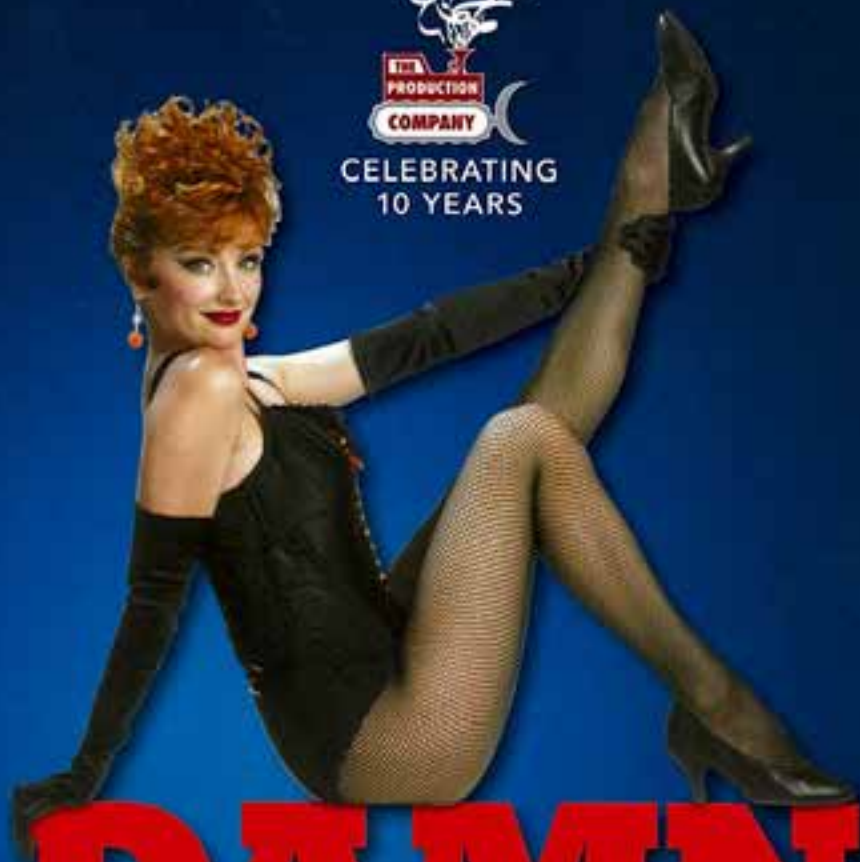




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PROUDLY PRESENT

DAMN YANKEES

Words & Music by
RICHARD ADLER
and JERRY ROSS

Book by
GEORGE ABBOTT
and DOUGLASS WALLOP

Based on the Novel by DOUGLASS WALLOP "The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant"

DAVID HARRIS MATT HETHERINGTON PIA MORLEY

DAVID WHITNEY ANNE WOOD SALLY BOURNE MELISSA LANGTON
WENDY STAPLETON MATT HEYWARD MICHAEL LINDNER
DAMIEN BERMINGHAM

ELIZA BRIAN PAUL BIENCOURT ANDREW BROADBENT BEN BROWN
ANNA BURGESS MELINA CHARLES ERIN CORNELL CHRIS DURLING BOBBY FOX
GEMMA ASHLEY-KAPLAN LIAM KILGOUR SAM LUDEMAN MATTHEW MCFARLANE
NICOLE MELLOY ALISTER SMITH LARA THEW DEAN VINCE

WITH

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Director TERENCE O'CONNELL
Musical Director VANESSA SCAMMELL
Choreographer ALANA SCANLAN

Set Design KATHRYN SPROUL
Costume Design KIM BISHOP
Lighting Design SCOTT ALLAN
Sound Design JULIAN SPINK and MARK BENSON for SYSTEM SOUND
Magic Consultant DOUG TREMLETT
Hair and Make Up CORRINE DAY
Repetiteur LOCLAN MACKENZIE-SPENCER
Technical Director DAVID MILLER
Stage Manager KIRSTEN MARR

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By focusing our efforts on supporting Arts programs, we hope to inspire our people to make a positive contribution to the Arts and respect its unique importance in the community.

We are proud to sponsor *Damn Yankees* and invite you to enjoy the Show.

For further information on our Arts sponsorship program, please visit our website:

www.ey.com/au/arts

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

It's a great pleasure to
welcome you to *Damn Yankees*.

Fifty years ago *Damn Yankees* had its Australian premiere at Her Majesty's Theatre here in Melbourne. How appropriate that fifty years on, this gem of a musical is enjoying a return season.

With the Olympic Games in full swing, it's the right time to bring you a musical about sport and even more especially, about a fanatical team supporter who will pay any price to ensure that his team wins. It's something I can identify with, although I wouldn't be tempted to accept Applegate's offer. In *Damn Yankees*, the music and the sport blend joyously which makes for a very happy outcome!

It was the original creators of *The Pajama Game* who created *Damn Yankees* for Broadway. For our production the same team that so successfully created *The Pajama Game* for our 2006 season return to direct and choreograph *Damn Yankees*: Terence O'Connell and Alana Scanlan.

It's a pleasure to welcome Vanessa Scammell as musical director especially as Vanessa has taken leave from her role as musical director of *Phantom of the Opera* to conduct this season.

Terence, Vanessa and Alana have cast some of our brightest young stars in the leading roles along with the best of the new crop of young artists who are joining our wonderful ensemble to become baseball players, fans and friends. Some are making their professional debuts in this production.

Ernst & Young is our sponsor and I thank them for their strong continuing support, particularly for this musical, which is launching so many young careers. My thanks go to all of our sponsors and patrons. In the words of Adler and Ross, You've gotta have heart! – and they really do. They do so much to support the company and stimulate the careers of these young artists.

I do hope you thoroughly enjoy this all singing, all dancing, all scoring sporting musical.



Chairman
Jeanne Pratt AC





DAVID HARRIS

Joe Hardy

David has steadily become one of Australia's leading men of musical theatre. Recently he received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Chris in *Miss Saigon* for which he received Best Actor nominations for both the Helpmann Award® and Sydney Theatre Award. David has also received a MO Award for Best New Talent.

David's other theatre credits include Jimmy in the Australian premiere of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Prez in *The Pajama Game* both for The Production Company, Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Malcolm in *The Full Monty*, Orville Wright in Maltby and Shire's *Take Flight*, Rick in *Debbie Does Dallas – The Musical*, Scott in Nick Enright's *Blackrock* and Gilliam in *Camelot* also for The Production Company. David worked with Andrew Lipka on *The Wild Party* playing Oscar and John in *John and Jen*. He understudied and performed the role of Sky in *Mamma Mia!*, and was an original cast member in *The Boy From Oz*.

David performed in the opening celebration of Hong Kong Disneyland, was backing vocalist for Michael Ball on his *World of Musicals* tour and was recently special guest with the *Perth Army Band*.

He made his film debut in *South Pacific* with Glenn Close and Harry Connick Jr and has appeared on *Blue Heelers*, *Neighbours* and in numerous advertising campaigns in both Australia and the U.S.

David is thrilled to be once again involved with The Production Company helping them celebrate 10 years of shows!

www.david-harris.com.au



MATT HETHERINGTON

Mr Applegate

Matt graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA – Musical Theatre) in 1996. His theatrical credits include: *The Full Monty* (Helpmann Award®), *Sweet Charity*, *The Last 5 Years*, *After The Beep*, *South Pacific*, *HAIR* (Green Room and MO Award nomination), *Happy Days*, *I Love You*, *You're Perfect Now Change*, *Archie and Mehitabel*, *The New Rocky Horror Show Hong Kong*, *The Boy From Oz* original workshop, *The Wind in the Willows*, *Big River* received the Musical Theatre Guild best actor award, *Crusade*, *On the Town*, *West Side Story*, *Candide*, *Rags*, *Grand Hotel* and *The Seagull*. Matt also wrote and performed his one-man show: *The Mad World Of...* at the Carlton Courthouse Theatre. His numerous television appearances include: *Stingers*, *Marshall Law*, *Good Morning Australia*, *In Melbourne Tonight*, *Denise* and *Hey Hey its Saturday*. Matt also fronts *The Matt Hetherington Band* which performs around the country and has toured Rome, Hawaii and Singapore.

