

WARRAGUL THEATRE COMPANY INC.
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ARTS CENTRE, WARRAGUL PRESENTS

CATS



outlook

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Warragul
Theatre
COMPANY Inc.



Warragul Theatre Company Inc.
in association with The Arts Centre, Warragul
presents

CATS

Directed by David Pickburn
Musical Direction by David Williams
Choreography by Tracie Eastwood

13-28 June 2008

Produced by Warragul Theatre Company
with local community talent

CATS

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Based on "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" by T.S. Eliot

"Prologue – Jellicle Songs for Jellicle Cats" additional material
written by Trevor Nunn and Richard Stilgoe.

"Memory" additional material written by Trevor Nunn.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN THEATRICAL

ON BEHALF OF THE REALLY USEFUL GROUP LIMITED

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WELCOME TO CATS

It has been a very eventful year for Warragul Theatre Company as we have endeavoured to put together this massive and exciting production. This is a production of the likes of which we have not done before but we knew we had the talent and dedication to bring to the community. Like any great project this has taken up many hundreds of hours on behalf of everyone involved. Not just the performers but the committee, costume ladies, hair and make up, production team and crew, orchestra, backstage crew, lighting, sound, props and front of house team. I would like to extend my thanks to all these wonderful people. We have also seen an unprecedented amount of community backing with the generous support of our Sponsors. This makes it possible for us to continue to bring you the highest quality production.

It makes us incredibly proud to be able to continue to bring you shows of such high quality.

To everyone who has come to enjoy the show I would like you to forget everything in the outside world and from the moment you step into the foyer enjoy the world of CATS as much as we will enjoy sharing it with you.



Bec Wilson, President WTC

WTC MISSION

The purpose of the Company is to produce, present, promote, develop and foster the performing arts within the Shire of Baw Baw and the surrounding areas, through the production of performing arts and other related areas.

The Company will endeavour to present quality performing arts events, utilising the talents and services of community members within the surrounding regions.

In all of its endeavours the Company shall make opportunities for new members to perform, produce and be involved at every level of the organization.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Staging a production of *CATS* is a wonderful challenge for directors and cast and this production is no exception. David's vision was to bring a unique show to life on the Warragul stage. This could only be achieved by forming a talented and passionate Creative team. Choreographer (Tracie Edwards) and Musical Director (David Williams) agreed to be involved. Both brought high levels of skill, expertise and passion to the production. The entire choreography design is original and the challenging musical score is thrillingly bought to

life by the talented on stage company supported by an off stage choir and orchestra. The combination of exciting music and dance ensures a spine tingling theatrical experience for audiences. 'Sung though' productions such as *CATS* present particular challenges for a cast as the two elements of song and dance are the only vehicles the cast has to tell the story and create and sustain the character's personality and emotion. Without the aid of usual spoken dialogue the cast has to rely on the interpretation of the song lyrics and dance movements to tell the story to the audience. David is thrilled with the high level of skill that the cast, choir and orchestra has shown in bringing the production to life on stage.

The other elements of theatre-costumes and sets-also presented particular challenges for the design of the show. As with the Creative Team- the costume team of Lucy van der Hoeven, Lucy Martinio and Julia Crawford have created a stunning set of originally designed and constructed costumes. Each costume is designed to suit the body type of the person wearing the costume and finally to match and enhance the character's personality and characteristics. Audiences will be stunned at the imaginative costume designs and quality of construction. As with the costumes, the make up designs are original (designed by Shirley Nicholson) and perfectly complement the costumes to bring each character to life. The company is so fortunate to have such dedicated and creative people willing to give many hours of creative effort. I owe much to the design of the production to these people.

The sets presented a further challenge as the major elements on the stage had to provide an element of proportionality with the characters on stage. The set had to provide the contrast to assist the audience to accept that the cast were cats. The ratio between elements of the set and the cast is 3.5-4.0:1.0.

The emphasis on originality was established at the outset by locating the production in an original setting. Whilst most productions are set in a junk yard the WTC production is set on the stage of a derelict theatre. The back story behind this production is that the last show finished, left the theatre leaving behind theatrical junk including bits and pieces of past shows. The echoes of the past life of the theatre can be heard and seen as the audience looks around the stage. Bits of sets and props from previous shows are visible in the set. Posters of past shows are evident around the set. The owners of the theatre closed the theatre down and the local youths chose to occupy the space. The graffiti on the set and around to stage is the reminder of their presence.

Once the youths left the space it was occupied by a tribe of Jellicle cats and the audience of humans is discovered by the cats and invited to be a part of the cats' environment for the duration of the show. Their story is told through song and dance. The Jellicle Ball is an annual activity in which all members of the tribe audition to be chosen to ascend to the Heavside layer, and thus to be reborn.



David Pickburn, Director CATS

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WHEN CATS ARE MADDENED BY THE MIDNIGHT DANCE

In a departure from most productions of *CATS* the WTC production is set on the stage of a derelict theatre. The last production has bumped out and theatre junk litters the stage. The theatre has closed down and the gradual process of decay and decomposition has begun. Local youths have occupied the stage space and their graffiti can be seen around the stage. They have since moved on and a special breed of cats known as Jellicle cats now occupy the space. (*Jellicle Songs for Jellicle Cats*).

