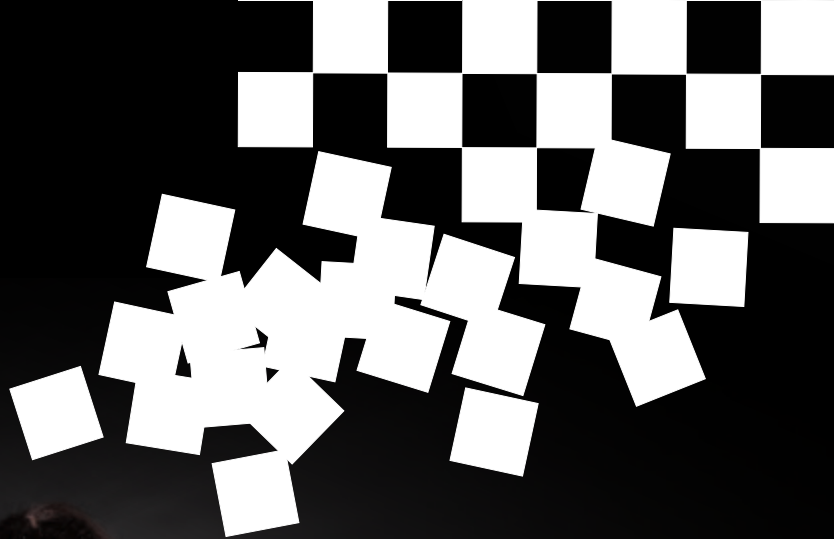


CLOC
Musical Theatre



CHESS

THE MUSICAL

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to The National Theatre Melbourne and to CLOC Musical Theatre's production of *Chess The Musical*.

What do you get if you lock the lyricist who wrote *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Lion King* in a room with half of ABBA? Tonight you find out.

What do you get if you lock the creative brilliance of Shaun Kingma, the musical talent of Tyson Legg and the choreographic skills of Tamara Finch in a room with *Chess*? Tonight you find that out too.

For those who have not seen *Chess* before, you are in for a treat - an intriguing story and wonderful music. Songs you will recognise and others that you will wish you hadn't waited this long to hear for the first time.

For those who have seen it before, you too are in for a treat - a re-imagining of this fantastic show, true to all of its best aspects but with an edge and a spin that you will truly marvel at.

I first experienced *Chess* in 1995 as a performer in Shepparton. I loved being part of a cast for this fantastic show but, more importantly, kissed my wife who was also in the show for the very first time (because the director made me). For my family, the rest is history - and the director was the best man at the wedding!

As you can imagine, this show is very close to my heart and this production has only caused that love to grow.

Our amazing cast has taken on a gruelling rehearsal schedule to

create a show that far exceeds what I could have imagined. Our set builders, costume creators and all of the other CLOC volunteers who contribute to what we do, have likewise gone above and beyond to produce the sets and costumes you will see tonight that truly complete the picture. The people you are watching tonight and those behind the scenes are all volunteers and what they give to create our shows is truly amazing.

Chess focuses on the Cold War and the tensions between the then USSR (now Russia) and USA which stretched from 1947 through to the start of the 1990s. For some this is history; for others, it is a memory of a time of real fear - a finger over



a button threatening nuclear war. Set in the late 1970s, *Chess* exemplifies the politics of the era and the use of any opportunity for the 'East' and the 'West' to have a fight without actually taking up arms.

Had you asked me a couple of years ago, I would have questioned whether *Chess* was becoming dated and losing its relevance. Sadly, since 24 February 2022, and the full invasion of Ukraine, it has become as relevant as ever.

Thank you for joining us, thank you for your support and enjoy the show.

Ric Birkett
President

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Chess has a fascinating and storied past. Banking on the earlier success of highly successful concept albums such as *JC Superstar* and *Evita*, *Chess* was also developed as a concept album first, with the stage production to follow. The album, released in 1984, was a huge hit. How could it not be? With an eclectic, operatic, rock/pop infused score by Benny Anderson and Björn Ulvaeus of ABBA fame, along with lyrics and book by Tim Rice, the album received rave reviews, top marks in the charts, and several awards.

The first production of *Chess* opened two years later in the West End with a much-expanded book, and more music. While the music received raves, the book and story continued to be problematic. The Broadway production followed with a completely re-written book and even less favorable reviews, also focused on the book. Countless productions since have attempted (some successful, some less so), to rewrite, refocus, merge, cut and add to the story and music, leaving in its wake, a confusion of what was originally intended - a grand and epic scale political

commentary, told from an intimate and human perspective.

The production and book you are about to see most closely resembles the original book of the London production. While some of the machinations and wheeling and dealing may leave some scratching their heads, it is still a very personal story that centres around Florence. And while our story is still based in the Cold War Times, a modern approach can show us those times are far from over. World events over the past two years have proven that history has a way of repeating itself - sometimes with the very same players.

Chess is many things. It is an epic musical devised in the times of the "mega-musicals" (*Cats*, *Phantom*, *Les Misérables*). It is a grand opera, a high-tech pop/rock show, an intimate love story and a personal journey of discovery. It is deliberately eclectic in its nature, sound and feel. Possibly one of the more challenging (yet thoroughly rewarding) shows I have had the privilege to work on, it is also easy to see why *Chess* is performed mostly in concert these days.

This production is supported by an outstanding cast of 40 singers, actors and dancers

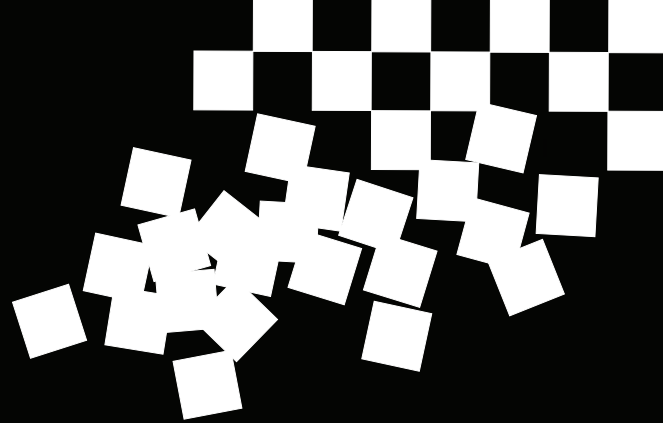
along with an orchestra of 18 musicians, all giving their time, talent, and energy. This is a notoriously challenging score, and I am in constant awe of each of them.

I would also like to thank the incredible talents of the CLOC team and committee, who have not balked at the challenges thrown at them. Be it cast or orchestra size, LED flooring, live cameras, multimedia, LED screens, mammoth set pieces, to human sized teddy bears, the CLOC team has delivered. I thank the immense talents of Grant Alley, Rosemary Curtis, Justin Karakai, Brad Alcock, Andrei Chlebnikowski, Michael Fletcher, Marcello Lo Ricco, Olivia Ryan, Vicky Horne, David Wisken, Melinda Peebles, Sara Bayley, Debbie Osborne, Nic Russ and Lucinda Barratt and to the countless volunteers, teams and crews in all departments for bringing this piece to life. It certainly does take a village - and in this case, a small city!

Finally, to my long-suffering collaborators, Tam, Tys and Sal - thank you from the bottom of my heart. What you each bring to the table time after time is immeasurable. Thank you.

