

Issue 4

Oct/Nov 2011

The **BOY** *from* **OZ**

Director
Ryan Taaffe

Co-Director
Daniel Burton

Musical Director
Kate McIntosh

Choreographer
Hillary Readings

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Original Production by Ben Gannon and Robert Fox
Music and Lyrics by Peter Allen.
Book by Nick Enright.

By Arrangement with David Spicer Productions www.davidspicer.com.au

“My songs are my biography”...Peter Allen

The Boy From Oz is the most successful Australian musical ever and the only one to make it to Broadway. It is a musical biography/tribute to the late, great Peter Allen.

Peter Allen was born in the outback Australian town of Tenterfield in 1944. He made his entertainment debut at the age of 5 impersonating Al Jolson. Peter Allen had an extraordinary life which producer Ben Gannon realized had the potential to become a magnificent musical and with Robert Fox they turned it into the smash hit *The Boy From Oz*.

In *The Boy From Oz*, we learn how in the 1950s the young Peter Woolnough started singing, dancing and playing the piano in rural Australia. He changed his last name to Allen and performed concerts in Australia then toured Asia as one half of a duo known as “The Allen Brothers”. He met Judy Garland who hired him for her show, thus achieving a dream to work in New York. Peter soon became romantically involved with Judy’s daughter Liza Minnelli and they married. In the US Peter enjoyed the highs of success by winning an Oscar, selling out performances in Radio City Music Hall, and receiving adulation when he returned to Australia. There were also plenty of lows ... Peter developed a relationship with a man, Greg Connell, and his marriage ended. Then there was the death of his partner and his own battle with illness. Ultimately, as we see, he finds peace with his sexuality and the legacy of his alcoholic father, but is unable to overcome his mortality.

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Boy From Oz is a class above all other ‘jukebox’ musical. The late Nick Enright skillfully weaved his plot around the life and complexities of Peter Allen. The songs and lyrics sit easily with the rhythm of the piece and with the characters as they enter and re-enter his life, be they dead or alive. It leaps, as does Peter himself, from past to present and back to past all within the familiar context of one of his energy-packed concerts.



Peter Allen



Judy Garland & the Allen Brothers

The Boy From Oz plays at 8pm,
November 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18,
19, 24, 25 and 26
and 7pm, November 13 and 20.

Tickets are \$25, \$20 concession

book on 0415 777 173 or

bookings@playlovers.org.au

BOOK ONLINE: www.playlovers.org.au



The Boy from Oz

Book by Nick Enright

Music and Lyrics by Peter Allen

Director: Ryan Taaffe & Daniel Burton

Musical Director: Kate McIntosh



THE first Australian musical to ever reach Broadway comes to Playlovers this November with our production of *The Boy From Oz*.

Written by Nick Enright and directed by Ryan Taaffe and Daniel Burton, it's a colourful tribute to the life and times of Australian singer-songwriter Peter Allen.

Using Allen's often autobiographical songs, such as *I'd Rather Leave While I'm In Love*, *I Go To Rio* and *I Still Call Australia Home*, the musical is a journey through his extensive career and turbulent life.

Taaffe, who also plays the title role, describes Peter Allen as one of Australia's most enduring performers and says *The Boy From Oz* has a wealth of wonderful songs that celebrate his life.

"The musical tells a fantastic story about always chasing your dreams and never letting anything get in the way – even death," he said.

"Peter Allen is an Australian icon and the story tells us that, even from humble beginnings, we can succeed if we are willing to work, no matter the obstacle."

While many may associate the lead role with Hugh Jackman or Todd McKenney, Taaffe is a firm believer the music and story of Peter Allen will always be accessible, no matter who plays the role.

"Each of us brings something new to the story," he said. "It's one of those stories that bends itself to what the performers bring – not the other way round."

Involved in theatre since age 13, Taaffe trained at the WA Academy of Performing Arts and Curtin University and has played the lead role in numerous plays and musicals over the years and is manager of Kwinana's Kooringal Arts Centre.

Most recently, he won a Finley Award for best musical after directing *Cabaret*, also scoring second place with *Fame*.

"The main challenge with *The Boy From Oz* is the fact the characters are people everyone knows and they will expect to see those people," Taaffe said

"They expect Peter, Liza and Judy and that's a hell of a challenge to live up to."

TICKETS are selling fast to this exceptional musical.

Don't be disappointed, book your tickets today.

SIDE SHOW REVIEW

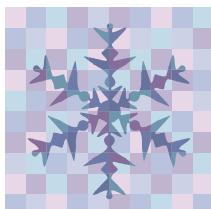
Our last production, *Side Show*, directed by Tyler Jones, played from September 2nd to 17th and proved to be a very popular musical as can be seen by the quotes below:

- "Thoroughly enjoyed *Side Show* last night. It was the best show I've seen in ages and I think the best production I have seen with Playlovers. Congratulations to all the cast and everyone concerned."
- "We thoroughly enjoyed *Side Show* last night. What a great night at the theatre."
- "We have just seen that fabulous *Side Show*!"
- "Just wanted to say how much we enjoyed *Side Show*— we had no pre-knowledge of it but was "blown away" with the whole thing."



