

Ensemble
theatre for everyone



AN ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRODUCTION AT THE CONCOURSE THEATRE

25 FEBRUARY – 13 MARCH 2016

SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS

by Richard Alfieri

PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS

by Richard Alfieri

DIRECTOR

SANDRA BATES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH GORDON

CREW

DESIGNER

GRAHAM MACLEAN

**LIGHTING
DESIGNER**

TRUDY DALGLEISH

CHOREOGRAPHER

JOHN O'CONNELL

**STAGE
MANAGER**

DANIEL OLIVER

**ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGER**

LORI PIQUEMAL

**WARDROBE
COORDINATOR**

MARGARET GILL

MAKEUP

PEGGY CARTER

**DIALECT
CONSULTANT**

NICK CURNOW

CAST

LILY HARRISON

NANCYE HAYES

MICHAEL MINETTI

TODD MCKENNEY

RUNNING TIME: 2 HOURS 5 MINUTES INCLUDING INTERVAL

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Richard Alfieri was born in Florida, graduated from Yale University, and began his professional career in New York. He wrote the feature film ECHOES and the novel RICARDO - DIARY OF A MATINEE IDOL, which he adapted into the screenplay MOONLIGHT BLONDE. He produced the feature film RESCUE ME and executive-produced the NBC film FALSE WITNESS. He wrote the film adaptation of Robert James Waller's novel PUERTO VALLARTA SQUEEZE. His play THE SISTERS, suggested by Chekhov's THREE SISTERS, premiered in Los Angeles at the Pasadena Playhouse and is published by Samuel French. Mr. Alfieri adapted the play for feature-film production, and the film premiered as an Official Selection at both the Tribeca and Hollywood Film Festivals. THE SISTERS subsequently won the Santa Fe Film Festival's Milagro Award for Best American Independent Film. Mr. Alfieri was awarded the Grand Prize at



Sandra was appointed Governing and Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre in 1986, a position she held for 30 years. Sandra retired as Artistic Director in January this year. She has directed more than one hundred productions for Ensemble Theatre. Sandra's recent directing credits include THE GOOD DOCTOR, MOTHERS AND SONS, David Williamson's THE JACK MANNING TRILOGY, PROOF, RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN, HAPPINESS, BOMBSHELLS, WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY, THE ACT, FOUR FLAT WHITES IN ITALY, RHINESTONE REX AND MISS MONICA and RAIN MAN. Sandra's 2006 production of SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX

RICHARD ALFIERI – **PLAYWRIGHT**

the New York Film and Television Festival and a Writers Guild Award nomination for his screenplay for the film A FRIENDSHIP IN VIENNA. He received a Writers Guild Award for the Hallmark Hall of Fame film HARVEST OF FIRE. He also received a Writers Guild Award and an Emmy nomination for his work on Norman Lear's ABC special I LOVE LIBERTY. His play REVOLUTIONS premiered at the Barter Theater on Broadway in 2013. Mr. Alfieri's play SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS opened on Broadway at the Belasco Theater and is also published by Samuel French. The play premiered in Los Angeles and has since opened around the world with productions in London, Berlin, Sydney, Madrid, Vienna, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Helsinki, Budapest, Amsterdam, Miami, Prague, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich, Melbourne, Jerusalem, Istanbul, Athens, Rio de Janeiro, Seoul, and other cities. Mr. Alfieri adapted SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS for feature-film.

SANDRA BATES – **DIRECTOR**

WEEKS was awarded the 2006 Glugs Theatre Award for Best Production and the 2007 Helpmann Award for Best Regional Touring Production. Sandra was made a Member in the Order of Australia in 2001 for her services to theatre and the arts. She was awarded the Variety Club Heart Award for Theatre in 2002. In 2004 she was awarded the Hayes Gordon Memorial Glugs Theatre Award for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre. In 2005 Sandra was presented with the SBW Foundation Achievement Award for services to theatre by The Glugs. In 2007 Sandra was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sydney Theatre Critics.



