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SANDY WILSON'S

THE BOY FRIEND

Book, Music and Lyrics by

SANDY WILSON

RHONDA BURCHMORE TIM CAMPBELL ESTHER HANNAFORD
ALEX RATHGEBER CHRISTIE WHELAN GRANT SMITH
ROBYN ARTHUR ROBERT GRUBB KELLIE RODE

LUKE ALLEVA BEN BROWN CHRYSTAL DE GRUSSA NICHOLAS EATON REBECCA GRENNAN MATT HEYWARD MARK HILL LEANNE MARSLAND ASHLEY MCKENZIE SAMANTHA RILEY ANGELA SCUNDI STEPHEN WHEAT HAYLEY WINCH

WITH

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

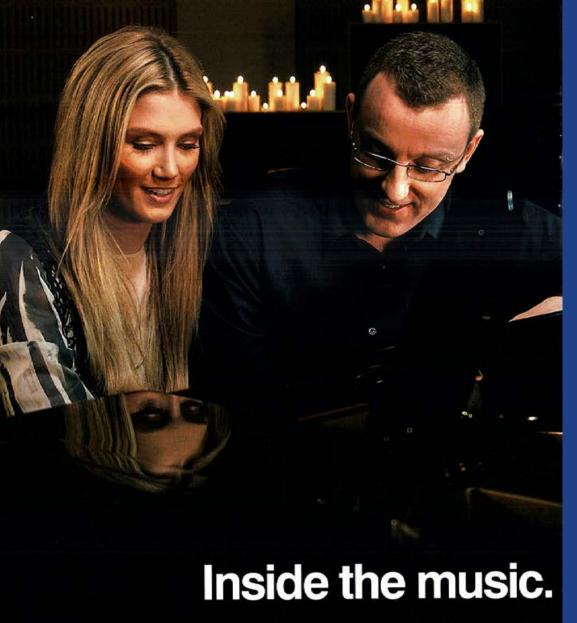
Director GARY YOUNG
Musical Director DAVID PIPER
Choreographer ANDREW HALLSWORTH
Set Designer RICHARD JEZIORNY
Costume Designer KIM BISHOP
Lighting Designer MATTHEW KING
Sound Design JOHN SCANDRETT, MARK BENSON & NICK REICH

Assistant to the Choreographer TANYA MITFORD
Hair & Make Up PHILLIP SWEENEY
Repetiteur LOCLAN MACKENZIE-SPENCER
Technical Director DAVID MILLER
Stage Manager NATALIE MOIR

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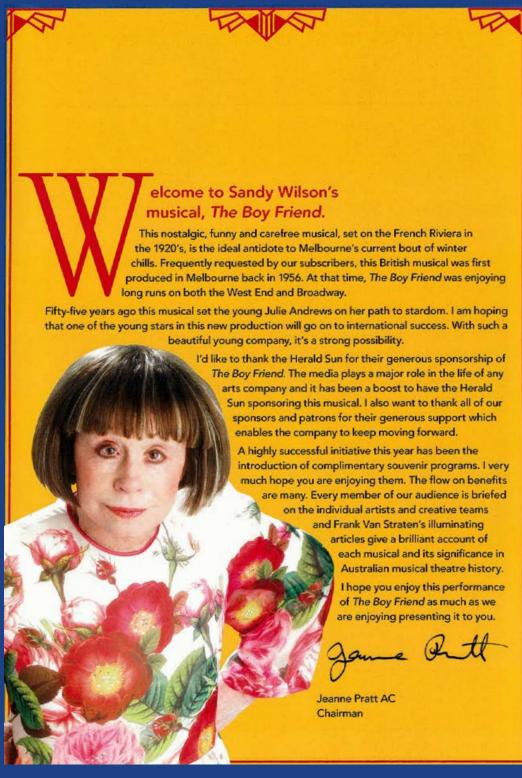
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must-see pop culture events, Cameron's articles in the *Herald Sun* are your red carpet ride to the world of celebrity.

Herald Sun





RHONDA BURCHMORE Madame Dubonnet

There are few entertainment mediums that multi-award- winning Rhonda Burchmore has not embraced with her wide-ranging talents. Rhonda has impressed audiences with her dazzling dance steps, superb comic timing, effervescent personality and her unique and stunning voice.

She has starred in Sugar Babies on Broadway and in 1988 repeated her performance on the West End. Whilst in the UK Rhonda also starred in the revival of Stop The World I Want To Get Off.

Other stage credits include Song And Dance, They're Playing Our Song, Lend Me A Tenor, Iolanthe, Die Fledermaus, An Evening With Sondheim and Annie Get Your Gun. David Atkins, featured Rhonda in his 1987 hit Dancin' Man, and then went on to write a role specifically for her in his tap musical, Hot Shoe Shuffle. She has also starred in Aladdin, Cinderella, Guys & Dolls, Into The Woods and the 2000 and 2008 productions of Mame by The Production Company. She has played lead roles in Urinetown, Tomfoolery, RESPECT The Musical Journey of Women, and she will forever be remembered for her Green Room nominated role of Tanya in Mamma Mia!

Rhonda has released 4 albums, performed for President Clinton, sung the National Anthem at the Emirates Melbourne Cup and the Australian Grand Prix and was the Australian entertainment ambassador at the 2004 Greek Paralympics.

Rhonda's most recent achievement was to play the role of Cheryl in the new Australian movie Kin, due for release later this year.



TIM CAMPBELL Bobby Van Husen

At 18, Tim attended the VCA and has gone onto an eclectic performing career.