Shaun Kingma
Director





CHESS

THE MUSICAL

Music by
BENNY ANDERSSON & **BJÖRN ULVAEUS**

Book & Lyrics by
TIM RICE

Rosa McCarty, Mark Doran, Aaron Taylor, Rachel Rai, Jake Turner-Clarkson,
Amelia Ropé, James O'Donovan

Lucinda Barratt, Thomas Bowman, Mitchell Groves, Will Kim, Ronald MacKinnon, Jacqui McCallum,
Heloise Meighan, Emily Mill, Thomas Myszka, Cameron O'Reilly, Nic Russ, Ellyn Ryan, Sujanthan Satkunarajah,
Jonno Sebastian, Isobel Smart, Ellena Stockdale, Joshua Sumner, Darcy Towe, Taillem Tynan,
Imogen Whittaker, Robbie Wilton

Alice Batchelor, Lucy Portell

Christian Arnel, Leighton Garwin, Brian Griffin, Gemma Hedger, Lauren Holcombe, Sean McBride,
Lisa Nightingale, Katrina Pezzimenti, Mark Spencer, Kelly Windle

Shaun Kingma
Director/Set Designer

Tyson Legg
Musical Director

Tamara Finch
Choreographer

Sallyanne Mitchell
Assistant Director

Victoria Horne
Costume Designer

Brad Alcock
Lighting Designer

Marcello Lo Ricco
Sound Designer

David Wisken
Hair/Make-up Designer

Rosemary Curtis
Stage Manager

Grant Alley OAM
Technical Director

Lucinda Barratt, Seamus Allan
Production Managers

Paul Belli
Stage Director

Debbie-Anne Osborne
Assistant to the Director

Melinda Peebles, Victoria Horne
Costume Co-ordinators

Sara Bayley
Props Co-ordinator

OCT 6 – 21, 2023
The National Theatre, Melbourne

DIRECTION & DESIGN



SHAUN KINGMA
(HE/HIM)
Director/Set Designer

Shaun is one of the most well-known, prolific, and awarded talents in the Melbourne music theatre scene, as director, performer, and designer. Shaun studied Classical Voice at the Victorian College of the Arts and has been heavily involved in the performing arts for over 30 years, receiving numerous awards and nominations for his direction, set design and performance credits.

As a director, Shaun's recent credits include: *Meeka* (45 Downstairs), *Long Gone Lonesome Cowgirls* (Ellis Productions), *Frankenstein, Next to Normal* (WMTC), *Singin' in The Rain* (CentreStage), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Quirky Productions), *The Hatpin*, (OzmadeMusicals-Magnormos), *Tomorrow Morning, Aida* (Whitehorse), *Return To The Forbidden Planet, Is There Life After High School?, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (FabNobs), the Australian premiere of *Hello Again* and David Lindsay Abaire's *A Devil Inside*.

Set design credits include: *Chicago* (PLOS), *Jekyll & Hyde* (CLOC-additional design), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (CLOC), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Quirky Productions), *Frankenstein, Next to Normal* (WMT) and *Singin' in The Rain* (CentreStage).

Some of Shaun's performance credits include: *Sweeney Todd* (Sweeney), *Rent* (Collins), *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (Valentin), *The Boy From Oz* (Greg), *Falsettos* (Marvin), *Les Misérables* (multiple times as Javert), *Assassins* (John Wilkes Booth), *Seussical* (Horton), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Pharaoh), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Annas), *Mary Bryant* (Rufus Morton), *Baby* (Nick), *Oliver!* (Bill Sykes), *Godspell* (Judas), *Hair* (Claude) and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Jasper).

For CLOC, Shaun has performed in *A Chorus Line* (Zack), *Les Misérables* (Javert), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Utterson), *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Chauvelin) and directed our productions of *Blood Brothers*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Aspects of Love*. He both directed and set designed our 2016 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which won eight Music Theatre Guild awards, including Production of the Year, followed up by the same double duty for *Jekyll & Hyde* in 2018.



TYSON LEGG
(HE/HIM)
Musical Director

Tyson is another multi-talented theatre performer who is equally at home under lights on a stage or with a baton in hand fronting an orchestra, or even as director. He has received multiple Green Room, Music Theatre Guild and Lyrebird nominations and commendations for both performance and musical direction.

Some of his performing highlights include *Bright Star* (Jimmy), *Sweeney Todd* (Pirelli), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *The Witches of Eastwick* (Darryl Van Horne), *Parade* (Leo Frank-Guild nomination), *The Last Five Years* (Jamie), *Floyd Collins* (Floyd-Guild nomination), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Franklin Shepard), *Rent* (Mark), *Les Misérables* (Enjolras), *Children of Eden* (Adam), and *Godspell* (Jesus).

As Musical Director, some of Tyson's more recent productions have included *Chicago*, *Dreamgirls*, *John and Jen*, *Frankenstein, Next to Normal* (Guild nomination), *Once on this Island*, *Spring Awakening*, *Reefer Madness*, *The Full Monty*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Pageant*, and *the World Goes Around* (Guild nomination) and *Songs for a New World* (Guild nomination). And as a director, his shows have included *Assassins* and *Rent*.

Tyson has previously musically directed three CLOC shows, all directed by Shaun Kingma - *Man of La Mancha* (2010), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2016-Guild nomination) and *Jekyll & Hyde* (2018-Guild nomination).



TAMARA FINCH
Choreographer

In a period spanning over 45 years, Tamara has had extensive experience as a freelance dance teacher. With a list of credits both vast and varied, she has worked with many of Melbourne's theatre companies as a producer, choreographer and director.

Credits include: CHOREOGRAPHY: *Aida*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Sweet Charity*, *Guys & Dolls*, *My Fair Lady*, *On The Town*, *Carousel*; *Snoopy*; *My Fair Lady*; *Pirates Of Penzance*, *Oklahoma!*, *Gypsy*; *South Pacific*; *Return To The Forbidden Planet*; *A One Night Stand With...* (Victorian AIDS Council); *Anyone Can Whistle* (Recital Centre Sondheim Triptych); *Zanna Don't*; *Lucky Stiff*; *Eurovision The Musical* (Chapel Off Chapel), *Eurobeat*, *The Eurovision Musical* (2004 Melbourne Comedy Festival), *Follies in Concert* (Crown); *Full Frontal* (Channel 10); *Hot Mikado*, *13* (St Michaels Grammar); *Miss Saigon* (Wesley College); Myer Melbourne Christmas Parades 2010 & 2011; *Possum Magic* (Gary Ginivan Productions). DIRECTION: *Anything Goes*, *West Side Story*, *A Slice of Saturday*; *A Chorus Line*, *Chicago*, and the Victorian Regional tours of *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Guys & Dolls*.

Tamara has received many Victorian Music Theatre Guild nominations over the years; in 2023 she was awarded the choreography Guild for her production of *Chicago* and in 1996 for her production of *Hair*. For CLOC, Tamara has previously choreographed *Chicago* (2001- Guild award), *Cats* (2006- Guild nomination), and again working with Shaun, *Blood Brothers* (2007), *Man of La Mancha* (2010), *Aspects of Love* (2011), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2016-Guild nomination) and *Jekyll & Hyde* (2018-Guild nomination). She also directed and choreographed CLOC's acclaimed production of *Pippin* (2003), which won five Music Theatre awards, including both Direction and Choreography for Tamara, as well as Production of the Year.



SALLYANNE MITCHELL
(SHE/HER)
Assistant Director

Having trained at the Australian College of Entertainers, Sallyanne joins the production team with an extensive background in the performing arts. Sallyanne's onstage credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *All My Sons* (Sue Bayliss), *Gypsy* (Mazeppa), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Yente), *Anything Goes* (Evangeline Harcourt), *Oklahoma!* (Aunt Eller), *Seussical* (Mrs Mayor), *Oliver!* (Mrs Sowerberry), *Beauty and the Beast*, *Les Misérables*, *Cabaret*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Music Man*, *Nine*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Odd Couple* (Female Version (Olive)), and five productions with CLOC - *Chicago*, *Jekyll & Hyde* (our first JH production), *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Blood Brothers* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Assistant Directing credits include *Frankenstein, Next to Normal*, *The Hatpin*, *Rent*, *Aida*, *Cosi* and *The Club*. Sallyanne acted as Assistant Director for Shaun during both our 2016 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and in 2018 for *Jekyll & Hyde*.



VICTORIA HORNE
Costume Designer

BRAD ALCOCK
Lighting Designer

MARCELLO LO RICCO
Sound Designer

DAVID WISKEN
Wig and Make-Up Designer

Victoria has been designing and creating costumes for over thirty years, specialising in musical theatre, dance, stage, television, corporate events, individual artists, and events around Australia. Her creations have adorned such eclectic celebrities and events as Jemma Rix, Em Rusciano, FX Entertainment, Michael Boyd Illusionist, Abba Bjorn Again, Gamble Breaux, Ultimate Kylie Show, Nikki Visaj Movement, Magic Manor, Fame Agenda, Melbourne Storm Cheerleaders, Melbourne City Council Xmas and the Australian Open Tennis. Of note, in 2019 Vicky designed costumes for the 25th anniversary Anthony Warlow concert version of *Jekyll & Hyde*, attracting rave reviews in Melbourne and Sydney.