Matt is currently hosting *BYO Restaurant* with Jacques Reymond on Foxtel Lifestyle Channel. He is excited to be playing the role of Applegate in The Production Company's version of *Damn Yankees* and would like to thank Jeanne Pratt and The Production Company for the continuing opportunities they provide performers. Matt will also be seen later in the year in the new Australian production, *Shane Warne, The Musical*.

www.matthetherington.com



PIA MORLEY

Lola

Pia Morley has already attained a diverse range of credits as a performer. From age nine, when she played young Cosette in the original *Les Misérables*, up until her more recent credits when she played Liesl Von Trapp in the Australian tour of *The Sound of Music* and Kathy in the Asian Tour of *Singin' in the Rain*. Her television credits include *The Flying Doctors*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and *The Secret Life of Us* along with a variety of TVC appearances. Other theatre credits include *Death in Venice* with The Australian Opera, *Beatrix Potter* and *Scrooge*.

Pia completed her advanced course in dance training at the VCA in 1998, following several years at the Thelma Williams Dance Studio. This culminated in her receiving the Premiers Award for Dance Victoria in 1998.

Pia took an extended break from the entertainment industry to pursue travel and study before returning to the stage in 2006 with The Production Company's *Camelot*, and last year's *42nd Street* in the role of *Anytime Annie*. She is now thrilled to be performing the fabulous role of Lola in *Damn Yankees* and would like to thank Jeanne Pratt and all at The Production Company for their belief and enthusiasm.





DAVID WHITNEY

Joe Boyd

David graduated from NIDA in 1982 and, after performing for the One Extra Company in *Jacaranda Blue*, joined the Melbourne Theatre Company where he appeared in *The Winter's Tale*, *The Maid's Tragedy*, *On Our Selection*, *The Real Thing*, *Filumena*, *Medea*, *A Fortunate Life* and *Cyrano De Bergerac*. Other theatre credits include *As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tempest* for the Bell Shakespeare Company, *Rent* (GFO), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (Footbridge Theatre), *Woman In Mind* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for the Sydney Theatre Company, where David also appeared in two world premiere musicals *Darlinghurst Nights* and *Summer Rain*. Other musical credits include the Dentist in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Theatre Royal), Walter in *Chess* (Theatre Royal), the Baker in *The Hunting of the Snark* (State Theatre), Tinman in *The Wizard of Oz* (Victoria State Opera), Andre in *The Phantom of the Opera* (Princess Theatre and Theatre Royal), Zach in *A Chorus Line* (National tour), Ernst in *Cabaret* (Footbridge Theatre), Vernon in *They're Playing Our Song* (Railway St. Theatre), Anselmo in *Man of La Mancha* (SEL/GFO), Sheldrake in *Sunset Boulevard* Luna Park Sydney, *The Producers* (SEL/GFO) and Sir Bedevere in *Spamalot* (Her Majesty's Theatre). David has worked extensively in television; his recent work includes *McLeods Daughters*, *Home and Away*, *White Collar Blue*, *Play School*, *Water Rats*, *Backberner*, *Cody*, and the tele-movies *Doomrunners*, *Silent Predator*, *After The Rain* and *Marriage Acts*.



ANNE WOOD

Meg Boyd

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 and Well* and *Living In Paris*, as Irene in *Crazy For You* and Elsa Schraeder in the *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*, *Menopause The Musical* and more recently she received rave reviews for her portrayal of Phyllis in *Follies* for The Production Company.

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



SALLY BOURNE

Doris Miller

Sally was a regular on London's cabaret scene for over 10 years as well as writing and performing stand up comedy. Sally's latest work is her new cabaret show: *The Sally Bourne Identity* which was nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Original Songs in a Cabaret and was invited to perform at this years Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

Her musical career has included Emily Du Chatelet in *Love Equals*, (Theatreworks), Melbourne; created the role of Andrea in the world premiere of *Jerry Springer the Opera* (National Theatre, London) Original cast of the Ben Elton/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *The Beautiful Game*, (Cambridge Theatre); Alice in *My Name is Alice*, (The Bridewell, London); *Jesus Christ Superstar*, (Lyceum Theatre, London); *Les Misérables*, (Palace Theatre, London); *My Fair Lady*; *Nine* (Original Australian Cast) and title role in *Annie* (Original Australian Cast).

Her work in plays includes *Absurd Person Singular*; Serena Slater in *The John Wayne Principle*, (The Pleasance Theatre, London); Angel Brokowski in *Blue Murder*, (The Kings Head Theatre, London) and Angela Gael in *Wolf Lullaby*, (London).

On television Sally appeared in *Timekeepers of the Millennium*; *Prisoner*; *The Sullivans*; and *I Can Jump Puddles*. Sally played Eva's maid in Alan Parker's film *Evita*. On the concert stage Sally has appeared in *Oscar World Premier*, *Les Misérables 10th Anniversary*, (The Royal Albert Hall); and *Hey, Mr. Producer* (Lyceum Theatre, London).



MELISSA LANGTON

Gloria Thorpe

Melissa's theatre credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Les Misérables*, *Eurobeat*, *Marry Me A Little* and *Brigadoon*. She has appeared in many new Australian musical workshops including *After the Beep*, *Sideshow Alley* and *The Black Widow*. For The Production Company, *Call Me Madam*, *Carousel* (Nettie Fowler), *42nd Street* (Maggie Jones) and *Follies* (Stella Deems). She received rave reviews for her portrayal of Killer Queen in *We Will Rock You* throughout Japan. Melissa received 2002 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 and has performed her cabaret in New York at Don't Tell Mama and at The New York Cabaret Convention, at Dublin's Sugar Club, The Adelaide Cabaret Festival, The Auckland Festival, The Famous Spiegelent, His Majesty's in Perth and in venues around Melbourne.

She also performs regularly with *The Fabulous Singlettes* in Spiegelentents and cabaret venues around Europe.

Melissa's CD, *When the Rain Falls Up* was released in 2002.

www.melissalangton.com



WENDY STAPLETON

Sister Miller

Wendy made her first professional appearance at the age of nine at Her Majesty's Theatre in Noel Coward's *Sail Away*. She then performed regularly with J.C. Williamson's for many years combining this with weekly performances on television on GTV 9's *Tarax Show*. At 16 she became a professional vocalist and since has performed with the best of Australian Talent among them John Farnham, Glenn Shorrock, Jon English and Joe Camilleri.

In 1979 she signed with Mushroom Records and formed *Wendy And The Rocketts*, touring Australia and overseas with acts including Brian Adams, Z.Z. Top, and Hall & Oates. Her self penned single *Play The Game* went to No. 2 on the National Charts.

Her singing career has also embraced theatre performances such as *Bad Boy Johnny*, *The Magic Show*, *The Sentimental Bloke*, *What's Goin' On*, *I Only Wanna Be With You - The Dusty Springfield Story* both here and in the U.K., *Two Up* with Glenn Shorrock, *Dusty*, *Doris And Me*, *Screen Gems* with Dean Lotherington and the acclaimed all girl show starring Wendy, Debra Byrne And Nikki Nicholls called *Girls Girls Girls!*

A versatile performer, Wendy has appeared on television in *Neighbours* playing Delta Goodrem's mother, *Blue Heelers* and *Hallifax F.P.* She has also performed in the world premiere and Australian tour of *Minefields And Miniskirts* for the Malthouse Theatre, the first *Countdown Spectacular Tour* and in *Licence To Thrill: The Scores Of James Bond* at the Adelaide Cabaret festival.

Wendy is currently hosting the television show, *Wrokdawn* at 9pm Saturday nights on Channel 31, interviewing the cream of Australian music legends.

Damn Yankees is Wendy's debut with The Production Company.

www.wendystapleton.com.au



MATT HEYWARD

Van Buren

Matt made his professional debut as an original Australian cast member of *Mamma Mia!*, understudying the roles of Pepper and Eddie. He then went on to the original Australian cast of *The Producers*, understudying Leo Bloom and Carmen Ghia. Matt played the role of The Writer in the Australasian Premiere of *Hello Again* at Chapel Off Chapel.

He played a member of a Swedish foursome and a Russian Boyband in the Australian and Korean tour of *Eurobeat*, almost *Eurovision*, and toured regional Vic and NSW as Will Parker in *Oklahoma!* Most recently he appeared as Marcel Marceau and Boris the Headless Knight in Monty Python's *Spamalot*, also understudying the role of Patsy.



MICHAEL LINDNER

Welch

Michael has just returned to Melbourne after dragging around Auckland in the role of Miss Understanding in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. He has a BA in musical theatre performance and has toured Australia extensively and internationally with hit musicals such as *Miss Saigon*, *Grease - the mega musical*, *Hair*, *Scrooge*, *The Merry Widow* and *Forbidden Broadway*.

