



CELEBRATING
10 YEARS

FOLLIES

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

VISY

FOR A BETTER WORLD



2008 SEASON

Visy is proud to sponsor another
outstanding performance brought to you by
The Production Company.

Visy's performance in environmental
practices is helping to fight
climate change.

VISY
FOR A BETTER WORLD

VISY28427



PROUDLY PRESENTS

FOLLIES

Book by
JAMES GOLDMAN

Music and Lyrics by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Directed originally on Broadway by Harold Prince
Produced on the West End of London by Cameron Mackintosh

**JOHN DIEDRICH ANNE WOOD PHILIP GOULD DEBRA BYRNE
MONIQUE BRYNNEL KENNETH COLLINS JUDI CONNELLI MARGARET HAGGART
NANCYE HAYES LAINE LAMONT MELISSA LANGTON PATTI NEWTON BUD TINGWELL
JACK WEBSTER CHRIS DURLING GEMMA-ASHLEY KAPLAN AMY LEHPAMER
STEPHEN MAHY MARY-JEAN O'DOHERTY**

**NATALYA BOBENKO BEN BROWN ROHAN BROWNE MELINA CHARLES
AMELIA CHRISTO JOANNA FRIPP NICK JONES SARAH LANDY BROOKE LOWERY
MUTU JESSE MALCOLM LOREDO MALCOLM TIM MCDOWELL ANGIE STAPLETON
STEPHEN WHEAT HAYLEY WINCH TEAGAN WOUTERS**

WITH

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Director **ROGER HODGMAN**
Musical Director **GUY SIMPSON**
Choreographer **DANA JOLLY**

Set Design **RICHARD JEZIORNY**
Costume Design **VICTORIA ROWELL**
Lighting Design **PAUL JACKSON**

Sound Design **PETER GRUBB, SHELLY LEE & MARK BENSON** for SYSTEM SOUND
Hair and Make Up **GAY GALLACHER** and **ALISON KIDD**
Repetiteurs **GREG ROBERTS** and **LOCLAN MACKENZIE-SPENCER**
Technical Director **DAVID MILLER** Stage Manager **KIRSTEN MARR**

STATE THEATRE * THE ARTS CENTRE, MELBOURNE * 16 TO 20 JULY 2008

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd – exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY
GRATEFULLY APPRECIATES



PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



SERIES SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



FOUNDATION SPONSORS

- Margaret and Edward Billson
- 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



W

elcome to our 2008 season.
It's our tenth and it's time for
a celebration!

It's a great pleasure to welcome you to *Follies*, the first musical in our tenth anniversary season. What could be a more appropriate way to celebrate our ten wonderful years than to produce the definitive musical that celebrates musical theatre itself? *Follies* is also our very first musical by Stephen Sondheim.

I hope you will agree that *Follies* is a challenging, satisfying and exciting choice. Its complex and brilliant score flows through this musical about a stage re-union. Its plot parallels performers' lives in the glamorous world of the theatre with the changes they had to make to live in the world of reality. *Follies* deals with the touching, nostalgic and difficult issues that are integrated into the process of ageing, maturity and missed opportunities in love and in life itself.

Many of Australia's leading creative and performing artists have blessed The Production Company with their tremendous support. *Follies* is directed by Roger Hodgman, musically directed by Guy Simpson and choreographed by Dana Jolly. These three very distinguished artists have been closely associated with The Production Company since its very first season and I am thrilled that they are creating this new production. The cast features so many of our most wonderful established stage performers as well as some brilliant and exciting young talent. Our favourite band, Orchestra Victoria who has done so much to strengthen and excite our performances over the years is the musical foundation of *Follies*.

I thank all of our sponsors and patrons, who do so much to support the company and especially Visy which is our sponsor of *Follies*.

I do hope you love this show and that you find much to thrill to in the many wonderful performances you are about to see.

Jeanne Pratt

Jeanne Pratt AC





ANNE WOOD
Phyllis Rogers Stone

Anne's career began with the original Melbourne cast of *CATS* and continued with the first national Australian tour of the production before joining the German company.

She spent six successful years working in London and Germany with *A Swell Party* marking Anne's London West End debut. Other U.K. and European credits include leading roles in *Aspects Of Love*, *Barnum*, *Crazy For You*, *Romance Romance*, *Into The Woods* and *Closer Than Ever*.

Since returning to Australia, Anne appeared in *Jacques Brel Is Alive & Well & Living In Paris*, as Irene in *Crazy For You* and Elsa in *The Sound of Music* – both performances earning her Green Room nominations.

Anne spent nearly three years playing the lead role of Donna in the original smash hit production of *MAMMA MIA!* earning a Green Room Award and an invitation to play the role on London's West End.

Since then she has appeared in *Closer Than Ever* at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival directed by Maltby and Shire, *Carousel* for The Production Company, in concert nationally with *Australia's Leading Ladies*, the highly acclaimed *Minefields And Miniskirts* and *Menopause, The Musical*.

She is currently appearing in cabaret with Shaun Murphy of *Combo Fiasco* fame.



JOHN DIEDRICH
Benjamin Stone

John has a career in acting, directing and producing in theatre, musical theatre, film and television that spans over 30 years. His theatre credits include *South Pacific* for both Seabiscuit Productions and The Production Company, *Speaking in Tongues* for Hit Productions, *Mack & Mabel* for The Production Company, The Sydney Theatre Company's *Dead White Males*, Melbourne Theatre Company's *High Society*, *Wolf* at the Playbox Theatre and the role of Billy Flynn in *Chicago*. He performed in *Sweet Charity*, directed by David Atkins. Other musical theatre credits include *Les Miserables*, *Oliver!*, *Grease*, *The Twenties* and *All That Jazz* and *Oklahoma!* John was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his role of Curly. In 1993, he appeared on London's West End in the role of Frank Butler in Ronald Lee's production of *Annie Get Your Gun*.

In 1987, John co-produced, directed and starred *Nine*. John was nominated as Best Director of a Musical in the Sydney Theatre Critics Awards and *Nine* was nominated as the Outstanding Production of the Year. John co-produced the original Australian cast album of *Nine* which won the ARIA award for Best Soundtrack. He has recorded five other cast albums.

In 2006 John co-produced and directed the musical *Titanic*.

His television credits include *Childstar*, *The Challenge*, *Special Squad* and *Bluey*. John has worked on *Big Sky*, *Homicide*, *Matlock Police*, *Division 4* and *Ryan*.

His film credits include *Dawn!* and *The Devil's Playground*.



DEBRA BYRNE
Sally Durant Plummer

With more than forty years in the spotlight, Debra has amassed credentials in music, television, film and on stage that few can match. Debra first won Australian hearts as the "little girl with the big voice" on the original *Young Talent Time*, where she performed for four years from the age of twelve. After *Young Talent Time*, she moved to a recording career and had hits with *He's a Rebel* and *Da Doo Run*. During this time she also won the Australian Queen of Pop Award for two consecutive years.

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

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

Debra has achieved critical acclaim as Grizabella in *CATS*, performed with Judi Connelli in *Jerry's Girls*, and in 1988 played the role of Fantine in the original Australian production of *Les Miserables*. In the same year she was chosen to sing the role of Fantine in the only International symphonic recording of *Les Miserables*.

In 1996 Debra was offered the much-coveted role as Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*. She has also starred in The Production Company's productions of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Little Me*.



PHILIP GOULD
Buddy Plummer

Philip's first appearance on stage was for J.C.Williamsons as a 7 year old, and on television with the ever popular *Young Talent Time*.

Philip's career in theatre took off again first of all with the world premier of the Chaucer classic *More Canterbury Tales* and the well coveted role of Tony in *West Side Story*.

Living in London from 1984 – 1998, Philip performed in such shows as *Nite-Club Confidential*, *Show Boat*, *Oklahoma!*, *Buddy*, and the famous *42nd Street*, also several productions of Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* for the English & Scottish National Opera companies. He performed his song from the show 'Moon Faced Starry Eyed' with the likes of Caroline O'Connor and Catherine Zeta-Jones, Philip was also asked to perform this song on the Olivier Awards in London with Ms Zeta-Jones.

He has performed in Australia in many shows, such as *South Pacific*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Show Boat*, *She Loves Me*, *Company*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *Annie* (for which he won a Green Room Award) and playing Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes* (also nominated).

Apart from *Music Man* and *Bye Bye Birdie* for The Production Company, Philip's other recent ventures were playing the role of the Tinman in *Wizard Of Oz* and *Crazy For You*. Philip has been made an Honorary Patron of the Whitehorse Musical Theatre Group.



MONIQUE BRYNNEL
Solange Lafitte

Monique Brynnel started her career in Sweden starring in productions like *My Fair Lady*, *Dial M for Murder* and *Boeing-Boeing*.

After a successful debut in Vienna in the leading role in *Gypsy Princess*, Monique was engaged for the title role of *The Merry Widow* in a production staged for the Olympic Games which stayed in the State Opera repertoire for eight years. She became a sought after operetta diva starring in numerous productions in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Basel, Gothenburg and Oslo.

