance Captain	Brooke Lowery
Marketing and Design	ACMN Caryn Cavanagh Celia Pavelieff Peter J Adams
Publicity	Make A Difference PR Michael J Wilkie Libby Ross
Set Construction	Malthouse Theatre
Lighting Equipment	Bytecraft Entertainment



THE COMPANY



Luke Alleva

Luke has danced and taught extensively in Australia and the UK. Since graduating from Brent Street School of performing arts, Luke has been a part of many productions both in theatre and film. His theatre credits include *We Will Rock You*, both Australian and West End productions, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Get Happy* and *Man of La Mancha*.

Luke was also cast as a lead dancer in Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge* and *Bootmen*, directed by Dein Perry. He has also performed in many major events including the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics, *Hats Off* and the Australian Dance Awards.

Luke would like to dedicate his performance to his wife Sabrina, his new baby girl Chiara and his dog Mia:



Paul Biencourt

Paul's first Production Company appearance was as Constable Locke in *The Music Man*.

Since then he has appeared in: *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Camelot*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and now *Little Me* – a tally of seven and counting. He has thrived on The Production company's fast paced, adrenalin packed rehearsal/performance periods where you can be asked to play anything – in Paul's case he has been an all singing all dancing cowboy, finance man, thespian and George Gershwin!!! Paul has relished lending his tenor voice to these shows and has been featured in trios, quartets and as the Scottish Tenor in *Camelot*. His credits include Noel from the Delltones in *Shout! the Musical* (check him out on the Aria award winning cast recording); the Young Heir in a workshop of *Nostradamus* and he played *The Soldier* in *Hello Again* at Chapel off Chapel. Other career highlights include: singing on the ABC's *Quest '95* backed by the MSO and on Channel Seven programs: *Denise Drysdale*, *AM Adelaide* and the Perth telethon.



Rebecca Colafella

Rebecca graduated from The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2002. She then joined the cast of *Mamma Mia!* in 2003 for the Sydney season as well as the Australasian tour which finished in Melbourne in 2005.

This is the third show Rebecca has been involved in for The Production Company, the first two being *Oklahoma!* in 2005 and *Camelot* in 2006. Rebecca has written

and directed her own cabaret shows at Capers Restaurant over the last 3 years. She completed a Certificate of Pilates Instruction in 2005, and then a Graduate Diploma in Education in 2006.

Rebecca is currently teaching English and Drama at Thomas Carr College which is both challenging and rewarding. Rebecca would like to thank her parents Rosalie and Alfred as well as her fiancé Luke for their continuous love and support.



Ross Hannaford

Ross was most recently seen in *Sweet Charity* for The Production Company. Earlier this year he played the role of Theo, in *Pippin*, the first ever production for Kookaburra. Ross commenced his professional career in musical theatre in the role of Tiny Tim in the Melbourne season of *Scrooge*. He was subsequently cast in the role of Colin in the Australian tour of *The Secret Garden* (SEL/GFO).

Ross was part of the Australian and international touring cast of *We Will Rock You* and in 2006 he was invited by Cirque Du Soleil to Montreal to help create a character for their new touring production. Last year Ross appeared in The Production Company's *Camelot* and *Thoroughly Modern Mille*.

An accomplished performer, Ross has trained in Dance Music and theatre, and achieved his Royal Academy of Dance Solo Seal award 2002. He is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) Secondary school and VCA Music Theatre. He currently teaches at Dance World Studios and VCA and looks forward to an exciting season in *Little Me*.



Rosemarie Harris

A graduate from the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Rosemarie's theatre credits include *The Gilbert and Sullivan Show*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *South Pacific* (all with The Production Company), *And the World Goes Round* (Chapel off Chapel), *Shelley in Batboy the Musical* (Melbourne Theatre Company wings project and Chapel off Chapel), *Bach to Bacharach* (Chapel off Chapel), *Mary-Katherine/Jane-Ulrika in Virgins-a-musical-threesome* (Melbourne Theatre Company workshop, Malthouse theatre, New York Musical Theatre Festival), *Comedy Festival Gala*, *Laurey in Oklahoma!* (Morning Melodies regional tour) and most recently *Simone Warne in Shane Warne The Musical* (Adelaide Cabaret Festival). Her television credits include *Blue Heelers*, *Crash Burn*, *Micallef* and various commercials. She is also an established singer/song writer and has recently returned from Europe where she was continuing her classical voice studies and performing in the jazz clubs of Amsterdam.