His television credits include McLeods
Daughters, Always Greener, White Collar Blue,
Wildside, Beastmaster (US), The Lost World
(US), Big Sky, Police Rescue, Snobs, Water Rats,
and is best known for playing Dan Baker on
Home and Away.

Film credits include Angst, Dynasty Behind The Scenes (US) and the Miramax film The Great Raid (US)

He has also worked as a presenter and is currently hosting the *Celebrity Singing Bee* for Channel 9.

As a singer, Tim has performed on Good Friday Appeal, Carols By Candlelight, Perth Telethon, and Carols in the Domain and in many productions here, Asia and the Middle East. He currently fronts his corporate band The Tim Campbell Retro Experience.

In 2007 Tim made his musical theatre debut as Roger in the Perth production of *Rent* and in 2008 was very honoured to play the role of Johnny O'Keefe in the Melbourne and Sydney seasons of *Shout!*

Tim would like to thank all those involved in the whirlwind that is *The Boy Friend*. Special thanks to Andrew for your patience and energy in turning this Dancing With The Stars contestant into a tap dancer in 3 weeks!

www.timcampbell.com.au



ESTHER HANNAFORD Polly Browne

Most recently Esther toured to The Deagu International Musical Theatre Festival in Korea where she played Amy in the Pratt Prize Awardwinning Metro Street.

Esther's other career highlights include playing Pegeen Ryan in The Production Company's 10th Anniversary productiona of Mame, Lisa in Mamma Mial, Essie, Alison and Kursten in Virgins – New York Musical Theatre Festival tour and was the Lead Vocalist for the world tour of Burn the Floor. Other theatre credits include UK in EuroBeat, The World Goes Round, Hair, Idomineo and Scrooge. She can also be heard on the original soundtrack of Virgins, Burn the Floor and Crusade.

Esther has featured in a number of benefit concerts around Australia including Sydney's Light The Night and Melbourne and Sydney's Hats Off. Esther also recently performed the opening dialogue and Australian National Anthem at The World Latin Ballroom Championships Opening Ceremony.

Following this exciting season of *The Boy Friend*Esther will play the lead role of Amy in the Pratt
Prize Award-winning *Once We Lived Here*.



ALEX RATHGEBER Tony

Alex is carving a career as one of Australia's great young leading men.

Raised in Horsham, Alex trained at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Credits at WAAPA include The Wild Party, UP, Perfectly Frank, Fiddler on the Roof, Pacific Overtures, The Pajama Game and The Crucible.

After graduating Alex created his own cabaret, A Momentary Act and made his professional debut in the The Production Company's Annie Get Your Gun, followed by Kiss Me Kate. He then understudied Fyedka in Fiddler on the Roof before returning to study full-time dance with Robert Sturrock.

Alex has performed in Camelot, Sideshow Alley and the 21st Anniversary cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera on the West End. He returned home to play Older Patrick in The Production Company's 10th Anniversary celebration of Mame, receiving a Green Room Award nomination.

Benefit appearances include the La Mama Big Benefit Bash, various Black Saturday Bushfire Appeal concerts, *Light The Night, Hats* Off and The Stacey Night. Alex has also featured in the City of Stonnington's *Musical Melodies*.

Alex recently performed with NY Emmy Awardwinning composer Lance Horne, and had his television debut in Channel Ten's police drama Rush.

www.alexrathgeber.com



CHRISTIE WHELAN Maisie

Christie has recently returned from a sell out season at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival in her one woman show 'Tegrity for which she received critical acclaim.

In 2005 Christie made her musical theatre debut in *Grease - The Arena Spectacular* playing the role of Patti Simcox and understudying the role of Sandy. She was then asked to join the London cast and continued with the show in the UK.

In 2006 she sailed the South Pacific as Lead Singer on P&O's Pacific Sun.

On returning to Australia Christie landed the role of April in Stephen Sondheim's Company, for which she won the 2008 Sydney Critics Award for Best New Actress.

Other shows include 42nd Street for The Production Company, The Rocky Horror Show, in which she understudied and played the role of Janet & the Korean tour of Eurobeat, in which she played Hungary, Greece and Iceland.

Christie played Lecy in Bryant/Frank's New Australian Musical *Once We Lived Here*, which will return to Melbourne in September this year.

Earlier this year she filmed a role in her first Feature Film I Love You Too and has appeared on TV shows such as GMA, Mornings with Kerry Ann, Blue Heelers and The Secret Life of Us.

Christie is thrilled to be back working with The Production Company and thanks the special people in her life who support & love her.



GRANT SMITH Percival

Grant has been delighting Australian audiences for many years and he is pleased to be back working with The Production Company in The Boy Friend. It's quite a change from his recent work with the Victorian Opera as the Haushofmeister in Ariadne Auf Naxos and The Bard in Bluebeard's Castle and prior to that his role as the Narrator on The Rocky Horror Show.

He's performed in opera and music theatre in London and around Australia in many successful shows in a diverse variety of roles.

You may remember his previous performances with The Production Company as Babcock in Mame and Dimitri Weisman in Follies when he stepped in at short notice for Bud Tingwell – and he hopes you enjoy his Percival Brown!



ROBYN ARTHUR Lady Brockhurst

In a career that spans over 30 years there have

been many highlights. Robyn starred as Mrs Potts in Beauty and the Beast with Hugh Jackman, appeared in the original Boy from Oz, and the original Australian cast of Les Misérables as Madame Thenardier (Green Room Award).

Other credits include Company (STC), Nunsense (Hayden Attractions) Sweeney Todd (Opera Old) and Minefields and Miniskirts by Terence O'Connell. In 2007 she was nominated for a Helpman Award for her role as Bev in Sideshow Alley (Keelan/Young). Previously for The Production Company: Mack & Mabel, Bye Bye Birdie and Music Man. Proud member of Actors' Equity since 1975.