Monique was introduced to the Australian public in the ABC TV series, *Monique and Jon*, where she appeared with her husband, Jon Weaving.

An invitation followed to sing Adele in *Die Fledermaus* with Opera Australia in the first live telecast from Sydney Opera House.

As a concert soloist Monique has appeared in Scandinavia, Europe, Russia, China, and Australia and commercial CD/Video recordings include *Die Fledermaus*, *World of Operetta*, *Heart of Vienna* and *Maid in Sweden*. Her next CD *Ah, Monique* will be released later this year.

Monique and husband Jon recently recorded backing vocals for *The Dukes of Windsor*, their son Jack's band.



KENNETH COLLINS
Roscoe

British-born Kenneth Collins made his operatic debut in *Adriana Lecouvreur* at the Camden Festival in 1971. Also that year, he appeared at the Aldeburgh Festival and the Royal Opera House, to which he returned in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Die Zauberflöte* and with the Royal Ballet in *Das Lied von der Erde*. For English National Opera he has sung in Manrico in *Il Trovatore*, Radames in *Aida*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Arrigo in *Sicilian Vespers*. His many roles for Welsh National Opera included Des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut*, Nadir in *The Pearl Fishers*, Calaf in *Turandot*, Cavaradossi and the title roles in *Andrea Chenier*, *Ernani* and *Don Carlos*.

He made his Australian debut as Manrico for The Australian Opera in 1983. His roles with that company included Dick Johnson in *Fanciulla del West*, Radames, Gustaavus in *Ballo in Maschera*, Carlo in *I Masnadieri*, Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra*, Don Jose in *Carmen*, Alvaro in *La Forza del Destino*, Florestan in *Fidelio*, Cavaradossi, Canio in *I Pagliacci*, Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Macduff in *Macbeth*, Calaf and Otello. Roles with Victoria State Opera included Samson in *Samson and Delilah*, Don Carlos and, in concert, Duke of Mantua *Rigoletto* and Cavaradossi.

On the concert platform he has appeared with the major British and Australian orchestras.

In 1993, Kenneth Collins was awarded an A.M. for his services to opera in Australia.



JUDI CONNELLI
Carlotta Campion

Judi Connelli is one of Australia's most versatile and respected performers. Her diverse career spans opera, operetta, theatre, musicals, television, cabaret and recording.

For Opera Australia, her roles have included Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, The Duchess of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, Golda in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Zozo in *The Merry Widow*.

Her musical theatre repertoire includes The Witch in *Into The Woods*, Mrs Peacham in *The Threepenny Opera*, Matron 'Mama' Morton in *Chicago* and Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*. Judi's roles for The Production Company have been Mama Rose in *Gypsy* and Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*.

In concert performances, Judi has appeared with both Melbourne and Sydney Symphony Orchestras and as one of *The Three Divas* with the Adelaide and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. She recently toured Australia with Suzanne Johnston in the acclaimed cabaret show *Take Two*.

Judi has received numerous awards including an Order of Australia for her contribution to the performing arts and various charities.



MARGARET HAGGART
Heidi Schiller

The opera and concert career of Melbourne soprano, Margaret Haggart began in 1972, when Welsh national opera contracted her to sing the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* and Gilda in *Rigoletto*. After five seasons as Principal Soprano with English National Opera, Margaret freelanced appearing regularly with ENO, WNO, Scottish Opera, Opera North, English Music Theatre, various UK Festivals, (including *The Proms* at Royal Albert Hall) and BBC TV and Radio. She performed with Nancy Opera and the Orange Festival in France and the Santiago Opera in Chile.

Home in Melbourne in 1985, Margaret has appeared in opera performances in Italy, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA. She sings with Opera Australia, all State opera companies and major Festivals (Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney) Orchestra's (Melbourne Symphony and Orchestra Victoria) and with ABC TV and Radio.

Margaret extraordinary repertoire spans more than 90 roles and 25 major choral / orchestral works. It includes most of Mozart's sopranos, many of Verdi's and the title roles of *Madama Butterfly* and *Turandot*, *Lucrezia Borgia*, *Katya Kabanova* and *The Merry Widow*.

She has premiered works by Conyngham (*Fly*) Easton (*The Selfish Giant*) Hurd (*The Aspern Papers*) Koehne (*Love Burns*) and most recently the Alen John / Andrew Upton opera *Through The Looking Glass* for Victoria Opera at Malthouse.



NANCYE HAYES
Hattie Walker

Actor, dancer, singer, choreographer and director Nancye Hayes OAM began her career in JC Williamson's production of *My Fair Lady* in 1961. However it was the title role in *Sweet Charity* in 1967 that established her name. Since then she has sung and danced her way through a cavalcade of musical successes including *Pippin*, *Irene*, *Annie*, *Chicago*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Nine*. She won a Victorian Green Room Award, the Norman Kessell Memorial Award and the Sydney Theatre Critics' Circle Award for Best Actress for her performance in *Guys and Dolls* and a MO Award for *42nd Street*. Her other stage credits include *Broadway Bound*, *Showboat*, *Same Time Next Year*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Stepping Out*, *Follies in Concert*, *The Music Man*, *The Snow Queen*, *Eureka!*, *Oklahoma!* and the Sydney Theatre Company's *Summer Rain*.

As a director, Nancye's credits include *Crazy for You* and *The World Goes Round*, *Australia's Leading Ladies Concert*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Three Divas*, *Annie* and *Gypsy*.

Nancye is honoured to have received two Lifetime Achievement awards – from the Variety Club in 1997 and from the Green Room Award Association in 2003.

During 2006/2007 Nancye was on tour with the enormously successful production of *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* which co-starred Todd McKenney.



LAINÉ LAMONT
Deedee West

Laine has had extensive experience on stage, television and film. Her training in theatre, singing and dancing was under the guidance of Betty Pounder and Graham Clarke. Her stage roles include the Tony award winning musical *Me and My Girl*, *Nonsense* and the one woman play, *Dream Kitchen*. Laine toured nationally in these shows. Her Adelaide Festival Theatre season of *Rodeo Noir* required her to yodel.

Television appearances include *Denise*, *Good Morning Australia*, *Frontline*, *Prisoner*, *Neighbours* and *Blue Heelers*.

Laine performs in cabaret with her husband Ian Pearce as *Duo Plus*.

Film credits include *The Wannabees*, and many VCA films including *Sogno d'Amore*.

For The Production Company, Laine has performed in *Mame* and *Bye, Bye Birdie*. Laine has been cast as Mother Burnside in The Production Company's tenth anniversary season of *Mame* in October.



MELISSA LANGTON
Stella Deems

Melissa's theatre credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Les Miserables*, *Marry Me A Little*, *After The Beep*, *Sideshow Alley* and *Brigadoon*. For The Production Company she has appeared in *Call Me Madam*, *Carousel* and *42nd Street*. She received rave reviews for her portrayal of Killer Queen in *We Will Rock You* throughout Japan.

In 2002, Melissa received Green Room Awards for Best Cabaret Artist and Best Cabaret Duo (with Mark Jones). She was also the winner of The 2001 Sydney Cabaret Convention.

She has performed her cabaret show to high acclaim throughout the world; Don't Tell Mama in New York as part of The New York Cabaret Convention, Dublin's Sugar Club, The Adelaide Cabaret Festival, The Auckland Festival, The Famous Spiegeltent in Melbourne and His Majesty's Theatre in Perth.

She also performs regularly with *The Fabulous Singlettes* in Spiegel tents and cabaret venues around Europe. Melissa has released an album - *When The Rain Falls Up*.



PATTI NEWTON
Emily Whitman

Patti Newton's long and successful career began at age four when she played the Tivoli circuit in many of that company's legendary pantomimes. She worked extensively in Melbourne radio particularly at 3XY and 3DB and moved with the Swallows Juniors to the Seven Network when television began in Australia.

Patti transferred to the Nine Network and became *In Melbourne Tonight's* best known singer/dancer and sketch worker with Bert Newton, Graham Kennedy and later, Don Lane.

Patti worked in Europe at leading theatres and cabarets and supported many international stars including Lulu and Cilla Black. She worked as resident compere and entertainer on the luxury liner QE2 and has performed cabaret shows in most of Australia's leading clubs and venues.

A career highlight, and one which she was honoured for in 1997, was her work entertaining the troops in Vietnam.

Patti's theatre credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. She continues to be in demand for various television and cabaret specials and is a regular on 3AW with Bruce Mansfield and Philip Brady each Monday evening in Melbourne.

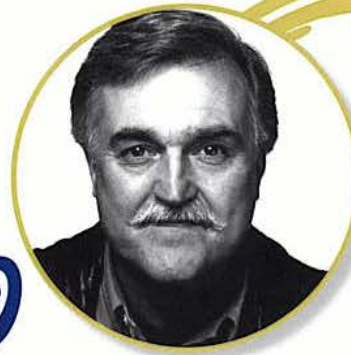
Patti appeared regularly with Bert Newton on *Good Morning Australia* for 14 years. In 2007 she joined *Dancing with the Stars* dancing her way to the top three contestants. Patti considers her children Matthew and Lauren to be her greatest achievements.