Vicky has designed and created costumes for a diverse range of musical theatre companies, including PLOS (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Cabaret*) and Babirra (*Crazy For You*, for which she won the Music Theatre Guild costume award). For CLOC, Vicky has costume-designed almost every production since 2008, with *Chess* being her 22nd show as costume designer. Her many CLOC achievements include 13 Guild Award nominations and three wins - for *Mary Poppins*, *Strictly Ballroom*, and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. Both her spectacular designs for 2022 - *Jersey Boys* and *Chicago* - received nominations. Her most recent CLOC show was *Catch Me if You Can*, whose chic 1960s creations drew much admiration and plaudits from our audiences.

As well as her CLOC commitments for 2023, Vicky designed the costumes earlier this year for the musical premiere of *Not Finished With You Yet* starring Christie Whelan Browne and Rohan Browne.

Brad has over 25 years' experience as a professional lighting, vision and creative director/designer for rock and roll, theatre, musicals, broadcast, concerts and other live events. His designs have featured throughout Australia, Asia, the Middle East and Europe, spanning hundreds of productions, working for artists such as Bill Murray, Ronan Keating, Delta Goodrem and many others. In 2007, he co-founded his own lighting and vision production company, BAAC Light. This has allowed him to have access to leading edge technologies for stage that are owned by the company and used exclusively for his designs. Most recently, Brad has become a creative director for Guy Sebastian and Human Nature. He is extremely happy he can give a little back to community theatre that over the years has given him so much. This is Brad's eighteenth production for CLOC, after *Fiddler on the Roof*, *All Shook Up*, *Guys & Dolls*, *42nd Street*, *Legally Blonde*, *Mary Poppins*, *Wicked*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Guild award), *Les Misérables*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Kinky Boots*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Priscilla*, *Jersey Boys*, *Chicago* and *Catch Me if You Can*.

Marcello is a Melbourne based sound designer specialising in musical theatre whose work can be heard in productions around Australia. Marcello's most recent sound designs include *Mamma Mia!* (CLOC, PLOS, Footlight), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Watch This), *Legally Blonde* (James Terry), *A Chorus Line* (WMTC), *We Will Rock You* (ETC), and *The Sound of Music* (Babirra). Some recent school and junior productions include *Matilda*, *Flashdance*, *Wicked*, *Big Fish*, *High School Musical*, *School of Rock*, *Shrek* and *The Addams Family*. Annual concert productions include the *Young Australian Broadway Chorus*, *Starbound*, *Music Theatre Guild Awards* and the *Australian Musical Theatre Festival*. Marcello has received awards for best sound for *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Legally Blonde*, *Mary Poppins*, *Chicago*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Hairspray*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *The Sound of Music*. He has received Green Room nominations for *The Beautiful Game* (Manilla St) and *Falsettos* (StageArt). *Chess* is Marcello's nineteenth consecutive show with CLOC, after *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Guys & Dolls*, *42nd Street*, *Legally Blonde*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Wicked*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Guild award), *Les Misérables*, *A Chorus Line*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Kinky Boots*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Priscilla* (Guild award), *Jersey Boys*, *Chicago* (Guild award) and *Catch Me if You Can*.

David has been working as a hair and make-up artist/designer in all genres of live performance for over fifteen years. His professional credits include - *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Dainty Theatrical), *Chicago* (GFO), *Jersey Boys Australia* (Dainty), *Wicked* (GFO), *West Side Story* (Ambassador Group), *Mary Poppins Australia* (Disney), *Grease* (GFO) and *Rock of Ages* (Dainty). As Designer - *The Producers*, *Jerry's Girls* and *La Cage Aux Folles* (The Production Company), and a second production of *La Cage Aux Folles* (Quirky Productions). David joined CLOC as Wig Designer for *Dusty - The Original Pop Diva* and has since designed hair and make-up for *Man of La Mancha*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Aspects Of Love*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *All Shook Up*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Wicked* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. David had a stellar year in 2016, being recognized and nominated by the Music Theatre Guild for both wig design (*Wicked*) and makeup design (JCS) and winning for JCS. Since then, David has continued to work on all of our productions - *Les Misérables*, *A Chorus Line*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Kinky Boots*, *Priscilla* (Guild award), *Jersey Boys*, *Chicago* and *Catch Me if You Can*. David returns for his 21st CLOC show. The multi-talented David also works as a vocal coach and musical director, and played for us during this show as one of our rehearsal pianists.

PRINCIPALS



ROSA MCCARTY
(SHE/HER)
Florence Vassy

Originally from Adelaide, Rosa has built up an enviable and prolific list of music theatre credits and accolades since moving to Melbourne in 2008.

CLOC: *Mamma Mia!* (2019-Donna), *Wicked* (Elphaba-2016, Guild nomination), *Mary Poppins* (Mary-2015, Guild nomination), *Aspects of Love* (Rose-2011, Guild nomination), *Man of La Mancha* (Aldonza-2010).

Other shows (a small selection): *Side Show* (Daisy Hilton-Guild nomination), *Hot Mikado* (Katisha), *Reefer Madness* (Mae), *Next to Normal* (Diana-Guild award), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Spider Woman-Guild nomination), *Dusty* (Dusty-Guild nomination), *Oliver!* (Nancy-Guild nomination), *The Wild Party* (Queenie).

And another thing (or two)...: Works as a university academic in biomedical science. Rosa returns to *Chess* after featuring in the ensemble of The Production Company's Helpmann and Green Room Award winning production in 2012.



RACHEL RAI
(SHE/HER)
Svetlana Sergievskaya

Originally from Adelaide, has a Diploma in Music Theatre from APO Arts Academy.

CLOC: *Kinky Boots* (2019-Lauren), *Jekyll & Hyde* (2018-Lucy).

Other shows: *Sweeney Todd* (Beggar Woman), *Chicago* (Roxie), *A Chorus Line* (Sheila), *Hot Mikado* (Yum-Yum), *City of Angels* (Oolie/Donna), *Catch Me if You Can* (Brenda), *The Witches of Eastwick* (Sukie Ridgemont), *A Little Night Music* (Petra), *Les Misérables* (Eponine), *Fame* (Carmen Diaz), *The Boy From Oz* twice (Liza Minnelli/Trio), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Miss Dorothy), *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Milk & Honey*.

And another thing...: Works as National Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator at a tertiary college. Did a show with Rosa in 2007 with the Metropolitan Theatre when they both lived in Adelaide.



MARK DORAN
Anatoly Sergievsky

A veteran of nearly 40 productions for over 20 years. Has a long-standing relationship with our director Shaun Kingma, either as a co-starring performer (*Les Misérables*) or director (*Aida*, *Jekyll & Hyde*).

CLOC: *Jekyll & Hyde* (2018-title role, Guild nomination), *Les Misérables* (Jean Valjean, Guild award), *Sunset Boulevard* (2012-Joe Gillis, Guild nomination), *Miss Saigon* (2009-Chris, Guild nomination).

Other shows (a small selection): *Guys & Dolls* (Sky Masterton), *Sweeney Todd* (Anthony), *Cabaret* (Emcee), *Grease* (Kenicke), *Aida* (Radames), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus), *Altar Boyz* (Matt), *Frankenstein* (The Creature).

And another thing (or two)...: Since his last performance with CLOC, Mark has married Emily, who he met while they were both performing in our production of *Les Misérables*. They are now part of a busy household of five children, which no doubt explains why it has been five years since we have seen Mark onstage.



JAKE TURNER-CLARKSON
Alexander Molokov

Returning to acting after a five year hiatus.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: No theatre, but active in film and television.

And another thing...: Villains have always been his specialty, despite the fact that he loves to make people laugh.



AARON TAYLOR
Freddie Trumper

Originally from NSW, with a Bachelor of Music (Musical Theatre Performance) from the Australian Institute of Music, as well as a post graduate certificate in Arts and Entertainment Management. Then worked professionally performing in Hong Kong and Macau before returning to Australia.

CLOC: *Kinky Boots* (2019-Guild nomination as Best Actor, Guild Dancer's Award winner).

Other shows: *The Last Five Years* (Jamie), *Tommy* (title role), *The Normal Heart* (Tommy), *bare* (Peter).

And another thing (or two)...: Aaron has featured in both *The Voice* and *The X Factor*.



AMELIA ROAPÉ
(SHE/HER)
The Arbiter

A graduate of the National Theatre Drama School. Was a member of a children's Group Disney's JAAM, which toured Australia and Asia. Lived, worked and performed in London, where she was a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Voice of Musical Theatre.