ROBERT GRUBB Lord Brockhurst

Since graduating from NIDA in 1978, Robert has worked extensively in theatre, film and television. Musical theatre credits include Mame, Sunset Boulevard, Ken Hill's The Phantom of the Opera, We Will Rock You and in 2008 delighting audiences as Alfred P. Doolittle in Opera Australia's successful Australian touring season of My Fair Lady. He also appeared in the Australian premiere of Shane Warne the Musical and most recently in Opera Australia's A Little Night Music. Robert performed in the 2001–2002 tour of Mamma Mia! and 2009 will see him reprise the role of Harry in the hit musical.

It was the role of Dr Geoff Standish in the TV series *The Flying Doctors* that made Robert a familiar face in Australia and beyond.

Robert has worked for most of the major Australian theatre companies, including over 25 productions for the State Theatre Company of South Australia. A particular highlight was the MTC/Harry M. Miller co-production of M. Butterfly. Other credits include Company, Into the Woods and The Resistible Rise.

In 2000, Robert directed and performed in an adaptation of Tennyson's *Enoch Arden*, a critical and commercial success, earning Robert a Green Room Award for his performance.



KELLIE RODE Hortense

Since graduating from WAAPA in 2000, Kellie has performed across the globe.

In 2008 and 2009 Kellie played the role of Janet in Gale Edwards' production of *The Rocky Horror Show* in Sydney and in Melbourne.

From 2002–2005 Kellie performed the leading role of Sophie in the Australian production of Mamma Mia! Kellie has since enjoyed performing the title role in Gary Ginivan's production of The Adventures of Peter Rabbit, as well as appearing in the critically acclaimed musical Virgins, by Dean Bryant and Matthew Frank, for which she was also nominated for a Green Room Award.

After a successful season at the Malthouse in 2006, she was invited to take part in the New York Musical Theatre Festival's off-Broadway production of *Virgins*.

This year sees Kellie starring in *Broadway to*Australia featuring the music of Lynn Ahrens and
Stephen Flaherty.

SANDY WILSON'S

THE BOY FRIEND

By Frank Van Straten OAM

'There never was a show like it!'

The happy history of a disarming mishmash

'The most exciting first night in years,' was how London's Daily Telegraph reviewer described the West End debut of *The Boy Friend*. 'At the end the roar that went up nearly scared me. This is veritable champagne. There never was a show like it.'

The miracle that was *The Boy Friend* was the creation of a virtually unknown young hopeful called Sandy Wilson. Born in 1924, he'd grown up listening to records of *No, No, Nanette* and *Anything Goes*. At Oxford University he contributed sketches and songs to a Dramatic

Society revue called High, Broad and Corny. This led to an invitation to contribute material to two revues at the little Watergate Theatre in 1948. His first musical, the now-forgotten Caprice, followed in 1950.

Wilson's big break came in 1953. That was when the Players' Theatre asked him to write a mini musical. The Players ran an intimate licensed venue 'under the arches' of Charing Cross Station, where they specialised in authentic reproductions of traditional British music hall. They wanted a suitably nostalgic 'book' show, lasting about an hour, tailored to the various talents of the regular Players company. Wilson was given a down payment of £25 and a further £25 on completion.

Wilson conceived his show as an affectionate salute to the frothy vintage musicals he had loved in his youth. Rodgers and Hart's The Girl Friend gave him the cue for the title, and the setting, the Villa Caprice on the Riviera, echoed his earlier show, Caprice. Of course, in true Roaring Twenties tradition, there had to be bathing costumes, a fancy dress ball and a

disguise or two. And the leading man, like Wilson, was an Oxford don.

According to Wilson, the show virtually wrote itself in a matter of days. Under the direction of Players' stalwart Vida Hope, it reached the tiny Players' Theatre stage virtually unchanged.

The Boy Friend opened

on 14 April 1953. The
Guardian called it 'Something
of a satirical masterpiece'
and it packed the Players'
for three weeks. It was
such a hit that a West End
transfer seemed inevitable. To
attract backers, Wilson deftly
expanded the show from two
acts to three. It reopened in
its longer form in October. The
public loved it, but producers
were frustratingly indifferent.

In desperation the Players took the show to the Embassy Theatre in the London suburb of Swiss Cottage. There it was so successful that, suddenly, producers were fighting for the rights to take it to the West End. By then, however, the Players had the confidence to be their own producers. They booked the show into Wyndham's Theatre. It opened on 14 January 1954 - its fourth 'first night' - with virtually all the original Players' cast, including Anne Rogers as Polly and Anthony Hayes as Tony.

The happy, unpretentious romp was an immediate hit. London went Boy Friend mad. Over the incredible 2084-performance run there were a few cast comings and goings, most notably two new Pollys with Australian connections: Patricia Moore, who played Eliza in My Fair Lady and Lili in Carnival here, and Patricia Vivian Lall, an all-rounder who

later made her home in Melbourne.

It didn't take long for The Boy Friend to cross



the Atlantic. It wasn't an easy transition. The Broadway producers' insistence on streamlining the show led to Sandy Wilson and Vida Hope being banned from rehearsals and threats of legal action. Fortunately all was forgotten when the first night curtain fell on 30 September 1954. New Yorkers took the show to their hearts, turning The Boy Friend into the first British-born Broadway musical hit since Noël Coward's Bitter

Coward's Bitter

Sweet back in 1929.