He has spent many rewarding years performing in highly acclaimed children's theatre with roles in *Winnie the Pooh*, *Possum Magic*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Noddy*, *The Magic Faraway Tree*, *My Grandma Lives in Gooligulch* and most recently *Santa's Great Big Wonderful Christmas Show* and *The Fairies-Live on Stage*.

His appearances for The Production Company have been in *High Society*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Oklahoma!* and he is excited to be a part of *Damn Yankees* before heading up to Sydney for the return season of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical*.

Michael appeared in Melbourne Worker's Theatre's contemporary opera *1975*, as Archy in *Archy and Mehitabel* Martin in *The Beauty Spot* and was understudying all of the male roles in Melbourne Theatre Company's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

In 2006 Michael co-wrote and performed a show in Melbourne's Midsumma Festival, called *Coles Girls* in which he played the very suburban Check-out Chick Lysa Nads.



DAMIEN BERMINGHAM

Commissioner

Originally from Canberra, Damien performed in musicals, winning awards for many of his performances and has produced and performed in various cabaret shows, *Carols by Candlelight* concerts and corporate events.

Since moving to Sydney in 2001 Damien has appeared in several musicals. He has played the role of Darryl Van Horne in the Sydney premiere of *The Witches of Eastwick*. His other theatre credits include Mr Hyde in *Jekyll and Hyde*, Barrett in the Australian Premiere of *Titanic*, Javert in *Les Misérables*, Alfred P Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* and Anatoly in *Chess*.

He has compared and performed at many large corporate events and award shows including *The Children's Hospital* at *Westmead Annual Charity Gala*.

Damien appeared in the National Tour of *Fiddler on the Roof* with Topol and will resume his ensemble role and Bob cover in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical* in Sydney later this year.

'Make-believe wickedness and genuine tenderness'

DAMN YANKEES

Frank Van Straten takes a seat behind the home plate for Damn Yankees

On 22 May 1955 The New York Times published this letter from a Mrs Eva Meinwald of Brooklyn:

'As a female with a long-standing aversion to baseball, brought about no doubt by having two baseball aficionados in my home, I would like to praise the new musical Damn Yankees on two counts. First, for its sympathetic treatment of the "baseball season widow" and second, and much more important, for a delightful evening of theatre in which the baseball theme is used but briefly as a prop on which a wonderful night of spoofing, make-believe wickedness and genuine tenderness are draped.'

Bravo Eval

Damn Yankees was – and still is – a delightful evening of theatre. Yes, it was the first musical to be built around America's beloved game, but as canny Mrs Meinwald realised, that isn't the reason it succeeds. It is, first and foremost, a damn good show.

If you had been in New York back in September 1954, and had been lucky enough to have been in the audience for a performance of *The Pajama Game*, you might have seen producer Hal Prince lurking at the back of the stalls with a book in

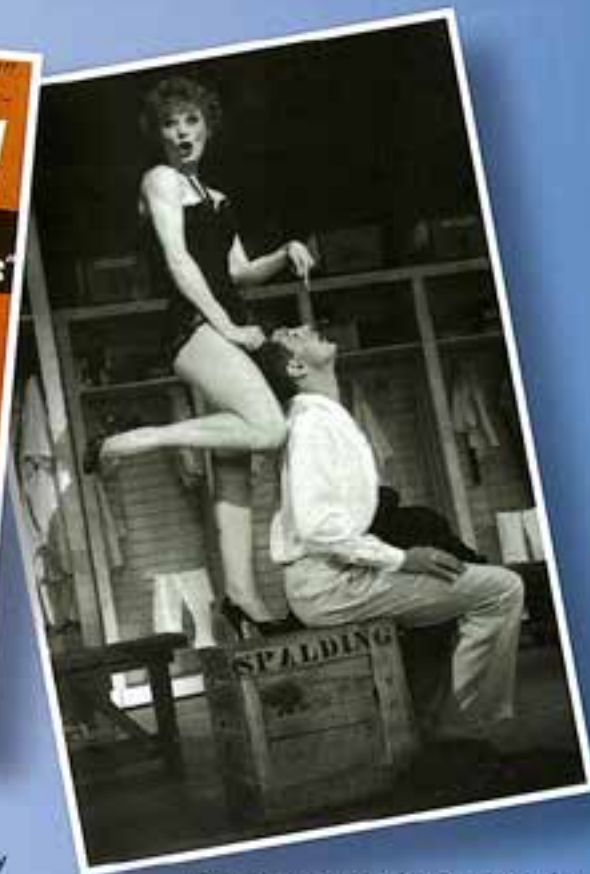
his hand, its jacket reversed to hide the title. Eventually he found Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, the hit show's youthful composer and lyricist. Like Prince, they had been frantically searching for a subject for a follow-up musical. The three pored over the book's first page and made up their minds there and then. Douglass Wallop's hilarious novel *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant* was exactly what they wanted.



Composer Richard Adler and lyricist Jerry Ross.



Gwen Verdon adorns the poster for the original New York production, 1955.



Gwen Verdon and Stephen Douglass in the original New York production, 1955.

The appropriately-named Wallop had deftly transformed the Faust legend into a feisty romp about America's national sport. He'd never written for the stage, but he came on board to co-write the show with director George Abbott, who also coined the new title.

Damn Yankees' gestation was extraordinarily quick and comparatively congenial. The producers decided that the seductive Lola should be played by a dancer. Both Mitzi Gaynor and Zizi Jeanmaire declined, so they offered it to Gwen Verdon, who was assisting choreographer Bob Fosse and had only sung once before, in *Can-Can*. She reluctantly agreed. The other principals were Ray Walston as the devilish Mr Applegate and Stephen Douglass as the soul-swapping Joe Hardy. Cast as Sister Miller was a young Jean Stapleton, later ubiquitous as Edith Bunker in TV's *All in the Family*.

Fosse's show-stopping male dance routines were based on his arcane knowledge of baseball moves. In contrast, designers William and Jean Eckhart had never even been to a baseball match; their costumes and sets were

the result of weeks of painstaking research in The New York Public Library.

After tryouts in New Haven and Boston, *Damn Yankees* bounced into Broadway's Forty-sixth Street Theatre on 5 May 1955.

Audiences loved it, and so did the critics. The New York Times called it 'As shiny as a new baseball and almost as smooth.' The Journal-American said it was 'Truly tremendous,' and The Daily News described it as 'a wonderful musical... an all-hitter under the lights.' *Damn Yankees* scored eight Tony Award® nominations and won seven – Best Actor (Walston); Best Actress (Verdon); Best Featured Actor (Russ Brown); Best Choreography (Fosse); Best Musical Director (Hal Hastings); Best Stage Technician (Harry Green) and, to top it off, the coveted Best Musical.

Damn Yankees was only the tenth musical to notch up more than 1000 performances on Broadway. It scored 1019, just a few short of



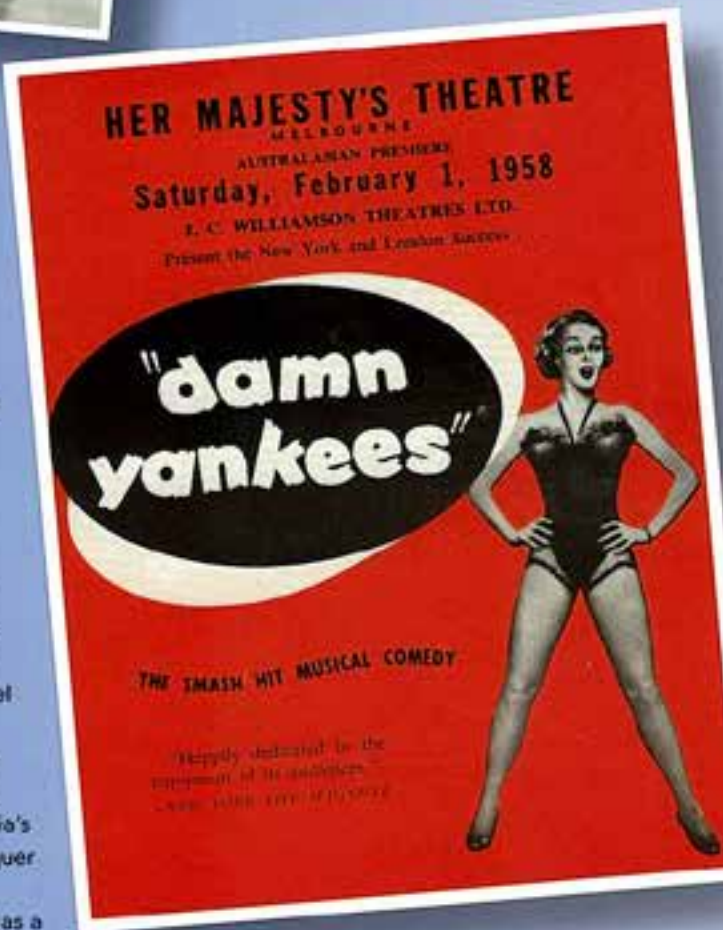
Tab Hunter and Gwen Verdon in the Warner Brothers film version, 1958.

its predecessor, *The Pajama Game*, with 1063. After the New York run, a road company criss-crossed the United States for more than two years.

