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WELCOME

Michael Hurst is a bold visionary. With boundless energy, infectious enthusiasm and fierce intelligence, he is a master at taking well-known works and turning them on their heads. Whether it's the songs of Brel, the works of Shakespeare and Brecht or musicals like CABARET, Michael has demanded that we re-consider the material. And we do. And we like what we see.

He is the perfect director to take on the demands of staging CHICAGO within the intimate confines of Q Theatre. His vision is backed by the tremendous talent of his creative team; musical director John Gibson, choreographer Shona McCullagh (part of the CABARET in the Spiegeltent dreamteam); set designer John Harding, costume designer Lesley Burkes-Harding and lighting designer Sean Lynch.



Our top notch cast is headed by Lucy Lawless, Amanda Billing and Shane Cortese. All of whom have taken time out from their busy television careers to work with Michael on this project. It's a great pleasure to have them all back working for Auckland Theatre Company. More than half the cast were in CABARET; welcome back guys for another great Kander and Ebb musical. And welcome too, to the cast members who join us for CHICAGO.

Big thanks to Chelsea Adams (our fabulous stage manager) for holding it all together and to our regular Auckland Theatre Company production team for all their tremendous efforts in getting CHICAGO to the stage for this razzle dazzle season.

Enjoy, enjoy!



Colin McColl
Artistic Director
Auckland Theatre Company

THE VODAFONE SEASON OF

CHICAGO

THE MUSICAL

BOOK BY LYRICS BY

JOHN KANDER FRED EBB & BOB FOSSE FRED EBB

BASED ON THE PLAY 'CHICAGO' BY

MAURINE DALLAS WATKINS

CAST

Lucy Lawless — Velma Kelly | Amanda Billing — Roxie Hart
Shane Cortese — Billy Flynn | Andrew Grainger — Amos Hart
Colleen Davis — Mama Morton | Sandra Rasmussen — Tallulah
Hannah Tasker-Poland — Liz/Foreman/Squaw/Fire Girl | Lavinia Uhila — Annie/Kitty
Rebekkah Schoonbeek — June | Katie Swift — Hunyak
Will Barling — Mona | Stephen Butterworth — Fogarty/Harrison/Clerk
Mike Edward — Fred Casely/Harry/Aaron | James Luck — Bailiff/Judge
Reporters & Chorus — Hannah, Lavinia, Rebekkah, Katie, Will,
Stephen, Mike and James

BAND

Stephen Thomas — Drums | Brett Adams — Guitar

Jeff Henderson — Sax and others | Cameron McArthur — Bass

CREATIVE

Michael Hurst — Director | Shona McCullagh — Choreographer
John Gibson — Musical Director | John Harding — Set Designer
Lesley Burkes-Harding — Costume Designer | Sean Lynch — Lighting Designer
James Luck — Dance Captain

PRODUCTION

Paul Nicoll — Technical & Production Manager

Fern Christie — Company Manager | Chelsea Adams — Stage Manager

Natalie Braid — Assistant Stage Manager

Rachel Marlow — Lighting Operator | Rory Maguire — Sound Engineer

Natasha Pearl — Props Master | Petra Verweij — Costume Assistant

Marion Olsen + Jo Hawke — Costume Cutters

Sally Bourner — Costume Assistant Intern | Minera Mallete — Machinist

Thomas Press — Flyman | 2Construct — Set Construction

Katrina Turkilsen — Intern Observing Operations

AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR HELP WITH THIS PRODUCTION:

Brendon Durey at LiveFX, New Zealand Dance Company, New Zealand Opera, First Scene, Jo Kilgour

The Vodafone Season of CHICAGO is the seventh main bill production in Auckland Theatre Company's 2013 Season, Futurity. The show is approximately 2 hours 15 minutes with an interval. Please remember to switch off all mobile phones, pagers and watch alarms. Filming or photography is strictly prohibited.

The Vodafone Season of CHICAGO

Vodafone is proud to be a sponsor of Auckland Theatre Company and to bring you The Vodafone Season of CHICAGO.

As well as being a leading total telecommunications company we're also passionate about helping Kiwis enjoy some of the things we love to do in our free time – arts, music and sport – through our sponsorship partnership.

We're strongly committed to strengthening local communities too. The Vodafone New Zealand Foundation has invested over \$16m in charitable projects since 2003; and the Vodafone Foundation Canterbury Fund, in partnership with the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal Trust, is giving \$4m to help rebuild communities, services and places in Canterbury.

But enough about us.

Please enjoy Michael Hurst's rendition of this classic Kander, Ebb and Fosse musical. With an impressive cast including Lucy Lawless, Amanda Billing and Shane Cortese this production of CHICAGO will be enjoyed by so many New Zealanders.



From the Director

CHICAGO, "A story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery". Miscarriages of justice, extra-marital affairs, lying politicians, corrupt lawyers, mindless reality television shows, the prurient interest of the public and the press in the salacious activities of celebrities, the hollow ring of democracy in the face of self-interest – sound familiar? "Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose."

In accordance with Shakespeare's maxim that the purpose of theatre, or "playing", is to "hold the mirror up to nature" (Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 2), we have given CHICAGO a bit of a shake. For me, theatre should never be too safe. We should always be seeking to provoke, to surprise and to stimulate, as well as to entertain. Productions that preserve ideas in a kind of theatrical aspic do little to transport audiences.

It was with this in mind that I invited John Gibson and Shona McCullagh to work with me on CHICAGO, and we have had a fabulous time making it together. Without Shona's choreographic genius and John's musical brilliance, there would be no show, and I am deeply grateful to them for both their commitment to the idea and their willingness to take things further.

