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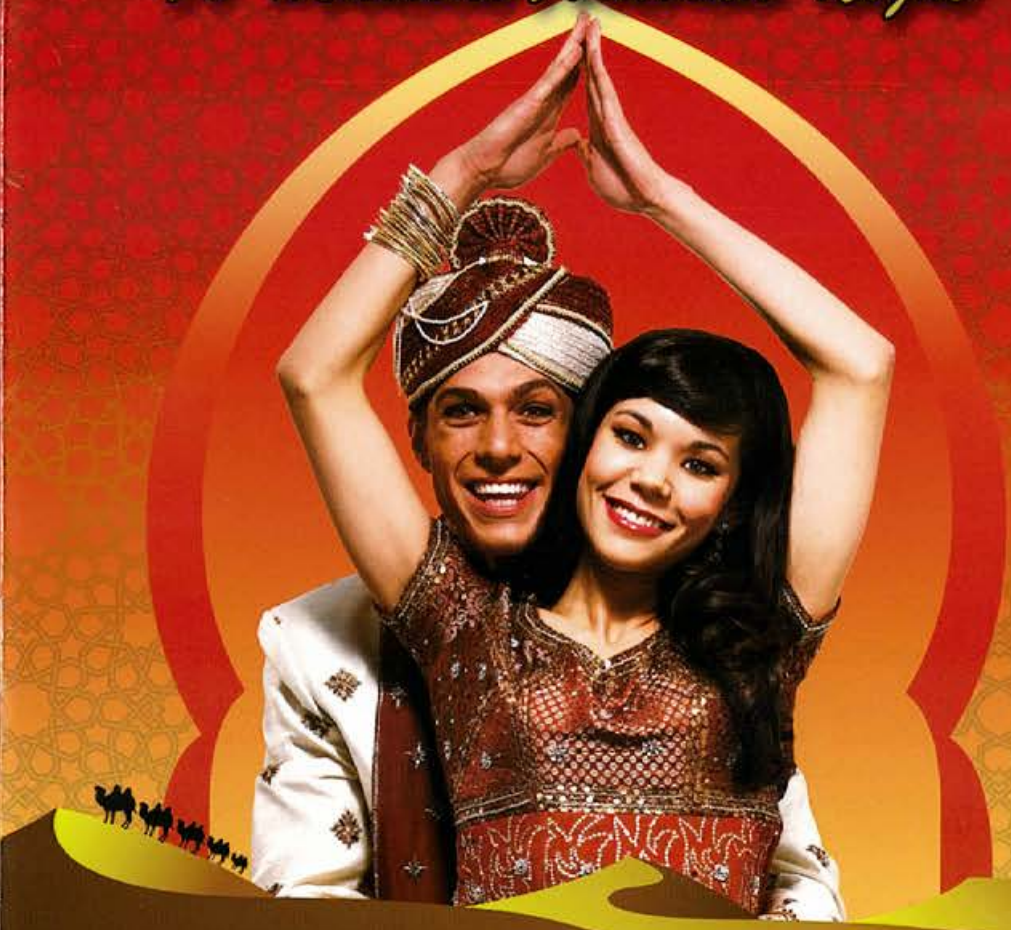
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# Kismet

*A Musical Arabian Night*



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THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

presents

# KISMET

*A Musical Arabian Night*

Book by CHARLES LEDERER & LUTHER DAVIS  
(Based on the play by Edward Knoblock)

Music and Lyrics by ROBERT WRIGHT & GEORGE FORREST  
(from themes of Alexander Borodin)

GARY ROWLEY \* JANET TODD \* JOSH PITERMAN  
MITCHELL BUTEL \* CHELSEA PLUMLEY \* BERT LABONTE  
RHYS McCONNOCHIE \* MIKE BISHOP \* DAVE BURROWS

with

RAY BALISORO HOPE CHERIE DE VANEY JOSH FELDSCHUH MEG HOULT MARK HUTCHINSON  
SOPHIA KATOS LYNDON KEENAN TRAVIS KHAN NICHOLAS KONG HALIMAH KYRGIOS  
LEAH LIM MARK MORABITO JOSEPH NAIM ELIZABETH O'HANLON JACINTA SEIVERS  
SCILLA STAVROU RYAN STUART JASON TEASDALE CELINA YUEN LEAH ZILBERMAN

With dancers from Patrick Studios

Josh Austin, Samantha Bruzzese, Daniel Camilleri, Nicolas Mena, Natalia Papaska,  
Trent Philipsz, Christopher Politis, Liana Ragusa, Claire Thompson, Simone Woolley.

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Musical Director/Conductor  
Choreographer  
Costume Designer  
Set Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Sound Design  
Sound Associates  
  
Assistant Director  
Stage Manager  
Repetiteur

TERENCE O'CONNELL  
PETER CASEY  
ALANA SCANLAN  
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ANDREW BELLCHAMBERS  
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MARK BENSON JOHN SCANDRETT  
DAVID TONION for SYSTEM SOUND  
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# It's fate. It's Kismet!



I have always wanted The Production Company to present *Kismet*. In recent years this has been the show that so many of you, our audience have requested as I welcome you at the top of the escalator.

Who does not love the beautiful Forrest and Wright score, based on the music of Alexander Borodin? This is a great opportunity for Orchestra Victoria to shine under the brilliant musical direction of Peter Casey. And I love the whimsical comedy of the Lederer and Davis script. There is no better team to bring out this musical's drama and comedy than director Terence O'Connell and choreographer Alana Scanlan.

I am delighted to welcome all the artists performing with us for the first time, especially Janet Todd, Josh Piterman and Mike Bishop. Bert Labonte has not worked with us since *South Pacific* and you last saw Gary Rowley in *The Gilbert and Sullivan Show*. More recently, we shared the hilarious talents of Chelsea Plumley in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. I don't mind confessing to being one of Mitchell Butel's greatest fans. I'd have him in everyone one of our shows if I could!

Spotlight, one of our Supporting Sponsors, have helped provide beautiful fabrics to Kim Bishop, our costume designer and our set designer Andrew Bellchambers, who is also making his debut with us.

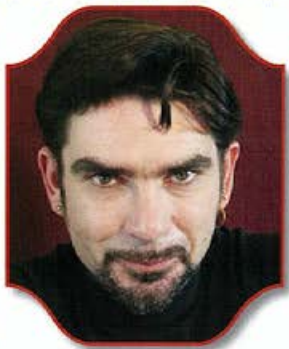
We are so lucky to have Melbourne's eminent theatre historian Frank van Straten write our program notes. I know you will be as fascinated as I was to learn what he has to tell about the strong Australian connection to the original *Kismet*.

They certainly don't write them like this anymore. And Baghdad certainly has a very different resonance to us today than it did in 1953 when the musical premiered. But any excuse to escape into a fantasy world has always been one of the great attractions of musical theatre. I know you will enjoy this journey back to a more innocent time.

Finally, thank you Ernst & Young for sponsoring this production and for your ongoing support.

**Jeanne Pratt** AC DU<sup>iv</sup>  
CHAIRMAN  
THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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## Gary Rowley

### The Hajj

Born in the UK, Gary commenced his vocal studies in Tasmania with Penelope Bruce. He completed an Arts Degree at the VCA and was a Young Artist with both the Victoria State Opera and Opera Australia.

Roles with the VSO included Don Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*, the title role in *Don Pasquale*, Yakuside in *Madam Butterfly*, Haly in *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, Ramphis in *Aida*, Nourabad in *The Pearl Fishers*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni* and Roo in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*.