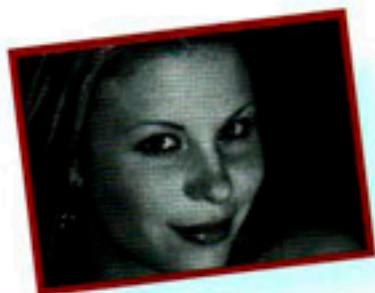


Glenn Hill

Glenn has trained with the Brent Street School of Performing Arts, and Rodwells Studio of Dance in Sydney. He began his professional career at the age of 16, appearing in *Jolson – The Musical*.

Glenn was an original cast member and Assistant Dance Captain on the Australian and Japanese tours of *We Will Rock You*. He appeared in *Pippin* for Kookaburra. Most recently Glenn made his Production Company debut in *Sweet Charity*.

Glenn's other performance credits include Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and various corporate and television events.



Brooke Lowery

Brooke studied all facets of dance from a very early age, predominantly at the Hart School of Dance, which she now co-owns with her sister. She completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Deakin University, majoring in modern contemporary dance and drama, whilst also attaining her SDA teaching diploma in both jazz and tap dance.

Brooke's performance credits includes work with contemporary choreographers at Deakin and Monash Universities, television

commercials for GTV9's *Family Feud* and *The Footy Show*, lifestyle photo shoots for BMW motors and the New Quay Docklands, as well as working extensively for Crescendo Entertainment, Joanne Adderley Promotions and Danni Kay Promotions.

This is Brooke's third show for The Production Company, appearing in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Sweet Charity*. Brooke is thrilled to be offered the Dance Captain position for *Little Me*.



Cameron Mannix

Cameron was recently seen as Salvador Dali in John Milson's new production of *The Barber of Seville* for Opera Australia. Prior to that he played Bandmaster Hartley in *Titanic – the Musical* (Seabiscuit Productions). Cameron has worked internationally as a Guest Entertainer for P&O/Princess Cruises.

Other credits include *South Pacific* (Seabiscuit Productions), *South Pacific* (The Production Company), script readings for *Screenplay – A Chapel off Chapel Loft Project*, appearances on *Mornings with Kerri-Anne*, and various concert engagements. Cameron can also be seen masquerading as a singing waiter as part of the corporate act *The Three Waiters*.

A 2002 WAAPA graduate, credits there include *Into The Woods*, *The Pajama Game*, Kurt Weill's *Berlin to Broadway*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors* and the world premiere of Enright/King's *The Good Fight*.



Nicholas McMahon

Nicholas is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts – Music Theatre. He appeared in the Australian premiere of Villa Lobos' *Magdalena*, and Verdi's *Otello* for Opera Australia, before studying at the Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne, and the National Theatre Drama School.

WAAPA credits include *The Witches of Eastwick* (Michael Spofford), *Jonah* (Waxy Collins), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Mendel), *The King Stag* (Pantaloone), Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and he featured in *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well...* directed by Tony Sheldon and *Sondheim's Merrily We Roll Along* under the direction of Ross Coleman.

Last year, Nicholas was assistant director on *Dusty-The Original Pop Diva*. He played 'Squire Dap', in The Production Company's production of *Camelot* and 'Louis' in *Nostradamus*, directed by Roger Hodgman. Nicholas has toured Singapore and Malaysia in *A Sesame Street Christmas* (Michael) with X-Systems Entertainment, and recently performed in *Cultural Time Bomb* (Herr Perfect/Musical Director) at The Butterfly Club.

He featured as a lead vocalist at the 2007 Sustainability Awards for the Premier of Victoria and in concert at *The Chapel off Chapel* singing Music and Lyrics from *Life's a Circus* by Anthony Costanzo.

Nicholas is thrilled to again be working with The Production Company and such a wonderful cast in *Little Me*.



Nicole Melloy

Nicole began dancing at an early age with Julie Cookson, and then went on to achieve her Diploma of Classical Ballet at the Christine Walsh Dance Centre. She continued her studies at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Most recently, Nicole has been touring nationally in *Back With A Vengeance* with Barry Humphries, aka Dame Edna Everage. Her theatre credits include The Production Company's *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and with Opera Australia *The Gondoliers*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Die Fledermaus* where she guest starred as Ginger Rogers.

