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30 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER

ANZ

PRESENTS

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, STATE THEATRE



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THE PRODUCTION COMPANY
PRESENTS

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

SCREENPLAY BY BETTY COMDEN AND ADOLF GREEN • SONGS BY NACIO HERB BROWN AND ARTHUR FREED
BASED ON THE CLASSIC METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER FILM,
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH WARNER BROS. THEATRE VENTURES, INC. • MUSIC PUBLISHED BY EMI
(ORIGINAL MOVIE CHOREOGRAPHY BY GENE KELLY AND STANLEY DONEN)
PRODUCED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MAURICE ROSENFELD, LOIS F. ROSENFELD AND CINDY PRITZKER, INC.

ROHAN BROWNE • ALINTA CHIDZEY • MATT LEE • CHRISTIE WHELAN-BROWNE
ROBYN ARTHUR • ROBERT GRUBB • CRISTINA D'AGOSTINO • LISA SONTAG
BEN GILLESPIE • TOBIAS MADDEN • JOHN O'HARA

WITH

BIANCA BAYKARA • BEN BROWN • NICHOLAS EATON • THOMAS EGAN
REBECCA GRENNAN • ANNABEL KNIGHT • LEANNE MARSLAND • ASHLEY MCKENZIE
PHOEBE PANARETOS • NATASHA PARAMOR • JORDAN POLLARD • MICHAEL RALPH • JAMES TRAILLE

DIRECTOR **GARY YOUNG**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR **JOHN FOREMAN**

CHOREOGRAPHER **SIMON LIND**

COSTUME DESIGNER **KIM BISHOP** SET DESIGNER **RICHARD JEZIORNY**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **MATTHEW KING** SOUND DESIGN **SYSTEM SOUND**

SOUND DESIGN ASSOCIATES **MARK BENSON, JOHN SCANDRETT, JULIAN SPINK**

STAGE MANAGER **MEG DEYELL** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **EMMA CALLAGHAN**

21 TO 25 AUGUST 2013

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, STATE THEATRE

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
EXCLUSIVE AGENT FOR MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (NY)





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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The management reserves the right to add, withdraw or substitute artists and to vary the program as necessary.
- The Trust reserves the right of refusing admission.
- Recording devices, cameras and mobile telephones must not be operated during the performance.
- In the interests of public health, Arts Centre Melbourne is a smoke-free area.



WELCOME TO SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

We are having a great time celebrating our 15th year. *Singin' in the Rain* has all but sold out before we opened and we have added an extra performance at 11am on Sunday so as to meet the demand.

I always hope our middle musical in the middle of our winter will be a fun one. What could be more exhilarating or bring more joy than *Singin' in the Rain*? You will love our beautiful cast - our marvellous leading men Rohan Browne and Matt Lee and the gorgeous Alinta Chidzey and Christie Whelan-Browne. Our director Gary Young, costume and set designers Kim Bishop and Richard Jeziorny and lighting designer Matthew King, is the same team who brought you *The Boy Friend* in 2009 - Christie, Robyn Arthur, Robert Grubb, Ben Brown, Nicholas Eaton, Leanne Marsland and Ashley McKenzie were with us back then too, as was our talented repetiteur Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer. Our choreographer Simon Lind is new to The Production Company family and I hope we will be seeing a lot more of his work.

Our Musical Director, John Foreman, told me that he has a dream team in this Orchestra Victoria, all are musicians he admires. Isn't it a thrill to hear this beautiful score played so well on the specific instruments it was first written for? No wonder Brown and Freed's lovely songs have never ceased to bring a smile to the face and a tap to the toes.

What a thrill it is for me to be able to take you back to a time when the talkies were taking over from the silent movie, when it was possible to fall in love at first sight, when handsome leading men and beautiful showgirls enchanted us with the timeless, exuberant magic of their song and dance.

Our special front of house star for this show is ANZ, who have upgraded their long-standing support for The Production Company to become a major sponsor. Take a bow ANZ.

A glorious feelin' indeed!

Jeanne Pratt

Jeanne Pratt AC
 Chairman





ROHAN BROWNE DON LOCKWOOD

Rohan recently created the role of Marty in *The Tap Pack* for its hugely successful seasons in Melbourne and Sydney. Prior to this he was seen as one of the chameleon Proteans in the critically acclaimed *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. Recent credits include Carmen Ghia in *The Producers* and Zach in *A Chorus Line* [Asia].

Other roles include Gregory Gardner in the Australian tour of *A Chorus Line* (Green Room Award nomination - Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role), Riff in the highly acclaimed revival of *West Side Story* (Green Room Award nomination - Best Supporting Actor), George in Melbourne Theatre Company's *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Green Room Award nomination - Best Supporting Actor), Fred Casely in *Chicago*, The Purser in *Anything Goes*, Rum Tum Tugger in *Cats*, King Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Clarrie in Sydney Dance Company's *Tivoli* and Wing in *Hot Shoe Shuffle*.

Other musical theatre credits include *The Boy From Oz*, *Grease*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate* (Green Room Award nomination), *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Follies* and *Mame*.

He was the Co-Narrator of *Doris - So Much More Than The Girl Next Door* and appeared at The Famous Spiegeltent as Ro-hung in *Josie Lane In the Bathhouse*.

Rohan's film credits include *Happy Feet* and a recently work shopped new Australian film, *The Boy Castaways* playing the role of John. Rohan's television credits include roles in *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Claude Haynes*, and *Dance Academy Season 3* as Hugo Greyson.

Rohan is thrilled to be playing the role made famous by Gene Kelly in *Singin' in the Rain* and would like to dedicate his performance to his late grandmother, Shirley Olive.



ALINTA CHIDZEY KATHY SELDEN

Alinta, one of Australia's most versatile and dynamic performers on both stage and screen, is thrilled to be working with The Production Company again. She was recently honoured with a Green Room Award for her portrayal of Svetlana in *Chess* in The Production Company's 2012 season.

Alinta's screen credits include the U.S. Telemovie *The Frontier* for Sony, ABC series *The Dr Blake Mysteries*, *Neighbours* and the short film *Courage*. Her theatre credits include the role of Anita in *West Side Story*, for which she was nominated for a Helpmann Award, Green Room Award, Sydney Theatre Award, two GLUGS Awards for Best Supporting Actress and was awarded the Australian Dance Award for Most Outstanding Performance.

Other credits include Mickey in *Leader of the Pack!* (Green Room Award for best featured ensemble), *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (cover/performed Mary), *Cats* (*Demeter*), *Dusty The Original Pop*

Diva! (Cover Reno), *Mamma Mia!* (Cover Ali/Lisa) and *Dirty Dancing* in The Netherlands.

