

DREAM CAST ANNOUNCED FOR DISNEY'S ALADDIN

An exceptional group of Australia and New Zealand's most outstanding musical theatre performers and exciting fresh faces has been announced for Disney's new musical comedy, *Aladdin*.

They will be joined by Broadway performer Michael James Scott in the role of the Genie.

Based on the classic Academy Award®-winning animated film, **Aladdin** will open in Sydney at the Capitol Theatre in August 2016.

Tickets go on sale to the GP 8th March 2016.

The dream cast for **Aladdin** has been achieved after intense and competitive auditions throughout Australia. It will be one of the most diverse multi-cultural casts to appear on the Australian stage.

American performer **Michael James Scott** will play the pivotal role of the Genie. Michael has performed in many Broadway shows including the original company of *The Book of Mormon*, the 2010 Broadway and London revival of *Hair*, as well as the standby Genie in the original Broadway cast of *Aladdin*. He was most recently seen in Casey Nicholaw's third current Broadway hit, *Something Rotten*.

Joining him will be the exciting new discovery **Ainsley Melham** making his mainstage debut in the title role of Aladdin. Ainsley is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

The principal cast features international musical theatre star **Adam Jon Fiorentino** (*Saturday Night Fever, Mary Poppins*) as Kassim, stage & television performer **Adam Murphy** as Jafar and **Robert Tripolino** in the role of Omar. Filling out the principal ranks is one of Australia's most accomplished character actors and musical theatre stars **Troy Sussman** as Babkak and stage and television actor **Aljin Abella** as lago.

The distinguished New Zealand actor George Henare will play the Sultan.

The search for the coveted role of Jasmine continues and casting will be announced at a later date.

Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions, the show features music by Tony Award and eight-time Oscar[®] winner **Alan Menken** (*Beauty and the Beast, Newsies, Sister Act, Little Shop of Horrors*), lyrics by two-time Oscar winner **Howard Ashman** (*Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid*), three-time Tony Award and three-time Oscar winner **Tim Rice** (*Evita, Aida*) and four-time Tony Award nominee **Chad Beguelin** (*The Wedding Singer*). With a book by Beguelin, *Aladdin* is directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner **Casey Nicholaw** (*The Book of Mormon, Something Rotten*).

Aladdin, adapted from the Disney film and centuries-old folktales including "One Thousand and One Nights," is brought to fresh theatrical life in this bold new musical. Aladdin's journey sweeps audiences into an exotic world of daring adventure, classic comedy and timeless romance.

This new production features a magnificent score, including the five cherished songs from the Academy Award-winning soundtrack, and additional music and songs written especially for the stage.

Aladdin opened on Broadway to critical acclaim on March 20th, 2014. It quickly established itself as the biggest blockbuster in recent years, already welcoming more than 1.2 million people and breaking house records at the New Amsterdam Theatre.

"FABULOUS AND EXTRAVAGANT WITH RELENTLESS RAZZLE DAZZLE" New York Times

"DISNEY HITS MAGIC AGAIN" Associated Press

"IT'S PURE GENIE-US!" USA Today

The animated film **Aladdin** was released by Disney in 1992 and was a critical and box office smash, grossing over \$500 million worldwide (not adjusted for inflation) and becoming the highest-grossing film of the year.

The film won the Oscar for Best Original Score and introduced the hit song "A Whole New World," which won the second of the film's two Academy Awards as Best Original Song. The Peabo Bryson/Regina Belle recording of the tune soared to #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Aladdin is designed by seven-time Tony-winning scenic designer **Bob Crowley**, five-time Tony-winning lighting designer **Natasha Katz**, two-time Tony-winning costume designer **Gregg Barnes** and sound designer **Ken Travis**.

The production team also includes illusion designer **Jim Steinmeyer**, hair designer **Josh Marquette** and makeup designer **Milagros Medina-Cerdeira**. The music team is headed by music supervisor and music director **Michael Kosarin**, who also created the vocal and incidental music arrangements, joined by orchestrator **Danny Troob** and dance music arranger **Glen Kelly**.