London was next. *Damn Yankees* opened at the Coliseum on 28 March 1957. Lola was played by Belita, an English dancer, actress and former Olympic ice skater, whose real name was Maria Belita Jepson-Turner. She was uncomfortable with Fosse's choreography, so Elizabeth Seal took over the role. Ivor Emmanuel was Joe and Bill Kerr, was Applegate. A talented Australian all-rounder, Kerr started his long career as Little Billy Kerr, 'Australia's Jackie Coogan', went on to conquer British variety as 'the Boy from Wagga Wagga', and found fame as a member of the *Hancock's Half Hour* household on BBC radio. Another Australian, Ed Devereaux, played Smokey; he was later

Matt Hammond in the TV series *Skippy*. *Damn Yankees* had a London run of 258 performances.

While the show was still bubbling on Broadway, J.C. Williamson's started negotiations for an Australian production. Company files preserved in the Arts Centre's Performing Arts Collection reveal that though Williamson's planned to open the show at Her Majesty's in Melbourne early in 1958, following a return season of *The Pajama Game*, the contract with the American producers was not signed until 20 November 1957. By then the show's 29-year-old lyricist Jerry Ross had died of a lung ailment called Bronchiectasis. The contract was therefore annotated with 'The Estate of' every time his name was mentioned.



Poster for the Australian production, 1958, with an anonymous head attached to Gwen Verdon's body!

Williamson's acquired the Australian rights to *Damn Yankees* for 8% of the gross box office receipts and an advance of \$2500, and the Americans had to approve the director and principal actors.

That wasn't unusual. What was odd was that, though the contract stipulated that the Broadway designs would be used, the Eckharts proved reluctant to release anything. Eventually Williamson's agreed to pay them a special fee of \$1000 for a set of 'chromochrome copies or duplicate colour drawings, preferably the latter.' In the end the Eckharts airmailed the originals, on the proviso that Williamson's insured them for \$20,000.

Even more odd was the contract stipulation that whoever was chosen to direct the Australian production had to receive exactly the same salary as that paid to Fred Hebert, the American who'd directed Williamson's production of *The Pajama Game*. Furthermore, Williamson's had to undertake 'to use their best efforts to obtain an American girl to play the part of Lola and that she was to be paid a salary of up to \$300 a week'.

This put paid to press speculation that, like *The Pajama Game*, the down-under *Damn Yankees* would feature an all-Australian cast – and that Bill Kerr would come home to be the Australian Applegate.

As it turned out, our Applegate was Alton Harvey; his versatility stretched from vaudeville to Shakespeare, but this was his first principal role. Our Lola was a young New Yorker called Barbara Newman. She'd had a few roles in summer stock, but her only Broadway experience was as a dancer in the *Bells are Ringing* company. She was to receive 'first star billing' and the agreed \$300 per week; most of the company was on \$30-\$40, and you could buy a front stalls seat for just under \$2. Our Joe Hardy was another import, Warren Brown. A former movie stuntman, he'd had tiny roles in the Broadway productions of *South Pacific*, *Pipe Dream* and *Happy Hunting*.

All the other roles went to Australians. They included operatically trained Wilma Whitney



Barbara Newman as Lola in the Australian production, 1958.

(Meg), Ormonde Douglas (Joe Boyd), Frank Wilson (Van Buren), Wim Jonker (Rocky), Philip Casier (Smokey), Norma Dennis (Gloria) and Barbara Wyndon (Doris). Williamson's senior musical director, Gabriel Joffe, conducted the orchestra, and Betty Pounder staged the dances. This was her second major choreographic credit, and followed her triumph with *The Pajama Game*. Recruiting a team of suitable Melbourne male dancers proved so difficult that Betty had to scour Sydney and Brisbane for reinforcements.

The Australian production was directed by George Eckert. His only Broadway experience had been as stage manager for *West Side Story*, though he had stage managed *Damn Yankees* on its US national tour. His trip to Australia doubled as a honeymoon, as he'd recently married Bonnie Douglas, a svelte Seattle lady who juggled simultaneous careers as a mannequin and a film studio violinist.

The first night – 1 February 1958 – was the usual glittering affair, though social commentators noted with some disappointment that only three or four of the glamorously dressed women wore long gowns, while a style called 'the sack' was



Warren Brown as Joe and Norman Lee as Welch in the Australian production, 1958

disturbingly popular. The reviews glowed. 'It simply transfixes', said Bruce Grant in *The Age*; 'A brilliant success', agreed Howard Palmer in *The Sun*. *The Herald's* H.A Standish suggested: 'If somebody had rewritten this show about Australian Rules football, they'd have had to build a birdcage over the orchestra to protect the players from the tributes of Melbourne fans'.

Damn Yankees enjoyed a happy 115-performance run in Melbourne, transferred to Her Majesty's in Brisbane for three weeks, and then moved into the Empire in Sydney. Whether it was the unsympathetic vastness of the theatre, the lukewarm press reception, or a sudden spell of cold weather – or a combination of all three – *Damn Yankees* failed to excite Sydneysiders. It closed after seven weeks.

The American imports returned home. Neither Ms Newman nor Mr Brown had Broadway careers of any note. They were seen in miniscule roles in the Irving Berlin flop *Mr President*, and Brown had a stint stage managing *Subways are for Sleeping*. Director George Eckert stage managed a couple of plays and was dialogue coach for the film of *Hello, Dolly!* in 1969. And that, for our

American celebrities, was that.

But *Damn Yankees* lived on. The 1958 film version was directed by George Abbott and Stanley Donen. It featured most of the New York principals, though for box office reasons, Tab Hunter was brought in to replace Stephen Douglass who, incidentally, came to Australia in



Pia Morley as Lola



The male ensemble with Warren Brown centre in the Australian production, 1958.

1969 to star with Jill Perryman in the local production of *I Do, I Do*. The show's title so worried the film's overseas distributors that it was launched in Britain and Australia as *What Lola Wants*. A 1967 television version starred Phil Silvers as Mr Applegate with Lee Remick as Lola and Ray Middleton as Joe Boyd. Van Johnson played the role in a US tour in the late 1970s. A major Broadway revival in 1994 featured Jerry Lewis, who took the show on a long national tour, and back to the West End in 1997.

And so, as a new Lola, a new Joe and a new Mr Applegate take the stage, stand by for 'a delightful evening of theatre in which the baseball theme is used but briefly as a prop on which a wonderful night of spoofing, make-believe wickedness and genuine tenderness are draped'.

Dear Mrs Meinwald, how right you were!
Frank Van Straten OAM



Warren Brown with Alton Harvey as Mr Applegate in the Australian production, 1958.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- ★ Overture
- ★ Six Months Out Of Every Year
- ★ Goodbye, Old Girl
- ★ Heart
- ★ Shoeless Joe From Hannibal, Mo
- ★ A Man Doesn't Know
- ★ A Little Brains, A Little Talent
- ★ A Man Doesn't Know (Reprise)
- ★ Whatever Lola Wants
- ★ Heart (Reprise)
- ★ Who's Got The Pain?

