

POST

PRESENTS

TODD MCKENNEY

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

The BOY from OZ



18 AUG TO 22 AUG

MITCHELL BUTEL

MATT HETHERINGTON

CHRISTIE WHELAN

Sugar

'Some Like it Hot'



29 SEP TO 3 OCT

THE ARTS CENTRE, STATE THEATRE
www.theartscentre.com.au or call 1300 182 183

ERNST & YOUNG

Quality In Everything We Do

PRESENT

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

The King & I



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

SEASON 2010

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY
GRATEFULLY APPRECIATES



PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



SERIES SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



DOMAIN FLOWERS



FOUNDATION SPONSORS

Kevin and Colleen Bamford
Janet and John Calvert-Jones
Campbell and Krystyna
Campbell-Pretty
Henry and Esther Goldberg
Gil and Sandi Hoskins
Garry Krauss AM and Pru Krauss
David and Sue Langdon
Bill and Elaine Montague
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE
Dr Tim and Mrs Trish Pitt
Tom and Robyn Warwick

WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL
FOR THE GENEROUS
SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE
OF OUR PATRONS

Maurice & Helen Alter
Pacific Shopping Centres
Australia P/L
John & Rosemary Barr
Chef's Hat Australia Pty Ltd
Nola E Finn
Raphael & Fiona Geminder
& Family
Alan & Wendy Guest of Guest
Nominees P/L
Dr Alastair Jackson
David A Jackson
Mem Kirby
Coral Knowles
Rosie & Solomon Lew & Family
David Mandie AM OBE
Patrick J McCormack
Robert & Victoria McLellan
Dr Mark & Dr Alla Medownick
Barry Novy & Family
John Prescott AC & Jennifer
Prescott
Alfredo & Mirella Salera
Julie & Phil Scanlan
Mr and Mrs John Selwyn
Max & Ziva Shavitsky
Jack & Robert Smorgon Families
Foundation
Ezekiel Solomon
Eva Sweet
Nevenka Tucker
Leon & Sandra Velik
Alex & Heloise Waislitz & Family
Ruth Waislitz
Nathan & Nechama Werdiger
Mrs Nancy Willmott
Anonymous (2)

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S

THE KING & I

Music by RICHARD RODGERS

Book & Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Based on *Anna and the King of Siam* by Margaret Landon

Original Choreography by Jerome Robbins

The King & I is presented by permission of ORIGIN™ Theatrical
On behalf of R&H Theatricals, New York City www.rhtheatricals.com

CHELSEA GIBB JUAN JACKSON SILVIE PALADINO
GEORGE HENARE ADRIAN LI DONNI EMILY XIAO WANG
MIKE SMITH THOMAS NEW MAVERICK NEWMAN LUCAS TANG

Julian Ardley, Raymond Balisoro, Chantal Bui Viet, Jonathan Chan, Jess Chiapolino,
Leonard Cornelius, Elissa-Simone Hui, Serena Hui, Mark Hutchinson, Nat Jobe,
Virginia Lin, Mutu Malcolm, Ez Mambwe, Joshua Erwin Ongso, Soolin Ong-Tan,
Natasha Paramor, Kayla Radam, Marcus Rivera, Jane Strickland, Alyssa Walton,
Gerwin Widjaja, Celina Yuen

CHILDREN

GOLD TEAM

Nicholas Drossos, Lawrence Duncan,
Talitha Duncan, Jacinta Haw,
Maya Hirasedo, Elisha Lee, Jessica Mark,
Jasmine Smith, James Urlini,
Jessica Vosinthaovng, Natalie Vosinthaovng

RED TEAM

Elizabeth Chan, Fleur Chang,
Meiling Chen, Philip Chen,
Caitlyn Ding, Michaela Facun,
Michelle Gerster, Tynan Pereira,
Zane Teh, Holly Vuong, Rachel Wat

Director
Musical Director/Conductor
Choreographer
Assistant Director/Children's Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Design

Repetiteur

TERENCE O'CONNELL
PETER CASEY
ALANA SCANLAN
SCOTT J HENDRY
KATHRYN SPROUL
KIM BISHOP
TRENT SUIDGEEST

SHELLY LEE and MARK BENSON
for SYSTEM SOUND
LOCLAN MACKENZIE-SPENCER

with ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

STATE THEATRE, THE ARTS CENTRE JULY 14 TO 25 2010

Standing ovation?

Absolutely. Ernst & Young congratulates The Production Company for inspiring audiences for twelve years. We are proud to play a supporting role and hope you enjoy the show.

What's next?
ey.com

 **ERNST & YOUNG**
Quality In Everything We Do

WELCOME TO THE KING & I

This has long been one of my all time favourites and, it seems that I am not alone in loving this musical about a strong and independent gutsy woman surviving in a man's world.

I was fascinated to learn recently of the Australian connection to this musical. Anna, tonight's feisty heroine, was shipwrecked off the West Australian coast and that her son Louis was born north of Perth. Had the King of Siam not invited them to Bangkok in 1862, tonight we might have been enjoying *Anna and the Mayor of Geraldton!*

I can't remember not loving the songs from this show. And I know you will love our cast. Chelsea Gibb and Juan Jackson you have enjoyed before – Chelsea in *Anything Goes* and Juan in *Hair*.

Our Musical Director, Peter Casey is a Rodgers and Hammerstein specialist and our production team of director Terence O'Connell and choreographer Alana Scanlan have created some of our greatest triumphs.

It is a thrill to welcome four new names to The Production Company: the wonderful talents of Silvie Paladino, the extraordinary George Henare and our young lovers Emily Xiao Wang and Adrian Li Donni.

In this season, many of the ensemble are making their Production Company debuts. So look out for their names in the future.

It is always a pleasure to thank our valued sponsor Ernst & Young and to thank all of our Sponsors and Patrons.

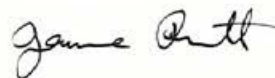
This is our 12th season. I have loved meeting so many of you over those years and listening to your ideas on what we should present next. *The King & I* has always been high on your lists of best-loved musicals.

It is lovely to welcome you back if you are one of our cherished subscribers. In Oscar Hammerstein's words, *I've now become an expert on the subject I like most, getting to know you.*

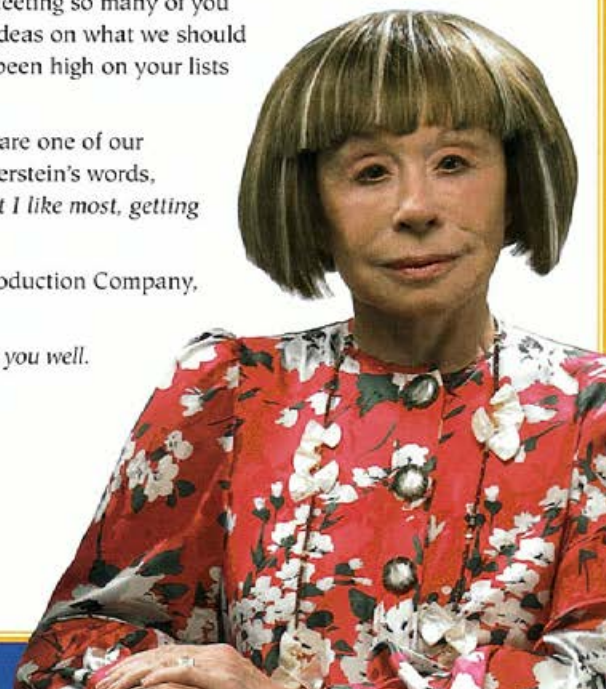
If this is your first experience of The Production Company, I know it will not be your last.

We've just been introduced; I do not know you well.

Shall we dance?



Jeanne Pratt AC
Chairman





CHELSEA GIBB

Anna Leonowens

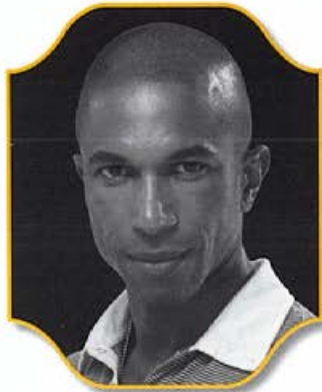
Chelsea's career began when she won best actress for the ANA awards for her role of Rebecca Hershkowitz in the musical *Rags*. Chelsea then went on to a BA in Musical Theatre at WAAPA. At her first audition, after graduating in 1997, she was cast in the iconic leading role of Roxie Hart in *Chicago*. Chelsea toured in the lead role of Roxie Hart for four years in Australia and South-East Asia. She then went on to star as Reno Sweeney in The Production Company's production of *Anything Goes*. In 2004 Chelsea starred in the world premiere season of *Get Happy - The Musical* in Sydney in the starring role of Ruby Red.

Chelsea has appeared on various television programs including *Good Morning Australia*, *In Melbourne Tonight*, *Mornings with Kerri Anne*, *Just Fresh*, *The Lost World*, *Sale of the Century* (guest host) and *All Saints*. Chelsea was also a regular guest on Foxtel and Channel 10's *Beauty and the Beast*.

