

PRINCIPALS



GARETH JACOBS ♦ GENIE

Gareth trained in musical theatre at the University of Ballarat (BAPA) in Victoria, graduating in 2003. He honed his skills as a singer, actor and dancer on the high seas as lead vocalist and vocal captain for Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises. While studying at BAPA, Gareth appeared in the musicals *Pal Joey*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Company*. In 2010 he was a Top 24 contestant on *The X Factor – Australia* (Fremantle Media) and, most recently, played the role of Jimmy Early in *Dreamgirls* for StageArt, directed by Terence O’Connell.



AINSLEY MELHAM ♦ ALADDIN

Born and raised in Bathurst, Ainsley trained in musical theatre at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), graduating in 2012. He also studied at the NIDA Open Program, the Australasian Tap Dance Academy and La Belle School of Dance. At WAAPA the singer/actor/dancer appeared in a variety of musicals, including *Ragtime*, *Violet*, *Crazy For You*, *A Chorus Line*, *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Into The Woods*. Ainsley stars as Sonny Malone in *Xanadu* for Matthew Management and Hayes Theatre Co this year. He was a cast member of Hi-5, having appeared in its Australasian tours, the televised Hi-5 House Series and the documentary film *Some Kind Of Wonderful*.



SHUBSHRI KANDIAH ♦ JASMINE

Shubshri trained in musical theatre at The Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, graduating in 2017. Whilst training she performed in musicals such as *Sweet Charity*, *The Life, I Love You You’re Perfect Now Change* and *West Side Story*. Prior to her graduation, she performed the role of Ayah in Opera Queensland’s *The Pearlfishers* at QPAC. She has been a featured vocalist with the Queensland Pops Orchestra, featured in *An Evening with Liz Callaway*, performing a duet with Liz and was also a featured artist in the *2017 Spirit of Christmas* concert at QPAC. Shubshri is thrilled to be taking on the role of Jasmine.



ADAM MURPHY ♦ JAFAR

Having trained at the University of South Australia in screen arts, English and drama, Adam is one of Australia’s most versatile performers in theatre and television. His credits are extensive, including *Mary Poppins*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Les Misérables*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story on Stage* and, most recently, the role of Ron Edgeworth in the world premiere of *Georgy Girl – The Seekers Musical*. For many years Adam has been a regular guest artist for The Production Company in Melbourne, including the musicals *Guys and Dolls*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Carousel*, *42nd Street* and *Crazy For You*. Television credits include the series *Blue Heelers*, *Neighbours*, *Halifax f.p.*, *Utopia*, *House Husbands* and *City Homicide*.



ALJIN ABELLA ♦ IAGO

A graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Aljin made his mainstage debut in the award-winning Australian musical *The Sapphires*, directed by Wesley Enoch for MTC/Company B Belvoir/Black Swan Theatre Company (2004). Aljin reprised the role in the subsequent London and South Korean tours, under the direction of Neil Armfield (2011). He won acclaim in the role of Monkey in *Monkey: Journey to the West* for Theatre of Image, directed by John Bell (2014). Selected television credits include Netflix's *Marco Polo*, *Power Rangers Jungle Fury* and *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*. He is also the co-lead in the web series *Hunter n Hornet*, where he was nominated for both an IAWTV and Raindance Independent Series Award. He played Jacob in *La Cage Aux Folles* for The Production Company (earning him a Green Room nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical) in 2014 and Luke in director Dean Bryant's version of *Anything Goes* for Opera Australia/Gordon Frost Organisation (2015).



RĀWIRI PARATENE ♦ SULTAN

Forty-Six years in the entertainment industry has seen Rāwiri win acclaim as an actor, writer, director, producer and tutor in Theatre, Television, Radio and Film.

Career highlights include: All the work he has been involved with at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London over the past 10 years - especially taking *The Māori Troilus & Cressida* as Producer and Actor to open the Globe to Globe Festival in 2012, which featured theatre companies from all over the world performing all 37 Shakespeare Plays performed in the native languages of the country; and then joining the ensemble in the history making *Hamlet World Tour*, which toured to every country on the planet (197 in all) from 2014 to 2016. Most recently he directed *When Sun & Moon Collide* for Auckland Theatre Company, performed in *Te Pō* at Q Theatre and *The Cherry Orchard* at ATC Waterfront Theatre.

Film highlights include the role of Koro in the iconic Niki Caro Feature Film, *Whalerider* and his award winning performance in *The Insatiable Moon*.