CHARLES 'BUD' TINGWELL A.M.
Dimitri Weisman

Charles 'Bud' Tingwell is one of Australia's most experienced actors. His career began in radio in Sydney but after flying Spitfires in World War II, he moved to the movies, scoring a role in Hollywood by age 30. A short stint in London television extended to 16 years and made him one of Britain's most famous faces. He produced TV series *The Sullivans*, *Newlyweds*, *The Flying Doctors* and *Col'n Carpenter* and directed many TV series including *The Sullivans*, *Prisoner* and *Acropolis Now*.

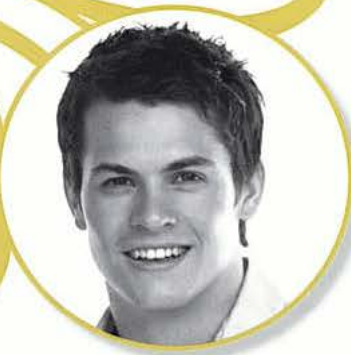
He has been the voice of various characters in *Thunderbirds* as well as playing lead roles in films such as *Breaker Morant* (1980), *A Cry in the Dark* (1988), *The Castle* (1997), *Innocence* (1998), *Inside Story* (2000), *Ned Kelly* (2003), *Jindabyne* (2005), *Irresistible* (co starring with Susan Sarandon) (2005), *Three Blind Mice* (2008), *Salvation* (2008) and the tele-series *Changi* (2001). Bud won the Best Actor Award for his role in *Innocence* at the Las Palmas International Film Festival in 2001. Since 1999, Bud has been touring nationally in his acclaimed one man play *The Carer* and written his memoirs *Bud: A Life* followed by a National tour of *An Audience with Bud Tingwell*, an intimate evening with Bud. He has won several awards including Membership of The Australian Hall of Fame, The Raymond Longford AFI Award and The Honoured Artists Award for The City of Melbourne. In 1999 Charles Tingwell was invested as A Member of The Order Of Australia.



JACK WEBSTER
Theodore Whitman

Born in England, Jack's career has taken him to many parts of the world. He appeared in the West End productions of *Mr. & Mrs.*, *Promises, Promises*, and the films *Oliver!* and *Scrooge*. Jack came to Australia in 1970 and has performed in many musicals including *Anything Goes*, *The Carol Channing Show* and *Irene*. He branched out into acting and played major roles in *Gypsy*, *Man of La Mancha*, *A Chorus Line*, *Dames At Sea*, *Arturo Ui*, *Stepping Out*, *Black Comedy*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Jolson* and *Hollywood Bizarre*. He played the role of Eddy Ryan in The Production Company's *Funny Girl* with Caroline O'Connor and he was the first tap-dancing Butler in *Annie*. In 2003 Jack was honoured to be a guest artist with the Sydney Dance Company in Graham Murphy's *Tivoli*.

In collaboration with Nancye Hayes he has choreographed/directed *Dames at Sea*, *Here Comes Showtime*, *Gypsy* and *Wizard of Oz* with Nikki Webster. Jack has directed and choreographed *Copacabana* for The Conservatorium of Music in Mackay, and performed in Top Hat Production's / NARPACA tour of *Stepping Out With Fred and Ginger*. Most recently Jack has performed the role of Ambrogio in *The Barber Of Seville* for Opera Australia and choreographed Monkey Baa's production of *Milli, Jack and the Dancing Cat*. Jack will be most remembered for his triple role in *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, which toured Australia, Japan and played for six months in London's West End.



CHRIS DURLING
Young Buddy Plummer

Since graduating from the University of Ballarat (BA in Music Theatre), Chris has become a sought after young talent.

Chris appeared in the pilot *Chattertime* with Worth Seeing Media. He also played the title role in the national tour of *Pinocchio – The Greatest "Little" Show on Earth* and the role of Freddy in *My Fair Lady* for Arts Events.

He has toured throughout Asia as a lead vocalist for Walt Disney Special Events, and with X-Systems Entertainment in Malaysia.

As a member of *The Crocmen*, appearing with Bindi Irwin, Chris has performed live in New York as part of the 2007 *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*, on the NBC's *Today Show* and alongside *The Wiggles* on Broadway and in Toronto. *The Crocmen* have experienced hugely successful runs on ABC TV and The Discovery Kids Channel with *Bindi The Jungle Girl*. The ARIA nominated *Bindi Kid Fitness CD/ DVD*, featuring *The Crocmen* reached Platinum status.

Follies is Chris' debut with The Production Company.



GEMMA-ASHLEY KAPLAN
Young Sally Durant

Gemma-Ashley Kaplan was born in South Africa and moved to Australia with her family 13 years ago. She graduated from The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2007 and feels blessed for the opportunities and experiences this year has brought.

Gemma-Ashley's most memorable roles at the Academy include Maria in *West Side Story*, Young Jane in *Jane Eyre*, Emma Goldman in *Assassins*, Sarah Darcy in *The Good Fight*, which premiered at the New York Music Theatre Festival in September 2007, as well as performing in and being the Assistant Choreographer for *Once on This Island* directed by Jason Langley.

Having just created the role of Clara Makin, playing opposite Caroline O' Connor in the successful season of *The Hatpin*, Gemma-Ashley is thrilled and honoured to be working with this inspirational cast and Company in her role as Young Sally.

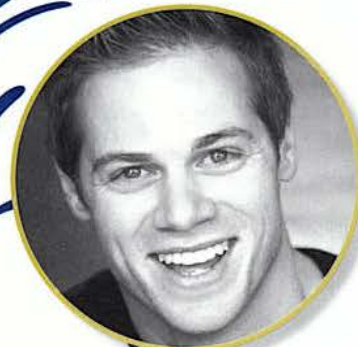


AMY LEHPAMER

Young Phyllis Rogers

Achieving her A.Mus.A at just 14 years of age, Amy soon after developed a passion for singing and acting, and has performed extensively on stage in musical theatre ever since.

Amy has won two Victorian Music Theatre Guild Awards for her roles as the "fiddler" in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and as Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In 2007 Amy performed and lived in Japan as a lead female vocalist in the Tokyo Disney Sea jazz revue show *Big Band Beat*. Most recently, she appeared in Footlight Production's *CATS* and Doorstep Ensemble's acclaimed *Songs for a New World*.



STEPHEN MAHY

Young Benjamin Stone

In 2006 Stephen graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Stephen was quickly snapped up by the producers, Cameron Mackintosh for the

new production of *Miss Saigon* marking his professional music theatre debut.

Following *Follies*, Stephen will also be playing the role of Laurie Laurence in *Little Women* opposite Judi Connelli and Trisha Noble.

At WAAPA his credits include: Commissioner O'Brien in *Pal Joey*, Herman in *Sweet Charity*, Rick Taylor in *Batboy*, Les in *Bouncers*, a soloist in *Elegies* and ensemble in *Crazy For You*.



MARY-JEAN O'DOHERTY

Young Heidi Schiller

Mary-Jean Anais O'Doherty was born in Houston, Texas, raised in North Carolina, and moved to Australia in 2005 at the age of 23.

Mary-Jean was in the chorus of Mabel's sisters in Opera Australia's production of *Pirates of Penzance* (2006-2007) and also performed in the female ensemble of the opera *Dead Man Walking* in Sydney in 2007.

She is the first recipient of the Australian International Opera Award (2008) which is a full scholarship to study for 10 months at the acclaimed Cardiff International Academy of Voice, in Wales, directed by the internationally renowned tenor Dennis O'Neill, CBE.

Mary-Jean currently has the leading role of Galatea in Pacific Opera's production of Franz von Suppé's *Gorgeous Galatea* to be performed in August 2008 in Sydney.

Mary-Jean recently was the featured soloist at author Ann Blainey's book launch of *I Am Melba* a new biography of Dame Nellie Melba.

THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE GENIUSES

STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Music and Lyrics

Stephen Sondheim, one of the most influential and accomplished composer/lyricists in Broadway history, was born in New York City. As a teenager he met Oscar Hammerstein II, who became Sondheim's mentor. Sondheim graduated from Williams College, where he received the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition. His first professional musical theatre job was as the songwriter for the unproduced musical *Saturday Night*. He wrote the lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959) and *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965), as well as additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973).

Musicals for which he has written both music and lyrics include *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970 – 1971 Tony Award Music and Best Lyrics), *Follies* (1971 – 1972 Tony Award Score and New York Drama Critics Circle Award; revised in London, 1987), *A Little Night Music* (1973 – Tony Award Score), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976 – New York Drama Critics' Circle Award), *Sweeney Todd* (1979 – Tony Award Score), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday In The Park With George* (1984 – New York Drama Critics Circle Award; 1985 Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *Into The Woods* (1987 – Tony Award Score), *Assassins* (1991) and *Passion* (1994 – Tony Award Score).

