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AUNCESTON,

OUDLY PRESENTED BY INVERMAY NEWSAGENCY, BOO LAUNCESTON & HOBART AND THE CITY OF L AN ENCORE THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION OF

Gtarring

QUEEN OF THE DESERT

Ross Marsden • Nathan Wheldon • Deklan Haas Dani Barnett • Samantha Hammersley • Brooke Targett

Travis Hennessy • Lincoln Kirschbaum • Stuart Loone • Rae Smith Chelsea Whitchurch • Keelie Wood • Reuben Yakubu

Calvin Ackerly, Emmanuel Bates, Rhiannon Bone, Meg Chapman, Abby Donald, Ella Feely, Isaac Leslie, Brodi Lucas, Samuel Millwood, Cooper Orchard-Skey, Cherie Partridge, Cameron Rae, Elie Roe Daniel, Bec Smith (Warner), Kaleb Watts, Jack Woodland

> DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER Danny Gibson MUSICAL DIRECTORS Denise Sam & Michael Stocks CHOREOGRAPHER Michelle Withington

LIGHTING DESIGN JASON BOVAIRD ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN VICTORIA HORNE ORIGINAL SET DESIGN CHRIS WHITE WIG & HAIR DESIGN SHARON PARKER MAKEUP DESIGN TAHNII MARQUIS EXECUTIVE SET MANAGER WENDY FLAHERTY SOUND DESIGN MARCELLO LO RICCO ADDITIONAL COSTUME DESIGN ANTHONY PHILLIPS COSTUME MANAGER SONIA JAGER PROPERTIES MANAGER TERESSA CARR IT MANAGER DWAYNE PARISH FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER SUSAN TOLPUTT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Belinda J King & Ross Marsden ORIGINAL SET & COSTUMES COURTESY CLOC MUSICAL THEATRE

WRITTEN BY STEPHAN ELLIOT AND ALLAN SCOTT BASED ON THE LATENT IMAGE/SPECIFIC FILMS MOTION PICTURE. DISTRIBUTED BY METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER INC MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY STEPHAN 'SPUD' MURPHY DEVELOPED FOR THE STAGE AND ORIGINAL DIRECTION BY SIMON PHILLIPS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH NULLARBOR PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MGM ON STAGE EXCLUSIVELY LICENSED BY ORIGIN THEATRICAL PTY LTD

17 March - 1 April 2023 PRINCESS THEATRE

We acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of lutruwita's land on which we live and learn.

EXAMINER









BOO Launceston proudy supporting the Encore Theatre

BOQ Launceston continues to be a proud sponsor of the Encore Theatre.

Pop in and experience the difference today.

BOQ Launceston

Tony Barnard, Owner-Manager 0408 993 760 tony.barnard@boq.com.au 6324 1333 facebook.com/boqlaunceston With Priscilla Queen of the Desert, both the cult classic 1994 movie and the revamped musical, we see a piece that celebrates diversity while also offering an understanding of just how far we've come in the almost three decades since the film's release. The term LGBTQI+ didn't exist and marriage equality was some 23 years away. It's a universal lesson that, while simple, reminds us that with the support and love of those around us, life really does get better.

Accompanying us on the *Priscilla* journey is an incredible community of supporters. Our heartfelt thanks go to Jenni and Graeme LeFevre at Invermay Newsagency, Tony Barnard and team at BOQ Launceston & Hobart, Dr Brendan Vote and the Launceston Eye Institute, Phillip, Mark and Eric at The Agency Team Bushby, Glenn and Jos at Hotel Grand Chancellor, FitMind FitBody, Tasfast Airfreight, our media partners 7 Tasmania, 89.3 LAFM and The Examiner, along with our community partners in Launceston College and Launceston Legacy.

Encore's productions also receive magnificent support through the City of Launceston's Event Sponsorship Program and we are deeply grateful for their encouragement of our contribution to the Launceston community.

With leadership from Director Danny Gibson, Musical Directors Denise Sam and Michael Stocks and Choreographer Michelle Withington, they along with our brilliant cast, musician, designers and production teams have poured their hearts and souls into this project as we finally bring this iconic Australian show complete with its 'budget Barbie camper' to the Princess for the very first time. Enjoy!

And our special thanks

For the invaluable support of Kim Ransley at ORiGiN Theatrical, Grant Alley, Bernard & Gemma Hedger from CLOC Musical Theatre and our talented Graphic Designer, Nathan Toovey

LAUNCESTON

Culture takes many forms, and we've made life's simple pleasures an art.





Proudly supporting Priscilla Queen of the Desert as part of our vibrant Event Sponsorship Program. For further information on events and grants in the city visit launceston.tas.gov.au/events

It has been a pleasure to lead such a special project.

Priscilla – as a mirror of its time – celebrates just how far we have come in the years since its depiction. This show is faithful to its original script, including homophobic, racist and prejudiced views prevalent at the time.

This production is our history on stage – our celebration, our friendships, our interests, our love.

It reminds us that as a nation we have come a long way.

It reminds us that we still have a way to go.

Although our world views have evolved since *Priscilla*, this show is a snippet of time in our history, a pivotal turning point in mainstream Australia.

In recent years, I have been drawn to large-scale musicals that become about being involved in something bigger than us. This is one such project. As life evolves and our schedules are more crowded, the arts become ever more important. Likewise, this hilarious and heart fuelled adventure in pursuit of discovering the true power of love, acceptance and sass is more important than ever before.

Sincere thanks to Encore for providing the Creative Team with the opportunity to bring this fabulous show to the stage. It has been a massive and collaborative effort, and I am indebted to the skill and dedication of Michelle, Denise and Michael who, together with all the incredible Encore Team led by President and Producer, BJ, have shared their skills and talents to create this show.