Television Highlights include being a *Playschool* Presenter, performing and writing for several topical sketch comedy series of *More Issues*. His screenplay *Erua* won many awards at the NZ Film and Television Awards including Best Writer, Best Actor and Best Drama, another of his screenplays, *Dead Certs* won him a Best actor award.

Awards include: Robert Burns Fellow at Otago University in 1983; TV & Film Awards for Best Writer (1989 - *Erua*); Best Actor (1995 - *Dead Certs*); Best Performance in a Short Film (2008 - *The Graffiti & Mr Tupaia*). In 2005 he co- devised and starred in *Children of the Sea* which won the coveted Spirit of the Fringe and Fringe First Awards at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Best Actor for *The Insatiable Moon* - 2011
In 2013 he became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM)



ADAM JON FIORENTINO ♦ KASSIM

Born and raised in Melbourne, Adam has forged a luminous international career on the musical stage. He played the role of Bert in *Mary Poppins* at the New Amsterdam on Broadway and won a legion of fans on London's West End when he starred as Tony Manero in *Saturday Night Fever*. Adam featured as Young Ben in Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* at the London Palladium. At the start of Adam's career he was in the ensemble of the hugely successful Australian musical *The Boy From Oz*, about the life and career of showman Peter Allen. Adam played Chuck in *Footloose - The Musical* for GFO-SEL at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney. Adam's television credits include the roles of Simon in *All My Children* (ABC-United States) and Matthew in *30 Rock*.



TROY SUSSMAN ♦ BABKAK

Troy is one of Australia's finest character actors in musical theatre, beginning his professional career in 1989 in the Australian premiere production of *Les Misérables*. He featured in the 2000 film of South Pacific and in 2001 he played Kleirman in *Mack & Mabel*, starring Caroline O'Connor. Troy's versatility and command has been evident in numerous roles including Woof in *Hair* and Fakir in *The Secret Garden*. Theatre credits include: *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon* and *Guys & Dolls*, *Sweet Charity*, *Mame*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *La Cage Aux Folles* for The Production Company, *Witches of Eastwick* (Jacobsen Entertainment), *We Will Rock You*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* for Melbourne Theatre Company in 2010 and the Australian premiere production of *Mary Poppins* for Cameron Mackintosh/Disney Theatrical. In 2012 Troy appeared in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, starring Geoffrey Rush (GFO). Most recently Troy played the roles of Buddy Fidler/Irwin S. Irving in *City of Angels* to great acclaim for Life Like Company in Melbourne.



ADAM DI MARTINO ♦ OMAR

Over the course of his three years, studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre) at Victorian College, Adam played the roles of Old Man Strong in *Urinetown* (dir. Alistair Smith), and Mac in *42nd Street* (dir. Gary Young). He was also a featured soloist in John Bucchino's *Grateful Concert*. Since graduating, Adam's first professional show was with the Queensland Ballet in *Strictly Gershwin*. Directed/Choreographed by Derek Deane, Bill Simpson and Li Cunxin, he performed as a Guest Artist/Tapper. He has also played Bell Boy in *Titanic The Musical* (dir. James Cutler), Frank Capra in *Mack & Mabel* at the Hayes Theatre (dir. Trevor Ashley), Roger in *A New Brain* (dir. Ben Giraud), Peter in *Bare* (dir. Dean Drieberg) and last year he finished a 9 month tour with Brainstorm productions. Adam is proudly represented by AMM (Aran Michael Management).



MARK DOGGETT ♦ STANDBY JAFAR/SULTAN

Mark is a Melbourne born and well-travelled professional performer. He studied Musical Theatre at The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Since graduating in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts and a number of awards, he has enjoyed a diverse career on stage and in film and TV. You may have seen him in television shows such as *Neighbours*, *Blue Heelers* & *Underbelly* or more recently in the ABC mini-series *Glitch*. Mark also directed Louis Nowra's *Così* for West Independent Theatre in 2014. Over the past 15 years Mark has performed on stage for companies such as MTC, The Production Company, The Really Useful Group and Opera Australia amongst many others. A few of his favourite adventures in musical theatre include *Fiddler on The Roof* (understudying Anthony Warlow in 2015), *Hair*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Music Man*, *Sweet Charity*, *How To Succeed In Business... Les Miserables* & *Sweeney Todd*. In 2013 Mark enjoyed performing in the Sydney Opera House with the Australian tour of the beautiful Rogers & Hammerstein masterpiece *South Pacific*, where he understudied the role of Emile De Becque. Most recently Mark returned to the Sydney stage in the hugely successful tour of *My Fair Lady*.



