



THE  
**PRODUCTION**  
COMPANY

**SEASON 2015**

**OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> MUSICAL**

# WEST SIDE STORY

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**STATE THEATRE, ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE**

ANZ & THE PRODUCTION COMPANY PRESENT

# WEST SIDE STORY



Based on a conception of **JEROME ROBBINS**

Book by  
**ARTHUR  
LAURENTS**

Music by  
**LEONARD  
BERNSTEIN**

Lyrics by  
**STEPHEN  
SONDHEIM**

Entire Original Production Directed and Choreographed by  
**JEROME ROBBINS**

Originally produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince  
By Arrangement with Roger L. Stevens

By Arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd  
(exclusive agent for Music Theatre International)

## THE COMPANY

Anna O'Byrne Gareth Keegan Deone Zanotto  
Adam Fiorentino Sean Mulligan  
Neil Melville Tony Rickards Glaston Toft  
Rob Tripolino Dean Vince

Sheridan Anderson Blake Appelqvist Bianca Baykara Max Bimbi  
Samantha Bruzzese Jared Bryan Ella Burns Andrea Carmody  
Ross Chisari Sage Douglas Franky Drousioti Alex Given  
Danielle Hegarty Nat Jobe Madeleine Mackenzie Antonia Marr  
Joshua Mulheran Brittany Page Max Patterson Victoria Rimington  
David Sirianni Maxwell Trengove Jordan Turner Romy Vuksan

Director **Gale Edwards**

Musical Director **Guy Simpson**

Choreographer **Michael Ralph**

Costume Designer **Tim Chappel**

Set Designer **Shaun Gurton**

Lighting Designer **Trudy Dalgleish**

Sound Design **System Sound**

Sound Design Associates **John Scandrett, David Tonion, Julian Spink**

Assistant Director **Natalie Gilhome**

Assistant Choreographers **Kirsten King, Priscilla Stavrou**

Repetiteur **Jack Earle**

Technical Director **David Miller**

Stage Manager **Meg Deyell**

Company Manager **Kate Macdonald**

Wardrobe Supervisor **Kim Bishop**

Assistant Stage Manager **Rebekah Gibbs**

Technical Assistant **Chay Moran**

Stage Management Secondment **Clary Riven**

Wardrobe Assistant **Stephanie Pearson**

Costumiers **Zoe Felice, Lauren Tausend, Angie White**

Men's Tailoring **Siam Costumes**

Hair and Makeup **Silvana Mitkovski, Cindy Balmer**

Hair and Makeup Supervisor **Gay Gallacher**

Sound Mix Engineer **David Tonion**

Stage Sound Technicians **Jackson Scandrett, Sally Hitchcock**

Radio Mic Engineer **Cameron Herbert**

Set Construction **Malthouse**

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# THE AIR IS HUMMING... ...AND SOMETHING GREAT IS COMING...

WELCOME TO OUR 50TH SHOW. TO CELEBRATE WE HAVE PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS!

I was on the Board of the Victoria State Opera when Ken Mackenzie-Forbes, the current Artistic Director of The Production Company, produced a superb production of *West Side Story*. This toured Australia in 1994 and 1995. His Production Stage Manager back then was our Technical Director David Miller, his Assistant Company Manager was our Executive Director Rachel D Taylor and the Publicist was one of our Board Members John Hay-Mackenzie. We have all been working together as an indomitable team for the last sixteen years. I couldn't love them more and they have helped me make The Production Company the success it is today.

*West Side Story* is a work of extraordinary collaborative genius (Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins, Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim) and it requires an extraordinary cast and creative team. To fulfil the promise of the material, we have assembled a company of thirty-four artists plus an orchestra of thirty musicians – all of them on stage. Our all-Australian cast features exciting, young artists, many of whom have also enjoyed outstanding successes on Broadway and London's West End. Our Maria, Anna O'Byrne and our Riff, Sean Mulligan are both Australian artists working in London. Our Anita, Deone Zanolto and our Bernardo Adam Fiorentino have both starred on London's West End and on Broadway. Gareth Keegan, a truly heart-throb tenor in my opinion, whom you will remember from *Show Boat* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, returns to us as Tony.

In short, we have hired the best talent around. Welcome back to performers who have been with us before and welcome to the new performers, some of whom are making their professional debuts in *West Side Story*.

Greatly admired and recognised with many awards, Gale Edwards directs her fourth show for us and Music Director Guy Simpson enjoys our company so much he is back for his 14th musical! I welcome back our superb designers Tim Chappel, Shaun Gurton and Trudy Dalgleish and the expert team from System Sound. I also hope this is the first of many collaborations we will have with Melbourne's clever, young choreographer Michael Ralph.

ANZ are a major supporter of The Production Company and I thank them for sponsoring *West Side Story*. My company is entirely privately funded and relies on private support for its ongoing existence. If you are helping us already and your names are listed in this program, I am so grateful. We couldn't do it without you.

Of course, Stephen Sondheim put it better than I ever could – "The air is humming and something great is coming!"

Sit back - this is as good as it gets!

Jeanne Pratt AC  
Chairman  
The Production Company





Chairman **Jeanne Pratt AC**

Artistic Director **Ken Mackenzie-Forbes AM**

Executive Director **Rachel D Taylor**

Hon. Company Secretary **Don Maloney**

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#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

**W** [theproductioncompany.com.au](http://theproductioncompany.com.au)

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# CAST OF CHARACTERS

## THE JETS

RIFF (The Leader) **SEAN MULLIGAN**  
 TONY (His Friend) **GARETH KEEGAN**  
 ACTION **JARED BRYAN**  
 A-RAB **ALEX GIVEN**  
 BABY JOHN **FRANKY DROUSIOTI**  
 SNOW BOY **JOSHUA MULHERAN**  
 BIG DEAL **MAX PATTERSON**  
 DIESEL **BLAKE APPELQVIST**  
 GEE-TAR **JORDAN TURNER**

## THE SHARKS

BERNARDO (The Leader) **ADAM FIORENTINO**  
 MARIA (His Sister) **ANNA O'BYRNE**  
 ANITA (His Girl) **DEONE ZANOTTO**  
 CHINO (His Friend) **ROB TRIPOLINO**  
 PEPE **NAT JOBE**  
 INDIO **ROSS CHISARI**  
 LUIS **MAX BIMBI**  
 NIBBLES **MAXWELL TRENGOVE**  
 JUANO **DAVID SIRIANNI**

## THEIR GIRLS

GRAZIELLA **SHERIDAN ANDERSON**  
 VELMA **DANIELLE HEGARTY**  
 MINNIE **BRITTANY PAGE**  
 CLARICE **VICTORIA RIMINGTON**  
 PAULINE **ANDREA CARMODY**  
 ANYBODY'S **SAGE DOUGLAS**

## THEIR GIRLS

ROSALIA **BIANCA BAYKARA**  
 FRANCISCA **ANTONIA MARR**  
 CONSUELO **MADELEINE MACKENZIE**  
 ESTELLA **ELLA BURNS**  
 TERESITA **ROMY VUKSAN**  
 MARGARITA **SAMANTHA BRUZZESE**

## THE ADULTS

DOC **TONY RICKARDS**  
 SCHRANKE **NEIL MELVILLE**  
 KRUPKE **DEAN VINCE**  
 GLAD HAND **GLASTON TOFT**

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT ONE

PROLOGUE *Orchestra*  
 JET SONG *Riff and Jets*  
 SOMETHING'S COMING *Tony*  
 THE DANCE AT THE GYM *Orchestra*  
 MARIA *Tony*  
 TONIGHT *Tony and Maria*  
 AMERICA *Anita, Rosalia and Shark Girls*  
 COOL *Riff and Jets*  
 ONE HAND, ONE HEART *Tony and Maria*  
 TONIGHT QUINTET *The Company*  
 THE RUMBLE *Orchestra*

## ACT TWO

I FEEL PRETTY *Maria, Rosalia, Francisca, Consuelo and the Shark Girls*  
 SOMEWHERE BALLET *Orchestra*  
 SOMEWHERE *Rosalia*  
 GEE, OFFICER KRUPKE *Jets*  
 A BOY LIKE THAT *Anita and Maria*  
 I HAVE A LOVE *Maria and Anita*  
 TAUNTING SCENE *Orchestra*  
 FINALE *Maria, Tony and the Company*

...THE ACTION TAKES PLACE ON THE WEST SIDE OF NEW YORK DURING THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER...

### THE PRODUCTION COMPANY THANKS

Frank Van Straten OAM  
 Colin Page Photography  
 Patrick Studios Australia  
 Travis Khan  
 Jacob Gibson



## ANNA O'BYRNE

Maria

Born in Melbourne and now based in London, Anna has established an international career spanning musical theatre, opera, theatre, concert, and film. Following her graduation from The Victorian College of the Arts, Anna became a Principal Artist at Victorian Opera singing Polly Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* (Malthouse Theatre co-production), The Gossip in *Angélique*, and Pamina in *The Magic Flute*.