Roles for Opera Australia include Hobson in *Peter Grimes*, Nachum in *Fiddler on the Roof*, The Duke of Verona in *Romeo and Juliet*, Colline in *La Boheme*, Don Magnifico in *Cenerentola*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which also toured to the Edinburgh Festival and Frank in *Die Fledermaus*. Gary has made regular appearances in principal roles for the West Australian Opera, Melbourne City Opera and Melbourne Opera.

For Victorian Opera, Gary has sung the role of Rembrandt in the world premiere season of *Rembrandt's Wife*, was baritone soloist in *Carmina Burana*, the Music Master in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Elviro in *Xerxes*, Don Alfonso in *Così fan Tutte*, Charlot in *Angelique*, Superintendent Budd in *Albert Herring* and played three roles in the world premiere of *How To Kill Your Husband (and other household hints)*.



## Janet Todd

### Marsinah

Janet Todd is a young Melbourne soprano. She graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2009. Since then she has won many awards for singing, including runner up in the Herald Sun Aria (2009), the Opera Foundation Australia's American Institute of Musical Studies Award and has represented the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust with a scholarship in 2010 and 2011.

This year Janet made her debut with Victorian Opera as Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. In June she was the Soprano Soloist (Faure's *Requiem*) in The Australian Ballet's double bill *Elegy* and has recently performed Lieschen in Bach's *Coffee Cantata* for Victorian Opera's Baroque Triple Bill.

Janet has performed in several Victorian Youth Opera productions including *Noye's Fludde*, *The Snow Queen* and the role of Lauretta in their workshop program of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. She performed in *Love and the Art of War* as part of the Utzon Music Series and understudied the role of Frasquita in *Carmen* and performed as Cindy in *CONTACT!* in the Carnegie 18 series this year.

*Kismet* is Janet's first musical with The Production Company and she is delighted to be joining this wonderful cast.



## Josh Piterman

### The Caliph

Josh is one of the up and coming leading men of Australian musical theatre. He graduated from the University of Ballarat Arts Academy (Musical Theatre) in 2006. He has always had a passion for classical singing and almost immediately after he graduated joined the international pop opera sensation *The Ten Tenors*. During this time he performed on numerous television shows and in concert halls, arenas and theatres in every continent. He then went on to understudy and perform the role of George in *The Drowsy Chaperone* for the MTC. Following

the success of this production, Josh played the lead role of Tony in the recent Australian national tour of *West Side Story*.

*Kismet* marks Josh's debut for The Production Company and he is delighted to be a part of such an astonishing production and is so grateful to share the stage with this remarkable cross-section of insanely talented people. He'd like to thank his incredible agent Liz Ellis, his beautiful family and his stunning wife, who all challenge, support and inspire him every day.



## Mitchell Butel

### Wazir

Mitchell has previously appeared for The Production Company in *Sugar (Some Like It Hot)*, *Hair*, *Oklahoma!* and *Little Me*. He has worked extensively for the STC, MTC, QTC, STCSA, Company B Belvoir, Ensemble, Malthouse and Bell Shakespeare. Highlights include *Six Degrees Of Separation*, *Summer Of The Aliens*, *The Café Latte Kid*, *Two Weeks With The Queen*, *Tartuffe*, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, *A View From The Bridge*, *The Laramie Project*, *Laughter On The 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor*, *Othello*, *Stones In His Pockets*, *Woyzeck* and *Boeing Boeing*. Mitchell

received Helpmann Awards® for *Avenue Q* and QTC's *The Venetian Twins*, Helpmann nominations for *Little Me*, *Summer Rain*, *The Republic Of Myopia* (STC) and Green Room Awards for *Piaf* (MTC) and *Hair*.

Other musical credits include *Follies*, *Grease*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *Urinetown*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Tomfoolery* and *Dusty*. Film and TV credits include *Bordertown*, *Wildside*, *Grass Roots*, *MDA*, *Twisted Tales*, *Murder Call*, *Nightmares And Dreamscapes*, *Two Hands*, *The Bank*, *Dark City* and AFI-nominated performances in *Strange Fits Of Passion* and *Gettin' Square*. Recently Mitchell has starred in *Avenue Q*, MTC/STC's *The Grenade*, *Assassins* for Silo Theatre, NZ and premiered his new cabaret show *Killing Time* at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. His most recent appearance in Melbourne was as Ko Ko in Opera Australia's *The Mikado*.

Mitchell is also the voice of the Playschool theme song!

Mitchell's debut CD "Killing Time - Live in Concert" is available through [www.middle8.com](http://www.middle8.com)



## Chelsea Plumley

### Lalume

Chelsea Plumley is a multi-talented award-winning stage, cabaret and television actor. Her musical theatre roles include Amy in *Company*, Rizzo in *Grease*, Betty in *Sunset Boulevard*, Lyn in *Breast Wishes*, Vivien in *Life's A Circus* and Jolene in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Her first cabaret show *Chelsea Plumley In Concert* debuted at the Sydney Opera House in 2000. New York followed with rave reviews and a five-city tour of India. In 2003, after hosting and starring in the Sydney Cabaret Convention, Chelsea toured

*Live & Luscious* and received a GLUG award for Most Versatile Performance.

Whilst based in London, Chelsea performed and hosted cabaret evenings, moonlighted as the West End correspondent for Australian radio program *Broadway @ Bedtime* and appeared in the short film *Angel*.

Recently Chelsea appeared as Rachel in Channel Ten's *Offspring* and hosted *Sing-A-Long Sound Of Music* around Australia. She is currently appearing as the Queen of the Fairies in Channel 9's children's television program, *Magical Tales*.

Visit her website at [www.chelseaplumley.com](http://www.chelseaplumley.com)



## Bert LaBonte

### Chief of Police

Bert's theatre credits include, *Next to Normal*, *A Beheading in Spokane*, *Richard III*, *The Hypocrite*, *Don Juan in Soho*, *Madwoman of Chaillot*, *Tom Foolery*, and *A Female of the Species* for MTC, *The Grenade* for STC, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Essential Theatre and *The Inner Sanctum* for La Mama.

In 2007 he was nominated for a Helpmann Award® for 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (MTC/STC).

Musical theatre credits include *Pippin* for Kookaburra, *The Full Monty* for IMG, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (RUG UK tour), *Show Boat* for Marriner/Livent and *Guys and Dolls* for Shows Management.

For Adelaide Cabaret Festival he performed in *Songs for a New World* by Jason Robert Brown and *A Wild Party* by Andrew Lippa. In 2011, Bert performed his critically acclaimed one man show written by Ross Mueller, *When I Fall in Love; the Nat King Cole Story*.

Film credits include *Animal Kingdom*, *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, *Rats and Cats*, *Evil Never Dies*, *Salem's Lot*, *The Cook* and *The Pugilist at Rest!*

Television credits include *Sea Patrol IV*, *Wilfred II*, *Lowdown*, *Neighbours*, *Good Guys Bad Guys*, *Blue Heelers*, *Simone De Beauvoir's Babies*, *Backberner*, *Flipper*, *City Homicide*, *Bogan Pride* and *Pirate Island: The Lost treasure of Fiji*.