ANTHONY MURPHY ♦ STANDBY GENIE

Anthony Murphy was most recently seen playing the Genie in the First North American Tour of *Aladdin*. He has also been seen Off-Broadway in *The Pirate La Dee Da* (King Gudford) and *Blue Plate Special* (Fry Cook Joe). Anthony has worked regionally across the U.S. and been seen in *Brooklyn the Musical* (Streetsinger), *Les Miserables* (Jean Valjean u/s), *In the Heights* (Piragua Guy), *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely Nicely Johnson) and many more. Anthony dedicates this show to his father and mother who always believed in Plan A! This is my wish come true to share my craft and passion.

ENSEMBLE



ANDREA ARENA

Andrea graduated from the Victorian Collage Of The Arts Secondary School in 2008. Andrea's television credits include *Kath and Kim The Movie*, *Neighbours*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, *Black Eyed Peas Wrap Party*, *The X Factor*, *The Logies - Olly Murs*, *Carols By Candlelight*, *Jay Jays Commercial*, *Cosentino Illusionist*, and *Dubai Rugby 7's*. Andrea's musical theatre credits include GFO's *Wicked the Musical* (Australian and Asian Tour), GFO's *Grease the Musical* - playing Cha Cha and understudy for Rizzo (Australian and Asian Tour), and Disney's *The Lion King the Musical* (Australian Tour).



MAX BIMBI

In 2014 Max graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) with roles including Jimmy Harper in *Reefer Madness* and A-Rab in *West Side Story*. In his final year, Max received the inaugural Jackman Furness Foundation Award for his cabaret *The Way We Were*. Max made his mainstage debut in 2015 in *West Side Story* for The Production Company in Melbourne.



ELLA BURNS

Ella graduated from Patrick Studios Australia in 2013. Whilst there, she received the Ross Coleman Award and starred as Queenie in *The Wild Party*. Most recently, Ella played the role of Connie Francis in *Dream Lover* (GFO). Ella has also appeared in the ensemble for *Georgy Girl* (Farrelly Productions), *West Side Story*, *Dusty*, *Hello*, *Dolly!* and *Brigadoon* for The Production Company.



NICHOLAS EATON

Nicholas is a versatile singer and dancer adept in all styles of dance. For The Production Company he performed in *Singin' In The Rain*, *The Boyfriend* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. Nicholas has also appeared in *Cats*, *Mary Poppins*, *War Horse*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *South Pacific*, *Ultimate Broadway*, and currently he is touring Australia as dance captain on *Ghost - The Musical*.



ELANDRAH ERAMIHA

Elandrah Eramiha migrated to Melbourne from New Zealand with her family in 2004. At the age of 10, Elandrah danced for various dance crews as a hobby and only realised after graduating high school that her passion for dance had grown and decided to pursue a career in Performing Arts. Elandrah then began her dance training at Patrick Studios Australia, she then moved on to study Musical Theatre at PSA under the supervision of Andrew Hallsworth (2016). Elandrah has performed in the Australian Premieres of both, *In The Heights* (StageArt, 2015) and the lead role in *Memphis* (StageArt, 2017). Most recently Elandrah performed the lead "Danielle" in *Bring It On* (Stage Masters, 2018).



JOE GAUDION

Aladdin is Joe's musical theatre debut! TV credits: *Romper Stomper* (Stan) and *Seven Types of Ambiguity* (ABC). TV commercials: *Vicks TVC*, *Coles TVC* and *Pedigree TVC* (Clemenger). Live show: support act for *Lea Salonga Melbourne Concert*. Training: Diploma of Musical Theatre (APO Arts Academy) & Advanced Diploma of Dance - Elite Dance (Dance World Studios). Love & gratitude to Mum, Dad, Stan, Lili and Edd Amoo, my grandfather, for inspiring me to pursue my dreams.



BEN GILLESPIE

Ben began his training in Queensland at the Toowoomba School of Dance, going on to graduate from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre. He then spent three years travelling the globe as part of both the vocal trio *The Aussie Boys* and the Motown vocal group *Soulmates*. *The Aussie Boys* going on to headline at The Palms Crown Casino in Melbourne. Ben appeared in The Production Company's 2013 production of *Singin' in the Rain* and was fortunate enough to be cast once again The Dainty Group's production that toured Australia and Japan.



KEANU GONZALEZ

Keanu Gonzalez was discovered by Baz Luhrmann at the age of 16 and had his musical theatre debut when he joined the cast of *Strictly Ballroom The Musical* as their youngest ensemble member, in the cover role of Lead, Scott Hastings. Keanu's other credits include: the international tour of *Cats* as Alonzo Rumpus Cat, performing as part of 13 Rooms under the direction of Rafael Bonachela; dancing in Stephan Tannos's music video *Run Boy Run* amongst others. A very special actor, with an incredible command of his body from his dance and martial arts. Keanu has been shortlisted for a number of international television productions.