I want to thank John Harding and Lesley Burkes-Harding too, set and costume designers, with whom I spent many stimulating hours working through the possibilities for this production. Their well-honed sense of theatre and story development, and their invigorating approach to problem solving were invaluable in developing both the look and flow of the work.

Then there is the talented, scintillating and at times absolutely crazy cast. It's been a joy and a privilege to explore this material with them. We've worked really hard, we've had fun (what point would there be to it if we didn't?) and we've made something that I believe will resonate with audiences of all ages.

"Come on babe, we're gonna brush the sky..."

- Michael Hurst





Creating all that jazz

We love helping Auckland Theatre Company tell great stories.

Stories that inspire, entertain and grab at our hearts. It's because we care about the arts and enriching our communities that we support great theatre.

So, sit back and enjoy the razzle dazzle of tonight's show.

THE CAST



Lucy Lawless (Velma Kelly)

Lucy Lawless can currently be seen as Diane, the girlfriend of Nick Offerman's Ron Swanson, on the critically acclaimed comedy PARKS AND RECREATION. Lawless did five episodes of the show last season, and is expected to return in the fall. She was also just seen in Academy Award winning director Jane Campion's miniseries TOP OF THE LAKE.

Before joining the hit NBC comedy, Lucy spent three years working in her homeland New Zealand on the STARZ series SPARTACUS. Lawless' portrayal of the complex and often wicked Lucretia delighted critics and fans alike. The show broke all records for STARZ and turned the network into a top destination for original programming.

Lawless rose to international fame through her groundbreaking performance as the title character in XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS, the cult hit series also executive produced by SPARTACUS producers Rob Tapert and Sam Raimi. She solidified her "fan-boy cred" when she joined the critically acclaimed SyFy Channel series BATTLESTAR GALACTICA as D'Anna/Number Three.

In addition to these roles, Lucy has continued to demonstrate her versatility with a wide range of television work, both comedy and drama, in such notable projects as FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS, CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM, THE L WORD, CSI: MIAMI, BURN NOTICE, and THE X-FILES.

In film, she played Aspen in Adam Sandler's BEDTIME STORIES, Mother Superior in the cult favorite BITCH SLAP, a dominatrix in EUROTRIP, and had cameos in Raimi's SPIDER MAN, and Tapert's BOOGEYMAN.

Lawless is a member of the board of the Starship Foundation, the fundraising body for the Starship Children's Hospital in her hometown Auckland. She was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2004.



Amanda Billing (Roxie Hart)

When Amanda starred in Auckland Theatre Company's CABARET in 2010 she thought that if that was the last show she ever did, that would be just fine. But no – turns out this year's CHICAGO takes the cake, and this time there are sequins and tattoos – what more could a girl ask for?

Amanda began her theatre career ten years ago with Silo's THE COUNTRY WIFE and followed that up with Silo's CLOUD NINE, and her core cast role as Dr Sarah Potts on SHORTLAND STREET.

She is loving working with Lucy, Shane, Andy and her jailbird cast mates (aka dance teachers) and thanks her lucky stars for Michael, John and Shona.





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VILLA MARIA

NEW ZEALAND



Shane Cortese (Billy Flynn)

Shane Cortese is one of New Zealand's most recognisable performers, with a multitude of television, film, theatre and music credits to his name. Best known for his role as Mac in TVNZ Hit Drama NOTHING TRIVIAL, Hayden Peters in five series of OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE, and 3 years as Loki/Colin in TV3's THE ALMIGHTY JOHNSONS. His Roles on NOTHING TRIVIAL and THE ALMIGHTY JOHNSONS earning him 2013 TV Guide Best on The Box 'Best Actor' Award.

Shane also played the title role of Brian in the Television New Zealand drama series BURYING BRIAN, Victor Benton in the TV3 Sitcom BROWN BRUTHAZ and had a two year stint on drama serial SHORTLAND STREET as evil Dominic Thompson – a character killed off in spectacular fashion.

Before returning to New Zealand for SHORTLAND STREET, Shane starred in musicals in London's West End and toured the United Kingdom on several occasions. Roles included Rocky and Frank'n'Furter in the new THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, Pharaoh in JOSEPH, and in ELVIS THE MUSICAL. In June 2009, he starred in the New Zealand stage production of CATS as Rum Tum Tugger.

In 2006 Shane presented the entertainment series, SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE? and won the hearts of the nation as runner up on DANCING WITH THE STARS in 2005. He met his partner, Nerida on this series; they married in early 2009 and have two sons together, Kees and Jett.

Shane also had a role on the children's series MADDIGAN'S QUEST in 2005 and on the film INSIDE that same year. In 2008 he back packed around Sri Lanka for TVNZ's award winning INTREPID JOURNEYS and had roles on LEGEND OF THE SEEKER. He also narrates SERIOUS CRASH UNIT, SPCA RESCUE and CAUSE OF DEATH UNKNOWN.

Shane also fronts his own rock 'n' roll band, The Class of 58, which has played all over New Zealand. The band plays a selection of rock 'n' roll, and have recently completed a tour of New Zealand's biggest theatres, culminating in a highly successful concert in Twin Towns, Australia. They released their debut album in the same year, and a portion of the sales went to the Starship Foundation. Earlier that year Shane supported music legend's Gerry and the Pacemakers on their tour of New Zealand. He has also appeared alongside Johnny Devlin on a special NZ tour.

A strong supporter of charities in New Zealand, Shane is an official ambassador for Variety New Zealand, The Breast Cancer Research Trust, MOTAT and The Childrens Autism Foundation, as well as being an avid supporter of the Starship Foundation.