Anna was chosen by Andrew Lloyd Webber to create the role of Christine Daaé in the Australian premiere of *Love Never Dies*. Anna was nominated for Sydney Theatre and Green Room awards for her performance. Lauded as the definitive production of this musical, *Love Never Dies* was filmed and released in cinemas internationally by Universal Pictures. Following this, Anna made her West End debut as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* (Her Majesty's Theatre). She created the role of Jenny Lind in Cameron Mackintosh's *Barnum* (Chichester Festival Theatre), the process of which was featured in the documentary *The Sound of Musicals* (Channel 4). Anna then returned to the West End in *Strangers on a Train* (Gielgud Theatre), and as Anne Eggerman in *A Little Night Music* (Palace Theatre). In 2015 she made her English National Opera debut in *Sweeney Todd* (London Coliseum), starring Bryn Terfel and Emma Thompson.

Anna became the first actress to perform as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* in Russia, which was broadcast nationally from the Bolshoi Theatre. She regularly performs internationally in concert, and has sung for royalty, world leaders and dignitaries.

[anna-obyrne.com](http://anna-obyrne.com)



## GARETH KEEGAN

Tony

Gareth's theatre credits include Mickey in *Blood Brothers* (Green Room Award Nomination), Gaylord Ravenal in *Show Boat* and Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* for The Production Company, Stormy in *Moonshadow*, Gabe in Melbourne Theatre Company's *Next To Normal* (Green Room Award Nomination), Alternate Frankie Valli in the original cast of *Jersey Boys*, Gaybies for the Midsumma Festival 2013, Phantom in Gale Edwards' *The Rocky Horror Show*, Young Thing in *Hello Again*, Ste in *A Beautiful Thing* at the Stables Theatre, Les Darcy in Nick Enright's *The Good Fight* (New York Music Theatre Festival).

Gareth has also been involved in various workshops of new shows including *Georgy Girl - The Seekers Musical*, *All Out of Love: The Air Supply Musical*, *Dreamlover*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Truth Beauty* and *A Picture of You: The Whitlam's Story*, Tim Finn's *The Woman in Black*, Matthew Robinson's *Happy People*, *The Silver Donkey* and the *Moonshadow* workshop.

Television credits include Kurt Cobain in *Mr and Mrs Murder*, Constable Archie Cooper in *Underbelly* and the roles of Squizzy and Rueben Hayes in *The Dr Blake Mysteries*.

Gareth is a Graduate of WAAPA.



## DEONE ZANOTTO

Anita

Deone has performed on Broadway and London's West End. Her credits include the roles of Cassie, Diana, Maggie and Christine in *A Chorus Line* at the Schoenfeld Theatre, Ivy in the new musical *Tina* Girlstar for New York Stage and Film, Anyanka in *Bajour* (York Theatre) and a tour of the U.S. performing in concerts of *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. West End/London credits include Madonna and understudy Killer Queen in Ben Elton and Queen's mega rock musical *We Will Rock You* and Dinah in *South Pacific* for the BBC.

In Australia, Deone performed as the Lead Vocalist in *Dirty Dancing*, which earned her an Aria nomination, Anybody's in *West Side Story*, Stephanie Mangano in *Saturday Night Fever*, Rusty in *Footloose*, Estelle in *The Full Monty*, Carmen Diaz in *Fame - The Musical*, Annie in *Leader of the Pack - The Ellie Greenwich Musical*, Brandy in *Oh! What a Night*, Velma in *Chicago* and most recently, Cassie in *A Chorus Line*.

Career highlights include performing at the Great Hall of The People in Beijing and Shanghai with Fei Xiang (Kris Phillips) in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Masterpiece* and singing with Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor at the Dominion Theatre London for Freddy Mercury's 60th birthday celebration.

Deone is excited to be revisiting *West Side Story*, her favourite musical, in the role of Anita. She would like to dedicate her performance to her Nonna Rina.



## ADAM FIORENTINO

Bernardo

Adam was born and raised in Melbourne but his performances have taken him around the world. Starting in television and theatre in Australia and Asia, his stage debut was in the original production of *The Boy From Oz*. He then performed in productions of *Grease*, *Cats*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Footloose* and the lead role of Tony Manero made famous by John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*. He then made his debut in this role on London's West End.

From there he went straight into the television series *Hollyoaks*; *In the City* and into the role of Young Ben in the West End production of *Follies*.

Still pursuing his dream of Broadway he moved to New York. That dream came true when he was cast in the lead role of Bert in *Mary Poppins* on Broadway. His television/film credits while in America include

*30 Rock*, *Sherri*, *All My Children* and the feature film *Our Brand is Crisis* to name a few.

He is excited to performing in one of his favourite musicals in his hometown and would like to dedicate this performance to his mother Bonny.

## SEAN MULLIGAN

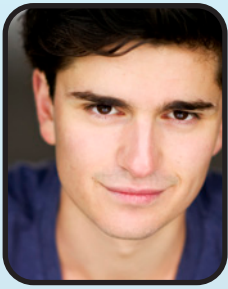
Riff

Sean began training at the age of four under the direction of Peta Norton. His credits on London's West End include Bob Crewe in *Jersey Boys*, understudying Warner Emmett in *Legally Blonde*, Kenicke and understudy for Danny in *Grease* and Tony Manero in *Saturday Night Fever* (Apollo Victoria Theatre/National and Asian Tours).

Sean's other theatre credits include Dein Perry's *Tap Dogs* and *Steel City* (Australian Tour / Radio City Music Hall); *Show Boat*, *Happy Days - The Arena Mega Musical*, Rolf in *The Sound of Music*, *Mamma Mia!*, Buck in *Hot Shoe Shuffle* and *Leader of the Pack - The Ellie Greenwich Musical*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *A Chorus Line* in Tel Aviv and *White Christmas* in the UK.

Sean has also toured Australia with Sophie Monk and Dannii Minogue and performed with Drew Anthony and Leonie Page in *The Fabulous Rhythm Boys*. Most recently Sean can be seen performing with *The Tap Pack*.





## ROB TRIPOLINO

### Chino

Robert graduated from the Victorian College of Arts with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre after training at the Sandra Clack Ballet Centre, Geelong.

His credits include Jean-Michel in *La Cage Aux Folles* and *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Production Company), *The Addams Family* (Newtheatricals), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (GFO), lead vocalist with the John Farnham Band under the direction of Chong Lim, *Candice McQueen: Nasty!* (Green Room award for Cabaret Production, Green Room nomination for

Cabaret Musical Director).

Television credits include Channel Ten's drama series *Mr and Mrs Murder* and ABC's *Upper Middle Bogan*.

In 2014, Robert composed the score to *Guilty Pleasures*, which played Melbourne (Chapel Off Chapel) and Sydney (The Hayes Theatre) and will now play Brisbane's Powerhouse Theatre in October. He also composed and produced *DreamSong*, which played at Theatreworks as part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Robert recently starred in *Ned – A New Australian Musical* (City of Greater Bendigo), and will appear in the feature film *Holding The Man*.



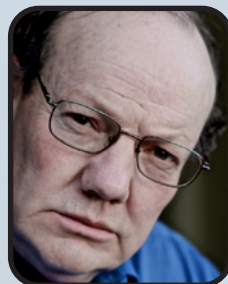
## NEIL MELVILLE

### Schrank

Neil Melville has numerous credits in a career spanning over four decades. Recent TV credits include *Utopia*, *Party Tricks*, *Wentworth*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Howzat*, *Rake*, *Jack Irish*, *Killing Time*, *City Homicide* and *The Hollowmen*. Other ongoing roles include *Underbelly*, *City Homicide*, *The Man from Snowy River*, *Blue Heelers*, *McLeod's Daughters*, *Halifax*, *A Country Practice* and *Flying Doctors*. In film he co-starred in *A Heartbeat Away* directed by Gale Edwards. He also co-starred with Anthony La Paglia in the film

*Brilliant Lies*. Other credits include *Oranges and Sunshine*, *Court of Lonely Royals*, *Fiddlers Green*, *Bushfire Moon* and *Feathers*.

Neil has appeared on stage in the original Australian cast of *Les Miserables*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *On Our Selection* among many other theatrical credits. This is his debut with The Production Company and he is delighted to be working with Gale and the cast.



## TONY RICKARDS

### Doc

Tony Rickards' career spans over thirty-five years working in television, film, radio and stage. Recent television credits include *Wentworth*, *Childhood's End*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Winners and Losers*, *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, the *Tangle Series* and *Kath and Kim*. His feature film credits include *The Cup*, *Summer Coda*, *The Craic*, *Castaway and Squizzy Taylor* and to be released in 2015, *Holding The Man*, *Pawno* and *The Menkoff Method*.