Nicole has had extensive experience performing overseas with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, she has appeared in TV commercials, music videos, and has danced for numerous corporate events in Melbourne. She has also toured Australia hosting children's shows, danced in the *Bollywood Spectacular* for the Commonwealth Games Melbourne Festival in 2006, and recently danced in *The Countdown Spectacular* at the Rod Laver Arena.





Glaston Toft

Glaston graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2005 where he performed in *Chess* (Molokov), *Crazy for You* (Lank), *Forum* (Hysterium), *Road* (Eddie), and the short film *Trick of the Moonlight*.

Prior to WAAPA, Glaston completed a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice at the QLD Conservatorium of Music. He also completed a Certificate IV in Commercial Dance through DLDC. Upon graduating Glaston's highlights include the Australian premiere of LaChiusa's *The Wild Party*, *The Staff Room* (Grainfed), the short film *Working It Out* (Packed Lunch and Kingwest Films) for the MQFF, and the corporate entertainment show *Queens of the Road*. Glaston is delighted to be back on stage with The Production Company, having appeared in *Camelot* last year.



Hester van der Vyver

Hester recently returned from eighteen months in Paris where she studied at the

International drama school Jacques Lecoq. Prior to that she trained at The National Ballet Theatre School and the Melbourne Conservatorium. She has appeared most recently in The Production Company's *Sweet Charity* as well as their productions of *High Society*, *Anything Goes*, *Call Me Madam* and *Funny Girl*. She joined the Australian tour of *Cabaret the Musical* (IMG) and Gordon Frost's production of *Crazy for You*. Hester is currently completing a Master's in International Politics at Melbourne University and is thrilled to be working with The Production Company again.



Stephen Wheat

Stephen is thrilled to be returning to The Production Company in *Little Me*.

A graduate of The Western Australian Academy Performing Arts he began his career in *The Music Man* followed closely by the touring production of *Shout! The Legend of the Wild One*. His other credits include *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma!* and *Bye Bye Birdie* in which he played the role of Hugo Peabody. On television he has been seen in *Blue Heelers* and appears in the short film *TAKE*. Last year Stephen was an original cast member of *Dusty! The Original Pop Diva* understudying and performing the role of Rodney. Most recently he appeared in *Pippin* for Peter Cousins' *Kookaburra* and now looks forward to joining the cast of *42nd Street*.



ROGER HODGMAN

Director

Roger Hodgman began his career with the ABC in 1965, where he directed (and occasionally wrote and produced) a variety of programmes. He worked in England and Canada between 1971-1983 where he taught acting at East 15 Drama School and the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School, conducted acting workshops, taught university and directed numerous theatre productions. He held the position of Artistic Director of the Vancouver Playhouse for 3 years. A highlight of his time in Vancouver was working closely with Tennessee Williams on two premieres of Williams' plays.

On his return to Australia in 1983 Roger became Dean of the School of Drama at the Victorian College of the Arts. In 1988, he was appointed the Artistic Director of the Melbourne Theatre Company, where he spent a successful decade directing over forty productions ranging from Shakespeare to contemporary works. Roger has directed productions for STC, QTC, STCSA, The Production Company, IMG, Black Swan, Queensland Opera and Oz Opera. He has won two Green Room Awards for Best Director for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *A Little Night Music*.

Other accolades include Best Music Theatre Production for *Sweeney Todd* (Sydney Theatre Critics Awards), while *Skylight*, which Roger directed as a STC/MTC co-production, was named by the Sydney Morning Herald as one of ten best productions of the decade.

Musicals Roger has directed include four Sondheim works for MTC, *She Loves Me*,

Guys and Dolls, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *The Gilbert and Sullivan Show* for The Production Company and *She Loves Me* for the Shaw Festival in Canada. He will return to Canada next year to direct a major production of the Bernstein musical, *Wonderful Town*.

His production of *Respect*, a new musical based on popular songs performed by women in the twentieth century, is currently playing a long national tour.

Roger also works in television drama directing episodes of *The Secret life of Us*, (Nominated for a 2001 AFI Award - Best Direction of a Television Drama), *MDA*, *Holly's Heroes*, *Wicked Science*, *Crash Burn*, *White Collar Blue*, *Blue Heelers*, and *Stingers*. Most recently Roger has directed *Lockie Leonard* (based on the Tim Winton children's books). His first telemovie, *Stepfather of the Bride* (written by Geoffrey Atherden) screened on ABC television last November and has recently won the award for Best Telemovie at the Chicago Film Festival. He is about to start work as lead director on *The Elephant Princess* for Jonathon Shiff Productions/ZDF.