Andrew Grainger (Amos Hart)

Andrew's career as an actor began in the 1980's – born out of a love of musicals. The much celebrated shows SOUTH PACIFIC, SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS and LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, all performed on London's West End, were amongst his first professional productions.

For Auckland Theatre Company, he has appeared in THE HERETIC, ANNE BOLEYN, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, THE TWITS, CALENDAR GIRLS, MARY STUART, POOR BOY, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, OLIVER! and LE SUD.

Originally from Britain, Andrew emmigrated to New Zealand and has rapidly built up an impressive collection of credits, having appeared in local television programmes SHORTLAND STREET, OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE, THE MILLION DOLLAR CON MAN, LIFE'S A RIOT, THE CULT, SPARTACUS and SUPER CITY.

Highlights from the UK include roles in THE BILL, ROSEMARY AND THYME, HEARTBEAT, BAD GIRLS and EASTENDERS; appearing in the feature film MEAN MACHINE; and working alongside Robert Redford in SPY GAME.

NZ film credits include GENESIS, SKY RUNNERS and AVALON HIGH.

Andrew also featured in Silo Theatre's productions of RUBEN GUTHRIE and ASSASSINS.



Hannah Tasker-Poland (Liz / Foreman / Squaw / Fire Girl)

Hannah Tasker-Poland is multi-disciplined, performing since the age of 5. Originally from Hawkes Bay, she has been based in Auckland since 2006 and graduated from Unitec in 2008 with a BA in Performing and Screen Arts, majoring in Contemporary Dance. Since then she has danced professionally with various choreographers and companies such as Shona McCullagh, Fleur de Their, Zoe Schofield (US), Riki von Falken (Germany), Southern Lights Dance Company, The Loons Circus Theatre Company and is currently with The New Zealand Dance Company.

Film/TV credits include a core-cast acting role in the 2007 TVNZ Drama Rude Awakenings, a featured dancer and stunt performer on SPARTACUS, LEGEND OF THE SEEKER and THE HOBBIT and a lead acting/stunt fighting role in three up-coming, internationally released short films with Weta Workshops Wellington, directed by Lee Tamahori.

Hannah also choreographs and performs her own unique blend of dark burlesque/cabaret/fetish shows for various high end events across the country.

This is Hannah's second racy adventure with Auckland Theatre Company, after making her debut with the company in the 2010 season of CABARET, and is thrilled to be back amongst the madness.

Colleen Davis (Mama Morton)

Colleen last appeared for Auckland Theatre Company as Audrey in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. She was also Fraulein Kost in Michael Hurst's celebrated production of CABARET.

Her television appearances include guest roles on SHORTLAND STREET, SPARTACUS and played Suzy/Saga on THE ALMIGHTY JOHNSONS, season 3.

Colleen performs antique female blues as Coco Davis and is soon to release her debut album on Fireplace Records.



Sandra Rasmussen (Tallulah)

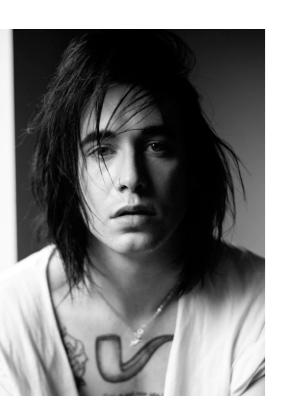
Sandra can't wait to put on her performers hat after moving cities and spending a huge year establishing Auckland City School of the Arts, the hottest new studio in Auckland, training young people in all forms of dance and musical theatre.

Sandra began her theatre training as an intern at the Court under the artistic directorship of Elric Hooper, subsequently performing in over 100 plays throughout New Zealand, choreographing countless others and directing many more. Sandra last appeared for Auckland Theatre Company as Mabel in STEPPING OUT and choreographed LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS.

From age 13 Sandra and Michael Hurst did many plays together at Papanui High School in Christchurch, and the opportunity for them to do CHICAGO together so many years later for Auckland Theatre Company is ridiculously exciting!



12



Will Barling (Mona)

Will graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance where he majored in contemporary dance, gaining a National Certificate (2005) and National Diploma (2006). Since then Will has worked with Shona McCullagh in her work MONDO NUOVO, followed by Ann Dewey's project PAPER TIGER.

Will then travelled the world as a vocalist and dancer for Grayboy Entertainment and spent some time modelling in Europe and Asia.

Upon returning to New Zealand Will performed in the inaugural season of the Southern Lights Dance Company, Loons Circus Theatre's HAPPY HOME ROAD, Auckland Theatre Company's CABARET, and MONSTER BURLESQUE. He was a lead vocalist in Dionysos Musical Theatre's THE RED CHAIR and Anita Hutchins ELLA AND WILL.

Will also toured to Holland earlier this year with Douglas Wright Dance Company's RAPT, performed in the highly successful tour of K'RD STRIP - A PLACE TO STAND with Okareka Dance Company, and has recently returned from Dunedin after working with the Fortune Theatre in their season of ATLAR BOYZ.

Will loves performing in anything that pushes him into new and exciting arenas and is loving working with ATC again.



Mike Edward (Fred Casely / Harry / Aaron)

Mike is a graduate of Unitec Performing and Screen Arts School. His Auckland stage highlights include leads in TRAVESTIES, 39 STEPS and CABARET for Auckland Theatre Company, and MACBETH at the Silo Theatre. South Island highlights include GREASE, ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW, and THE COUNTRY WIFE at the Court Theatre.