CLOC: *Les Misérables* (2017), *Legally Blonde* (Vivienne-2014), *The Boy From Oz* (Trio-2008), *Hot Mikado* (Pitti Sing-2002), *Crazy for You* (Polly-1999), *A Chorus Line* (Judy Turner-1998).

Other shows: *The Boy From Oz* (Marion Woolnough), *Chicago* (MC), *Mamma Mia!* (Donna), *Rock of Ages* (Regina), *Hot Mikado* (Pitti Sing), *City of Angels* (Angel City 4), *The Producers* (Ulla), *Assassins* (Emma Goldman), *Songs for a New World* (Woman 1), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *The Fix* (Tina).

And another thing (or two)...: Works in marketing and is also a qualified dog trainer. Huge animal lover and regularly volunteers at her favourite sanctuary, Edgar's Mission.



ENSEMBLE



LUCINDA BARRATT
(SHE/HER)
Arbiter Crew

Has a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Monash) and is a graduate of Showfit. Equally at home with song and dance shows, as well as dramatic theatre. Has studied acting with the Ward Acting Studio in New York. This is Lucinda's 10th CLOC show and she is doing triple duty as Production Manager, committee member and cast.

CLOC: *Catch Me if You Can* (2023-Assistant to the Director/Brenda cover), *Chicago* (2022-Murderess Annie/ensemble), *Jersey Boys* (2022-Lorraine and others), *Priscilla* (2021-Marion/part of Guild award winning ensemble), *Kinky Boots* (2019-Nicola), *42nd Street* (2014), *The Phantom of the Opera* (2013-Meg Giry), *Sunset Boulevard* (2012), *All Shook Up* (2012).

Other shows: *The Last Five Years* (Assistant Director, Choreographer), *Christmas Obsessive Disorder* (soloist), *The Mound Builders* (USA), *Barry vs Kelly* (Chloe), *Prayers to Broken Stone* (Evie), *Matthew Robinson's New Voices* (soloist), *An Ideal Husband* (Mabel), *Spring Awakening*, *Chicago*, *Rent*, *The Producers*.

And another thing (or two)...: Works in legal administration and is also a Pilates instructor. Her mother Jenny is a long-term valued member of our hair/wig team. And Lucinda has carried a future cast member with her through her *Chess* journey, as she is now 5 months' pregnant!



THOMAS BOWMAN
Florence's father,
Leonid Viigand,
Camera

Has a Bachelor of Fine Art and currently studying Horticulture.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: High school and University shows.

And another thing (or two)...: Works as a lifeguard with Maribyrnong City Council.



MITCHELL GROVES
(HE/HIM)
Arbiter Crew

Worked for 17 years as a cast member with the Melbourne Gang Show Theatre Company, playing a variety of lead roles, and is now their Deputy Director.

CLOC: (onstage) *Priscilla* (2021), *Mamma Mia!* (2019-Pepper-Guild nomination, Ensemble). Crew: *Catch Me if You Can* (2023), *Jersey Boys* (2022).

Other shows: *Shrek the Musical*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Carousel*.

And another thing...: Works as a senior electrical project manager, is a qualified electrician and assisted in the preparation of the lights in our chess floor.



JAMES O'DONOVAN
(HE/HIM)
Walter de Courcey

For the past 20 years, has professionally entertained crowds as an acoustic guitarist/singer as a soloist, in a duo "iNkaSounds" and most recently "Hazyboyz", and trio "iNkaSounds".

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Les Misérables* (Jean Valjean), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Fredrick), *The Secret Garden* (Dickon- Guild award), *Hot Mikado* (Nanki-Poo), *Godspell* (The Busker), *The Mikado* (Nanki-Poo), *Anything Goes*, *Hair* (Wolf), *L'il Abner* (Marryin' Sam), *South Pacific* (Lt Cable), *Oklahoma!* (Curly).

And another thing...: Has been married to wife Robyn for 21 years. Proud father and grandfather to six children and three grandchildren.



WILL KIM
Podium Dancer

Has studied jazz, ballet and gymnastics.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Bun Foo), *Cats*, *Bye Bye Birdie*.

And another thing (or two)...: Works in IT for the Department of Health and Human Services.



RONALD MACKINNON
Arbiter Crew

A powerhouse, triple threat performer who has studied acting, dance, singing and guitar, closely mentored by Dana Jolly, Rob Sturrock and Adrian Hall.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *American Idiot* (Will), *The Polar Express* (Hobo), *Cabaret*, *We Got Love*, *Gods of Disco*.

And another thing (or two)...: Previously frontman and lead guitarist of his own funk project "Jackal or Tiger".



JACQUI MCCALLUM
(SHE/HER)
Waiter, Reporter

Born and raised in South Africa, before emigrating to Australia in 2002. She was a regular performer in Melbourne for ten years in the early noughties until work and children absorbed all her spare time.

CLOC: *Cats* (2006-Jellylorum), *Mack & Mabel* (2004).

Other shows: *A Man of No Importance* (Mrs Curtin/Kitty), *bare* (Claire), *Songs for a New World*, *A Taste of Broadway*, *The Producers*, *A Chorus Line* (Cassie), *Crazy for You* (Irene), *Company* (Joanne), *Into the Woods* (Stepmother), *Baby* (Pam), *Les Misérables*, *42nd Street* (Phyllis), *The Sound of Music* (Elsa).

And another thing (or two)... Since her last CLOC appearance in 2006, Jacqui has had two of her own productions - sons Maxwell (10) and Hugo (9), both of whom have promised to teach her how to play chess.



CAMERON O'REILLY
(HE/HIM)
Arbiter Crew

Trained in dance at the Victorian College of the Arts and the Dance Factory. Spent six years working as a dancer on international cruise ships (P&O, Princess, Royal Caribbean).

CLOC: *Priscilla* (2021-Young Bernadette/Farrah), *Kinky Boots* (2019-Angel), *Wicked* (2016-Chistry/ensemble), *Legally Blonde* (2014-Grandmaster Chad/ensemble).

Other shows: Performer - *The Pajama Game* (Lyrebird award), *The Music Man* (Tommy Djilas), *A Chorus Line* (Greg Gardner), *The Boy From Oz* (Guild Dancers award). Choreographer - *Hello Dolly!*, *Oliver!* (Guild nomination). Director - *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

And another thing (or two)... Works as a communications analyst. In 2019 married his long-term partner Warwick Reid (another CLOC regular), and they have now been together for 23 years.



HELOISE MEIGHAN
(SHE/HER)
Reporter, Podium Dancer

Originally performed in musical theatre orchestras, but is now enjoying performing on stage.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Ladies in Black* (Fay), *Big Fish* (Jenny), *Heathers*, *The Sound of Music*, *Rock of Ages*.

And another thing (or two)... Works as a vet.



EMILY MILL
(SHE/HER)
Podium Dancer

Graduate of The American Musical Theatre Academy London One Year Foundation Musical Theatre Program (2013-14) and APO Arts Academy One Year Associate Musical Theatre Program (2012).

CLOC: *Priscilla* (2021), *Wicked* (2016).

Other shows: *The Last 5 Years* (Cathy), *Heathers*, *We Will Rock You*, *Catch Me if You Can*, *Carrie the Musical*.

And another thing (or two)... Since 2019, has produced and starred in four cabaret productions with her company called "Broadway Obsessive Disorder".



THOMAS MYSZKA
(HE/HIM)
Mayor Assistant, Reporter

Has been part of the musical theatre industry for over ten years.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip Tolentino), *As You Like It* (Orlando), *Be More Chill*, *Rock of Ages* (Dennis Dupree).

And another thing (or two)... Has been working on an animated short film called *The Fog Realm* as a voice actor and screenwriter for almost two years, with a production team from around the world.



NIC RUSS

Civil Servant, TV Presenter

Originally from Newcastle, NSW. Has studied with NIDA and Darlinghurst Theatre Co.

CLOC: *Chicago* (2022-Harrison/ensemble), *Jersey Boys* (2022-Joe Long and others, Bob Crewe, Bob Gaudio), *Priscilla* (2021-part of Guild award winning ensemble).

Other shows (Melbourne): *Company* (Paul), *Snoopy the Musical* (Linus van Pelt), *Singin' in The Rain*, *Chess* (The Arbiter), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

And another thing (or two)...: Works as an Executive Assistant at Myer, after clipping his wings as a flight attendant. Has become part of CLOC folklore, as during *Jersey Boys*, filled in at very short notice playing two different principal roles - Bob Crewe and Bob Gaudio - to replace COVID absences. Now also a member of the CLOC Executive as Administrator of the company.