Tony's most recent theatre credits include the highly-acclaimed *Cock* for the MTC and *Every Night Every Night* for the Frank Theatre Company. Tony is also a highly regarded comedian and was the co-founder of the infamous radio show *Punter to Punter*, playing the pivotal role of Con Marasco. Tony also performed in his own shows at the Last Laugh and at the Flying Trapeze.

## GLASTON TOFT

### Glad Hand

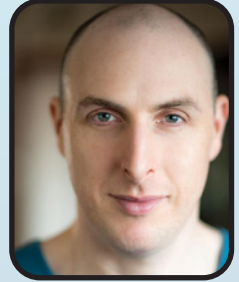


Glaston graduated from WAAPA in 2005. Prior to this, he studied classical voice at the Queensland Conservatorium. He performed in the musical *Jersey Boys* as Four Seasons member Nick Massi for over 1300 performances. Recently he was seen as Lt Barri in Sondheim's *Passion* at the Arts Centre Melbourne, the Proprietor in *Assassins*, touring throughout Victoria, Harry the Horse in *Guys and Dolls* for The Production Company, The Police Chief for Gertrude Opera, and Sammy in *Blood Brothers* at Chapel Off Chapel.

In 2008, he appeared in TML Enterprises' production of *SHOUT!* and the national tour of Opera Australia's *My Fair Lady*. His other performance highlights include *Little Me* and *Camelot* for The Production Company.

## DEAN VINCE

### Krupke



Dean graduated from WAAPA with a Bachelor of Arts (Musical Theatre). His credits for The Production Company include Mr Marks/Scott in *The Producers*, Mayor of Merano in *Chess*, Stan in *Promises, Promises*, *Damn Yankees* and Sheriff Vallon in *Show Boat*. Other roles include Plato/Macavity in *Cats*, Smoky in *Damn Yankees*, Fogarty/Judge in *Chicago* (Green Room Award-Ensemble Performance), Pancrazio in *The Venetian Twins*, the Australian Premiere of *Sondheim on Sondheim* and the world premiere productions of *Dirty Dancing* (as Stan), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical* and *King Kong – Live on Stage* (as Zekey).

He can be heard on the Original Cast Recordings of both *Dirty Dancing* and *Priscilla*. Dean played Gangle in *Love Never Dies* (Green Room Nomination) and also features in the film version of the production. He played Munkustrap in Harvest Rain's record-breaking arena production of *Cats*, as well as The Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance*. On television, Dean has appeared in *CNNNN* and on film in *Japanese Story*. He directed the NSW premiere of *John and Jen* and was Assistant Director on *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (Darlinghurst Theatre). Most recently Dean choreographed *Triassic Parq* for Squabballagic.

Dean would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support. He is a proud member of Equity.

## JARED BRYAN

### Action, Dance Captain



Originally from Hobart, Jared started dancing at the age of three. At the age of sixteen he moved to Melbourne to study full-time at Dance World Studios. Since graduating, Jared has performed with artists Guy Sebastian, Ricki-Lee, Anthony Callea, Jessica Mauboy, Tim Campbell, Todd McKenney and Brian McFadden. Television credits include *Dancing With The Stars* (Channel 7), *The AFL Footy Show* (Channel 9), *Australia's Got Talent* (Channel 7), *The Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards* (Nickelodeon Channel), *The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala* (Network Ten), *TV Turns 50* (Channel 7) and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* (ABC) along with numerous music videos, television commercials and corporate events.

Jared was selected to travel to Las Vegas to compete for Australia in the World Hip Hop Championships before continuing his training by completing a Certificate III in Music Theatre with APO Arts Academy. His theatre credits include *Grease* (GFO) which travelled around Australia and Singapore, *Carmen* and *Madama Butterfly* (Opera Australia), *Monty Python's Spamalot* for the National Tourism Awards in Canberra (Ozlot), *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Flinders St – The Musical* (Magnormos) and *Hello Dolly – A Jerry Herman Triptych* (Magnormos) which he co-choreographed.

Jared is thrilled to be performing in *West Side Story* for The Production Company. He would like to thank his family and friends for their ongoing love and support.

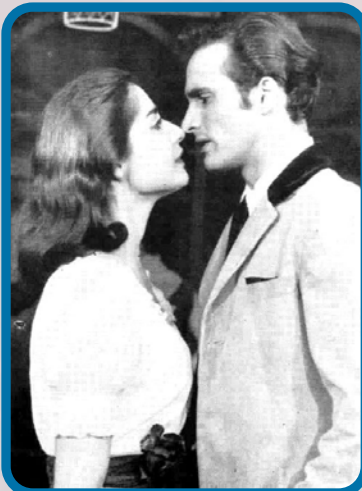




Getting it together, 1957. Left to right: Lyricist Stephen Sondheim, playwright Arthur Laurents, producer Hal Prince, co-producer Robert Griffith (seated), composer Leonard Bernstein, director-choreographer Jerome Robbins.

## FRANK VAN STRATEN TRACES THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF WEST SIDE STORY

In a diary note dated 6 January 1949, composer Leonard Bernstein wrote: 'Jerry R. [director-choreographer Jerome Robbins] called today with a noble idea: a modern version of *Romeo and Juliet* set in slums at the coincidence of Easter–Passover celebrations. Feelings running high between Jews and Catholics. Former: Capulets; latter: Montagues. Juliet is Jewish. Friar Lawrence is a neighbourhood druggist. Street brawls, double death. It all fits. If it can work, it's a first.'



Broadway, 1957: Carol Lawrence (Maria) and Larry Kert (Tony). Photo: Fred Fehl.

In fact Shakespeare's best-loved play was not really original. Its genesis was Masuccio Salernitano's novel *Mariotto and Gianozza*, published in Italy in 1476. This inspired Luigi de Porto's *Giulietta e Romeo* of 1530 and Matteo Bandella's *Giuletta e Romeo* of 1554. In 1562 British poet Arthur Brooke reworked Bandella's story into a narrative poem, *The Tragical Historye of Romeus and Juliet* – which was the starting point for Shakespeare. His *Romeo and Juliet* was first performed around 1595. Interestingly, Shakespeare also used Bandello plots in *Much Ado about Nothing* and *Twelfth Night*.

Of course all this was of little consequence to Bernstein and Robbins, who had previously worked together in 1944 on the ballet *Fancy Free* and its expansion into the musical *On the Town*. Their great challenge was to create a new kind of musical. As Bernstein put it: 'to tread the fine line between opera and Broadway, between realism and poetry, ballet and "just dancing", abstract and representational.' It was to be a long journey.

Robbins and Bernstein worked on the show on and off for eight years. Along the way writer Arthur Laurents and lyricist Stephen Sondheim joined the creative team, producers came and went, Bernstein wrote and premiered *Candide*, and the milieu for the new show (tentatively titled *Gangway*) shifted from Jewish–Catholic conflicts in New York's

Lower East Side to troubles with Chicano Americans in the slums of the city's Upper West Side. So *West Side Story* it was.

The show premiered in Washington on 19 August 1957. 'The opening last night was just as we dreamed it,' wrote Bernstein. 'All the agony and postponements and re-re-re-writing turn out to have been worth it. I am now convinced that what we dreamed all these years is possible; because there stands that tragic story, with a theme as profound as love versus hate, with all the theatrical risks of death and racial issues and young performers and "serious" music and complicated balletics – and it all added up for audience and critics. I laughed and cried as though I'd never seen or heard it before.' Most surprising was the audience's acceptance of the story's downbeat end. 'Not even a whisper about a happy ending has been heard,' said Bernstein. 'A rare thing on Broadway.'

The show opened at the Winter Garden on 26 September 1957. Rapturously received, it was nominated for six Tony Awards, but won only two, for Best Choreography and Best Scenic Design. It notched up 732 performances, toured widely, then returned to Broadway for another 253 performances. It did even better in London, where it achieved a 1039-performance run. There were major revivals on Broadway in 1964, 1980 and 2009, and in London in 1998, 2008 and 2013. The film version, released in 1961, won ten Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

In 1960 *West Side Story* arrived 'Down Under', courtesy of entrepreneur Garnet H. Carroll, who ran the Princess Theatre in Melbourne. His chief rival was J.C. Williamson's, which had just scored a sensational success with *My Fair Lady* and Carroll needed something to match it. *West Side Story* was his answer. Carroll had seen the show in New York and again in London. 'The tremendous impact of this exciting musical made me more anxious than ever to bring it to Australia,' he said, though he would need to import an unprecedented number of American performers.

Carroll's main recruits were Joe Calvin, the show's original stage manager, who would reproduce Jerome Robbins' direction, and Ben Vargas, 'Bernardo' on Broadway, who would recreate the role in Australia and replicate Robbins'



Broadway, 1957: Chita Rivera (Anita). Photo: Fred Fehl.



The 1961 film: Richard Beymer (Tony) and Natalie Wood (Maria).



Australia, 1960: Rita Tanno (Anita) with some of the Sharks' girls.

virtually unknown in Australia then, so John had to have them specially made. The same with the gym boots: there was nowhere to buy them, so they were all hand made in Melbourne.'