CHASKA HALLIDAY

Trained in singing and dancing at the Brent Street Studios, Chaska has featured in a variety of stage productions, TV shows and music videos including Beyonce's *Mine*. Chaska was a top ten finalist on *The X-Factor* as a part of girl group XOX. She has appeared in *Young Talent Time* (2012) and in the feature film *The Sapphires*. She has recently returned from a worldwide tour of new cabaret/burlesque show *Velvet* featuring Marcia Hines.



KIMBERLEY HODGSON

A graduate in musical theatre from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Kimberley gained prominence in the new Australian concert drama *Rolling Thunder Vietnam*, in which she created and performed the role of Sarah in 2014. In 2015 she was in the ensemble of the Sydney revival of *Avenue Q*. For Harvest Rain in Brisbane, Kim has appeared in *Cats - Arena Spectacular*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Into The Woods*, in which she played Little Red Riding Hood.



GRAEME ISAAKO

An accomplished singer, dancer, actor, Graeme made his mainstage debut in 2002 in Cameron Mackintosh's production of *Oliver!* in the role of Dipper. In 2008-09 he appeared in Simon Gallagher's *The Mikado* in the role of Nanki-Poo and, more recently, featured in the ensemble of Disney's *The Lion King* in which he understudied Adult Simba. Graeme trained at Janice Breen Performance Studios and at Urban Dance Centre. He appeared in the popular first season of *So You Think You Can Dance Australia*.



MATTHEW JENSON

Upon graduating from Brent Street with a Certificate IV in Performing Arts, Matthew quickly established himself as a truly versatile Artist working with choreographers such as Jason Coleman, The Squared Division (*X-FactorAU*), and Sydney Dance Company's Rafael Bonachela (*13 Rooms*). He made his Musical Theatre debut in 2014 as an original cast member of Baz Luhrmans's *Strictly Ballroom The Musical* and continued on for the national tour. In 2016 Matthew joined the Australian tour of *Singin' In The Rain* and was also invited to perform in the Tokyo production. Recently, Matthew was featured in The Production Company's *Hello Dolly*.



EMILY KEANE

An accomplished dancer and singer, Emily trained at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) and at Dance Factory. She played the role of Cassandra in the Asia/World Tour of *Cats* for Really Useful Group in 2006-10 and again in Korea, New Zealand and Australia in 2014-15.



LEAH LIM

Following a successful tour of *Matilda the Musical*, Leah is thrilled to be joining the cast of Disney's *Aladdin*. Leah's credits include *The King & I* (GFO/Opera Australia) and immediately prior, the production of *King Kong Live Onstage* (Global Creatures). Career highlights include performing as Connie Wong, directed by Baayork Lee, creator of the role and Michael Bennett's assistant, in *A Chorus Line*. Leah performed in two productions, the Australian tour (TML Enterprises) and with a British company, for a Tel Aviv, Israel season. Another highlight was performing original Jerome Robbins' choreography in the Australian production of *West Side Story* (David Atkins Enterprises). Leah owes her fortunate career to her first musical, Cameron Mackintosh's *Miss Saigon* (Louise Withers&Associates). Other credit include *LazyTown* (Andrew Kay&Associates), *Avenue Q* (2015 Melbourne Comedy Festival), *Kismet* (The Production Company) and Disney Cruise Lines.



HEATHER MANLEY

Originally from the island of Guam, Heather moved to Perth to study Music Theatre at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) where she just graduated in 2015. Some of Heather's credits at WAAPA include Pilar in *Legally Blonde*, Maia in Matthew Robinson's workshop of *Atlantis*, and Carrie White in *Carrie the Musical*. Heather will soon join the cast of *RENT* in their return season at the Hayes Theatre.



JAKE O'BRIEN

Jake left Townsville to attend Patrick Studio's Australia to study dance and musical theatre. After graduating in 2015, Jake was in the ensemble and covering the role of Sonny for StageArt's season of *In The Heights*. Later, he became a member of Lion Hearts Dance company and performed in two shows; *Table of 8* and *Fabricated*. Jake then travelled to Adelaide to perform *Postcards from Around the World* created by Shane Wilson International and Rhys Bobridge. Other credits include: *That's Amore* (Melbourne fringe festival), cruising with the *Celebrity Constellation* as a singer/dancer around the Mediterranean seas, modelling for the National Australian Bank and playing the role of Mike Costa in *A Chorus Line* with Mad About Theatre. Jake is very excited to be joining the cast of Disney's *Aladdin* for his first professional tour.