Last year Alinta was the featured soloist in *The Spirit of Christmas* at QPAC, performing with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Most recently she appeared in Patrick Marber's play *Closer* at Chapel off Chapel.

Between shows, Alinta fronts her own jazz/soul band *Alinta and the Jazz Emperors*.

Alinta would like to dedicate her performance to her parents Keith and Cher.

MATT LEE COSMO BROWN

Matt Lee is a leading Australian theatre and dance personality who has starred in some of Australia's favourite television and stage shows.

Matt performed as Bert in *Mary Poppins*, winning the 2011 Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Musical. His stage credits include major roles in *Miss Saigon*, *We Will Rock You*, Hugh Jackman's *The Boy from Oz*, *Rent*, *The Witches Of Eastwick*, *Oh' What A Night*, *Grease*, Dein Perry's *Steel City*, *Hot Shoe Shuffle* and the Opera Australia production of *Rags*.

Matt was a permanent member of the judging panel as well as choreographer on *So You Think You Can Dance* for Network Ten, which earned him a 2009 Logie Nomination for Most Popular New Talent.

He was the motion capture principal in the Oscar winning animated feature *Happy Feet*. Other screen credits include the role of Jonno in AFI winning feature film *Bootmen* and a guest role in *Home & Away* for Channel 7.

Matt is widely recognised as a choreographer with recent credits including choreographing for Ricky Martin on *The Voice Australia*, *Big Brother*, the 2013 Helpmann Awards and staging for Timomatic across televised events. He is well known for his choreographic work with Hilary Duff, Human Nature, Guy Sebastian, Marcia Hines, and Christine Anu. In 2000, he toured worldwide as choreographer with sister2sister, supporting Britney Spears on her *Oops I Did It Again* tour. He choreographed the opening of the 2010 Logie Awards with six-time ARIA award winner Gabriella Cilmi.

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/mattglee>



CHRISTIE WHELAN-BROWNE LINA LAMONT

Born and raised in Melbourne, Christie's professional stage debut was at the age of twenty-two, playing Patty Simcox in the national tour of *Grease: The Arena Spectacular*. Christie then reprised this role on London's West End and on a tour of the UK. She returned to Australia to star as April in *Company* at the Theatre Royal.

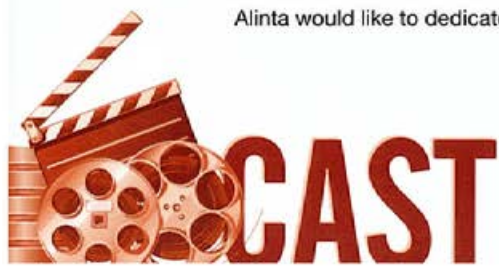
The next three years have included a run of acclaimed roles including Janet in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (MTC), Maisy in *The Boy Friend* (The Production Company), Lacey in *Once We Lived Here* (Bryant and Frank Productions) and the title role of *Sugar* (The Production Company) - for which she received a Green Room Nomination. In 2011 she played the lead role of Kira in *Xanadu: The Musical*.

Her success in MTC's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* (for which she received a Helpmann Nomination as Best Actress in a Musical) led to her being cast by Simon Phillips in his final production as MTC Artistic Director; *The Importance of Being Ernest*. Playing once again opposite her *Drowsy Chaperone* co-star, Geoffrey Rush before she worked with him again in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*.

In addition to her traditional theatrical roles, Christie is also the star of Bryant and Franks' *Britney Spears: The Cabaret* - a touching and hilarious satirical one-woman show about the singer's life.

Christie's television roles include a number of hit Australian series, such as Kylie in Channel 7's *Winners and Losers* and Jenny in Ten's *Offspring*, Katrina in FMC's *Conspiracy 365* and Leila in ABC's *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Paper Giants 2*, *INXS: Never Tear Us Apart* and Network Ten's *Wonderland*.

Christie was co-host of the Helpmann Awards Ceremony recently alongside Eddie Perfect.





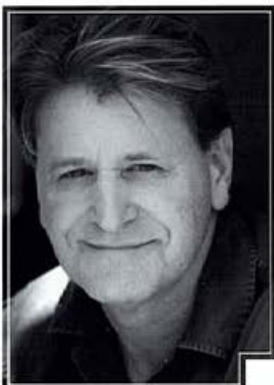
ROBYN ARTHUR MISS DINSMORE/DORA BAILEY

This year, Robyn toured Australia for Hit Productions in Elizabeth Coleman's play *It's My Party ...And I'll Die if I Want To*.

In 2011, she starred again alongside Todd McKenney in the hit revival of *The Boy From Oz*. Robyn played Mrs Potts in the Aria Award winning Australian premiere of *Beauty and the Beast* with Hugh Jackman and Madame Thenardier (for which she received a Green Room Award) in the original cast of *Les Misérables*. In 2007, she was nominated for a Helpmann Award for her performance in *Sideshow Alley* (Keelan/Young). Robyn's other theatre highlights include *Minefields* and *Miniskirts* by Terence O'Connell for Malthouse, Gale Edwards' production of *Sweeney Todd* for Opera Queensland, Stephen Sondheim's *Company* and Michael Gow's *Away* for the Sydney Theatre Company.

Television credits include *Woodley*, *Twentysomething*, *Laid*, *The Librarians*, *City Homicide*, *Very Small Business*, *Kath and Kim*, *Blue Heelers*, *MDA*, *Neighbours*, and the US production, *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*. Robyn also appeared in *Charlotte's Web* with Dakota Fanning for Paramount Pictures.

Robyn's been a member of Actors Equity since 1975.



ROBERT GRUBB R F SIMPSON

Since graduating from NIDA in 1978, Robert has worked extensively in theatre, film and television, enjoying a varied and lustrous career. He has performed in *Mame*, *The Boy Friend* and *Promises, Promises* with The Production Company.

Other musical theatre credits include Opera Australia's *My Fair Lady*, receiving a Helpmann nomination for his role as Alfred P. Doolittle, the roles of Sheldrake and Max in *Sunset Boulevard*, Harry in *Mamma Mia!* which he reprised for sell seasons in 2009 and 2010. He played Pop in *We Will Rock You*, touring Australia and Japan, earning a Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role.

He has also appeared in the Australian premier of *Shane Warne The Musical* and Opera Australia's *A Little Night Music*.

Most recently Robert has appeared in the Australian and New Zealand production of *Yes, Prime Minister* as Sir Humphrey Appleby.

Robert has starred in the films *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*, *Robbery Under Arms*, *Phar Lap*, *Gallipoli* and *My Brilliant Career* for which he received the industry's Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Television credits include the role of Dr Geoff Standish in *The Flying Doctors*, *McLeods Daughters*, *The Society Murders*, *Seachange*, *Salem's Lot* and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*.