I'm proud to be involved and I congratulate and thank all who have played their part in telling this powerful story – both a heart-warming tale of acceptance and finding one's self, and a brilliant musical full of well-known songs.

Enjoy.

Danny Gibson











The Glory

Based on the 1994 popular movie of the same name, Priscilla Queen of the Desert follows the journey of two drag queens, Tick and Adam, and a transgenden woman, Bernadette, as they travel across Australia in their bus, named Priscilla to perform at a hotel in Alice Springs managed by Tick's ex-wife. As they head west, Tick, Adam, and Bernadette learn to accept and support each other, whilst encountering a number of strange and colourful characters along with the less accepting attitudes of rural Australia.

> Upon reaching Alice Springs, Tick finally meets his son and the trio perform at the resort and realize that they have forged a bond that will last forever.







What has changed for LGBTIQA+ people since Priscilla Queen of the Desert first hit screens in the mid 90s? For me as a gay Tasmanian much has changed.

ROM

AS

Back then gay men could be gaoled for 21 years for having consenting sex in private. Alongside others, I was in the midst of a campaign to change the law when Priscilla was released. We had gone over the Tasmanian Government's head with appeals to the UN, the Federal Government and High Court. We were also travelling the state telling our personal stories to Rotary clubs, CWA's and whoever else would listen.

As a result of this campaigning, Tasmania's anti-gay laws were repealed in 1997, as were our laws against cross-dressing two years later.

In their place Tasmania has adopted the most progressive anti-discrimination and relationship laws in Australia, and the most advanced gender recognition laws in the world. Attitudes have also changed with Tasmania returning a marriage survey Yes vote above the national average.

But there is still so much to do.

LGBTIQA+ students do not yet have the support they need in schools, LGBTIQA+ mental health is still poorer due to stigma and trans people still face daily attacks on their rights and existence.

Today, the solution to prejudice is the same as it was when Priscilla was released: courage in the face of opposition and building bridges to others by telling our stories.

Rodney Croome A M President, Equality Tasmania



nadette

ROSS MARSDEN

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From an early age, the love of theatre and performing has been a defining part of Ross' life, and for over 40 years has provided him the opportunity to work for many companies, both on stage and in film and television.

Queensland born, Ross joined the Encore Theatre Company team in 2009, the committee in 2010 and is currently Vice-President. He is also the President of the Theatre Council of Tasmania.

Major roles with Encore include Thénardier Les Misérables 2010 and 2018, for which he received a 2019 Tasmanian Theatre Award (Errols) as Best Supporting Actor, The Wizard (Wicked), Judge Turpin (Sweeney Todd), King Herod (Jesus Christ Superstar), Monsieur Fermin (The Phantom of the Opera), George Banks (Mary Poppins), Basil Fawlty (Fawlty Towers) and Bill Austin in the hit musical, Mamma Mia. Most recently, he took up the directorial reins for Chicago in March 2022.

On the big screen, he has worked in film industry with Hugh Jackman, Kylie Minogue, Jean-Claude Van Damme and the late Raul Julia and on various Australian TV series and commercials.

Ross has loved the opportunity to frock up as Bernadette in Tasmania's premiere of *Priscilla*.

NATHAN WHELDON

Nathan first made a name for himself in the Tasmanian music scene when his original band, Nathan Wheldon & The Two Timers, performed at the Falls Festival (Marion Bay) in 2007 and 2008. The band released several records over the next eight years, toured extensively, enjoyed slots at numerous festivals and received airplay on Triple J and other national radio stations.

Currently a member of Captain O'Brien's Craic, a Celtic punkrock band, Nathan can often be found rocking-out in pubs and at festivals across the state.

Nathan made his musical theatre debut back in 2003 in Launceston College's production of *Copacabana* (Tony).

Since then, he has performed lead roles in *Footloose* (Reverend Shaw), LMS' *Rent* (Roger), Encore's 2012 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* as Judas and their 2019 production of We Will *Rock You* as Galileo.

Nath is extremely grateful and excited to be playing such an iconic Australian character made famous by Hugo Weaving!



DEKLAN

DEKLAN HAAS

While he has only recently taken centre stage, Deklan has enjoyed a love for theatre for many years.

Deklan's first show should have been *Footloose* in 2020 with Elizabeth College, Hobart, in which he was cast as Chuck Cranston. However, the COVID intervened and it was cancelled so he was never able to perform the role.

As the pandemic receeded, he grasped the opportunity to play JD in *Heathers* (2021) and Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* (2022), both with Old Nick Theatre Company, Hobart.

Stepping up the pace in 2022, he won the role of Tommy DeVito in Encore's Tasmanian premiere production of Jersey Boys.

Following this, he was invited to participate in an Australian Musical Theatre Festival workshop for *Paper Stars*, playing the role of Bill. From there he took on the role of Prince Eric in *Under the Sea* for Kim Roe School of Dance.

Deklan has been awarded the Don Gay Memorial Award at the 2021 City of Hobart Eisteddfod and went on to win the Open Musical Theatre Award at the Eisteddfods in 2022.



DANI BARNETT

Dani works as a freelance professional singer, events and program manager, and for the last 17 years she has frequented festivals and events as frontwoman of Funk, Jazz and Pop bands across Australia.

With a Bachelor of Contemporary Arts (Theatre) Dani has immersed herself in the world of creative arts, working in arts-based organisations both on and off the stage, as a Director, Project Lead, Singer, Actor and Arts Educator.

Currently, she is the Program Manager for The Humour Foundation, overseeing the Clown Doctors programs across Tasmania and Victoria. Her creative credits include: Project Lead and Project Assistant, WotOpera (2013, 2014, 2015) Director, Mudlark Theatre Company One Day (2013, 2014) Pit Singer and Vocal Mentor for Launceston College's Footloose (2012), Hairspray (2013), Seussical (2014) and Bring It On (2015), Gabriella in Disney's High School Musical (2011) for Encore, Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream (2012) and Holly in 13 (2013), both for UTAS.