The Broadway production included a delightful portrayal of Lady Brockhurst by Moyna MacGill (in real life Angela Lansbury's mother) and served as an American debut for 21-year-old Julie Andrews. 'She is perfect', said the Herald Tribune's

Walter Kerr of the star of what he termed a 'disarming mishmash'. It played to packed houses for 485 performances.

A 1958 off-Broadway revival ran even longer: 763 performances. Tony was played by Bill Mullikin (Cornelius in Hello Dolly! here in 1965) and Madame Dubonnet by Evelyn

Page (she toured Australia in Stop the World, I Want to Get Off in 1964 and Canterbury Tales in 1969). Another Broadway run in 1970 starred Judy Carne as Polly and Sandy Duncan as Maisie; Eleanore Treiber,

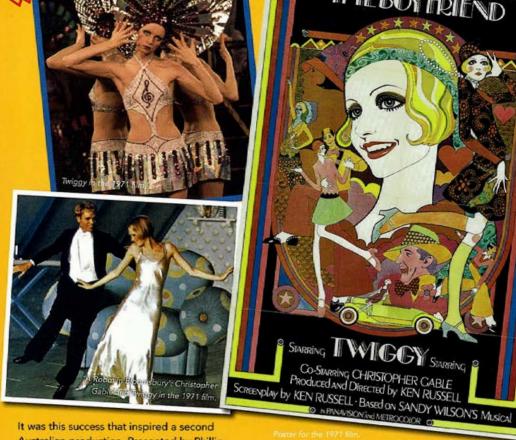


who had choreographed and danced in the Australian production of Can-Can in 1955, had to be content with understudying the role of Lady Brockhurst.

A film version of The Boy Friend was first mooted by MGM in 1957. Debbie Reynolds as Polly? Gary Cooper as her father? Or Errol Flynn? Or David Niven? Kay Kendall as Madame Dubonnet? Donald O'Connor as Tony? It all proved too hard, and The Boy Friend was shelved until 1971, when Ken Russell reimagined the whole thing as a tribute to Busby Berkeley starring Twiggy, Christopher Gable and Tommy Tune. It was so far removed from the original that all poor Sandy Wilson could do was cringe. 'It was a baffling experience,' he wrote. 'Nothing but a mess: a wilful and at times incomprehensible confusion suffocated by a welter of grotesquerie, a walpurgisnacht of self-indulgence."

Long before this, though, The Boy Friend had made the trip Down Under. The first musical comedy production of the recently-established Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, it opened at the Elizabethan Theatre, Sydney, on 28 January 1956. The cast included Marie Tysoe (Polly), John Parker (Tony), Laurel Mather (Madame Dubonnet), John Huson (Percival), with the beloved veteran Minnie Love as Lady Brockhurst. It was designed by Elaine Haxton, choreographed by Beth Dean and directed by Robert Quentin, soon to become general manager of the Australian Opera. Though the critics were divided, the public loved it. After eight weeks it transferred under the aegis of J.C. Williamson's to Melbourne, first to Her Majesty's, then to the Comedy, and later through New Zealand and other Australian capitals.

The magic touch that had made such a success of The Boy Friend was sadly absent from Sandy Wilson's later musicals, The Buccaneer (1955),



Australian production. Presented by Phillip Productions and Harry M. Miller, it opened at the Phillip Street Theatre, Sydney, on 20 July 1968. The cast included Kathy Read (Polly), Doug Kingsman (Tony), Laurel Veitch (Maisie), Susan Swinford (Madame Dubonnet), Robina Beard (Lolita), Frank Lloyd (Lord Brockhurst) and Queenie Ashton (Lady Brockhurst). The choreography was the work of an Australian, Noel Tovey (he'd also choreographed the London revival). Sandy Wilson came from London to direct what the Sydney Morning Herald welcomed as 'Real vintage fun'. After eight months the show transferred to the Comedy in Melbourne, opening a ten-week season on 15 February 1969.

In the 55 years since its creation, The Boy Friend has enchanted audiences all around the world, in French, Spanish, German, Swedish and more.

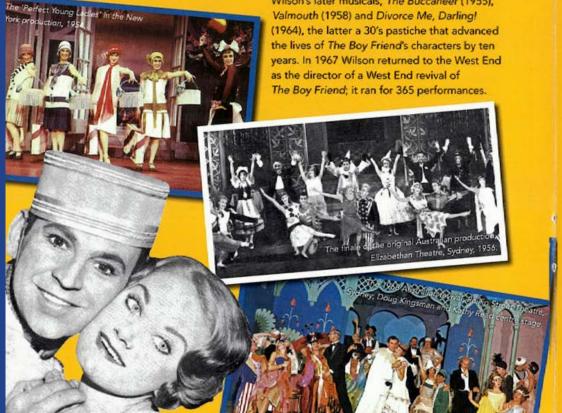
It has become a staple of British provincial theatres and amateur groups everywhere. Wilson has toured widely in a nostalgic oneman revue and directed another London revival in 1984.

'I was heartened to discover,' said Wilson, 'that the show has lost none of its appeal, and that the music is being appreciated in its own right and not just as a parody. And it is exciting to find new generations of youngsters applauding as enthusiastically as their mothers and fathers had before them."

Yes, indeed: there never was a show like it!

© Frank Van Straten OAM

Frank is a theatre historian, author, broadcaster and former director of the Arts Centre's Performing Arts Museum. His latest book, Florence Young and the Golden Years of Australian Musical Theatre, will be published in October.