Dobbs Franks recalled: 'Australia was like another world, especially for the youngsters in the cast. There was the quaintness of the trams, the peculiar currency, right hand drive, and the nonsense of six o'clock closing. And I remember having to learn a new musical language. The musos had never heard of quarter notes and eighth notes, so I had to change over to crotchets and quavers. It was a difficult score and we needed lots of rehearsals. We had a band of about 32 – more than in New York, because our guys couldn't double instruments as much. The Princess had the best theatre orchestra in Australia, and they loved the music, even though it was so hard.'

John Carroll remembered the first orchestra call: 'The guys were stunned because Dobbs turned up not only in jeans, but also in a denim jacket. They'd never seen anything like it! And he never used a score. He knew the whole thing backwards – at 27! All the other theatre conductors in Australia were aged in their 50s and 60s.'

There were no microphones, and rehearsals revealed that the orchestra was too loud. 'It was a hard score to play quietly,' explained Franks. 'I said I thought the pit floor was too high. To my astonishment they managed to lower it over a weekend.'

*West Side Story* premiered at the Princess on 29 October 1960. Overnight, *My Fair Lady*, which had just concluded its first Melbourne run, seemed a little passé. The audience gave Bernstein and Sondheim's vibrant musical tragedy an enthusiastic welcome, though the Lord Mayor, Sir Bernard Evans, sniffed, 'You'd never get delinquents like that in Melbourne.'

The young American Jets and Sharks were well trained but totally undisciplined. 'They were just kids,' recalled Phil A'Vard, who played Officer Krupke and doubled as assistant stage director. 'They used to lounge around outside the stage door and sit on the parked cars, smoking. There was a lot of tension between them, and one of them pulled a knife on me. Some were really quite violent, and all of them a long way from home. They were unused to the attention they were getting.'

In December the Carrolls slotted in a pantomime, which played twice daily while *West Side Story* continued in the evenings. 'It was bizarre,' said A'Vard. 'We had two completely different casts and shows in the theatre at the same time – except that somehow the gym set in *West Side Story* became the Royal Palace in *Puss in Boots*.'

In February 1961 *West Side Story* transferred to the Tivoli in Sydney. By the time the season ended, many of the Americans had been replaced by locals – notably Patsy Hemingway, who succeeded Wendy Waring as Maria.

choreography. Dobbs Franks, a protégé of Leonard Bernstein, would be musical director. He had already conducted the show's US tour. This trio chose most of the Jets and Sharks. Because Robbins' signature choreography was unknown in Australia, Equity agreed to the mass importation, provided that locals gradually replaced them during the run. Eventually the 'biggest theatrical airlift' to that time brought 26 people to Australia.

Meanwhile the Broadway set and lighting designs were meticulously copied. 'I think we were the first Australian management to reproduce an overseas lighting plot,' claimed John Carroll who, because of his father's failing health, assumed control of the production. The costumes were entrusted to young local designer, John Truscott. 'You must remember,' said Carroll, 'that jeans were



Australia, 1994: Sean McDermott (Tony) and Marina Prior (Maria). Photo: Jeff Busby.

Most of the Americans returned home. None went on to showbiz fame, though Bob Kole, who had been perfect as Tony, did record a couple of albums. Others like Ronne Arnold (Luis), Ernest Parham (Indio) and Rita Tanno (Anita) had notable careers in Australia. Rita became a theatrical agent and married actor Gus Mercurio. Paul Mercurio is their son. Dobbs Franks contributed mightily to music in this country. Of the young locals, Terry Donovan achieved a varied career on stage and television; Phil A'Vard had a long association with the Alexander Theatre at Monash University; and John Truscott won two Academy Awards, designed the interiors of Arts Centre Melbourne and worked on Brisbane's Expo '88.

*West Side Story* has enjoyed several major Australian revivals. The first opened at Her Majesty's in Sydney in May 1983 and moved to the Princess in September. Dobbs Franks directed and conducted. Tony and Maria were played by Philip Gould and Rosemary Harris.

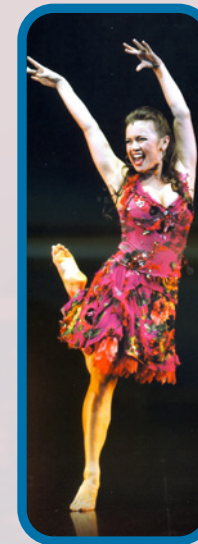
A new production at the Princess in February 1994 was jointly produced by Ken Mackenzie-Forbes and James Erskine for Victoria State Opera and International Management Group. Ian Judge directed a cast including Marina Prior (Maria), Sean McDermott (Tony), Caroline O'Connor (Anita), Adam Marchant (Bernardo) and Todd McKenney (Riff). Brian Stacey conducted. This production played twice at the Capitol in Sydney. The leads for its second visit were Peter Cousens and Maree Johnson.

The third revival, in 2010, was based on the 2008 London production. Its backers included Michael Brenner, Harold Panter's Ambassador Theatre Group, James Cundall's Lunchbox Theatricals and David Atkins Enterprises. Leading the cast were Josh Piterman (Tony), Julie Goodwin (Maria), Alinta Chidzey (Anita), Nigel Turner-Carroll (Bernardo) and Rohan Browne (Riff). Joey McKneeley directed and Vanessa Scammell conducted. The show played at the Regent in Melbourne.

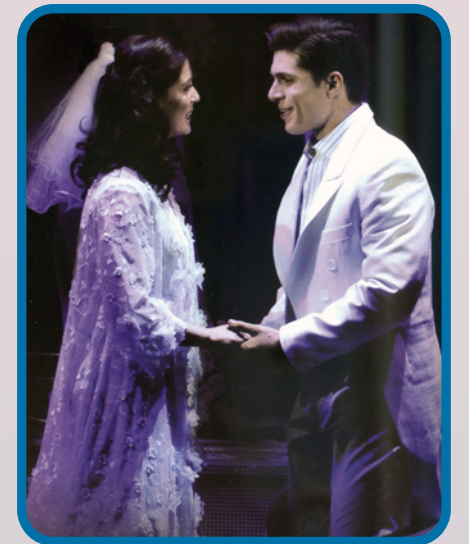
And now the Sharks and the Jets are back, as electrifying as ever, in the show that nearly sixty years ago the New York *Daily News* reviewer John Chapman described as *Extraordinarily exciting... a provocative and artful blending of music, dance and plot*. Indeed, as Leonard Bernstein so cogently put it: 'It all fits.'



Australia, 1994: Caroline O'Connor (Anita) and Chris Bakis (Bernardo). Photo: Jeff Busby.

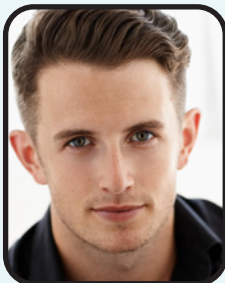


Australia, 2010: Alinta Chidzey (Anita). Photo: Branco Gaica.



Australia, 2010: Julie Goodwin (Maria) and Josh Piterman (Tony). Photo: Branco Gaica.

# JET BOYS

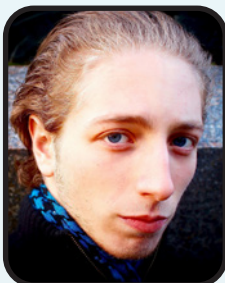


## ALEX GIVEN

### A-Rab

In 2011 Alex completed the Performing Arts course and Musical Theatre course at Patrick Studios Australia. He has performed in various events including the *TV Week Logie Awards*, *Opening of Hamer Hall* with Caroline O'Connor, *Adelaide Cabaret Festival Opening Gala*, *Trevor Ashley's Liza (on an E)* and the *Adrienne Angel/Bernadette Peters Vocal Workshop*.

Musical Theatre credits include *Anything Goes* and *Guys and Dolls* for The Production Company, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (TML Enterprises), *South Pacific* (Opera Australia), *Georgy Girl* and *Our House* (Workshops), *Loving Repeating* (VTC) and Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom the Musical* (Global Creatures). Alex will make his film debut this year in *Holding the Man* (Screen Australia).



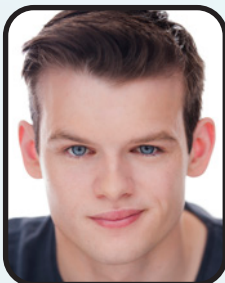
## FRANKY DROUSIOTI

### Baby John

Franky began his dance career in 2004 at Vision Dance Studios with Maria Koumis and is currently in full-time training at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School.

Franky was selected as lead dancer for Jonathan Taylor's original cast of *Opus 47*, performing in over seven productions. He also helped devise and choreograph *My Enemy*, an original work in VCASS's creative season *Foreign Ground*. As an actor, he performed as Willy Nilly in *Under Milkwood*, also at VCA.