The Jellicles spot the audience and realize that humans don't know what makes Jellicle cats special from ordinary cats. The tribe invites the audience to share their space with them and begin to tell their story. The production tells the story of the Jellicle tribe who each year gather to celebrate their "Jellicleness". At birth Jellicle cats are each given three names- one name given by their human owners, one name that is unique and fits only that cat's personality, and one name that is so divine that only the cat knows it and still contemplates over it (*The Naming of Cats*).

But the most special thing about Jellicle cats is that they are able to have the opportunity to be reborn, which is the reason the Jellicle cats gather together in the theatre that night. It is the night of the annual Jellicle Ball, where Old Deuteronomy, the eldest Jellicle cat, "through a silence you can cut with a knife announces the cat that is to be reborn." (*Invitation to the Jellicle Ball*).

The first cat competing for a spot in heaven is Jennyanydots, The Old Gumbie Cat. Fooling her masters into believing she is dormant during the day, Jennyanydots comes alive and useful at night. Instead of chasing the mice and insects, she teaches them music and crocheting so they don't ruin the house with their destructive behaviors.

The next cat is The Rum Tum Tugger, a curious yet suave cat who annoys his masters with his mischief and fickleness. Suddenly, an uninvited guest, Grizabella, the Glamour Cat, interrupts the Rum Tum Tugger. Grizabella begs the cats to let her come to the Jellicle Ball, but the other cats ostracise the faded beauty, alienated by her "lady-of-the-night" ways.

The third cat is "Bustopher Jones", the sophisticated "cat about town". Fattened by high society living, Bustopher Jones is a well-liked cat among the Jellicle Cats, unlike Grizabella. Suddenly, the cats are scared off

when they hear ominous noises. The Jellicles whisper "Macavity!" Two cats don't go off into hiding, the unsavory duo of Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer. Both are professional "cat" burglars who cause all sorts of mischief while they burglarise the houses. When the other Jellicle cats come out of hiding to watch the two croon over their stolen goods, they chase Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer out of the junkyard.

Finally, the long-awaited moment of the Jellicle Ball has arrived. Old Deuteronomy has arrived. The old cat is welcomed with worship, praise, and kisses. No Jellicle cat has ever been as great as Old Deuteronomy. When Old Deuteronomy is seated, Munkustrap entertains him with the tale of "The Awefull Battle Between the Pekes and Pollicle Dogs". Finally, The Jellicle Ball begins. The cats start to dance the night away while Old Deuteronomy ponders which cat deserves the honor to be reborn.

Grizabella, who feels she also deserves a chance to compete, once again crashes the ball. The other cats disdainfully leave her alone to find another spot in the theatre to dance. Unbeknown to Grizabella, Old Deuteronomy is listening to her cries as she dreams for a second chance to regain her beauty and change her behaviors (*Grizabella the Glamour Cat (Reprise)*).

ACT TWO

WHY WILL THE SUMMER DAY DELAY - WHEN WILL TIME FLOW AWAY

The Jellicle cats surround Old Deuteronomy. He announces that he will choose the cat who "has found meaning to the happiness he or she has experienced" (The Moments of Happiness).

Jellylorum is introduced as the next candidate who brings Gus: the Theatre Cat to centre stage. Gus was once one of the greatest actors of his time. As he recounts some of his exploits in the theatre, Gus realizes that theatre today is not what it once was. He relives in his mind one of his favorite plays, "Growltiger's Last Stand." His memory is so detailed that the audience can literally see Growltiger's ship, the leading lady Griddlebone who joined him in the romantic "Ballad of Billy M'Caw", and the actors who played his nemeses. Soon the memory of the play fades and Gus finds himself back on stage, with his legacy a fading memory.

The next cat to compete is Skimbleshanks, the Railway Cat, who believes in extreme efficiency and reflects that in his work at the train station. As Skimbleshanks entices the Jellicle cats with his daily life at the railway station, the Jellicle cats once again hear the ominous noise of Macavity, the Mystery Cat has shown up uninvited to the Jellicle Ball. Angered by not being invited, Macavity and his henchcats spirit Old Deuteronomy away so he cannot decide which cat will go to heaven.

As Munkustrap and some of the other Jellicle cats look for Macavity and Old Deuteronomy, Demeter and Bombalarina whisper about the crimes this wicked cat has committed in his lifetime. He has even defied the law of gravity! His evilness has caused his to be feared by most Jellicle cats. Finally, Munkustrap and Rumpus Cat have found Macavity and try to fight the answer out of him, but he is too powerful. Macavity makes a grand escape and Old Deuteronomy is kidnapped. And now there's no way to find him.

The Rum Tum Tugger suggests that maybe if they conjure up magical Mr. Mistoffelees, he can help bring back Old Deuteronomy. Before anyone can summon this magical cat, Mr. Mistoffelees appears with his smooth moves and magic tricks. With a wave of the cape, he successfully recovers Old Deuteronomy, unharmed. The Jellicle cats rejoice. Mr. Mistoffelees has saved the day!

For the third time, Grizabella returns- tired of the shabby treatment she has been receiving from her fellow Jellicle cats. She explains how she wants to be reborn for a second chance to live differently - to live like the happy memories she has of when she was beautiful (*Memory*).