TO

MUSICAL NUMBERS ACT 1

Overture	. Orchestra
Perfect Young Ladies	. Hortense, Girls
The Boy Friend	. Polly, Dulcie, Fay, Nancy, Maisie, Marcel, Pierre, Alphonse and Ensemble
Won't You Charleston with Me?	. Bobby and Maisie with Ensemble
Fancy Forgetting	. Mde Dubonnet and Percival
• I Could Be Happy With You	. Tony and Polly
Sur Le Plage	. Ensemble
A Room in Bloomsbury	
It's Nicer in Nice	. Hortense and Ensemble
The 'You-Don't-Want-To-Play-With-Me' Blues	. Mde Dubonnet, Percival and Girls
Safety in Numbers	. Maisie, Bobby, Marcel, Pierre and Alphonse
• I Could Be Happy With You - Reprise	. Company

ACT 2

Entr'Acte	Orchestra
The Riviera	Bobby and Maisie with Ensemble
It's Never Too Late to Fall in Love	Lord Brockhurst and Dulcie
Carnival Tango	Pepe and Lolita
Poor Little Pierrette	
• The Boy Friend/ I Could Be Happy With	You -

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Polly Browne	Esther Hannaford
Tony	Alex Rathgeber
Madame Dubonnet	Rhonda Burchmore
Lord Brockhurst	Robert Grubb
Hortense	Kellie Rode
Percival	Grant Smith
Lady Brockhurst	Robyn Arthur
Bobby Van Husen	Tim Campbell
Maisie	Christie Whelan
Dulcie	Angela Scundi
Fay	Leanne Marsland
Nancy	Rebecca Grennan
Marcel	Stephen Wheat
Pierre	Matt Heyward
Alphonse	Ben Brown
Pepe (tango dancer)	Ashley McKenzie
Lolita (tango dancer)	Hayley Winch
Jimmy	Luke Alleva

Nicholas Eaton Chrystal de Grussa Mark Hill Samantha Riley

The action takes place in 1926 in the Villa Caprice, Madame Dubonnet's Finishing School near Nice





Orchestra Victoria

Conductor	David Piper
Violins	Matthew Hassall Rachel Gamer Mara Miller Ceridwen Jones
Cello	Sarah Cuming
Bass	Matthew Thorne
1st Reed	Tony Hicks
2nd Reed	Grania Burke
3rd Reed	Bill Harrower
4th Reed	Stuart Brownley
Trumpets	Mark Fitzpatrick Mark Skillington
Trombones	Scott Evans Robert Collins
Drum Kit	David Hicks
Guitar	Simon Patterson
Piano	Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer

VICTORIA

Production Credits

Technical Director	David Miller	
Production Manager	Mel Robertson	
Stage Manager	Natalie Moir	
Company Administrato	r Adam Lowe	
Assistant to Adam Low	e Tom Lambert	
Rehearsal Repetiteur Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer		
Assistant Stage Manag	er Bonnie Walsh	
Wardrobe Supervisor	Melanie Brodie	
Hair & Make Up	Phillip Sweeney	
Sound Engineering	System Sound	
Mix Engineer	Nick Reich	
Radio Mic Techs	Evan Drill and Camden Young	
Marketing	Celia Pavelieff, ACMN Pty Ltd	
Publicity	Julie Cavanagh, Cavanagh PR	
Set Construction	Malthouse	

Lighting Equipment

the Choreographer

Assistant to

ORCHESTRA





Resolution X

Tanya Mitford

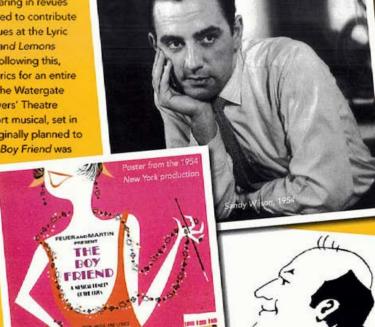
SANDY WILSON **Book, Music and Lyrics**

Born in 1924, English composer Sandy Wilson attended Harrow and Oxford. His first experience of writing and acting was writing for and appearing in revues at university. He was invited to contribute material to two 1948 revues at the Lyric Hammersmith: Oranges and Lemons and Slings and Arrows. Following this, he wrote the book and lyrics for an entire revue, See You Later, at the Watergate Theatre in 1951. The Players' Theatre invited him to write a short musical, set in the '20s in late 1952. Originally planned to run for three weeks, The Boy Friend was

eventually fleshed out to a full-length musical. Mr Wilson also completed and launched a new mini-musical. The Buccaneer, which opened at the Watergate Theatre in September 1953 for a short run.

The Boy Friend was Wilson's most successful West End production, his other noteworthy West End

musicals include Valmouth (1958, starring Bertice Reading and later Cleo Laine), Divorce Me Darling (1964, a bright but far less successful sequel to The Boy Friend), and His Monkey Wife (1971). In 1959 he also contributed additional material to a revue by Peter Cook, Pieces of Eight. Twenty years later, in 1979, he was invited to write a new version of the Christmas pantomime Aladdin, which played at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, over the 1979-80 holiday season.



Caricature of Sandy Wilson, 1980



Luke Alleva

Jimmy

Luke recently appeared as Scranton Slim in Guys and Dolls (Sydney) following the revival of The Rocky Horror Show understudying and playing the roles of Brad and Eddie/Dr Scott. Other Australian credits include Man of La Mancha, Brains in Get Happy and Cliff in We Will Rock You.

Luke's West End credits include We Will Rock You and Saturday Night Fever understudying and playing the roles of Joey, Chester and Cesar.

For The Production Company's 2008 season Luke appeared in 42nd Street and Little Me.

Film and television credits include Moulin Rouge, Bootmen and Always Greener.

Luke dedicates his performance to his daughter Chiara, wife Sabrina and dog Mia.