ELIZABETH GORDON – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Liz is honoured to be working with Sandra Bates as she directs her last play before retiring. Other plays with Sandra: MOTHERS AND SONS, THE SHOE-HORN SONATA, FACE TO FACE, A CONVERSATION, CHARITABLE INTENT, FOUR FLAT WHITES IN ITALY and LET THE SUNSHINE. Liz has directed WRONG TURN AT LUNGFISH,

TRAVELLING NORTH, DUET FOR ONE and THE BLACK PRINCE and her acting credits include NIGHTMARE, THE CHALK GARDEN, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, DEATHTRAP (Community Theatre) and YOU NEVER CAN TELL and a number of plays for children (Marian Street Theatre). She studied acting at the Marian Street School and has attended a course in directing at NIDA.



Nancye Hayes AM is one of Australia's favourite theatrical actresses. She is an accomplished actor, dancer, singer, choreographer and director. She began her career with J.C. Williamson Theatres Ltd as a chorus member in MY FAIR LADY. She went on to star in many major musical productions including SWEET CHARITY, CHICAGO, SWEENEY TODD, GUYS & DOLLS and 42ND STREET. Most recently she has performed JERRY'S GIRLS (The Production Company), SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM (Manilla Street Productions) Ruth in PIRATES OF PENZANCE (Harvest Rain), Lady Bracknell in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (State Theatre Company SA), and BEYOND DESIRE (Neil Rutherford Productions/Hayes Theatre Co), Miss Hannigan in the Australian Tour of ANNIE (The Gordon Frost Organisation) GREY GARDENS, FOLLIES, OKLAHOMA, MUSIC MAN,

NANCYE HAYES – LILY HARRISON

FUNNY GIRL (The Production Co.), MURDERERS and SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS (Ensemble), A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC and MY FAIR LADY (Opera Australia). Nancye Hayes has made a significant contribution as a theatre director. Her credits include THE BOY FROM OZ, SWEET CHARITY, GYPSY (The Production Co.), CRAZY FOR YOU and THE WORLD GOES ROUND (Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts), AUSTRALIA'S LEADING LADIES CONCERT (Brisbane Festival), THE WIZARD OF OZ (GFO/SEL/Macks Entertainment), NOEL & GERTIE (Christine Dunstan Productions). Nancye has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from The Green Room, The Sydney Theatre and The Helpmanns. In 2014 The Hayes Theatre Company in Potts Point was established and named in honour of her distinguished career. Its focus is to present small scale music theatre, new work from Australia and overseas, and cabaret.



Inspiring, provocative, compelling and generous are just a few words that describe the critically acclaimed and award-winning performer, actor and host – Todd McKenney. A household name in Australia, Todd's versatile career has spanned three decades and shows no sign of slowing down. Already known as Australia's leading man of song and dance musicals, since 1994 he's also been the 'colourful' and often controversial judge on the Channel 7 hit series 'Dancing With the Stars'. Todd began dancing at the age of three at his

TODD MCKENNEY – MICHAEL MINETTI

mother's dancing school in Perth, training in jazz, tap, acrobatics and ballroom dancing. He has represented Australia in ballroom and Latin American dancing, winning many international dance titles. Amongst his Australian awards for performance in musical theatre are two 'Mo Awards', the 'Variety Club Heart Award', the 'Glug Award', the 'Green Room Award', two 'Australian Dance Awards' and a 'Helpmann Award'. He was cast in his first professional musical, Andrew Lloyd Webber's SONG AND DANCE, in 1983. From here Todd's career has followed a very neat trajectory with lead roles in CATS, 42ND STREET,

WEST SIDE STORY, CRAZY FOR YOU, BORN YESTERDAY, CAMELOT, PIRATES OF PENZANCE, CABARET, STRICTLY BALLROOM, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, ANYTHING GOES, THE BOY FROM OZ, PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT, ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD for Opera Australia and more recently ANNIE the Musical, a return performance of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES in the lead role of Albin, Teen Angel in GREASE and ANYTHING GOES. It was landing the prized role of Peter Allen in the Australian hit production THE BOY FROM OZ that confirmed his star status on stage. THE BOY FROM OZ performed over 1000 shows nationally and is one of the longest running and most successful musical productions in Australian history. Todd is currently a regular on Sydney radio station 2UE 954 with Stuart Bocking. Todd fills in regularly for Larry Emdur on