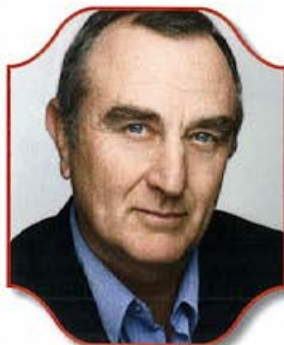
## Rhys McConnochie

### Omar Khayyam

Rhys began his career in New Zealand over fifty years ago. After a year of training in Paris he went to London and worked first for the Royal Shakespeare Company and then at many provincial theatres as an actor and director. He also appeared on television in *Doctor Who* and *Coronation Street*. In 1981 he was invited to join the Sydney Theatre Company where he appeared in *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *Amadeus*, *Heartbreak House*, *Measure for Measure* and the highly acclaimed production of Strindberg's *Dance Of Death*. For a number of years he has lived

in Melbourne where his work for the MTC includes *Molly Sweeney*, *Misalliance*, *Life After George*, *Death Of A Salesman*, *The Seagull*, *Inheritance*, *King Lear* and *The History Boys*. He played Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady* for Opera Australia, which toured Australia and New Zealand. His most recent appearance on stage was in *Do Not Go Gentle* at Forty Five Downstairs.

On television he has been seen in *City Homicide*, *MDA*, *Stingers*, *Bootleg*, *Mother and Son*, *Brides Of Christ*, *Come In Spinner* and *Bodyline*. His films include *The Cup*, *Romulus My Father*, *Black and White*, *The Man From Snowy River 2* and *The Wild Duck*. His first appearance with The Production Company was as Merlin in *Camelot*.



## Mike Bishop

### Jawan

Mike is an acting/directing all-rounder who has worked extensively in all facets of the entertainment industry all over Australia for thirty years.

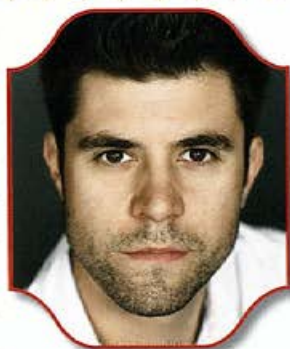
Television credits include *Neighbours* (for which he is now Drama Coach), *Law of The Land*, *Stingers*, *Blue Heelers*, and the Emmy award winning *Blabbermouth & Stickybeak*, in which he played Kenny Batts.

Films include *Malcolm*, *Metal Skin* and *Ghosts of The Civil Dead*, for which he was nominated for an AFI Best Actor award, and in *Remembering Nigel*.

Direction highlights include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Jema Pledger's Green Room Award nominated *See You In Heaven*, *Dr Cade*, *Personality Games* and *Topo* by Neil Cole, *Only The End*, *The Devil In Me*, and in 2009, *The Show Must Go On* by Robyn Bishop.

Theatre highlights consist of many Shakespearian roles including Malvolio and Lord Capulet, as well as roles such as Ginger Mick (*The Sentimental Bloke*) and Roo (*Summer Of The Seventeenth Doll*), *The Campaign* and *Reunion* by Neil Cole, Tiny McKenzie in *Sideshow Alley* by Gary Young and most recently as Alan Clowes in *Lawyers Drugs & Money* by Kate Herbert and Mick in C. Croyden's *Love Your Poison*.

Mike can next be seen at the Princess Theatre performing in the musical *Strange Bedfellows*.



## Dave Burrows

Hassan-Ben

Dave graduated from WAAPA in 2008, where he performed in numerous shows, his highlight playing Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!*

Since moving to Melbourne he has performed at the State Theatre in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* and *Aida* for Opera Australia, at Crown Casino as the lead singer in *12 Days of Christmas*, for Echelon Productions in *Dollars and Sense* and *My Friends.Com* and in the workshop of *Normie* (the Story of Normie Rowe). He recently finished a tour of Victoria and Western Australia performing in

*Scooby Doo Live!* with Life Like Touring. Dave is thrilled to be a part of *Kismet*, his first appearance with The Production Company.



# A Memorable Experience

Frank Van Straten unravels the threads of the extraordinary *Kismet* story.

'*Kismet* has not been written,' grumbled the *New York Times* when the musical opened on Broadway back in 1953, 'it has been assembled from a storehouse of spare parts.'



Playwright Edward Knoblock, who wrote the original play.

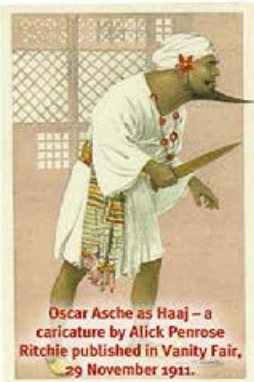
In a way he was right – but what a storehouse and what spare parts!

The show had its genesis a century ago when an

Arabian Nights play called *Haaj's Hour* premiered in Philadelphia. It was the work of Edward Knoblock (the original spelling was Knoblauch), an American-born British-based playwright and novelist – and it was a disaster. Knoblock desperately revised it, incorporating the suggestions of various prospective producers, but it was only when actor-manager Oscar Asche accidentally saw the original version that it really came to life.

Geelong-born Asche was a major figure in London theatre, as at home in spectacular stage fantasies as he was in Shakespeare. Over a weekend, he and his wife, actress Lily Brayton, transformed Knoblock's script. They injected humour, glamour and a spectacular bazaar scene, and changed the title to *Kismet*. With Asche in his element as Haaj, the reworked show opened at the Garrick Theatre in London on 19 April 1911. It was a huge hit.

Soon *Kismet* was everywhere. There were productions in St Petersburg, Milan, Vienna, Paris and Berlin. The charismatic Otis



Oscar Asche as Haaj – a caricature by Alick Penrose Ritchie published in *Vanity Fair*, 29 November 1911.

Skinner had the lead on Broadway, while several touring versions criss-crossed the United States. Asche brought the show to Australia in 1912. It also provided the inspiration for his opulent extravaganza *Chu Chin Chow*, the most successful British musical of World War One.



America's first Haaj, Otis Skinner.

The play was filmed five times: in 1914 (with Asche), in 1920 (with Skinner), in 1930 (Skinner again, and Loretta Young), in 1931



Marlene Dietrich as Lalume, MGM, 1944.

(in German) and, most memorably, in 1944, with Ronald Colman as Haaj and Marlene Dietrich as Lalume, dancing in virtually nothing but gold body paint.

Co-incidentally, also in 1944, two Hollywood-based composers, Robert Wright

and George Forrest, had a substantial Broadway hit with a musical called *Song of Norway* – a highly romanticised account of the life of composer Edvard Grieg, with a score sourced largely from his melodies. The idea of using a composer's work as the basis for the score for a musical was not exactly new, especially to Wright and Forrest. They had already adapted Tchaikovsky for the film *Maytime* (1936) and Rimsky-Korsakov for *Balalaika* (1939), and their stage work included adaptations of Victor Herbert for *Gypsy Lady* (also known as *Romany Love*, 1947), Villa-Lobos for *Magdalena* (1948) and Johann Strauss for *The Great Waltz* (1949).

Edwin Lester, a West Coast theatrical producer, had commissioned all the Wright

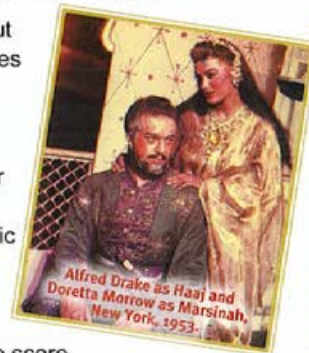
and Forrest shows. Looking for a new project, Lester remembered Knoblock's play, which he'd seen years before.

'At first,' recalled Wright, 'he wanted us to adapt the music of Tchaikovsky, which we thought totally unsuitable, and Rimsky-Korsakov, but we'd already used his music for *Balalaika*.'

It was composer Vernon Duke, a friend of Lester's, who suggested Alexander Borodin, though the Russian composer's work was not then widely known in the United States. 'We immediately warmed to the idea,' said Wright. 'We listened to as many recordings of his music as we could find, and finished up writing in the style of Borodin, using thematic fragments from his works, but most of the score is totally original.'