Ben Brown

Alphonse

Ben developed a love of dance at an early age and spent his formative years fine tuning his talents at several well known dance schools, including the Victorian College of The Arts. He also completed his Certificate III in Classical Ballet and Diploma in Performing Arts at Dance World Studios. Ben performed at Tokyo Disney Land in One Man's

Dream. In 2008 Ben was cast in first major musical, Monty Python's Spamalot and went on to perform in the 2008 season for The Production Company which included Follies, Damn Yankees and Mame and is thrilled to be back for 2009.



Nicholas Eaton

Nicholas Eaton makes his Australian musical theatre debut in *The Boy Friend*. Always passionate in his desire to work in the entertainment industry, he has studied all facets of the performing arts. From age 3 he trained under the guidance of Lisa and Trudy Harris. In 2006, he graduated from the Brent Street School of Performing Arts,

Upon graduating, Nicholas immediately joined the cast of Cats performing the role of Alonzo/ The Rumpus Cat in Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand and China.

Recently, he toured Australia with Yo Gabba Gabba live on stage for The Entertainment Store.



Rebecca Grennan

Nancy

Rebecca trained at Brent Street School of Performing Arts and Queensland Dance School of Excellence.

Theatre credits include Grease -The Arena Spectacular, The Boy from Oz and Shout! The Legend of The Wild One. Opera Australia credits include Tannhauser and Alcina.

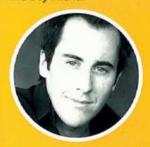
For The Production Company Rebecca has previously appeared in Sweet Charity and Mame. Film credits include Happy Feet and The Mask II and on television, Headstart and Home and Away. Rebecca has co-written and performed her own

Rebecca has co-written and performed her own one-woman cabaret show, Half Full.



Chrystal de Grussa

Chrystal graduated from The West Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2007. Her WAAPA highlights include the title role in the Australian premiere, Jane Eyre: The Musical, Consuela West Side Story, The Proprietor Assassins and Margaret Darcy The New York premiere of The Good Fight. In 2006 Chrystal received the Bill Warnock Award for the Most Promising Student. Professionally she played the title role in Irene, with Hollywood legend, Debbie Reynolds. Sally Smith in Me and My Girl and Nellie in Annie Get Your Gun. Chrystal is absolutely thrilled to be working with The Production Company in The Boy Friend!



Matt Heyward

Pierre

Matt made his professional debut as an original

cast member of Mamma Mia! understudying the roles of Pepper and Eddie. He then joined the original cast of The Producers, understudying the roles of Leo Bloom and Carmen Ghia. He toured Australia and Korea with Eurobeat, and was a cast member of Monty Pythons Spamalot.

For The Production Company, Matt appeared as Benny Van Buren in *Damn Yankees* and Junior Babcock in *Mame*.

Most recently he sang the national anthem at Etihad Stadium for the Wallabies vs Italy Rugby friendly match, televised internationally. Matt graduated from BAPA in 1999.



Mark Hill

Mark Hill began acting singing and dancing at the age of three and by the time he started school, he had appeared in professional touring productions of Faust and The Wizard of Oz. At the age of eleven, Mark scored a lead role on the kid's television series The Wayne Manifesto, and performed live onstage with Michael Jackson in his History Tour.

At fifteen, Mark had a supporting role in Cybergirl on the Ten Network. Mark is a current member of Bindi Irwin's Crocmen. In 2008, Mark choreographed and featured in a sell-out season of Hot Shoe Shuffle and in 2009 Mark was chosen as one of Australia's top 60 dances on So You Think You Can Dance.



Leanne Marsland

Fay

At age four, Leanne began dance at Cheryl Bradley Dance Studios in Adelaide. She went on to study singing and acting with various tutors, performing in many musicals. She also choreographed and staged musicals and events, including several Come Out Festivals, with her business Moveworks.

Leanne graduated in 2008 from The University of Ballarat Arts Academy with credits including the role of Sally Bowles in Cabaret, Dance Captain in Once Upon a Mattress, Mrs Fairfax understudy in Jane Eyre and Anything Goes.

The Boy Friend marks Leanne's professional theatre debut. She is excited to work with The Production Company and would like to thank her family and friends for their support.



Ashley McKenzie

Pepe

Ashley began training at seventeen in Melbourne where he undertook his diploma of Performing Arts at Danceworld 301.

Working extensively throughout the commercial industry, Ashley established himself as a dancer,

teacher & choreographer.

Ashley made his theatrical debut in Saturday Night Fever. Then in Japan he joined an international cast and create a new production of Wicked the musical at USJ. Other theatre credits include Sweet Charity and 42nd Street. Most recently Ashley completed his second season of Guys and Dolls.

Ashley dedicates his performance to his family, friends and in loving memory to Bob.



Samantha Riley

Samantha graduated from the Ballarat Arts
Academy with a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre)
in 2008. Her credits there include Helen Burns
in Jane Eyre directed by Lisa Minnett, featured
dancer in Once Upon a Mattress directed by
Shaun Murphy, a self devised cabaret entitled
To be a Feminist and Sally Bowles in Cabaret
directed by Terence O'Connell.

As a young adult she performed a duet with Marina Prior under the musical direction of Tommy Tycho in the Australian Music Events production of Opera by the Loch.

Samantha is very excited to mark *The Boy Friend* as her professional debut.



Angela Scundi Dulcie

Angela graduated from NIDA in 2006. Credits include *Mini Cabs*, Distinctly Minty Productions and *Back to Before*. Echelon Productions.

In 2008 Angela toured with the Australian production of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Film credits include I Love You Too, Princess Productions and Elevate, Crystal Screen Productions.

