

ACT THREE
PRODUCTIONS



STAGE RAGE

Issue 133 – March 2021



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On stage at the Wallace Development Company Theatre

Director – Steve Sayer
 Choreographer – Tegan Hardy
 Musical Director – Lottie Perry

TICKETS ON SALE NOW & SELLING FAST!!!

CAST LIST

Roxie Hart
 Velma Kelly
 Billy Flynn
 Amos Hart
 Matron Mama Morton
 Merry Murderesses

Jessie Feyen
 Alex Hughes
 Lindsay Yeo
 Ben Pryor
 Erica Ward
 Alexia Clark
 Kate Duggan
 Leanora Potten
 Ruby Jamieson
 Tamzin Price

Mary Sunshine
 Inspector
 Dancers

Alexia Clark
 Finn Davidson
 Annabel Orwin-Higgs, Emma Carey, Frankie Curd,
 Kate Martin, Rocky Rowland, Taryn Baxter

Ensemble

Georgia Skipper, Jake Maskill, Jayden Colban, Jon Samia,
 Josh Gaiger, Mikaera Bassett, Tayla Clark, Tyler Purdy, Zac Maskill



ACT THREE membership expired on 31 January. Therefore, this is a friendly reminder that renewal of your ACT THREE membership is now due if your membership expired on 31 January 2021 (noted on your membership card). If you wish to make payment direct to the ACT THREE bank account, the account number is 06 – 0729 – 0024947 – 00. Please don't forget to put your name in the "Reference" field, along with "Membership".



Pat Snoxell given fond farewell at Regent on Broadway

(by Jimmy Ellingham)



WARWICK SMITH/STUFF

Pat Snoxell's daughter Lynda, left, and granddaughter Emma share memories of a man for whom hundreds filled the Regent on Broadway to honour on Wednesday.

For once, a man who spent decades behind the scenes took centre stage.

Pat Snoxell died on Friday, 5 February 2021, aged 91, and during a musical and fond farewell at Palmerston North's Regent on Broadway on Wednesday, 10 February 2021, his casket sat in full view of the hundreds of people paying their respects. To the casket's stage right sat a director's chair.

The Regent was a fitting venue for a man who helped save it when its future was in doubt in the 1990s. Many of the hundreds of shows Snoxell directed were staged there during a theatre career stretching back to the early 1960s, when he put on the region's first Gang Show through his involvement in Scouts. One myth about Snoxell was shattered, too. Recalling his Scouts involvement, for which he received a Queen's Service Medal, Bob Lissington revealed Snoxell had stepped on stage for a Gang Show in England, before taking his Ten Pound Pom pass to New Zealand to work as a dairy herd tester. Lissington said he presented Snoxell with a *This Is Your Life*-style book for his 80th birthday. "When he turned 90 we had to add another 40 pages. The guy just couldn't stop."

Regent Theatre Trust Board chairman David Lea said when the Regent's future and that of the city's old Opera House, on the corner of Church and Ashley Streets, was in doubt in the 1990s Snoxell originally favoured the latter.



DAVID UNWIN/STUFF

Snoxell spent 60 years in the theatre, as well as forging successful farming and business careers.

But after consideration Snoxell was convinced saving The Regent was the way to go. “Along with many others Pat set about realising the dream.” “The results of the dreaming are what you can see about you today, a building that’s the pride of the Manawatū, a jewel in the crown of the city, an architectural masterpiece that will remain, hopefully, forever.”

Snoxell left school at 16 and went dairy farming. By 21 his dream was to own a farm, and he knew it wasn’t possible in England, daughter Lynda Snoxell said. He met his first wife, Cicely, on the boat to New Zealand and after working for a few years they bought a farm at Longburn. Snoxell also developed successful businesses away from the farm.

After Cicely died of cancer in 1987, Snoxell met his second wife, Jenny, through theatre. The pair would often entertain their large, blended family at a new farm near Feilding. And on Wednesday members of that family, and Snoxell’s close friends, combined to sing a medley of well-known show tunes.



WARWICK SMITH/STUFF

Pallbearers carry Pat Snoxell’s casket to a waiting hearse outside the Regent.

As the curtain fell on *Patrick Snoxell, QSM, The Final Production*, his casket was carried through a guard of honour formed by Scouts members.