Recently he has been involved in the production of the first 'crowd funded' TV series; an Australian comedy 'theweatherman.tv'

CRISTINA D'AGOSTINO OLGA MARA

Cristina graduated with a BA in Music Theatre from the University of Ballarat in 2007. She was cast as Havana Girl in the 2008/09 Australian tour of *Guys and Dolls* (Howard Panter/Ambassador Theatre Group) and was honoured with a Green Room Award for Featured Ensemble Performance. Other credits include *Jekyll and Hyde* in South Korea (TML Enterprises), Consuela and understudy of Anita in *West Side Story* and Cat Stevens' World Premiere of his musical *Moonshadow*. Cristina has studied at Pineapple Dance Studio and The Actors Centre in London. She played Lois in the Perth/Brisbane tour of *A Chorus Line* (TML Enterprises) and recently covered Morticia and played the role of Flapper in *The Addams Family* (New Theatricals).

Cristina dedicates this show to her special friend Maria Slape.



LISA SONTAG ZELDA ZANDERS

Lisa Sontag is a WAAPA graduate with many drama and musical theatre credits to her name. For The Production Company, she has appeared in *The Boy From Oz*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Call Me Madam*. Most recently, Lisa worked on *The Addams Family* and toured Australia and New Zealand with *Mary Poppins*. Other musical theatre credits include *The Pajama Game*, *The Producers*, *Respect-The Musical* and *Grease: The Arena Spectacular*, for which she won the Green Room award for best actress playing the role of Frenchy with a solo opposite John Farnham. Lisa's film, television and theatre credits include *Love* (for Hothouse Theatre and Malthouse) and *Wil*. Lisa is an accomplished dance teacher and choreographer.



"Singin' in the Rain"

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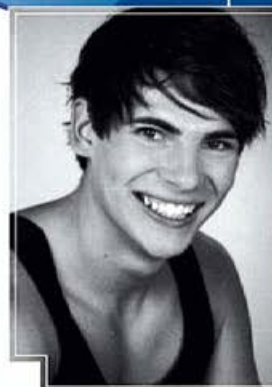
We live in your world



BEN GILLESPIE PRODUCTION TENOR/DIALECT COACH

Ben is a Musical Theatre Graduate of WAAPA. During his time there, he starred in *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* directed by Jason Langley, *Xanadu* directed by Crispin Taylor and in the lead role of Flick in the musical *Violet*. Ben's training has seen him excel across many styles including ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, Irish, ballroom and hip hop. Now the newest member of the talented group The Aussie Boys, he looks forward to travelling with them to America in 2014 to see what will unfold!

Ben is thrilled to be a part of this new staging of *Singin' in the Rain*.



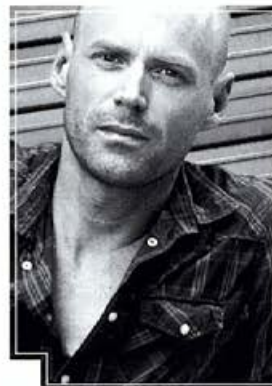
TOBIAS MADDEN ROD/ENTHUSIASTIC AGENT

Originally from Ballarat, Tobias trained at Brent Street Studios and completed a Bachelor of Music Theatre at WAAPA in 2009. Most recently, Tobias performed in *Mary Poppins* as Valentine, understudying and performing the role of Bert. In 2010 he sailed around the world as the Singer/Dancer and Dance Captain onboard the *Pacific Princess* and appeared in the IAJ International production of *Oklahoma!*. WAAPA highlights include playing Angel in *Rent* and Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street*. Tobias is thrilled to be making his Production Company debut in one of his all-time favourite musicals. He would like to thank Les for his guidance, and his mum, dad and brother for being amazing in every way.



JOHN O'HARA ROSCOE DEXTER

John is a graduate of WAAPA and has since carved a consistent and varied career, both in Australia and abroad. Professional theatre credits include *Hair*, *Shout!*, *Eureka*, *High Society*, *Oklahoma!*, *Dusty*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. John received wide critical acclaim for his portrayal of Rum Tum Tugger in the international touring company of *Cats*, opening the show in twenty-eight cities across the globe. Other credits include *The Boy From Oz*, *Rock of Ages* and *Wicked*. John has a firm commitment to the development of new Australian works and as such has a continued involvement in projects including *Georgy Girl* and Matthew Robinson's *Happy People*. An accomplished corporate and concert performer, highlights include *Light The Night*, *Twisted Broadway*, *Time Warp* and *The Three Waiters*. John provides the male voice for popular singing app *Warm Me Up*, available through iTunes. Regularly returning to his home town of Perth, John is a mentor, director and teacher for several youth arts organizations. John's first professional engagement was with The Production Company eleven years ago and he is always thrilled to return to the family.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

OVERTURE

FIT AS A FIDDLE

ALL I DO IS DREAM OF YOU

MAKE 'EM LAUGH

BEAUTIFUL GIRL

YOU ARE MY LUCKY STAR

YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME

MOSES SUPPOSES

GOOD MORNING

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

DON LOCKWOOD, COSMO BROWN

KATHY SELDEN & GIRLS OF THE COCONUT GROVE

COSMO BROWN

PRODUCTION TENOR & FEMALE CHORUS (INCL. KATHY SELDEN)

KATHY SELDEN

DON LOCKWOOD & KATHY SELDEN

DON LOCKWOOD, COSMO BROWN

DON LOCKWOOD, COSMO BROWN, KATHY SELDEN

DON LOCKWOOD

ACT TWO

ENTR'ACTE

WOULD YOU?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

BROADWAY MELODY **

KATHY SELDEN, DON LOCKWOOD & LINA LAMONT

LINA LAMONT

COSMO BROWN, DON LOCKWOOD,

OLGA MARA & FULL COMPANY

KATHY SELDEN (VOICING FOR LINA) & COSMO BROWN

KATHY SELDEN & DON LOCKWOOD

FULL COMPANY

WOULD YOU? (REPRISE)

YOU ARE MY LUCKY STAR (REPRISE)

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (REPRISE)

** ADDITIONAL ORCHESTRAL ARRANGEMENTS BY CRAIG RENSHAW

CAST

ROHAN BROWNE DON LOCKWOOD

ALINTA CHIDZEY KATHY SELDEN

MATT LEE COSMO BROWN

CHRISTIE WHELAN-BROWNE LINA LAMONT

ROBERT GRUBB R.F. SIMPSON

ROBYN ARTHUR DORA BAILEY & MISS DINSMORE

CRISTINA D'AGOSTINO OLGA MARA & BROADWAY MELODY FEATURED DANCER

LISA SONTAG ZELDA ZANDERS

BEN GILLESPIE PRODUCTION TENOR & MALE DICTION TEACHER

TOBIAS MADDEN ROD

JOHN O'HARA ROSCOE DEXTER

BIANCA BAYKARA FAN, HAIRDRESSER & SHOWGIRL

BEN BROWN PHOTOGRAPHER, NEWSBOY & 1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