To be first in line to buy tickets go to: **www.aladdinthemusical.com.au**

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To access full media kit, broadcast quality footage, high-res production shots and audio files please go to:

www.bridgespr.com/login Username: AladdinMedia | Password: AladdinInAus

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PRINCIPALS

MICHAEL JAMES SCOTT • GENIE

Michael James Scott is best known for originating the role of Dr. Gotswana in The Book of Mormon. Most recently, he originated the role of "The Minstrel" in the new Broadway hit Something Rotten and was seen playing "The Blue Guy" as the original standby for "The Genie" in *Aladdin* on Broadway. Michael began his theater career as the standby for his mentor, Ben Vereen, in the international tour of Fosse and eventually taking over the role in Paris, France at The Théâtre du Châtelet. On London's West End he was associate choreographer and cast member for the revival of Hair. Additional Broadway credits include: Mamma Mia!, All Shook Up, The Pirate Queen, Tarzan, Hair and Elf. Off-Broadway, he was featured in Here's to Joe opposite Donna McKechnie, and also part of the concert cast of Jerry Springer: The Opera at Carnegie Hall. He's a member of the critically acclaimed singing group *The Broadway Boys* and renown Broadway Inspirational Voices and can be heard on numerous original Broadway Cast Albums and The Broadway Boys debut Album Lullaby of Broadway. Outside New York, Michael has appeared in the original Las Vegas cast of Jersey Boys as well as the re-conceived production of Shrek as the Donkey at The St. Louis Muny and regionally in Aida, Ragtime, South Pacific and Cinderella. His numerous television and film appearances include The Carrie Diaries (The WB), The View (ABC), The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon (NBC), The Late Show with Conan O'Brien (NBC), Good Morning America (ABC), The Today Show (NBC) The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (CBS) and The TONY Awards (CBS). Tweetergram: @iamMJScott

AINSLEY MELHAM ALADDIN ٠

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.

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 Misèrables, 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 awardwinning 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).

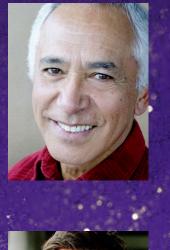


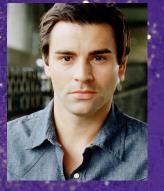
















GEORGE HENARE + SULTAN

George has a distinguished career in theatre, television and film spanning more than 40 years. Born and raised in New Zealand, the prolific actor has featured in numerous films, television series and productions, including *Xena: Warrior Princess, The Lost World, Outrageous Fortune* and *Stolen*. George is perhaps best known for his role as Bennett in the acclaimed film, *Once Were Warriors*. George turned to the theatre in his late teens after working as a postman and trainee teacher. He abandoned teaching after a successful audition with the New Zealand Opera Company where he sang in the chorus in productions such as *Porgy and Bess* and *il Trovatore*. George's wide-ranging theatre credits include: Willy Loman in *Death of A Salesman*, Frank'n'Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Al Fieri in *View From The Bridge*, Hoke Colburn in *Driving Miss Daisy*, Juan Perón in *Evita*, Fagin in *Oliver!* and The King in *The King and I*. George was awarded an OBE for services to the Acting Industry in 1988 and a CNZM in 2010.

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 Misèrables*. 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.

ROBERT TRIPOLINO 🔸 OMAR

Robert graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2011 after training at the Sandra Clack Ballet Centre in Geelong. Robert has performed in a number of professional productions since graduating, including the role of Dan in *Ned – An Ordinary Man. An Extraordinary Legend* in Bendigo, Jean-Michel in *La Cage Aux Folles* (The Production Company), as well as *The Addams Family* (Newtheatricals), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, starring Geoffrey Rush (GFO) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Production Company). A talented musician Robert has composed the score for *Guilty Pleasures*, and *DreamSong* which was part of the 2014 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Most recently Robert appeared as BJ in the series *Upper Middle Bogan* (ABC-TV) and played Chino in *West Side Story* (The Production Company, 2015).