**Please note in your diaries that the ACT THREE
Annual General Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, 27 April 2021,
at the Wallace Development Company Theatre.**





61ST MTNZ AGM CONFERENCE & TRAINING WEEKEND

NAPIER CONFERENCE CENTRE
19 – 20 MARCH 2021

Registrations for this year's MTNZ Conference are now open.
More information/details can be found at
<http://www.mtnz.org.nz/conference>



Regional Theatre Awards 2020



And the winners are



YOUTH

Youth Production- Direction

- Finn Davidson: *The Little Mermaid Jr* (MYTH)
- Bernard O'Brien & Jenna Wicks: *The Lion King Jr* (Levin Performing Arts Society)

Youth Performer – Female

- Alyssa Hartley – Ariel: *The Little Mermaid Jr* (MYTH)

Special Commendation

- Mischa O'Brien – Timon: *The Lion King Jr* (Levin Performing Arts Society)

Youth Performer – Male

- Vealata Tongati'o – King Triton: *The Little Mermaid Jr* (MYTH)

Special Commendation

- Kahu Newton – Professor: *Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs* (Levin Little Theatre)

NEW NZ PLAYS

Original Script & Productions – New NZ Short Plays

- *Chair Bro* by Benny Marama (Sunday Script Sessions)
- *Conversations with the Vampire on my Roof* by Semira Davis (Sunday Script Sessions)
- *Weed Whacker* by Emma Rattenbury (Sunday Script Sessions)

Original Script & Production – New NZ Full Length Plays

- *Four Friends & a Funeral – Tama's Tangi* by Eljon Fitzgerald



CREATIVES



Concept & Design – Play

- Jen Eccles: *Twelfth Night* (Summer Shakespeare)
- Nathan Mudge & Michiel van Echten: *Up Down Girl*
- Carl Terry: *The Jailhouse Frocks* (Foxton Little Theatre)

Concept & Design – Musical

- Crew: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Technical Design & Operation

- Karlen Redfern: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Special Commendation

- Jack Tankersley: *The Pirates of Penzance* (Manawatu Theatre Society)

Choreography

- Hannah McDowall: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Special Commendation

- Kate Martin: *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* (Levin Little Theatre)

Debut Director – Play

- Eljon Fitzgerald: *Four Friends & a Funeral – Tama's Tangi*

Debut Director – Musical

- Finn Davidson: *The Little Mermaid Jr* (MYTH)

CREATIVES



Musical Director

- Barry Jones: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Special Commendation – Debut Musical Directors

- Sarah Judd: *The Little Mermaid Jr* (MYTH)
- Asaria Sali: *The Lion King Jr* (Levin Performing Arts Society)
- Danielle Grove: *The Last Five Years* (Three Divas & a Queen)

Direction – Play

- Ryan Burnell: *The Jailhouse Frocks* (Foxton Little Theatre)

Direction – Musical

- Andrea Maxwell: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

PERFORMERS

Ensemble – Play

- *Four Friends & a Funeral – Tama's Tangi*



Ensemble – Musical

- *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Cameo – Play

- Matthew Kilsby-Halliday – Max: *Things My Mother Taught Me* (Foxton Little Theatre)

Cameo – Musical

- Katte Johnston – Sister Mary Lazarus: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Connection Between Characters – One Act Play

- Karmeehan Senthilnathan – Actor 1 & Amalia Calder – Actor 2: *Homemade Heartbeats* (Sunday Script Sessions)

Connection Between Characters – Best Stage Kiss

- Cam Dickons – Parker & Leona Revell – Gloria: *Weed Whacker* (Sunday Script Sessions)

Connection Between Characters – Full Length Play

- Trudy Pearson – Mum & Lily Harper – Mattie: *Up Down Girl*



Connection Between Characters – Musical

- Matthew McEwen – Joey, Connor Watson – Pablo & Frazer Lynn – TJ: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Emerging Performer – Play: Female

- Lily Harper – Mattie: *Up Down Girl*

Emerging Performer – Play: Male

- Karmeehan Senthilnathan – Chair: *Chair Bro* / Karmeehan Senthilnathan – Actor 1: *Homemade Heartbeats* (Sunday Script Sessions)

Emerging Performer – Musical

- Kristy Bullians – Velma Kelly: *CHICAGO* (Levin Performing Arts Society)

PERFORMERS

Performance in a Short Play

- Karmeehan Senthilnathan – Chair: *Chair Bro* / Karmeehan Senthilnathan – Actor 1: *Homemade Heartbeats* (Sunday Script Sessions)

Male Supporting Actor – Play

- Jack Edens – Malvolio: *Twelfth Night* (Summer Shakespeare)

Male Supporting Actor – Musical

- Shannan Jacobs – Curtis Shank: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Female Supporting Actor – Play

- Kim Stevenson – Gloria Romano: *The Jailhouse Frocks* (Foxton Little Theatre)

Female Supporting Actor – Musical

- Jo Sale – Mother Superior: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Male Actor – Play