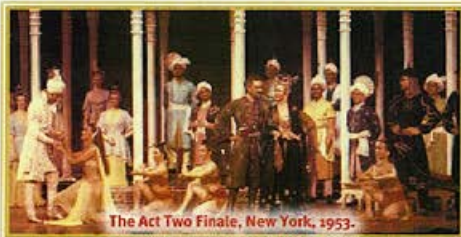
Like the dramatic version, the musical *Kismet* had unpromising start. Lester had his heart set on casting Ezio Pinza as Haaj, but the great basso chose *South Pacific* instead. Lester's happy second choice was Alfred Drake, who had made his name as the original Curly in *Oklahoma!* The other leads were Doretta Morrow as Marsinah, Joan Diener as Lalume, Henry Calvin as the Wazir and Richard Kiley as the Caliph.

The show's debut at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium on 17 August 1953 revealed a major conflict: Lester's idea of a romantic operetta was at odds with Wright and



Alfred Drake as Haaj and Doretta Morrow as Marsinah, New York, 1953.

Forrest's sombre score and Charles Lederer and Luther Davis's light-hearted adaptation of Knoblock's play. Fortunately the problems were solved while the show was on its way its way to Broadway. Thanks to finance from his aunt,



The Act Two Finale, New York, 1953.

Marion Davies, Lederer bought out Lester and took over as producer. Two songs were dropped and the storyline and the characters were adjusted to better match the score, which was considerably 'tweaked' and brightened.

The show debuted on Broadway on 3 December 1953, right in the middle of a newspaper strike. Because there were no press reviews, it was positive word of mouth, complemented by extensive radio and television coverage, that soon saw *Kismet* drawing full houses – just as well, because the reviews, when they finally appeared, were really not very good. It didn't matter.

*Kismet* garnered three Tony Awards including Best Musical, delivered a major hit in 'Stranger in Paradise', and notched up 583 performances.

*Kismet* did even better in London – 676 performances – with Drake, Morrow and Diener in their original roles. There have been several major revivals and in 1955 Howard Keel played Hajj in a lavish MGM film version. In 1978 Broadway saw an all-Black reworking entitled *Timbuktu!* It starred Eartha Kitt and Melba Moore and restored 'My Magic Lamp', one of the songs cut in 1953. David H. McIlwraith, the producing genius behind Melbourne's Lido nightclub and a friend of Eartha Kitt, had plans to bring *Timbuktu!* to Australia, but sadly these came to nothing.

But, of course, we did see *Kismet*.

Garnet H. Carroll produced the show on a suitably lavish scale at his home base, the Princess Theatre in Melbourne. To direct,

Carroll imported Burry Fredrik, a New York stage manager whose credits were so sparse they were discreetly omitted from the program. The charismatic American Hayes Gordon, who had come to Australia in 1952 to play the male lead in *Kiss Me, Kate*, was Hajj.

Our Lalume was another American, Morgan St John. Actually, no. Our Lalume was June Albers, a statuesque secretary from Dayton, Ohio, whose only significant theatrical experience had been a week in a revival of *Pal Joey*. She recently told the *Dayton Daily News*: 'After *Pal Joey* someone advised me to change my name from June Albers to something more glamorous. Out of thin air, I chose Morgan St John, and that did it. At the audition Morgan St John got the part of Lalume for the *Kismet* tour of Australia. I had two days to close the apartment and pack.'

British dancer Lisa Brionda, a former Windmill girl, reproduced the original choreography and played Princess Zubbediya. The rest of the company was recruited locally – most notably Madge Stephens as Marsinah, John Young as the Wazir and Wim Jonker as the Caliph. Among other interesting names were Joan Thomas, Rosalind Keene, Vija Vetra, David Sterle, Ken Werner, Marie Cumisky, Barry Balmer, Kevin Regan and Max Johnston. Verdon Williams conducted and Stefan Haag assisted with the direction.

*Kismet* opened at the Princess on 10 November 1955. The reviews were enthusiastic. The *Listener In's* 'Agon', for instance, said: 'It has all the makings of a record-breaking success – lavish spectacle, a tuneful score, whirlwind dancing, burlesque comedy, and a succession of hit songs, artistically sung.' The *Age* reported that it was 'rapturously received', adding sagely, 'we can only be thankful that our politicians have no bone to pick with Persia at the moment.' The paper also noted approvingly that six of the cast of 45 and five of the 31-strong orchestra were 'New Australians'.



Howard Keel as Hajj and Delores Gray as Lalume, MGM, 1955.

Morgan St John as Lalume and Hayes Gordon as Hajj, Australia, 1955.

*Kismet* notched up 309 performances in Melbourne, closing on 4 August 1956.

The Sydney season, at the cavernous Empire Theatre, was less successful, possibly because Hayes Gordon became ill on the second night and was off for a fortnight; as well, the release of the MGM film blunted some of the show's appeal. A planned national tour was abandoned. Instead, *Kismet* was brought back to Melbourne to fill a two-week gap at the Princess caused by the postponement of a season by the Classical Theatre of China: authorities had deemed it inappropriate during the Melbourne Olympics. *Kismet* closed on 8 December, the day of the Games' closing ceremony.

In the half-century since its Australian debut, *Kismet* has been revived frequently by amateur groups, but the only professional presentation was a memorable one-night-only concert version presented by the Victoria State Opera (Ken Mackenzie-Forbes) at the State Theatre on 24 August 1994. The starry cast included Geoffrey Chard (Hajj), Kate Ladner (Marsinah), Geraldine Turner (Lalume), Lewis Fiander (The Wazir) and Shaun Murphy (The Caliph). Todd McKenney played the Chief of Police and provided the

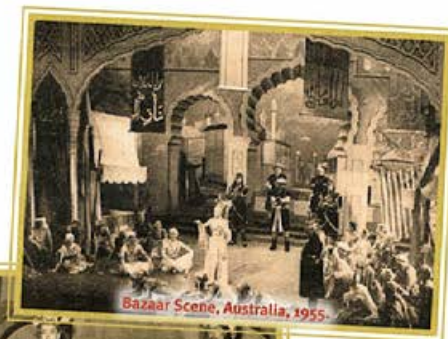
choreography. Brian Stacey conducted and directed, and John Beckett handled the design.

Inevitably, many of the original Australian *Kismet* company have passed on – most notably our Haaj, Hayes Gordon, who continued to contribute nobly to the performing arts in this country until his death in 1999. Those still with us remember the show with warmth and pride.

And what of Miss St John, our first Lalume? Well, she reverted to her real name and resumed her secretarial career at the Tait Manufacturing Company in Dayton, Ohio. She married Richard Lavin, had two children and six grandchildren, and never again set foot on a stage. Now a sprightly 88-year-old, she was asked to remember *Kismet*: 'Sure it was a memorable experience,' she said, 'but I was glad to return home.'

© Frank Van Straten, 2011

With thanks to the *Dayton Daily News*, 4 November 2010.



Bazaar Scene, Australia, 1955.



'Not Since Ninevah': Morgan St John as Lalume and John Young as the Wazir, Australia, 1955.