The Boy Friend marks Angela's first appearance with The Production Company.

Angela is most excited to be working with Gary Young once again, the creative team and the wonderful cast.



Stephen Wheat Marcel

Since graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Stephen has been involved in all aspects of the entertainment industry. For The Production Company he has appeared in *The Music Man, South Pacific*, Carousel, Oklahomal, 42nd Street, Follies, Bye Bye Birdie as Hugo and Little Me in the role of Yulnick. Other productions include Dusty! The Original Pop Diva as Tom, Pippin and The Hobbit. Recently Stephen played Col Joye in the revival of Shout! The Legend of the Wild One and can be seen in the film version as Lee Gordon. His film and television appearances include Blue Heelers, Mornings with Kerri Anne and Take.



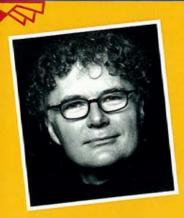
Hayley Winch

Hayley graduated from Dance World in 2003, and has since been performing in all facets of the entertainment industry.

Her television credits include the BBC London's Love Soup, Dancing with the Stars, Mornings with Kerri Anne Kennerly, and Ricki Lee Coulters video, Can't Sing a Different Song. Her theatre and stage credits include Countdown: the Arena Spectacular, vocalist for Stand and Deliver, Oh! What a Night (Australian tour), Guys and Dolls (Sydney), and Follies with The Production Company last year.

Hayley is delighted to be joining The Production company again this year and is looking forward to a great season.





GARY YOUNG Director

Gary wrote and directed the musical Sideshow Alley for which he and composer Paul Keelan won the prestigious Pratt Prize and a Helpmann Award ®.

Gary was nominated for the Helpmann Award ® for his direction of Menopause The Musical and won the Aussie Theatre Award for his direction of Sideshow Alley. He directed Fully Committed and The Merry Widow for the Melbourne City Opera and recently staged Rhonda Burchmore's concert for the Festival Theatre.

Gary was Associate Director for the Australian/ Asian production of Mamma Mia! For The Production Company he directed Carousel, Funny Girl, Call Me Madam and the tenth anniversary production of Mame.

Theatre productions include Side By Side By Sondheim, Starting Here, Starting Now, Showboat, Annie Get Your Gun, Jesus Christ Superstar, Les Miserables and Miss Saigon (Cameron Mackintosh), The Rocky Horror Picture Show and Aspects Of Love (RUG) Crusade (Edinburgh Festival) Guys and Dolls (Adelaide Festival Theatre) and A Little Night Music (Canterbury Opera, NZ).

Works with composer Paul Keelan include Ship Of Fools, A Woman's Eyes, Black Widow and Tea With Oscar which was nominated for the Green Room Award. Current works include a musical based on the life of the painter Artemisia Gentileschi, Artemisia. and Bim Bom. Gary is currently writing a new play, Skyrockets and Crawling Things.



DAVID PIPER Musical Director

David Piper is a graduate of the University of Sydney where he completed a Bachelor of Music in 1989, receiving a high distinction in Performance (piano). In 1991 he was a national finalist in the ABC Young Performers' Award.

Currently David is working as Associate Musical Director on Wicked. He was the Assistant Musical Director for the original production of The Boy From Oz and then Musical Director for its national tour and as Assistant Musical Director on the Arena tour. He worked as Assistant Musical Director on Mamma Mia! and We Will Rock You, Miss Saigon, and was Associate Musical Director on Annie. As Assistant Musical Director his credits include Crazy For You and Into The Woods. David has worked for The Production Company a repetiteur on Sunset Boulevard, Oklahoma! and Call Me Madam, as well as Aspects of Love, West Side Story, Scrooge the Musical, The Pirates of Penzance, Carmen Jones, Chicago and Showboat. More recently he has worked for Ballarat University Arts Academy, and for Magnormos Productions of A Bunch Of Ratbags, Archy and Mehitabel and The Beauty

David is in demand as a pianist, accompanist and vocal coach and is equally at home with cabaret groups, established artists like Anthony Warlow, Todd McKenney, Debra Byrne, and Anne Wood or with ABC orchestras - he was pianist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra for the successful ABC album Perfect Strangers.



ANDREW HALLSWORTH Choreographer

Andrew is the worldwide Associate
Choreographer for *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*The Musical recently working on the West End production.

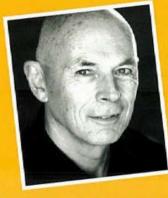
Andrew choreographed the original Australian production of Eurobeat (Almost Eurovision) for which he received a Green Room nomination and the production was revived for the Edinburgh Festival, the West End and a subsequent UK tour.

Andrew worked on the premiere series of So You Think You Can Dance Australia and choreographed Indigerido and Ja'ime's Assembly Routine on the cult TV show We Can Be Heroes.

His other choreographic credits include Leader of the Pack – The Ellie Greenwich Musical (Green Room Award and Helpmann ® nomination for Best Choreography), Menopause The Musical (nominated for Helpmann Award ® for Best Choreography), The Merry Widow (Melbourne City Opera) and Sideshow Alley.

Andrew has worked extensively with The Production Company choreographing Carousel and Mame and as co-choreographer with Ross Coleman on The Music Man and Bye Bye Birdie (receiving Green Room Award nominations for both productions). Most recently he choreographed a one man musical Newley Discovered starring Hugh Sheridan for the Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

Andrew dedicates this performance to the memory of his mentor, Ross Coleman.



RICHARD JEZIORNY Set Designer

Richard Jeziorny is a freelance designer who lives and works in Melbourne.