She made her film debut in the Warner Brother's movie *George of the Jungle 2* followed by the Australian film, *Josh Jarman*.

Chelsea has performed in many concerts and corporate events around Australia and overseas including *Carols by Candlelight* (Melbourne and Sydney), *Top of the Pops* (Western Australia) and the opening of the Olympic Stadium for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

For the past four years Chelsea has taken herself away from the stage to immerse herself in the role of motherhood. Chelsea has written her own cabaret show, which has sold out to rave reviews, and will continue to perform it throughout 2010 and 2011. It is with gratitude and delight that her return to the stage is with The Production Company.



JUAN JACKSON

The King

American born Juan Jackson was touring Australia playing Sportin' Life in the Living Arts international production of *Porgy & Bess*, when he made the decision to relocate to the country in which he fell in love. The decision to live and work in Australia is one that he has never regretted. Juan then toured in *Show Boat* and *Hair* for The Production Company and *Man of La Mancha* for Gordon/Frost before he joined Opera Australia.

Juan returned to musical theatre in the role John in *Miss Saigon*. His critically acclaimed performances during the Australian tour resulted in a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical. This was followed by the dual roles of

MacHeath and Harry Morton in Max Stafford Clarke's new production of *The Convict's Opera* for Sydney Theatre Company. After the Sydney season, the show toured extensively throughout the UK. Most recently Juan played John in TML's Korean tour of *Jekyll and Hyde*. Other roles and performances have included *Sweet Bird of Youth* for the Melbourne Theatre Company, Tony in *West Side Story* for Orlando Civic Theatre, *From The Lip* and *Teorema* for Chamber Made Opera, *The Merry Widow* and Brahms's *Liebesslieder Waltzes* for Opera Australia and *Chanticleer* and *The Music Shop* for South Georgia Opera. Other engagements include the Concert of American Music Theatre for the Australian Pops Orchestra and *Barber to Bernstein*, a concert with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for the Sydney Festival. Juan has recorded a CD, *Old American Songs*, for ABC Classics.



SILVIE PALADINO

Lady Thiang

Silvie Paladino has established herself as one of Australia's most versatile and talented entertainers performing throughout Australia, Asia and on London's West End.

Her roles include Eponine and Fantine in *Les Misérables*, Grizabella in *Cats*, Ellen in *Miss Saigon*, Jeannie in *Hair*, Donna in *Mamma Mia!* and the role of Rita in the world premiere of *Sideshow Alley*, for which she received a Helpmann Award nomination.

In 2001, Silvie toured with her one-woman show *Silvie Paladino Sings Streisand*, for which she received rave reviews, and was nominated for a Green Room Award. Silvie has released a live CD of this performance.

Silvie's concert performances include lead artist with The Melbourne Symphony, The Sydney Symphony, The West Australian Symphony, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria and the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra. More recently she toured with Patrizio Buanne throughout Australia.

Apart from her theatrical credits, Silvie is well known to Australian audiences through her TV appearances including regular performances on *Carols by Candlelight*. She has also featured at many sporting events such as the Rugby League Grand Final in Sydney, the V8 Supercar Championships at Phillip Island and singing the national anthem at the 2005 Australian Football League Grand Final.



GEORGE HENARE

The Kralahome

George was recently made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for Services to the Theatre. His extraordinary theatrical career commenced with *Porgy and Bess* for the NZ Opera Company in 1965 and has continued in theatres throughout Australia and New Zealand in roles as varied as King Lear, Sweeney Todd, Henry Higgins, Dracula and Dr Frank N Furter.

His recent theatrical work for The Auckland Theatre Company includes *Four Flat Whites in Italy* and *Le Sud*. He also starred in *Who Wants To Be 100?* as well as *The Crucible*, *Goldie*, *Cabaret*, *Wind In The Willows* (as Toad) and *Into The Woods*.

In Australia, he has performed with MTC, Belvoir Street, Ensemble Theatre Company and in commercial tours of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Phantom Of The Opera*.

His film and television works include *Once Were Warriors*, *Rapanui*, *The Silent One*, *Johnny Lingo*, *Hercules*, *Xena*, *Shortland Street*, *Ocean Girl* and *Potiki's Memory of Stone*.



EMILY XIAO WANG

Tuptim

Born in China, Emily Xiao Wang completed a Bachelor of Music degree at the Shanghai Normal University and has a post-graduate degree in Opera Performance from the Victorian College Of The Arts.

She has performed with the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra as soprano soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No.9*, and has appeared as Nedda in *I Pagliacci* for Melbourne City Opera and as the Countess in *The Marriage Of Figaro* for Melbourne Opera. For the Victorian College

Of Arts she has also appeared as Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Mimi in *La Bohème* and Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet*.

Emily has performed with internationally renowned pianist Alan Kogosowski and has been regularly engaged as a soloist for concerts with the Australian Pops Orchestra. She has given a recital tour of China, appeared as a soloist in a choral and orchestra concert in the Shanghai concert Hall and has recorded a CD for International Opera Productions in Prague. *The King & I* marks Emily's debut for The Production Company.



ADRIAN LI DONNI

Lun Tha

A graduate of Circle In The Square Theatre School '08 in New York, last month Adrian performed with Broadway composer, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Enchanted*) in a concert tour of his acclaimed catalogue of works, *Festival Of Broadway*.

This year, Adrian provided the lead vocal to the world's very first Pride March song, *Proudly Walking* for Pride March Victoria.

In 2009 Adrian toured with Broadway writing legends, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens in *Broadway To Australia*. In the USA he played the role of Lun Tha in the premier of the newly-restored *The King and I* with the original Robert Russell Bennett orchestrations. Adrian also recently performed in *The Music Of Georgia Stitt* and *An Evening With Lance Horne*.

In New York, Adrian was seen in *Ziegfeld's Midnight Frolic of '08*, at Joe's Pub in *Leap*, and in *Lance Horne, Or What You Will*. Other favourite credits are *Measure For Measure*, *The Seagull* and *Rent*.



MIKE SMITH

Captain Orton / Sir Edward Ramsey

Mike graduated from NIDA in 2005. Since graduating he has appeared as Tony in the Melbourne season of *Billy Elliot*, for which he received a Green Room Award nomination for Best Male Artist in a Featured Role. Prior to this he appeared in *Cocktails with Jimmy* at Sydney's Short and Sweet Festival 2008, which received a Best Play as well as Best Actor nomination for Mike.

On television he has appeared as semi-regular Heath Velaga on *All Saints* and more recently as Grant Rigby on *City Homicide*. *The King & I* marks Mike's first appearance with The Production Company. Mike is thrilled to be working with Terence and the creative team.



LUCAS TANG

Prince Chululongkorn

Lucas is very excited to be making his professional stage debut in *The King & I*. He has been performing with The Children's Performing Company of Australia for five years and equally enjoys training in acting, song and dance.

Previous credits include the lead role of Digby in the children's television series *Snake Tales*, as well as appearances in *Dead Gorgeous*, *As the Bell Rings* and *The Bounce*. Lucas would like to continue performing in the future, especially in theatre for the thrill of live performance as well as the wonderful casts and crews that he is able to work with. Lucas hopes you enjoy The Production Company's staging of *The King & I*.



THOMAS NEW

Louis Leonowens

All evening performances on July 14, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 and 25 (matinee)

Thomas is a Year 9 student at Mentone Grammar where he learns piano and trombone and is a dedicated member of several choirs and orchestras. Over the last 10 years he has studied singing and all styles of dance from ballet to hip-hop, but his passion is musical theatre.

TV and film credits include *Dirt Game*, *Thank God You're Here*, *Prank Patrol*, *Knowing* and you may have seen him on your TV screen as the giant on the Kraft Easy Mac TV commercial currently on air. Stage experience includes an ensemble role in *Annie* (PLOS Musical Productions, 2006), Young Peter in *The Boy from Oz* (CLOC Musical Theatre, 2008), Louis in *The King & I* and Buggy Malone in *Bugsy* (Mentone Grammar, 2008-09) and he is currently rehearsing the role of LeFou in *Beauty and The Beast* for Mentone Grammar. Thomas is thrilled to be once again working with The Production Company having made his professional debut in the role of Young Patrick in *Mame* in October 2008. He would like to thank his family and Smallfry/DTM for their continued support and assistance.



MAVERICK NEWMAN

Louis Leonowens

All other performances

Maverick is excited to be making his professional debut in *The King & I*.

Maverick first got involved with theatre when he was watching backstage at one of his mother's performances and was asked to join the chorus.

He had so much fun that he was inspired to join the Children's Performing Company of Australia, appearing in *Pure Imagination* at the National Theatre earlier this year. Maverick loves improvisation, dance and the adrenaline rush of being on stage. In his spare time he also enjoys listening to music and playing sport. Maverick would like to thank his Mum, Dad and Stepdad for their support and for letting him do what he loves.

The King & I

SOMETHING WONDERFUL

Frank Van Straten reveals the secrets of an unlikely success.