He composed the songs for the television production *Evening Primrose* (1966), co-authored the film *The Last of Sheila* (1973) and provided incidental music for *The Girls of Summer* (1956), *Invitation to a March* (1961) and *Twigs* (1971). *Side By Side By Sondheim* (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983; originally presented as *A Stephen Sondheim Evening*) and *Putting It Together* (1993) are anthologies of his work. He has written scores for the films *Stavisky* (1974) and *Reds* (1981), and composed songs for the film *Dick Tracy* (1990 – Academy Award for Best Song).

JAMES GOLDMAN

Book

James Goldman was born in Chicago and graduated from the University of Chicago; he did postgraduate work at Columbia University. He has written numerous plays, including *Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole* (1961; co-written with his brother, William Goldman), *They Might Be Giants* (1961) and *The Lion In Winter* (1966).

In addition to *Follies* (1971), he has been the bookwriter of *A Family Affair* (1962; co-author with William Goldman, music by John Kander), the television musical *Evening Primrose* (1967, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim) and *Follies* (1987, London - a re-conception of the original piece).

His screenplays include *The Lion in Winter* (1968 - Academy Award; British Screenwriters Award), *They Might Be Giants* (1970), *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971), *Robin and Marian* (1976) and *White Nights* (1985, co-writer). Goldman's work for television has included an adaptation of *Oliver Twist* (1982), *Anna Karenina* (1985), *Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna Anderson* (1986). He is also the author of a novel, *Waldorf*.

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Violins	Ellen Mentiplay John Noble Charlotte Armstrong Alyssa Conrau Lubino Fernandes Ceredwin Jones
Viola	Nadine Delbridge
Cello	Andrea Taylor
Bass	Matthew Thorne
Reed 1	Tony Hicks
Reed 2	Stuart Brownley
Reed 3	Grania Burke
Reed 4	Penny Stevenson
Reed 5	James Bradley
Horn	Deborah Hart
Trumpets	Greg Spence Mark Skillington Robert Smithies
Trombones	Anthony Gilham Peter Brosnan Geraldine Evers
Percussion	Conrad Nilsson
Kit	Dean Cooper
Guitar	John Paine
Harp	Mary Anderson
Piano	Greg Roberts

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Technical Director	David Miller
Stage Manager	Kirsten Marr
Company Administrator	Adam J Lowe
Rehearsal Repetiteurs	Greg Roberts Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer
Assistant Stage Managers	Bonnie Walsh Kylie Hammond
Wardrobe Supervisor	Kim Bishop
Dance Captain	Brooke Lowery
Hair & Make Up	Gay Gallacher Alison Kidd
Head Mechanist	Jack Grant
Sound Engineering	System Sound
Sound Designers	Peter Grubb Shelly Lee Mark Benson
Mix Engineer	David Greasley
Radio Mic Techs	Anthony Shaw Merren Spink
Marketing	ACMN Pty Ltd
Publicity	Make A Difference PR
Set Construction	Malthouse
Lighting Equipment	Bytecraft Entertainment



THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

Level 39, 55 Collins St,
Melbourne Victoria 3000.
P: 03 9921 7135
F: 03 9921 7177
Email: theproductioncompany@visy.com.au
www.theproductioncompany.com.au

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Jeanne Pratt AC
Treasurer	Keith Beecher
Company Secretary	Stephen W Bolton
Directors	Deborah Beale Felicity Beale Ian Dixon John Hay-Mackenzie Garry Krauss AM Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM, Jason Marriner Ross Mollison Darien Sticklen Rachel D Taylor
General Manager	Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM
Executive Consultant	Rachel D Taylor
Sponsorship and Development Manager	Chris Gibbons
Technical Director	David Miller
Marketing	ACMN Caryn Cavanagh Celia Pavelieff Peter J Adams
Publicity	Make A Difference PR Michael J. Wilkie Libby Ross
SPECIAL THANKS	
Article and Photos	Frank Van Straten OAM Rex Callahan
Rehearsal Studios	Victorian College of the Arts



THE ARTS CENTRE

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

VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE TRUST

President	Carrillo Gantner
	Deborah Beale Paul Brasher Michael Daddo Mem Kirby Ailsa Piper Professor Leon van Schaik AO Janet Whiting
Chief Executive	Tim Jacobs

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.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- ★ Overture
- ★ The Beautiful Girls
- ★ Don't Look At Me
- ★ Waiting For The Girls Upstairs

- ★ Rain On The Roof
- ★ Ah Paris!
- ★ Broadway Baby
- ★ The Road You Didn't Take
- ★ Bolero D'amour
- ★ In Buddy's Eyes
- ★ Who's That Woman
- ★ I'm Still Here
- ★ Too Many Mornings

ACT II

- ★ The Right Girl
- ★ One More Kiss
- ★ Could I Leave You?

Roscoe And Company
Sally and Ben
Buddy, Ben, Phyllis, Sally, Young Buddy,
Young Ben, Young Phyllis, Young Sally
Theodore and Emily Whitman
Solange
Hattie
Ben
Danced by Theodore and Emily Whitman
Sally
Stella and Company
Carlotta
Ben and Sally

Buddy
Heidi and Young Heidi
Phyllis

LOVELAND

- The Folly of Love
- ★ Loveland

 - The Folly of Youth
 - ★ You're Gonna Love Tomorrow/
Love Will See Us Through
 - ★ Buddy's Folly – Buddy's Bluest
 - ★ Sally's Folly - Losing My Mind
 - ★ Phyllis' Folly - The Story of Lucy and Jessie
 - ★ Ben's Folly – Live, Laugh, Love

Company

Young Ben, Young Phyllis,
Young Buddy, Young Sally
Buddy, "Margie" and "Sally"
Sally
Phyllis and Company –
Ben and Company

CAST OF CHARACTERS *In order of appearance*

Dimitri Weissman
Showgirls

Sally Durant Plummer
Emily Whitman
Theodore Whitman
Solange La Fitte
Heidi Schiller
Young Heidi Schiller
Stella Deems
Hattie Walker
Deedee West
Carlotta Campion
Phyllis Rogers Stone
Benjamin Stone
Buddy Plummer
Roscoe
Young Phyllis Rogers
Young Sally Durant
Young Buddy Plummer
Young Benjamin Stone
Young Theodore Whitman
Young Emily Witman
Kevin
"Margie"
"Sally"

Charles 'Bud' Tingwell
Melina Charles
Brooke Lowery
Debra Byrne
Patti Newton
Jack Webster
Monique Brynnel
Margaret Haggart
Mary-Jean O'Doherty
Melissa Langton
Nancye Hayes
Laine Lamont
Judi Connelli
Anne Wood
John Diedrich
Philip Gould
Kenneth Collins
Amy Lehpamer
Gemma-Ashley Kaplan
Chris Durling
Stephen Mahy
Rohan Browne
Natalya Bobenko
Stephen Wheat
Angie Stapleton
Joanna Fripp

THE ENSEMBLE

Natalya Bobenko Ben Brown Rohan Browne Melina Charles Amelia Christo Joanna Fripp Nick Jones Sarah Landy Brooke Lowery Mutu Jesse Malcolm Loreda Malcolm Tim McDowell Angie Stapleton Stephen Wheat Hayley Winch Teagan Wouters

THE PLACE: A Party on the stage of the Weissman Theatre

THE TIME: Tonight

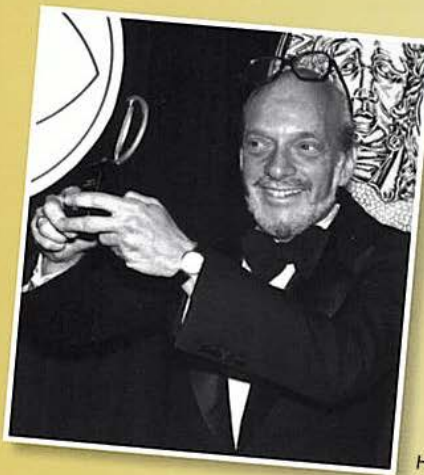
A very precarious business

FOLLIES

Frank Van Straten explores the unpredictable history of a Broadway phenomenon

On 14 October 1960, with her arms plaintively outstretched, Gloria Swanson posed for Time-Life photographer Eliot Elisofon amid the heartbreaking rubble of a once-great Broadway theatre. The resulting image, an iconic encapsulation of the passing of time and the inevitability of change, was one of the inspirations for *Follies*.

In 1965 Stephen Sondheim was 35 and a major Broadway figure. He'd provided the lyrics and in some cases the music for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964) and *Do I Hear a Waltz?* (1965); now he was ready for a new challenge.



Hal Prince

He asked James Goldman if he had any ideas for a musical. Goldman's only previous work in music theatre had been the book and lyrics for *A Family Affair*, the first show for which John Kander had written a full score. It had a disappointing run in 1962, and Goldman, like Sondheim, wanted a new project.

Goldman suggested a musical about a college graduates' reunion, but after he read about a get-together of showgirls from the legendary Ziegfeld Follies, he came up with *The Girls Upstairs*, which was essentially a backstage murder mystery.