Vocal performances include Junction Arts Festival, Taste of Tasmania, Festivalé, Launceston Carols by Candlelight and she currently sings for the Baker Boys Band and her acoustic duo The Roving.

SAMANTHA HAMMERSLEY

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Samantha is known to Tasmanian audiences through her exciting and varied work within the community musical theatre scene. She has recently performed lead roles in *Chicago* (Encore), *Carrie* (Bijou Creative), 9 to 5 (Launceston Musical Society) and We Will Rock You (Encore).

Notably, Samantha has been awarded with multiple Tasmanian Theatre Awards for Best Supporting Actress in a Community Musical, including in 2019 for her portrayal of Madame Thénardier in Encore's Les Misérables, and in 2020 for the role of Killer Queen in Encore's production of We Will Rock You.

In 2021 Samantha and Benjamin Austin presented *Bond, Bassey & Barbra*, a cabaret they developed themselves, at Junction Arts Festival, which received rave reviews.

Samantha has had extensive acting and voice training throughout Australia and America, recently studying a Bachelor of Music at the UTAS Conservatorium of Music.

BROOKE TARGETT

Priscilla is Brooke's third production with Encore. Most recently, she appeared in the long-anticipated Mamma Mia (2021) playing the role of Tanya, and was nominated for Best Supporting Actress Musical Theatre in the Tasmanian Theatre Awards. Prior to that she played the role of the Baroness in The Sound of Music (2018).

Brooke holds a Bachelor of Music majoring in violin performance, which she completed at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music. Upon returning to Launceston, Brooke commenced violin tuition, which she continued for many years alongside her banking career where she is currently a Bank Manager.

Her other theatre credits include Anything Goes (Hope Harcourt), Godspell, Nunsense, Nuncrackers and Fiddler on the Roof with both LMS and the Launceston Players. She has also performed with the St. Cecilia Orchestra and the Launceston Philharmonic Orchestra.

Brooke's greatest achievement though, is her two children Fletcher and Campbell, for whom both her and husband Troy spend an endless amount of time supporting their many varied adventures and interests. She thanks them for their support as she indulges her passion for music and theatre.





STUART LOONE Bob

A graduate of the Bachelor of Performing Arts degree at UTAS, Stuart has worked with many companies around Tasmania as producer, director, stage manager and actor.

His most recent performance was in 2014 in *The Goat* for Centr Stage. Prior to this, Stuart was a regular performer for Three River Theatre (*The Crucible, Cosi, Telemachus Clay* et al), Centr Stage (*A Number, The Boys, Boz & Co* et al) and the wonderful, annual *Royal Oak Revue*.

As the artistic director of Mudlark Theatre for six years, Stuart produced a number of new theatre works including The Sea Project, The Midlands and Beautiful.

Stuart directed four musicals for Launceston College in the 00's, and has worked in various capacities with Tasmanian Theatre Company, Ten Days on the Island, Theatre Newfoundland Labrador and Artology, amongst others.

Stuart is currently the Programs Manager at Theatre North and feels privileged to work in this beautiful theatre every day.



TRAVIS HENNESSY MISS UNDERSTANDING

Travis is a professional Actor, Musical Director, Voice Coach and Arts Educator in Tasmania.

A graduate of VCA (PG Dip Voice), Travis also has a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Theatre (UTAS), and is the recipient of two Tasmanian Theatre Awards for Acting in community theatre for Outstanding Supporting Actor in *Killer Joe* (2018) and Outstanding Lead Actor in *1984* (2019).

In 2022 he was the Musical Director for Launceston College's acclaimed production of *Rent*, and was the Vocal Director for *Elf* with LMS.

Previous acting credits: Happy Me (Tasmania Performs 2008), Rent (LMS 2009), Les Misérables (Encore 2010), The Pillowman (CentrStage 2010), The Last Five Years (CentrStage 2011), Savages (Junction Arts Festival 2014), The Possum (Mudlark Theatre 2015), 12 Angry Men (Three River Theatre 2016), I am a Lake (Mudlark Theatre 2016), Wicked (Encore 2017), Killer Joe (Three River Theatre/ IO 2018), Wild (Relevant Theatre Co./IO 2018), 1984 (Launceston Players 2019), It Happened One Day (Mudlark Theatre 2019), The Gloaming (Stan Network 2020), Gloria (Three River Theatre 2021), Become the One (I, 2021).



RAE SMITH

Rae's love affair with theatre performance began as a wide-eyed student back at LC in 1991. She has performed in numerous professional and community theatre productions in Tasmania and Western Australia.

Some of her most notable lead performances were in The Laramie Project (React Theatre Hobart), Nuncrackers (LMS), Hello, Dolly! (LMS) and Miss Julie (CentrStage).

After a seven-year hiatus to focus on raising her two great kids, Rae made a memorable comeback in the role of Mrs Johnstone in *Blood Brothers* (Encore), and in 2018 was named the Theatre Council of Tasmania's Best Female Lead in Musical Community Theatre for this emotional performance. Winning this award was one of the most affirming moments of her life and Rae is thrilled to be rejoining her Encore family for some raucous (and rather rude!) fun in *Priscilla*.

Rae is currently a judge on the Community Theatre panel for the Theatre Council of Tasmania and she is so proud of the extraordinary talent in this state. Rae dedicates her performance to the 'Shirleys' of the world who always make us laugh.



LINCOLN KIRSCHBAUM Benji

Lincoln's enthusiasm for the stage was sparked by his two older sisters who share a passion for the arts.

He loves to dance and studies ballet, jazz and tap with Ballet and Dance Arts Tasmania and Tapestry Dance Studio. Lincoln trains in singing with Denise Sam and drama with Danny Gibson's Stage Right Youth Theatre.