- Ryan Burnell – Gabe: *Things My Mother Taught Me* (Foxton Little Theatre)

Male Actor – Musical

- Chris Thompson – Sweaty Eddie: *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

Female Actor – Play

- Lisa Swinbanks – Olivia: *Twelfth Night* (Summer Shakespeare)
- Trudy Pearson – Mum: *Up Down Girl*
- Sonya Grimstrup – Cathy Monroe: *The Jailhouse Frocks* (Foxton Little Theatre)



Female Actor – Musical

- Chelsea Sheehan-Gaiger – Cathy Hiatt: *The Last Five Years* (Three Divas a Queen)

Gordon Alve Technical Award

- Karlen Redfern

Outstanding, Innovative & Creative Thinking

- ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS – *SISTER ACT*

Outstanding Community Spirit – The Little Community That Could

- Taihape Drama Club – *MAMMA MIA!*

People's Choice Award

- *SISTER ACT* (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)



THEATRE FANS LOOK FORWARD TO RETURNING TO BROADWAY

(by Leigh Scheps – 12 March 2021)



The rumble of a subway train, the rattle of a taxi. The orchestra warming up. The bell ringing to note the imminent end of intermission. The sound of thunderous applause after the 11 o'clock number. The emotional connection to the story portrayed on stage. Those are things audiences miss these days as live theater has pivoted online.

“It’s the buzz when you’re walking down the streets,” said theatergoer Dave Shwide of Long Island, of what excites him before a Broadway show. “It’s like Disney World for adults, but for Broadway shows.” Imagine 45th Street, jam-packed before an 8 p.m. curtain, with lines of patrons intertwining from *Dear Evan Hansen* to *Come From Away* and *Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*.

The third-grade Jackson Heights, Queens, schoolteacher misses the theater, but he’s hopeful to be in a seat some day soon. Shwide is one of many fans who lent their voices to a new campaign that centers around the anticipation of Broadway’s return. Says another fan in the campaign, “I want to be wherever a show is opening up when we get back.”

As of 12 March, Broadway will have been shut down for an entire year, putting about 100,000 people in the industry out of work. Several shows have already announced they will not be returning, including *Frozen*, *Mean Girls* and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* It’s unknown when surviving and new productions will be allowed to resume. Some insiders estimate it will happen this fall, while others suggest even later.

For many, live theater carries the feeling of being a part of an exclusive club, a special shared experience with only those in the room at that exact moment. If something happens on stage at that particular show, only that audience is witness to it. It's a form of art that brings out raw emotions, leading you everywhere from curious, angry, sad and happy to carefree and humming along to "Popular" on the way out. Throughout the pandemic, live theater shifted in order to keep it going and artists used streaming platforms as a new way to reach audiences. Because in many ways, art cannot be appreciated unless there's an audience to bear witness.

Until live theater resumes, the memories of the shows we've seen keep the passion burning. And one day, Broadway will return with new stories to shed a light on. *Hadestown* was one of the last shows Shwide saw before Broadway shuttered. He and his wife are ready to be transported into another world as soon as the curtain rises. And Shwide knows that whatever show it will be, it's going to be explosive. "It doesn't matter if I'm sitting in the back row up on top," he says.

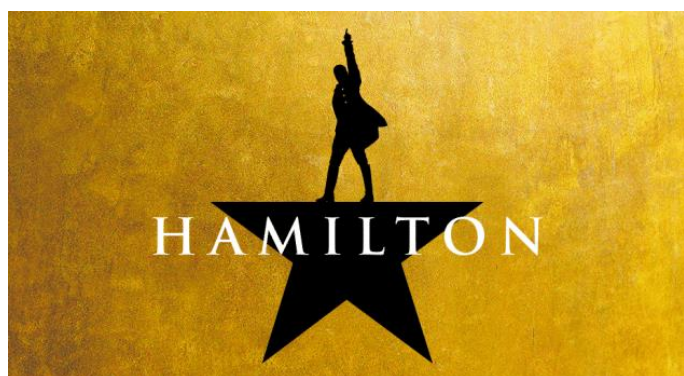
"You go to baseball games, you're waiting for that slugger to hit the home run. But when you go to Broadway, it's guaranteed. You know that home runs come in."



Musical
Theatre
Australia

Musical
Theatre
Australia

Musical
Theatre
Australia



HAMILTON cast announced

HAMILTON's original Tony®, Grammy®, Olivier and Pulitzer Prize winning creative team have confirmed the full company for the new Australian production opening at the Sydney Lyric Theatre, beginning 17 March 2021.