REBECCA GRENNAN MRS SIMPSON, WARDROBE MISTRESS AND SHOWGIRL

NICHOLAS EATON TOM MIX & SID PHILLIPS

THOMAS EGAN J. SPENDRILL, SOUND ENGINEER & VILLAIN 2

ANNABEL KNIGHT FAN, SHOWGIRL, PARTY GIRL & EGYPTIAN QUEEN

LEANNE MARSLAND MARY MARGARET, LADY IN WAITING, SHOWGIRL

ASHLEY MCKENZIE OLGA'S ESCORT, 2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

PHOEBE PANARETOS WOMAN WITH PRAM, SHOWGIRL & WARDROBE MISTRESS

NATASHA PARAMOR FAN, STARLET, SHOWGIRL & WARDROBE MISTRESS

JORDAN POLLARD CHARLIE CHAPLIN, GORILLA & VILLAIN 1

MICHAEL RALPH SUGAR DADDY AND WORKMAN

JAMES TRAILLE POLICEMAN, 3RD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & BUTLER

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Production Managers • Mel Robertson & Tia Clark

Stage Manager • Meg Deyell

Company Manager • Chloe Woodman

Assistant Stage Manager • Ashlee Hints

Wardrobe Supervisor • Melinda Brodie

Costume Makers • Meredith Clements & Isaac Lummis

Wardrobe Intern • Kimberley Fuentes

Wigs • Corrine Day

Wigs Assistant • Phillip Sweeney

Sound Mix Engineer • Brendon Gardner

Radio Mic Engineer • Cameron Herbert

Stage Sound Technicians • Jackson Scandrett

& Sarah Trevorrow

Set Construction • Malthouse

Repetiteur • Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer

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Matthew Hassall *LEADER*
Lynette Rayner
Edwina Kayser

2ND VIOLINS
Tim Veldman
Charlotte Ryssenbeek

VIOLAS
Shani Williams
Merewyn Bramble

CELLI
Kalina Krusteva
Alison Both

BASS
Matthew Thorne

TRUMPETS
Greg Spence
Shane Gillard
Rob Smithies

TROMBONES
Ian Bell
Simon 'Rock' Scerri

REEDS
Tony Hicks
Remco Keijzer
Grania Burke
Stuart Byrne

HARP
Julie Raines

PERCUSSION
Conrad Nilsson

DRUM KIT
Dean Cooper

KEYBOARD
Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer

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Jason Bunn
Dennis Carmody
Jane Gilmour OAM, FAICD
Richard Hamer
Sue Natrass AO
Rob Perry

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SPLASHED WITH SUCCESS

Who is the real hero of the stage show *Singin' in the Rain*? Arthur Freed, who wrote the lyrics of the show's timeless title song and produced the movie? Nacio Herb Brown, who provided the lilting melody? Gene Kelly, who played Don Lockwood in the 1952 film? Harold Fielding, who produced the first stage version in London? Tommy Steele, that production's star and director?

Or should the honour more properly go to a canny Chicago lawyer named Maurice Rosenfield?

Maurice Rosenfield was 91 years of age when he died in 2005. His main contribution to legal history was his conception, back in 1941, of what we know today as the class action. He defended Hugh Hefner and *Playboy* magazine against charges of obscenity, and he did the same for confrontational comedian Lenny Bruce. But there was another side to Mr Rosenfield: he and his wife, Lois, loved show business. In the 1960s Rosenfield was founding partner and general manager of top-rating Chicago radio station WAIT 820 AM. In 1973 the Rosenfields made their debuts as film producers with *Bang the Drum Slowly*, in which they starred Lois's 'discovery', a then unknown actor called Robert De Niro.

The Rosenfields' start on Broadway was less spectacular – their 1979 revival of a comedy called *The Goodbye People*, with Herschel Bernardi, collapsed after just one performance. The following year they struck gold, first with the musical *Barnum* – Glenn Close's first stage success – and later when Maurice managed to persuade MGM to release the stage rights to their 1952 masterpiece *Singin' in the Rain*.

It was not the first film to be reworked for the theatre, but back then screen-to-stage adaptations were relatively rare – and risky.

The movie had been conceived by the brilliant MGM producer Arthur Freed as a showcase for many of the songs he had written with composer Nacio Herb Brown – including, of course, 'Singin' in the Rain'. Freed and Brown had created the song for a Los Angeles stage show called *The Hollywood Music Box Revue of 1927*. It was their first big hit. They recycled it for the early MGM talkie *The Hollywood Revue of 1929*, in which it was sung by the Brox Sisters and Cliff Edwards, later the familiar voice of Jiminy Cricket in Disney's *Pinocchio*.



THE BROX SISTERS INTRODUCING 'SINGIN' IN THE RAIN' IN THE HOLLYWOOD REVUE OF 1929.

Freed made it the title song of his new movie. The studio's staff screen writers Betty Comden and Adolph recalled: 'One day we were called into Arthur Freed's office and he said, "Kids," – we were all "kids" back then – "you're going to write a movie called *Singin' in the Rain*. Just put all of my songs in it."



GENE KELLY
DONALD O'CONNOR
DEBBIE REYNOLDS

JEAN HAGEN - MILLARD MITCHELL - CRY CHAIRS
BETTY COMBES - JUDITH GREEN

POSTER FOR THE 1952 MGM FILM.

DEBBIE REYNOLDS AS KATHY AND
GENE KELLY AS DON IN THE 1952 MGM FILM.

All we knew was there would be some scene where someone would be singing, and it would be raining.'

Comden and Green devised a plot that set the songs in the context of Hollywood's tortuous transition to talkies – perhaps taking a cue from a now-forgotten 1948 Edith Piaf film called *Étoile sans Lumière* (Star Without Light), which had a remarkably similar plot. They mined the memories of Freed and Brown and other MGM veterans such as Douglas Shearer, the head of the studio's sound department, who had worked on MGM's very first sound musical, *The Broadway Melody*. Much of the intrigue in the plot concerned a singer dubbing for a non-singing actor – as Freed himself had done for Leon Ames in the film *Meet Me in St Louis*.



GENE KELLY AS DON LOCKWOOD IN THE 1952 MGM FILM.