After Grizabella has sung her song, it is obvious to Old Deuteronomy which cat should have the honor of going to heaven. The Jellicle cats finally kneel out of respect to the cat who will be going to be reborn-Grizabella! Old Deuteronomy escorts Grizabella up to the Heaviside Layer past the Jellicle Moon and the Russell Hotel" when Grizabella is to be reborn (*The Journey to the Heaviside Layer*).

It is almost morning. The Jellicle Ball is over for another year. As Old Deuteronomy adjourns his fellow Jellicle cats, he reminds them and us of their special privileges as cats (*The Ad-dressing of Cats*). Soon all of the Jellicle cats return home and the junkyard is quiet again for another year.

Acknowledgements: The synopsis has been modified from musical.net

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture	Orchestra
Jellicle Songs For Jellicle Cats	Company
The Naming of the Cats	Quaxo, Munkustrap, Company
The Old Gumbie Cat	Munkustrap, Demeter, Jellylorum, Gumbie, Company
The Rum Tum Tugger	Rum Tum Tugger, Rumpleteazer, Quaxo, Bombalurina, Grizabella, Demeter, Company
Bustopher Jones	Jennyanydots, Bombalurina, Jellylorum, Bustopher Jones, Company
Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer	Mungojerrie, Rumpelteazer, Company
Old Deuteronomy	Tantomile, Coricopat, Munkustrap, Mistofelees, Tugger, Deuteronomy, Company
The Battle of the Pekes and the Pollicies	Munkustrap, Company
The Song of the Jellicles and The Jellicle Ball	Company
Grizabella the Glamour Cat	Grizabella

ACT TWO

Entrè-Acte	Deuteronomy, Jemima, Company
The Moments of Happiness	Gus
Gus	The Theatre Cat: Jennyanydots, Gus
Growltiger's Last Stand (Pt 1)	Growltiger, Rum Tum Tugger, Alonzo, Munkustrap, Skimbleshanks, Mistrofelees Griddlebone, Company
The Ballad of Billy M'Caw	Growltiger, Griddlebone, Siamese, Company
Growltiger's Last Stand (Pt 2)	Coricopat, Growltiger, Siamese Company
Gus the Theatre Cat (Reprise)	Gus
Skimbleshanks the Railway Cat Company	Deuteronomy, Rumpelteazer, Skimbleshanks,
Macavity	The Mystery Cat: Demeter, Bombalurina, Company, Mr. Mistoffolees
Macavity Fight	
Magical Mr. Mistofelees	Tugger, Mistofelees, Company
Memory	Jemima, Munkustrap, Grizabella
Journey To the Heaviside Layer	Company
The Ad-dressing of Cats	Deuteronomy, Munkustrap, Jennyanydots, Gus, Tantomile, Coricopat, Company

CATS PRODUCTION BAND

Lionel Bailey	Saxophone Flute
Cameron Nicholls	Saxophone Clarinet
Jill Lawrence	Oboe
Beth Morgan	Flute
Allison Llewellyn	Saxophone Clarinet
Christine Mack	Cello
Alana Winfield	Cello
Kathy Barry	French Horn 1
Amy McCormack	French Horn 2
Andrew Gordon	Trumpet
Tina Manzo	Trumpet
Glenn Barry	Trombone
Graeme Patterson	Keyboard 1
Nicole Taylor	Keyboard 2
Kylie Bawden	Keyboard 3
Rohan Hayes	Guitar
Brenden Morris	Bass
Kelwin Smith	Drums
Joe Licciardello	Percussion

ORCHESTRA

CAST - PRINCIPALS

Adrian Darakai..... Mr Mistofolees/Quaxo
Ben HeelsMungojerrie
Calvin Richardson ⁽¹³⁾ Coricopat
Chris Howe ⁽¹⁴⁾ Alonzo
Clive Rogers..... Deuteronomy
Cristina Zappulla..... Rumpelteazer
Elisabeth Crow Victoria
Georgina Petty ⁽¹⁷⁾ Bombalurina
Isaac Guppy ⁽¹⁴⁾ Pouncival
Julia van der Hoeven ⁽¹⁴⁾ Tantomile
Kate Taylor.....Grizabella
Keagan Vaskess ⁽¹⁵⁾Jemima
Melanie Nicholls..... Griddelbone
Michael Mendez..... Munkustrap
Aneurin PascoeRumpus Cat/Macavity
Robert SmithRum Tum Tugger
Sabrina Martiniano ⁽¹⁶⁾..... Demeter
Scott Miller Gus/Growltiger
Stephanie PowellJennyanydots
Steve Wiegerink.....Bustopher Jones
Tayah Nicholson ⁽¹⁷⁾ Cassandra
/Victoria(understudy)
Tom Doyle Skimbleshanks
Zac Alaimo ⁽¹⁶⁾ Asparagus
Zoë Crawford ⁽¹⁶⁾.....Jellylorum