Orchestra
 Meg Boyd, Joe Boyd, Washington
 Husbands and Wives
 Joe Boyd and Joe Hardy
 Benny Van Buren, Rocky, Smokey,
 Linville and Washington Senators
 Gloria Thorpe and Washington Senators
 Joe Hardy
 Lola
 Joe Hardy and Meg Boyd
 Lola and Joe Hardy
 Sister, Doris and Teenagers
 Lola and Mambo Quartet

ACT II

- ★ Entr'acte
- ★ The Game
- ★ Near To You
- ★ The Good Old Days
- ★ Two Lost Souls
- ★ Heart (Finale)

Orchestra
 Rocky, Smokey and
 Washington Senators
 Joe Hardy, Meg Boyd and Joe Boyd
 Applegate and Devillettes
 Lola, Joe Hardy and The Lost Souls
 Company

CAST OF CHARACTERS *In order of appearance*

Joe Boyd
 Meg Boyd
 Mr Applegate
 Sister Miller
 Doris Miller
 Joe Hardy
 Henry
 Sohovik
 Smokey
 Linville
 Vernon
 Lowe
 Bouley
 Mickey
 Rocky
 Van Buren
 Gloria Thorpe
 Lynch
 Welch
 Bryant
 Lola
 Miss Weston
 Commissioner
 Postmistress
 Guard
 Teenagers

David Whitney
 Anne Wood
 Matt Hetherington
 Wendy Stapleton
 Sally Bourne
 David Harris
 Sam Ludeman
 Andrew Broadbent
 Dean Vince
 Matthew McFarlane
 Bobby Fox
 Ben Brown
 Liam Kilgour
 Chris Durling
 Paul Biencourt
 Matt Heyward
 Melissa Langton
 Damien Bermingham
 Michael Lindner
 Alister Smith
 Pia Morley
 Anna Burgess
 Damien Bermingham
 Lara Thew
 Liam Kilgour
 Emma Ashley Kaplan
 Eliza Brian
 Alister Smith
 Sam Ludeman



Other ball players, baseball fans, Washington wives, reporters.

Eliza Brian Paul Biencourt Andrew Broadbent Ben Brown
 Anna Burgess Melina Charles Erin Cornell Chris Durling Bobby Fox
 Gemma Ashley-Kaplan Liam Kilgour Sam Ludeman Matthew McFarlane
 Nicole Melloy Alister Smith Lara Thew Dean Vince

THE PLACE: Washington D.C.

THE TIME: 1950s



THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE GENIUSES

Words & Music by RICHARD ADLER JERRY ROSS

RICHARD ADLER was born in New York City in 1921. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina, and served as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War 11.

Recordings of his biggest hit songs, You Gotta Have Heart, Hey There, Hernando's Hideaway, Whatever Lola Wants, Steam Heat, Rags to Riches, Another Time, Another Place, and Everybody Loves a Lover, have sold over 30 million copies.

Mr. Adler is the recipient of numerous other awards and honors, including two Donaldson's, two Variety Critics, and The London Evening Standard Award, the University of North Carolina Playmakers Lifetime Achievement Award, November 1999, as well as the coveted National Parks Service Honorary Ranger Award (1984), for which he became the eighth recipient. Mr. Adler is a member of the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

JERRY ROSS was born Jerold Rosenberg on March 9, 1926. As a child and young teen, he was the "hottest young property on the Jewish stage". He began writing songs while in high school, although he had no formal training in music. Subsequently he studied at New York University under Rudolph Schramm.

After penning several well-received songs, Ross met Richard Adler in 1950. They decided to team their talents, writing songs together. Ross began his career in the Broadway Theater with "John Murray Anderson's Almanac," a revue for which he and Adler wrote most of the songs. In 1954 George Abbott contracted this writing duo to write the score for a new musical about union/management relations at a pajama factory. *The Pajama Game* opened to rave reviews, winning the coveted Tony Award for best score.

A year later, in May 1955, the musical *Damn Yankees* played to equal excitement and success. This won Ross the Tony Award®,

the Donaldson Award, and the Variety Drama Critics Award.

Successful films were made of both musicals, although Ross did not get to see them realized. He died on November 11th, 1955. He was 29.

Book by GEORGE ABBOTT DOUGLASS WALLOP

GEORGE ABBOTT was an actor, writer, director and producer and had one of the most active and distinguished careers in the entire history of the American theater. The longevity of his theatrical career is legendary: he began as an actor on Broadway in *The Misleading Lady* (1913) and continued working as a director and play doctor well into the 1980s. He had his first hit with *Broadway* (1926). His later directorial credits include the plays *Twentieth Century* (1932), *Three Men on a Horse* (1935), *Brother Rat* (1936), and *Too Many Girls* (1939). He directed his first musical, Rodgers and Hart's *Jumbo*, in 1935; in addition to *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*, a short list of musicals he directed includes *On Your Toes* (1936), *The Boys From Syracuse* (1938), *Pal Joey* (1940), *On the Town* (1944), *Beggar's Holiday* (1946), *High Button Shoes* (1947), *Where's Charley* (1948), *Call Me Madam* (1950), *Wonderful Town* (1953), *Pajama Game* (1954), *Damn Yankees* (1955), *Once Upon a Mattress* (1959), *Fiorello!* (1959), *Tenderloin* (1960), *Flora, the Red Menace* (1965) and *On Your Toes* (revival, 1983). He received numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize, the NY Drama Critics Circle Award, 4 Donaldson Awards, 4 Tony Awards® and he was a Kennedy Center honoree in 1983. He died in 1995 at the age of 107.

JOHN DOUGLASS WALLOP was the 17th John Douglass Wallop from an old Eastern Shore family. His love of baseball began when he was 5 years old, when his father took him to a Senators' game. A newspaper reporter by profession, he was the author of 13 novels, the second of which, *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant*, was published in 1955 and became his best known work. Wallop died in 1985.

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Violins	Matthew Hassall Claire Tyrell Ceridwen Jones Anna McAlister
Viola	Shani Williams
Cello	Paul Taylor
Bass	Matthew Thorne
Reed 1	Lachlan Davidson
Reed 2	Tim Willson
Reed 3	Ben Sutcliffe
Reed 4	Grania Burke
Reed 5	Stuart Byrne
Horn	Tom Campbell
Trumpets	Colin Doley Greg Spence Daniel Madden
Trombones	Kieran Conrau Jordan Murray Simon Scerri
Percussion	Daniel Richardson
Kit	Dean Cooper
Guitar	John Paine
Keyboard / Celeste	Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Technical Director	David Miller
Company Administrator	Adam Lowe
Stage Manager	Kirsten Marr
Rehearsal Repetiteur	Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer
Assistant Stage Manager	Bonnie Walsh
Wardrobe Supervisor	Josephine Antonino
Hair and Make Up	Corrine Day
Head Mechanist	Jack Grant
Sound Engineering	System Sound
Mix Engineer	David Greasley
Radio Mic Techs	Anthony Shaw Jenny Morgan
Sound Effects	Nick Reich
Marketing	ACMN Pty Ltd
Publicity	Make A Difference PR
Set Construction	Malthouse
Assistant to the Director	Scott Hendry
Stage Management Secondment	Ryan Barwood
Work Experience	Adam Newman



THE ENSEMBLE



ELIZA BRIAN

Eliza graduated from The Ballarat Arts Academy in 2006. Whilst there she appeared as leads in *The White Rose* and *Into the Woods* and also devised her own cabaret *Liza with a Z* based on the life of Liza Minnelli.

Since graduating Eliza has worked at Tokyo Disneyland as a singer/ dancer, performed with her corporate group *Delovely* supporting stars such as Frankie J Holden, Denise Drysdale and Rhonda Burchmore and toured Victoria and NSW with an Elvis Tribute show as a backing vocalist.

This is Eliza's first show with The Production Company and she is thrilled to be a part of *Damn Yankees!*



PAUL BIENCOURT

Paul's first Production Company appearance was as Constable Locke in *The Music Man* – since then he has appeared in the casts of: *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Camelot*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Little Me*. He has thrived on The Production Company's fast paced, adrenalin packed rehearsal/performance periods where you can be asked to play anything – in Paul's case he has been an all singing all dancing

cowboy, finance man, thespian and George Gershwin!!! Paul has relished lending his tenor voice to these shows and has been featured in trios, quartets and as the Scottish Tenor in *Camelot*. Paul's latest work includes: Basilio/ Curzio in Melbourne Opera Company's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*; Tweedle Dee, Violet and The White King covers in the Victorian Opera production of *Through the Looking Glass* and he was a John Tallis classical singing competition finalist. His other credits include Noel from the Delltones in *Shout! the Musical*, (check him out on the Aria award winning cast recording); the Young Heir in a workshop of *Nostradamus* and he played The Soldier in *Hello Again* at Chapel off Chapel. Other career highlights include: singing on the ABC's *Quest '95* backed by the MSO and on Channel Seven programs: *Denise Drysdale*, *AM Adelaide* and the Perth telethon.