Singin' in the Rain was blessed with a dream cast: Gene Kelly as Don Lockwood, Donald O'Connor as Cosmo

Brown, Jean Hagen as Lina Lamont and Debbie Reynolds as Kathy Selden – the role that shot the 19-year-old to stardom. The film was only a modest hit on its first release, but the patina of time has accorded it legendary status. Today it is regarded as one of the best musicals ever made. The American Film Institute ranked it first on its '100 Years of Musicals' list, and ranked it fifth in its roll call of the greatest American films of all time. In 1989 *Singin' in the Rain* was among the first 25 films selected for preservation by the US Library of Congress.

In 1981, when Rosenfield finally persuaded MGM to release the stage rights, the idea was to open *Singin' in the Rain* on Broadway, but veteran British producer Harold Fielding persuaded him to launch the show in London. Fielding saw it as an ideal vehicle for his favourite star, Tommy Steele, who directed and played Don Lockwood, a part he described as 'The song-and-dance man's Hamlet'. Comden and Green adapted their original screenplay for the stage, and Peter Gennaro provided the choreography. Late in the production process, some of the original songs became unavailable, so they were replaced by other 'standards' from the era.



DANIELLE CARSON, TOMMY STEELE, SARAH PAYNE AND ROY CASTLE AS COSMO IN THE 1983 LONDON PRODUCTION.

The show opened at the London Palladium on 30 June 1983. Despite generally poor reviews, it broke every existing Palladium record, filling the theatre for 894 performances. It toured widely before returning to the Palladium for an encore run.'

Fielding and Gennaro had assumed that their production would be seen on Broadway, but Mr Rosenfield had other ideas. He reinstated all the original songs, called in 'play doctor' Albert Marre to tighten the dialogue, hired Twyla Tharp as director and choreographer (basing her work on

Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen's original routines) and set about dealing with the inevitable law suits from Fielding and Gennaro.

After a year of litigation, perspiration, preparation and a personal investment of \$4.1 million, Maurice and Lois Rosenfield and their friend Cindy Pritzker launched *Singin' in the Rain* at the Gershwin Theatre on Broadway on 2 July 1985. In spite of the enthusiasm of preview audiences, the critics mostly hated it. The show garnered 12 bad notices, five mixed ones and only four positives, which meant it was almost guaranteed to enter Broadway history as one of the most expensive flops ever. Legend has it that Rosenfield had a closing notice drawn up but, for some reason, just before the next day's matinee, decided not to sign it. Instead he found a further \$1 million to cover losses and fund a major television advertising campaign. It was a shrewd move. The extra publicity, plus enthusiastic word of mouth, swiftly built audiences. It eventually clocked up a run of 367 performances.

Though *Singin' in the Rain* has not been revived on Broadway, it has become something of a staple in Britain. Tommy Steele directed a 1994 tour with Paul Nicholas as Don. There were further London seasons in 2000, 2004 and 2012, and another national tour will set off in November this year.



ADAM COOPER, SCARLETT STRALLEN, DANIEL CROSSLEY IN THE 2012 LONDON PRODUCTION. PHOTO BY MANUEL HARLAN.

And what about Australia? In 1998 Maurice Rosenfeld granted David Atkins the rights to the stage production in Australia. As well, Atkins obtained permission to reproduce elements of the Kelly-Donen film choreography. Because of his commitments as artistic director of the Sydney Olympics, Atkins was unable to develop the show until early 2001. By then, a number of amateur groups had jumped the gun – with varying degrees of success. For instance, after seeing a 1995 Adelaide effort, a disappointed reviewer advised his readers to 'Take a raincheck'.

David Atkins produced *Singin' in the Rain* in association with IMG. Perhaps inspired by the original movie, they assembled their own dream cast: Todd McKenney as Don, Wayne Scott Kermond as Cosmo, Rachael Beck as Kathy, and Jackie Love as Lina. In supporting roles were Maggie Kirkpatrick, Glenn Butcher, David Goddard, Brendan Hanson, Vic Rooney, and Atkins' then wife, Sheree da Costa. Atkins choreographed and directed, Conrad Helfrich conducted the orchestra, and Paula Ryan created the costumes. Eamon D'Arcy adapted the sets from designs by an American, Michael Anania, which had first been seen in a 1994 production at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, New Jersey.



TODD MCKENNEY, RACHAEL BECK AND WAYNE SCOTT KERMOND IN THE 2001 AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTION. PHOTO BY GREGG BARRETT.

Singin' in the Rain splashed onto the stage of Sydney's Lyric Theatre on 12 May 2001. 'This is a show that lives up to the promise of the original MGM film's brilliantly clever title,' said Jill Sykes in her *Sydney Morning Herald* review. 'Four words that declare your spirits will be lifted, no matter how damp the atmosphere or how miserable life may seem'

The show went on to play Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Thank you, Maurice Rosenfield. Take a bow!

© Frank Van Straten OAM, 2013.

Frank is a theatre historian and author. His latest book, *Her Majesty's Pleasure*, celebrates the centenary of Her Majesty's Theatre in Adelaide.



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HAS PROUDLY PROVIDED SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
WITH ALL BOW TIE NECKWEAR.

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BIANCA BAYKARA

Bianca is a 2010 graduate from NIDA (Music Theatre), where she received the Robertson Family Trust scholarship. She has also studied dance with Robert Sturrock. Bianca made her debut in the world premiere of *An Officer and a Gentleman* (GFO), understudying the role of Seegar. Bianca was also a semi-finalist in the 2012 Rob Guest Endowment Award. She is delighted to be making her debut with The Production Company in *Singin' in the Rain* and wishes to thank her wonderful family for their ongoing support.



BEN BROWN

Ben began his performing career with his own rendition of *Grease Lightning* at age six. He trained at various schools around Melbourne until he decided to study dance full time at the VCA. He went on to graduate with a Diploma in Performing Arts from Dance World 301 then spent the next year performing at Disneyland in Tokyo. Upon returning home he was cast in Monty Python's *Spamalot*. The same year he joined The Production Company for their 2008 season. He has performed in seven of their shows over the last few years. In 2010 Ben joined the musical *Wicked*, and toured Australia and Asia. In June this year he performed in New York at the *Broadway Backs Boston* benefit concert. Most recently he played the role of Junior in *The Tap Pack*.



NICHOLAS EATON

In 2006, Nicholas graduated from the Brent Street School of Performing Arts and went on to join the cast of *Cats*, performing the role of Alonzo/The Rumpus Cat in Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand and China. Nicholas has performed around the world with Disney Special Events. He made his Australian musical theatre debut in The Production Company's *The Boy Friend* and went on to tour nationally in *Mary Poppins*, understudying and performing the roles of Bert and Valentine. Nicholas appeared in *Twisted Broadway* and most recently was part of the ensemble for *War Horse* in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.