Franky is thrilled to make his professional music theatre debut. Big thanks to Miss Tanya Mitford, his agents at IWM, and of course, Mum!



## JOSHUA MULHERAN

### Snowboy

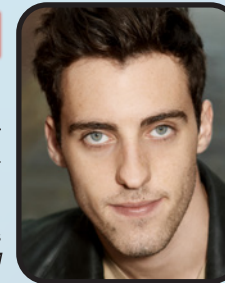
Josh graduated from ED5 International in 2012, earning his Diploma in Performing Arts. He has had the opportunity to perform alongside artists such as Guy Sebastian, Justice Crew and Michael Falzon, as well as events including *Nickelodeon Slimefest* and the *Premiers Concert 2013*.

In 2014 Josh was a Singer/Dancer in the Carnival Legend Install Cast, opening the shows *Epic Rock*, *Studio VIP*, *Motorcity*, and *The Brits*.

This is Josh's debut with The Production Company. He looks forward to working with the team, and extends his gratitude to his family and friends for their support.

## MAX PATTERSON

### Big Deal



Originally from the Gold Coast, Max started dancing at the age of three under the direction of Peta McKenney before moving to NSW to complete his Diploma in Performing Arts at ED5 International.

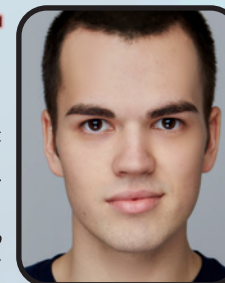
At the age of nine, he made his music theatre debut as a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz* (GFO/SEL/Macks Entertainment). Since then he has performed at the *Helpmann Awards*, *Australia's Got Talent*, *The Dally M Awards* and in numerous corporate performances and international live stage shows throughout Asia and the Middle East. He has also worked with the choreographers Dein Perry, Matt Lee, Jason Coleman and The Squared Division.

In 2013 Max made his adult musical theatre debut as Tap in *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (David Atkins Enterprises).

Max is thrilled *West Side Story* will mark his first appearance with The Production Company and would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support.

## BLAKE APPELOVIST

### Diesel



Canberra-born Blake is completing his final year in BA, Music Theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts. Last year he played Bobby Strong in *Urinetown*, directed by Alister Smith and later this year he will play Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street*, directed by Gary Young.

Blake was the leading solo dancer in the *68th Annual DanceSport Championship Opening* directed by Martin Croft, and was the recipient of the Orloff Family Charitable Trust Award (Music Theatre 2014) for excellence and the New York Global Atelier Scholarship.

*West Side Story* marks Blake's professional debut and he is elated to be making it with The Production Company.

## JORDAN TURNER

### Gee-Tar



Growing up in Byron Bay, Jordan began his studies in Circus Arts. He moved to Sydney to train at Brent Street Studios, where he completed his HSC, Certificate IV in Performing Arts and a Diploma in Contemporary Dance.

Gaining representation by Jeep Management, Jordan has appeared as a dancer for Ricky Martin, Robbie Williams, Jessie J, DJ Havana Brown, Delta Goodrem, Joel Maden, Seal and Cody Simpson on TV Shows and events including *The X-Factor*, *The Voice Kids*, *The Voice*, *Dance Academy* and *Dancing With The Stars*. In 2014 Jordan was a finalist in the fourth season of *So You Think You Can Dance*.

This is Jordan's debut with The Production Company.

# JET GIRLS



## SAGE DOUGLAS

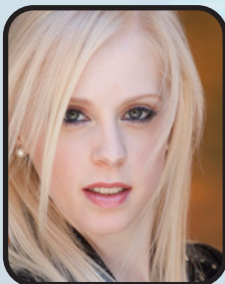
### Anybody's

From Melbourne, Sage began her training at Centrestage Performing Arts School at the age of four. After dancing full time in 2007 with Robert Sturrock, she headed to WAAPA, graduating in musical theatre in 2010.

Theatre credits include Val in *A Chorus Line* (TML Enterprises – Perth and Brisbane seasons), Georgine Skeene in *Loving Repeating* (Vic Theatre Company) *Thomas and the Hidden Treasure* in Dubai and Melbourne (Smile Live Entertainment) and Alice in *Alice In Wonderland* (Australian Shakespeare

Company). She created the role of Kylie in the world premiere of *The Damned* by Reg Cribb with the Black Swan State Theatre Company, and also appeared in *Twisted Broadway* and *Hats Off*.

Sage is delighted to be in the cast of *West Side Story* and wishes to thank everyone at IWM for their hard work and support. She dedicates her performance to her mum, Kaye.



## SHERIDAN ANDERSON

### Graziella

Sheridan studied at Isolation Performing Arts Studio, where she also completed full-time professional training. After working as a dancer and aerialist for Royal Caribbean she continued her training in New York at Broadway Dance Center and Ward Acting Studio, studying with some of Broadway's finest directors and choreographers.

Most recently Sheridan has appeared in *Pippin* (Magnormous), *Our House* (Workshop - Storyboard Entertainment) and Michael Ralph's *Now and Then*.

Sheridan is thrilled to be making her debut with The Production Company in *West Side Story* and would like to thank Adrian, her family, friends, teachers and agent Emma Raciti for their support.



## DANIELLE HEGARTY

### Velma

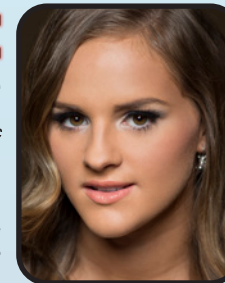
Danni graduated with an Advanced Diploma of Dance (Elite Performance) at Lee Academy in 2012, studying dancing, singing, acting, acrobatics and aerial. She has toured nationally and internationally as a dancer and aerialist. Danni's stage credits include Opera Australia's harbour-side production of *La Traviata*, soloist dancer in *Die Tote Stadt*, featured aerialist/ensemble in *King Kong Live on Stage* (Global Creatures) and the Havana dancer/ensemble in *Guys and Dolls* (The Production Company).

Danni is absolutely thrilled to be playing the role of Velma for The Production Company and is delighted to perform alongside so many talented artists.

## BRITTANY PAGE

### Minnie

Brittany began her performance career as Gretel in GFO's *The Sound of Music* at the age of six. Since then she has trained at The Australian Ballet School and Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance. Brittany dances professionally with RickStix Productions, Locreado Dance Company, and Transit Dance Company, amongst regular corporate and commercial work. She has completed multiple secondments with Garry Stewart and Australian Dance Theatre and is thrilled to be returning to musical theatre in *West Side Story*.



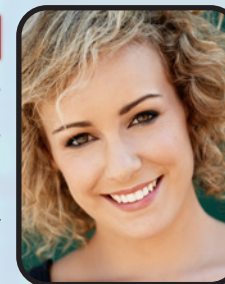
## VICTORIA RIMINGTON

### Clarice

Victoria studied dance full-time at Dance World Studios. After graduating she was cast in Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's award winning *Mary Poppins*, touring Australia and Auckland from 2010 to 2012.

In 2014 she performed in Giving Productions *Hollywood Honky Tonk* as a soloist dancer. Victoria has also studied film and television and has appeared in several commercials.

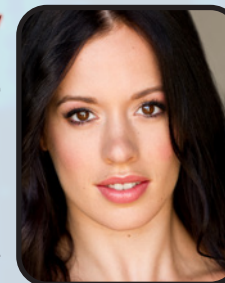
Victoria is delighted to be working with The Production Company.



## ANDREA CARMODY

### Pauline

In 2010 Andrea enrolled in Dance World Studios' Diploma Of Dance and was awarded the Achievement Scholarship. In 2011, she undertook musical theatre studies at APO Arts Academy. Since launching her professional career, Andrea has worked with various choreographers, performing in corporate and commercial shows. Most recently, she completed a contract with Norwegian Cruise Lines as a dancer and aerialist. Andrea is thrilled and honoured to be part of *West Side Story*. She would like to thank her teachers, her family and friends and particularly her Mum and Dad for their love and support.



# SHARK BOYS



## NAT JOBE

Pepe

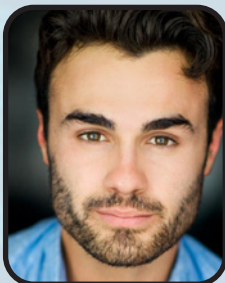
Nat's career in the arts started at a very young age when he would force his family to buy tickets to the puppet shows that he would regularly put on in his living room. He went on to study at both WAAPA (BA, Music Theatre) and NIDA (singer, dancer and actor).

Since graduating, Nat has appeared in *Crazy for You* and *The King and I* for The Production Company, *Floyd Collins* (Meridith Shaw Productions), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Opera Australia), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now*

*Change* (NIDA Directors' Program Tour), *Nil By Sea* (Peter Fray Productions) and *Irene* (Peach Productions), where he was thrilled to share the stage with Hollywood legend Debbie Reynolds.