A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of the Arts (WAAPA), Dean made his professional stage debut in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Cats*, in the roles of Plato/Macavity. He appeared in the Australian premiere production of *Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story on Stage* in 2004 and featured in the ensemble of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert – The Musical*, directed by Simon Phillips. The singer, dancer and actor consolidated his reputation as a vibrant all-rounder in such productions as *Chicago, Love Never Dies* and *The Venetian Twins*, and in *Promises! Promises!, Chess, Showboat* and *West Side Story* for The Production Company in Melbourne. For Harvest Rain in Brisbane, Dean appeared in *The Pirates of Penzanc*e and, most recently, *Into The Woods*, alongside Rhonda Burchmore, Rachael Beck and Eddie Perfect at the Concert Hall, QPAC.

GARETH JACOBS < STANDBY GENIE/BABKAK

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.

ENSEMBLE

JAKOB AMBROSE

Jakob is a 2011 music theatre graduate from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). Jakob made his mainstage debut in *A Chorus Line* for TML Enterprises in 2012, was in the cast of *The Addams Family* (Newtheatricals), then toured in *Cats* to Seoul, Korea, playing Alonzo. Jakob was a cast member in the Hayes Theatre production of *Sweet Charity*, directed by Dean Bryant and in 2015 he played Kurt/Kurt's Dad in the musical *Heathers*, directed by Trevor Ashley.

CALEB BARTOLO

Caleb was featured as a guest soloist on *So You Think You Can Dance* Season 1 before training in Melbourne at Ministry of Dance. He made his mainstage debut playing Pouncival in *Cats* (2008-11) for Really Useful Group and was a soloist for MOD Dance Company. Caleb was in the ensemble of Disney's *The Lion King* (2013-16).

DION BILIOS

Dion is a dynamic musical theatre performer whose vocal range and charisma brought him to prominence as Mark in the Australian production of *Altar Boys*, Frankie Valli in the Aust/NZ touring production of *Jersey Boys* for New Theatricals/Dainty and in 2014-15 played Rory West in *Strictly Ballroom* (Global Creatures/Bazmark). Dion has performed in a variety of shows, including *Mary Poppins* (Disney), *Wicked* (GFO) and the upcoming production of *Xanadu* for Matthew Management and Hayes Theatre Co.







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.

DANIEL CAMILLERI

Daniel trained as a dancer, singer and actor at Brent Street Studios and the National Music School in Melbourne. He featured in the Bollywood film *Dhoom 3* and has appeared on stage in the Production Company's *Kismet*, Bonnie Lythgoe's *Snow White* as well as numerous television and live concert performances throughout Australia. Daniel featured in performances on *X Factor Live* as a supporting dancer for Dannii Minogue, Samantha Jade, Red Foo and Guy Sebastian.

WILL CENTURION

Will studied acting with the Young Actors studio (NIDA) and dance at Brent Street Performing Arts and Dance World 301. He was dance captain on Disney's *AIDA* (Germany) and *We Will Rock You* (Switzerland). Will has performed the roles of Double J in *Saturday Night Fever*, Al DeLuca in *A Chorus Line*, Pepe in *West Side Story*, Taji in the world premiere production of *King Kong Live on Stage*, and Simon Legris/ dance captain in *The King and I*. He also played Banzai in Disney's *The Lion King* in 2015.

ROSS CHISARI

A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Ross played Willie Lopez in *Ghost - The Musical* for Ambassador Theatre Group (2016). In 2015 he featured on ABC-TV's *Saturday Night Crack Up*, played Indio in *West Side Story* for The Production Company and choreographed and starred alongside Tony Sheldon in *Man of La Mancha* for Squabbalogic Independent Theatre Company. Theatre credits include: *Carrie The Musical* for Ghostlight Productions, the new Australian musical *Truth, Beauty and a Picture of You* for Neil Gooding Productions and *The Drowsy Chaperone* also for Squabbalogic.

MIA DABKOWSKI-CHANDLER

Mia is a fine arts and music theatre graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts (2015). Whilst at the VCA, Mia appeared as Kate in *The Wild Party*, as well as *L'il Abner*, directed by Martin Croft, *Urinetown* (dance captain), and *42nd Street*. She also played the role of Tess in the short film *The Fall of Eve*. Mia studied dance at Patrick Studios Australia and continues to study voice with Gary May.









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*.