ON STAGE CHORUS

Adam Carson.....Bill Bailey
Bobbie RilyMorgan
Chloe ThomsonJitsyloo
Claire Stevenson ⁽¹⁷⁾Etcetera
Crystal Harrison Scraps
Dom Ryan Victor
Harleigh Doyle Sillabub
Helen Lowe Jackaldare
Jeanne Rigg Trixie
Katie Knight..... Esperanza
Kate Lawrence..... Exotica
Kimberley Heels ⁽¹⁶⁾Electra
Lizzie Davis Dixie
Nikki Richardson Gilbert
Rebekah KingCaribuckety
Russell Aitken..... Admerus
Shelley Wyatt..... Catlotta
Siobhan Barry.....Oopsacat
Tori van der Hoeven Purrfecta

(n) number in brackets denotes Junior performer's age as at first performance

DANCERS

Chloe ThomsonJitsyloo
Claire Stevenson ⁽¹⁷⁾Etcetera
Eloise JollyGeorge
Jess PhillippiJasmine
Kimberley Heels ⁽¹⁶⁾Electra
Nikki RichardsonGilbert

OFF STAGE CHOIR

Liz Barry Vanessa Barry
Ann Bridgman Adele Larsen
Peter Larsen Steve Howe
Ryan McAlister

DIRECTION TEAM

Director David Pickburn
Musical Director David Williams
Choreographer Tracie Eastwood

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Directors David Willaims, Tracie Eastwood
Assistant Musical Director Jill Lawrence
Assistant to the Choreographer Adrian Darakai
Set Design David Pickburn
Sets Construction Paul Beaumont, Tony Phillippi, Neil McRae, Shane Litjenas
Set Painting Barbara Phillippi, Caitlin Phillippi
Gaffitti Artists Katie Knight, Laura MacAlister, Vanessa Barry, Brooke, Shanae, Kai, Todd, Stacey, Jessica, Chris, Jasmine, Georga
Costume Team Lucy van der Hoeven, Lucy Martinano, Julia Crawford, Kathryn Di Fabrizio, Leonie Gillow, Rosa Fichera
Masks Jan Jensen
Props Di Potter, Gracie Nelson
Lighting Concept Design Jayson Bowles
Lighting Operator Jayson Bowles
Follow Spot Operators Jonathan Howe
Pyrotechnics Michael Carmody
Sound Design Greg Ginger
Sound Operator Outlook Communications
Sound Equipment Outlook Communications
Radio Mics Lachlan Kirkbright
Sound Effects Tony Pickburn
Artwork & Graphic Design PropaGANDA Workshop
Publicity Bec Wilson
Sponsorship Bec Wilson
Photographer John Moore Photography
Programme Coordinator Kate Boyer

Hair and Makeup Design Shirley Nicholson
Wig Design Shirley Nicholson, Grant McKinnon
Stage Pianist Graeme Patterson
Rehearsal Pianists Bob McPherson
Production Manager Janine Howe, Rosemary Correll
Stage Managers
Floor Manager
Flycrew
Backstage Crew
Front of House Coordinator Fiona van Lochem
Front of House Design Team Catherine Ryan, Stephanie Thompson (featured designer), Laura Dare, Di Buntine, Christa Maydom, Melissa Zimmerman



CATS Production Committee (Back L-R) Lucy van der Hoeven, Lucy Martiniano, Shirley Nicholson, Paul Beaumont (Front L-R) Bob McPherson, Tony Phillippi, Di Potter, Barb Phillippi (Absent)

DAVID PICKBURN DIRECTOR

David's involvement in amateur theatre is a life long interest involving both performing and directing spanning a career of more than 30 years. David has a great love of performing arising from his passion to be the best he can be on stage as either a performer or director.



with the cast production and design teams to achieve this.

Recent productions David has directed for either Latrobe Theatre Company and Warragul Theatre Company include *Oliver!* (1996 and 2006), *Fiddler on The Roof* (1997), *My Fair Lady* (1998), *Follies* (1999), *Annie* (2000 and 2007), *The Mikado* (2001), *Singin' In The Rain*

(2003), *Oklahoma!* (2004), *Anything Goes* (2005). David was previously a principal performer and director for many of the European operettas and Gilbert and Sullivan light operas for Latrobe Light Opera Society (now Latrobe Theatre Company).

David's own performance career has involved mainly musical theatre roles and his most recent performing role was

as Professor Henry Higgins in the WTC Production of *My Fair Lady* in 2002. In this role David won the GAT Award for Most Outstanding Actor in the Musical Theatre category.

The connection between involvement in the performing arts and the development of personal, social and academic skills is well documented and underpins David's philosophy as a keen supporter of theatre for young people. David's school-based experience in staging productions provided the impetus to co launch Class Act Productions (CAP)-a performing arts company for young people in the Latrobe Valley. In his capacity as director with CAP David has directed *Guys and Dolls Jr.*, *The Music Man Jr.*, *Macbeth-a rock opera*, *Honk Jr.*, *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* and *Aladdin Jr.*

▼ from page 9

Estill; he has studied her method with leading practitioners Ann Marie Speed and Helen Tiller, singing in Sydney, Adelaide and New Zealand.

David studied conducting with Dr Peter Clinch and Barry Bignall conducting Melbourne University Orchestra and many community groups. He is currently studying with renowned conductor and educator, John Hopkins.

David is employed as Director of Music at Lowanna College in Moe where he teaches singing, bass guitar, classroom music, composition, violin and cello.

