

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

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*.



HIBA ELCHIKHE ♦ JASMINE

Hiba studied at both the Brit School of Performing Arts and Technology and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. Whilst in training Hiba appeared as Mimi in *Rent*, Mallory/Avril in *City of Angels* and Mrs Walker in *The Who’s Tommy*. Since graduating, Hiba has performed the role of Mrs Santiago/ understudy Molly in *Ghost* (Asia) and was part of the *Bend it Like Beckham* Workshop. Hiba was also featured in *The Sound of Music: Live* on UK television and has been a featured soloist on both *Friday Night is Music Night* and also *Elaine Paige on Sunday* for BBC Radio 2. @hibstah



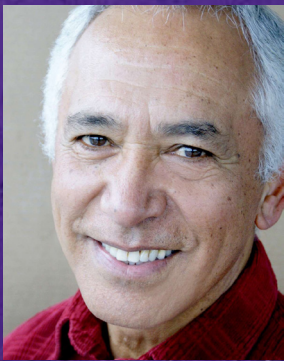
ADAM MURPHY ♦ JAFAR

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).



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 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 Woolf 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).



DEAN VINCE ♦ STANDBY JAFAR/SULTAN

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 Penzance* 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



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.



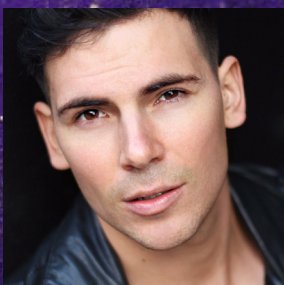
MIA DABKOWSKI-CHANDLER

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*.



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.



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.



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.



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 *Gyps & Dolls* - twice and played Kathy in *Company* at 45 Downstairs in 2015.



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.



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*.



DANIEL RIDOLFI

Daniel is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre). He made his theatre debut in 2002 as Nipper in *Oliver!* (Cameron Mackintosh/IMG), and soon after played Young Simba in Disney's *The Lion King*. More recently, Daniel performed in the Australian, Asian and New Zealand tours of *Paw Patrol Live! Race to the Rescue* (Life Like Touring), *Reefer Madness* (RL Productions), *Fair Dinkum* (Echelon Productions) and *Spring Awakening* (YABC/Matthew Management).



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.



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.



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 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.