The Australian company is led by **Jason Arrow** as Alexander Hamilton, **Chloé Zuel** as Eliza Hamilton, **Lyndon Watts** as Aaron Burr, **Akina Edmonds** as Angelica Schuyler, **Matu Ngaropo** as George Washington, **Victory Ndukwe** as Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson, **Shaka Cook** as Hercules Mulligan/James Madison, **Marty Alix** as John Laurens/Philip Hamilton, **Elandrah Eramiha** as Peggy Schuyler/Maria Reynolds and **Brent Hill** as King George III.

They are joined by Kirrah Amosa, Daniel Assetta, Kyla Bartholomeusz, Isaac Bradley, Olivia Carniato, Luca Dinardo, Jeffery Duffy, Keanu Gonzalez, Winston Hillyer, Jimmie “J.J.” Jeter, Julian Kuo, Iosefa Laga’aia, Stefan Lagoulis, Ashton Lash, Loreda Malcolm, Jayme Jo Massoud, James Maxfield, Callan Purcell, Zelia Rose, Tainga Savage, Jas Smith-Sua, Tigist Strode, Kim Taylor, Romina Villafranca and Zachary Webster completing the Australian company of 35 performers.

HAMILTON's Writer and Composer Lin-Manuel Miranda commented;

I am incredibly excited by the cast we have assembled for the premiere of *HAMILTON* in Australia. While theatres around the world have been forced to temporarily shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have taken this time to bring together a truly incredible ensemble to tell this story. Led by Jason Arrow as Alexander Hamilton, this cast has such incredible talent, warmth and power. I know they will thrill and move audiences in Sydney when it's safe to return.

HAMILTON's Choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler said;

As a choreographer, there's nothing more thrilling than to see the team's vision come to life on stage, and with *HAMILTON* companies around the world, that vision has just been dazzling, time and time again. But I think we're going to be pushing things to new heights with the exciting company that's been assembled in Australia. Their talent and passion are all simply top notch, and I simply cannot wait for the world to see them!

HAMILTON's Orchestrations/Co-Arranger Alex Lacamoire said;

The score for *HAMILTON* makes large musical demands of its actors as it requires a specialised kind of dexterity to execute the complex songs. I was delighted to find so many skilled performers in Australia and I'm excited about the local talent that we've assembled, because I feel they will interpret our show's music with immense power and passion.

HAMILTON's Director Thomas Kail added;

I have been deeply impressed by the exceptionally talented and diverse candidates from all over Australia and New Zealand. The level of talent that will play in Sydney is first-rate – rivalling both Broadway and the West End. I cannot wait for audiences to watch this dynamic cast dazzle eight times a week.

The Australian production of *HAMILTON* at the Sydney Lyric Theatre is currently on sale. Due to unprecedented demand, this production is now booking through to 5 September 2021. Tickets only available at Ticketmaster.

HAMILTON premiered on Broadway in August 2015 to wide critical and audience acclaim. The show has won Tony®, Grammy®, and Olivier Awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and an unprecedented special citation from the Kennedy Center Honors.

Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway, *HAMILTON* has taken the story of American founding father Alexander Hamilton and created a revolutionary moment in theatre – a musical that has had a profound impact on culture, politics and education. With book, music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, direction by Thomas Kail, choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler and musical supervision and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire, *HAMILTON* is based on Ron Chernow's acclaimed biography.



***FROZEN* to reopen Her Majesty's Theatre this June**

Disney's *FROZEN* will have the honour of being the first musical to re-open the magnificent Her Majesty's Theatre since the pandemic began, when the much-anticipated Melbourne season of the hit Broadway musical opens in June 2021. Tickets are on sale via www.frozenthemusical.com.au

The incredible new production from the producers of *Aladdin*, *The Lion King* and *MARY POPPINS* opens at Melbourne's Her Majesty's Theatre in June 2021, following its successful Australian premiere in Sydney in December 2020.

The Australian principal cast features Melbourne's **Jemma Rix** in the role of Elsa, **Courtney Monsma** as Anna, **Matt Lee** as Olaf, **Thomas McGuane** as Hans, **Sean Sinclair** as Kristoff, **Aljin Abella** as Weselton and sharing the role of Sven, **Jonathan MacMillan** and **Lochie McIntrye**.

Adapted from the Disney film and original 1844 fairy tale by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen The Snow Queen, *FROZEN* is brought to fresh theatrical life in this luxurious new musical.

FROZEN's journey sweeps audiences up into its thrilling world of adventure and classic comedy. While it does feature true love, the story has become beloved around the world for breaking the princess mold of girls needing to be saved by a prince, instead, focusing on the bond of two sisters, Elsa and Anna.