Mike is co-director of a cirque physical theatre company The Dust Palace. They have toured New Zealand festivals over the last few years with their shows BURLESQUE AS YOU LIKE IT, VENUS IS..., CIRQUE NON SEQUITOR, LOVE AND MONEY, ...WITH A STRANGER... and most recently SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT.

His television highlights include THE STRIP, MERCY PEAK, XENA, HERCULES, POWER RANGERS and SPARTACUS. Throughout 2012/2013 he was a regular cast member on both SHORTLAND ST and NOTHING TRIVIAL.

Mike is a proud member of NZ actors equity.

Stephen Butterworth (Fogarty / Harrison / Clerk)

Stephen has over 20 years professional experience in stage and screen having worked in all the major theatres throughout New Zealand.

Productions include an Australasian tour of WEST SIDE STORY, THE SECRET GARDEN, BLUE SMOKE, WAIORA, SWEET CHARITY, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST for Young Vic Theatre Company in association with NZ Festival of Arts, and the opera THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS.

He has appeared on screen in the recent remake of EVIL DEAD, NIGHTS IN THE GARDEN OF SPAIN, as well as SPARTACUS, NOTHING TRIVIAL and is the voice of Prince Vekar in POWER RANGERS.

Stephen recently starred as Tina in the highly acclaimed HUI for Auckland Arts Festival 2013 and is extremely excited to work with Michael, Shona, John and the team again on this extraordinary production of CHICAGO.



Rebekkah Schoonbeek (June)

Rebekkah Schoonbeek is a professional dancer and singer who has been dancing since the age of 8. She trained in New York at Broadway Dance Centre in Manhattan and brings her knowledge to those she teaches here in New Zealand. She is currently a freelance dancer and singer.

Also a dance teacher at The Dance Studio and Fusion Dance Studio, Rebekkah has worked with many Auckland schools as part of their dance education programmes and productions. She has recently finished working as a dancer on the TV show X FACTOR.

Other productions and performances include lead roles in the New Zealand Premier of Disney's HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL, flash mobs in Time Square, the role of Lisa in 42ND STREET, Little Cosset in LES MISERABLES, music videos, and various dance shows and performances.

She is a lover of anything theatrical and loves that she can live her life through dance. Being able to inspire people through the Arts is truly amazing. This is her first show with Auckland Theatre Company and she is looking forward to see what other opportunities come her way.



14



Katie Swift (Hunyak)

Katie Swift is a relative newcomer to the Auckland scene, having been based in London and performing worldwide for the last 10 years until relocating here earlier this year. Gaining a scholarship to Musical Theatre College at 16 and being selected for professional work whilst studying, kick-started Katie's career, and a stint choreographing for Willy Russell (writer of BLOOD BROTHERS) and Tim Firth (writer of CALENDAR GIRLS) at The Edinburgh Fringe helped too.

Since graduating, Katie has performed all over the world, taken Dance Captain jobs on cruise ships, UK and International tours, appeared on stage and in music videos for artists such as Scissor Sisters, Calvin Harris, Pink, David Guetta, One Direction and more. TV and Film work includes BBC, ITV, Channel 4, TV3, Various TV adverts and feature film ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (Julie Taymor).

Katie is loving being here in beautiful New Zealand and has so far appeared on TV3's X FACTOR as a dancer, and for the 'Cure Kids' red nose day. When not performing you can find Katie teaching Pilates and Xtend Barre at Studio 3, Newmarket. Katie also dances with the Breakers' Cheerleading squad. She is delighted to be appearing in CHICAGO with the wonderful Auckland Theatre Company, and hopes you enjoy the show!

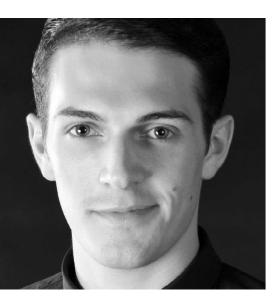
Lavinia Uhila (Annie / Kitty)

Lavinia is a New Zealand born Tongan who graduated from the National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Arts (NASDA) in 2009. Her triple threat skills have allowed her to travel and perform for various audiences around New Zealand.

Some of Lavinia's highlights include singing as a soloist in Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park, her role in Auckland Theatre Company plays IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY) (as Elizabeth) and SINARELLA (as the lead)

Since moving back to Auckland, Lavinia has been developing her passion for producing both film & television and physical theatre.





James Luck (Bailiff / Judge / Dance Captain)

Training in a huge range of dance styles since the age of 5, James has travelled all over the world working with artists such as Sia, Jessie J, Birds of Tokyo, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Little Mix (winners of the X Factor UK) and was an original member of the Locreado Dance Company in Sydney Australia.

After a long stint working with Costa Cruises throughout Europe and South America, James has travelled to New Zealand and is excited to be a part of Auckland Theatre Company's Production of CHICAGO.



BDO Auckland are proud supporters of the Auckland Theatre Company, working quietly in the background for the past ten years to keep Auckland arts on centre stage.





THE BAND



Stephen Thomas – Drums

Stephen Thomas is a professional drummer who recently received a First Class Honours degree from Auckland University in Jazz Performance.

Stephen became a working musician at the age of seventeen with the well known kiwi funk/reggae band Spacifix. His drumming was featured on the band's Tui Award winning 2006 release 'Much Love', and he was featured in music videos and television appearances with Spacifix, including nine part TV2 documentary series FROM HENDERSON TO HOLLYWOOD.

Some of his performance highlights with Spacifix include playing at famed 'The Roxy' nightclub in Los Angeles, opening for well known reggae band UB40 in Tonga, performing at the opening of The Vector Arena in Auckland, and performing countless shows in New Zealand and Australia, including the Parachute Festival and CocaCola Christmas in the Park.