ELLYN RYAN

(SHE/THEY)

Arbiter Crew

Has studied as a dancer in ballet, jazz and tap.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Cinderella* (Victorian State Ballet), *Wicked*, *The Addams Family*.

And another thing (or two)...: A lover of animals, especially her four cats.



SUJANTHAN SATKUNARAJAH

(HE/HIM)

Camera

A graduate of the *Young Australian Broadway Chorus Triple Threat Program*. A member of the National Boys Choir for seven years. Has trained with Melbourne Opera.

CLOC: *Chicago* (2022), *Jersey Boys* (2022-Hank Majewski and others), *Priscilla* (2021-part of Guild award winning ensemble).

Other shows (all with YABC): *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown), *Guys & Dolls* (Nicely-Nicely), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Willy Wonka), *Big River* (Jim), *Mack & Mabel* (Mack), *Sweeney Todd* (Sweeney Todd).

And another thing (or two)...: Works as an engineer and has become an integral part of the CLOC set building team.



JONNO SEBASTIAN

(HE/HIM)

Civil Servant, Mayor

A veteran of the Melbourne music theatre scene, who has appeared in over 50 shows in 30+ years (and making his 14th CLOC appearance after a five year absence).

CLOC: *Jekyll & Hyde* (2018-Minister/ensemble), *Les Misérables* (Grantaire-2017), *Wicked* (Dr Dillamond-2016), *Mary Poppins* (Park Keeper-2015), *Legally Blonde* (Professor Callahan-2014), *42nd Street* (2014), *Guys & Dolls* (Sky Masteron-2013), *The Phantom of the Opera* (Monsieur Reyer-2013), *The Boy From Oz* (Peter Allen-2008), *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Farleigh-2006), *Jekyll & Hyde* (2005), *A Chorus Line* (Gregory Gardner-1998), *Singin' in The Rain* (Don Lockwood-1998).

Other shows (a small selection): *Sweeney Todd*, *Mamma Mia!* (Sam Carmichael), *A Chorus Line* (Don), *Rock of Ages* (Hertz), *Titanic-The Musical* (Ismay), *Evita* (Juan Peron), *Aida* (Zoser), *Tick, Tick, ..BOOM!* (Jon-Guild nomination), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere-Guild nomination).

And another thing...: Works as an IT consultant; spent six years on the CLOC committee.



ISOBEL SMART

(SHE/HER)

Camera

A classically trained soprano at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Is now a voice/guitar/music teacher at a number of colleges and studios around Melbourne.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda/Aunt Em), *Freaky Friday*.

And another thing (or two)...: Has over seven years' experience as a live musician at pubs, bars, weddings and private functions, but only new to the music theatre world since 2022.



ELLENA STOCKDALE

(SHE/HER)

Arbiter Crew

From Queensland, with a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Drama) from Queensland University and a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Theatre and Performance) from Monash University.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Sweet Charity* (Nickie), *Miss Saigon*, *Ruthless the Musical* (Tina), *My Brilliant Career the Musical*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda), *The Phantom of the Opera* (Corps de Ballet).

And another thing (or two)...: Works as a Communications Officer at Monash University.



SCENES / MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

BUDAPEST

Overture *Instrumental*
Prologue/The Story of Chess *The Arbiter, Ensemble*

MERANO, ITALY

Merano Railway Station
Merano *Mayor, Citizens, Freddie, Florence*

The Palace Hotel, Merano

Freddie & Florence's Suite, Conference Room
Commie Newspapers/
Press Conference *Florence, Freddie, Reporters*

Molokov's Suite

Anatoly and Molokov/
Where I Want to Be *Anatoly, Molokov, Ensemble*

Arbiter's Office

Diplomats *Molokov, Walter, USA and
Russian Delegates*

The Arena

The Arbiter *The Arbiter, Ensemble*
Hymn to Chess *Ensemble*
Merchandisers *Merchandisers*
Opening/Chess Game #1 *Instrumental*
The Arbiter (Reprise) *The Arbiter, Ensemble*

The Arbiter's Office

Quartet *Molokov, Florence, The Arbiter,
Anatoly*

Various Hallways

Florence and Molokov *Florence, Molokov*

Freddie & Florence's Suite

(1956) Budapest is Rising *Florence, Freddie, Walter, Ensemble*
Nobody's Side *Florence, Ensemble*

Merano Mountain Inn

Der Kleine Franz *Ensemble*
Mountain Duet *Florence, Anatoly, Freddie*

The Palace Hotel, Merano

The Arena

Chess Game #2 *Instrumental*

Freddie & Florence's Suite

Florence Quits/
Pre-Pity the Child *Freddie, Florence*

The Arbiter's Office

Defection *The Arbiter, Walter, Florence,
Anatoly, Ensemble*

The British Consulate

Embassy Lament *Civil Servants*
Heaven Help My Heart *Florence*

Outside the British Consulate

Anatoly and the Press/
Anthem *Anatoly, Reporters*

ACT 2

BANGKOK THAILAND, A YEAR LATER

Entracte

The Golden Bangkok *Instrumental*

The Streets and a Nightclub in Bangkok

One Night in Bangkok *Freddie, Ensemble*

Oriental Hotel, Bangkok

Florence's Suite, Svetlana's Room

One More Opponent/
You and I *Anatoly, Florence, Svetlana*

Russian Suite

The Soviet Machine *Molokov, Russian Delegates*

TV Studio

The Interview *Walter, Freddie, Anatoly, Svetlana*
Someone Else's Story *Svetlana*

Bangkok-Various Rooms

The Deal *The Arbiter, Molokov, Svetlana,
Anatoly, Walter, Florence, Freddie*
Pity the Child *Freddie*
I Know Him So Well *Florence, Svetlana*

The Buddhist Temple

Talking Chess *Freddie, Anatoly*

Oriental Hotel, Bangkok

The Arena

Endgame *Molokov, Walter, Florence, Anatoly,
Svetlana, Freddie, Ensemble*

The Airport

You & I (Reprise) *Anatoly, Florence, Ensemble*
Walter & Florence/
Anthem Reprise *Walter, Florence*



ORCHESTRA LIST

Tyson Legg
Jessica Sun
Eric von Ahlefeldt
Charlotte Greenslade
Daniel Modica
Claire Rainey
Cara Taber
Jacqueline Smith-Thompson
Hannah Hunt
Dan Heskett
Will Crowther
Nick Kyval
Joanne Ghiocas/Cate Waugh
Angel Duan
Heng Lin Yeap/
Guillaume Laplante-Anfossi
Mitch Roberts
Will Salisbury/Ben Dewhirst
Angus McKean
Mark Collins

Tony Toppi

Conductor
Keyboard 1
Keyboard 2
Keyboard 3
Flute/Piccolo
Oboe/English Horn
Clarinet
Clarinet 2/Bass Clarinet
Bassoon/Contrabassoon
Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trombone
Horn
Violin 1
Violin 2

Bass
Guitar
Drum Kit
Percussion

Keyboard 1 Programming

CAST

PRINCIPALS

Rosa McCarty
Mark Doran
Aaron Taylor
Rachel Rai
Jake Turner-Clarkson
Amelia Ropé
James O'Donovan
Lucy Portell (Oct 6, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20)
Alice Batchelor (Oct 7, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21)

Florence Vassy
Anatoly Sergievsky
Freddie Trumper
Svetlana Sergievskaya
Alexander Molokov
The Arbiter
Walter de Coursey
Young Florence

ENSEMBLE

Lucinda Barratt
Thomas Bowman

Mitchell Groves
Will Kim
Ronald MacKinnon
Jacqueline McCallum
Heloise Meighan
Emily Mill
Thomas Myszka
Cameron O'Reilly
Nic Russ
Ellyn Ryan
Sujanathan Satkunarajah
Jonno Sebastian
Isobel Smart
Ellena Stockdale
Joshua Sumner
Darcy Towe
Tailem Tynan
Imogen Whittaker
Robbie Wilton

Arbiter Crew
Florence's father,
Leonid Viigand, Camera
Arbiter Crew
Podium Dancer
Arbiter Crew
Waiter, Reporter
Reporter, Podium Dancer
Podium Dancer
Mayor Assistant, Reporter
Arbiter Crew
Civil Servant, TV Presenter
Arbiter Crew
Camera
Civil Servant, Mayor
Camera
Arbiter Crew
Civil Servant
Podium Dancer
Arbiter Crew
Camera
Arbiter Crew, Civil Servant

PIT SINGERS

Christian Arnel
Brian Griffin
Lauren Holcombe
Lisa Nightingale
Mark Spencer

Leighton Garwin
Gemma Hedger
Sean McBride
Katrina Pezzimenti
Kelly Windle

COVERS

Rachel Rai
Ian Andrew
James O'Donovan
Lauren Holcombe
Shaun Kingma
Nic Russ
Nic Russ, Robbie Wilton
Nic Russ
Christian Arnel, Lisa Nightingale,
Mark Spencer, Kelly Windle
James Rooney

Florence Vassy
Anatoly Sergievsky
Freddie Trumper
Svetlana Sergievskaya
Alexander Molokov
The Arbiter
Walter de Coursey
Leonid Viigand
Ensemble
Dancer

CLOC proudly acknowledges the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin Nation: the Traditional Custodians of the unceded lands on which we gather today. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to all First Nations peoples.