Network Seven's THE MORNING SHOW with Kylie Gillies and has been a guest judge on AUSTRALIA'S GOT TALENT. For the past 8 years Todd has been studying 'Auslan' sign language and has worked within the deaf community all around Australia. He also works with The Children's Tumour Foundation to raise awareness and much needed financial support for people living with Neurofibromatosis. <http://www.ctf.org.au> Todd has also launched Todd McKenney's Centre Stage Tours where he hosts 'dinner and a show' Todd style. Check this out at: www.toddstours.com.au. Keep up to date with Todd's one man show which tours regularly around Australia at: www.toddmckenney.com.au Todd had the delight of becoming a father in 2007 and his daughter Charlotte is the light of his life. In 2015 Todd joined Georgie Parker as patron of Ensemble Theatre.



Graham Maclean's long career in theatre design has taken him all over Australia, New Zealand, USA, Vienna and Indonesia.

Graham designed the hugely successful PIRATES OF PENZANCE for Simon Gallagher and was twice nominated for the Victorian Green Room Award for HMS PINAFORE, an award he won for the sets and costumes for THE MIKADO. He worked for the Queensland Theatre Company and has designed numerous ballets for Queensland Ballet Company, including THE NUTCRACKER SUITE, ROMEO & JULIET and CARMEN. As Resident Designer for the West Australian Opera, Graham won The Silver Swan Award twice. His recent theatre designs include NOISES OFF for the State Theatre Company

GRAHAM MACLEAN – DESIGNER

of South Australia, SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS with Nancye Hayes and Todd McKenney for Ensemble Theatre and THE SHOE- HORN SONATA for CDP. For Ensemble Theatre he designed productions of THE GOOD DOCTOR, PROOF, RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN, LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, ANIMALS OUT OF PAPER, NINETY, BROOKLYN BOY, LET THE SUNSHINE, ABIGAIL'S PARTY, THE BUSY WORLD IS HUSHED, RABBIT HOLE, LOTTE'S GIFT, TIMES OF MY LIFE, NOISES OFF and FLATFOOT. In 2008 Graham designed A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and SWAN LAKE for Queensland Ballet, and STEEL MAGNOLIAS at the Seymour Centre. His last show was NOEL AND GERTIE directed by Nancye Hayes.



Trudy Dalglish studied technical production at NIDA and has won numerous awards including the 2001 Helpmann Award for WHITE DEVIL, 2002 'Entech' Award and the John Truscott Design Award for Excellence and Best Lighting Design for EUREKA and in 2010 HAIRSPRAY at

TRUDY DALGLEISH – LIGHTING DESIGNER

the Green Room Awards. Recent lighting credits: PROOF, RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN, THE ACT (Ensemble Theatre); MOONSHADOW; ANNIE and LEGENDS (Gordon Frost Organisation); AND THE WORLD GOES ROUND (LaSalle, Singapore); HAIRSPRAY, the OPENING OF THE ARAB GAMES in Doha (DAE); CERTIFIED MALE and EUROBEAT in

the West End (Glynn Nicholas Group); ORLANDO, SWEENEY TODD, MANON, HMS PINAFORE, TRIAL BY JURY, PIRATES OF PENZANCE, MY FAIR LADY (OA); CITY OF FRIENDS (Millennium Entertainment) in BERGEN, NORWAY; KING AND I (Broadway Asia);

DUSTY; SHOUT, BOY FROM OZ. Also Associate Lighting Designer for DRIVING MISS DAISY, DIRTY DANCING, ONCE , and GREASE, for Gordon Frost, and most recently THE SOUND OF MUSIC, and Lighting Designer for GEORGY GIRL.