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II used to play a game. They'd dissect one of their successful shows, then try to work out why it should have failed. *The King & I* was a classic example – it should never have been a triumph.

To start with, few musicals up to that time had drawn upon the stories of real people for their plots. There were only four Anglo-Saxons in the cast, and none was American. There was no love interest between the main characters, and one of them died before the curtain fell. And it was also the first show Rodgers and Hammerstein had written with a particular star in mind, and that star, according to Rodgers, 'had never overcome an unfortunate tendency to sing flat'. Add to this a difficult working relationship between star and authors, and you hardly have the makings of a certain success.

The King & I had its genesis in the story of Anna Leonowens, an extraordinary Englishwoman who had married a major in the Indian Army, was widowed in 1858 at the age of 24, but continued to live in the East with her children. In 1862, she was engaged by King Mongkut of Siam (now Thailand) as governess for his 39 wives and 82 children. She related her experiences in two books, *The English Governess at the Siamese Court* and *The Romance of the Harem*.

Anna's story fascinated the English author Margaret Landon. By chance she met Anna's nephew, then tracked down Anna's grandchildren. The result was the novel *Anna and the King of Siam*, published in 1944. It became a worldwide best-seller.

Landon's book was filmed in 1946 with Irene Dunne and Rex Harrison. It won three Oscars; it also fired the imagination of the beloved stage veteran Gertrude Lawrence, who had not played in a musical since *Lady in the Dark* had closed in 1943. Her husband, Richard Aldrich, records that 'she was deeply intrigued by the unusual personal story of the governess and the King, the picturesque background, and the clash of attitudes between East and West – frequently comic, yet with overtones of sadness. Herein, she thought, lay rich possibilities for a beautiful musical play.'

Gertrude secured the rights to the book and made tentative plans for the production. Cole Porter was to write the score, Anton Dolin would supervise the choreography, Frederick Ashton and the Sadler's Wells Ballet were to come over

from London for the dances, and Richard Aldrich would produce. In the end, all these plans came to nothing, and Gertie contracted Rodgers and Hammerstein to write, compose and produce her musical. 'At first our feelings were decidedly mixed,' wrote Rodgers. 'We had never written a musical with one actor or actress in mind, and we were concerned that this might not give us the freedom to write what we wanted the way we wanted ... on the other hand, here was an opportunity to write for one of the theatre's genuine stars.'

With the 'I' a fait accompli, Rodgers and Hammerstein set about finding their King. After fruitless negotiations with Rex Harrison and Alfred Drake – a huge success in their *Oklahoma!* – they announced auditions. 'The first candidate,' Rodgers recalled, 'was a bald, muscular fellow with a bony Oriental face. He was dressed casually and carried a guitar. He scowled in our direction, sat down on the stage and crossed his legs, then plunked one whacking chord on his guitar and began to howl in a strange language. He looked savage and there was no denying he projected a feeling of controlled ferocity. Oscar and I looked at each other and nodded. His name was Yul Brynner.'

The rest of the casting was less dramatic. Doretta Morrow as Tuptim, Dorothy Sarnoff as Lady Thiang, Larry Douglas as Lun Tha. The young princess Yin Yaowalak was played by little Baayork Lee, best remembered in this country as the director of the original Australian production of *A Chorus Line*.

Relations were soured at the first run-through when Gertrude Lawrence took exception to Rodgers' insistence that Doretta Morrow sing the part of Anna, as well as her own. As well, Gertie was suffering from the early stages of cancer.

There were several bold innovations. One was the use of

subtle woodwind underscoring to represent what was being said in Thai on stage; another was the inclusion of the lengthy ballet sequence based on *Uncle Tom's Cabin* – 'The Small House of Uncle Thomas'. This gentle, amusing 'play within a play', brilliantly choreographed by Jerome Robbins, served to deftly mirror the central theme of *The King & I*: slavery.

And the play opened and closed without music.

Hammerstein later explained that he and Rodgers had sought 'an Eastern sense of dignity and pageantry, and none of this business of girls dressed in Oriental costumes and dancing out onto the stage singing 'ching-a-ling-ling' with their fingers in the air'. Rodgers' score was superb. He avoided slavishly trying to imitate authentic 'Siamese' music, and came up with some of his loveliest melodies. Similarly, Hammerstein eschewed overly 'Orientalising' the speech of the King and his Court, and developed an abrupt, formal style, devoid of articles, that caught 'learned English' perfectly. The use of the word 'etcetera' is a masterstroke.

The production budget was US\$360,000, making it by far the most expensive of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals produced to that time.

When *The King & I* opened out-of-town in January, 1951, it was much too long. Forty-five minutes were cut: three songs, and many pages of dialogue. But something extra was needed, something light for Gertie to sing with the children. The result was 'Getting to Know You', a last minute addition, utilising the melody of a song called 'Suddenly Lucky' that had been dropped from *South Pacific*.

The King & I finally opened on Broadway at the St James Theatre on 29 March 1951. The reviewers inevitably compared it to *South Pacific*, then still running, which had replaced *Oklahoma!* as a yardstick. Still, they were unanimous in their praise. Brooks Atkinson hailed it as 'a beautiful and lovable musical play', and Danton Walker said it represented 'a flowering of all the arts of the theatre, with moments that are pure genius'. It won five Tonys and notched up 1,246 performances.

Gertrude Lawrence died in September 1952, and she was buried in her ball gown from *The King & I*. Her place was taken by Celeste Holm. Alfred Drake eventually took over from Yul Brynner, but it was Brynner who starred with Deborah Kerr in the lush CinemaScope film version, made



in 1956. Marni Nixon dubbed Anna's songs, and Brynner won an Oscar for his performance.

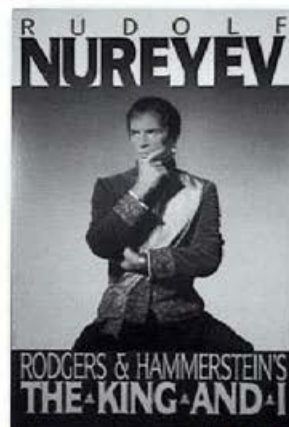
A Los Angeles production in 1958 starred Gisele MacKenzie and Cameron Mitchell. The

show was revived in New York in 1960 (with Barbara Cook and Farley Granger), in 1964 (with Rise Stevens and Darren McGavin), and in 1977 and 1985 (with Yul Brynner). In 1989 Rudolf Nureyev played the King in a production that toured the US and Canada.

The King & I reached London's Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, on 8 October 1953, with Valerie Hobson and Herbert Lom as Anna and the King. There was a revival at the Adelphi in 1973, with Sally Ann Howes and Peter Wyngarde, and an 'in-the-round' version at the Royal Albert Hall in 2009.

But what of Australia? Sir Frank Tait, managing director of J.C. Williamson's, who had presented *Oklahoma!* and *South Pacific* here, saw the show on Broadway, but he wasn't impressed. 'Very disappointed,' he wrote. 'Lawrence's voice mostly finished. Beautiful production of its kind, but I consider the whole thing much over-rated. Music nothing approaching *South Pacific*, but theatre packed.'

Thus it was left to an amateur group to bring *The King & I* down under. The Sydney Light Opera Company premiered it at the Orpheum Theatre, Cremorne, on 1 September 1960. Mary Cullen and



Russell Smith played the leads, Peter Barker designed the sets, and Lindsay Bird directed.

Two years later, on 22 December 1962, more than a decade after its Broadway debut, *The King & I* took the stage of Melbourne's Princess Theatre in an opulent production by Garnet H. Carroll. Carroll had already presented Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* in Australia (and he would later produce their *Carousel* in 1964). The director was an Englishman, Charles Hickman, well-known for his Sadler's Wells' *Merry Widow*, and for Carroll's production of *The Sound of Music*. The stars were Sheila Bradley and Jeff Warren.

Jeff Warren had made his Broadway debut in 1943, playing in *Lady in the Dark* with Gertrude Lawrence. His later successes included *One Touch of Venus*, *Call Me Madam* and, in London, *Wedding in Paris*, which Charles Hickman had directed. Sheila Bradley, whose credits included *Kismet* in London, had come to Australia for J.C. Williamson's to star in *Grab Me A Gondola*. Later the role of Anna was played by Helen Landis, also from London, and, in Sydney, by Susan Swinford, who had worked with Jeff Warren in *Wedding in Paris*.

There were other interesting names in Garnet H. Carroll's production. John Rickard was Lun Tha, Geraldene Morrow was Tuptim, Andrew Guild was Prince Chululongkorn and, for part of the run, Little Eva in the 'Small House' ballet was played by Patti McGrath. Eric Clapham conducted in Melbourne, and Isador Goodman took the baton in Sydney. The show subsequently toured to other state capitals.

The sets and costumes were spectacular. Most Australian productions of overseas shows used reproductions of the original designs, but Garnet H. Carroll was more adventurous than that. For *The King & I* he engaged a young Melbourne designer called John Truscott, a veteran of three years working with the busy little St. Martin's Theatre in South Yarra. John had earlier worked on the costumes for Carroll's production of *West Side Story*; he would go on to create the Australian, London and film versions of *Camelot*, and earn himself two Academy Awards.