JOSHUA SUMNER
(HE/HIM)
Civil Servant

A Kiwi from across the ditch in NZ.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Footloose* (Rev Shaw), *Blood Brothers* (Narrator), *A Monster Calls* (The Monster), *Joseph ... Dreamcoat* (Pharaoh), *Nightfall* (Edgar Allan Poe), *Xanadu* (Zeus), *Chicago*.

And another thing (or two)...: Studying for a Bachelor of Commerce double major in Finance and Marketing.



DARCY TOWE
(SHE/HER)
Podium Dancer

Currently studying a concurrent Diploma of Music at the Conservatorium of Music and a Bachelor of Arts.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Legally Blonde*, *Footloose*, *Wicked*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Calamity Jane*.

And another thing (or two)...: Was a member of the Australian Girls' Choir for 12 years, performing and touring to the USA and Europe.



TAILEM TYNAN
Arbiter Crew

Has appeared in and/or choreographed over 40 productions since 1994. This show marks Tailem's 17th CLOC appearance and her first in 5 years.

CLOC: *Strictly Ballroom* (2018), *A Chorus Line* (2017-Sheila), *Wicked* (2016), *Mary Poppins* (2015-Miss Lark), *Legally Blonde* (2014), *42nd Street* (2014-Annie Reilly), *High Society* (2009-Choreographer), *Miss Saigon* (2009), *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (2008-Dance Captain), *The Boy From Oz* (2008), *Shout!* (2007), *Cats* (2006), *Steel Pier* (2005), *Mack & Mabel* (2004), *Chicago* (2001), *Anything Goes* (2000).

Other shows (a small selection): *Singin' in The Rain*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Anything Goes*, *West Side Story*, *Hairspray*, *Songs for a New World*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Side Show*.

And another thing... Works as a Wine Club Manager, after leaving her corporate life in marketing and communications during the great COVID resignation.



IMOGEN WHITTAKER
(SHE/HER)
Camera

Is a proud Aboriginal woman.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Bright Star* (Florence), *Legally Blonde* (Vivienne), *Big Fish*, *The Witches of Eastwick* (Jennifer), *Spring Awakening* (Anna), *Chess*, *Curtains*, *Fame!* (Serena), *Urinetown*.

And another thing (or two)...: Works as a policy officer with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO).



ROBBIE WILTON
Arbiter Crew, Civil Servant

Graduate of Patrick Studios full-time professional development dance course, making his 9th onstage CLOC appearance.

CLOC: *Jersey Boys* (2022-Tommy De Vito), *Kinky Boots* (2019-Angel), *Jekyll & Hyde* (2018), *A Chorus Line* (Al Deluca-2017), *Les Misérables* (2017), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2016), *Wicked* (2016), *Guys & Dolls* (2013).

Other shows: *A Chorus Line* (Richie), *Singin' in The Rain* (Don Lockwood-Guild nomination-Dancer's Award), *Heathers* (Kurt Kelly), *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Hair*, *Hairspray*, *Cats*, *Annie* (Rooster), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin), *Pippin*, *High School Musical*.

And another thing... Works in customer success for a tech company.

YOUNG FLORENCE



ALICE BATCHELOR
(SHE/HER)

Nine year old Alice was born in Hong Kong, and came to Australia when she was five. She is a student of Stage Left Performing Arts School and also learns singing at Sing Space with Isobel Smart from our cast.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Shrek Jr*, *The Little Mermaid* (both with Stage Left).

And another thing (or two)...: Aside from performing, Alice loves netball, swimming and her two dogs Teddy and Milo.



LUCY PORTELL

Seven year old Lucy is in Grade 2 at school. She has been studying jazz, tap and ballet at Next Generation Dance since 2019 and acting at Stage School since 2020.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Treasure Island* (Australian Youth Theatre), *Broadway and Beyond* (YABC-National Theatre).

And another thing (or two)...: Lucy has a big sister Gracie, aged 9. Both Lucy's parents are theatre performers and met doing a show together.



PIT SINGERS



CHRISTIAN ARNEL
(HE/HIM)

A graduate of Young Australian Broadway Chorus and Miss Caroline's Tap School.
CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *The Pirates of Penzance, Into The Woods, The Secret Garden.*

And another thing (or two)...: Currently studying a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Neuropharmacology.



SEAN MCBRIDE
(HE/HIM)

Currently completing a Bachelor in Music Industry (majoring in music composition).

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Bright Star* (Daryl Ames), *Tuck Everlasting*, *Urinetown*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Grease*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Spamalot*, *The Addams Family*.

And another thing (or two)...: Is a multi-instrumentalist (piano, electric bass, upright bass, ukelele, bass singer). Hopes to work in many different areas of the music industry (arranging, composing, conducting, musically directing, performing) after completing his degree.



LEIGHTON GARWIN

Doing his 20th show in the last 15 years.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *We Will Rock You* (Brit), *American Idiot* (Will), *Rock of Ages* (Dennis Dupree), *Godspell* (Jesus), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart), *Grease* (Danny Zuko), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Schroeder), *bare* (Jason), *25th...Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney), *Rent* (Roger), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor), *Jekyll & Hyde* (title role), *Hairspray* (Seaweed), *The Full Monty* (Malcolm McGregor), *Cats* (Rum Tum Tugger), *The Producers* (Carmen Ghia).

And another thing (or two)...: Works as a medical administrator.



LISA NIGHTINGALE
(SHE/HER)

Has a Bachelor of Music from Melba Conservatorium of Music. Her first show since 2015.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows: *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake), *The Sound of Music*, *Blood Brothers*, *Robin the Hood*, *Shout!*, several solo cabaret shows.

And another thing (or two)...: Works as a sales manager with Carlisle Homes.



BRIAN GRIFFIN

Returns to CLOC after a 20 year absence.

CLOC: *Les Misérables* (1993-Courfeyrac), *Sunday in the Park with George* (1992-Franz/Dennis).

Other shows: *Little Me* (Guild nomination), *Big River* (Tom Sawyer-Guild nomination), *The Baker's Wife* (Casimir), *Sweeney Todd*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas).

And another thing (or two)...: Works as a mental health nurse.



KATRINA PEZZIMENTI

Equally at home in opera, classical musical recitals, and music theatre.

Teaches singing privately and at St Leonard's College and also works as a surtitler for Opera Australia.

CLOC: *Fiddler on the Roof* (2011-Fruma Sarah), *Evita* (1987).

Other shows: *Company* (Jenny), *Musical of Musicals: The Musical* (Mother Abby), *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona Peretti), *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs Lovett), *Iolanthe* (Iolanthe).

And another thing (or two)...: Likes to space out her CLOC appearances - first show was 37 years ago, followed by a 24 year gap, and after another 12 years, she has returned for the trifecta.



GEMMA HEDGER

A Life Member of CLOC, has appeared in dozens of CLOC shows on both sides of the footlights, as a performer, Assistant Stage Manager and Stage Manager.

CLOC (onstage appearances): *The Phantom of the Opera* (2013), *Fiddler on the Roof* (2011), *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (2006), *A Little Night Music* (2000), *Anything Goes* (2000-Evangeline Harcourt), *Barnum* (1995).