These are just some of the comments received regarding the production.

On the strength of *Side Show* the above people immediately booked for *The Boy From Oz*.



EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The EGM was held on Wednesday 5th October to present the audited financial statements for 2010 and the first half of 2011. These were approved by all in attendance.

AN EVENING OF MONOLOGUES AND SONGS.

BUDDING actors have had the chance to step up to the stage this October/November to learn more about auditions and performing successful monologues and songs, which will culminate in a public performance at Hackett Hall on Sunday 6th November at 7pm followed by drinks and nibbles in the bar.

Highly-experienced brother-and-sister team Martin and Amanda Crewes have formed In2Action to help give people a special insight into three main areas: acting, voice and movement.

"If you want to act, you need a repertoire of good monologues at your command from the time you begin your career until that happy day when your work is well known to casting directors in the business," Amanda said. "We help people find a 'process in performance' that best suits them and their acting style."

Over the past 5 weeks, Amanda and Martin have been taking aspiring actors through a course to improve their acting skills. This presentation evening will allow the course participants to demonstrate the results.

There is no formal charge—just a gold coin donation. This is an opportunity to see and support some of Playlovers up-and-coming talent. A wonderful way to spend a Sunday evening—a bit of entertainment, and chat with other Playlovers members.

For more information, email info@playlovers.org.au



What's On	Where	When
The Mousetrap	Melville Theatre Company	4-26 November
Blood Bros	Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo	24-26 November, 1-10 December
Daisy Pulls It Off	Old Mill Theatre	25-26 November, 1-10 December
Jane Eyre	Harbour Theatre	2-17 December

Playlovers 2012 Season

The play-reading sub-committee have selected the following productions for next year:

FACE TO FACE by David Williamson

Director: Amanda Crewes

March

Williamson at his best. Glen is in his mid-20s, all brawn and not much brain. All he ever wanted to do was build scaffolding. One day in anger he rams the boss's Mercedes. Glen elects to have a judicial community conference in place of a trial, and the audience becomes witness to an emotional, but humorous, debate that draws out a trail of responsibility extending from Glen to his work-mates, his mother, his employer and to society itself.

HOBSON'S CHOICE by Harold Brighouse

Director: James Hough-Nelson

April / May

Classis comedy. Henry Hobson runs a successful bootmaker's shop in nineteenth-century Salford. A widower with a weakness for the pub opposite, he tries forcefully to rule the lives of his three unruly daughters. When he decrees 'no marriages' to avoid the expensive matter of settlements, eldest daughter Maggie rebels and sets her sights on Will Mossop, Hobson's star bootmaker.

MINDGAME by Anthony Horowitz

Director: Jenny M Ferguson

July

Mystery thriller. When Mark Styler, a writer of glossy 'true crime' stories, tries to get an interview with Easterman, a notorious serial killer, he has no idea what he's walking into. First he has to get past Dr Farquhar, the quixotic head of Fairfields - the asylum where Easterman is kept. But soon he discovers that nothing is what it seems.

COSI FAN TUTTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Director: Paul Treasure

August / September

Mozart's sparkling romantic comic opera. Two sisters, two soldiers and one holiday villa by the sea set the scene for the ultimate test in love and loyalty. In a single day the four lovers and their two confidants will have questioned the very nature of love itself.

THE RINK by Kander & Ebb

Director: Alida Chaney

November / December

Musical. Anna is the owner of a dilapidated roller-skating rink on the boardwalk of a decaying seaside resort, who has decided to sell it to developers. Complicating her plans are her prodigal daughter Angel, who returns to town seeking to reconnect with the people and places she long ago left behind.

AUDITION GRIMM TALES

MAGIC, menace and mayhem are being let loose at Playlovers this December – just in time for Christmas!

A selection of the best fairytales by the Brothers Grimm are being brought to life as part of ***Grimm Tales***, adapted for the stage by Carole Anne Duffy and directed by Amanda Crewes. The production is full of all the magic and wonder you find in your imagination, with a little pinch of mischief thrown in.



If the thought of playing evil witches, effeminate princes, quirky dwarves or ugly step sisters excites you, and you would like to be considered for this fun, ensemble piece, auditions are being held at Hackett Hall on **Saturday 5th November from 10am**.

To secure a 15-minute audition time, telephone **9445 2106** and leave a message. Or email **acroooose@hotmail.com**. Auditionees are asked to prepare a short monologue that demonstrates their ability to characterise!!

Grimm Tales will perform on December 9th – 11th

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PLOVER AWARDS

Throughout the year, each major production at Playlovers is adjudicated by an independent panel drawn from the Perth theatrical community. The cast and crew of each production are eligible for a variety of awards.

Our productions this year were:

Noises Off

Director Amanda Crewes

Candide

Director Kevin Langoulant, Musical Director David Hardie

Side Show

Director Tyler Jones, Musical Director Matt Austin

The Boy From Oz

Director Ryan Taaffe & Daniel Burton, Musical Director Kate McIntosh

This year the Plovers Awards Night is Saturday, 10th December. There will be some Grimm Tales , some not-so-grim musical entertainment and the award presentations!

More about this later!!

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THE BOY FROM OZ

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