In the past forty years Australia has seen countless amateur productions of *The King & I*, but few professional revivals. In January 1967 it was the inaugural production of the grandly titled, but ill-fated 'Warringah Mall Music Theatre Festival' in Sydney, designed to emulate



the American tradition of 'Summer Stock'. The shows were presented 'in-the-round' in a large tent that had previously housed the Great Moscow Circus. The cast included Rosalind Keene as Anna, Ed Deveraux as the King, Robert McPhee as Lun Tha, Helen Zerefos as Tuptim, Denis Quilley (fresh from playing in *Robert and Elizabeth*) as Sir Edward, and Andrew Guild, recreating his role as the young Prince. Jon Ewing

directed. The January heat made the tent almost unbearable, and the venture was a financial disaster.

Perth saw a production by the West Australian Musical Comedy Company at His Majesty's in January, 1982. Tony Kentuck was the King with Terry Johnson as Anna and Christa Leahmann as Lady Thiang.



In 1991 Gordon/Frost Attractions, the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and The Victoria State Opera gave *The King & I* a spectacular revival. Hayley Mills and Tony Marinyo starred, Brian Thomson designed the sets, Roger Kirk created the costumes, and Christopher Renshaw directed. The national tour opened in Adelaide on 11 June, and finally reached the State Theatre in Melbourne in January 1992. This production, legendary in its lavishness, reached Broadway in April 1998 with Donna Murphy and Lou Diamond Phillips in the leading roles. It was nominated for eight Tony Awards and won four: Best Revival of a Musical, Best Actress, Best Scenic Design and Best Costume Design. The show enjoyed a 780-performance run, a national tour and a season in London with Elaine Page and Jason Scott Lee.

'The strength of *The King & I*,' said its creators, 'lies in the violent changes the King and Anna wrought in each other. Yet their life together bears unmistakable implications of deep mutual attraction – a man-and-woman relationship so strong, real and well-founded that it seems in some ways more than a love affair, more than a marriage.'

The story is timeless. It is indeed 'Something Wonderful'. That's why it continues to enthral and delight, and why Anna Leonowens and her King have waltzed their way to immortality.

Frank Van Straten OAM

© Frank Van Straten OAM

Top: Mary Cullen and Russell Smith in the Australian amateur premiere, 1960. Centre: Sheila Bradley as Anna, Melbourne, 1962. Left: Jeff Warren as the King, Melbourne, 1962.

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S *The King & I*

Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Captain Orton	Mike Smith
Louis Leonowens	Thomas New
	Maverick Newman
	Chelsea Gibb
Anna Leonowens	Nat Jobe
The Interpreter	George Henare
The Kralahome	Juan Jackson
The King	Gerwin Widjaja
Phra Alack	Adrian Li Donni
Lun Tha	Emily Xiao Wang
Tuptim	Silvie Paladino
Lady Thiang	Lucas Tang
Prince Chululongkorn	Mike Smith
Sir Edward Ramsey	

Deckhands, Slaves, Guards, Priests and peasants:

Julian Ardley, Raymond Balisoro, Jonathan Chan, Leonard Cornelius, Mark Hutchinson, Nat Jobe, Mutu Malcolm, Ez Mambwe, Joshua Erwin Ongso, Marcus Rivera, Gerwin Widjaja

Royal Wives, Royal Dancers and peasants:

Chantal Bui Viet, Jess Chiapolino, Elissa-Simone Hui, Serena Hui, Virginia Lin, Soolin Ong-Tan, Natasha Paramor, Kayla Radam, Jane Strickland, Alyssa Walton, Celina Yuen

Royal Princes and Princesses:

GOLD TEAM July 14, 16, 17 (eve), 22, 24 (mat)

Nicholas Drossos, Lawrence Duncan, Talitha Duncan, Jacinta Haw, Maya Hirasedo, Elisha Lee, Jessica Mark, Jasmine Smith, James Urlini, Jessica Vosinthavong, Natalie Vosinthavong

RED TEAM July 15, 17 (mat), 18, 23, 24 (eve), 25 (mat)

Elizabeth Chan, Fleur Chang, Meiling Chen, Philip Chen, Caitlyn Ding, Michaela Facun, Michelle Gerster, Tynan Pereira, Zane Teh, Holly Vuong, Rachel Wat

Small House of Uncle Thomas Ballet:

Topsy	Jess Chiapolino
Simon of Legree	Nat Jobe
Uncle Thomas	Virginia Lin
Eliza	Kayla Radam
Angel	Alyssa Walton
Buddha	Gerwin Widjaja

All other roles danced by Ensemble

TIME and PLACE

The action passes in and around the King's Palace, Bangkok, Siam in the early 1860s.

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

The King & I

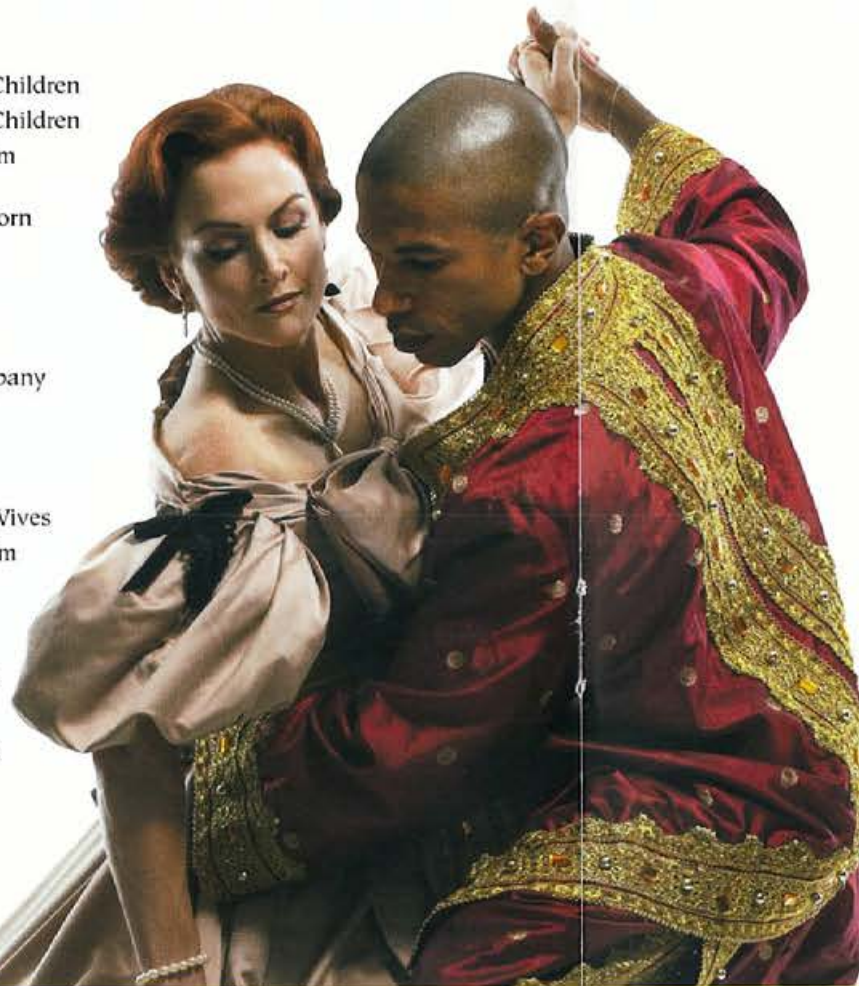
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture	Orchestra
I Whistle a Happy Tune	Anna and Louis
My Lord and Master	Tuptim
Hello Young Lovers	Anna
March of the Siamese Children	Orchestra
A Puzzlement	The King
The Royal Bangkok Academy	Anna, Wives and Children
Getting to Know You	Anna, Wives and Children
We Kiss in a Shadow	Lun Tha and Tuptim
A Puzzlement (Reprise)	Louis and Prince Chululongkorn
Shall I Tell You What I Think of You?	Anna
Something Wonderful	Lady Thiang
Buddhist Prayer/ Act I finale	The King and company

ACT TWO

Entr'acte	Orchestra
Western People Funny	Lady Thiang and Wives
I Have Dreamed	Lun Tha and Tuptim
Hello Young Lovers (Reprise)	Anna
<i>The Small House of Uncle Thomas</i> Ballet	Tuptim and Wives
Song of the King	The King
Shall We Dance?	Anna and the King
I Whistle a Happy Tune (Reprise)	Anna
Finale	The Company



ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Conductor	Peter Casey
Violins	Susan Pierotti Ceridwen Jones Alyssa Conrau Severin Donnenberg Lubino Fernandes Binny Baik
Violas	Jason Bunn Andrew Jakapanetz
Celli	Kalina Krusteva Tania Hardy-Smith
Bass	Matthew Thorne
Flute	Karen Schofield
Oboe/Cor Anglais	Vivienne Brooke
Clarinets	Jodie Upton Andrew Mitchell
Bassoon	Hugh Ponnuthurai
Trumpets	Mark Skillington Robert Smithies
Horn	Jo Montesano
Tenor Trombone	Scott Evans
Harp	Delyth Stafford
Percussion	Paul Sablinskis
Piano	Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Technical Director	David Miller
Stage Manager	Natalie Moir
Company Administrator	Adam Lowe
Assistant Company Administrator	Ryan Barwood
Assistant to Adam Lowe	Tom Lambert
Assistant Stage Manager	Tia Clark
Wardrobe Supervisor	Melinda Brodie
Wigs, Hair & Make Up	Gay Gallacher
Hatmaker	Tom Robb
Props/Lantern Maker	Christopher Bartlett
Costume Consultant, Thailand	Ken Smith
Production Sound Technician	Chris Hubbard
Front of House Engineer	Paul Hitchens
Radio Mic Technicians	Merren Spink James Tilczyn
Radio Mic Consultant	Cameron Herbert
Chaperones	Catherine Casey Rebecca Dorgan Rily Dorgan
Marketing	Celia Pavelleff ACMN Pty Ltd
Publicity	Julie Cavanagh Cavanagh PR
Set Construction	Malthouse
Lighting Equipment	Resolution X

THANK YOU

Frank Van Straten OAM Program Article
 Colin Page Photography Photography
 Dance World Rehearsal studios
 Mantra Southbank Accommodation
 Isaac Lummis Wardrobe Secondment

ENSEMBLE



JULIAN ARDLEY

Trained as a gymnast, Julian transitioned to the world of dance and graduated from Patrick Studios Australia in 2009. Julian has performed in numerous commercial events for clients including

Just Jeans, Cotton On, Sportsgirl, and Nike. Julian has also appeared in Myer TV commercials alongside Jennifer Hawkins. Most recently, Julian toured regional Victoria in *Ooh La La*, directed by Todd Patrick. *The King & I* marks Julian's debut with The Production Company. He is thrilled to be working with Alana Scanlan, with whom he has worked commercially, and the other talented cast and crew who make the show possible.



RAYMOND BALISORO

Originally from Sydney, Ray Balisoro is a graduate of the Brent Street School of Performing Arts and has trained as a classical vocalist from the age of twelve. Ray 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 and the Philippines with children's entertainment for ABC Kids, Entertainment Store Group and Nickelodeon. He completed the cabaret course at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (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, Amiel film clip *I Don't Wanna Be Your Girl*, MAC Gold Fever at Sydney Fashion Week and Ed Hardy at Fashion Aid 09.

Ray is honoured to be a part of this production of *The King & I* and would like to thank his friends and family for their endless love and support.



CHANTAL BUI VIET

Chantal began piano at the age of four, sparking her love for the performing arts.

Since then she has performed in many productions including the role of Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Robin in *Godspell* and

in her own cabaret, *Me and My Washing*. Completing her Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) in 2007, Chantal has performed as a Lead Singer/Dancer at Crown Casino, Vampire at Dracula's Comedy Cabaret and travelled Australia with Alpha Shows production of *Aladdin*. Following *The King & I*, Chantal is venturing to Los Angeles to further her studies. She is thrilled to be part of such a beautiful show with such an amazing cast!



JONATHAN CHAN

Jonathan is a graduate of Wollongong University with a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Theatre - Performance). Credits include over 40 local musical theatre productions in Sydney including the internationally acclaimed

Opera act *The Three Waiters* (Australia & Asia), the 2009 National Tour of Canute Productions' *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, in which he played the roles of Masahiro/Father, the 2008 National Tour with the Australian Theatre of the Deaf, Nam Tran in the original cast of the award winning play *Honey - A Play with Music*, Channel Ten's *The Ronnie Johns Half Hour*, host of The Wiggles character shows and Myron True Love in *Santa's Kingdom*.

This is Jonathan's debut with The Production Company.



JESS CHIAPOLINO

Jess is a 2008 graduate of Music Theatre at WAAPA. Performance highlights at WAAPA include playing the whore in *Hello Again*, The beggar woman in *Sweeney Todd* as well as roles in *West Side Story*, *Oklahoma!* and

Blood Brothers. Whilst in Perth, Jess fulfilled a

dream of working with stage and screen legend Debbie Reynolds in the Peach Productions *Irene* in Concert.

She has recently finished performing female lead in Echelon Productions' *Dollars and Sense*, written by Dean Bryant and Mathew Frank. This marks Jess' first appearance with The Production Company and she is thrilled to be a part of *The King & I*.



LEONARD CORNELIUS

Leo's career started in the Melbourne commercial scene dancing in corporate events at venues such as Crown Casino, fashion parades, music videos, TV shows including Channel 9's *ABBA*

Special, and nightclubs. Leo has completed several national and international commercial and musical contracts.

Most recently Leo returned from his second contract at Universal Studios, Japan, where he performed in *Wicked*. Maintaining momentum since his return, Leo has performed at The Melbourne Convention Centre and as a backup dancer for Zoe Badwi at the Midsumma Festival. In addition to his entertainment career, Leo is pursuing a Bachelor of Clinical Science (Osteopathy).



ELISSA-SIMONE HUI

Elissa-Simone began training at the Barbara Lynch Dance Studio in many styles of dance, including ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, hip-hop, tap and musical theatre. She has been privileged to work

for and be trained by such choreographers as Alana Scanlan, Chris Horsey, Sue Allen Shook, Robert Sturrock and Dana Jolly.

Elissa has performed in numerous corporate functions, public events, television and film projects and such charitable causes as events for Pink Ribbon, Ovation and Lillian Frank. She has also danced alongside The Veronicas in both of their Australian tours. Elissa-Simone has also appeared as a model in parades for Alannah Hill, Sportsgirl and Esprit. She is very

excited to be a part of *The King & I* cast.



SERENA HUI

Serena trained with Barbara Lynch from the age of six, studying various styles and renditions of ballet, contemporary, tap, jazz and musical theatre. She has competed in many prestigious eisteddfods

and has also performed in charity functions, corporate events, as well as dancing on stage in both Australian tours for The Veronicas. Though she has been involved in a number of small-scale musicals including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, The Production Company's *The King & I* will be her first professional production, and she is thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of it.



MARK HUTCHINSON

The King & I is Mark's first appearance with The Production Company. He is delighted to make the transition from the commercial dance scene to the world of musical theatre. Extensively trained

at Patrick Studios Australia, Mark has studied dance under some of Australia's most notable choreographers including Todd Patrick, Andrew Hallsforth, Yvette Lee and Alana Scanlan. Mark's body of work includes numerous commercial events, several cabarets including most recently Todd Patrick's *Ooh La La*, as well as international modelling and dance tours. On a personal level, he is excited that his first musical is his mum's all-time favourite!



NAT JOBE

In 2008, Nat graduated from WAAAPA with a BA (Music Theatre). Whilst studying, he appeared in *West Side Story*, *Blood Brothers* and as the soldier in *Hello Again*, Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* and Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!*.

Since graduating, Nat has appeared as Billy The Kid in *Crazy For You* for The Production Company, toured and filmed the latest DVD with The Wiggles, created the role of the Stingray in a workshop production of *Crikey, It's a Steve Irwin Musical*, appeared in the ensemble of *Floyd Collins* and shared the stage with Hollywood legend, Debbie Reynolds, in *Irene* for Peach Productions.

Nat is also a graduate of the Singer, Dancer, Actor course (NIDA), the full time program at Plie, Groove and Shuffle and has worked overseas for P&O cruises and Carnival Cruise Lines.



VIRGINIA LIN

A classical pianist and violinist, Virginia was introduced to musical theatre whilst completing her Bachelor of Media & Communications at the University of Melbourne.

She became involved with a number of original musical productions at university, working onstage and behind the scenes as director and librettist. A public servant by day, she now enjoys performing an eclectic mix of musical theatre repertoire ranging from *Bare: A Pop Opera* to *Kismet*. Her other performing credits include Opera Australia's *Così Fan Tutte* and lead singer in a Japanese/Euro rock cover band.



MUTU MALCOLM

Originally from New Zealand, Mutu hails from the Te Arawa and Ngati Tuwharetoa iwi of Rotorua. He began his full-time musical theatre training with the Wellington Performing Arts Centre and at Dance

World Studios in Melbourne. He has appeared

in *Sweet Charity* and *Follies*, both with The Production Company; as resident dancer on FOX 8's *The Singing Office*; *Beauty and the Beast* for Showbiz Entertainment; *The Magic Flute* for New Zealand Opera and numerous corporate and stadium events.

Mutu would like to acknowledge his friends and family for their continued support.



EZ MAMBWE

Ez developed a love of musical theatre at an early age, performing in productions of *The Boyfriend*, *Chicago* and *Les Misérables* (Bendigo Theatre Company).

Relocating to Melbourne to hone his dancing skills at The Victorian College of The Arts, he appeared in various commercial and corporate events including the pilot episode of the children's TV shows *Saturday Street* and *Boy+Girl's Shirley Temple* music video, which he also choreographed.