By the end of 1965 Sondheim and Goldman had a draft script and five songs ready for Hal Prince, who'd produced *West Side Story* and *A Funny Thing... and had directed A Family Affair*. 'I found the script to be awful,' Prince recalled.



Stephen Sondheim



Boris Aronson's set model for the original production of *Follies*, 1971

'It was about two men who took out two girls who were in the dressing room upstairs. They were four people self-pitying and, as far as I was concerned, pitying themselves sufficiently that I didn't have to involve myself in their problems.'

Disappointed and despondent, Goldman and Sondheim immersed themselves in other projects. Goldman put the finishing touches to what became his best-known play, *The Lion in Winter*, which opened on Broadway in 1966, while Sondheim busied himself with *Company*, which premiered in 1970. Hal Prince moved on to *She Loves Me* (1963) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (1964).

It was Prince who rescued *The Girls Upstairs*. He remembered that potent image of Gloria Swanson and realised it could provide the starting point for the stalled show. He asked Goldman to rewrite the dialogue with the same strength and vitality that he'd demonstrated in *The Lion in Winter*, and he suggested four new characters: Phyllis, Sally, Buddy and Ben who would also be represented as they had been thirty years before, thus adding a bitter-sweet dream-like quality to the show. The reunion would now be staged by their old producer as a grand finale for his theatre, which, like the characters' relationships, is about to be wrecked. And then Prince came up with a new name: *Follies*.

A year of hard work followed. The casting was a major challenge. The show's premise requires a roster of recognisable older stars who still have the powers that had made them famous.

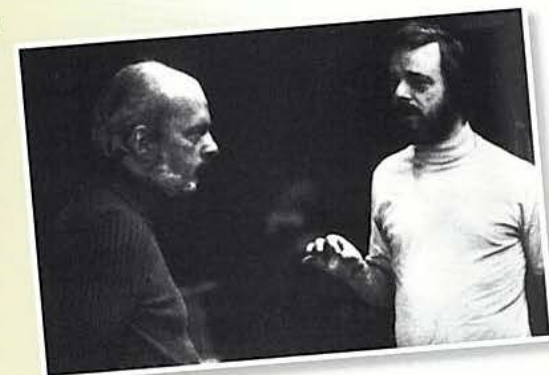
"I remember everything – falsely... which is what *Follies* is about."

Stephen Sondheim

The original line up included Alexis Smith as Phyllis, Dorothy Collins as Sally, Gene Nelson as Buddy and John McMartin as Ben.

Yvonne de Carlo, a fading movie glamour girl who was then better known as television's 'Lily Munster', played Carlotta. She was the perfect choice to sing 'I'm Still Here'. Other veterans were Fifi D'Orsay and Ethel Shutta; Fifi was a former 'French Bombshell' and Ethel was a genuine 'Broadway Baby' – she had appeared in the original *Ziegfeld Follies* in the 1920s. Playing the small role of Meredith Lane, and understudying de Carlo and D'Orsay, was Sheila Smith, who had starred in *Fade Out – Fade In* during its lacklustre Australian season in 1965.

After a month's try-out in Boston and a string of New York previews, *Follies* premiered at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway on 24 March 1971.



Stephen Sondheim (left) and Hal Prince during rehearsals



Terry Ryan's design for the 'Losing My Mind' number in Festival's 1979 production



'Beautiful Girls' from Festival's 1979 production

Many of the reviews were ecstatic – 'So brilliant as to be heartbreaking at times,' 'Sondheim's qualities as a theatre composer can hardly be overstated' – but others were decidedly cool.

Nevertheless *Follies* developed a loyal following and eventually became a cult attraction. It garnered eleven Tony Award nominations, and won seven: Best Original Score (Sondheim), Best Actress (Alexis Smith), Best Scenic Design (Boris Aronson), Best Costume Design (Florence Klotz), Best Lighting Design (Tharon Musser), Best Choreography (Michael Bennett) and Best Direction (Harold Prince and Michael Bennett); but it was Joseph Papp's production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* that took that year's coveted Best Musical award.

After its 522 performances on Broadway, *Follies* played a week in St Louis and a lacklustre ten-week run in Los Angeles. In 1974 MGM announced an all-star film of *Follies*, with its locale switched from a doomed theatre to a doomed movie studio. The project was scrapped

when Hal Prince fell out with the producers.

And that, it seemed, was that.

Not quite. *Follies* eventually resurfaced, but not in San Francisco nor in London; it was here, in Melbourne – and it almost didn't happen!

The highly regarded Festival Theatre Company had recently staged the first Melbourne production of *Applause*. Festival stalwart Rex Callahan recalls: 'We were so overwhelmed by the number of very talented women who had auditioned that we resolved to find a show that had plenty of good female roles. *Follies* was that show.'

Even though Music Theatre International had ignored their application for rights, Festival's *Follies* went into pre-production early in 1978. Callahan continues: 'In desperation we phoned New York in March 1979, only to be told that the rights had been withdrawn just the day before, for two years, pending a London production. As it turned out, that production by Cameron Mackintosh didn't open until 1987!

'What was to be done? Enthusiasm was high, and *Follies* was the perfect show for us at that time, particularly as it was to be our 25th production.

We had three choices: to schedule another show; to bring forward the next scheduled production, *George M!*; or to fight it. Several drinks later, that was the decision.

Our first thought was to identify the British company and seek their permission for ours to go ahead. A London contact managed to glean some information that led us to Carlin Music Publishing in New York.

In the meantime, our president wrote a desperate letter to Music Theatre International. It began: "Now firstly you should know that I am writing this letter on my knees!" It went on to seek their assistance in obtaining permission, if necessary, from the London company; otherwise, to whom should we write? Mr Sondheim? Mr Goldman? The President...

The next problem was to get the letter there, because Australia was in the middle of a postal strike. Fortunately one of our members was flying to the US, so he took the letter with him, and posted it there.

By phone, the head of Carlin's explained that they only held the music rights and that we would have to find out who held the Grand Rights. He supplied the phone number of Sondheim's agent,

"Till 1945, America was the good guy and everything was hopeful and idealistic. Now the country is a riot of national guilt. The dream has collapsed. Everything has turned to rubble.

That's what *Follies* is about – the collapse of the dream. How all your hopes tarnish, but if you live in despair you might as well pack up."

Stephen Sondheim, 1971



Pat Pitney and Donald Cant sing 'You're Gonna Love Tomorrow' from Festival's 1979 production

Flora Roberts, and our secretary phoned her. It turned out that Sondheim had retained the Grand Rights to *Follies*. Things were beginning to look up.

Then, early in April 1979, a telegram arrived: *FOLLIES PRODUCTION APPROVED LETTER FOLLOWING. MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL.* Mr Sondheim had spoken!

And so the first Australian production of *Follies* opened (to a standing ovation) at the Camberwell Civic Theatre on 7 September 1979. The cast included Donald Cant, Val Lehman, Jim Murphy and Bruce McBrien. Ronne Arnold choreographed and Jean McQuarrie was musical director. Rex Callahan directed.

Melbourne was treated to another *Follies* foray in 1993, when Tony Sheldon directed a one-night-only presentation of *Follies* in

THE ENSEMBLE

Concert. This cleverly conceived version of the show had premiered in New York in 1985. Under the auspices of the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts, Sheldon assembled an outstanding cast that included Peter Adams, Sheila Bradley, Lewis Fiander, Maggie Fitzgibbon, Margaret Haggart, Nancye Hayes, Toni Lamond, Reg Livermore, Jill Perryman, Glenda Raymond, June Salter and Jeff Warren.

Five years later *Follies in Concert* played for three gala performances at the Sydney Opera House. This time the line up included Kerrie Biddell, Sheila Bradley, Glenn Butcher, Mitchell Butel, Judi Connelli, Terence Donovan, Robert Gard, Ron Haddrick, Nancye Hayes, Maureen Howard, Suzanne Johnston, Toni Lamond, Derek Metzger, Jill Perryman and Joan Sydney. Stephen Helper directed.

Sadly, Melbourne's next encounter with *Follies in Concert* was a folly indeed. The first – and only – project of a pro-am company called

the Broadway Baby Repertory Musical Theatre Group, it was staged in the Crown Casino Showroom in April 2000. The cast included Margaret Haggart, Nancye Hayes, Val Jellay, John O'May, Peta Toppano and Rowena Wallace. Reviewing the production for the Herald Sun, Michael Easton described it as 'a semi-staged performance that works brilliantly on every level.' Unfortunately, though, it wasn't on the level at all. The executive producer disappeared just before the opening night, and the show folded after only three performances. The cast were left high, dry and unpaid.

Val Jellay was philosophical: 'We love what we do,' she said, 'but show business is a very precarious business.'

That could, of course, have been a line out of *Follies*. Yes indeed: 'So brilliant as to be heartbreaking at times.'