No stranger to the Princess Theatre stage, Lincoln has performed in numerous concerts and competitions. When he is not dancing, singing or acting he loves to ride his bike and make Lego creations.

Lincoln is eight years old and attends Scotch Oakburn College. He is thrilled and honoured to be part of the fun and colourful world of *Priscilla* in his first Encore production.



CHELSEA WHITCHURCH CYNTHIA

Chelsea is fresh on the Launceston theatre scene, with *Priscilla* being her first production outside of school.

Having graduated from St Patrick's College in 2022, Chelsea has always loved theatre from her first production of *Footloose* in 2017 (SPC) to her performances in *Seussical the Musical* in 2019 and Disney's *High School Musical* in 2021, as Young Roo and Mongo, respectively.

When offered the chance to be a part of this production, Chelsea was ecstatic as she saw an opportunity to represent her Filipino heritage on the Princess Theatre stage.

In 2023, Chelsea looks to a gap year before starting an apprenticeship as an electrician, something she says is a new adventure for her!

Thriving in her niche of comedic roles, Chelsea is extremely excited to share her journey of Cynthia and looks forward to entertaining audiences with her performance.



KEELIE WOOD marion

Keelie has been dancing from an early age and her love of dance began through Dance Fit.

Her musical experiences started with her time spent at Launceston College where she was a featured dancer in the 2014 production of *SeussicalThe Musical* and played the role of Eva in *Bring It On* (2015).

Priscilla will be Keelie's third show with Encore. Previously, she was part of the featured ensemble in We Will Rock You (2019) and Chicago (2022), where she played the murderess role of June.

Keelie cannot wait for *Priscilla* to hit the stage and have audiences shakin' their groove thing.



BORN OF THE DESERT DEEN OF THE DESERT DEEN MUSICAL



BERNADETTE MITZI/TICK FELICIA/ADAM THE DIVAS

BOB SHIRLEY MARION CYNTHIA C MISS UNDERSTANDING JIMMY BENJI L FARRAH YOUNG BERNADETTE

Ross Marsden Nathan Wheldon Deklan Haas Dani Barnett Samantha Hammersley Brooke Targett Stuart Loone Rae Smith Keelie Wood Chelsea Whitchurch ING Travis Hennessy Reuben Yakubu Lincoln Kirschbaum Brodi Lucas

Calvin Ackerly, Emmanuel Bates, Rhiannon Bone, Meg Chapman, Abby Donald, Ella Feely, Travis Hennessy, Isaac Leslie, Brodi Lucas, Samuel Millwood, Cooper Orchard-Skey, Cherie Partridge, Cameron Rae, Elie Roe Daniel, Rae Smith, Bec Smith (Warner), Kaleb Watts, Chelsea Whitchurch, Keelie Wood, Jack Woodland, Reuben Yakubu



ACT I

SYDNEY/COCKATOO CLUB It's Raining Men - Divas, Mitzi, Company COCKATOO CLUB What's Love Got to Do with It? - Miss Understanding,

Divas TICK'S DRESSING ROOM I Say A Little Prayer - Tick, Divas

COCKATOO CLUB

What's Love Got to Do With It? (reprise) - Tick, Miss Understanding, Divas THE FUNERAL

Don't Leave Me This Way - Bernadette, Pastor, Company, NIGHT CLUB

Venus - Felicia, Divas, Company GO WEST

Go West - Adam, Tick, Bernadette, Company THE BLACK STUMP

I Say A Little Prayer (reprise) - Tick, Divos BROKEN HILL PUB

I Love the Nightlife - Shirley, Bernadette, Mitzi, Felicia, Company OUTSIDE THE BAR

True Colours - Bernadette, Adam, Tick

Sempre Libera - Adam THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE Colour My World - Adam, Tick, Bernadette, Company

THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE I Will Survive - Bernadette, Mitzi, Felicia, Company

ACT II

BACK OF WOOP WOOP Thank God I'm a Country Boy - Company **BOB'S KITCHEN** A Fine Romance - Young Bernadette, Les Girls WOOP WOOP HOTEL Shake Your Groove Thing - Mitzi, Bernadette, Felicia, Divas Pop Muzik - Cynthia, Company A Fine Romance (reprise) - Bob COOBER PEDY HERE WE COME Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - Adam, Divas COOBER PEDY DRIVE-IN Hot Stuff - Felicia, Bernadette, Divas, Company THE BACK OF BEYOND Go West (reprise) - Bernadette, Adam Macarthur Park - Bernadette, Tick, Divas, Company ALICE SPRINGS CASINO Boogie Wonderland - Punters, Casino Staff The Morning After - Tick, Marion, Punters, Casino Staff CASINO FLOOR SHOW Casino Floorshow Montage - Mitzi, Felicia, Bernadette, Divas, Company Always on My Mind - Tick, Benjamin AYER'S RC Kylie Medley - Felicia, Company We Belong - Mitzi, Felicia, Bernadette, Company Finale - Company



RHIANNON BONE

Alongside Rhiannon's university studies, she revels in the excitement and vibrancy of musical theatre.

She began performing in musicals through LCGS and quickly fell in love with the stage. Rhiannon's first show with Encore was in 2013 where she played Annie in Annie. This was followed by Encore's *Evita* (2015), *Mary Poppins* (2015) where she performed as Jane Banks, and most recently *Mamma Mia!* (2021).

She has also thoroughly enjoyed her years spent with Stage Right Youth Theatre, performing in *Cats*, playing Freckleface Strawberry in *Freckleface Strawberry*, and Wendy in *Peter Pan*.

As always, Rhiannon's favourite part of performing is the sense of community within the cast and crew.



CALVIN ACKERLY

From a young age Calvin has always loved performing on stage.