Nat also toured in the title role in the children's musical as *The Gruffalo* (Christine Dunstan Productions) and as Pete The Sheep (Monkey Baa Theatre Company) as well as performing a season of the one-man children's show *Nursery Rhyme Land* at the Sydney Opera House.

In 2013 Nat was given the role of a lifetime as father to his beautiful daughter, Taj.



## ROSS CHISARI

Indio

Ross graduated from the WAAPA with a BA in Music Theatre. Mildura born and bred, his theatre credits, since graduating from WAAPA, include Squabbalogic's *The Drowsy Chaperone* (which gained him a GLUG Theatre Award Nomination), the Australian premiere of *Truth, Beauty and a Picture of You* and the Melbourne premiere of *Carrie the Musical*.

Ross has just finished choreographing as well as playing opposite Tony Award Nominee Tony Sheldon as Sancho in Squabbalogic's production of *Man of La Mancha*. He is excited to be making his professional debut in The Production Company's 50th Production; *West Side Story*.



## MAX BIMBI

Luis

Max grew up on the sunny beaches of the Gold Coast, where he spent most of his time inside performing. Last year he graduated from WAAPA, where he had the opportunity to play Jimmy Harper in *Reefer Madness*, A-Rab in *West Side Story* and the ensemble in *Hair* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. In 2014 Max received the inaugural Jackman Furness Foundation Award for his cabaret *The Way We Wore*.

Max is thrilled to make his professional debut in The Production Company's *West Side Story* and would like to thank his family and friends for their support.



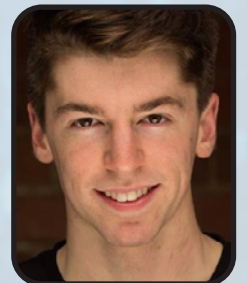
## MAXWELL TRENGOVE

Nibbles

Maxwell grew up in Adelaide and moved to Melbourne with a scholarship to study at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance. He has worked for many artists and events including Kylie Minogue, Ed Sheeran, Megan Washington, The Veronicas, Sneaky Sound System, Caroline O'Connor, Rhonda Burchmore, The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, *Australia's Got Talent*, *X-Factor*, *The Australian Dance Awards* and *The World Dancesport Championships*.

He performed in the stage musical *King Kong - Live On Stage* (Global Creatures) and in the contemporary works *Climax* (Collaboration the Project) and *Release* (Rickstix) and alongside legendary showgirl Marissa Burgess in *Cabaret De Paris*.

After having spent much of 2014 teaching and working throughout Europe, Maxwell is thrilled to be performing back in Australia and would like to thank his teachers and mentors for their wisdom and support.

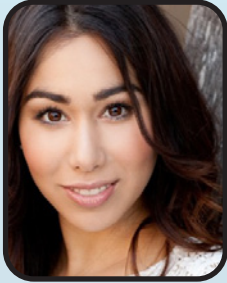


## DAVID SIRIANNI

Juano

David is in his final year of study at Federation University's Arts Academy (Ballarat) completing a Bachelor of Music Theatre. He trained in dance with the Bev Palmer Dancers and Michelle Slater Performing Arts. Most recently David Performed in the 2015 graduating production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Dance Captain). His self devised cabaret, *Coming Clean* will appear as part of the 2015 Ballarat Cabaret Festival. *West Side Story* marks David's professional theatre debut.

# SHARK GIRLS

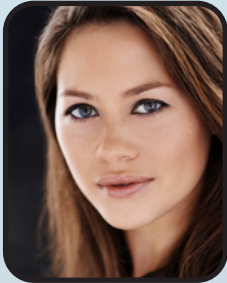


## BIANCA BAYKARA

Rosalia

Bianca is a 2010 NIDA graduate, where she received the Robertson Family Trust scholarship. She is delighted to be returning to The Production Company in *West Side Story*, having made her debut with the company in *Singin' In The Rain*. Other theatre credits include Opera Australia's *The King and I*, Vanessa in *In The Heights*, Pretty Lady in *Pacific Overtures*, and Seegar understudy in *An Officer and A Gentleman*. Her next role will be in Opera Australia/GFO's *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Bianca wishes to thank her agents, teachers and especially her family for their endless love and support.

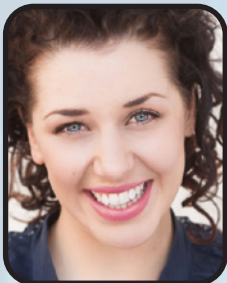


## ANTONIA MARR

Francisca

Antonia graduated from Doreen Bird College in London and began her career in the role of Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan*. Since leaving the UK, she has been performing her way around the world as Elphaba in *Wicked* at Universal Studios in Japan, as a swing at Universal Studios in Singapore and as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* at Hong Kong Disneyland. More recently she has cruised as a lead singer for Princess Cruises.

This is Antonia's first appearance with The Production Company. She is thrilled to join such a talented cast and creative team and would like to thank her partner, family and friends for their endless support.



## MADELEINE MACKENZIE

Consuelo

Madeleine graduated from the full-time Program at Howard Fine Acting Studio in 2013. Her film credits there included *Zero* and *Sugarplum* (choreographer). She also has a Diploma of Performance from Dance World Studios in Melbourne, where she was awarded a scholarship and graduated with honours.

Madeleine's theatre credits include *Guys and Dolls* and *Promises, Promises* for The Production Company, Michael Ralph's *Hollywood Honky Tonk* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic production of *Love Never Dies*. She also featured in the film version and the 10th Anniversary Tour of *Mamma Mia!*, the Donmar Warehouse production of *Guys and Dolls* and the play *Kindred* for GoldFish Films, as Selina.

Madeleine is absolutely thrilled to be performing in this classic piece of theatre, The Production Company's 50th show.

## ELLA BURNS

Estella

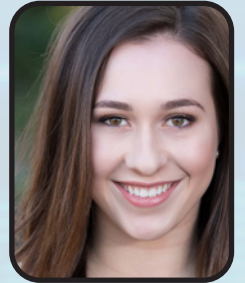


*West Side Story* marks Ella's professional music theatre debut. She recently graduated from Patrick Studios Australia, studying Music Theatre and Dance under the direction of Andrew Hallsworth and Todd Patrick. Whilst at PSA, she starred in the role of Queenie in LaChuisa's version of *The Wild Party*, as well as performing in *Twisted Broadway*. In 2014, Ella appeared in Michael Ralph's production *Hollywood Honky Tonk*.

Ella would like to thank her family, friends, Jenina Evans and her mentors at Patrick Studios for their unwavering love and support.

## ROMY VUKSAN

Teresita



Since graduating as dux of the full-time course at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance in 2014, Romy has performed the role of Silly Girl in the Rob Guest Endowment concert version of *Beauty and the Beast* alongside some of Australia's best musical theatre performers including Rob Mills, David Harris, and Patrice Tipoki. She was Dance Captain for *Spiegelicious* with Wayne Scott Kermond, and a dancer for Red Foo and Guy Sebastian on Channel 7's *Dancing with the Stars*. Romy would like to thank her family and mentors for their continuous love and support.

## SAMANTHA BRUZZESE

Margarita



Samantha was originally a gymnast and cheerleader before her passion for dance and music theatre took over. She began her full-time dance training at Patrick Studios Australia at age seventeen and graduated in 2013 with a Musical Theatre Diploma from Brent St Performing Arts. Most recently, Samantha was in the ensemble of the StageArt production of *In the Heights*. Other credits include The Production Company's *Kismet*, *13 Rooms* by Rafael Bonachela, cheerleading for the Dubai Rugby 7's and performing as an Official Australian Pussycat Doll for Robin Antin.

Samantha is thrilled to be a part of *West Side Story* and would like to thank her family, friends and agent for their endless love and support.



## GALE EDWARDS

Director

Gale has been directing all genres of theatre and opera nationally and internationally for over thirty years, her great love being the Classics and Musical Theatre. Gale has directed for all Australia's State Theatre Companies, Opera Australia, Victoria State Opera, South Australian Opera, New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, English National Opera, Royal Shakespeare Company and the Chichester Festival.

Gale has won multiple awards for her directing, including a Sydney Theatre Award for *Festen*, Helpmann Awards for *The Boy From Oz* and *Sweeney Todd*, Green Room Awards for *The Boy From Oz* and *Manon Lescaut*, *Salome* and Sydney Theatre Critics Awards for *Coriolanus*, *The Rover*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Les Miserables*.

For The Production Company Gale has directed *Chess*, *Gypsy* and *Guys and Dolls*. Her production of *Chess* won seven Green Room Awards.

Gale directed a new production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which had seasons on the West End and on Broadway, receiving a Tony Award nomination and an International Emmy Award for Best Filmed Video Production. Other international work includes *Romeo and Juliet* for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Macbeth* for Oregon Shakespeare Company, *Hamlet*, *Edward II*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Richard III* for Washington Shakespeare Company, *Far Pavillions* Shaftsbury Theatre, London, *Don Carlos* for Royal Shakespeare Company London transferring to BAM in New York, *The Taming of The Shrew* and *The White Devil* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, both transferring to the Barbican Theatre in London, *St Joan* for The Strand Theatre London and *Aspects of Love* for the Really Useful Company London.