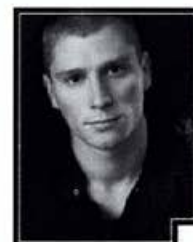
THOMAS EGAN

Tom began his professional career at age ten in *The Boy From Oz* (1995). He has performed in *Singin' in the Rain* for IMG Productions, *Gypsy* for The Production Company and in Cameron Mackintosh's production of *Oliver*.

After relocating to Sydney, Tom began working with artists and choreographers on *Project Moda*, *The Next Step*, *The Squared Division*, *Tapworks* and production company *J Town*. He has performed with Kylie Minogue, Cassie Davis, Sneaky Sound System, Timomatic and appeared on Australia's *Got Talent*, *Mornings with Kerrie-Anne*, *The X Factor* and *Channel V*.

In 2010, Tom toured with *Fame* choreographed by Kelley Abbey and produced by GFO. He can also be seen in the movie *The Great Gatsby* as a featured dancer. Most recently, Tom toured with Dein Perry's *Tap Dogs*. He is a proud co-creator and choreographer of *The Tap Pack*.

Tom would like to thank his family and friends for their support.



ENSEMBLE



REBECCA GRENNAN

Rebecca has been working professionally in the entertainment industry for the past thirteen years. Credits include Hugh Jackman's *The Boy From Oz*, *Grease - the Arena Spectacular*, *Shout - The Legend Of the Wild One*, *The Boy Friend* (Nancy), *Mame*, *Sweet Charity*, motion capture performer in the first creation filming of *Happy Feet*, *Alcina and Tannhauser* for Opera Australia, Norwegian and Princess Cruise Lines, *Shout- the Mod Musical* and Universal Studios in Japan.

Her one-woman cabaret, *Half Full* has recently been featured in the Brisbane Cabaret Festival. Rebecca is a regular contributor to industry websites, including *Aussietheatre.com* and is thrilled to be performing in her fourth season with The Production Company.

www.bexgrennan.com



ANNABEL KNIGHT

Newcastle-born Annabel Knight graduated from the VCA in 2001. She has danced with Leigh Warren's Adelaide company, the Monaco International Dance Forum and with the Sydney Dance Company in *Tivoli*, *Grand*, *Ever After Ever*, *Underland* and toured with them throughout Australia, the US and Germany. She also danced in the premiere seasons of Rafael Bonachela's premiere seasons at SDC, both here and abroad. Annabel has worked with the choreographers Meryl Tankard, Aszure Barton, Kenneth Kvarnstrom, Emmanuel Gat, and Lucopo Dodani. In 2009 Annabel was nominated for the Australian Dance Award and for a Helpmann Award for Best Performance by a female dancer for her role in *360 Degrees*.

Roles in the theatre include a tour South Korea and Athens in the role of Tantomile in *Cats*, The Production Company's *Carousel*, Meg Giry in *The Phantom of the Opera* in Germany, Graeme Murphy's *Aida* for Opera Australia and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Film roles include the female lead in the Bollywood feature film *Touch*, Mao's *Last Dancer*, and the documentary *Blank Canvas*, exploring the SDC's history.



LEANNE MARSLAND

Leanne graduated in 2008 from the Ballarat Arts Academy. Her credits include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Lady Beatrice/Dance Captain in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Mrs Fairfax understudy in *Jane Eyre* and her self-devised cabaret entitled *Love Me xx*.

Since graduating, under the representation of Ian White Management, Leanne has played the roles of Fay in *The Boy Friend* and Rosella in *Sugar* for The Production Company and has featured in several television commercials. She performed her cabaret show *Love Me xx* as a finalist in *Short 'n' Sweet + Cabaret Festival 2009*, in the inaugural *Melbourne Cabaret Festival 2010* (a sold out season), *The Butterfly Club* in 2011 and the *Adelaide Cabaret Fringe Festival* in 2012. Other highlights include Choreographer for *Parade* (UOB Arts Academy), Choreographer/Director for *Best of Broadway* and *Puttin' On The Ritz* (Style Music Theatre) and Dance Lecturer/Choreographer for the *Broadway Bound Music Theatre Course* (VCA).

Leanne continues to pursue a career in the arts, studying film and television (The Film Space) and creating works for stage and film. She is very grateful and excited to be performing with a wonderful cast at The Production Company again.

ASHLEY MCKENZIE

Since graduating from Danceworld 301 in 2003, Ashley has enjoyed an extensive career in all facets of the industry on both stage and screen. His professional theatre credits include *Saturday Night Fever*, *Wicked* (Japan), *Guys and Dolls*, *Sweet Charity*, *42nd Street*, *The Boy Friend* and most recently, he played the role of Bobby in *A Chorus Line*. Ashley's future engagements include the role of Treat in *Orphans* later this year. Ashley is represented by Liz Ellis Management.



PHOEBE PANARETOS

Phoebe is a 2011 graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor in Music Theatre. In her final year she played the role of Anita in *West Side Story*, directed by Martin Croft. Since graduating Phoebe has been cast in *Mr and Mrs Murder*. Most recently Phoebe has been performing in *Thomas and the Hidden Treasure*, touring to Singapore and Hong Kong. *Singin' in the Rain* is Phoebe's professional debut and she is excited to be a part of The Production Company's 2013 season. Phoebe would like to thank her family, teachers and Ian White Management for their support.



NATASHA PARAMOR

Originally from Western Australia, Natasha grew up singing and dancing under the direction of Debra McCulloch. Since moving to Melbourne in 2009, Natasha completed a Full-time Performing Arts course at Patrick Studios Australia where she continued to train in all facets of dance, including singing, acting and acrobatics.

Natasha has performed throughout Australia and internationally with Marilla Productions, X-Systems, The Entertainment Store and Universal Studios, Japan. Her credits include Australia's got talent, Hey Hey it's Saturday and Dancing with the Stars. Natasha made her musical theatre debut with The Production Company's *The King and I* and then went on to join the cast of *The Boy From Oz*.

Singin in the Rain has always been one of Natasha's favourites and she's thrilled to be joining such a talented cast and creative team.

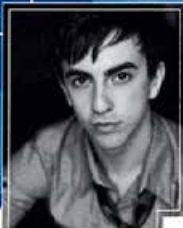


JORDAN POLLARD

Jordan is a graduate of ED5 International. His performance credits include the cabaret show *What is Jazz?*, a national tour of Wayne Scott Kermond's *Candy Man*, *Guys and Dolls* in 2008 (Ambassador Theatre Group), the 2010/11 Australian tour of *West Side Story*, in which he played Big Deal and Action and understudied Riff. In 2012 Jordan was Don in the Australian tour of *A Chorus Line* and was an ensemble member of the 2013 Australian company of *The Addams Family*. He has recently featured in the new movie *Goddess*.