# Musical Numbers

## ACT I

*Overture and Sands of Time*  
(Orchestra)  
*Rhymes Have I*  
*Fate*  
*Fate (Reprise)*  
*Bazaar of the Caravans*  
*Ababu Dance I*  
*Not Since Nineveh*  
*Baubles, Bangles and Beads*  
*Stranger in Paradise*  
*Gesticulate*  
*The Wedding Party*  
*Fate – Finale, Act I*

## ACT II

*Night of My Nights*  
*Stranger in Paradise (Reprise)*  
*Baubles, Bangles and Beads*  
(Reprise)  
*Night of my Nights (Reprise)*  
*Was I Wazir?*  
*The Olive Tree*  
*Rahadlakum*  
*And This Is My Beloved*  
*Zubbediya*  
*Samahris' Dance*  
*Ababu Dance II*  
*Finale*



# Cast of Characters

*In order of appearance*

## MUEZZINS

Lyndon Keenan Nicholas Kong  
Mark Morabito Joseph Naim

FIRST BEGGAR  
Bert LaBonte

SECOND BEGGAR  
Josh Feldschuh

FIRST WHIRLING DERVISH  
Travis Khan

SECOND WHIRLING DERVISH  
Ryan Stuart

OMAR KHAYYAM  
Rhys McConnochie

A PUBLIC POET, SOMETIMES CALLED HAJJ  
Gary Rowley

MARSINAH, HIS DAUGHTER  
Janet Todd

FIG MERCHANT  
Mark Morabito

HASSAN-BEN, A BRIGAND  
Dave Burrows

FIRST BRIGAND  
Mark Hutchinson

SECOND BRIGAND  
Jason Teasdale

JAWAN, THE MASTER BRIGAND  
Michael Bishop

BANGLE MERCHANT  
Lyndon Keenan

SILK MERCHANT  
Mark Morabito

PEARL MERCHANT  
Joseph Naim

SLAVE MERCHANT  
Nicholas Kong

SLAVE GIRLS  
Hope Cherie DeVaney Halimah Kyrgios  
Leah Zilberman Scilla Stavrou

CHIEF OF POLICE  
Bert LaBonte

THE WAZIR OF POLICE  
Mitchell Butel

WAZIR'S POLICE  
Raymond Balisoro Mark Hutchinson  
Ryan Stuart Nicholas Mena

LALUME, WIFE OF WIVES TO THE WAZIR  
Chelsea Plumley

LALUME'S SLAVES  
Josh Austin Daniel Camilleri  
Trent Philipsz Christopher Politis

THREE PRINCESSES OF ABABU  
Leah Lim Jacinta Sievers Celina Yuen

THREE MACHO MALES OF BAGHDAD  
Josh Feldschuh Travis Khan Jason Teasdale

ORANGE MERCHANT  
Dave Burrows

THE CALIPH, COMMANDER OF THE FAITHFUL  
Josh Piterman

WIDOW YUSSEF  
Meg Hoult

LIVING STATUES IN THE PARADISE GARDEN  
Josh Austin Daniel Camilleri  
Claire Thompson Simone Woolley

PROSECUTOR AT THE WAZIR'S COURT  
Dave Burrows

PRINCESS ZUBBEDIYA OF ZANZIBAR  
Scilla Stavrou

MARRIAGE ARRANGER FOR ZUBBEDIYA  
Elizabeth O'Hanlon

PRINCESS SAMAHRS OF TURKESTAN  
Halimah Kyrgios

MARRIAGE ARRANGER FOR SAMAHRS  
Meg Hoult

WAZIR'S SPIES  
Lyndon Keenan Mark Morabito Joseph Naim

AYAH TO LALUME  
Elizabeth O'Hanlon

Worshippers, Citizens, Judges, Harem Girls, Wedding Party Members and Diwan Guests  
played by the Company.



# Production Credits

Technical Director	<b>David Miller</b>
Production Manager	<b>Mel Robertson</b>
Company Manager	<b>Graeme Haddon</b>
Assistant Company Manager	<b>Tom Lambert</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Natalie Moir</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Tia Clark</b>
Wigs, Hair & Make Up	<b>Corrine Day</b>
	<b>Phillip Sweeney</b>
Sound Mix Engineer	<b>Paul Hitchens</b>
Stage Sound Technicians	<b>Jess Frost,</b> <b>Jackson Scandrett</b>
Radio Mic Engineer	<b>Cameron Herbert</b>
Hat Maker	<b>Tom Robb</b>
Set Construction	<b>Malthouse</b>
Lighting Equipment	<b>Resolution X</b>
Secondment: Stage Management	<b>Chaka Mashimo (VCA)</b>



## Thank You

**Frank Van Straten** OAM for the program article  
**Colin Page** for photography  
**Patrick Studios**  
**MTC**  
**Adam Lowe Group**  
**Mountain Goat Brewery**  
**Rathbone Wine Group**  
**Greg Eldridge**

# ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Violins	<b>Matt Hassall</b> Concertmaster	Clarinets	<b>Paul Champion</b>
	<b>Severin Donnenberg</b>	Horns	<b>Richard Sholl</b>
	<b>Elizabeth Ambrose</b>	Trumpets	<b>Jason Moulton</b>
	<b>Rachael Hunt</b>		<b>Mark Fitzpatrick</b>
	<b>Mara Miller</b>		<b>Mark Skillington</b>
	<b>Rachel Gamer</b>	Trombones	<b>Rob Smithies</b>
	<b>Philip Nixon</b>		<b>Robert Collins</b>
	<b>Christine Ruter</b>	Harp	<b>Kieran Conrau</b>
Violas	<b>Paul McMillan</b>	Percussion	<b>Mary Anderson</b>
	<b>Catherine Bishop</b>		<b>Conrad Nilsson</b>
Celli	<b>Diane Froomes</b>	Piano	<b>Paul Sablinskis</b>
	<b>Tania Hardy-Smith</b>		<b>Andrew Patterson</b>
Bass	<b>Davin Holt</b>		
Flute	<b>Karen Schofield</b>		
Oboe/Cor Anglais	<b>Vivienne Brooke</b>		

\* Please Note: The String Section for each performance will be selected from the string players listed above.

### Orchestra Victoria - inspiring Victorians through music!

Orchestra Victoria is Australia's leading opera and ballet orchestra. Based in Melbourne, Orchestra Victoria has longstanding partnerships with some of Australia's premier arts companies and performs a diverse program of events throughout the year.

In addition to this commitment, Orchestra Victoria seeks to share music with all Victorians. Welcoming the widest possible audiences to each performance, the Orchestra provides unique opportunities for students and emerging artists to work alongside professional musicians through an innovative statewide community and education program.

Orchestra Victoria is celebrated and acknowledged for its musical diversity. Established in 1969 as the Elizabethan Theatre Trust Orchestra, it is now an independent not-for-profit company that employs 69 full-time musicians and over 150 casual musicians each year.



## Ray Balisoro

Originally from Sydney, Ray is a graduate of the Brent Street School of Performing Arts and trained as a classical vocalist. He made

his musical theatre debut in *Miss Saigon* in 2007 and recently studied part-time at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance.

For the past six years Ray has toured Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Macau with children's entertainment for ABC Kids, Entertainment Store Group, MEI and Nickelodeon. He completed the cabaret course at NIDA and performed as the lead vocalist in cabaret shows throughout Japan.

Ray is also an established commercial dancer for events including the Black Eyed Peas after party at Crown Casino, the Amiel film-clip *I Don't Wanna Be Your Girl*, MAC Gold Fever for Sydney Fashion Week and Ed Hardy for Fashion Aid 09.

Ray recently performed in *The King and I* with The Production Company and played a lead role in the contemporary dance piece *Climax* (CTP).



## Hope Cherie De Vaney

Hope's first musical theatre performance was at the age of twelve. In 2006 she commenced training

at Dance World Studios for a Diploma of Performing Arts. She was awarded the School's 2008 Distinction Award, 2006 Diligence Award and a Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship. During her studies, Hope was involved in several television and live performances for Crown Casino and X Systems. After graduation Hope performed in the recent Australasian tour of *Chicago*. Since returning home to Perth, she has been performing with *Envy*, a burlesque group.