© Frank Van Straten OAM



Natalya Bobenko

Natalya commenced her dance training at Karen Stephens' Academy of Dance studying RAD classical ballet and then furthered her studies at the VCA. She has worked with leading choreographers such as Alana Scanlan, Ross Coleman, Andy Hallsworth, David Atkins, Anthony Van Laast, Kelley Abbey, Robert Sturrock, Nancye Hayes and Kelly Aykers.

On television she has appeared on *IMT*, *Full Frontal*, *Big Bite*, *It Takes Two* *Pepsi Chart Show*, *The Logies*, *AFI Awards*, *ARIA Awards*, *Moe Awards* and also in various TV commercials.

Natalya entered the musical theatre arena in Paul Dainty's *Happy Days*. Following a run in David Atkins *Singin' in the Rain*, Natalya was cast in the role of Maria for the Australasian tour of *Saturday Night Fever*. She then played Dream Ballet Laurey in The Production Company's *Oklahoma!*. Last year Natalya also performed in *Sweet Charity*, directed by Nancye Hayes. She has just finished choreographing for a new ABC TV show *Sleek Geeks*. She would like to thank her family for their love and support.



Rohan Browne

Rohan Browne has been involved in eleven professional music theatre productions in Australia and abroad including roles in *CATS*, *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He has worked extensively with recording artists on launches and tours including Dannii Minogue, Jamelia, Human Nature, Sophie Monk, S2S, Tali and Ann Lee. Rohan has featured frequently on free-to-air television programs and also appeared on Channel V, MTV and Top Of The Pops. As a choreographer his credits include events for corporate giants BMW, Franck Muller, Motorola, L'Oreal, Elizabeth Arden, Lion Nathan and the National Australia Bank. Rohan was also featured in the Academy Award® winning movie, *Happy Feet*.



Benjamin Brown

Developing a love of dance and performance from an early age, Ben's formative years were



A scene from Florenz Ziegfeld's original 1920s *Follie*



Melina Charles

Melina has been singing and dancing for as long as she can remember, studying at Croft Gilchrist School of Dance and Clarissa Hill Dance Centre. She completed her Associate Diploma in Dance at the Queensland University of Technology. Melina has since studied vocal tuition with Gary Ian May and Queenie Van Der Zandt.

Melina's credits include Toadshow's *Glamalot*, Joe Labero's *Illusions*, *Dare to Dance Arts* Council show, Opera Queensland's *Turandot* and *Samson et Dalila*.

She has also performed onboard the Tahitian Princess and at Dracula's Theatre Restaurant in *Resurrection*. Melina made her Musical Theatre debut in *Spamalot*, and is thrilled to be returning to the stage.



Amelia Christo

Originally from Perth, Amelia graduated from the prestigious Music Theatre program at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2005. She performed in *Me and My Girl* under the direction of John Milson. Amelia then appeared in *The Pajama Game* for The Production Company, and played Lisa in Reg Cribb's *The Return* for the Green Room Award winning Act-O-Matic 3000. In 2007, Amelia

created a one-woman theatre piece: *In the Shade of the Pear Tree* from a series of interviews with her ethnic grandmother. The show premiered to a sold out season at the Melbourne Fringe Festival, and enjoyed critical acclaim. *Pear Tree* then toured to The Blue Room Theatre in Perth, to an extended season. In addition to her education at WAAPA, Amelia also holds a Bachelor of Law and a Graduate Diploma in Education. She is presently filming the pilot of a new as-live variety TV show: *The Attic*. Amelia's WAAPA roles included *The Witches of Eastwick* (Marge Perley), *Chess* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Vibrata). She was Brenda in Jim Cartwright's *Road* and was Mrs Lottie Child in *Crazy For You* under the direction of Nancye Hayes.



Joanna Fripp

Joanna hails from Perth where she studied the Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre at WAAPA. Credits include *Working*, *My Favourite Year* and *Lysistrata*. She performed regularly in a vocal trio around Perth with the likes of David Campbell and Todd McKenney. Her first major contract was as a cabaret singer on the Superstar Gemini Cruise, Singapore. Since arriving in Melbourne four years ago she has worked for The Entertainment Store hosting children's shows, No Mates Productions, Theatre in Decay at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in *Eight Days* and in Anthony Crowley's *The Wild Blue*. Joanna's Production Company debut was in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and last year played Ramona in *Little Me*. Earlier this year she was lucky enough to perform on the Rod Laver Arena stage with Michael Buble in *Call Me Irresponsible*. She is delighted to finally be given the chance to perform in a Stephen Sondheim musical.



Nick Jones

Nick began dancing at the age of three at the Michelle Rae School of Dance and graduated from the VCA in 1998. His professional career began at age 10 with roles in *The Wizard of Oz*, *The King and I*, *Scrooge*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Masked Ball* and *La Boheme*. Other theatre includes *The Merry Widow*, *The Boy From Oz*, *The Music Man*, *Shout! The Legend of the Wild One*, *We Will Rock You* and *Miss Saigon*. Nick spent a year in China writing and performing in a pop group which culminated in the release of a top selling CD.

He was tour co-ordinator on *Chita Rivera Down Under*, danced in *Melbourne Masterclass*, was Assistant Choreographer on *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and recreated the choreography for the return Sydney season. Most recently, he opened the Adelaide Cabaret Festival as one of Rhonda Burchmore's dancers in the show *Everybody Loves Rhonda*.



Sarah Landy

Fresh from the role of Ellen in the Australian production of *Miss Saigon*, Sarah is delighted to be a part of The Production Company's *Follies*. After spending the last five years performing abroad and in Europe, Sarah has had the pleasure of performing the lead roles of Pearl,

Ashley and Dinah in *Starlight Express* in Germany. She moved to the West End to play Sophia, and cover Annette in *Saturday Night Fever*. Her other theatre credits include *Mack and Mabel* for The Production Company, the roles of Cosette in *Les Miserables* and Maria in *West Side Story* for the Jose Carreras' Aids benefit Gala.

Sarah's training was undertaken at the Victorian Ballet School, Dance World 301 and the Melba Memorial Conservatorium of Music.

Sarah would like to dedicate this performance to her parents Rhonda and Merv for their constant support and encouragement.



Brooke Lowery

Brooke studied all facets of dance from a very early age, predominantly at the Hart School of Dance, which she now co-owns with her sister. She completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Deakin University, majoring in modern contemporary dance and drama, whilst also attaining her SDA teaching diploma in both jazz and tap dance. Brooke's performance credits includes work with contemporary choreographers at Deakin and Monash Universities, lifestyle photo shoots for BMW motors and the New Quay Docklands, as well as working extensively for Crescendo Entertainment, Joanne Adderley Promotions and Danni Kay Promotions. Brooke has performed in The Production Company's *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Sweet Charity* and *Little Me* in which she assisted in the role of dance captain. Brooke has recently returned from performing the role of Maureen in *Shout! The Legend of the Wild One* and would like to dedicate her performance tonight to her partner, Tim and her niece Jessica.



Mutu Jesse 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 (NZ) and more recently Dance World Studios in Melbourne. He has appeared in *Sweet Charity* for The Production Company, *The Singing Office* for FOX 8, *Beauty & the Beast* for Showbiz Entertainment, *The Magic Flute* for NZ Opera and numerous corporate and stadium events. Mutu would like to acknowledge his friends and family for their continued support.



Loredo Malcolm

Loredo Malcolm started his performance training at the age of 9 at Ashe Caribbean Performing Arts, in Jamaica. He moved to New York to pursue further training, graduating with his certificate in dance. Loredo went on to understudy the role of Simba in Disney's *The Lion King* touring Australia, Shanghai and London's West End. Having just returned from the West End Loredo is pleased to be a part of the The Production Company production of *Follies*.

Loredo has numerous commercial credits which include television commercials for

Nokia, Colgate and Porter Davis Homes and music videos performing with Australian and international artists.

Loredo is proud to call Australia home and wishes to bring his unique style of dance to Australia and contribute as much as he can to the Australian dance industry.



Tim McDowell

Tim trained in all facets of musical theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts and The Dance Factory. He has performed for Opera Australia's Melbourne, Sydney and Edinburgh Festival seasons of Baz Lurhmann's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other credits include: *Mack and Mabel*, *West Side Story*, *Me and My Girl*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sweet Charity*, *Crazy for You*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Happy Days*, *Anything Goes* and *The Wizard of Oz*. He has now turned his expertise to corporate entertainment with his own company 'Crescendo Entertainment' whose credits include regular functions at Crown Casino, the Melbourne Exhibition Centre and the re-opening of Her Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne. He performed last year in The Production Company's *42nd Street* and looks forward to another successful season. Tim wishes to dedicate his performance to his beloved partner, Brooke.



Stephen Wheat

Stephen graduated from the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2001. Since that time he has been seen in many productions both in Melbourne and around the country.

For The Production Company he has appeared in *The Music Man*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma!*, *42nd Street* and *Bye Bye Birdie* in the role of Hugo. Last year he played Yulnick in *Little Me* for which he won Most Outstanding Featured Ensemble Member on Aussietheatre.com.