The King & I marks Ez's second appearance with The Production Company having previously performed in *Hair*.

Ez is thrilled to be working with The Production Company again and looks forward to an incredible show.



JOSHUA ERWIN ONGSO

Joshua has trained in acting, dancing, singing and gymnastics. His television credits include *Neighbours*, *Dirt Game*, *Thank God You're Here* and *Elephant Princess*. Recent films

include *Citizen Jia Li*, *Prayers* and *Mattress*, in which he played the lead role. Theatre work includes the La Mama production of *Zhang Da Li* and *the Village of Big Eaters*.

This is Joshua's debut with The Production Company.



SOOLIN ONG-TAN

Soolin is thrilled to be returning to The Production Company family after making her professional theatre debut in *South Pacific* as Liat in 2003. She went on to reprise the role in Sydney and Adelaide with

Seasbiscuit Productions. Soolin also toured Australia with Cameron Mackintosh's recent production of *Miss Saigon*.

Other credits include *Neighbours* and various TV commercials, independent feature films and short films including the soon-to-be-released *Five* and *Sea Legs*.

Soolin would like to thank her parents, Chantelle and her *Saigon* girls for their faith, love and 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 has attended the full time professional development

course at Patrick Studios Australia where she trains in various styles of dance, musical theatre and voice.

Natasha's professional experience includes performing as a singer/host in *Care Bears in Singapore* (Marilla Productions), Channels 7's *TV Burp*, *Ooh La La* (Kissing Bee Productions) and many corporate events including BONDS and KPMG.

Natasha is thrilled to have this opportunity join The Production Company in its staging of *The King & I*.



KAYLA RADAM

As a child, Kayla trained under the expert instruction of choreographer, Jillian Fitzgerald, and later began training in musical theatre at Centrestage Performing Arts. She is currently completing the full-time performing arts

course at Patrick Studios Australia.

Kayla has appeared on Channel 7's *TV Burp*, in various corporate and charitable events including Crown Casino, KPMG, *Starry Starry Nights* and *Think Pink*. Kayla has also performed in fashion parades for leading brands such as BONDS and Nike, and most recently appeared in the cabaret, *Ooh La La*.

Kayla is excited to make her musical debut in *The King & I*.



MARCUS RIVERA

Marcus's career spans opera, music theatre, cabaret, television and film. He has sung with Opera Queensland, Pacific Opera, Melbourne City Opera and the Puccini Festival. His music theatre credits include

Sondheim's *Assassins*, *Pacific Overtures* and *Sweeney Todd*. His opera credits include the role of Apollo in Katrina Pring's one-act opera *Daphne*. Marcus appeared in ABC TV's *Rewind* as Mei Quong Tart and also performed the role in the musical, *Tales of the Tartan Mandarin*. Marcus toured his one-man cabaret show *Calls Bitch* to the 2006 Sydney and Melbourne Cabaret Festivals. He performed in the vocal group ENCORE and recorded their debut CD *ENCORE LIVE - Vincero!*

Marcus toured Australia in *Miss Saigon* for 15 months, covering and alternating the role of The Engineer. He recorded a solo CD, *This is the Moment*, last year. Recently performing in Manila in the weekly cabaret show *Jazz and Broadway*, Marcus is thrilled to be part of The Production Company's *The King & I* and dedicates his performances to his parents, family and friends for their continued love and support.



JANE STRICKLAND

Born and raised in New Zealand, Jane began dancing at the age of 5 at the Auckland Academy of Dance. She subsequently continued her training at the Keri Edley Modern Dance School where she

realised her love of performance. She moved to Melbourne with the sole intention of furthering her studies in dance and singing in 2006. Upon completion of her Diploma in Dance (Performance) at Dance World Studios she commenced her professional career, appearing on stage in 2008 in *High School Musical*. Her other credits include television work with Foxtel's *The Singing Office* as singer for the house band, *The Elephant Princess* TV series and various other commercial engagements, including TV commercials for Sony Cybershot and Sony PSP. Jane is thrilled to be involved in this production of *The King & I*. She would like to thank her friends and family for helping to make this possible through their ongoing support and encouragement.



ALYSSA WALTON

Alyssa is a graduate of The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (2005) and The National Theatre Ballet School, Melbourne (2002).

In 2006 Alyssa appeared with the Ajkun Ballet Theatre, New York as an international trainee in the summer tour of *Carmen*. She then travelled to Japan to appear as a performer for Tokyo Disney Resort.

The King & I marks Alyssa's professional musical theatre debut. She is very excited to be working with such an amazing team and would like to dedicate her performance to her Grandfather, who was her biggest fan.



GERWIN WIDJAJA

His pianist mother sparked Gerwin's interest in music at a young age. But it was not until he arrived in Australia that he discovered the world of musical theatre. His first literature assignment was *Into the Woods*, which was the turning point in his career development.

In 2000, while undergoing his Bachelor degree, and unbeknownst to his parents, Gerwin graduated from the National Theatre Music Theatre Course.

Credits include *The Good Guys*, *The Panel*, *Today Tonight*, *Indidgeridoo* (live at the Logies), *Bollywood at the Bowl*, and *The Line*. Gerwin thanks his family for their love and support.



CELINA YUEN

Armed with a one-way ticket to Melbourne and the dream of working in musical theatre, Celina's resolve was impetus enough for her to relocate from small town Queensland. Having only recently completed her

secondary studies, Celina has achieved Royal Academy of Dancing (RAD) Advance level, certificates in various theatrical dance styles and drama with Trinity College and studies at Theatre Arts Mackay under the direction of Lynette Denny. Celina is currently enrolled in APO Arts Academy's Certificate in Performing Arts (Music Theatre). She is also undertaking full-time training at Dance World Studios for a Diploma of Dance (Techniques).

This will be her first professional performance and she would like to dedicate it to her parents for their ongoing love and support.

CREATIVES



TERENCE O'CONNELL DIRECTOR

Terence attended NIDA's Directors' Course and since graduation has directed some 150 productions in theatres, circus tents,

comedy clubs, cabaret rooms and concert halls across Australia and internationally.

He made his debut with The Production Company directing *They're Playing Our Song* and is proud to have returned yearly since then, staging *Oklahoma!*, *The Pajama Game*, *42nd Street*, *Damn Yankees* and *Crazy For You*.

Terence directed the chamber musical *John & Jen* at Chapel Off Chapel and his work for Adelaide Cabaret Festival includes concert versions of *Shane Warne – The Musical*, *License To Thrill – The Scores Of James Bond* and *Metro Street*.

Terence has directed graduating students of Western Australian Academy Of Performing Arts, Ballarat University Arts Academy and LaSalle, Singapore in *Oklahoma!*, *42nd Street*, *Bat Boy – The Musical*, *Into The Woods*, *Cabaret*, *Gypsy* and *Nine*. He is a guest at Victorian College Of The Arts in 2010, working with the Music Theatre students on *Making New Work*.

His forthcoming projects include Stephen Sondheim's *Saturday Night* (Melbourne Recital Centre) and the National Tour of *Motherhood – The Musical*. Terence is developing his acclaimed theatre show *Minefields And Miniskirts* for film and creating the musical play *Skindeep: Helena Rubinstein & I*. He continues as director of Emma Powell's outrageous hit comedies *Busting Out* and *Dumped! – The Musical We've All Been Through*.



PETER CASEY MUSICAL DIRECTOR/ CONDUCTOR

Peter has been Musical Director for *Les Misérables*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King & I* (1991), *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*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals *Evita*, *Cats*, *Aspects of Love*, *Song and Dance*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, 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* and *Crazy For You*. He is currently Musical Director for the Asian tour of *Jekyll & Hyde*.

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 proud to be associated with The Production Company's production of *The King & I*.



ALANA SCANLAN CHOREOGRAPHER

Alana started as a big-haired *Don Lane Show* dancer and has become one of Australia's most in-demand choreographers, working in theatre, fashion,

commercials, music clips and corporate events. She has choreographed *Style Aid*, award-winning video clips, theatrical spectacles for Casino's, fashion parades and Fashion Weeks in Sydney and Melbourne.

Alana choreographed the finale event of the Centenary of Federation The Peoplescape Concert. Alana also has her own experimental dance company *Moving Pictures*.

She consulted to the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony and choreographed the Media Launch performances for the M2006 Games Cultural Festival. Her theatre work includes *Bouncers*, *I Only Want To Be With You – The Dusty Springfield Story*, *Kissing Frogs*, *Certified Male*, *Minefields and Miniskirts* as well as *The Great Moscow Circus* for Michael Edgley in China.

Alana choreographed the movies *Strange Bedfellows* and *Macbeth* and was also choreographer for the Kath and Kim TV movie, *Da Kath and Kim Code*. Other television credits as Movement Coach and Choreographer include *Singing Bee*, *Australia's Got Talent*, *The X Factor*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, *It Takes Two* and *Dancing With the Stars*.