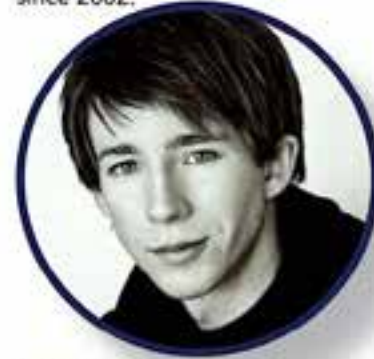


ANDREW BROADBENT

Recently appearing as Frank in the Australasian tour of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert – The Musical*, Andrew is delighted to be able to return for his third show with The Production Company, after appearances in *South Pacific* and *Camelot*. He also appeared in *South Pacific* for Seabiscuit Productions in its Sydney season. A WAAPA Music Theatre graduate, Andrew starred as Simon Lecoer in the world premiere of *Rendez-vous*: an opera noir for Tura Events/Black Swan Theatre Company and played Hugh Mackay in Black Swan's *The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea*. Andrew has been involved in workshoping several new Australian works, such as *Metro Street*, *The Good Fight* and

Nostradamus, and he performed the role of Robbie Gould in the world premiere and Australasian tour of SEL's *Dirty Dancing - The Classic Story on Stage*.

Andrew has been a proud member of Equity since 2002.



BEN BROWN

Developing a love of dance at an early age, Ben's formative years were spent fine tuning his talents at several well known schools, including Bartuccio's, the Victorian College of The Arts and Dance World Studios in Melbourne, where he completed his Certificate III in Classical Ballet and Diploma in Performing Arts. Shortly after graduating, Ben secured the role of Peter Pan in Disney's *One Man's Dream 2* at Tokyo Disneyland. Since returning to Australia, Ben performed in the Monty Python musical *Spamalot*. *Damn Yankees* is Ben's second show with the Production Company. He recently performed in *Follies* and is delighted to be back on stage performing in his hometown, Melbourne, with this amazing cast. Ben wishes to thank his family for their uncompromising love and support.



ANNA BURGESS

Anna trained in dance from a young age at the Melbourne Academy of Dance with

Karen Stephens whilst furthering her acting studies at The National Theatre and The Victorian College of the Arts. Anna obtained her Bachelor of Contemporary Arts Drama/ Dance at Deakin University and after training full-time in theatre and dance with Tony Bartuccio. In 2002 she joined the original Australian touring cast of the *The New Mel Brooks Musical – The Producers*. *Damn Yankees* marks Anna's fourth show with The Production Company after performing the role of Ursula in *Sweet Charity*, Phyllis Dale in *42nd Street* in '07' and Poppins in *The Pajama Game*. Theatre credits include *The Pursuit of Happiness* in Sydney for the Short and Sweet Festival '07' finals, *Memoranda*, *Waiting for Godot*. She will be playing the role of Twain in Guy Noble's *Karaoke The Musical* later this year. Anna has worked extensively in film and television: work includes Paul Curry's pilot *Screen Stars*, feature films *Love's Brother* and *SMS* and performing live on *Rove Live*, *AFI Awards*, *Good Morning Australia*, *Starstruck* and *Australian Idol*. Anna's recent presenter role was for Shibumi Productions pilot, *Nine Networks Postcards* and is now the new face of *Conrad Jupiter's* and *Treasury Casinos* TVC.



MELINA CHARLES

Melina has been singing and dancing for as long as she can remember. She has completed an Associate Diploma in Dance at the Queensland University of Technology and is currently under the vocal tuition of Gary May. Melina's credits include: Toadshows *Glamalot*, Joe Labero's *Illusions*, *Dare to Dance* Arts Council show, Opera Queensland's *Turandot*, *Samson et Dalila* and *Andrea Chenier*, onboard the Tahitian Princess and at *Dracula's Theatre Restaurant* in *Resurrection*.

Most recently Melina performed in Monty Python's *Spamalot* followed by The Production Company's *Follies*. Melina is delighted to be a part of *Damn Yankees* and would like to thank her family, friends and husband Kelt for their constant love and support.



ERIN CORNELL

Erin is a 2006 graduate of the Music Theatre Course at VCA and has also trained at the Melbourne Acting Studio, St Martin's Youth Theatre and privately with Suze Haywood. Erin has also been vocally trained under the guidance of Tim Smith, Martin Croft, David Rogers Smith, Chelsea Plumley and Philip Gould, to name a few. Erin has enjoyed 3 sell out seasons of her Cabaret's *Erin Cornell is... Erin Cornell is... BACK* at the Butterfly Club and *Erin Cornell does... Schwartz* at Manchester Lane. Erin has been a featured artist at *Hats Off*, *The Brian Stacey Memorial Concert* and *All Roads Lead to Home* by Mathew Frank and Dean Bryant. She has also appeared on *Good Morning Australia* as a regular guest. In 2007 Erin played the role of Elphaba in *WICKED* for 18 months at Universal Studios in Japan and since being back has been busy performing in *Shane Warne the Musical* – a work in progress for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Just recently Erin won the aussietheatre.com Rising Star 2008 competition and as a result will be performing another cabaret in Sydney later in the year. This is Erin's debut with The Production Company and she is honoured to be surrounded by such phenomenally talented, gifted people.



CHRIS DURLING

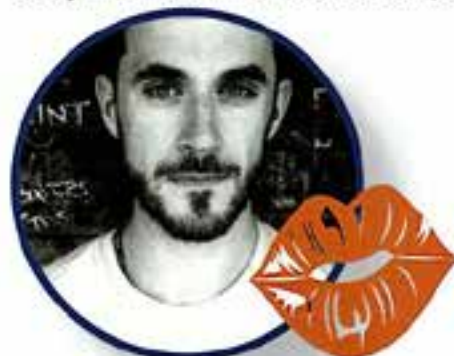
Since graduating from the University of Ballarat BA in Music Theatre, Chris has become a sought after young talent.

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 Crocmens*, 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 Crocmens* have experienced hugely successful runs on ABC and The Discovery Kids Channel with *Bindi The Jungle Girl*. The ARIA nominated *Bindi KidFitness* CD/ DVD, featuring *The Crocmens* reached Platinum status.

Most recently Chris played the role of Young Buddy in *Follies* for The Production Company.



BOBBY FOX

Hailing from Ireland, Bobby's background lies originally in Irish dance, with this he has

achieved many titles including 4 times world champion. He has toured extensively around the world with various Irish dance shows including *Riverdance* (ensemble), *Dancing on Dangerous Ground* (principal understudy) and *To Dance on the Moon* (principal dancer). He moved to Sydney to study performing arts, and graduated from the ED5 performing arts centre in Dec' of '02. He then went on to play the role of Eddie in the hit musical *Mamma Mia!* on its Australasian tour, and was part of the ensemble for the Melbourne season of *Leader of the Pack*. Bobby has since completed an Australian tour with *Dusty – The Original Pop Diva*, *We Will Rock You – Japan*, *Sweet Charity* with The Production Company and Monty Python's *Spamalot* (Lancelot understudy).



GEMMA ASHLEY-KAPLAN

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.

Fresh from playing Young Sally in The Production Company's triumphant season of *Follies*, she is thrilled to be back for *Damn Yankees*. Earlier this year Gemma-Ashley created the role of Clara Makin, appearing opposite Caroline O' Connor in the successful season of *The Hatpin*, she is overwhelmed to have been invited to play this incredible role in its international premiere in New York next month.

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 assistant choreographer for *Once on This Island* directed by Jason Langley.

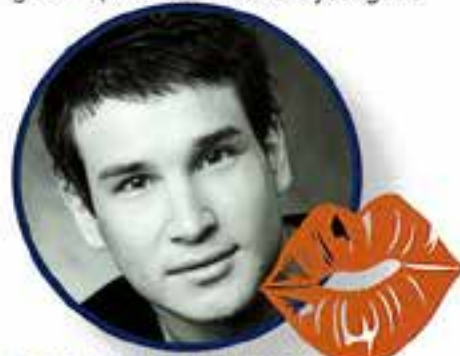


LIAM KILGOUR

Liam has been singing for most of his life. He was a member of the Victorian Children's Choir and one of his most memorable moments was singing at the 1996 AFL football Grand Final. Liam's other interest is playing AFL.