Jordan is one of the Creative Directors of *The Tap Pack*, which recently had a sell-out Melbourne season at Chapel off Chapel.





MICHAEL RALPH

Michael studied dance at Danceworld Studios, acting at VCA and singing with Sally Bourne. His stage credits include both Skimbleshanks and Pouncival in *Cats* for the Really Useful Group and Dance swing / role cover in *Fame the Musical* for GFO. Most recently he performed in the world premiere production of *Moonshadow*. Television credits include *The Singing Office*.

Michael's choreographic credits for cabaret include *The Petticoat Soiree*, *Yummy* and *Triage*. For musical theatre he has choreographed *Milk and Honey*, *Flinders Street*, and *Happy People* (Magnormos). Dance productions include *Short & Sweet* Dance festivals *Mood Swing* (People's Choice award 2011) and *Project Elvis* (Best Choreographer 2012). In 2013 he created his first full-length dance show *NOW & THEN*, which received very positive praise and a sold out season.

Michael is excited to be working with The Production Company and this terrific cast. Many an adolescent rainy day was spent watching this MGM classic – it's a dream come true to bring it to life onstage. He'd like to thank his family, friends, colleagues, and the team at IWM for their constant support and inspiration.



JAMES TRAILLE

James graduated from WAAPA in 2012 with a Bachelor of Music Theatre. His credits there include *Into The Woods*, *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *Xanadu*, *Violet*, *Crazy For You* and *Ragtime*. Since graduating James appeared in the original musical *Holy Ship!* as the male lead Charlie.

Singin' in the Rain is James' first appearance with The Production Company and he is delighted to be part of such a fantastic show and for the opportunity to be working with Gary, John, Simon and the incredible creative team.

GARY YOUNG DIRECTOR

Gary wrote and directed the new Australian musical *Sideshow Alley*. Together with composer Paul Keelan, they won the Pratt Music Theatre Prize and the prestigious 2007 Helpmann Award for Best Original Score, Music and Lyrics. Gary also won the Aussie Theatre Award for his direction. He recently directed the 60th anniversary production of *The Mousetrap* and *Cry Me A River* starring Rhonda Burchmore.

Gary was Associate Director for the original and the anniversary Australian/Asian productions of *Mamma Mia!* For The Production Company he has directed *Carousel* starring David Campbell, *Funny Girl* starring Caroline O'Connor, *Call Me Madam* starring Geraldine Turner, *Mame* starring Rhonda Burchmore, and *The Boy Friend*. He directed *Crusade* for the Edinburgh Festival, *Guys and Dolls* at the Adelaide Festival Theatre, and Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, National tours for *Hi 5*, *City of Angels* and *Fully Committed*. Gary staged the concert for the birthday celebration of the Adelaide Festival Theatre. He was again nominated for a Helpmann Award for his direction of the record breaking *Menopause The Musical*.

Gary was Resident Director for the Australian productions of *Miss Saigon* and *Les Miserables* for the Cameron Mackintosh Organization, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Aspects of Love* for the Really Useful Company and *Scrooge* starring Keith Michell. He was Associate Director for the 10th Anniversary Productions of *Les Miserables* and *Miss Saigon*.

His original written works include *Tilly*, presented at the Buxton Musical Quest in Britain and *Jekyll*, staged at the Churchill Theatre, starring Dave Willets. Current works with composer Paul Keelan include *Ship Of Fools*, *A Woman's Eyes*, *Black Widow*, *Artemisia* and the Green Room Nominated *Tea With Oscar*. Their latest work, *Bim Bom*, was selected for the VCA Musicals Development project. Their Helpmann nominated children's musical *Wombat Stew* completed a record breaking national tour and will tour again in 2014.

JOHN FOREMAN MUSICAL DIRECTOR

John Foreman joined *Good Morning Australia with Bert Newton* in 1992. John tickled Bert's GMA ivories for more than twelve years.

John became Musical Director of *Australian Idol* in 2003; he produced many recordings for Idol artists, including Anthony Callea's multi-platinum single, *The Prayer*. John has produced recordings for Marcia Hines, Ricki-Lee, Silvie Paladino, and others.

John is musical director for Vision Australia's *Carols by Candlelight®* and the TV *Week Logie Awards*, he hosts the annual *Schools Spectacular* and was musical director for the Oprah Winfrey Show Australian finale.

For The Production Company, John has been the musical director for *The Boy From Oz*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Sweet Charity* and the company's first production of *Anything Goes*.

John's compositions include *The Flame*, which was performed by Tina Arena at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Opening Ceremony and *Light The Way* for the Asian Games in Doha, which was performed by Jose Carreras.

John performed at the 1995 Montreal Jazz Festival (Canada) and the 1998 and 1999 Santa Barbara International Jazz Festivals (USA).

John is ambassador for *Music: Count Us In*, for the Australian Music Council and is on the Board of the Talent Development Project Foundation.



CREATIVE TEAM





SIMON LIND CHOREOGRAPHER

Since the creation of his company Project Moda, Simon has worked extensively in television, where he has been Resident choreographer for the final season of *Australian Idol*, resident choreographer for the 2010-2012 seasons of *Australia's Got Talent*, Artistic Director for the 2010 season of *X Factor (Australia)* and regular choreographer on all three seasons of *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Simon was invited to choreograph for Kelly Rowland on the series. Also he has choreographed for Delta Goodrem's *Visualize Tour*. The international stars Human Nature have had Simon choreographing their shows the world over for the last eight years and the partnership continues to this day. Other credits include Paulini, Young Diva's, Australian Idol winners Wes Carr and Cassie Davis, Channel 7's *Gladiators* and Brisbane's *Carols by Candlelight*. Simon has completed the staging for *30 Days of Fashion Magazines Go Live* and completed the writing, producing, directing and choreographing for Toni & Guy's 2010 Season Launch.

Simon was Choreographer for Essgee's Australian production of *The Mikado*. His performances include the Australian tours of *West Side Story*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Jolson*, *Singin' in the Rain*, both tours of *Grease The Arena Spectacular* (Assistant Choreographer for the most recent tour), and work with Kelly Clarkson, Guy Sebastian and Katie Underwood. Simon has just completed a three year engagement on the feature film *Happy Feet 2*, playing the role of Mumble. This was the follow up to *Happy Feet*, in which Simon was also a featured character performer.



KIM BISHOP COSTUME DESIGNER

Kim's most recent designs include the national tour of *They're Playing Our Song* (Hit Productions) and *Barassi - The Stage Show* at The Athenaeum Theatre. At present he is designing the costumes for *The 39 Steps*, which will tour nationally from late August. For The Production Company Kim has been Costume Designer for *The Producers*, *Kismet*, *The King and I*, *The Boy Friend*, *Crazy For You*, *Mame*, *Damn Yankees*, *42nd Street*, *Sweet Charity* and *The Boy from Oz*.