DAVID WILLIAMS MUSICAL DIRECTOR

DAVID has had extensive experience in performing and conducting orchestras in a broad range of musical genres, he graduated from Melbourne University Institute of Education with a Bachelor of Education in Music Pedagogy. Since then David has completed further studies at Monash University where he completed a Master of Arts in Performance on double bass. He began his formal studies of classical double bass with Marijan Brysha and more recently studied with Steve Reeves and jazz bass with Geoff Kluge and Neil Jowsey



David spent most of his performing career in the area of Jazz specifically Big Band Jazz where he performed with some of Australia's finest Band Leaders. He was a member of the highly successful Cotton Club Orchestra for 10 years and has supported some of Australia's leading performers including Peter Allen, Debra Byrne and Dame Kiri Te

Kanawa.

He has been a sessional bassist for recordings of works by contemporary Australian composer Felix Werder; he was also sessional bassist for television and radio jingles and the feature film "Romper Stomper" and sessional bassist for Gippsland Country artist Steve Messer.

David has performed extensively throughout Europe having toured there twice with the Australian Heidelberg

Orchestra, performing and conducting concerts in Vienna, Rome, Belgium, Singapore, London, Mannheim and Heidelberg. More recently he co-founded and is Musical Director for the Latrobe City Youth Band. It is with the LCYB that in 2004 he made his first conducting tour of China and Japan and as recently as January 2008 David and the band made a return tour.

David has been Musical Director for many Musicals including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Oliver*, *Anything Goes*, *Oklahoma*, *Mikado* and *Annie*. David has been with Warragul Theatre Company for eight years.

He is co-founder and musical director for Class Act Productions in the City of Latrobe.

David continues to study all aspects of Music and performance and has recently been studying singing, pedagogy and performance based on the method of compulsory figures developed by page 9 ►

TRACIE EASTWOOD CHOREOGRAPHER

TRACIE has extensive experience in choreography...



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MR. MISTOFOLEES/QUAXO **ADRIAN DARAKAI**

I am currently studying full-time at Spectrum Dance in Burwood. This is my second year of dance training after having studied Certificate III at Dance Factory last year. Professionally, I have performed in *Madagascar Live*, *Have Yourself a Looney Tunes Christmas*, and the 2006 Myer Christmas Parade for Showtime Entertainment. I have received a Guild Award and Lyrebird Award for my role as Billy Kopeki in *Big-the musical (The Fabulous Nobody's)* in 2002. I also received a Victorian Drama League nomination and Gippsland Amateur Theatre Award for my portrayal of Colin Mudford in *Two Weeks with the Queen* (Leongatha Lyric Theatre) in 2004.

I have performed in various amateur productions such as *CATS* (Nova Music Theatre), *Fame-the musical*, *Hating Alison Ashley*, *Kids On Broadway* (Wonthaggi Theatre), *Starbound 1 & 2* (Launchpad Drama), *Godspell* (Windmill Theatre), and *Me & My Girl* (Leongatha Lyric Theatre), and many more. My other achievements are performing at the Palladium Theatre at Crown Casino for the 2007 TAFE Awards night, and co-directing my Theatre Studies' production of *The Life of Galileo* in 2006. I am currently writing two original musicals and pursuing a successful career in the performing arts.



MUNGOJERRIE **BEN HEELS**

I have been involved in theatre since 1997. I started by starring in school productions until 2001 when I joined the newly established theatre co Class Act Productions. I then moved on to the WTC having cameo roles in *Anything Goes* (2006) and *Annie* (2007). Recently I have started to show more interest in directing and was Assistant Director, Assistant Musical Director and Assistant Choreographer in CAP's production of *Pirates of Penzance Jr.* (2007). This year I have taken on the role of Assistant Choreographer in another company's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. I also help various schools in the area with their shows too. I received a GAT (Gippsland Amateur Theatre) award alongside 2 other performers in 2007 for *Most Outstanding Ensemble* for the role of The Three Crows in *Wizard of Oz*, and now take on the role of Mungojerry in WTC's production of *CATS*.



CORICOPAT **CALVIN RICHARDSON**

I've been a student at Vicki's Dancing Academy for nine years now. I do tap, classical, jazz, modern, funk, character and contemporary. I enjoy tap and funk the most. I like dancing because I get to perform on stage, although I'm not particularly fond of the makeup. As well as dance, I'm part of the Ulinga Gymnastics Club and have been training for five years. I'm currently on level five and like the floor apparatus because of all the tumbling and flipping. In junior school, I enjoyed the choir and school productions. This is my first stage musical and I hope to do many more.



ALONZO **CHRIS HOWE**

I made my debut on stage with Warragul Theatre Company in 2004 as the 'mite with the large appetite' in *Oliver!* Playing Oliver was such great fun that I have gone on to be part of artistic-based school streams at Chairo Christian School, where I am currently in year 9.

Since 2004 I have performed in a number of other musical productions – during 2006 I played Friedrich Von Trapp in Chairo's annual production, *The Sound of Music*, and the lead role of Ugly in Class Act Production's *Honk!*. In 2007 I appeared in Chairo's *Fiddler on the Roof* as the soloist Russian soldier in the song *To Life!* and then I played the lead romantic hero, Fredrick, in Class Act's *The Pirates of Penzance Jr.* Currently I'm rehearsing in Chairo's latest production, as the character Lumiere in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* which I will be performing in August this year here at the wonderful Warragul Arts Centre. My whole family are involved in community theatre with me as well, both on and off stage. I love to perform and one day I hope to make a career in the acting and entertainment business.