He began dancing at the age of 7 with Dance Fit, and since 2019 has also danced competitively with Dance Academy 34. Calvin was recently apart of Taylah Evans' *A Christmas Cabaret* show (2022) as well as being chosen to be a protégé for Tasmanian Dance Expo earlier in the year. Being introduced to musical theatre at SRYT, he later went on to be part of SPC

production of Seussical (2019) and Disney's High School Musical (2021), LC's production of Rent (2022) and Encore's productions of Mamma Mia (2021) and Chicago (2022).

Calvin is looking forward to being part of another Encore show and working alongside another talented cast and crew.



EMMANUEL BATES

At the age of 18 Emmanuel is passionate about dance, with a love of performing arts starting when he was very young. Signing up for classes when he was ten at the Tasdance studios, he studied contemporary dance for four years, and ballet for three. This solid foundation has opened his eyes to the opportunities and potential future that exists for him within the performing arts industry.

Leaving dance school in 2018, he jumped

into the world of acting throughout his high school years and added dance back into the mix when he arrived at Launceston College, where he immensely enjoyed a featured role in *Grease* (2021) and *Rent* (2022). Manu thrives on working in large scale productions and is incredibly happy to be a part of this one.



MEG CHAPMAN

While Meg has always loved the stage, her passion for the performing arts was truly fired up during her time studying at Launceston Church Grammar. Joining Stage Right Youth Theatre, she has enjoyed many opportunities to grow her musical theatre skills, and attained lead roles as Meg in Seven Little Australians, Jane in Tarzan and Sandy in SpongeBob the Musical. In 2022 her studies saw her make the move to Launceston College where

she enjoyed a lead role in their acclaimed production of *Rent*. Away from the theatre she enjoys bushwalking and hiking while exploring our state, and also finds time to study piano and guitar. This is Meg's first Encore show and she is very excited to be heading back to the Princess Theatre.



ABBY DONALD

Abby is a dancer who has been training with Dance Pointe Academy since the age of eight. The stage has become her second home, and her passion for all things theatre is immense.

Featuring most recently in LMS' production of *ElfThe Musical* (2022), she has also been lucky enough to perform in several of St Patrick's College's musicals, including Disney's *High School Musical*, *Seussical* and *Footloose*.

Abby is in her second year of studying a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Teaching at UTAS, where she hopes to become a Performing Arts and English teacher. She is so grateful to those who have supported her along this journey and is beyond excited to have a boogie in her first Encore production!



ELL FEELY

Ella fell in love with performing when she began dancing with DanceFit at a young age. Since then, she has continued dancing with Launceston Dance Centre and is teaching dance with Melissa Wimmer's School of Theatrical Dance.

Lately, Ella has been exploring musical theatre, which she hopes to pursue after college. Ella has been involved in local productions including Rent with Launceston College, Songs For A New World with the

Australian Musical Theatre Festival, Godspell with LMS, SpongeBob the Musical with SRYT and Seussical the Musical and Disney's High School Musical with SPC.

This is Ella's first Encore production, and she is extremely excited to work alongside such a talented and inspiring cast and crew.



ISAAC LESLIE

Isaac is a Year 12 student at Launceston College and having only recently joined Encore, is excited to be working alongside such a talented and driven cast this year. He has taken a keen interest in the performing arts in the past few years and was fortunate enough to be part of LC's production of Rent in 2022. Later this year he will play Michael in LC's Be More Chill. Isaac is grateful to perform in such an exciting show and is thrilled for Encore's

Priscilla Queen of the Desert to be onstage at the Princess!



BRODI LUCAS

Brodi (he/she/they) is a registered nurse based in Launceston, who enjoys performing stand-up comedy in his spare time.

After making his Encore debut with Mamma Mia in 2021 which marked his return to musical theatre after a ten-year hiatus, he is excited to be returning to the Princess stage. He's also performed as Ren in his college production of Footloose, as well as featuring in multiple local Burnie

productions. Performing in Priscilla is a dream for Brodi; telling the story of a community he is a proud to be a part of.



SAMUEL MILLWOOD

Sam began performing from a young age, following his sisters into Highland dancing. After a long break from performing – his last show was a dozen years ago in his college production of We Will Rock You - he recently made his return to the Princess Theatre in Encore's Mamma Mia!. From the rehearsal room to the stage, Sam enjoyed the experience of bringing a show to life so much that he decided to kick up his heels and audition for Priscilla and is excited for the opportunity to be part of bringing this important and

entertaining show to a Launceston audience. Away from life at the theatre, when Sam is not teaching his Grade 6

students, he enjoys spending time in his veggie patch.



COOPER **ORCHARD-SKEY**

Cooper has been dancing from a young age of six years old.

To date, Cooper has danced at urban FX, Tasdance and Stompin, doing a wide variety of styles such as hip hop, breakdancing, jazz, tap, contemporary and ballet. Cooper has recently finished studying Dance Level 3 at St Patrick's College.

Cooper has performed in many productions such as Mirror Mirror (2018),

No Where (2019), All Expenses Paid, Into View

(2021) and Head Quarters (2022). Cooper has also danced with Stompin for Ten Days on the Island and Mona Foma.

This will be Cooper's first performance with Encore and he is thankful for the opportunity to expand his talents.



CHERIE PARTRIDGE

Cherie was a relative latecomer to musical theatre and first appeared on stage in the Launceston Player's production of Les Misérables in 2001. Family life then beckoned, along with a musical hiatus of a few years.

Since 2010 Cherie has been involved in local musical theatre productions, primarily with the Launceston Musical Society, in a variety of roles ranging from band member, repetiteur, musical and vocal director and

ensemble member.

Music plays an important part in Cherie's day-to-day life as she teaches music at Mowbray Heights Primary School, is a member of Vox Harmony City of Launceston Choir and shares her love of music with her family.