Other shows (a small selection): *The Little Matchgirl*, *West Side Story*, *Evita*, *My Fair Lady*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Pajama Game*.

And another thing (or two)...: With husband Bernard, travels around Australia bumping in and out CLOC sets to companies who hire our sets.



MARK SPENCER
(HE/HIM)

Commonly known as 'Spence', has been part of the Melbourne theatre scene for many years as a performer, director, choreographer, producer, committee member and production manager.

CLOC: First CLOC show.

Other shows (a small selection as a performer): *Song and Dance*, *Fame*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Grease*, *Children of Eden*, *Chess*, *Hair*, *Rent*, *Godspell*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Wedding Singer* (George), *Chicago*, *Hot Mikado*, *Side Show* (Cossack/Ray), *Rock of Ages*, *A Chorus Line* (Greg), *Mamma Mia!*, *Sweeney Todd* and *The Boy From Oz*.

And another thing (or two)...: Is a long-standing Executive, Committee and Life Member of Williamstown Musical Theatre Company and leads the Junior Program. Is the Secretary of the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria.



LAUREN HOLCOMBE
(SHE/HER)

Has a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Theatre and Performance)-Monash University, AMEB Grade 7 Classical Voice (Naomi Osborne), dance training from a young age (SFD) with certificates in jazz and ballet.
CLOC: *Jekyll & Hyde* (2018), *Les Misérables* (2017), *Wicked* (2016).

Other shows: *Beautiful* (Carole King), *The Winter's Tale* (Cleomenes), *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Production Company-Intern), *Cats* (Jemima), *The Phantom of the Opera* selections (OfficeChoice gala 2016-Christine Daaé).

And another thing (or two)...: Returns to CLOC after a five year absence, during which she, like many of us during COVID, had a career and life change.



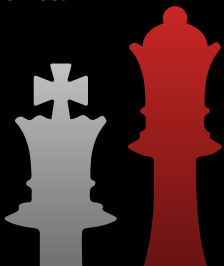
KELLY WINDLE

Returns to CLOC after a nine year absence.

CLOC: *Guys & Dolls* (2013-Sarah Brown), *The Phantom of the Opera* (2013), *High Society* (2009-Tracy Lord). Also worked on the costume team for five shows between 2010-2014.

Other shows: *The Witches of Eastwick* (Felicia Gabriel), *Into the Woods* twice (The Baker's Wife, Cinderella), *Oklahoma!* twice (Laurie, Ado Annie), various cabarets, corporate events.

And another thing (or two)...: Since her last CLOC appearance, Kelly has earned a PhD in Psychology and works as an organizational psychologist.



SYNOPSIS

ACT 1

The president of the International Chess Federation—The Arbiter—explains the origins of chess and announces the location of the upcoming world chess championship: Merano, Italy. As the town prepares for the occasion, the current world champion, Freddie Trumper of the United States, arrives with his second and lover, Hungarian-born, English-raised Florence Vassy.

Florence confronts Freddie about his brash behaviour and rocky relationship with the press, which immediately gets out of hand when he assaults a journalist at a press conference. Meanwhile, Freddie's Soviet Russian challenger, Anatoly Sergievsky, argues with his own second, the scheming Molokov.

The chess opening ceremony commences with the American and Soviet delegates each vowing their side will win, the Arbiter insisting on a clean game, and marketers looking to make a profit. During the increasingly intense match, Freddie storms out of the arena, leaving Florence to negotiate with Anatoly, Molokov and The Arbiter.

Florence arranges a meeting between the two champions, after trading heated words with Molokov. She learns that Freddie had engineered the outburst in the hope of extracting more money from his sponsor, an American sensationalist media company, Global Television. Walter, Global Television's representative in Freddie's delegation, criticizes the stunt as ludicrous.

Florence confronts Freddie, and they fight about the politics of the tournament where he viciously turns the argument towards her missing father, believed captured or killed by Soviet forces during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Florence storms from their hotel room to the reconciliatory meeting she has scheduled between Freddie and Anatoly at the Merano Mountain Inn. Freddie does not show for the meeting, leaving Anatoly and Florence awkwardly alone together. In the cold evening mountain air, they find common ground with each other. As romantic feelings arise, Freddie appears, witnessing Florence in an embrace with his opponent. Freddie announces bitterly that he has negotiated new financial terms with Global TV and the match can continue.

The chess tournament proceeds. Distracted by the loss of Florence, Freddie flounders, leaving himself one loss away from losing his title. Due to Freddie's atrocious attitude, Florence finally leaves him. Freddie sends The Arbiter a letter of resignation, resulting in Anatoly becoming the new world champion.

Anatoly immediately defects from the Soviet Union and seeks asylum at the British Embassy. Meanwhile, Walter tips off the press about this scandal. When the mob of reporters ambushes Anatoly and asks why he is deserting his country, he tells them that he will never truly leave his homeland.

ACT 2

One year later, Anatoly is set to defend his championship in Bangkok, Thailand. Freddie is already there as Global TV's official commentator for the tournament, experiencing the Bangkok nightlife. Florence and Anatoly worry about Freddie's sudden reappearance as well as the impending arrival of Anatoly's estranged wife, Svetlana, from Russia. Anatoly suspects Svetlana's arrival is part of Molokov's plan to shame him into returning to the Soviet Union. Molokov, meanwhile, has trained a new protégé, Viigand, to defeat and humiliate Anatoly.

Walter manipulates Freddie into embarrassing Anatoly on live television during a heated interview between them. Molokov blackmails Svetlana into urging Anatoly to throw the match. Walter, who has been promised the release of captured American agents if he can ruin Anatoly's performance, informs Florence that her father is alive though imprisoned, and that he will be released if she can convince Anatoly to lose. Despite Molokov and Walter's efforts, none of their ploys work to get Anatoly to throw the game. Molokov and Walter then team up to get Freddie to pressure Anatoly and Florence, knowing that Freddie wants to win back the love of Florence. Freddie's attempts also fail, leaving him alone yet again.

Svetlana and Florence find common ground over their respective relationships with Anatoly. Anatoly follows an anonymous letter guiding him to a temple, where Freddie appears to tell him that he is willing to put their conflict behind him and informs Anatoly of a significant flaw in Viigand's strategy that will help Anatoly win.

In the deciding game of the match, with the score tied at five games all, Anatoly battles his demons, Svetlana accuses Anatoly of wallowing in the crowd's empty praise and Florence expresses frustration with him for casting aside his ideals. Anatoly achieves a superb victory against Viigand.

Florence tells Anatoly that he should return to his family in the Soviet Union. As Anatoly departs, Walter approaches Florence with the news that Anatoly is defecting back to the USSR, ensuring her father will be released. He admits, however, that no one knows if her father is still alive. Florence breaks down, realising that she too has been used in a game she could not win.





BACKGROUND

Chess has had a long, tortuous and chequered (pun intended) history. It was the brainchild of lyricist Sir Tim Rice, who had previously worked with Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber on three wildly successful musicals - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*. Following on from his ongoing interest in turning historical events into musical theatre, Rice had long wanted to write a musical about the Cold War and hit upon the idea of using chess rivalry as the prism through which this could take place. When Rice went to Lloyd Weber with this idea, Weber was busy working on his next musical *Cats*, so it was suggested by a producer that Rice work with the ABBA boys instead, which Rice happily agreed to do, as he was a big fan of ABBA and what he felt was the theatrical style of ABBA songs.

The three men worked on the musical throughout 1982 and 1983. As they had done with *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*, it was decided to release the music as a concept album before any stage productions were undertaken. This album featured a mix of West End and Swedish music performers. Released in 1984, the album was an international smash hit, winning several awards and producing stand-alone hits including *One Night in Bangkok*, *I Know Him So Well* and *Nobody's Side*.

The first staged production of *Chess* was in 1986 in London's West End. It was supposed to have been directed by Michael Bennett (creator of *A Chorus Line*), who had to withdraw due to ill-health (and who died in 1987 from AIDS). Trevor Nunn, who had directed the musicals *Cats* and *Les Misérables*, took over, using many of the cast from the album. This version expanded the storyline and added some exposition and dialogue. It was very successful, running for three years, and winning three Olivier awards (Best Musical, Actor and Actress).