More recently, as a freelance performing artist, Stephen has toured with NZ band Avalanche City to Manila for the Wanderland Festival, and around Australia for the Big Day Out tour in 2013. Stephen has also recently been touring NZ with acclaimed jazz saxophonist Nathan Haines in support of his two latest records 'Vermillion Skies' and 'The Poet's Embrace'.

As a recording artist Stephen has appeared with artists such as Seth Haapu, Lisa Crawley, Sam Allen, Avalanche City, Spacifix, Noah Slee, Ngatapa Black and Caitlin Smith to name a few. Stephen also played on and co-produced a NZ Christmas compilation album 'A Very Kiwi Christmas' (2010), which was nominated for a Pacific Music Award.



Jeff Henderson – Sax and other instruments

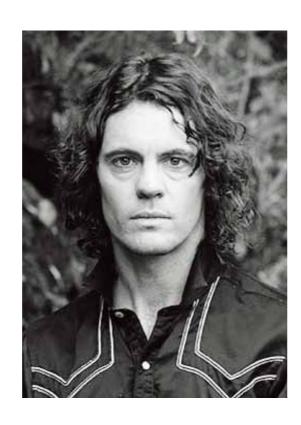
Jeff Henderson lives in Auckland where he makes music, performance, scores and instruments.

Brett Adams – Guitar

Brett Adams returned from the UK in 2003 after a 14 year stint in the UK. He travelled there as guitarist for NZ 80's pop gods The Mockers. After the demise of The Mockers, Adams formed The Julie Dolphin with fellow ex-pat Dianne Swann. Things went well with that band, and on their return from the UK they formed The Bads. In this incarnation, they have released three albums and have written and performed music for TV, including the popular series HUNGER FOR THE WILD, and more recently, COASTERS.

Adams has also spent the last three years as Tim Finn's main man on guitar. They have toured together and Adams was involved with Tim's studio albums 'The Conversation' and 'The View is Worth The Climb', on vocals and guitar.

Brett has also recently performed in the theatre productions WHITE CLOUD and the Auckland Theatre Company's POOR BOY and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.



Cameron McArthur - Bass

A recent graduate from The University of Auckland, Cameron has become an active member of the Auckland jazz scene, performing on both electric and double bass

Since completing his BMus (jazz double bass major) in 2012, Cameron has performed with international jazz musicians such as Sean Wayland, Mark Isaacs, Mark Lockett (AUS) and Benny Lackner (GER), as well as local jazz musicians such as Roger Manins, Caroline Manins, Nathan Haines, Ron Samsom, Kevin Field, Caitlin Smith and Dixon Nacey. He is also a current member of The Auckland Jazz Orchestra and The BGA Big Band.

As well as performing in the Auckland jazz scene, Cameron has been involved with shows such as THE RED CHAIR, held in the Q Theatre in 2012.



18 **19**

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Michael Hurst - Director

In a career spanning over 30 years, Michael has become one of New Zealand's leading actors and directors. His theatre credits include roles as varied as Mozart in Peter Schaeffer's AMADEUS, Riff-Raff in Richard O'Brian's THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW and The Widow Twankey in ALADDIN. His musical roles include Koko in THE MIKADO, Judge Turpin in Stephen Sondheim's SWEENEY TODD, Macheath and Tiger Brown in Brecht and Weil's THE THREEPENNY OPERA, King Herod in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR and the Emcee in three different productions of CABARET, two of which he also directed. Michael is also renowned for his Shakespearean roles including Hamlet, Macbeth, Richard III, Touchstone in AS YOU LIKE IT and the Fool in KING LEAR. In 2011 Michael played the role of American abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko in the Auckland Theatre Company's critically acclaimed production of RED, by John Logan, and in 2012 he played Christopher, the patriarch of an extraordinary family in Nina Raine's brilliant play TRIBES, for Silo Theatre.

Michael's solo show NO HOLDS BARD, devised and written with Natalie Medlock and Daniel Musgrove, was premiered to great success at the NZ International festival of the Arts in March 2012, and has since played throughout New Zealand and at the Edinburgh Festival, where it was described in one five star review as a "tsunami of a performance".

Michael's directing credits include SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER, HAMLET, MACBETH, KING LEAR, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, 'TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE, THE THREEPENNY OPERA, ROMEO AND JULIET, LADIES NIGHT by Stephen Sinclair and Anthony McCarten, WEED by Anthony McCarten, Joe Orton's LOOT, HAPPY DAYS by Samuel Beckett, and more recently the Auckland Theatre Company's extremely successful production of CABARET. He has also directed episodes of several US television series, including HERCULES – THE LEGENDARY JOURNEYS, XENA – WARRIOR PRINCESS, SPARTACUS – BLOOD AND SAND, SPARTACUS – GODS OF THE ARENA and SPARTACUS – VENGEANCE, as well as episodes of the NZ television series THE ALMIGHTY JOHNSONS, and the feature film JUBILEE.

Michael was a founding member of Auckland's Watershed Theatre in 1990, and is now a patron of both Q Theatre and TAPAC (the Auckland Performing Arts Centre), Chair of both the AUSA Outdoor Shakespeare Trust and The Actors Program Charitable Trust, a member of the Artistic Advisory Council of The Actors' Program, a New Zealand Arts Laureate and an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).

Michael is a proud member of New Zealand Actors' Equity.



Shona McCullagh - Choreographer

MNZM; NZ Arts Foundation Laureate

Shona is a choreographer, director, award-winning filmmaker and Founding Artistic Director of The New Zealand Dance Company.