GUY SIMPSON

Musical Director

Guy Simpson has worked extensively as a Musical Director and Musical Supervisor for 25 years. He has had the honour of conducting the finest international artists in musical theatre, concerts and recordings.

Guy returns to Melbourne each year for The Production Company and has conducted the productions of *Funny Girl*, *Call Me Madam*,



Mack and Mabel, The Music Man, They're Playing Our Song, Carousel, Oklahoma!, Camelot and, this year, *Little Me*.

He is currently Musical Supervisor of *Miss Saigon* in Australia. He has been associated with this show since the first auditions for the West End production and has since conducted the show in Australia, Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore. Last year he supervised the new production in Korea.

His work on *The Phantom of the Opera* has spanned 16 years with productions in Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, South Africa, Shanghai, Taipei, Hong Kong and Korea where he produced the cast recording. He has also had a long association with the musical *Cats* in many cities.

He was Musical Director of the Australian productions of *Chicago* and *Cabaret* followed by *We Will Rock You* in Australia and Japan. He was also Music Director for the UK pop/opera group *AMICI FOREVER* for their Australia / New Zealand tour in 2006.

Other productions in Australia include *Les Misérables*; *My Fair Lady*; *Company*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *West Side Story*; *Divine Metropolis*; *Pirates of Penzance*;

the Victoria State Opera and the Australian Contemporary Dance Company.

Dana then moved to London, where she spent 10 years between 1989 – 1999 dancing and choreographing in the UK, Europe, Scandinavia and Japan.

Her credits include *Wayne Sleeps Hollywood* and *Broadway UK Tour*, *Andrew Lloyd Webber's Song and Dance UK & Europe* tour, *Royal Variety Performance*, *British Music Awards*, *National Music Express Awards London*, *Shall We Dance* tour, *Winter Olympics Norway*, various fashion and hair shows in the UK and Japan, TV, film, video clips and world pop tours.

Dana returned to Australia as Resident Choreographer on *Susan Stromans Show Boat* for which she received a Green Room Award Nomination. She has since worked as a freelance teacher and choreographer as well as setting up her own entertainment company "Voltage International Productions".

Her recent projects include choreography for a new Australian pop artist signed to Liberation Records, *The Diva Awards* with Bob Downe, and resident choreographer for the Australian production of *We Will Rock You* and *The Producers – The New Mel Brooks Musical*.

Dana's work in 2006 included choreography for the television commercials of *Bert's Family Feud*, choreographer and movement consultant to Melbourne City Councils *Moomba Waterfest*, and the workshop of a new Australian musical *Nostradamus* with Roger Hodgman. Dana has previously choreographed three productions for The Production Company, *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Dana just returned from Kuala Lumpur where she choreographed the Citrawarna Festival celebrating Malaysia's 50th year of independence. She also is currently choreographing the Australian production of *Respect* and is elated to be working once again with Rodger Hodgman. Dana is delighted to be working with the creative team on this exciting new production.



DANA JOLLY Choreographer

Dana's career began at the age of 9, when she played Gypsy Rose Lee as a child in the musical *Gypsy* at Her Majesty's Theatre Melbourne. Dana then went on to train at the Victorian College of Arts, where she received a number of Scholarships to further her career. Before travelling overseas, Dana danced with



RICHARD JEZIORNY **Set and Costume Design**

Richard Jeziorny is a freelance designer who lives and works in Melbourne. After graduating from NIDA he worked as a resident designer in New Zealand and for the Melbourne Theatre Company.

He has designed for drama, musical theatre, ballet, opera, circus and dance. He has designed several large-scale puppetry works which have toured successfully in Australia and overseas. These included *Inside Dry Water*, *Wake Baby*, *The Reading Boy* and *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Fish*.

Recently he designed his 11th *Urban Dream Capsule* for the 10 year anniversary of the project in the Bourke St Mall windows of Myer. UDC premiered in Melbourne in 1996 and has been embraced by enthusiastic audiences all over the world. He also transformed the lawn between the Concert Hall and the Arts Centre into a vibrant beach environment for the duration of the Commonwealth Games and was the designer of the *Moomba Waterfest* parade in 2006.

In the past four years, Richard has designed many musicals for The Production Company - *Camelot*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, *Carousel* and *Sunset Boulevard*, for which he won a Green Room Award for Design in the Musical Theatre category. Other musical theatre designs include *Eurobeat* and *Sideshow Alley*.