MITCHELL FISTROVIC

Born and raised in Melbourne, Mitchell as a dancer and singer has appeared on stage and television in numerous musicals, concerts and award ceremonies. Mitchell appeared in the ensemble of *Hugh Jackman* – *Broadway to Oz* and in the musicals *Strictly Ballroom* for Global Creatures/Bazmark, *Wicked* (GFO), Neleus in *Mary Poppins* (Disney/Cameron Mackintosh) and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (The Production Company). As a dancer, Mitchell has worked with Jessica Mauboy, Vanessa Amorosi, The Black Eyed Peas and *Australia's Got Talent*.

ALEX GIBSON-GIORGIO

Alex graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2014. While at VCA, he performed the roles of Judd Fry in *Oklahoma!*, Harold Slocum in *Summer Rain* and Marryin' Sam in *'Lil' Abner'* directed by Martin Croft, and was the recipient of the Ron and Margaret Dobell Award. Alex made his professional debut as part of the ensemble of *Anything Goes* for Opera Australia/GFO and is currently performing in the world premiere production of *Georgy Girl – The Seekers Musical*.

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.

JOEL HEWLETT

Joel trained in dance, acting and singing at Norris Dance & Performing Arts Studio in New Zealand. He made his Australian mainstage debut in David Atkins' re-imagined production of *Hairspray* in 2010-2011. Joel understudied several roles in *A Chorus Line* in 2011-2012 then played the role of Seaweed in *Hairspray* and Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* in his hometown, Hamilton NZ.











MITCHELL HICKS

Mitchell trained in all aspects of performance with Glenda Yee. His theatrical credits include; young Peter Allen in the original Australian musical *The Boy From Oz* (1999), Sammy in *Jolson* (2001), Young Don in *Singin' in the Rain* (2002), The Kid in *Tap Dogs* (2005), Ensemble in *The Boy From Oz* starring Hugh Jackman (2006), IQ in *Hairspray* (2001), Roy in *A Chorus Line* (2012), Wing in the 2013 revival of *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, Ensemble in *Guys and Dolls* (2014), Swing/Ensemble in *Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage* (2015) and dance captain for *Heathers* (2016). He also worked as a motion capture performer in *Happy Feet 2* directed by George Miller.

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.

LEAH HOWARD

Leah has worked extensively across the entertainment industry both creatively and as a performer. She was Resident Director of *Avenue Q* in Seoul, Korea and of the most recent Australian tour of *The Rocky Horror Show* (GFO). Leah played Mrs Corry in the Australian premiere production of *Mary Poppins* and lit up the stage as Aretha in the comedy Legends! alongside Hayley and Juliet Mills (2015). Other appearances include *Hair, Fame the Musical, Dein Perry's Steel City, Tap Dogs Rebooted* and *Tap Dogs* USA.

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*.

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.











MADELEINE MACKENZIE

A versatile singer, dancer and actor, Madeleine has featured in a number of new productions, including the world premiere production of *Georgy Girl – The Seekers Musical* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Never Dies*, directed by Simon Phillips. Madeleine appeared in the ensembles of *Mamma Mia!, Promises Promises* and *Guys & Dolls –* twice and played Kathy in *Company* at 45 Downstairs in 2015.

HEATHER MANLY

Heather graduated from the musical theatre course at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2015. While at WAAPA, she appeared in the musicals *Urinetown*, directed by James Miller, *Legally Blonde*, staged by Jason Langley and *Carrie The Musical*, directed by Crispin Taylor. Heather will soon appear in the return season of *RENT* at the Hayes Theatre (Highway Run Productions).

RECHELLE MANSOUR

Rechelle is a dynamic dancer and singer who has appeared in numerous television performances and live events, including the NRL Grand Final with Ricky Martin and Jessica Mauboy and as a regular dancer on *The X-Factor*. Rechelle featured in the ensembles of the musical *Annie* for GFO and the Australian premiere production of *Billy Elliot* (Louise Withers/Michael Coppel). More recently Rechelle performed in the worldwide tour of the cabaret/burlesque show *Velvet*, directed by Craig Ilott.

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).

ANICA SCOTT-GARRELL

Anica began her dance training at Boston Ballet and holds a BFA in Dance from the Ailey/Fordham program in New York. She has danced with Ailey II, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Franco Dragone's *Le Reve* in Las Vegas among other companies and projects. She's appeared in Disney's *The Lion King*, as an ensemble member and Shenzi understudy.