As a freelance choreographer, Shona has created work for dance, theatre, television and film, including choreography for THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET COMPANY, XENA, HERCULES, FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING, KING KONG and SPARTACUS. She was a founding member of The Watershed Theatre and created choreography for many theatre productions there under the direction of Simon Bennett.

Shona has worked extensively with actors over the last 25 years, collaborating with the NZ Actors Company, Peta Rutter and Carl Bland in NIGHTSONG PRODUCTIONS, and with Colin McColl on EQUUS and SWEET CHARITY. Previous collaborations with Michael Hurst include CABARET, LYSISTRATA and several episodes of XENA and HERCULES. Shona was the Head Choreographer for the 2011 Rugby World Cup Opening Ceremony and is a proud member of NZ Actors' Equity. Her next project is to take The New Zealand Dance Company's production of ROTUNDA to The Holland Dance Festival.



John Harding - Set Designer

John Harding has a versatile and varied career as film production designer, art director, character and costume designer, as well as theatre and event designer, and design tutor. Recently he worked as designer on Gaylene Preston's TV series HOPE AND WIRE in Christchurch, Tom Scott's RAGE and Jason Stutter's PREDICAMENT and was the costume designer on James Cameron's epic AVATAR. John worked for Weta Workshop for five years on THE LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy in many design, construction and art director roles. He also designed and developed miniature sets, native costumes and weapons for Peter Jackson's KING KONG.

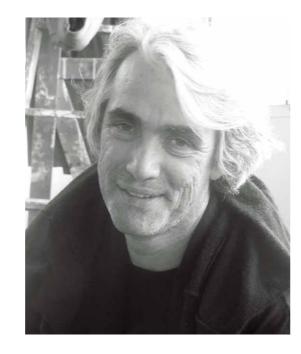
John has won many design awards from the New Zealand Film Awards for his work including PREDICAMENT, UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT, HOME BY CHRISTMAS and the short films FOG and THE KING BOYS. His work as art director includes the American telemovie FATAL CONTACT: BIRD FLU IN AMERICA, the New Zealand television series KIDNAPPED (Robert Louis Stevenson), and Larry Parr's feature film FRACTURE.

Having originally trained as a specialist art teacher at Canterbury University and Teachers College, John has extensive experience as a theatre designer and has also taught in many aspects of stage and film design at Auckland University, Unitec, New Zealand Film School and Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School.

John Gibson - Musical Director

John has been composing original music for New Zealand theatre, film, dance and television since 1980. Since that time he has composed over 100 scores and sound designs for theatre. In 2008 he received a Qantas Film and Television award for his score for Vincent Ward's film RAIN OF THE CHILDREN. This year he composed a six speaker sound design for SYDNEY BRIDGE UPSIDE DOWN and performed in Edinburgh in a comedy he wrote and directed called GORDON SIX PENCE HE IS MUSIC.

Previous works for Auckland Theatre Company include: AWATEA, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY), ON THE UPSIDE DOWN OF THE WORLD, POOR BOY, THE WASTELAND, CALENDER GIRLS, HORSEPLAY, OLIVER!, THE POHUTUKAWA TREE, THE WIFE WHO SPOKE JAPANESE IN HER SLEEP, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, WHO NEEDS SLEEP ANYWAY?, WHERE WE ONCE BELONGED, THE BLONDE THE BRUNETTE AND THE VENGEFUL REDHEAD, EQUUS, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, and the arrangements and musical direction of SWEET CHARITY.



Sean Lynch – Lighting Designer

Sean Lynch has been working in NZ professional theatre for over twenty years. He is a musician, actor, and a lighting and sound designer. He was a founding member of Electra Theatre Company in Hamilton, and is now currently residing in Auckland, where he is enjoying working with some of New Zealand's top theatre companies.

Previous sound designs include: HAVOC IN THE GARDEN (Massive Theatre Co), FLINTLOCK MUSKET (Edge Productions), YOURS TRULY (Rebel Alliance), I LOVE YOU BRO and TRIBES (Silo Theatre). Lighting designs include HAPPY DAYS, I LOVE YOU BRO, BARD DAYS NIGHT, THOM PAINE, PRIVATE LIVES and BREL. This year's other designs include PATUA (sound), THE PITCHFORK DISNEY (sound), THE HERETIC (sound), and SPEAKING IN TONGUES (lighting).

Lesley Burkes-Harding - Costume Designer

Lesley Burkes-Harding has a 30 year career in costume design. Having grown up and trained in the UK, she has since designed costumes for all sorts of theatre, opera, film and television drama of many different periods, including contemporary work. She is also a returning guest tutor in Historical Costume, which has become her speciality, at Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School, WINTEC in Hamilton and UNITEC in Auckland.

Lesley has been nominated for several of her shows at The New Zealand Film & TV Awards, such as OUT OF THE BLUE directed by Robert Sarkies, and Gaylene Preston's feature film HOME BY CHRISTMAS - telling her parents' stories about experiences during WWII. Lesley won Best Costume Design for HER MAJESTY, a coming of age drama set in 1953, and for PREDICAMENT, Jason Stutter's film, set in 1930, based on the Ronald Hugh Morrison novel of the same name. At The Chapman Trip Theatre Awards, she has been a finalist for her work on THE GODBOY, JAQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN PARIS and LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES.

Lesley has designed costumes for many other New Zealand and American television features and series filmed in New Zealand, including IKE – COUNTDOWN TO D-DAY starring Tom Selleck, LUCY, a TV feature based on the life of the great Lucille Ball, and MURDER IN GREENWICH. She also designed costuming for KIDNAPPED – a three part series of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic for the BBC.