## Josh Feldschuh

Josh trained at the Tony Bartuccio School of Dance. His recent theatre credits include the Australian premiere of *Xanadu*, the role

of Hughie in *Strange Bedfellows*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* with The Production Company and a UK tour of *Footloose*. Other credits include *The Lord of the Rings* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express*.

He has also performed as a dancer for many musicians, including Guy Sebastian, Jessica Mauboy and Delta Goodrem. Josh and his skate troupe were finalists in *Australia's Got Talent* in 2010. He is thrilled to be performing in his second show with The Production Company.



## Meg Hoult

Meg trained at the National Theatre Drama School and completed her Bachelor of Arts (Drama) at Monash University. *Kismet* marks her first appearance with The Production Company.

Credits include the upcoming film 25 (Working Dog Productions), *The Hatpin* (Magnormos), *It's Only Life* (DTM/Stella Entertainment), *The Shakespeare Revue* (Australian Shakespeare Festival), *Sylvia Plath - The Girl Who Wanted To Be God* (New Performance Company), *Harp on the Willow* (Malcolm Cooke/Ensemble Productions) and both the Australian and Asian tours of *Eurobeat - Almost Eurovision* for Glynn Nicholas Group. She also spent twelve months at Universal Studios, Japan and was Resident Vocalist on P&O's Pacific Dawn. Meg has been a proud member of the MEAA since 2003.



## Mark Hutchinson

*Kismet* is Mark's second appearance with The Production Company having performed in the *King and I*

last year. He is delighted to be returning to the State Theatre to work with such an amazing team.

Trained at Patrick Studios Australia, Mark studied with some of Australia's most notable choreographers including Todd Patrick, Andrew Hallsworth, Yvette Lee and Alana Scanlan. His career highlights include numerous commercial events, several cabarets, as well as dancing for pop stars including Jessica Mauboy, Zoë Badwi and Natalie Gauci.

Mark is very excited to be back in Australia after spending most of the year in Asia and can't wait to be part of this exciting production.



## Sophia Katos

Trained at NIDA, Sophia has performed alongside Barry Crocker in the cult musical, *Reefer Madness* and sang the opening hymn for World Youth Day at Melbourne's Telstra Dome.

She made her television debut in 2009 as Artemis on Channel 7's *Packed to the Rafters* and toured nationally in *Wild World- The Cat Stevens Story* (HIT Productions) and this year as Fofu in the critically acclaimed play, *Café Rebetika* (Kultour Productions).

Sophia has just released her debut original album, *Worry Is Like A Rocking Chair*. She is thrilled to be part of *Kismet*, marking her first appearance with The Production Company.



## Lyndon Keenan

Lyndon holds a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Music Theatre) from the National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Arts (NZ) and

completed post-graduate studies at APO Arts Academy in Melbourne. In 2010, he played Billy Lawler in *42nd Street* for the New Zealand Civic Season and Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on the New Zealand tour. His screen credits include lead roles in the American television series *The Tribe* and *Revelations*. Most recently, he toured Australia in *Scooby Doo the Musical*.

Lyndon is very excited to be making his debut performance in *Kismet* for The Production Company.



## Travis Khan

Travis trained at UNITEC Institute of Technology, obtaining a Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts and at The New Zealand

School of Dance. He holds an extensive list of corporate and commercial credits including L'Oreal Fashion Week, Bonds, Just Jeans and performing with the Rogue Traders and Vanessa Amorosi.

In 2005 Travis made his musical theatre debut in *The Lion King*, where he was also Dance Captain. Travis also performed in *Turandot* for Opera Australia, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Priscilla Queen Of The Desert* and most recently playing the role of Luis and Dance Captain in *West Side Story*.



## Nicholas Kong

*Kismet* marks Nicholas's first appearance with The Production Company and he could not be more delighted. Last year he performed the

role of Otto in STC's production of *Spring Awakening*. Previously he had leading roles in the premieres of Nick Enright's and David King's *Mary Brant* for Magnormos, LaChiusa's *The Wild Party* and *Bare*. Other credits include *Hats Off*, *Songs for a New World* and *Oz Made Musicals*. Nicholas has also appeared on Channel 7's *Sunrise*. Love you Mum and Dad!



## Halimah Kyrgios

Halimah is from Canberra, beginning her interest in musical theatre after performing in her first

musical *Carousel*. She received a scholarship to complete her senior schooling at McDonald Performing Arts College in Sydney. She also trained at ED5 International. Career highlights include tapping alongside original Tap Dog Nathan Sheens in *Tapworks*, performing in the 2006 Australian Dance Awards in the company *Beats Per Minute*, the Universal Studios Singapore world wide TV launch as a showgirl and recording several backing vocals for shows such as *Voyage De La Vie* and *Sentosa* in Singapore. Halimah recently graduated from LaSalle College of the Arts in Singapore, completing a BA Honours Degree in Musical Theatre. *Kismet* is her debut performance in professional musical theatre since graduating.



## Leah Lim

*Kismet* is Leah's fourth professional show.

After graduating from the inaugural year of the VCA Musical Theatre Course in

2004, Leah worked with the Disney Cruise Line, Special Events Disney and X Systems throughout the USA, Canada, the Caribbean and Asia. She made her musical theatre debut in 2007 in Cameron Mackintosh's Australian production of *Miss Saigon* as ensemble/swing. Other credits include the role of Trixie in Andrew Kay & Associates tour of *Lazytown* and the 2010 Australian tour of *West Side Story*, playing the role of Francisca and covering the roles of Rosalia and Anita.

Leah is thrilled to be cast in such a wonderful, home-grown Melbourne company. She thanks her mentors and IWM Management for their continuing guidance and, most importantly, her loving parents for their unwavering support and faith in her.

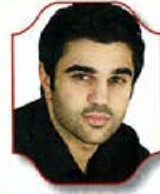


## Mark Morabito

Mark is a recent graduate from the University of Ballarat (Bachelor of Arts, Music Theatre). He has

performed in community-based musicals, state school spectaculars in 2003 and 2004 and school musicals since the age of eleven. During his time at university, Mark played the title role in *Floyd Collins* and appeared in *The Life* and *Urinetown*.

Earlier this year Mark was delighted to be involved in the Magnormos production of *Hello, Dolly!* *Kismet* is Mark's first show with The Production Company had he is grateful for the opportunity.



## Joseph Naim

Joseph began his vocal training at The Ciccone Academy of Performing Arts. In 2009 he was granted a scholarship award by

APO Arts Academy and graduated from their Music Theatre Course. Joseph's most recent performances include the role of Adi in *Milk and Honey*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, and *Hello, Dolly!* all presented at the Melbourne Recital Hall. His Australian feature film credits include the role of Joe in *Eliminated (2011)* and *Ali* in *Saved (2009)*.

*Kismet* marks Joseph's debut with The Production Company. He wishes to thank his wonderful family and friends for their ongoing love and support.



## Elizabeth O'Hanlon

Elizabeth is thrilled to be back with The Production Company, having previously appeared in *Dirty Rotten*

*Scoundrels* and *The Gilbert and Sullivan Show*. She is also delighted to be revisiting *Kismet*, for which she won a Music Theatre Guild Award for her portrayal of Marsinah many years ago.

A graduate of The University of Melbourne (BMus Ed), Elizabeth's credits include *Matricide the Musical* and *From the Lip*, (Chamber Made Opera) *I Love You*, *You're Perfect, Now Change* (EHJ Productions), *The Lucky Stiff* (Chapel Off Chapel) and *Cats (The Really Useful Company)*.