Gale has directed many theatre productions in Australia. Highlights are, *Coriolanus*, *The White Devil*, *The God of Carnage*, *Woman in Mind*, *Festen* and *The Way of the World*, for the Sydney Theatre Company and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Hitchcock Blonde*, *M Butterfly*, *Ghosts* and *Uncle Vanya* for the Melbourne Theatre Company. Gale directed the original production of *The Boy From Oz*, *Jerry Springer the Opera* for the Sydney Opera House and a new production of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Her operas include *La Boheme*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Manon Lescaut*, *The Magic Flute*, *Maria Stuarda*, *Salome* and *Katya Kabanova* and most recently both *Carmen* (2013) and *Aida* (2015) on Sydney Harbour.

## GUY SIMPSON

Musical Director



Guy Simpson has been working as a Conductor, Musical Director and Musical Supervisor for thirty-five years.

This is his fourteenth musical for The Production Company - *Funny Girl*, *Call Me Madam*, *Mack and Mabel*, *The Music Man*, *They're Playing our Song*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma!*, *Camelot*, *Little Me*, *Follies*, *Promises, Promises*, *Gypsy*, *Guys and Dolls* and now, one of his all time favourites – *West Side Story*.

His work on *The Phantom of the Opera* began in Australia in 1990 and has continued for over twenty years with productions in Auckland, Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Shanghai, Taipei, Hong Kong, Brazil (in Portuguese), Manila, Bangkok, Singapore, Istanbul and Seoul where he produced two cast recordings in Korean.

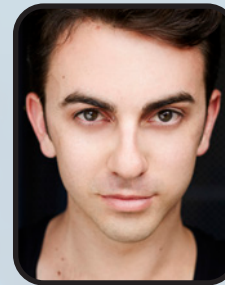
He has had a similarly long association with *Miss Saigon* since the original production – conducting or supervising productions in Australia, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brazil, Seoul, The Netherlands and Japan.

Other international productions include *Cats* (Australia, New Zealand), *Chicago* (Australia, Hong Kong) and *We Will Rock You - the QUEEN musical* (Australia, Japan).

Guy was Musical Supervisor and Orchestrator of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* starring Geoffrey Rush. He was Musical Supervisor and Musical Director of the Australian production of *Love Never Dies* - the sequel to *The Phantom of the Opera*. This production has been filmed and released on DVD by Universal Pictures.

Other productions in Australia include *Passion*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Les Miserables*, *Cabaret*, *My Fair Lady*, *Company*, *Into the Woods*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Snoopy*, *Seesaw* and *Zorba*. Other Musical Direction work has included the UK Pop / Opera group Amici Forever, *The Helpmann Awards*, *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* and *David Campbell - The Broadway Show*.

Current projects are *The Phantom of the Opera* in China and *Ladies in Black* (Orchestrations of music by Tim Finn) for QTC and MTC.



## MICHAEL RALPH

Choreographer

Michael Ralph is one of Australia's fastest rising young choreographers, with a dynamic, unique style and fresh a take on Musical Theatre storytelling.

His choreographic credits for Musical Theatre include *NED – A New Australian Musical* (Capital Venues and Events/GDP), *Avenue Q* (Trifle Theatre Company), *Loving Repeating* (Vic Theatre Company), *Our House* (Workshop – Storyboard Entertainment), *Georgy Girl* (Workshop - Backstage Productions), *Pacific Overtures* (Watch This Productions – Green Room Nominee), *My Fair Lady* (Footlight Productions), *Pippin* and *Milk and Honey* (Magnormos).

For television he has choreographed for *So You Think You Can Dance?* (Channel Ten). Cabaret includes *The Petticoat Soiree*, *Yummy* and *Triage* (The Butterfly Club) and dance works *Mood Swing* and *Project Elvis* (Short + Sweet Dance).

His two self-devised dance shows *Now and Then* (2013) and *Hollywood Honky Tonk* (2014) both played to sell out seasons at Melbourne's Gasworks Theatre. As a teacher of Broadway style he is in high demand teaching and choreographing for many institutions all over Melbourne.

Michael considers it a great honour to restage Jerome Robbins' masterpiece and to work with such a phenomenal cast and creative team. He would like to thank everyone at Ian White Management and the friends, colleagues, and dancers who have supported his journey so far.



## TIM CHAPPEL

### Costume Designer

In 1995 Tim won an Academy Award, a BAFTA and an Australian Film Institute award (AFI) for his costume design for the feature film *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. He revisited this work in the stage show *Priscilla Queen of the Desert, The Musical*, which has been performed worldwide and won Tim the 2011 Tony Award for Best Costume Design in a Musical.

After this success, Tim spent many years designing for feature films including *Today You Die, Lovewrecked, Miss Congeniality, Into The Sun, Red Riding Hood, Mojave Moon* and *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* among others.

His television credits include *V.I.P., High Society* and *Kathy and Mo* as well as a number of music video clips for popular artists such as Missy Elliot, Cher and Matchbox 20.

Since returning to Australia, Tim designed for the encore presentation of *The Sapphires*, produced by Black Swan Theatre Company and Company B. Tim designed costumes for PJ Hogan's latest film *Mental*, earning him a Best Costume Design nomination for the AACTA awards. He also designed for the 2012 TV series *I Will Survive* for Channel 10 and Fremantle Media Australia, Channel 9's *Australia's Got Talent* and Channel 7's *Dancing With The Stars* in 2014 and 2015. Tim's designs can be seen on Australia's celebrities including Christine Anu for her *Rewind* show (2012), Casey Donovan for *The Deadlys* (2012) and Trevor Ashley for *Diamonds are for Trevor* as part of the 2012 Mardi Gras Festival.

For The Production Company Tim has designed the costumes for *Gypsy* and *Guys and Dolls*, and co-designed the costumes for *The Pirates of Penzance*. Recently he designed the costumes for seasons of *Sweet Charity* at Sydney's Hayes Theatre and Art Centre Melbourne Playhouse.

## SHAUN GURTON

### Set Designer

Shaun has designed nationally and internationally since 1973. From 1990 to 1994 he was associate Director/Designer for the State Theatre Company of South Australia.

Recent designs include the highly acclaimed productions of *Pennsylvania Avenue, Glengarry Glen Ross, Ghosts, The Mountaintop, The Other Place, Red, Hamlet, Richard III, The Heretic, Apologia, Moonlight and Magnolias, King Lear* and *Inheritance* for MTC. He has also designed the national tours of *Mother and Son* and *Yes Prime Minister*. Other designs include *Cheechee and Romeo and Juliet* for Centaur Theatre in Montreal Canada, *Talking Heads* for Kay Mclean productions. *Equus, Taking Liberty* for Perth Theatre Company, *Australia Day, The One Day of The Year, The Club* and *Diving for Pearls* for HIT productions and *The Flick* for Red Stitch Theatre.

For The Production Company Shaun has designed *Guys and Dolls, Chess, Sweet Charity, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Boy From Oz* and *Sugar*.

Shaun is currently designing for *Georgy Girl - The Seekers Musical*.

Shaun has received Green Room Awards for *Steaming, Masterclass, Rivers of China, Festen* and *Richard III*. In 2004 he was presented with the John Truscott award for excellence in design. He has been nominated for the Helpmann award in design for *Inheritance* in 2004 and *King Lear* in 2005.



## TRUDY DALGLEISH

### Lighting Designer



Trudy Dalglish studied technical production at NIDA and has won numerous awards including the 2001 Helpmann Award for *White Devil*, 2002 'Entech' Award and the John Truscott Design Award for Excellence and Best Lighting Design for *Eureka* and in 2010 for *Hairspray* at the Green Room Awards.

Recent lighting credits include *Proof, Rapture Blister Burn, The Act* (Ensemble Theatre); *Moonshadow, Annie* (GFO); *And The World Goes Round* (LaSalle, Singapore); *Hairspray*, the Opening of the Arab Games in Doha (DAE); *Certified Male* and *Eurobeat* in the West End (Glynn Nicholas Group), *Orlando, Sweeney Todd, Manon, HMS Pinafore, Trial by Jury, The Pirates of Penzance, My Fair Lady* (OA), *City of Friends* (Millennium Entertainment) in Bergen, Norway, *Sid's Dancing Masquerade* and *Inuk2* (SDC), *Dead Man Walking, The King and I* (Broadway Asia), *Dusty, Shout* and *The Boy From Oz*. Trudy was also Associate Lighting Designer for *Driving Miss Daisy, Once* and *Grease* for GFO.

In 2015 Trudy designs the lighting for *Legends!* for Gordon Frost, *Snugglypot and Cuddlepie* for Christine Dunstan Productions and *Legally Blonde* for WAAPA. *Dirty Dancing*, for which Trudy is Associate Lighting Designer is currently continuing its national tour.