In the last few years, Lesley was the New Zealand assistant costume designer for James Cameron's epic AVATAR and worked as a construction specialist for Weta SPFX on THE LORD OF THE RINGS. She was asked to design costuming for Orlando Bloom and Evangeline Lily in Peter Jackson's THE HOBBIT, and has even designed virtual costume for TINTIN!

Lesley has just completed work on HOPE AND WIRE, Gaylene Preston's six part TV drama for TV3, to be screened mid 2014.



This is definitely the year of The Musical - Lesley is currently designing costume for MAMMA MIA!, opening at The Civic in March 2014, and is thrilled to be asked to design for CHICAGO (and to be working for Auckland Theatre Company once again). She was part of The Mercury Theatre production team in the late 80s, and worked on many theatrical pieces before moving into film and TV work.

"It's grand to be treading the boards again with visionary old friends such as Michael, I'm having a blast."

CHICAGO AND MUSIC

Chicago was always a bad ass town and jazz was the music of danger.

While jazz was born in New Orleans, where African American music collided with the more learned society of Creole culture, it came of age in Chicago. When the blues performers came up from the Mississippi Delta to the city they forced a transformation in music, exemplified in the styles of Howling Wolf and Muddy Waters.

The jazz revolution and its embrace by whites in the 1920s mirrored the similar revolution of rock n roll in the late 50s. Interestingly, jazz and rock n roll, were both slang terms for intercourse.

In the vanguard of this jazz-age revolution, musicians like Louis Armstrong played in huge trumpet duels for the gangsters of Chicago.

Which brings us to CHICAGO the musical.

The opening riff from *All That Jazz* is not from jazz but early rock n roll from New Orleans – or possibly a further throwback. You'll hear this signature riff if you listen to songs like Shirley and Lee's *Let the Good Times Roll* and Chuck Willis' *I Don't Want To Hang Up My Rock n Roll Shoes*.

CHICAGO is a pastiche musical, which references popular old-time vaudeville acts and songs like *Nobody* by the black entertainer Bert Williams and *Hula Lou* – the actual song that the real-life Roxie listened to for three hours after she slew her lover and which you will hear in the show.

We have gradually discovered these influences through the rehearsal process.

If you watch or listen to YouTube clips of performers like Sophie Tucker (who Roxie is so keen to oust in the show) and the older singing styles of Al Jolson and even Judy Garland – completely unfashionable now – you hear performances of total passion borne of a world before a microphone, where you had to project a song over the footlights with total conviction and power.

The first actress to play Roxie was Bob's wife Gwen Verdon, the original 'Sweet Charity'. Velma was played by the dancer Chita Riviera who you can see dancing in the original movie version of WEST SIDE STORY. Both actresses were over 50 at the time they appeared in CHICAGO.

When CHICAGO opened it was deemed too dark, cynical and clever and it lost out on Tony Awards to A CHORUS LINE, which seemed at the time to be the way of the future.

What has happened to CHICAGO since then is that the world has caught up with it. In a concert revival audiences discovered that the characters were more believable than they first appeared and this proved to be true after the success of the Academy Award-winning 2002 movie version.

In the days of X Factor, Facebook, mayoral shenanigans and Lorde versus Miley Cyrus, where everyone's two seconds of fame is a reality, we are now living in the world that CHICAGO seemed to preposterously describe. Every day in every way the story of Roxie and Velma – the story of corruption and media hysteria – is played out over and over, and we no longer need the immaculate style that made this dark world palatable and attractive.

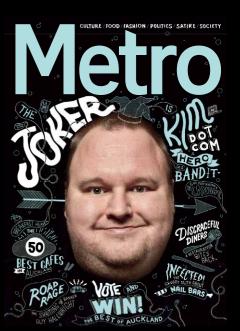
So in attempting to go forward with this piece we have discovered a wealth even older than the original show and we have seen how history doesn't move in straight lines but in huge looping circles.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my brilliant band. From the very first the concept was to have a band that showed off their technique and this kind of work would be impossible without the skill and dedication of Brett, Steve, Jeff and Cameron. Music is a living art form, so do yourselves a favour – read their bios and go and see them play – you will have a wonderful night.

- John Gibson







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Take a seat.

And play a role in creating a legacy for Auckland Theatre Company.



AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY Over the past two years Auckland Theatre Company has been fundraising to build a world class, 600 seat theatre in the heart of the Auckland Waterfront. Thanks to an array of generous funders and sponsors we have now raised \$33.1 million of the requisite \$35 million needed for this extraordinary project. Construction of the theatre is set to begin by mid 2014.

With this in mind we are turning to you, our public, to help us step over the final hurdle and secure this icon for Auckland. We would like to invite you to 'Take a Seat' in our state-of-the-art auditorium, and by doing so confirm your place in the New Zealand performing arts industry, while investing in the next generation of audiences.

You can sponsor a seat with your name or message for a donation of \$1000, which includes an invitation to an exclusive seat unveiling evening upon the theatre's completion. It's the perfect way to celebrate your passion for the arts or commemorate someone special and makes a unique gift for a loved one. With a limited number of seats available we urge you to consider this one-off opportunity while it is available.