Cherie is excited to be a part of the ensemble for Priscilla Queen of the Desert, her second Encore production after the thrill of being involved with Mamma Mia in 2021.



PRAVEEN PIYADASA PIT SINGER

Books, boats & bicycles. And a little bit of this theatre stuff.

Raised by a poet-father & musically sensitive mother, Praveen grew up surrounded by art, words and constant creation. He has been acting since primary school but his stage interests were limited to plays (straight theatre). He has been singing since childhood (with formal training coming later in life), and making

sounds at a keyboard since his earliest days.

More recently, his two loves of acting and singing have come together in his interest in the world of musical theatre. Praveen currently studies classical voice with Samuel Dundas of Opera Australia. In his other life, he is an oarsman and an architect in training.







CAMERON RAE

Cameron is a recent graduate from St Patrick's College and has been a lover of all things musical since he could talk! He gravitated towards the stage from his early years in primary school plays to his more mature performances in Disney's High School Musical (SPC), SpongeBob the Musical (SRYT), The Lion King Jr. (SRYT) and Chicago (ETC).

Recently, he has taken on the challenge of expanding his theatre skills by joining Tahnii

Marquis' make-up team for productions including Jersey Boys (Encore) and Elf (LMS).

2023 is Cameron's first year at UTAS where he is studying a Bachelor of Arts with a Masters of Teaching, focusing on his aspiration to become a Performing Arts teacher.

Cameron would like to extend his gratitude to his parents, Kellie and David Rae, who have shown him continual support throughout his theatrical journey.



ELIE **ROE DANIEL**

Elie commenced dancing at age four with the Kim Roe School of Dance and has studied ballet, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, folkloric and contemporary, plus two years of study in Melbourne specialising in dance, drama, singing and musical theatre.

With a great love for Highland dance, Elie has won 40+ state, national and international titles and has been a world finalist six times and Lead Dancer at the Melbourne, Virginia USA and Edinburgh and

South African Tattoos.

Other performances include Crown Casino, AFL Footy Show, Hunyak in Chicago, Strictly Ballroom and Mamma Mia! (Encore), 9 to 5 (LMS) and appearances in 18 Kim Roe pantomimes.

Elie is focussing on a career in performing arts, modelling and looking forward to exploring future opportunities.



teaches with Dance Fit.

BEC SMITH (WARNER)

Bec has been dancing for almost 30 years and it has been a huge part of her life. She started her journey with Kim Roe School of Dance doing ballet, -

Jazz, National and Highland dancing. Bec decided to try something new and found herself learning the various styles of Hip-Hop Dance. After a few short years she found herself travelling the state teaching Hip-Hop to schools as she shared her love for the style. She now dances and

Dance is Bec's passion and she has gone back to her roots of jazz and cabaret dancing with The Show Club the past 4 years. Bec's was thrilled to be a part of Chicago in 2022, and is now back and

ready to hop aboard the big, pink bus for Priscilla in 2023.

KALEB WATTS

A Year 12 student, Kaleb is thrilled to be performing in his second Encore production.

After realising his passion for performing, Kaleb joined Stage Right Youth Theatre with Danny Gibson in 2019, Dance Fit with Megan Martin in 2021 and then vocal lessons with Denise Sam in 2022. With Encore, Kaleb has previously performed in the ensemble for Mamma Mia!, whilst externally his performance

credits include Disney's High School Musical (Ryan), SpongeBob the Musical (SpongeBob) and The Lion King Jr. (Pumbaa).

As Kaleb hits the Princess Theatre stage once again, he acknowledges Danny Gibson, Denise Sam, Megan Martin and Mallory Schipper for their guidance and support on his journey. He has cherished every moment of Priscilla and cannot wait to colour the audience's world!



JACK WOODLAND

Jack is Year 12 student currently attending Launceston College.

As far back as he can remember the stage has always intrigued him, inspiring him to participate in multiple stage productions and dance competitions. Jack began dancing at the age of seven at Launceston Dance Centre with his teacher, Maryann Peacock, where he studies ballet, jazz, song & dance and tap.

Alongside this, Jack followed up by joining

Stage Right Youth Theatre with Danny Gibson in 2012 until 2021. Jack has engaged within numerous productions including his previous Encore show, Chicago, and Launceston College's Rent, all of which have increased his love for musical theatre.



REUBEN YAKUBU

Reuben is a performing arts student currently studying at the University of Tasmania.

He found his first found interest in the performing arts through high school drama before going on to study it in college. In year 12 he joined the 2020 Newstead College production of The Addams Family and played the role of Fester Addams. This was a transformative experience which made him realise the performing arts was

where he belonged. He would like to thank the drama teachers, schools, family, and friends who have and continue to support him in his artistic journey. With a special thanks going to Alarna Hingston, without whom he would never have gained the confidence needed to pursue this journey.

Reuben didn't think he would be anywhere near an Encore production anytime soon, but when the opportunity came he seized it and looks forward to being challenged, learning and growing from his experience with the show!





DANNY GIBSON **DIRECTOR &** STAGE MANAGER

Danny simply loves the world of theatre. He loves the role that arts and culture plays in our Launceston community and the inspirational power it has to change lives.

He has performed in, produced, marketed, assisted with and directed countless local productions and events, and he continues to do so despite a busy schedule. Danny is often the stage manager for local productions and sometimes even treads the boards as a performer. He is also currently the Secretary of the Australian Musical Theatre Festival.

Danny is very proud of his youth drama school, Stage Right Youth Theatre, which annually encourages the talents and skills of our young people and recently presented Disney's The Lion King.

Danny started directing Princess Theatre musicals at the age of 17 and has amassed an impressive list of credits and awards. For Encore, his directing credits include Annie, Mary Poppins, Blood Brothers, The Sound of Music, Strictly Ballroom and Mamma Mia.