Recently he appeared as Col Joye in the revival of *Shout! The Legend of the Wild One* and can be seen in cinemas around the country playing the role of Lee Gordon in the movie version. He was an original company member of *Dusty! The Original Pop Diva* in the role of Tom Springfield. Other credits included Pippin for Peter Cousen's *Kookaburra* and *The Hobbit* for ICA/AKA productions. Stephen is thrilled to be back with The Production Company.



Angie Stapleton

Angie Stapleton has extensive experience across all facets of the industry. Theatre credits include: *We Will Rock You*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Kitty Can Tap*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *I Only Want to Be With You*, *Hot Shoe Shuffle* and *42nd Street*.

Some of Angie's other on stage highlights include singing with Moby, Ronan Keating and Deep Purple for their Australian Tours

The face of numerous television commercials Angie has also appeared in US mini series *Blonde*, *Australian Tele Movie Tribe*, *the ABCs State Coroner* and *Russell Gilbert Live*. She has also featured in the films *Unbeknown* and *Ever Danced with the Devil*.

Most recently Angie was the Resident Choreographer for the recent Korean season of *Eurobeat - Almost Eurovision*. She also held this position while performing in the original Australia tour and for the successful season at the Edinburgh Festival.





Teagan Wouters

Follies marks Teagan's debut in professional music theatre, having graduated from The Victorian College of the Arts (Music Theatre) in 2006.

Whilst at VCA Teagan performed the role of Cinderella in *Into The Woods*, appeared in *Is There Life After High School?* and toured Victoria in Eddie Perfect's new Australian musical *UP*.

After graduating from the VCA, Teagan continued her studies, completing two years of full-time dance under the guidance of Robert Sturrock at Industry Dance. In 2008, Teagan performed in Red Room Theatre's *The Threepenny Opera* as Dolly/Dance Captain.

She is thrilled to be performing with The Production Company, and would like to thank her family for their continuous love and support.

Hayley Winch

Hayley has been performing in all facets of the entertainment industry for over 10 years. She trained in all dance styles here and in London. Hayley has appeared in many commercial music video clips, cabaret shows and the Australian touring musical *Oh! What a Night*.

Hayley has also toured Australia numerous times as a commercial dancer for Vodafone and Ferrari, but most notably as a back up dancer for both *Countdown Spectacular* arena tours.

She appeared on Channel 7's *Good Friday Appeal*, *Dancing With the Stars*, Channel 9's *Morning's with Kerri-Anne* and *The NRL and ARL Footy Shows*.

Most recently she has started singing for Australia's best 80's glam rock tribute band *Stand and Deliver* as the lead female vocalist.

Hayley would like to say thank you to all her beautiful friends and family - you know who you are!!

"Just as the setting for *Follies* is the reunion of performers from thirty years back, our production has brought together a wonderful group of performers, some of whom I first worked with almost 30 years ago! Since TPC started it has been a pleasure to conduct one of their shows each year – a job I always look forward to. It has been a joy getting to know Orchestra Victoria and I thank them for their huge contribution to the success of TPC. So, here's to the 10th anniversary and to the years ahead."

Guy Simpson, Musical Director,



ROGER HODGMAN Director

Roger Hodgman began his career with the ABC in 1965, where he directed (and occasionally wrote and produced) a variety of programmes. He worked in England and Canada between 1971-1983 where he taught acting at East 15 Drama School and the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School, conducted acting workshops, taught university and directed numerous theatre productions.

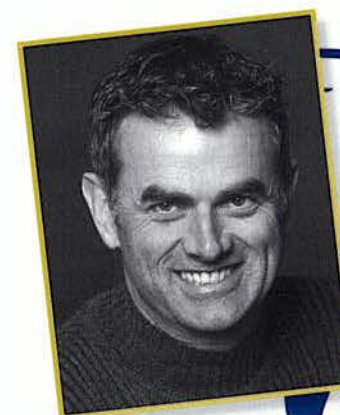
He held the position of Artistic Director of the Vancouver Playhouse for 3 years. A highlight of his time in Vancouver was working closely with Tennessee Williams on two premieres of Williams' plays. In 1988, he was appointed the Artistic Director of the Melbourne Theatre Company, where he spent a successful decade directing over fifty productions ranging from Shakespeare to contemporary works.

He has won two Green Room Awards for best Director for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *A Little Night Music*. Other accolades include best music theatre production for *Sweeney Todd* (Sydney Theatre Critics Awards), while *Skylight*, which Roger directed as a STC/MTC co-production, was named by the Sydney Morning Herald as one of ten best productions of the decade.

Musicals Roger has directed include *Sweeney Todd*, *Assassins*, *A Little Night Music* and *Into the Woods*. For The Production Company he has directed *She Loves Me*, *The Gilbert*

and *Sullivan Show*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Little Me*. He directed *She Loves Me* and Bernstein's *Wonderful Town* for the Shaw Festival in Canada. His production of *Respect*, new musical based on popular songs performed by women in the twentieth century, had a very successful national tour in 2007.

Roger also works in television drama directing numerous episodes of *The Secret Life of Us*, *MDA*, *Holly's Heroes*, *Wicked Science*, *CrashBurn*, *White Collar Blue*, *Blue Heelers*, and *Stingers*. His first telemovie, *Stepfather of the Bride* (written by Geoffrey Atherden) was screened on ABC television and won the award for best telemovie at the Chicago Film Festival. In 2007, Roger was lead director on a new children's TV series, *The Elephant Princess* for Jonathon Shiff Productions/ZDF. He has just finished directing a production of the international hit play *Frost/Nixon* for the Melbourne Theatre Company.



GUY SIMPSON Musical Director

Guy Simpson has worked extensively as a Musical Director and Musical Supervisor for 25 years. He has had the honour of conducting the finest international artists in musical theatre, concerts and recordings. He returns to Melbourne each year for The Production Company and has conducted the concert productions of *Funny Girl*, *Call Me Madam*, *Mack And Mabel*, *The*

Music Man, They're Playing Our Song, Carousel, Oklahoma!, Camelot and Little Me.

He has been associated with *Miss Saigon* in many countries over the past 20 years and was recently Musical Supervisor of the new production in Australia.

His work on *The Phantom Of The Opera* has spanned 16 years with productions in 12 cities worldwide. He has also had a long association with the musical *CATS* in many cities.

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

He has conducted numerous other musicals, concerts and events, and recently worked on The Pratt Prize and Helpmann award winning musical, *Sideshow Alley* in a new capacity as orchestrator.



DANA JOLLY Choreographer

Dana's career began at the age of 9, when she played Gypsy Rose Lee as a child in the musical *Gypsy* at Her Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne.

Dana then went on to train at the Victorian College of Arts, where she received a number of scholarships to further her career. Dana danced with the Victoria State Opera and the Australian Contemporary Dance Company.

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

Her credits include Wayne Sleeps Hollywood and Broadway UK Tour, Andrew Lloyd Webber's, *Song and Dance* UK & Europe tour, Royal Variety Performance, British Music Awards, National Music Express Awards London, *Shall We Dance* tour, Winter Olympics Norway, various fashion and hair shows UK and Japan, TV, Film, Video clips and World Pop Tours.

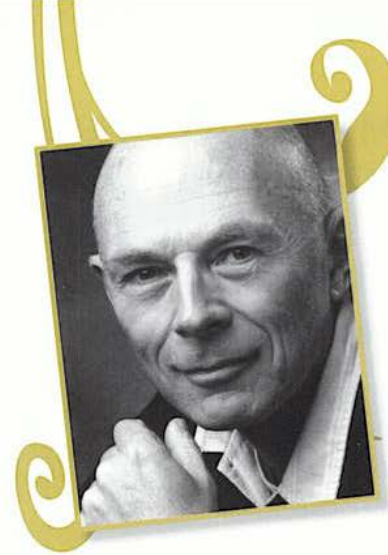
Dana has worked with artists as Ray Charles, Madonna, Gloria Estefan, East 17, Cliff Richard, Prince, Ewan McGregor, Alexei Sayle, Ronnie Corbett, Hale and Pace, Michael Ball and Michael Crawford to name a few.

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

Dana's work includes ongoing choreographer and movement consultant to Melbourne City Councils Moomba Waterfest and Parade, the workshop of a new Australian musical *Nostradamus and the Australian production of Respect*, with Rhonda Burchmore and Roger Hodgman. Dana has choreographed four other productions for The Production Company, including *Anything Goes, Kiss Me, Kate, Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Little Me*.

Dana recently returned from Kuala Lumpur, where she was invited to choreograph for the second time the Citrawarna Festival of Colours, celebrating Malaysia's independence, with a cast of 2,500 dancers. On her return she choreographed a new show for Rhonda Burchmore *Everybody Loves Rhonda*, for the Adelaide Cabaret Festival 2008, directed by Gary Young.

Dana is delighted to be working with Roger Hodgman once again on *Follies*, their 5th show together, and especially to be part of the 10 year celebrations of The Production Company.



RICHARD JEZIORNY Set Designer

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

After graduating from NIDA he worked as a resident designer in New Zealand and for the Melbourne Theatre Co.