Best wishes,

Colin

Colin McColl Artistic Director Auckland Theatre Company

KEY SUPPORTERS OF THE NEW THEATRE PROJECT











Meet some of our Take A Seat Supporters

SEAT MESSAGE: "In loving memory of Gwen Harvey"

My Aunt Gwen was once a much valued Judge's Associate who passed away nine days before her 97th birthday on October 10, 2013. She died peacefully sitting on her sofa in the late afternoon, a glass of port at her elbow. Gwen was the last relative of my mother's generation. I wanted to remember her in a special way. Gwen enjoyed live theatre and especially the plays produced by the St. Andrew's Repertory at the hall in Lower Symonds St. I thought that naming a theatre seat after her would be an appropriate way to commemorate her life. I think it is fantastic what they're doing to the waterfront and am looking forward to taking a tour of the future theatre. It is definitely long overdue - the city has needed some attractive scenery on the harbour side for many years. - Rosemary Powell

SEAT MESSAGE: "For every theatre bum, there should be a seat. Enjoy!"

I clearly remember being taken down to the local theatre by my school as an eight year old in Stockholm. The improvisational acting games unlocked a whole new path of kids play and confidence - and I dare say it changed my life forever. I arrived in New Zealand in 2001 to commence my Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts and I'm still here twelve years on. I find that telling a story through theatre is an incredibly humbling experience. Live theatre is not only magical and educational but is also constantly interchangeable.

I believe in theatre and I believe in providing people enjoyment and the ability to experience what the

theatre can offer. It is an art form that I want to keep alive – and if I can do anything to help – then I most definitely will which is why I chose to 'Take a Seat' with Auckland Theatre Company. The Waterfront Theatre Project excites me because it is a space that will be shared and loved by many Aucklanders. It will bring people of all ages together and bring upon opportunities to feed our artistic hunger and keep our minds and hearts alive. Plus, everyone is welcome and the seats are comfy. Who wouldn't want that! - Sia Trokenheim Cettina

SEAT MESSAGE: "Lang may yer lum reek. IH and GT Craig"

Gillian and I have been regular attendees to the theatre over the past 20 years. I am also proud to be a partner with BDO who have provided continued support since 1997 to ATC as auditors. As keen theatre goers Gillian and I have witnessed the evolution of ATC, admired the creativity of the sets designed within the confines and restrictions of the available theatres and enjoyed many a fine performance despite those limitations. We chose to 'Take a Seat' as it was a unique chance for us to give something back to ATC as a thank you and to help provide a world class venue for future audiences.

The phrase 'lang may yer lum reek' is an old Scots phrase which literally means 'long may your chimney smoke'. It comes from the old tradition in Scotland to take a piece of coal with you when visiting friends and family on New Year's Eve. The coal is placed on the fire to keep it burning and to wish the hosts long life and prosperity. Something we wish for the Waterfront Theatre.

- Iain and Gillian Craig

Taking a seat in the Waterfront Theatre Project

The \$1,000 donation to secure a named seat can be paid via credit card, over instalments using direct debit transactions or by cheque made out to the Waterfront Theatre Trust. If you would like more information about payments or the project, please visit www.waterfronttheatre.co.nz or contact Linden Tierney at Auckland Theatre Company on 09 309 0390 ext 272 or email linden@atc.co.nz.

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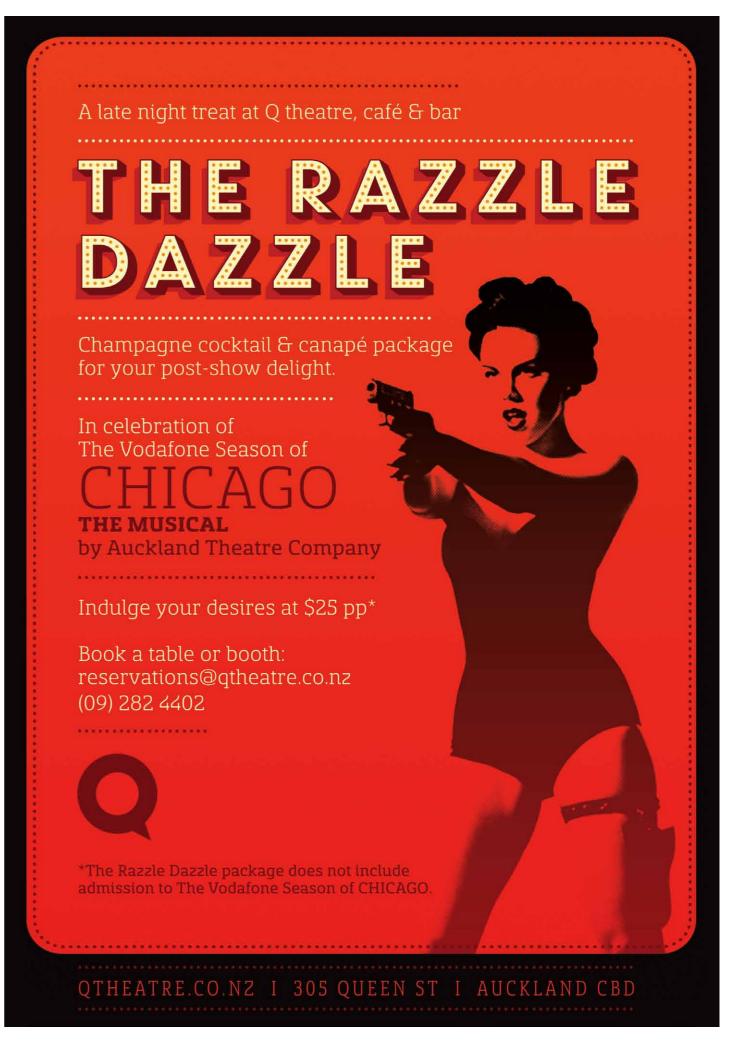
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