The stage production features a full score, including 12 new songs from the original Academy Award-winning songwriters written especially for the stage.

FROZEN opened on Broadway at the St James Theatre in March 2018 with the highest box office advance in Broadway history. *FROZEN* was also the highest grossing new musical of its Broadway season in its first year on Broadway. Its global footprint has expanded to include a North American tour, with productions due to open on the West End as well as Germany and Japan. The Australian production was the first Disney Theatrical Productions show to open worldwide since the COVID-19 pandemic shut down theatres across the globe in March 2020.

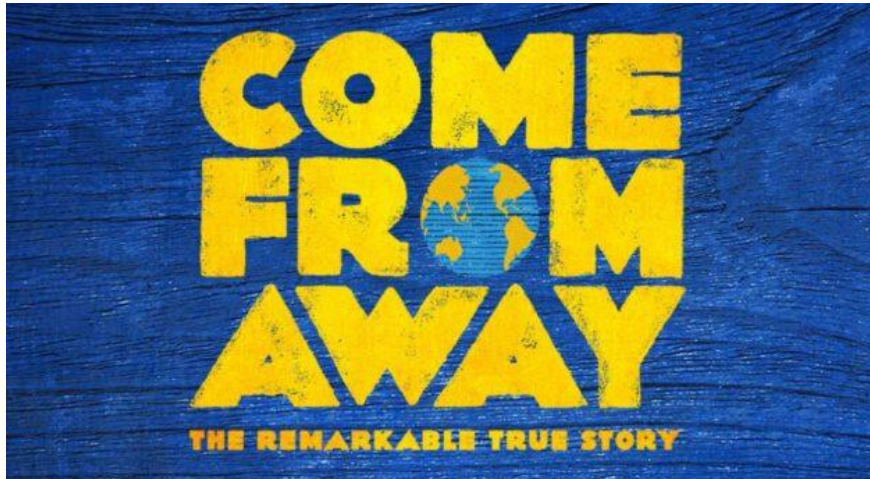
The animated film *FROZEN* was released by Disney on 19 November 2013 and was a critical and box office smash, earning over USD\$1.28 billion in worldwide box office revenue and becoming the highest-grossing animated film at the time as well as the highest grossing musical film, before being surpassed by the remake of *The Lion King* in 2019. *FROZEN II* had the highest all-time worldwide opening for an animated film and went on to gross USD\$1.45 billion worldwide.

Ticket Information

Performances from 9 June 2021

Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne

Book at www.frozenthemusical.com.au



COME FROM AWAY reopens in Australia with its first performance worldwide

On September 11, 2001 the world stopped.
On September 12, 2001 their stories moved us all.

Recently award-winning musical *COME FROM AWAY* had its first performance in Australia 10 months since theatres were shut down due to COVID-19. The performance marked the long-awaited re-launch of its 2021 Australian tour, which takes in Brisbane and Sydney after breaking all box office records at the Comedy Theatre in Melbourne.

The Australian company is the first to re-take the stage worldwide, with Broadway, London, Toronto and North American tour counterparts on hiatus.

COME FROM AWAY follows the incredible real-life journey of 7,000 air passengers who became grounded in Gander, Newfoundland in Canada in the wake of the September 11 tragedy. The small community that welcomed the 'come from aways' into their lives provided hope and compassion to those in need. Award-winning husband and wife duo **David Hein** and **Irene Sankoff** (book, music and lyrics), travelled to Newfoundland and interviewed thousands of locals, compiling their stories to share with the world.

Producer Rodney Rigby said that whilst the theatre industry around the world is facing its greatest crisis due to COVID-19, Australia is in an enviable position.

The Australian production is incredibly fortunate to raise the curtain again. We are able to do so because of the resilience of every day Australians, who have a spirit of kindness and humanity that we have seen throughout the bush fires and the pandemic – it is the same spirit that *COME FROM AWAY* embodies.

In 2019, along with being voted Ticketmaster's 'Ticket of the Year' by Australian audiences, the musical won a Tony Award and four Olivier Awards including Best New Musical, Best Theatre Choreographer, Best Sound Design and Outstanding Achievement in Music, along with four Broadway World UK awards. In 2020, the musical added to its international award tally with five Green Room awards including Best Production and Best Ensemble.

Now, more than ever, *COME FROM AWAY* is the perfect show for our time; an opportunity to come together and celebrate an inspirational tale of hope and humanity.



●
COMING SOON



(Wallace Development Company Theatre)



August 2021
(Regent on Broadway)

**LEGALLY
BLONDE**
The Musical

November/December 2021
(Wallace Development Company Theatre)