## SYSTEM SOUND

System Sound (MD John Scandrett) has engineered many productions throughout Australasia including *Les Miserables, The Phantom of the Opera, Mamma Mia!, Spamalot, The Producers, We Will Rock You, Guys and Dolls, Billy Elliot, Rock of Ages, Love Never Dies, Jersey Boys, Wicked, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, War Horse, Legally Blonde, King Kong - Live On Stage* and currently *Matilda The Musical, Les Miserables, Strictly Ballroom* and *The Phantom of the Opera's* World Tour.

### David Tonion

With System Sound since 1995, David has been involved in numerous productions including *West Side Story* (Australia and New Zealand tour), *Sweet Charity, The Boy From Oz, Popcorn, Cats, Miss Saigon* (Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and Australia), *Oliver* (Australia and Singapore), *We Will Rock You* (Australia and Japan), *Guys and Dolls, Billy Elliot, Mary Poppins* (Australia) and *Anything Goes, Kismet*, and *Chess* for The Production Company.

Currently, David is the Associate Sound Designer for *Strictly Ballroom*.

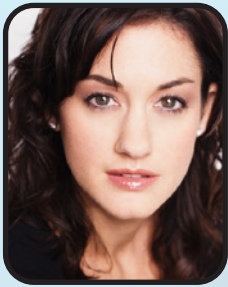
### Julian Spink

Julian joined System Sound in 1993 as Head Sound Engineer on *Les Miserables, Sunset Boulevard, West Side Story* and *Five Guys Named Moe*.

Studied in Piano and French Horn, Julian has designed and engineered events for System Sound, including Mahler's "*Symphony of a Thousand*" for the Olympics Arts Festival, and the annual *Symphony Under The Stars* for The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

Julian was Sound Supervisor for *Rock of Ages* and *Jersey Boys*.





## NATALIE GILHORME

Assistant Director

Natalie has worked in theatrical productions in Australia, Asia, Europe and New York. Most recently, she assisted choreographer Andrew Hallsworth in the new production of *Anything Goes* at the Princess Theatre. She was seen in the 2015 tour of *Sweet Charity* and prior to this, she was the Resident Director/Choreographer on the Australian tour of *Grease* for GFO. Natalie was Assistant Director for The Production Company on *La Cage Aux Folles* in 2014 and Assistant Choreographer for *Gypsy* in 2013.

In 2011, Natalie joined the West End/Broadway hit show *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* as Associate Choreographer. Previously, she performed in and was Associate Choreographer for the Australian tours of *The Secret Garden*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *The Sound of Music* (GFO). Natalie was Resident Choreographer for *The Full Monty* in 2003 and Assistant Director for *South Pacific* in 2004. Her performance credits also include *Fiddler On The Roof* starring Topol, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Cats*. For The Production Company Natalie has performed in *She Loves Me*, *Mack and Mabel*, *South Pacific*, *Anything Goes*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

## KIRSTEN KING

Assistant Choreographer

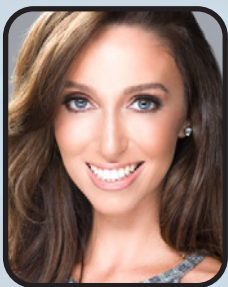
Kirsten is currently the Associate Choreographer for Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom* and preceding this, was part of the creative team working on the world premiere of *King Kong - Live On Stage* as Associate Choreographer.

Kirsten took over as Resident Choreographer on the Australasian tour of *Mary Poppins*, subsequent to being an original cast member and Dance Captain. Kirsten was also Dance Captain and original cast member of *We Will Rock You - the QUEEN Musical*, touring Australia and Japan more than over three years. Kirsten was Assistant to the Director and Choreographer for The Production Company's *The Producers*.

Roles for The Production Company include Helene in *Sweet Charity*, *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *Anything Goes* and *The Music Man*.

Kirsten's debut was in *Happy Days: The Arena Mega Musical*. Other credits include understudying and performing the role of Theima O'Keefe in the Australian tour of *Shout! The Legend Of The Wild One*, the female lead in *The Juliet Letters* (Chapel Off Chapel), *The Wizard of Oz* (GFO/SEL/Macks Entertainment), and *Catchup in Pinocchio - The Greatest Little Show on Earth* (Garry Ginivan).

Kirsten is thrilled to be assisting Michael Ralph recreate the Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story* choreography and is excited to be working with The Production Company again.



## PRISCILLA STAVROU

Assistant Choreographer

Priscilla's love for performing began at the age of three when she commenced her dance training at Attitudes Dance Studio. Her passion for dance and the performing arts lead her to further her skills at Patrick Studios Australia. She made her musical theatre debut in 2010, performing in *West Side Story*. She was also in the cast of The Production Company's *Kismet*, *Cosentino The Grand Illusionist* live national tour from 2012 to 2015, Michael Ralph's *Now and Then* and *Hollywood Honky Tonk* and the Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

She has danced alongside Havana Brown, Redfoo, Flo Rida, Cosentino The Grand Illusionist, Ashley Roberts from The Pussycat Dolls and Natalie Bassingthwaight. Her recent television credits include choreography for *Asia's and Vietnam's Got Talent*, *Dancing With The Stars*, *The Good Friday Appeal*, *Cosentino's Magic*, *Mystery and Madness* and the *TV Week Logie Awards*.

Priscilla is thrilled to be apart of the creative team re-living once again one of Broadway's greatest musicals. She would like to thank Michael Ralph for bringing her dream to fruition.

# ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Violins	<b>JO BEAUMONT (LEADER)</b> <b>ANNE MARTONYI</b> <b>EDWINA KAYSER</b> <b>OLGA VAKOUSEVITCH</b> <b>NATASHA CONRAU</b> <b>CHARLOTTE RYSSENBECK</b> <b>BRIAR GOESSI</b>	Horns	<b>ANTON SCHROEDER</b> <b>RACHEL SHAW</b>
		Trumpets	<b>GREG SPENCE</b> <b>ARI FARRAH</b> <b>MARK SKILLINGTON</b>
Cellos	<b>ANDREA TAYLOR (HD)</b> <b>PAUL ZABROWARNY</b> <b>ANNA ORZECZ</b>	Trombones	<b>CHRIS FARRANDS</b> <b>ERIC KLAY</b>
Bass	<b>SHANNON BIRCHALL</b>	Drums	<b>DAVID HICKS</b>
Woodwind	<b>MARTIN CORCORAN</b> <b>GRANIA BURKE</b> <b>LUKE CARBON</b> <b>TONY HICKS</b> <b>HUGH PONNUTHURAI</b>	Percussion	<b>DAN RICHARDSON</b> <b>PETER NEVILLE</b> <b>STEVE FALK</b>
		Guitar	<b>JOHN PAINE</b>
		Piano/Keys	<b>JACK EARLE</b>

## MANAGEMENT

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General Manager **JULIE AMOS**

Operations Manager **AMELIA DAVIES**  
 Music Artistic Coordinator **TANIA HARDY-SMITH**  
 Project Coordinator **MARGARET LLOYD**  
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**TONY OSMOND**  
**PETER SMEDLEY**



# CELEBRATING 50 SHOWS

HOW MANY HAVE YOU SEEN?

1999

Mame  
She Loves Me  
Funny Girl

2000

Call Me Madam  
Gypsy  
Guys and Dolls  
The Gilbert and Sullivan Show  
(Melbourne Festival)

2001

How To Succeed In Business  
Without Really Trying  
Mack and Mabel  
Anything Goes

2002

The Music Man  
Hair  
Hello Dolly!

2003

Bye Bye Birdie  
South Pacific  
They're Playing Our Song

2004

High Society  
Carousel  
Annie Get Your Gun

2005

Kiss Me, Kate  
Sunset Boulevard  
Oklahoma!

2006

The Pajama Game  
Camelot  
Thoroughly Modern Millie

2007

Sweet Charity  
Little Me  
42nd Street

2008

Follies  
Damn Yankees  
Mame

2009

Crazy For You  
The Boy Friend  
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

2010

The King and I  
The Boy From Oz  
Sugar

2011

The Boy From Oz (return season)  
Anything Goes  
Kismet  
Grey Gardens

2012

The Producers  
Chess  
Promises, Promises

2013

Gypsy  
Singin' In The Rain  
The Pirates of Penzance

2014

Guys and Dolls  
Show Boat  
La Cage Aux Folles

2015

West Side Story

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Robert and Mem Kirby, Village Roadshow  
Coral Knowles  
George Krawat  
Tom and Lorelle Krulis  
Miriam and Michael Lasky  
Geraldine Lazarus and Greig Gailey  
Rosie Lew and Family  
John and Erin Lidgerwood  
Eve Mahlab AO and Frank Mahlab  
Annette Maluish  
Mike McGuire

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Isobel and John Morgan  
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