JOSEPH O'SULLIVAN

Joseph is originally from Auckland, New Zealand. He moved to Melbourne at 17 to study at Dance World Studios. He was a featured dancer in *Big Band Beat* at Disneyland Tokyo in 2009 and danced for Royal Caribbean Cruises in 2010. He has performed in Magnormos' *Hello Dolly* and Michael Ralph's *Now & Then*. Joseph was a Swing in the Asian and Australian tours of *Wicked* (GFO, 2011-15).



LIAM PEEL

Liam is one of the most exciting new talents to emerge in Australia in recent years. A graduate of the prestigious *ED5 International* in Sydney, Liam was able to refine his craft under the guidance of industry legend William Forsythe before taking to the stage on the international seas with Princess Cruises. Upon his return in 2016, Liam made his musical theatre debut as swing in *Kinky Boots*, touring with the show for the full Australian run. So far in his career Liam has also had the opportunity to work with incredible artists such as Delta Goodrem, Marcia Hines and Tina Arena and was a cast member of Opera Australia's *Turandot*.



SASHA-LEE SAUNDERS

Sasha-Lee Saunders, born and raised in New Zealand, moved to Sydney, Australia three years ago on a quest to train in the performing arts and work in the entertainment industry. She trained at The Australian Institute of Music completing a BA in Musical Theatre and a Diploma in Music. Since graduating, in 2016, Sasha-Lee has performed as a vocalist, dancer and actor in various pro-amateur and professional productions across theatre and television including, *Hair* (Exclaim Productions), *Hats Off!* (Oz Showbiz Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Inc), *Thundermentals* (Film Clip Chore: Cameron Mitchell), *Comedy Central* (Network Seven) and featured in a TVC for the Australian Bureau Of Statistics/ Marriage Law Vote (Fountainhead Casting). *Aladdin* marks Sasha-Lee's professional musical theatre debut.



ANTHONY SHEPPARD

Anthony is a very recent graduate of The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) with a Bachelor Degree in Music Theatre. Prior to the VCA, Anthony studied full-time dance at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, where he was involved in Main Season dance performances at the Malthouse Theatre. In 2014, Anthony made his professional debut in The Production Company's *La Cage Aux Folles*. Other credits include Frank and Bryant's *The Silver Donkey* (Melbourne Theatre Company reading), *Company* (VCA), AFL NAB Cup Grand Final (National Anthem Duet) and *Knowing* (Ezekiel Films 2009). Anthony is proudly represented by Ian White Management.



MICHAEL SNELL

Mike started his career in 2006 in Hugh Jackman's, *The Boy From OZ Arena Spectacular*. A succession of shows quickly followed; *Miss Saigon*, *Wicked* and *Hairspray*. In 2012 Mike was the winner of the TV series *I Will Survive*, Network 10 before joining the cast of *Legally Blonde* playing the role of Kyle the UPS Guy and was nominated for Best Supporting actor Helpmann Award. Mike was an original cast member of Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom* in which he appeared in the roles of Ken Railings, Rico, Wayne and Tommy and in the national tour of *We Will Rock You*. Mike was thrilled to make his Production Company 2017 trifecta playing Rudy in *Hello Dolly*, Simon Zealotes in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and then *Brigadoon*.



MICHAEL STAVROU

Michael is a graduate of Patrick Studios Australia, studying fulltime performing arts from 2012-2014. In 2015, he performed in *Cabaret de Paris* (M2 Productions) before heading off to perform with Norwegian Cruise Lines as a singer/dancer. In 2016, Michael travelled to Macau with Bor Productions to perform in *Viva La Broadway*. Since returning to Australia, Michael has been touring nationally and internationally with 'Cosentino', performing as a dancer and magicians assistant. Michael is thrilled to making his musical theatre debut in *Aladdin*.



LYNDON WATTS

Lyndon is a 2014 graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) where, prior to his graduation, he was cast in the 2014 Australian tour of Sweet Charity. Previous roles include Bernardo in *West Side Story*, Hud in *Hair*, and Jesus Christ in *Reefer Madness*. Lyndon also featured in the *Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony* and performed alongside Hugh Jackman in the 2014 *Jackman Furness Foundation* for the Performing Arts launch. In 2015, Lyndon was cast in the Australia production of *Anything Goes* directed by Dean Bryant. Lyndon most recently appearing in the Australia production of *Singin' in the Rain* directed by Jonathan Church. Which he also toured throughout Japan.