After being in school musicals at Carey Grammar, Liam decided to pursue a musical career and graduated from the University of Ballarat BA in Music Theatre in 2007. Whilst at the University he performed in many shows including *Batboy The Musical*, *Godspell*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate* and *Anything Goes* where he played the lead role of Billy Crocker.

Damn Yankees is Liam's debut for The Production Company and would like to thank his Nan for being his loyal supporter and dedicates this performance to Jocelyn for her great inspiration to – achieve your goals.



SAM LUDEMAN

Sam loves Thai food, coriander is his favourite Herb. He enjoys meeting new people and

having a good time; Sam hopes to travel most of the world doing what he loves and wants to live in the UK and New York one day. He went to Uni in Ballarat and completed a BA in music theatre in 2007 where he played Batboy in *Batboy The Musical*, Jeffrey in *Godspell*, and Bernardo in a scene study of *West Side Story*. More recently Sam has been playing Jesus in *Godspell* for CED, sang in the *Crown Casino Red Hot Summer* show and work shopped a new Australian musical *Destiny's Prize*. Sam got into singing and acting through his drama teacher in high school, Miss Amy Porter who told/forced him to go into the year 10 musical "we need boys!" Sam would like to dedicate all his performances to Amy Porter, the Russell family and last but not least his own family for supporting him through the hard times and the good, and also not letting his head get too big! Thanks for watching and buying a program - the producers will be happy. Cheers. "You can achieve anything, if you put your heart into it!"



MATTHEW MCFARLANE

Matt is delighted to be playing the role of 'Linville' in his first Production Company show. Matt graduated from WAAPA in 2007 and has since been performing in the hit musical *Priscilla - Queen of the Desert*. At WAAPA his credits include Edward Rochester in *Jane Eyre*, Bernardo in *West Side Story*, Sam Byck in *Assassins*, and Strapper in the New York premiere of David King and Nick Enright's *The Good Fight*. Matt recently featured in a commercial for Edith Cowan University which is currently being aired in Western Australia. Matt has also appeared in featured roles on *Blue Heelers* and *Neighbours*.



NICOLE MELLO

Nicole began dancing at an early age with Julie Cookson, and then went on to achieve her diploma of classical ballet at the Christine Walsh Dance Centre. She continued her studies at the Victorian College of the Arts. Most recently, Nicole toured to Korea with *Eurobeat* and prior to that appeared in Monty Python's *Spamalot* in which she covered *The Lady of the Lake*.

Her other theatre credits include *42nd Street*, *Little Me* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* for The Production Company, the national tour of *Back With A Vengeance* with Barry Humphries, aka Dame Edna Everage, and with Opera Australia *The Gondoliers*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Die Fledermaus* where she guest starred as Ginger Rogers.

Nicole has had extensive experience performing overseas with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, she has appeared in TV commercials, music videos, and has danced and sung in numerous corporate events and shows in Melbourne. She has also toured Australia hosting children's shows, danced in the *Bollywood Spectacular* for the Commonwealth Games Melbourne Festival and in *Countdown* at the Rod Laver Arena.



ALISTER SMITH

Alister graduated in 2004 from the Arts Academy, Ballarat. His credits there include *Kiss Me, Kate*, Anthony Crowley's *The Wild Blue*, *It Isn't Working - Kander and Ebb Review*, *42nd Street* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. He has since performed in *The Love of Three Oranges*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Trial by Jury*, *La Traviata* and *Flora the Red Menace*.

Alister made his first appearance with The Production Company in 2005 with *Sunset Boulevard* then last year in *42nd Street*.

In 2005 Alister started the redroom Theatre Company and has produced *The World Goes Round*, *Squish*, *Threepenny Opera* and *F**k you Shirley Temple*.

Alister is thrilled to be working with The Production Company once more and thanks his girlfriend Elenor and family for their love and support.



LARA THEW

Lara completed a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre at Hayman Theatre, Curtin University, in 2004. There she had principal roles in *Così*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Away*, *The Wind In The Willows*, and *Old Mother Hubbard*. Other performing credits in WA include *The Rose* and *The Ring: UK and Canada Tour*, *The*

Mikado, and *Risky Lunar Love*. In Melbourne she performed with Melbourne Opera in *The Pirates of Penzance*, before heading off to Ballarat to gain her Bachelor of Arts in Music Theatre at the University of Ballarat Arts Academy. While there Lara enjoyed roles in Peter Pinne's *A Bunch of Ratbags*, *Godspell*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Anything Goes*, *Batboy* and also devised her own cabaret, *Masks*. Since graduating in 2007 Lara has directed *What Will You Be at UB?* and assistant directed *Parade* for the Ballarat Arts Academy. Lara is very happy to perform in her first Production Company show and is a proud member of Equity.



DEAN VINCE

Dean graduated from WAAPA with a Bachelor of Music Theatre in 2002. Whilst at WAAPA Dean appeared in *A Comedy of Errors*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Berlin to Broadway*, *The Pajama Game (Prez)*, *Into The Woods (Assistant Director)* and the world premiere of Nick Enright and David King's *The Good Fight (Ned Darcy, Tex Rickard)*.

Dean was a part of the South Korean tour of *CATS* where he performed the roles of Plato and Macavity, and he created the role of Stan for the world premiere of *Dirty Dancing - the Classic Story on Stage*.

On television Dean has appeared in *CNNNN* and on film in the AFI Award winning *Japanese Story*. He produced and directed the NSW premiere of Andrew Lipka's *John and Jen*.

Most recently Dean has been appearing in the hugely successful *Priscilla - Queen of the Desert* as one of the original cast.

He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support.



TERENCE O'CONNELL

Director

Terence is a NIDA Graduate, who continued his training by creating Riverina Trucking Company, Wagga, and New Moon Theatre, Cairns, where he worked as director, actor and writer. He has since directed some 150 productions in theatres, concert halls, circus tents, comedy clubs and cabaret rooms across Australia and internationally.

Australian national tours include Steven Berkoff's *Decadence*, *BUDDY*, the *Buddy Holly Story*, *Bouncers*, *I Only Want To Be With You - The Dusty Springfield Story*, *Circus Oz*, *Certified Male* and *Minefields and Miniskirts - Australian Women and The Vietnam War*. Other work includes *Life On Mars - The Words and Music of David Bowie*, *Steaming*, London's *Circus Senso*, *Darlinghurst Nights* for Sydney Theatre Company and *Flying Fruit Fly Circus*.

Terence is a regular guest director at Adelaide Cabaret Festival (*Licence To Thrill - The Scores Of James Bond*, *Metro Street*, *Shane Warne - The Musical*), Ballarat University Arts Academy (*Into The Woods*, *Bat Boy - The Musical*) and is delighted to return to The Production Company at the State Theatre, where he has staged *They're Playing Our Song*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Pajama Game* and *42nd Street*.

His 2008 projects include Ed Graczyk's *Come Back To The Five and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean* (National Theatre Studio), Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* (WAPPA), Emma Powell's *Busting Out* (National Tour), Andrew Lipka's *John and Jen* (Chapel Off Chapel) and a site specific

production of Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret* at The Mining Exchange, Ballarat. Terence is workshoping the new musical *Woman On Top* and creating the music theatre event *Skindeep: Helena Rubinstein and I*.



VANESSA SCAMMELL

Musical Director

In 1992 Vanessa graduated from the Melbourne Conservatorium with a Bachelor of Music - Honours in Piano Performance and a Bachelor of Music Education. Vanessa continued her studies at the Sydney Conservatorium completing a Graduate Diploma of Music - Opera Repetiteur.

Vanessa worked extensively as an opera repetiteur/rehearsal pianist and coach for the Victoria State Opera, Opera Australia and many music theatre productions whilst continuing her conducting study.

Vanessa's Music Director/Conductor credits include *The Helpmann Awards® 2008*, *The Phantom Of The Opera Asian Tour*, (The Really Useful Group), Shanghai, Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong and Singapore, *Fiddler On The Roof* (Fiddler on the Roof Australia Pty Ltd), *Titanic* (Seabiscuit Productions), *South Pacific* Adelaide and Sydney seasons, (Seabiscuit Productions), *CATS The World Tour*, Beijing, Taipei, Athens and the South Korean Tour of *CATS* (The Really Useful Group/Seoul and Co), *Into The Woods* (IMG/Equity Fights Aids).

Vanessa is currently the Musical Director of the Australian tour of *The Phantom Of The Opera* and is studying her Masters of Music in Conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium. She is the proud recipient of the 2008 Brian Stacey Award for emerging Australian conductors.