She dedicates her performance to her husband and the many babysitters of her delightful offspring who helped out during rehearsals.



## Jacinta Seivers

Born and raised in Perth, Jacinta started dancing at an early age at Bullsbrook Dance Academy and is currently completing the

fulltime Performing Arts Course at Patrick Studios Australia. Her credits include *Ooh La La* (Kissing Bee Productions), cheerleading with the Aggreko Dynamos (Dubai), the Polo Gold Cup (Dubai) and Melbourne Storm and corporate performances for Mary Kay Cosmetics, Toyota, *Think Pink* and *Starry Starry Night*. Jacinta has also appeared in a promo for the Go! Network.

*Kismet* marks Jacinta's professional debut and she would like to thank Todd Patrick, Tanya Hugo and her beautiful friends and family for their love and support.



## Scilla Stavrou

Scilla commenced her dance training at the age of three in Melbourne. She made her musical theatre debut in the recent tour of

*West Side Story*. During the tour, she also performed in *Hats Off*. She has danced alongside Ashley Roberts from the Pussycat Dolls, Natalie Bassingthwaight at the Nickelodeon Awards and has been a cheerleader for the Melbourne Storm for four years. Her television credits include *Australia's Got Talent*, Channel 9's *1 versus 100*, *Starry Starry Night* and Channel 7's *It Takes Two*.

Scilla is thrilled to be part of this production and dedicates this performance to her family.



## Ryan Stuart

Ryan trained at both Danceworld Studios and Patrick Studios in Melbourne.

His credits include *The Rocky Horror Show*, the Australasian tours of *Chicago*

and *Priscilla Queen of The Desert the Musical* and The Production Company's *Anything Goes* and *The Boy From Oz* in Melbourne and Sydney. He has also performed as a principal dancer on *Countdown Arena Spectacular 1 & 2* and on Princess Cruises. Ryan has worked with some of Australia's finest recording artists, including Marcia Hynes, Kate Ceberano, Ricki-Lee, Dannii Minogue and Guy Sebastian.

Ryan would like to thank his incredible family and friends for their undying support.



## Jason Teasdale

Jason began dancing at the age of fourteen and completed his full time training with Robert Sturrock at Industry Dance. He has danced all over

Australia, supporting many artists, including Tina Cousins and Katie Underwood, performed on television programs such as *Rove Live* and at many corporate events, including the Australian Tennis awards, AFL events, fashion shows, tribute shows, club events and casino shows.

Jason has worked with such leading choreographers as Yvette Lee, Trish Squires and Robert Sturrock, who choreographed for Jason's two show experiences *Obsession* and *Slave to the Rhythm*.

*Kismet* is Jason's debut musical and first show with The Production Company. He is thrilled to be working with such an amazing cast and creative team.

"I would like to thank everyone who has helped me get to where I am at the moment, and my mother for her endless support".



## Celina Yuen

Born and raised in Queensland, Celina began her training at Theatre Arts Mackay under the direction of Lynette Denny. In 2010,

she moved to Melbourne to study musical theatre at APO Arts Academy. Currently, Celina is undertaking full-time studies at Dance World Studios. This will be her second performance with The Production Company, after debuting in *The King and I* last year. She has performed with vocal group Bravissimo and featured in *Short And Sweet Dance 2011*. Celina is delighted to be involved in this year's season, and would like to thank her parents for their ongoing love and support.



## Leah Zilberman

A music theatre graduate of the National Theatre, Leah also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Drama.

Her musical credits include Sarah in *Ragtime*, Elli in *Love For Sale*, Wu Lin in *Frank Christie*, *Frank Clarke* and *Rebecca - The Musical*. Screen credits include numerous television commercials, a guest appearance on *Kick* and the role of Paula in the feature film *Lost and Found*.

Leah has worked extensively in children's entertainment, performs regularly at corporate events and is an inspired vocal coach.

Leah is delighted to join The Production Company for the first time in *Kismet*. She is grateful for the love and support of her husband Darren and beautiful baby boy Ziggy.



## Terence O'Connell

Director

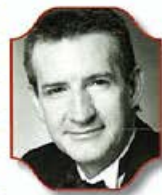
Since graduating from NIDA's Directors Course, Terence has staged some two hundred productions in theatres, concert halls, circus tents, comedy clubs and cabaret rooms across Australia and internationally.

His national touring productions include *Bouncers*, *Circus OZ*, Steven Berkoff's *Decadence*, *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story*, *Certified Male* and *Minefields And Miniskirts - Australian Women and The Vietnam War*.

Terence is a proud member of The Production Company family, having directed at the State Theatre, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Oklahoma! The Pajama Game*, *42nd Street*, *Damn Yankees*, *Crazy For You* and *The King & I*.

He is a regular Guest Director at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival and, as Artist In Residence, he has worked extensively with WAAPA, Singapore's LaSalle College Of The Arts, Ballarat University Arts Academy and the National Theatre Drama School.

Terence is currently represented by three hit comic musicals, all with female casts-*Busting Out* (Los Angeles) and the nationally touring *Dumped! - The Musical We've All Been Through* and *Motherhood - The Musical*. He is developing *Minefields And Miniskirts* as a feature film and his forthcoming projects include *The Orpheus/Eurydice Project*, *Playing Underground: An Evening At Café Cino* and *I Only Want to Be With You - The Dusty Springfield Story* in Johannesburg.



## Peter Casey

Musical Director/Conductor

Peter has been Musical Director for *Les Miserables*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe: The Songs of Leiber and Stoller*, Topol's *Fiddler on the Roof*, Stephen

Sondheim's *Company*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals *Evita*, *Cats*, *Aspects of Love*, *Song and Dance*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He was also Musical Director of the Mel Brooks musical *The Producers* - for which he received a 2004 Green Room Award, and The Production Company's productions of *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Pajama Game*, *42nd Street*, *Mame*, *Crazy For You*, *The King and I* and *Anything Goes*.

He was Musical Supervisor for *Guys and Dolls*, *South Pacific*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Grease - The Arena Spectacular*, and the Big Top touring productions of *Cats - Run Away To The Circus* and *Grease - The Mega Musical*. Peter was Musical Director for the acclaimed arena production *The Main Event* starring John Farnham, Olivia Newton-John and Anthony Warlow, and the 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2006 Helpmann Awards®.

Peter is delighted to be associated with *Kismet*, his eighth musical for The Production Company.



## Alana Scanlan

### Choreographer

Alana Scanlan is one of Australia's most in-demand choreographers; working in theatre, fashion, commercials, music clips and bespoke corporate events.

Her new theatre work includes *Bouncers*, *I Only Want To Be With You-The Dusty Springfield Story*, *Kissing Frogs*, *Certified Male* and *Minefields and Miniskirts*. Alana is currently choreographer for a new production of *Dumped! - The Musical*.

For The Production Company, Alana has choreographed *They're Playing Our Song*, *Oklahoma! The Pajama Game*, *42nd Street*, *Damn Yankees*, *Crazy For You* and *The King and I*.

Television credits include Network 10's *The X Factor*, Channel 7's *It Takes Two*, *Dancing With the Stars* and *Deal or No Deal*, *Singing Bee* for the Nine Network, and *Talking 'Bout Your Generation* for The Ten Network. Film credits include *Macbeth*, *Da Kath* and *Kim Code* and *Strange Bedfellows*.