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



SCOTT J HENDRY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR /
CHILDREN'S 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 In Concert* (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 and is a senior lecturer in Music Theatre at the APO Arts Academy.

Scott was Assistant Director for The Production Company's 2008 season of *Damn Yankees* and is returning as Children's Director and Assistant Director for *The King & I*.



KATHRYN SPROUL
SET DESIGNER

Kathryn works nationally for theatre, dance and large arts events. A graduate in Stage Design from NIDA, Kathryn was Resident Designer for

Maggie Theatre and State Theatre Company of South Australia from 1988 to 1993. Career highlights include the memorable *Flamma Flamma: the Fire Requiem*, which opened the 1998 Adelaide Festival of Arts; *Click! The Millennium Event*, South Australia's 1999 New Year's Eve Celebration and Event Development and Design for Centenary of Federation SA in 2001. Kathryn won the 2004 Green Room Award for Visual Design (for Fringe/Independent Theatre) for her work on *Traitors*. Kathryn has worked with a variety of companies including Leigh Warren & Dancers, Windmill Performing Arts, Hothouse, Melbourne Theatre Co, Playbox, Chamber Made Opera, Legs on the Wall, Riverina Theatre Co, Patch Theatre & Darwin Theatre Company. A residency in 2003 enabled Kathryn to design a visual theatre piece for Gekidan Urinko Theatre Company in Nagoya, Japan.

Major projects include: Event Designer, Adelaide Cabaret Festival 2005–2009; Event & Parade Designer, Adelaide Fringe 2006 and Fringe Parade 2009 & 2010; Production Designer *Charters Towers: the Musical*, Queensland Music Festival 2005; Event Designer, Brisbane Festival 2006; Costume Design, State Theatre SA's productions of *Noises Off*, *Uncle Vanya* and *Hamlet*; Production Design *True West*, Flying Penguin Productions; Event Designer for Adelaide Festival Centre's OzAsia Festival 2007–2010 and Adelaide International Guitar Festival 2007–2010.

Her set designs for The Production Company include *42nd Street*, *Damn Yankees* and *Crazy for You*.



KIM BISHOP
COSTUME DESIGNER

For over 20 years Kim has been involved in the theatre industry. He has toured as Head Of Wardrobe on many large scale musicals including *The King & I*, *Joseph and The*

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, *South Pacific*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Aida – The Spectacular*, *Crazy*

For You, *The Merchants Of Bollywood*, *Singin' In The Rain* and *Shout*. The all-Australian, world premiere seasons of *The Boy From Oz* and *Dusty – The Original Pop Diva*, were particular highlights.

He has dressed on *The Producers*, *Grease*, Shirley Maclaine, *Cats*, *Sugar Babies*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Little Night Music*, *Shane Warne – The Musical* and for Opera Australia and The Australian Ballet to name a few, made costumes with legendary costumier Bob Murphy and for some years had the pleasure of touring the world as Wardrobe Manager with Torvill & Dean and their international ice skating companies, playing venues everywhere from his home town Melbourne to Las Vegas, Madison Square Gardens and Wembley Stadium.

Kim has supervised the Wardrobe Department for The Production Company on fifteen shows, and has been Costume Designer for *Sweet Charity*, *42nd Street*, *Damn Yankees*, *Mame*, *Crazy For You* and *The Boy Friend*. This year Kim is excited to be designing both *The King & I* and *The Boy From Oz*. Visit his web site at kimbishop.com.au.



TRENT SUIDGEEST
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Trent is a recent graduate from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. He designed the lighting for the Company B, Belvoir and Black Swan State Theatre

Company's *The Sapphires*, starring Christine Anu and Casey Donovan. This toured nationally and internationally. Other recent credits include *Oklahoma!* for IAJ International, *An Oak Tree* for Perth Theatre Company, *pool (no water)* and *The Dark Room* for Black Swan's HotBed Ensemble, *Fatty Wombat* for Barking Gecko, *Cinderella Dressed in Yella* (Korean Tour) and *Genie(us)* and *Walk the Fence* for Buzz Dance Theatre. To complete his degree at WAAPA, Trent travelled to New York to work with internationally acclaimed, Tony Award winning Lighting Designer Rick Fisher, as he lit *Billy Elliot The Musical* on Broadway.

In 2010 Trent has been awarded an Artstart Grant from the Australia Council for the Arts.

SYSTEM SOUND
FOR SYSTEM SOUND
BY SHELLY LEE
& MARK BENSON



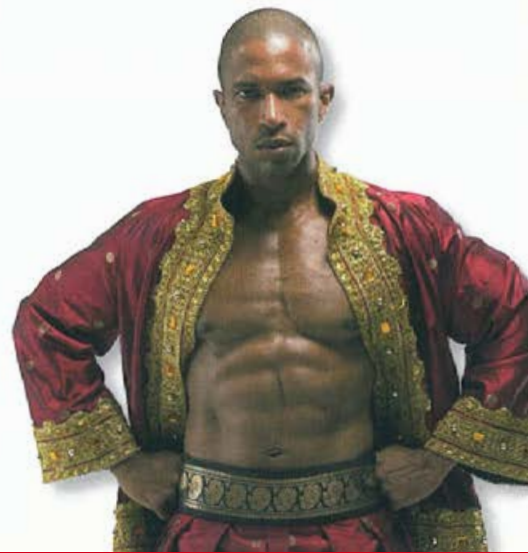
System Sound has designed and engineered the sound for all of The Production Company's shows since its inception.

SHELLY LEE – HEAD SOUND DESIGNER

Shelly has supervised and/or designed many musical theatre projects such as *Les Misérables*, *The Sound of Music*, *Miss Saigon*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Billy Elliot* and is currently the Associate Designer for *Phantom of the Opera* World Tour.

MARK BENSON – ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGNER

Mark has designed and mixed many concerts for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and others. The System Sound team has designed or engineered throughout Australasia, *Les Misérables*, *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*, *Cats*, *Mamma Mia* and *Mary Poppins* touring productions.



THE ROYAL CHILDREN GOLD TEAM

NICHOLAS DROSSOS

Nicholas is currently in Year 7 at Melbourne Grammar and learns classical dancing at Brian Nolan Academy of Dance.

A keen performer who loves dancing and singing, winning many local competitions in both, he performs with the Chapel Choir at MGS and has appeared with the Brandenburg Choir. Nicholas is currently a finalist with the Victorian Ballet Teacher's Workshop. He has performed as Jojo in *Seussical the Musical* and with the Australian Ballet in *Graeme Murphy's Nutcracker*.

LAWRENCE DUNCAN

Lawrence started singing and dance training at the age of six. He has been involved in various dance festivals and concerts and is currently studying at Studio 1 Performing Arts School. TV appearances include *Talkin' About Your Generation*.

Lawrence enjoys playing violin, piano, guitar and marimbas. His hobbies include soccer and roller-skating.

The King & I marks his debut with The Production Company. Lawrence would like to thank his family, teachers and Smallfry for their love and support.

TALITHA DUNCAN

Talitha is currently learning at the Studio 1 Performing Arts School. She has been dancing since the age of 18 months and has won numerous awards at various state and national dance festivals. Talitha has also been involved in catalogue, TV commercials and has appeared on the ABC series *The Librarians*.

Talitha enjoys playing the piano, violin, guitar, ukulele and marimbas. She also enjoys reading, drawing, roller skating, canoeing and jumping in muddy puddles after it rains.

The King & I is Talitha's first appearance with The Production Company. Talitha thanks her family, teachers and Smallfry for their love and support.

JACINTA HAW

Jacinta is six years old and trains at Crazy Feet Dance Studio in Burwood. *The King & I* is her first professional engagement and she is very excited to have this opportunity. She would like to say a huge thank you to her mum, dad and brother Cameron for their never-ending love and support. She would also like to thank her dance teacher for encouraging her love of dance.

MAYA HIRASEDO

Maya is a student at Saint Michael's Grammar School and attends The Jane Moore Ballet Academy. Maya has been studying all styles of dance for over 8 years.

The King & I is Maya's first appearance with The Production Company. Maya thanks her teachers and her mother for getting her to the right place at the right time.

ELISHA LEE

Elisha is seven years old and has been learning dancing at the Betty Bruce Dance School since she was three years old. This is her first professional performance. Elisha is in Grade 2 at school, and is looking forward to her classmates watching her perform in The Production Company's *The King & I*.

JESSICA MARK

Jessica is a Grade 2 student at Presbyterian Ladies College. She discovered a love for singing, dancing and acting whilst at Crazy Feet Dance Studio. She also enjoys performing in rhythmic gymnastics, piano and violin concerts and annual drama performances at school. Since joining Stage Left Performing Arts School in 2009, Jessica appeared in their production of *The Snow Queen* and was awarded the 2009 Director's Award for the most promising and *enthusiastic student*. *The King & I* is Jessica's first appearance with The Production Company. She is thrilled to be involved.