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

He also transformed the lawn between the Concert Hall and the Arts Centre into a vibrant beach environment for the duration of the Commonwealth Games and was the designer of the Moomba Waterfest parade in 2006 and 2007.

In the past six years, Richard designed many musicals for The Production Company tackling shows such as *Camelot, Kiss Me, Kate, Carousel* and *Sunset Boulevard*, for which he won a Green Room Award for Design in the Musical Theatre category. Other musical theatre designs include *Eurobeat* and *Sideshow Alley*. *Eurobeat* is currently touring in South Korea and in the UK on a 20 city tour to open in the London West End in September.

He is also closely involved with the Puppetry course at the VCA and was nominated for a Helpmann Award for his design of *The Red Tree*.

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 Xiaoyu* (The Ugly Duckling) for the Zhexiang Acrobatic Troupe in Hangzhou, China. This year, 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.

In May he designed the launch of the Citrawarna festival in Malaysia for the second year running and is currently designing a new production for the *Flying Fruit Fly Circus*.



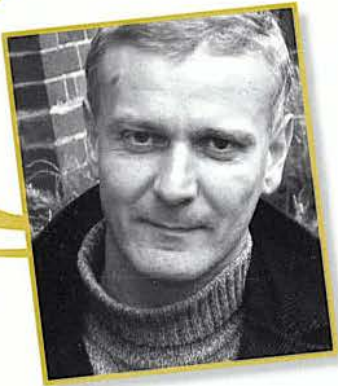
VICTORIA ROWELL Costume Designer

Married to the well-known painter and designer, the late Kenneth Rowell, Victoria Rowell has lived and worked in Australia for many years. As his design associate, she worked on many productions including *Don Giovanni, Aida, Norma, The Pearl Fishers, Lohengrin, Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Victoria began her career at The National Theatre of Great Britain and interpreted designs of many distinguished designers including Enrico Job, Ralph Koltai, Desmond Heeley and Franco Zeffirelli painting costumes for a vast number of actors including Sir Ian McKellan, Sir Anthony Hopkins and Dame Diana Rigg.

As a textile artist her credits include painting costumes for the musicals *CATS, The Phantom*

of the Opera, The Lion King, Wicked and The Australian Ballet's Nutcracker. Victoria is now painting CATS for a season in Asia. She has her own range of painted silks, silk velvet and Australian Wool and has sold collections to Harvey Nichols and Joseph and Browns in London. Victoria has also collaborated for several years on fashion collections with 'Eimai' a Carlton boutique.

Her previous designs for The Production Company were the costumes for *Guys and Dolls* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.



PAUL JACKSON Lighting Designer

Paul Jackson is a theatre, architectural and events lighting designer. He works for Melbourne firm The Flaming Beacon and is an Artist-in-Residence at Malthouse Theatre. His design practice for performance includes extensive work in theatre, dance, opera and cabaret with companies as varied as Malthouse, Playbox, The Australian Ballet, The Royal New Zealand Ballet, MTC, STC, Chamber Made Opera, Melbourne Workers' Theatre and many others.

Paul has lectured in design and associated studies at the University of Melbourne, RMIT, NMIT and VCA. A founding member of not yet it's difficult performance group and a Churchill Fellow, Paul has been awarded a number of Green Room Awards and was named in The Bulletin's Smart 100 for 2004.

SYSTEM SOUND PETER GRUBB SHELLY LEE MARK BENSON Sound Design



PETER GRUBB – Director, System Sound.

Peter received the Green Room Award for Technical Achievement, in 2001.

His sound design credits include *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Oliver*, *Miss Saigon*, *CATS*, *Into The Woods*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweet Charity*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and The Production Company's *She Loves Me*, *They're Playing Our Song* and *Sunset Boulevard*.

SHELLY LEE – Supervisor, System Sound

Shelly has been Associate Designer for *The Sound of Music*, *Miss Saigon*, *Oliver!*, and *The Witches of Eastwick*, and supervised productions of *Les Miserables*, and *CATS*. Shelly co-designed the Production Company's showcase seasons of *Sunset Boulevard* and *Call Me Madam* and is currently Associate Designer for the *Phantom of the Opera* world tour, and is responsible for *Billy Elliot*.

MARK BENSON – Supervisor, System Sound

Mark was Sound Design Associate on the The Production Company's seasons of *Hair*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Sweet Charity*, *42nd Street* and *Oklahoma!*.

He engineered sound for *Andrea Bocelli's* last Australian tour, *Mahler's 8th* at the Homebush Superdome for the SSO, and the MSO at the Exhibition Buildings.

System Sound is currently responsible for the sound of *Wicked*, *Billy Elliot*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *CATS* (Korea) and *Miss Saigon* (Brazil).

We congratulate The Production Company on ten great years. The System team are pleased and proud to have been associated with all of The Production Company's shows.



ORCHESTRA VICTORIA would like to thank the following supporters

SUPPORTERS

Program Patrons

Lady Southey AC –
Patron of the Supporter Program
Miss Betty Amsden OAM –
Patron of the Friends' Program

Benefactors

Miss Betty Amsden OAM
Mr David Mandie AM, OBE
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE
Marigold Southey AC
John Wertheimer AM &
Marcia Wertheimer

Patrons

Mr Robert Albert AO, RFD, RD &
Mrs Libby Albert
Geoff Handbury AO
Jigsaw Farms
Dr Peter A Kingsbury, Gippsland
Dental Group

Maestro Circle (Bequestors)

Miss Betty Amsden OAM
Alan Egan
Rosemary Forbes
Ian Hocking
Graeme Studd
Michael Walker

Associates

Alan Beckett
Stephen W Bolton
Beth & Tom Bruce
Peter & Ivanka Canet
Evelyn & Tom Danos
Dr Peter Eng
William J Forrest AM
Mrs Neilma Gantner
Gaye & John Gaylard
Isabella Green OAM
Betty & John Higgs
Darvell M Hutchinson AM
Dr Alastair Jackson
Carmel & Peter Johnson
Peter & Barbara Kolliner
Nicholas Lis and Gay Michau
Yvonne & Phillip Marshall
Heather McKenzie
McPherson Media Group
Don & Angela Mercer
Lady Potter AC

Mr John Redman
Michael Robinson AO &
Judith Robinson
Jason Ronald OAM
Stephen & Kate Shelmerdine
Gillian Stillwell
Ross & Daphne Turnbull
Mrs Wendy Weight OAM
Erna Werner & Neil Werner OAM
Maple-Brown Abbott Investment
Managers
Slome-Topol Family Charitable Trust
Enthusiasts
Ian & Jo Barker
Rosemary Forbes
Norma Leslie
Nicholas Lis & Gay Michaud
David McAlpine
Anne McCamish
John McConnell
Michelle & Ian Moore
Kenneth W Park
Jason Ronald

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Principal Regional Partners

Bendigo Bank
Colonial Foundation
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
The Ian Potter Foundation
The William Buckland Foundation
VicHealth

Principal Community Partner

Tattersall's George Adams
Foundation

Supporting Partners

The A L Lane Foundation
Besen Family Foundation
Estate of John W. Caffrey
The Gandel Charitable Trust
Gwen & Edna Jones Foundation
The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
Elias & Colleen Jreissati
The Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund
(Eldon & Anne Foote Trust)
The Myer Foundation
The Ray & Joyce Uebergang
Foundation
William Angliss (Victoria)
Charitable Fund

Regional Education Partners
Collier Charitable Foundation
Margaret Stewardson Charitable Trust

Business Partners

Bib Stillwell BMW
Equity Trustees
Iluka Resources Limited
John Wertheimer and Company

Business Associates

Ace Radio
Allens Arthur Robinson
Chandler Direct Personalised
Communication
Coliban Water Bendigo
Ernst & Young
KPMG

Business Supporters

3MBS 103.5 FM
In Full Bloom
Kawai Pianos
Kent Moving & Storage
Shelmerdine Vineyards
Tremayne Salon

Government Partners

City of Greater Bendigo
City of Greater Shepparton
Horsham Rural City Council
Latrobe City Council
Mildura Rural City Council
City of Boroondara
City of Melbourne
Hobsons Bay City Council
Southern Grampians Shire Council
Warrnambool City Council

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

For information about the Orchestra Victoria donation, bequest and sponsorship program, please contact Peter Garnick on 03 9694 3633 or peter.garnick@orchestravictoria.com.au



**YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE HEART
ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS HEART**



CELEBRATING
10 YEARS



DAMN YANKEES

THE TONY AWARD® WINNING BASEBALL MUSICAL

Starring

DAVID HARRIS MATT HETHERINGTON PIA MORLEY
DAVID WHITNEY ANNE WOOD SALLY BOURNE
MELISSA LANGTON WENDY STAPLETON

**20-24 AUGUST
6 SHOWS ONLY**

PIA MORLEY
AS LOLA IN
DAMN YANKEES

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
 ERNST & YOUNG

PRATT
FOUNDATION

STATE THEATRE, THE ARTS CENTRE
www.theproductioncompany.com.au


ORCHESTRA
VICTORIA