ALANA SCANLAN

Choreographer

Alana started as a big haired Don Lane Show dancer and has become one of Australia's most in-demand choreographers, working in theatre, fashion, commercials, music clips and corporate events.

She has choreographed *Style Aid*, the award-winning clip *Don't Call Me Baby*, theatrical spectacles for Jupiter's Casino and the Reef Casino (Cairns), she has created parades for Alannah Hill, Kylie Minogue, Jenny Bannister and numerous others at Fashion Weeks in Sydney and Melbourne.

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

Her theatre work includes *Bouncers*, *I Only Want To Be With You - The Dusty Springfield Story*, *Kissing Frogs*, *Certified Male* and *Minefields and Miniskirts*. She is currently developing a theatre spectacle *Eroticom* with Terence O'Connell and illusionist Doug Tremlett.

She has choreographed Paul Hogan, Michael Caton and Glynn Nicholes in the movie *Strange Bedfellows* and *The Great Moscow Circus* for Michael Edgley in China.

Alana has worked as movement coach for a long list of singers, rock performers and actors. She worked in this capacity for Network 10's *The X Factor*.

She consulted to the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony, choreographed the Media Launch performances for the M2006 Games Cultural Festival and provided choreography

for the recent movie *Macbeth*. Alana was also choreographer for the Kath and Kim TV movie, *Da Kath and Kim Code*.

Alana has choreographed four musicals for The Production Company, her first being *They're Playing Our Song*, directed by Terence O'Connell with musical direction by Guy Simpson. In 2005 she choreographed *Oklahoma!*, in 2006 *The Pajama Game* and in 2007 *42nd Street*.

Alana is Movement Coach and Choreographer for Channel 7's *It Takes Two* and has just finished her third season as choreographer for the very successful *Dancing With the Stars*. Her other television credits for 2008 also include *Singing Bee* and *Australia's Got Talent*. She is also soon to work with *So You Think You Can Dance*.



KATHRYN SPROUL

Set Designer

Kathryn works nationally for theatre, dance and large arts events. A graduate in Stage Design from NIDA, Kathryn was Resident Designer for Magpie Theatre and State Theatre Company of South Australia from 1988 to 1993. Career highlights include the memorable *Flamma Flamma: the Fire Requiem*, which opened the 1998 Adelaide Festival of Arts; *Click! The Millennium Event*, South Australia's 1999 New Year's Eve Celebration and Event Development and Design for Centenary of Federation SA in 2001. Kathryn won the 2004 Green Room Award for Visual Design for Fringe/Independent Theatre for her work on *Traitors*. Kathryn has worked with a variety of

companies including Leigh Warren and Dancers, Windmill Performing Arts, Hothouse, Melbourne Theatre Co, Playbox, Chamber Made Opera, Legs on the Wall, Riverina Theatre Co, Patch Theatre, and Darwin Theatre Company. A residency in 2003 enabled Kathryn to design a visual theatre piece for Gekidan Urinko Theatre Company in Nagoya, Japan.

Major projects include: *Melrose under the Bigtop* for the community of Melrose SA; *Fringe Lounge* for the Adelaide Fringe 2004; Event and Parade Designer, Adelaide Fringe 2006; Production Designer *Charters Towers: the Musical* for Queensland Music Festival 2005; Production Designer *Paradise: the Musical*, and *Coorparoo Sk8*, Brisbane Festival 2006; Event Designer, Adelaide Cabaret Festival 2005 – 2008; and Costume Design for State Theatre SA's productions of *Noises Off*, *Uncle Vanya*, and most recently *Hamlet* in 2007. Recent work includes Event Designer for the Adelaide Festival Centre's OzAsia Festival 2007 and Adelaide International Guitar Festival 2007; Production Designer *Everything's F**ked: the Musical*; Production Designer *Second to None* co-presented by Vitalstatistix and Kurruru 2007; Design Mentor *Of the Future* for Kurruru, Adelaide Fringe 2008; Production Designer/ Creative Director *Songs of the Inland: Jeanette Wormald*, Adelaide Fringe 2008. Kathryn is currently Event Designer for OzAsia Festival 2008, and Adelaide International Guitar Festival 2008.

Kathryn first worked for The Production Company as Set Designer for *42nd Street* in 2007.



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 premier seasons of *The Boy From Oz*, and recently, *Dusty - The Original Pop Diva*, were particular highlights. He dressed on *The Producers*, *Grease*, *Shirley Maclaine*, *Sugar Babies*, *Guys and Dolls* and *My Fair Lady* to name a few, made costumes with legendary costumier Bob Murphy and for some years had the pleasure of touring the world as Wardrobe Manager with Torvill and Dean and their international ice skating companies, playing venues everywhere from his home town Melbourne to Las Vegas, Madison Square Gardens and Wembley. For The Production Company Kim has designed the costumes for *Sweet Charity* and *42nd Street*.



SCOTT ALLAN Lighting Designer

After training with the Young People's Theatre, Scott spent eight years as Resident Lighting Designer, lighting pantomime and productions in repertory. He worked as a Stage Manager on the national tours of *I'm Not a Dentist* (Lawrence Jackson Productions) and *Late Nite Catechism* (Adrian Bohm Presents), prior to six years as Resident Lighting Designer for the Gold Coast Arts Centre. Scott is the Technical Manager for the Arts Faculty at Deakin University, a professional member of the Association of Lighting Designer's (ALD), a committee member for the Australasian Lighting Industry Association (ALIA) and earlier this year, attended the Broadway Lighting Design master class series at New York University. Other work includes: *The Oldest Profession* (Ensemble Theatre), *Blackrock*, *Kill the Wolf* (9minds), *Europe*, *A Stretch of the Imagination* (La Mama), *Abelard and Heloise*, *Oliver!* (Opera Hunter), *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Dags*, *Animal Farm* (YPT), *Godspell*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd* (GCAC) *La Boheme*, *The Marriage of Figaro* (Melbourne Opera), *The Maids*, *Bent*, *Diary of a Madman* (Hunter Valley Theatre Company); and most recently in the corporate sector, *Lectern Rock* for the Belong Group. www.sallanld.com



DOUG TREMLETT Magic Consultant

Doug understands performance because he is himself a multi-skilled performer with acting and directing credits ranging from Dario Fo to Shakespeare. He has starred in, directed and produced numerous theatre and cabaret productions prior to and since his engagement with corporate Australia.

As one of Australia's foremost magicians, magic consultants and illusion designers he has toured Australia and overseas. His skills, focusing on a synthesis of illusion and theatre, have seen him work with a variety of productions including: *Le Concours - Australian Ballet*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream - New Moon Theatre*, *The Tempest - Australian New Theatre*, *The Cherry Orchard - Anthill*, *Steve Martin's Patter for the Floating Lady* and *The Zig Zag Woman - Belvoir St Theatre* and *The Witches of Eastwick*, a Cameron Mackintosh production. In 1996 Doug was commissioned by the Director of the Sydney Festival, Anthony Steel to direct and produce a full length theatre spectacular - *Stars of Illusion* - bringing together magicians from around the world to headline the Festival.

As part of our Centenary of Federation celebrations Doug created *The Peoplescape Project* for the Federal Government. For this Doug was awarded the Prime Minister's Centenary Medal.

From June 2003 – May 2005 Doug worked as Executive Producer and later Creative Director, Ceremonies for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. Since then Doug has

worked independently as a Strategist and Creative Director for select clients. His major focus is experiential communications.

In tandem with his corporate career Doug continues to work in theatre – he conceived and directed *La Soire a Melba Spiegelent* production and most recently directed *Unusualist* starring Raymond Crowe, currently playing dates across Australia.

SYSTEM SOUND JULIAN SPINK and MARK BENSON Sound Design



System Sound have designed and provided the sound for all of The Production Company's shows since it's inception. Engineers, Julian and Mark are responsible for the sound in this production of *Damn Yankees*.

JULIAN SPINK joined System Sound in 1993 as Head Sound Engineer on shows including *Les Misérables*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *West Side Story* and *Five Guys Named Moe*, and has recently collaborated on Sound Design for the productions of *Chicago*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Cabaret*, *Footloose* and *Hair*, and *High Society*, *Carousel*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Pajama Game*, *Camelot* and *Little Me* for The Production Company.

MARK BENSON joined System in 1996. Mark has designed, supervised as well as mixed many concerts and special events, including the Spray Farm Festivals, Concerts for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. Mark has been the Orchestral Sound designer for The Production Company's series of productions since 2003.



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