DENISE SAM MUSICAL DIRECTOR (VOCAL)

2023 marks Denise's fifth year of involvement with Encore Theatre Company, and the eighth show she has vocally/ musically directed.

She has spent much of her life in and around community theatre and music. There are many shows that hold special memories for her, but working on a show that was crafted and shaped around Australian culture will always be a favourite. Priscilla demands singing with an Australian accent and making no apology for all those wonderful twangy diphthongs.

Denise has taught singing for more than 20 years and has directed Vox Harmony, City of Launceston Choir for 15 years.

She is proud to be part of this production and thanks the company and the creative team for their support and shared passion for nurturing and creating the performing arts in the community.



MICHAEL STOCKS MUSICAL DIRECTOR (CONDUCTOR)

Michael has vast experience in all fields of music performance, education, publishing, adjudicating and examining both Nationally and Internationally.

As a violinist, his career has included many professional solo performances as well as the release of two successful CDs. He has also performed with major Australian orchestras and is currently the Concert Master of the Launceston Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor of the St. Cecilia Chamber Orchestra. Michael's love for musical theatre was born when he performed in the world premiere concert version of Les Misérables, Sydney, to an audience of over 120.000.

Chicago is Michael's seventh Encore production, having played in The Phantom of the Opera (2014) and conducted Les Misérables (2018), The Sound of Music (2018), Strictly Ballroom (2019) Mamma Mia! (2021) and Chicago (2022).

In his down time, he is a keen AFL and cricket enthusiast. Michael enjoys all styles of music and is very excited to be popping on his от 105 селон Поста 105 селон 'disco shoes' to conduct some of



MICHELLE WITHINGTON CHOREOGRAPHER/ ENSEMBLE

Priscilla is a dream show for Michelle. Growing up, she enjoyed all the music that makes this show a hit. So having been given the honour of choreographing the show - it was a must-do!

Michelle has recently choreographed and performed in Encore's Mama Mia, Strictly Ballroom and The Sound of Music. Past shows include 42nd Street, Crazy for You, Little Shop of Horrors and Rent (with LMS).

She grew up dancing in numerous eisteddfods and has been instructing at Launceston's Dance Fit for the past 13 years, teaching jazz, tap, Zumba/Zumba toning and Pilates.

Between dance teaching, theatre, nursing and being a mum, life is busy. But every moment is made worthwhile with the love and support of her beautiful family.

Michelle has loved working on such a large-scale show and wishes to thank her ever-supportive family for allowing her to do what she loves and hopes this show makes you want to get up and boogie!



JASON BOVAIRD LIGHTING DESIGNER

lason graduated from Melbourne University in 1995 and in 2012 graduated from New York University's Broadway Masterclass in Lighting Design and Projection with an internship with legendary Broadway lighting designer, Ken Billington (Chicago, Crazy For You). Since then, he has been in constant demand for plays, musicals, dance and corporate events. He has designed the Australian Premieres of In The Heights, Dreamgirls, The Colour Purple, Memphis And Barassi–The Stage Show. National Touring Productions of The 39 Steps, They're Playing Our Song, Motherhood – The Musical, Australia Day, The Club and One Day Of The Year.

For Encore he has lit Mamma Mia, We Will Rock You, Les Misérables, Annie, Chicago and Jersey Boys.

Jason's work has been seen throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manilla, London, New York and Tel Aviv. Jason was the Associate Lighting Designer for Peter Pan Goes Wrong (London / Australia), The Play That Goes Wrong and International Lighting Designer on Busting Out (Los Angeles Theatre Company).

In December 2022, he received the coveted Design Award for Anastasia – The Musical in the MTGV Awards. Jason is managed by Ian White Management. www. movinglightmlp.com www.jasonbovairdlighting.com



MARCELLO LO RICCO SOUND DESIGNER

Marcello has worked extensively on sound for musical theatre, concerts, events and tours over the past 25 years.

Marcello's most recent theatre sound designs include Jersey Boys (CLOC & Windmill), In The Heights (OCPAC), Into The Woods (Watch This), Next To Normal (JTC), Chicago (Footlight, ETC, PLOS, CLOC), Mamma Mia! (WMTC, ETC, CLOC, PLOS, Footlight), Sooshi Mango - Off The Boat (TEG Dainty) and new musicals Driftwood (Umbrella Productions), The Dark Web (BottledSnail Productions) and Wise Guys (Henry Jaksetic). Annual concert productions include the Young Australian Broadway Chorus, Starbound and Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Awards.

Marcello has received Tasmanian Theatre Awards for best sound design for Mamma Mia!, We Will Rock You, The Sound of Music, The Phantom of the Opera and Mary Poppins, all produced by Encore. Other awards for sound include Cats, Miss Saigon, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Into the Woods, Sweeney Todd, Legally Blonde, Chicago, The Wedding Singer, Jesus Christ Superstar, Hairspray and Priscilla Queen of the Dessert.

Marcello studied Performing Arts at Monash University and Sound Engineering at SAE Institute before establishing the sound company LSS Productions. This is Marcello's 17th production with Encore.



ANTHONY PHILLIPS COSTUME DESIGNER

Sydney-born Anthony worked in professional theatre for over 40 years. In 2014, his achievements were recognized by the Australian Production Designers Guild when he was presented with the Artisan Award for Lifetime Achievement.

He's held the position of wardrobe supervisor with The Old Tote Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company and The Australian Opera. He was head cutter for Star Wars Episodes 2 and 3. In 1990 he established Anthony Phillips Costumes which provided costumes for many memorable Australian productions including The Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, Miss Saigon, Chicago, The Lion King, Mary Poppins, King Kong, Priscilla and over twenty productions for Bell Shakespeare. He has tutored in period corsetry at NIDA and TAFE.