Richard is closely involved with the Puppetry course at the VCA and recently was nominated for a Helpmann Award for his design of *The Red Tree*. Recent puppetry works include *The Legend of Ned Kelly* for Terrapin Puppet Theatre and a remount of *The Lost Thing* for

The Arts Centre Chookas Festival.

Richard has collaborated with Anthony Crowley at St Martins Youth Theatre on several important works including *Picasso's Children*, *When Sand Becomes Glass* and *Pretty White Lies* and the *Velveteen Undertow*.

Early in 2007 he designed *Chou Xiaoye* (*The Ugly Duckling*) for the Zhexiang Acrobatic troupe in Hangzhou, the *Moomba Waterfest* parade for the City of Melbourne, and the launch of the Citrawarna Festival in Kulala Lumpur.



JULIAN SPINK **Sound Designer**

Julian Spink has engineered live sound for a host of local and international artists including *Bachelor Girl*, *John Farnham*, *Christopher Cross*, *Warren Zevon*, and has toured extensively with many bands including *Split Enz*, *Crowded House*, *Little River Band*, *Icehouse*, and *The Divinyls*.

After joining System Sound in 1993 as Head of Sound on *Les Misérables*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and *West Side Story*, Julian has since been Associate Sound Designer for the original *Boy from Oz*, the *Millennium New Year's Eve Spectacular* (Melbourne), the 2000 Olympics Arts Festival - *Mahler's 8th Symphony*, a Helpmann Award winning *Cabaret* and the Australian productions of *Man of La Mancha*, *Footloose*, *Hair*, *Leader of the Pack*, *Eurobeat*, *Sideshow Alley*, *Respect*, *Chicago*, The Production Company's 2006 productions of *The Pajama Game*, *Camelot*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, The Production Company's 2004 productions of *High Society*, *Carousel* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.



MARK BENSON Sound Designer

Mark Benson joined System in 1996. Mark has designed, supervised as well as mixed many concerts and special events, including the Spray Farm Festivals, Concerts for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. Mark was the Orchestral Sound designer for The Production Company's productions since 2003.



PAUL JACKSON Lighting Designer

Paul works for Melbourne based firm The Flaming Beacon as a theatre, architectural and events lighting designer.

His design work for performance includes lighting designs for The Production Company, The Australian Ballet, Royal New Zealand

Ballet, Melbourne Theatre Company, West Australian Ballet, Malthouse, Ballet Lab, not yet it's difficult performance group, Oz Opera, Chamber Made Opera and many others.

Paul has lectured in design and associated studies at the University of Melbourne, RMIT University, NMIT and Victorian College of the Arts. Paul has worked as a project technical and production manager for Melbourne City Council, Arena Theatre Company and many others and was the Outdoor Programme Co-Ordinator for the 1999 Melbourne International Festival. He has toured projects to Korea, Taiwan, Denmark, Germany, Slovenia and Austria.

In 2000, Paul, with the support of the Australia Council, undertook a work-study at The Banff Centre in Canada, where he was Associate Lighting Designer to Harry Frehner on the Banff Festival Dance Programme.

Paul has been nominated for numerous Victorian Green Room Awards for set and lighting design and was the winner of the Best Lighting (Opera) Award for 2004, Best Design (Cabaret) 2005 and Best Lighting (Drama) 2006. A key creative team member on numerous award-winning shows, and a Helpmann Awards nominee, Paul was also named in the Arts and Entertainment section of The Bulletin's Smart 100 for 2004. Paul is an Artist-in-Residence at Malthouse Theatre in 2007.



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the Arts Centre



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Cameras, tape recorders, paging machines, video recorders and mobile telephones must not be operated in the venue.

In the interests of public health, the Arts Centre is a smoke - free area.

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General Manager
Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM

Executive Consultant Rachel D Taylor

Sponsorship and Development Manager
Chris Gibbons

Technical Director David Miller

Marketing ACMN
Caryn Cavanagh
Celia Pavelieff
Peter J Adams

Publicity Michael Wilkie
Make a Difference
(MAD) PR

Our Appreciation to:
Programme article and photos: Frank Van Straten OAM

Generous assistance with props and costumes:



Rehearsal studios: Victorian Concert Orchestra

“If you’re wondering what all the hullabaloo’s about, it’s to celebrate the publishing of my intimate memoirs. Chock full of scandals, torrid affairs and steamy nights. Then when you’re done with the introduction, take the book to bed with you.”



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