As well as designing, Kim has a successful career in other facets of the theatre costume industry. He has toured as Head of Wardrobe on many large scale musicals including *The King and I*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *South Pacific*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Aida - The Spectacular*, *The Merchants Of Bollywood*, *Crazy For You*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Shout*, *The Boy From Oz* and *Dusty - The Original Pop Diva*.

Kim has made costumes with the legendary costumer Bob Murphy and for some years, had the pleasure of touring the world as Wardrobe Manager with *Torvill and Dean* and their international ice skating companies, playing everywhere from his home town Melbourne to Las Vegas, Madison Square Garden and Wembley.

Recently Kim spent some time in Bali teaching the local crew how to run the Wardrobe Department on a huge production at The Bali Safari & Marine Park. The cast of a hundred and fifty from the local villages also included a camel, a white tiger, hornbills, ducks and eight elephants.

Visit Kim's web site at kimbishop.com.au

FEATURED FILM SEGMENTS

Director - Gary Young
Camera - Brett Anstey
Sound - Mark Granland
Post Production Video Producer - Liam O'Brea
Production Coordinator - Jon Wills
Produced By CVP

SECONDMENTS

Direction - Lincoln Hall
Choreography - Jessie Budd
Stage Management - Caitlin Chatfield
Costume Work Experience
Bendigo South East College - Bonnie Fawcett,
Charlie Munday

RICHARD JEZIORNY SET DESIGNER

Richard Jeziorny is a NIDA trained designer living and working in Melbourne. He is very pleased to be designing his seventeenth Production Company show.

His previous designs for the company include *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *Camelot*, *The Pajama Game*, *Kiss Me, Kate!*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Mame* and *The Boy Friend*.

Recently Richard designed *Cho Cho* by Daniel Keene, a bi-lingual version of the *Madame Butterfly* story, reset in Shanghai, for the National Theatre of China in Beijing. This production opened in China in January and will be seen in Sydney and Melbourne this September-October with its original cast including Scott Irwin and Danielle Barnes.

In 2010 Richard designed *Bali Agung* for the Bali Safari and Marine Park in Gianyar province, which has just staged its 725th performance at the Bali Theatre.

In June Richard designed the costumes for *Once Upon a Pantomime* at the Palais Theatre for the Fr Bob McGuire Foundation.



MATTHEW KING LIGHTING DESIGNER

Matthew is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts. This is his second time with the Production Company, previously designing for *The Boy Friend*.

Matthew was the Lighting Designer for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestras' productions of *Frozen Planet in Concert* and *Wallace and Gromit's Musical Marvels*. Also for their Pops Series - *Video Games Unplugged*, *Symphony of Legends*, *Hollywood*, *Great Waltzes*, *Space Classics*, *Super Heroes* and *Star Wars* and *Beyond*, *Ben Folds*, *The Whitlams*, *Roberta Flack*, *Human Nature* and *Classical Mystery Tour (The Beatles)*.

Matthew also designed *Timeless Classics* for the Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and was the Assistant Lighting Designer for *Menopause the Musical* and *Sideshow Alley*.

In Australia and Asia, Matthew has worked extensively as an Architectural and Theatrical Lighting Programmer on projects including, *Symphony of Light*, Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong, *The National Day Parade*, Singapore, the 2003 Chinese New Year Celebration at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Australian Season of *Dirty Dancing*.

For three years Matthew was the Assistant Lighting Designer and Programmer for *Marina Bay Countdown* in Singapore.



EMMA CALLAGHAN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Emma is honoured to be awarded the position of Myer Foundation Resident for 2013. For The Production Company, she has assisted Gale Edwards on her productions of *Gypsy* and *Chess* and Roger Hodgman on *Grey Gardens*. Emma was a production assistant to the creative team on *King Kong The Musical*. Emma's production company SpeCo produced *She Loves Me* at the Newtown Theatre Sydney. She also wrote, produced and performed the musical *LUV* at the Stables Theatre Sydney. Her performing credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Cats The Musical*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *The Buddy Holly Story*, *Wedding Song*, *Devine Metropolis*, *The Hunting of the Snark*, *Earth Song*, *Evita*, *Chess* and *Wizard of Oz*. Emma's television credits include *Blue Heelers*, *Stingers*, *Police Rescue* and *Big Sky*, *Good Morning Australia*, *The Midday Show*, *Hey Hey It's Saturday* and *CNN Live*.





SOUND DESIGN SYSTEM SOUND

MANAGING DIRECTOR - JOHN SCANDRETT

SOUND DESIGN ASSOCIATES -

JOHN SCANDRETT, MARK BENSON & DAVID TONION

The System Sound team has engineered many productions throughout Australasia including *Les Miserables*, *The Phantom of The Opera*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Spamalot*, *The Producers*, *We Will Rock You*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Billy Elliot*, *Rock of Ages*, *Love Never Dies*, *Jersey Boys*, *War Horse*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Addams Family* and currently *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Wicked* and *King Kong*.

JULIAN SPINK

Julian joined System Sound in 1993 as Head of Sound on *Les Miserables*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *West Side Story*. He was Associate Sound Designer for the Australian productions of *Man of La Mancha*, *Footloose*, *Hair*, *The Leader of the Pack*, *Chicago*, and *Cabaret*. Julian was Associate Designer for *Legally Blonde* and Supervisor for *The Addams Family*, *Rock of Ages* and *Jersey Boys*.

MARK BENSON

Mark has been an Associate Sound Designer for most of The Production Company musicals, most recently *Chess* and *Gypsy*. He has engineered many shows and concerts with *The Australian Philharmonic* and *Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestras* and others and engineered events such as the Hong Kong Handover and Concert, José Carreras at Angkor Wat and Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand* at the exhibition buildings.



THANK YOU

Frank Van Straten OAM for the program article

Colin Page and Jeff Busby for photography

Lighting Equipment by PRG



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John & Erin Lidgerwood
Eve Mahlab AO
Mike McGuire
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Gerard Sheehan & Children
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Mrs Margery Snowball
Ezekiel Solomon
The Spencely Family
The Sunraysia Foundation
Eva Sweet
Dr Susan Trainor
Michael Troy
Nevenka Tucker
Peter Varagiannis & Aphrodite Mandikos
Leon & Sandra Velik
Village Roadshow Limited
Alex & Heloise Waislitz & Family
Ruth Waislitz
Nathan & Nechama Werdiger
Paul Wheelton OAM
Brian Robert Wilson
Dr Peter Wyllie Johnston
Helen M. Yorston
Aaron Zachariusz
Anonymous (5)