John O'Connell is an internationally acclaimed choreographer, best known for his work on; THE GREAT GATSBY, MOULIN ROUGE, STRICTLY BALLROOM, SHALL WE DANCE, and Disney's ENCHANTED. Known as choreographer to the stars, John has worked with some of the biggest names in Hollywood: Leonardo Di Caprio, Nicole Kidman, Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez, Michael Caine, Susan Sarandon, Amy Adams and John Travolta to name a few. In 2008 John choreographed the 80th Academy Awards. He is the

JOHN O'CONNELL – **CHOREOGRAPHER**

recipient of the highest American award in film, the American Choreography Award, for MOULIN ROUGE. John has worked extensively in theatre as well; new stage musicals STRICTLY BALLROOM, KING KONG, EMPIRE (Spiegelworld), TALES FROM THE VIENNA WOODS (Sydney Theatre Company); THREEPENNY OPERA and KEATING! (Belvoir Street Theatre); A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, (Opera Australia); SOUTH PACIFIC for the Gordon Frost Organisation; and RUDOLF (Vienna State Theatre) and Tokyo Imperial Theatre. John was also staging director for the international tour of IL DIVO in 2007.



Danny is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and works as a freelance Production and Stage Manager. He has previously worked for Ensemble Theatre as an Assistant Stage Manager for FRANKENSTEIN (Sydney Opera House). Other Stage Management credits include MASTERCLASS 2 (Red Line

DANIEL OLIVER – **STAGE MANAGER**

Productions), THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND (Matthew Management/Neil Gooding Productions), 13 STOREY TREEHOUSE (CDP), THE TAP PACK (Riverside Parramatta) and BEAUTIFUL THING (Burley Theatre/Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras). Danny is thrilled to be working with Ensemble Theatre once again on this iconic production, with two legends of Australian theatre.



Lori's professional career began a decade ago when she started working as a technician in venues across Sydney. During this time she toured with comedian Heath Franklin, worked with CIRCUS OZ, and was production manager for the Australian Theatre for Young People. Since then she has moved into musical theatre with Gordon Frost's JERSEY BOYS, ANNIE, AN OFFICER AND A

LORI PIQUEMAL – **ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

GENTLEMEN and WICKED and most recently has expanded her repertoire to include opera, both at the Conservatorium of Music and on Sydney Harbour with Opera Australia's LA TRAVIATA, CARMEN, MADAM BUTTERFLY and AIDA and in the festival world including the recent VANFEST. Lori is excited to join this production of SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS and would like to thank the Ensemble Theatre for the opportunity.



MARGARET GILL – **WARDROBE COORDINATOR**

Margaret is a freelance theatrical milliner, costume cutter and maker working in the film, theatre and television industry. Margaret studied Fashion at East Sydney TAFE and gained a Certificate of Technical Teaching at Sydney Teacher’s College. Her headwear creations have featured in Baz Luhrmann’s films THE GREAT GATSBY and AUSTRALIA. Film credits: THE GREAT GATSBY, AUSTRALIA, X-MEN ORIGINS, WOLVERINE, UNBROKEN. Theatre credits: HENRY V (Bell) (cutter/maker), KING KONG, THE MUSICAL (milliner) FAME, THE MUSICAL (cutter/maker), THE NUTCRACKER (Australian Ballet) (milliner), THE KING AND I (OA) (costume maker). ARENA EVENTS: THE ASIAN GAMES (Doha) (milliner), HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (costume maker), TV: SO YOU THINK YOU

CAN DANCE, HI 5, A PLACE TO CALL HOME (Series 3) (cutter/maker). FOXTEL/CH 7, X-FACTOR. For the Ensemble Theatre: SEMINAR (cocoordinator), CAMP (coordinator), A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD (cutter/maker/coordinator), DARK VOYAGER (cutter/maker/milliner/coordinator), OTHER DESERT CITIES (coordinator), DREAM HOME (coordinator), THE ANZAC PROJECT (coordinator/cutter/maker), LADIES IN LAVENDER (co-ordinator/cutter/maker), EDUCATING RITA (coordinator), THE SHOE-HORN SONATA (coordinator) and THE GOOD DOCTOR (Costume cutter/maker/supervisor) . For Sport for Jove THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST (Costume cutter/maker). Margaret has more recently been constructing headwear on behalf of NIGEL SHAW DESIGNS for the P&O cruise lines.