Richard has designed for drama, musical theatre, ballet, opera, circus and dance. He has designed several large-scale puppetry works including Inside Dry Water, Wake Baby, The Reading Boy and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Fish.

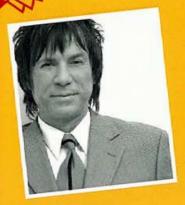
Richard's design's for The Production Company include Camelot, Kiss Me, Kate, Carousel and Sunset Boulevard, for which he won a Green Room Award. Other musical theatre designs include Eurobeat and Sideshow Alley.

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

Early in 2007 he designed Chou Xaio Ya (The Ugly Duckling) for the Zhexiang Acrobatic troupe in Hangzhou. In collaboration with Peter Wilson he devised and designed a new work, The Dragon Child, for the China Children's Art Theatre in Beijing which premiered in the Lunar New Year of the Rat and will play The Arts Centre in October.

The Promise, designed for the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, opened at the Sydney Festival in January and was nominated for a Helpmann Award ®.

In March he designed the launch of the Colours of Malaysia Festival for the third year running.



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 and 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 & Dolls, A Little Night Music, Shane Warne - The Musical, for Opera Australia and The Australian Ballet to name a few. Kim has 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 Garden and Wembley.

Kim has supervised the Wardrobe Department for The Production Company on thirteen shows and was Costume Designer for Sweet Charity, 42nd Street, Damn Yankees, Mame and earlier this year on Crazy For You. Visit his website at www.kimbishop.com.au



MATTHEW KING **Lighting Designer**

Matthew is a graduate of The Melbourne University, Victorian College of the Arts, and has been working at the Arts Centre for the past 31/2 years as Lighting Supervisor in the Hamer Hall.

Matthew was the Lighting Designer for the Mix It Up Shows - The South Seas, Visible, Pulse: Heart: Beat, So Frenchy So Chic, Sing Sing, Cariba, Vive La Fiesta; the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Pops Series - Hollywood, Great Waltzes, Space Classics and Super Heroes, also for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra with Ben Folds, The Whitlams, Roberta Flack, Human Nature and Classical Mystery Tour (The Beatles). He codesigned the Christmas Lighting Display in The Atrium at Crown Casino for a number of years, together with a Chinese New Year Celebration, and was the Assistant Lighting Designer for Menopause the Musical and Sideshow Alley.

In Australia and Asia he has worked extensively as an Architectural and Theatrical Lighting Programmer on many 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, Singapore River Enhancement Project, and the Australian Season of Dirty Dancing. For three years he was the Assistant Lighting Designer and Programmer for Marina Bay Countdown in Singapore.

Matthew is looking forward to his first involvement with The Production Company.

JOHN SCANDRETT **MARK BENSON & NICK REICH** SYSTEM **Sound Designers** for System Sound Sound Design

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

SOUND

MARK BENSON is responsible for the orchestral sound and system engineering. He has designed and mixed many concerts for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and others. Mark has been responsible for the orchestral sound for The Production Company's shows for the last five years.

NICK REICH is responsible for the live sound mix and Sound Effects production. Nick has mixed the sound on Les Miserable's, The Phantom of the Opera, High Society, Five Guys Named Moe, Into the Woods. He was co-designer for The Producers, and Titanic The Musical and Guys & Dolls.

JOHN SCANDRETT, the founder and Managing Director of System Sound Pty Ltd for 30 years, has designed sound for many productions, and was collaborating Sound Designer with Julian Spink for the original and current Australian productions of Chicago, Man of La Mancha, Cabaret, and with Nick Reich for The Producers and Guys and Dolls.

System Sound has designed or engineered throughout Australasia; Les Miserables, Joseph, Rent, Cats, Aspects of Love, Show Boat, Sunset Boulevard, Miss Saigon, Cabaret, Mamma Mia!, Spamalot, The Producers, We Will Rock You, Guys and Dolls, and Billy Elliot. Currently, they are sounding Jersey Boys, Wicked, Avenue Q, and the Cats, Phantom of The Opera, and Chicago tours.



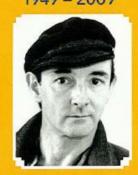
TANYA MITFORD Assistant to the Choreographer

Tanya first appeared on stage at 18 months in Carousel, since then she has enjoyed treading the boards around Australia and internationally.

A renowned Dance Captain, Resident Director/ Choreographer, Assistant Choreographer, musician and performer, Tanya has appeared in Billy Elliot, Guys and Dolls, Dusty - The Original Pop Diva, Fiddler on the Roof, Leader of the Pack, Cabaret - The Musical, Carousel, High Society, Mack and Mabel, Gypsy, Jolson and Grand Hotel.

Other projects include children's entertainment for The Wiggles, Disney Entertainment, Warner Bros, Bob the Builder and ABC for Kids as well as The Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, and The Kylie Show Tribute Band. Tanya has choreographed Take Your Skin Off and Dance, Company, Superfreaks, Baby, Tribe and Boxed In, all for The Victorian College of the Arts where she is the Head of Movement for their Music Theatre Degree. Tanya is also in demand as a Personal Trainer, Adjudicator and Dance Lecturer.





Ross worked with The Production Company as Director and Choreographer on four shows:

Funny Girl, The Music Man, Bye Bye Birdie and Sweet Charity.

Ross contributed his brilliant talents to our company since it's inception.

He gave his love, commitment and passion to us and the artists he worked with.

Ross was a multiple Helpmann Award® nominee and winner for his choreography on productions including *Urinetown*, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Dusty: The Original Pop Diva, Pippin, Sweet Charity and Shout!

His choreography for *Priscilla*: Queen of the Desert lives on in the current West End production.

He will be greatly missed.





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- 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.