DEUTERONOMY **CLIVE ROGERS**

This is my first appearance with Warragul Theatre Company and I am thoroughly enjoying the experience of playing Old Deuteronomy.

I started on stage at the age of eight and then furthered my interest in amateur theatre when at university in the 1960s. I also did some training in lighting at the Tivoli Theatre, but then did not do much theatre work for the next twenty-five years due to career commitments and running the family farm. On returning to theatre I am now a BATS committee member, Lyrebird Guild representative and presenter, and have performed in many shows with other companies such as CPAC, BATS, Phoenix, GEMCO, Windmill and ITT Productions. My most recent performances were: *Guys & Dolls*, *Give My Regards To Windmill* with Windmill, *The Adventures of Mr. Toad* with ITT and *Annie* with CPAC. I hope you enjoy this production as much as I am enjoying working with the cast.



RUMPLETEAZER **CRISTINA ZAPPULLA**

In 2006, I completed my studies in Primary Education and the Arts at Monash University, and I am currently teaching Year 2's at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School in Warragul. From a very young age, I have enjoyed all facets of the Performing Arts, performing in a number of school productions and singing at charity events within my local community. I studied jazz/funk, classical ballet and tap at Standing Ovation School of Performing Arts and studied singing for a year with Doreen Armstrong. At 24, I appreciate a broad range of musical styles and I continue to experience various styles of dance with Hip Hop, Street Latin and Belly Dancing being among those styles explored. In 2003, I made my debut with Warragul Theatre Company (WTC), playing the part of Olga Mara and a dancer in their production of *Singin' in the Rain*. I continued my work with WTC as a dancer and as an Assistant Choreographer in the 2005 production of *Oklahoma!*, and as one of Reno's Angels in the 2006 production of *Anything Goes*. In 2007 I experienced Musical Theatre from a different angle when I took on the role of a backstage crew member for WTC's production of *Annie*. I was honoured to receive my first principal role in this year's production of *CATS*, and I am extremely excited about what our brilliant team of directors, cast and crew have achieved over the months in bringing *CATS* to the stage.



VICTORIA **ELISABETH CROW**

ATS is my first production with Warragul Theatre Company, though by no means am I new to stage life. Coming from a strong background of callisthenics, I have been on stage since the age of four. In 2004, I played the role of Patty Simcox in *Grease* with Mount Players Theatre Company. Since then I have performed in *Man of LaMancha*, *Cabaret*, *Holka Polka* as well as being an active member of Boilerhouse Theatre Company. Last year I studied full time dance and performance at Melbourne's Dance Factory. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Warragul Theatre Company and hope that there will be many more shows in the future.



BOMBALURINA **GEORGINA PETTY**

My past experiences have ranged from many youth productions with Adlib Theatre Company including *Goldilocks*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Peter Pan*. My first production was with Warragul Theatre Company in 2000 where I played the role of young Cossette in *Les Misérables*. I again played the same role of young Cossette in the *Cardinia* performance, *Les Misérables* in 2003. I have been a part of the Australian Youth Choir and have also been a lead dancer in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge in 2004. In the Warragul production *Oliver!*, 2004, I played the role of Bette. My most recent production was the 2006 St Paul's Anglican Grammar school's *Fame*, where I performed as the lead role of Camen Diago. As a dancer at Standing Ovation, I was awarded the 2007 Encouragement Award, the Classical Ballet Achievement Award and the 2008 Scholarship Holder Award for jazz/funk.





POUNCIVAL ISAAC GUPPY

I have been dancing since I was 6 years old. I've studied tap, jazz and classical styles at KC's School of Dance and competed in dance eisteddfods in solos and troupes. I have also competed successfully at the Gippsland Music and Drama Eisteddfod.

I have performed in seven productions with the Warragul Youth Theatre Company, performing in the lead role in the production *Crikey, a Fair Dinkum Fairy Tale*. Other productions include *Circus Splendiferous*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Hansel & Gretel* and *Aladdin*. I have also performed in the St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's production, *Best of Broadway*.



TANTOMILE JULIA VAN DER HOEVEN

At 14 years of age, this is already my third year with Warragul Theatre Company, having previously appeared in the chorus for *Anything Goes*, and playing the title role in *Annie*. I was nominated for a state Musical Theatre Guild award for the latter role. My love of theatre began early through local speech and drama and singing eisteddfods. I have performed in *Hansel and Gretel* and *Sleeping Beauty* for the Ad lib Theatre Company. Other productions included *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Aladdin*, and *Beauty and the Beast* for Warragul Youth Theatre. Most recently I played the role of Kate in Class Act Productions' *Pirates of Penzance Jr*.