Alana consulted to the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony and choreographed the Media Launch performances for the M2006 Games Cultural Festival. She also choreographed the finale event of the Centenary of Federation *The Peoplescape Concert* for ABC Television, *Style Aid*, and the award-winning clip *Don't Call Me Baby* and theatrical spectacles for Jupiter's Casino and the Reef Casino in Cairns. Alana has created parades for Alannah Hill, Kylie Minogue, Jenny Bannister and numerous others at Fashion Weeks in Sydney and Melbourne. She has choreographed and staged *The Great Moscow Circus* for Michael Edgley in China and conceived and choreographed a disco-inspired Spectacular for Crown as well as a series of unique Burlesque performances featuring over fifty performers.

Alana has her own experimental dance company Moving Pictures.



## Kim Bishop

### Costume Designer

Kim has been involved in the theatre industry for over 20 years as Head of Wardrobe on musicals including *The King & I*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *South Pacific*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Aida*, *The Merchants Of Bollywood*, *Crazy For You*, *Singin' In The Rain* and *Shout*.

The world premier seasons of *The Boy From Oz* and *Dusty* were particular highlights.

He has dressed on *The Producers*, *Grease*, *Shirley Maclaine*, *Cats*, *Sugar Babies*, *Guys & Dolls*, *A Little Night Music*, *Shane Warne - The Musical*. He made costumes with legendary costumier Bob Murphy and toured as Wardrobe Manager with Torvill & Dean, playing everywhere from Melbourne to Las Vegas, Madison Square Garden and Wembley.

Kim has supervised the Wardrobe Department for The Production Company on sixteen shows and has been Costume Designer for *Sweet Charity*, *42nd Street*, *Damn Yankees*, *Mame*, *Crazy For You*, *The Boy Friend*, *The King & I*. Kim also designed the costumes for *The Boy From Oz*.

Kim recently worked in Bali at The Bali Safari & Marine Park on a huge show with a cast of 150 plus animals, including a white tiger, camel, hornbills and elephants.

[www.kimbishop.com.au](http://www.kimbishop.com.au)



## Andrew Bellchambers

### Set Designer

Andrew is a 2006 graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts.

Recent designs include *Hamlet* for Sydney Theatre Company (ED), *Ninety, Bombshells (EDU)* and *The Pillowman (Assist)* for Melbourne Theatre Company. *The Clean House* and *Ninety* for Queensland Theatre Company. *The Clean House* for Black Swan State Theatre Company. *The Winter's Tale* for Eleventh Hour Theatre, *Grace* for Deckchair Theatre & Perth Festival and *Rabbit Hole* for Redstitch Theatre.

Andrew has designed *The Merry Widow*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, *Tosca* and *I Puritani* for Melbourne Opera. Cabaret work includes *Starting Here Starting Now* and *Another Opening Another Show* for Manilla Street Productions. Other work includes *Joining the Chorus School Spectacular - Barnum 2009* and Design consultant 2011. *Top Acts Concert 2007, 2008, 2009* for Education Victoria.

Andrew has been a Green Room Awards nominee for *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci, Tosca, John & Jen the musical* and *The Winter's Tale*.

Andrew's upcoming projects include two premiere works; *Jasper Jones* (based on the award winning novel) for Deckchair Theatre and *Strange Bedfellows The Musical* which will open in the Princess Theatre later this year.



## Trent Suidgeest

### Lighting Designer

Trent is a recent graduate from WAAPA, breaking into the industry as one of Australia's young gun Lighting Designers. After completing his Degree, he traveled to New York to work with internationally acclaimed Tony

Award-winning Lighting Designer, Rick Fisher as he lit *Billy Elliot The Musical* on Broadway. Recent credits include *Ninety*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Black Swan State Theatre Company) the national tour of *The Sapphires* (Belvoir/Black Swan) and seasons in South Korea and London's Barbican Theatre), *pool [no water]* and *The Dark Room* (Black Swan's HotBed Ensemble), *Oklahoma! (IA)*, *her holiness (Janus)*, *The Sound of Music* and *Puss In Boots (MSWA)*, *The Enchanters* and *R&J (Prickly Pear Ensemble)*, *An Oak Tree* (Perth Theatre Company), *Fatty Wombat* (Barking Gecko), *Cinderella Dressed in Yella [Korean Tour]*, *Genie(us)* and *Walk The Fence* (Buzz Dance Theatre.)

In 2010 Trent was awarded an Australia Council Artstart Grant. He was lighting designer for the much acclaimed PIAF/Yirri Yaakin production of *Waltzing the Wilarra* and is thrilled to be working with The Production Company again, after designing *The King and I* in 2010.

Visit his website at [www.trentsuidgeest.com](http://www.trentsuidgeest.com)



## Sound Design For System Sound by John Scandrett, Mark Benson and David Tonion

System Sound is proud to have been involved in all of The Production Company's shows since it's inception.

### David Tonion

David is responsible for the major electronic design, building and programming of the sound system for *Kismet*. For a number of years, as one of Systems favoured mix-engineers, David has mixed many of System's major musicals throughout Asia and Australia. He is currently Assistant Designer for *Mary Poppins* and Associate Designer for *Miss Saigon* in Korea.

### Mark Benson

Mark is responsible for the orchestral sound and system engineering on all of The Production Company's shows. System Sound's orchestral and operatic specialist, he has designed and mixed concerts throughout Australasia with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and many others with world-renowned singers and performers.

### John Scandrett

The Managing Director of System Sound Pty Ltd, John is responsible for the loudspeaker system design and tuning, and was Sound Designer for the Australian tours of *Chicago*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Cabaret*, *The Producers* and *Guys and Dolls*.

System Sound has designed or engineered throughout Australasia *Les Miserables*, *Joseph*, *Rent*, *Cats*, *Aspects of Love*, *Show Boat*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Miss Saigon*, *Cabaret*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Spamalot*, *The Producers*, *We Will Rock You*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Billy Elliot*. Currently, they are sounding *Jersey Boys*, *Wicked*, *Love Never Dies*, *Rock of Ages*, *Mary Poppins* and an upcoming *Phantom of the Opera* tour of South Africa, Manila and Korea.



### Scott J Hendry Assistant Director

Scott trained in Musical Theatre at WAAPA. While there he performed in *Sweeney Todd*, *Rags*, Manning Clark's *History Of Australia-The Musical*, *Grand Hotel* and *Isn't It Romantic*. Scott's professional debut was in the 1996 Australian premiere of *Sunset Boulevard* (Really Useful Group)

followed by *My Fair Lady* (VSO/IMG) as Freddy Eynsford-Hill, *Crusade - The Musical* as Michael, *Zorba*, *Nostradamus*, *Chicago* as Mary Sunshine (IMG/Weissler), *The Wizard Of Oz* (Macks Entertainment/GFO) and *The Full Monty* (David Atkins/IMG). In 2002 Scott was invited to Cardiff, Wales as a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Voice of Music Theatre. He appeared in the premiere of *Eurovision - The Musical* 'representing' Ireland, which he reprised in Eurobeat in 2006. Scott was Resident Director of the Australian tour of *Eurobeat*. He has been Artistic Director for the Victorian Cancer Council's *Tuxedo Junction Gala Ball* at The Regent Theatre since 2008. Scott is a senior lecturer in Music Theatre at the APO Arts Academy. Scott was Assistant Director for The Production Company's *Damn Yankees* and Children's Director and Assistant Director for *The King & I* in 2010. Most recently Scott directed *Dear World* at the Melbourne Recital Hall.



### THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The management reserves the right to add, withdraw or substitute artists and to vary the programme as necessary.
- The Trust reserves the right of refusing admission.
- 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.

**To ensure that you are kept informed of The Production Company's shows, join our mailing list.**

**Call 9247 4800 or**

**Email your contact details to:**

**admin@theproductioncompany.com.au.**