Since moving to Launceston in 2015 he has designed principal costumes for Encore productions of Les Misérables, The Sound of Music, Strictly Ballroom, We Will Rock You, Mamma Mia and Chicago. He was awarded Outstanding Costume Design (Musical Theatre) in the 2020 and 2022 Tasmanian Theatre Awards and was nominated in 2023 for Chicago.

He has also contributed to productions for Three Rivers, Stage Right Youth Theatre and executed the corsetry for the John X Present production of *The Rocky Horror Show*.



SONIA JAGER COSTUME MANAGER

Sonia has enjoyed a long association with community theatre, from behind the scenes roles involving costumes, set building and painting, to front of house manager and booking office. Many of these years were with Lilydale Athenaeum, The Basin Theatre Group, Sherbrooke Theatre Co. and Ellis Prater Productions. She was also an executive member of the Lyrebird Awards until her move to Launceston in 2013 to be with her daughter, Marita Meadows.

As a retired Accountant, Sonia audits the books for a few community groups and assists friends with their tax returns.

Having joined the Encore family in 2013 as a seamstress, Sonia assisted with costumes for many productions until she became Costume Manager for Buddy, thensubsequently Wicked, Blood Brothers, Les Misérables, Sound of Music, Strictly Ballroom, We Will Rock You, Mamma Mia and Chicago.

She also enjoys being involved with Stage Right Youth Theatre assisting with costumes for *The SpongeBob the Musical* and *The Lion King Jr.*

Sonia is honoured to head up the costume team for Encore's *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.*





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The Agency Team Bushby would like to congratulate everyone involved with PRISCILLA Queen of the Desert and thank them for all their hard work. With so many talented individuals in this community, we will continue our support so that theatre in Launceston can keep flourishing!

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SHARON PARKER WIG & HAIR DESIGNER

Sharon has a lifetime of passion for hair and wig design. She completed her studies in Hairdressing at TasTAFE and currently operates a mobile hairdressing business which involves her servicing her clients at several aged care facilities within Launceston, which has proven to be an enormously rewarding experience.

Commencing with school productions over the last decade, Sharon's designs have taken centre stage and have allowed for the challenge and creative process involved in assisting performers to help create and complete their unique character's look.

Designing with Encore since 2013 has been very rewarding, with her artistic work evident in Annie, The Phantom of the Opera, The Vicar of Dibley, Evita, Mary Poppins, Buddy, Blackadder, Wicked, Blood Brothers, Les Misérables, The Sound of Music, Strictly Ballroom, We Will Rock You, Mamma Mia!, Chicago and Jersey Boys.

Sharon's designs and creations have also been integral to productions for Stage Right Youth Theatre, Launceston Musical Society, Happy Habits and Darryl Rogers' films.

Most recent professional work from this passionate designer was seen in John X Presents *The Rocky Horror Show* at Theatre Royal. See some of Sharon's creations online www.atwigsend.com



TAHNII MARQUIS MAKEUP DESIGNER

Tahnii is a massive lover of pink, glitter and all things fabulous!

A makeup artist, educator, LGBTQI ally, and mother of four, her broad spectrum of skills not only cover theatre and stage, but also tv, runway, fashion, bridal, client work and sfx.

Freelance jobs have often included music videos, commercials, photo shoots, and fashions shows including Melbourne Fashion Weeks and VAMFF. She is a passionate about all art forms and feels ecstatic when she can create. Tahnii is constantly learning from other global artists to improve her craft and with over thirteen years of experience, feels she is still just getting started.

In her off season she can be found managing a local beauty salon and her own business, dancing around in her nineinch heels, and although she has been compared to a drag queen on occasion, she only wishes she could be an exxxxtra as the absolute queens in this show!



DWAYNE PARISH IT/PROJECTIONS MANAGER

Dwayne has been filming and creating professional video recordings of Encore's stage productions for their licensed archive since he first joined in 2010.

In 2015, Dwayne began applying his technical skills backstage while working on Encore's *Evita*.

He enjoys working as part of the backstage team, particularly in the sound and vision areas, working closely with the LSS sound team to ensure the wireless microphones bring out the best audio from the amazing cast.

He has worked with projecting images, running large LED screens and syncing screen imagery with live musicals, most notably *We Will Rock You* in 2019.

Dwayne also works closely with our orchestra by managing the keyboard patching technology used to provide authentic "Broadway sounds" from our keyboards, including in this production.

Outside of Encore, Dwayne works closely with other dance and theatre companies by providing his videography services. Dwayne wishes the entire cast and crew a great season of *Priscilla*!



BELINDA J KING EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Belinda's earliest musical theatre memory was her parents playing the vinyl soundtrack to *Camelot*. She was in equal measure entranced and transfixed by the sound of Richard Burton's voice, booming out "It's true! It's true! The Crown has made it clear... The climate must be perfect all year...". And from that moment on, musical theatre was permanently on the radar.

Her career in music and the arts has ranged from professional singer/actor to theatre publicist, music publishing to show marketing and management, embracing all aspects of the industry.

She co-founded Encore in 2008 and is currently company President, regularly taking the reins as Executive Producer and has directed *We Will Rock You, Les Misérables* (receiving a Tasmanian Theatre Award for Best Direction), *Buddy* and *The Phantom of the Opera.*

Belinda still treads the boards on occasion, with favourite past stage turns including Madame Thénardier in *Les Misérables* and Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*.

Away from the theatre she enjoys a career in radio broadcasting, currently presenting Breakfast from 5.30am weekdays on ABC Local Radio 91.7FM.





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ENCORE SET MANAGER SET REMOVALS MANAGER SET BUMP IN TEAM

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Ryan Parkinson

Caro Brown

Ricky Chamberlain

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FOLLOW SPOT OPERATORS

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Emily Begg, Michelle Bryan,

Diella Josephson

Tahnii Marquis

Tahnii Marquis

Tamieka Lockhart Withington,

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