JASMINE SMITH

Jasmine has been a student at Centrestage Performing Arts School for five years studying all forms of dance, acrobatics and musical

theatre. She has performed in all the Centrestage concert seasons and very successfully competed in many dance competitions throughout Melbourne. Jasmine attends St Bridge's Primary School where she recently performed the role of Nala in their production of *The Lion King*. Jasmine is very excited to be in *The King & I* and wants to thank her teachers and family for encouraging and supporting her love of performing.

JAMES URLINI

This is James' professional theatrical debut. James has been learning musical theatre and jazz dance at Centrestage Performing Arts School for the past two years. He is Choir Captain at St Mary's School, Ascot Vale. James has performed in musical theatre productions at school including *Kidsummer's Night Dream* and *Best Foot Forward*. James is grateful to his Mum, Dad and sister, Catherine, for convincing him to put his talents in singing and dancing to good use!

JESSICA VOSINTHAVONG

Eight-year-old Jessica has been singing, jazz and tap dancing since she was three. Jessica has performed in 2010's Moomba Parade winter float and on stage at Knox Festival, Royal Children's Hospital Starlight Room and in numerous dance and music concerts. Jessica loves music and studies piano at AMEB Second Grade level. Jessica enjoys drawing, story writing and singing with the school choir.

Jessica is excited to be in *The King & I*, dedicating her performance to her parents for their love and support.

NATALIE VOSINTHAVONG

Natalie is five years old and has spent over two years studying dancing at Star Train Academy and music at Forte Music School. She has performed in various concerts singing, dancing and playing the piano. Natalie loves drawing and creating, and hopes to become an artist. Right now, Natalie is having fun being a Preppie at school. Natalie is thrilled to be making her stage debut in *The King & I* and thanks her parents for their love and support.

THE ROYAL CHILDREN RED TEAM

ELIZABETH CHAN

Elizabeth is in Grade 2 and a student at the Stage Left Performing Arts School. She also plays piano and violin at school concerts and was runner up at the Victorian Rhythmic Gymnastics State Championships for her level. In 2009 Elizabeth appeared in Stage Left's production of *The Snow Queen*. *The King & I* marks Elizabeth's professional theatrical debut. Elizabeth is thrilled about her first appearance with The Production Company.

FLEUR CHANG

Fleur is seven years old and is very excited to have been cast in *The King & I*. Fleur is in Grade 2 at school and is a member of the Betty Bruce Dance School at Chapel Off Chapel.

Fleur is thrilled to be joining The Production Company this season and is looking forward to a great experience.

MEILING CHEN

Meiling is currently in Valkstone primary school. She has performed in various concerts for school and dance. This will be her first time performing professionally. She attended dance school for a year in 2008 at Dance Struck and plays various instruments. She studies piano and the guitar. Meiling is very excited and happy to be in this wonderful production and thanks her family and Centrestage for their support.

PHILIP CHEN

Philip got his first ever review from his school drama teacher who suggested he should take up drama lessons and that's just what he did. He joined The Children's Performing Company of Australia two and a half years ago and loves to be in front of an audience where he can make everybody laugh and have a good time. He has previously appeared as an extra in *City Homicide*.

In his spare time he enjoys playing the French horn and piano as well as drawing, swimming and playing tennis.

CAITLYN DING

Caitlyn began her training in dancing, singing and piano at the age of four. Caitlyn also studies drama and theatrics, and is currently preparing for her Grade 4 music exam.

Caitlyn joined the QPAC choir and Vocal Manoeuvres Ensemble at the age of eight, and was in many stage performances including singing with The Queensland Pops Orchestra, John Curro's Queensland Youth Symphony Orchestra and travelled to Singapore to perform with the Orchestra of Music Makers. In 2009 Caitlyn sang in the Victorian Opera's production of *The Little Sweep*, and is currently a member of the Young Voices of Melbourne.

MICHAELA FACUN

Michaela started her singing and dancing lessons at the Johnny Young Talent School in 2004 at the age of five. In 2006 she joined their Performance Group. Since then she has been performing in a number of charity events, Moomba Parades, Myer Christmas Parades and the Royal Melbourne Shows.

The King & I is Michaela's first musical appearance with The Production Company. Michaela is grateful for this opportunity and thanks her teachers and her parents for their love and support.

MICHELLE GERSTER

Michelle's previous work has included appearances in the Nicholas Cage film *Knowing*, as well as two Honda Civic commercials.

Michelle has been training with The Children's Performing Company of Australia for seven years and loves all aspects of performing, especially singing. In her spare time she enjoys reading comic books and hanging out with her friends. Michelle hopes you enjoy tonight's performance.

TYNAN PEREIRA

Tynan has attended Boyd Academy of Dance since the age of three and *The King & I* will be his first appearance for The Production Company. His ambition is to be a mathematician and also hopes to gain further experience on the stage so he can be a leading man one day (so long as he doesn't have to kiss too many girls).

ZANE TEH

Zane's acting experience up until this point has consisted of performing in school musicals and watching his older brother and sister perform onstage. Zane loves to sing and also enjoys playing video games.

The eight-year-old from Canterbury is very excited to be performing at the State Theatre and having his family come to see him.

HOLLY VUONG

The King & I marks Holly's professional stage debut. The seven-year-old from Noble Park has been training in acting, singing and dancing with The Children's Performing Company of Australia for two years.

Holly says she has especially enjoyed being a part of *The King & I* because of all the times she got to leave school early! She would like to thank her Mum for her support.

RACHEL WAT

Rachel started Johnny Young Talent School when she was four years old in 2006. She has performed in several concerts throughout the years in major shows for the Melbourne Show, Myer Christmas Parade and Victorian Police Family Day. She currently studies a range of musical arts.

Her hobbies are swimming, singing, dancing and reading. Rachel is delighted to be a member of *The King & I*, her first appearance with The Production Company.

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS

Program Patrons	Lady Southey AC Patron of the Supporter Program	Community Support	Bendigo Bank
	Miss Betty Amsden OAM Patron of the Friends Program	Principal Regional Partners	Foster's Group
Benefactors	Miss Betty Amsden OAM		Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
	Mr David Mandie AM, OBE		John T Reid Charitable Trusts
	Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE		Sidney Myer Fund
	Lady Southey AC		Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (Eldon & Anne Foote Trust)
Patrons	Mr Robert Albert AO, RFD, RD and Mrs Libby Albert		Metropolitan & Regional
	Mrs Neilma Gantner	Concert Partner	Tattersall's George Adams Foundation
	Geoff Handbury AO		
	Jigsaw Farms	Regional Education Partners	Margaret Stewardson Charitable Trust
	Dr Peter A Kingsbury, Gippsland Dental Group		William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund
	John Wertheimer AM & Marcia Wertheimer		The William Buckland Foundation
	The Yulgilbar Foundation	Supporting Partners	The Angior Family Foundation
			Collier Charitable Fund
			Harold Mitchell Foundation
			The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
			Pierce Armstrong Trust
			Fred P Archer Charitable Trust – Trust Company Limited

ORCHESTRA
VICTORIA



ARTS
VICTORIA



Orchestra Victoria is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its art funding and advisory body.

A full list of our supporters can be found in our Annual Report and on our website www.orchestravictoria.com.au

The Supporter List is updated annually on 1 January.

For more information about how you can support Orchestra Victoria please contact Hillary Hastings, Director of Development 03 9694 3670 or hillary.hastings@orchestravictoria.com.au

www.orchestravictoria.com.au

the Arts Centre

THE ARTS CENTRE
PO Box 7585, St Kilda Road Melbourne Vic 8004
Telephone: (03) 9281 8000
Facsimile: (03) 9281 8282
www.theartscentre.com.au

VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE TRUST

Ms Janet Whiting (President), Ms Deborah Beale, Ms Terry Bracks, Mr Paul Brasher, Mr Julian Clarke, Ms Catherine McClements, Mr Graham Smorgon, Prof Leon van Schaik AO, Mr David Vigo

EXECUTIVE GROUP: Ms Judith Isherwood – Chief Executive; Mr Michael Burns – Executive, Facilities & Asset Management; Ms Melindy Green – Executive, Marketing and Visitor Experience; Mr Andrew Moon – Executive, Programming; Ms Laura Mumaw – Executive, Redevelopment

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.



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

PO Box 19464, Southbank Vic 3006

Phone and Fax (03) 9247 4800

Email: admin@theproductioncompany.com.au

www.theproductioncompany.com.au

If you would like to be on The Production Company mailing list email your name and address to admin@theproductioncompany.com.au

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Jeanne Pratt AC
Treasurer	Keith Beecher OAM
Company Secretary	Ian Dixon
Directors	Deborah Beale Felicity Beale Mark Gogoll John Hay-Mackenzie Garry Krauss AM Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM Ross Mollison Rachel D Taylor
General Manager	Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM
Executive Consultant	Rachel D Taylor
Sponsorship & Development Manager	Chris Gibbons
Technical Director	David Miller
Marketing by ACMN Pty Ltd	Caryn Cavanagh, Celia Pavelieff, Peter J Adams
Publicity by CAVANAGH PR	Julie Cavanagh
Subscriptions	Renee Cash

