

The Casting Couch

with Todd McKenney and Nancye Hayes

8 – 28
NOV



Effervescent entertainer Todd McKenney is back on the casting couch for a dazzling night of frivolity and this time he's joined by musical theatre legend Nancye Hayes.

After performing side-by-side in two sold-out seasons of Richard Alfieri's **SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS**, these multi-talented performers and close friends reunite to belt out big songs, dish exclusive stories and more.

CASTING COUCH TEAM

Performers

Todd McKenney

Nancye Hayes

Piano Accompanist

Michael Rohanek

Backing Vocalist

Lisa Callingham

(select performances)

Stage Manager

Isabella Kerdijk

Lighting Designer

James Wallis

Sound Technician

David Grigg

Running time approx. 60 mins (no interval)



TODD MCKENNEY

One of Australia's most versatile performing artists, Todd McKenney is an award winning and critically acclaimed performer on stage and screen. As an actor and the leading man of song and dance in musical theatre productions, he has entertained Australians for over 30 years from the main stage to intimate venues.

Todd has led the cast on some of the 7 Network's major productions including *The Full Monty*, *The Real Full Monty*, *Mates on a Mission*, *Ladies Night* and *The All New Monty* which aired in 2020, a one night show that was dedicated to men and women's health awareness. Todd also appeared as a host / choreographer in *The Real Dirty Dancing*, a four episode spin off of the 1987 classic film *Dirty Dancing*, which saw eight celebrities revisit the most memorable dancing moments from the original movie. There's no sign of Todd slowing down in 2021, returning to his role as a judge in the revamped season of *Dancing With The Stars – All Stars*, which saw all the original cast members back for a two week special, for its 16th season on Channel 7.

It's not surprising that Todd McKenney is a household name. Todd's stage credit roll and career highlights include his most notable role of Peter Allen in the Australian hit production *The Boy From Oz*, in which he performed over 1000 shows nationally and became one of the longest running and most successful musical productions in Australian history.

Todd's first professional musical role was in 1983 in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*. His

career followed with lead and headline 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, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Orpheus In the Underworld for Opera Australia, Annie the Musical, Grease and Anything Goes. In 2018 he stepped into the stilettos and successfully took on the role of Frank N' Furter in The Rocky Horror Show in Melbourne. In 2019 Todd stepped out on stage as Australia's Greatest Showman in the title role of Barnum, and most recently played Lord Farquaad in the hit musical Shrek.

As a dancer, his journey started at the age of three at his mother's dancing school in Perth, training in jazz, tap, acrobatics and ballroom dancing. He represented Australia in ballroom and Latin American dancing, winning many international dance titles. Amongst his Australian awards for performance in musical theatre he has two Mo Awards, the Variety Club Heart Award, the Glug Award, the Green Room Award, two Australian Dance Awards and a Helpmann Award. On the small screen Todd has starred in the hit show Winners and Losers on the 7 Network. He has also appeared as a guest judge on Australia's Got Talent, hosted on a range of morning Television programs and appeared as an entertaining guest across all networks. On radio Todd co-hosted Sydney's MIX106.5 breakfast radio program with Sonia Kruger for two years and is a regular guest on the airwaves.

On a personal level, Todd had the delight of becoming a father in 2007 and his daughter Charlotte is the light of his life. He is a student of Auslan sign language and has worked within the deaf community all around Australia. Todd is also a keen supporter of The Grace Centre For Newborn Intensive Care at the Children's Hospital at Westmead and the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

2020 saw Todd launch Todd Creates, an online marketplace exclusively for independent, Australian creatives and small businesses who produce and ship their products in Australia. www.toddcreates.com.au

NANCYE HAYES

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 Nancye performed in the musical Half Time (Nineteen 98 Productions) at The Hayes, Ripcord for State Theatre of South Australia and her one woman show Hayes at The Hayes for which she received best cabaret performance by The Sydney

Theatre Awards. Other credits etc. Other credits include Minnie and Laraz (Melbourne Theatre Co), Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks with Todd McKenney for the Ensemble Theatre, Follies in Concert (Story Board Entertainment), Sondheim on Sondheim (Manilla Street Productions), as Ruth in Pirates of Penzance (Harvest Rain), as Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest (State Theatre Company SA), in Beyond Desire (Neil Rutherford Productions/Hayes Theatre Co), as Miss Hannigan in the Australian Tour of Annie (The Gordon Frost Organisation), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, Jerry's Girls (The Production Company), Grey Gardens, Follies, Oklahoma, Music Man, Funny Girl, Brigadoon (The Production Co.), Murderers (Ensemble), A Little Night Music, My Fair Lady (Opera Australia), and Sunday in the Park with George (Victorian Opera).

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) and Noel & Gertie (Christine Dunstan Productions).

Nancye has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from The Green Room Awards, The Sydney Theatre Awards and The Helpmann Awards. Nancye was honoured with The Order of Australia Award with an OAM in 1981 and an AM in 2014.