GRIZABELLA KATE TAYLOR

My first performance in a musical was 18 years ago, on this very stage, in the musical *Cabaret*. I have completed a Performing Arts Degree at Monash University, studied singing with Anna Connelly (Melbourne) and Mary Hammond (London), and dance at Dance Factory (Melbourne) and Pineapple Studios (London). Whilst in Melbourne, I performed lead roles with many amateur musical societies, before making my professional debut as the soprano soloist for the Melbourne Concert Hall's Gilbert and Sullivan *Morning Melodies* series. I moved to London and pursued a career as a performer. Whilst there I worked as a singer/dancer on several cruise ships, performed in many UK tours (*The Rat Pack*, *The Mikado*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Iolanthe* and *The Best of the West End*), toured Holland and Ireland with *The Rat Pack* and also had a terrific time working in the Pantomime season (the Wicked Queen in *Snow White*). My television credits include the role of Alison on the Sky TV television series *Mile High*, as well as presenting a series of commercial quiz games for UK and Australian television.

I returned to Australia last year and am delighted to be performing in *CATS* on the same stage that started it all, with a group of such enthusiastic and passionate performers.



JEMIMA KEAGAN VASSESS

This is my third show with Warragul Theatre Company, having performed in last year's season of *Annie*, and *Oliver!* in 2004. Last year I also performed as Mabel in Class Act Production's *Pirates of Penzance Jr*. I have studied singing, dancing and acting for nearly ten years. Currently, I travel to Melbourne twice a week to study singing under Melissa Langton and Carrie Barr (Jellylorum in the Australasian tour of *CATS*). I am currently in rehearsals for the Department of Education's *State School Spectacular*, as a soloist. I also participate in the DEECD's *Joining the Chorus* program.



GRIDDLEBONE MELANIE NICHOLLS

My theatrical experience stems from high school where I played the lead roles of Sarah in *Guys and Dolls* and Princess Jasmine in *Sheik Rattle 'n' Roll*. I also participated in University plays during my teaching course that toured primary schools on the Peninsula to educate children about music.



MUNKUST RAP MICHAEL MENDEZ

My love for the stage began when I joined Warragul Theatre Company in 2005. Playing Curly in *Oklahoma!* I returned the following year playing Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes*. 2007 proved to be a challenge, having to juggle 3 extremely different roles in *Annie* (Bert Healy, Officer Ward & Henry Morgenthau). Aside from WTC I have been working along side David Pickburn and David Williams as Assistant Director for Class Act Productions for the past 2 shows (*Honk Jr.* in 2006 and *Pirates of Penzance Jr.* in 2007). I was very fortunate to have made it into the cast, let alone get the role of Munkustrap. It has been an interesting journey becoming "Munky" and I hope you enjoy seeing him on stage just as much as I will enjoy being him.



JENNYANYDOTS STEPHANIE POWELL

My interest in performance began very early with involvement in various church music and drama sections, as well as participation in drama and musical productions throughout school. Since then my passion for performance has led me into involvement in community theatre in a number of capacities.

My stage experience includes performing the roles of Grace Farrell in *Annie* (WTC 2007), Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* (WTC 2006), both of which earned nominations for awards from the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria and GAT, and dancing in the chorus of *My Fair Lady* (WTC 2002). I have also played title character in Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, Ann Pomick in *Half a Sixpence*, and sung as a member of the barbershop quartet in *The Music Man*. Other involvement in community theatre includes Warragul Youth Theatre's pantomimes of *Goldilocks* (as Papa Bear—yes, that's Papa Bear, not Mama!), and *Cinderella* (as The Fairy Godmother, for which I received a GAT award). In addition to on-stage experience, I have also been involved off-stage serving on the committee for WYT, while fulfilling the roles of Musical Director and Assistant Director for a number of WYT's pantos.



MACAVITY ANEURIN PASCOE

Warragul Theatre Company's *CATS* is the first production that I have been involved in. Recently I've done a television commercial for Monash University and some extra work on the set of *The Pacific*, which was shot in Melbourne earlier this year. I have also been cast in Break A Leg Theatre Company's *A Chorus Line* as Al.





RUM TUM TUGGER ROBERT SMITH

After a two-year absence, I have returned to Victoria, and Warragul Theatre Company. A seasoned performer, I have been in a variety of musicals including *Les Misérables*, *42nd Street*, *Oklahoma!*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *The Sound Of Music* and a Guild winning performance in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

I am also currently rehearsing for "Break-A-Leg's" *A Chorus Line* which is being performed next month. Employed as a breakfast personality with 94.3 STAR FM, I am thrilled to be back with WTC.



CASSANDRA/VICTORIA(UNDERSTUDY) TAYAH NICHOLSON

I started dance lessons at the age of 4 at Carol's Academy of Dance. I now study at One Step Ahead where I have studied all styles of dance. I have performed successfully at many dance eisteddfods throughout Victoria, as well as dancing for the opening and closing ceremonies of the International Pacific Games. During 2006, I was an exchange student in Spain and was fortunate enough to study Flamenco Dance.

I am very excited to be chosen to play the role of Cassandra. This is my third show with WTC, previously performing in *Singin' in the Rain* and *Oklahoma!*.



DEMETER SABRINA MARTINIANO

I have been involved with Warragul Theatre Company since 2003. I was accepted in the chorus of *Singin' in the Rain*, *Oliver!*, *Oklahoma!* and *Anything Goes* and last year I was fortunate enough to be accepted as Lilly in the production *Annie*.