PEGGY CARTER – **MAKEUP**

Peggy trained at Artransa Film Studios, London BBC – Thames TV, then in special effects at Universal Studios in LA. Throughout her distinguished career Peggy has worked with Robin Williams, Jack Nicholson, Sydney Pollack, Denzel Washington, Danny De Vito, Jeff Goldblum, Hugo Weaving, Garry McDonald, Ruth Cracknell, Greta Scacchi, Bryan Brown, Barry Humphries, Jacki Weaver, Judy Davis, Toni Collette, Barry & Miranda Otto, Googlee Withers, Gordon Chater, Jose` Carreras, Carl Malden, Zsa Zsa Gabor and Lauren Bacall. She has designed the make-up for many Ensemble Theatre and STC productions. Other theatre credits include RAPTURE BLISTER

BURN, FRANKENSTEIN, 2015 and 2016 SEASON BROCHURES (Ensemble Theatre) CATS, KING LEAR (RQTC), JOSEPH, HELLO DOLLY, 42ND STREET, ST JOAN, HERETIC, COMEDY OF ERRORS, SHOWBOAT, CYRANO DE BERGERAC & RENT. For Television, THE LOVE BOAT, CIRCUS OF THE STARS, RACE RIOTS. Other film credits include The GREAT GATSBY, LILLIAN'S STORY, MOULIN ROUGE, MATRIX, HOWLING II, AGE OF CONSENT, WALKABOUT, DON QUIXOTE, SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY and CADDIE. Peggy has taught Masterclasses at NIDA. In 1999 she won the Makeup Award for KING LEAR (Bell Shakespeare) and in 2000 a National Makeup Award for overall contribution to the industry.



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- In recognition of Sandra Bates' 30 years at the helm David Williamson has donated generously to Ensemble Foundation

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We are a 'not-for-profit', registered charity and independent company. Donations make up an important part of our income. Your donation will help us continue to remain a landmark and bring you quality theatre, well into the future.

Donations currently make up less than 3% of our income and our goal is to increase our donations to 5% by 2018. Help us hit our target.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT US

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Donations of \$100 a year will make you our FRIEND or join our GOLD, SILVER or BRONZE Patrons, listed on our program.

SPONSOR A SEAT – for \$500 you can sponsor a seat and have your name on a plaque attached to the seat.

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BEQUESTS

If you are as passionate about theatre as we are and if your attendance at Ensemble Theatre has brought you joy, please help us continue to keep Ensemble Theatre alive for future generations. Your legacy will live on with a bequest in your will to Ensemble Theatre.

A recent bequest from a patron named Val allowed us to purchase our 20-seater bus (aptly named VAL) which transports patrons to and from Milsons Point Station. Another very generous private donation assisted with the building of our elevator, allowing level access to Bayly's Bistro and our bathrooms.

Our imagination is limitless, but our resources are not. Major upgrades are required for the pylons supporting the theatre. We are planning some major internal renovations including soundproofing in Bayly's, as well as upgrades to our foyer, bar and box office areas soon. With your support, we will be able to ensure that future artists and audiences alike can experience the magic of live theatre for generations to come.

Your solicitor or financial planner can assist you in making arrangements for a bequest. The following wording could be used as a guide. "I bequest (insert details of portion of residuary estate or cash contribution) to Ensemble Limited (trading as Ensemble Theatre) ACN 143 330 769, 78 McDougall Street, Kirribilli NSW 2061.

You can talk to us about specific areas you would like your bequest to support, or nominate to support the areas of most need but be assured that however large or small your gift, a bequest is a unique and meaningful way of sharing your enjoyment of our work today with the audiences and artists of tomorrow.

Ensemble Limited is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient Covered by item 1 of the table in Section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment.

Please check here for further information on how to make a bequest to Ensemble Theatre.

<http://ensemble.com.au/support-us/bequests>

For further information please contact David Wright, Chief Financial Officer, (02) 8918 3421 or david@ensemble.com.au





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26 MAY – 2 JULY 2016

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