After the West End production, the creative team decided to reimagine the show from the top down, leading to a second major stage version of the musical intended for American audiences, with considerable differences from the British version in both plot and music. The story changed drastically, with different settings, characters, many different plot elements, a re-ordered score, much more spoken dialogue, and a new set, although the basic plot remained the same. The show opened in April 1988 and although generally panned by critics, it still maintained a healthy box-office

advance. Nevertheless the Broadway production did not manage to sustain a consistently large audience and closed after 17 previews and 68 regular performances. Subsequently, many attempts were made to fix the Broadway version's perceived problems, and its failure caused Tim Rice to become disillusioned with theatre and move on to work primarily with Disney in movies.

There have since been countless re-writes and various productions of the show done worldwide, both in concert and full theatrical versions. The 1990s saw productions mounted across America and the UK, in Sweden and in Australia, where a 1990 production opened in Sydney with a new version of the book rewritten primarily by Rice to streamline the plot, using parts from each of the previous versions, as well as his original concept for the American version. It starred Jodie Gillies, John Wood and Maria Mercedes. A later Australian production played at Melbourne's Princess Theatre in 1997, featuring Barbara Dickson, Daryl Braithwaite and Delia Hannah.

In the 2000s, there have been many attempts to re-write and re-stage the definitive version of the show - Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Hungary, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, USA and even Russia in 2020 (amazingly, in the midst of a pandemic). Most notably, in 2008, there was a concert version produced at the Royal Albert Hall in London, with almost no dialogue or set, but otherwise following the British version in plot and music. Tim Rice stated in the concert's programme that this version of *Chess* is the "official version", after years of different plot and song combinations. The cast included Adam Pascal as Freddie, Idina Menzel as Florence, Josh Groban as Anatoly and Kerry Ellis as Svetlana. This version was recorded and is available to watch on YouTube.

Australia has had its shares of productions too, including an acclaimed concert version staged by The Production Company in Melbourne in 2012 (starring Sylvie Paladino, Simon Gleeson, Martin Crewes and Bobby Fox) and a semistaged concert hall production in 2021 which toured Australia, featuring Natalie Bassingthwaight, Paulini, Rob Mills and Alexander Lewis. CLOC also mounted a production in October 1997 (exactly 26 years ago), and remarkably, several CLOC stalwarts have been involved in both the 1997 and 2023 versions.

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR: Shaun Kingma
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Tyson Legg
CHOREOGRAPHER: Tamara Finch
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Sallyanne Mitchell
PRODUCTION MANAGERS: Seamus Allan, Lucinda Barratt
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Grant Alley OAM
STAGE MANAGER: Rosemary Curtis
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR: Debbie-Anne Osborne
PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING: Sandra Davies OAM
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Karen Greenwood
AUDITION CO-ORDINATOR: Karen Greenwood
AUDITION & REHEARSAL PIANISTS: Lester Cheung, Ned Dixon, Adeline Han, Kathryn Leonard, John Mondelo, Adrian Portell, Jessica Sun, David Wisken
SET DESIGNER: Shaun Kingma
SCENIC ARTIST: Sally Martin
TECHNICAL DESIGNER: Grant Alley OAM
SET CONSTRUCTION: Grant Alley OAM, Patsi Boddison, John Hall, Noel Hall OAM, Tony Hall, Justin Karakai, Iain Leech, David Popper, Michael Tobin, Peter Turley, Barry Venning
SPECIAL PROPERTIES: Justin Karakai

SOUND DESIGNER: Marcello Lo Ricco (LSS Productions)
SOUND OPERATOR: Nick O'Connor
SOUND EFFECTS: Shaun Kingma
RADIO MICROPHONE TECHNICIAN: Rhiannon Gilmore, Jacinta Richardson
ASSISTED BY: Natalie Coleman
SOUND EQUIPMENT: LSS Productions Pty Ltd

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Brad Alcock (BAAC Light)
LIGHTING PROGRAMMER: Brad Alcock
PROJECTIONS & GRAPHIC DESIGN CREATIVE: Michael Fletcher
VIDEO SUPERVISOR: Olivia Ryan
SET LIGHTING: Grant Alley OAM, Patsi Boddison, Mitchell Groves, John Hall
LED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY: John Hall
LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR: Patsi Boddison
FOLLOW SPOT SUPERVISOR: Patsi Boddison
FOLLOW SPOT OPERATORS: Tayla Ives, Isobel Long, Samantha Martin, Alannah Woods
LIGHTING CREW: Brad Alcock, Patsi Boddison, Andrei Chlebnikowski
TECHNICAL LIGHTING & MULTI-MEDIA SUPPORT: Brad Alcock
AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORT: Michael Birkett

COSTUME DESIGNER: Victoria Horne
COSTUME CO-ORDINATORS: Victoria Horne, Melinda Peebles
COSTUME ASSISTANTS: Esther Anderson, Lydia Beshara, Harriet Davies, Glennis Eather, Eva Fabian, Mary Fraser, Samantha Gore, Carol Humphrey, Tayla Ives, Kathryn Leech, Julie Leitz, Yee Man Gloria Lin, Wendy McManamny, Brian Misson, Taylor Prokopiou, Julian Regan, Amelie Sydenham, Jaida Warren, Ruby Williams, Skye Window, Amy Wolchyn

WIG & MAKE-UP DESIGNER: David Wisken
ASSISTED BY: Jenny Barratt, Bek Goldsmith
STAGE DIRECTOR: Paul Belli
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: Heidi Crook
P MANAGER: Mark Houghton
OP MANAGER: Craig Dixon
FLY MANAGER: Tony Hall
FLY ASSISTANT: Natalie Vincent

DRESSERS' CO-ORDINATOR: Melinda Peebles
ASSISTED BY: Samantha Gore, Jess Mohi, Taylor Prokopiou

CHILD CHAPERONE: Karen Warrington

PROPS CO-ORDINATOR: Sara Bayley
ASSISTED BY: Pam Christie Birkett, Karen Greenwood

STAGE CREW: Alannah Brellis, Gordon Bull, Laurence Clarke, Chloe Goldsmith, Bernard Hedger, Nikki Imberger, Lalli Kirby, Iain Leech, Bianca Milewski, Ian Simmonds

CATERING: Karen Greenwood
FIRST AID OFFICER (backstage): Lalli Kirby

COVID SAFE MANAGER (backstage): Karen Greenwood

THANKS ALSO: Celeste Ady, Robert Griffin, Stephanie Hedger, Kelsey Henderson, David Hobbs, Bek McLaughlin, India Morris, Thomas Orr, Andrew Roberts, Prem Satkunarajah, Eric Stone, Jessica Watson

MARKETING MANAGER: Daniel Baker
ASSISTED BY: Jasmine Jesty
MARKETING TEAM: Sandra Davies OAM, Karen Greenwood, Cameron Osborne

WEBMASTER: Cameron Osborne
FACEBOOK: Daniel Baker
PROGRAM: Daniel Baker
ASSISTED BY: Sandra Davies OAM, Karen Greenwood
PROGRAM GRAPHIC ART/DESIGN: David Clark, Daphne Lim at The Wizarts
PHOTOGRAPHY & MEDIA: Ben Fon (Fon Photography)
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ADMIN SUPPORT: Janet Cameron, Sandra Davies OAM

TICKET SALES MANAGERS: Carol Humphrey, Cameron Osborne
ASSISTED BY: Cheryle Osborne
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER: Naki Khan
FRONT OF HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR: Meryl Withers
BOX OFFICE MANAGER: Grant Alley OAM
ASSISTED BY: Mary Ann Farren, Carol Humphrey, Cheryle Osborne, Barry Venning
TEAM LEADERS: Adeline Han, Naki Khan, Adele Lipson, Helen Whiston, Meryl Withers, Peter Witney

CLOC is indebted to all our Front of House team members who so willingly give up their time to ensure our patrons enjoy their theatre experience: Agi Bartha, Helen Blandy, Mary Bryant, Ian Carlsson, Emma de Vries, Ryan Etlis, Eva Fabian, Mary Ann Farren, Adeline Han, Nick Jones, Naki Khan, Estelle Lipovetsky, Adele Lipson, Peter Maver, Peter Miller, Janine Mitchell, Catherine Munday, Lisa Portell, Greg Ramsay, Barry Rickard, Cassie Ross, Elizabeth Semmel, Helen Whiston, Meryl Withers, Peter Witney, Georgina Woods and to others who have made such a valuable contribution.

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**ELTON
JOHN**

BOOK & LYRICS BY
**LEE
HALL**

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY
**STEPHEN
DALDRY**



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