I have been dancing since I was 3 and am now studying dance at Standing Ovation in Warragul doing regular classes and studying Units 3 & 4 Dance. Over the past years I have been very successful in local eisteddfods doing solos, duos and troupe work in the styles of jazz, tap, neo-classical, classical, funk & hip-hop. In the year 2000 I was accepted into the Australian Ballet School where I danced for 2 and a half years.

In 2006 I attended regular Saturday classes at the Dance Factory in Richmond doing jazz, tap, funk/hip hop and classical classes. My favourite style being funk/hip hop.



SKIMBLESHANKS TOM DOYLE

My passion for drama has been alive since I was a youngster. I have been involved in over 10 stage productions including *The Crucible* and *Black Comedy*. *CATS* is my second production with WTC, after playing Bundles in *Annie*.

My television credits include Paul on *Blue Heelers* and I have been featured as an extra on shows such as *Neighbours*, *MDA*, and *Last Man Standing*. In my spare time I enjoy film making and playing the struggling playwright.



GUS/GROWLTIGER SCOTT MILLER

I started performing for the public many years ago playing the part of a sheep in a Christmas pageant. My more recent performances include, with Warragul Theatre Company, the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance* (1998), King Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1999), Chorus in *Les Misérables* (2000), Backstage Crew for *My Fair Lady* (2002), Orchestra for *Singin' in the Rain* (2003), Bill Sykes in *Oliver!* (2004), Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!* (2005), Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes* (2006) for which I won a GAT Award for *Most Outstanding Support Actor*, and Rooster in *Annie* (2007). I have also worked with Leongatha Lyric Theatre playing Mr Toad in *Wind in the Willows* (2000/2001) and Assistant Musical Director and Orchestra for *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (2001), and in Pakenham, playing Grantaire in *Les Misérables* (2003), Major General in *Pirates of Penzance* (2004) and Max Dettweiler in *The Sound of Music* (2004).



JELLYLORUM ZOE CRAWFORD

I have been performing in Eisteddfods since grade 3 but discovered my love of musicals when cast as a lead in a primary school production. Since then I have studied drama, currently under Tracie Gaylard, and have completed grade eight in Speech and Drama with Trinity College. I am thrilled to be involved with Warragul Theatre Company again since I appeared in *Oliver!* in 2004. Prior to that, I performed in several Warragul Youth Theatre productions. As well as musical theatre I have a great passion for drama, my goal is to successfully audition for NIDA after completing VCE. I hope that I'm able to carve a career connected to acting and the theatre for myself in the future.

I trust that you enjoy what is a 'step out of bounds' for WTC in their production of *CATS*.



BUSTOPHER JONES STEVE WIEGERINK

I first performed with Actors Showcase in 1996 and have gone on to perform in several professional and amateur productions including the International Melbourne Comedy Festival and The Melbourne Fringe Festival. Most recently I performed as Oliver Warbucks in WTC's 2007 production of *Annie* where I received a Guild nomination for the Gladys Moncrieff Award for *First Performance in a Featured Role* as well as a commendation for a Male in a Leading Role. Currently I am the Performing Arts Coordinator at a local school and spend most of my time peddling the joys of drama.



ASPARAGUS ZAC ALAIMO

I have been involved in many shows in my time. At the age of 9, I started getting involved in theatre classes and started piano at the age of 11. I also perform in shows with WTC, Warragul Youth Theatre and Class Act Productions.

I am currently in year 11 at Marist Sion College and perform in school productions there. My first show with WTC was *Singin' In The Rain*, where I was in the chorus. From there on, I have been in four other WTC shows including this one, which includes *Oliver!*, *Anything Goes* and *Annie*.

I also do singing and try to compete in as many Eisteddfods as I can. I love to have fun with my friends, school and eating food. I feel I am very privileged to be in this year's production of *CATS*, and hope to be in many more in the future.



WARRAGUL THEATRE COMPANY INC.

The 2008 Production of *Cats* is the 11th show for Warragul Theatre Company. While each show brings its own challenges there are a couple of things you can count on. The shows are full of an array of local talent and, Warragul Theatre Company as always continues to produce great quality entertainment. Consistently nominated for many theatrical awards in all areas this company is a real credit to the talented community. Last years production of *Annie* for example saw an unprecedented amount of nominations with the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria. This year with *CATS* we have had the opportunity to add many new layers to our production and performance skills with this unique show. We would welcome anyone who may be interested in new experiences in the theatre to come along and join the WTC family. We are looking for interested parties to be involved in performing, committees, backstage crew, set building and design as well as costume production.

We would welcome anyone who has an interest in the Company whether sponsorship, committee involvement, on stage, backstage or show organising. Talk to a committee member or visit our website www.warragultheatrecompany.org.au for further details.

WTC COMMITTEE

President

Bec Wilson

Secretary

Jan Pickburn

Treasurer

Janine Howe

Committee

Bob McPherson

Shirley Nicholson

Paul Beaumont

Kate Boyer

WTC MISSION

The purpose of the Company is to produce, present, promote, develop and foster the performing arts within the Shire of Baw Baw and the surrounding areas, through the production of performing arts and other related areas.

The Company will endeavour to present quality performing arts events, utilising the talents and services of community members within the surrounding regions.

In all of its endeavours the Company shall make opportunities for new members to perform, produce and be involved at every level of the organization.

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To all of the widows and widowers of the cast, crew and production team - thank you for your patience and understanding.

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