



Playlovers Inc.  
Hackett Hall, Draper Street, Floreat  
[www.playlovers.org.au](http://www.playlovers.org.au)

# STAGES

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #4—June/July 2013

Playlovers presents

# THE PRODUCERS

A New Mel Brooks Musical

Book by  
MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN

Music and Lyrics by  
MEL BROOKS



And by special arrangement with StudioCanal  
By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

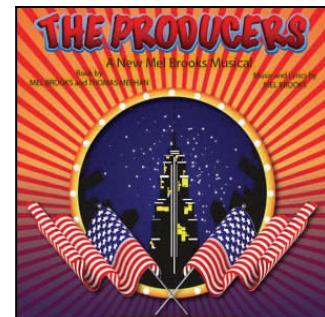
JUNE 28 - JULY 20, 2013

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ **The Producers**
- ◆ **Nevermore**
- ◆ **Curtains**
- ◆ **Introducing Ewen Malcolm**
- ◆ **Committee News**
- ◆ **Call for Submissions for 2014**
- ◆ **What's on, where**
- ◆ **Contacts**

# The Producers

Book by MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN  
Music and Lyrics by MEL BROOKS  
Directed by Peter Clark  
Musical Direction by David Hardie



The Producers is a musical adapted by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan from Brooks' 1968 film of the same name, with lyrics written by Brooks and music composed by Brooks and arranged by Glen Kelly and Doug Besterman. After 33 previews, the original Broadway production opened at the St. James Theatre on April 19, 2001, starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, and ran for 2,502 performances, winning a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards. It spawned a successful London production running for over two years, US national tours, many productions worldwide and a 2005 film version.

The Producers is based around the character of Max Bialystock, a down-and-out Broadway producer whose latest work flopped on opening night. Max, plagued by his former success and scrabbling to stay afloat, experiences a change in fortune when downtrodden accountant, Leo Bloom, discovers there is money to be made in Max's theatrical failure. The two formerly defeated business men form an unlikely union with the goal of creating the world's worst musical. The plot develops as the duo enlists the help of ridiculous and often farcical characters on the way, such as former Nazi and on-going Third Reich enthusiast Franz Liebkind, Ulla the blonde bombshell secretary/receptionist and the flamboyant



Clockwise from top: Ted Simpson, David Gregory,  
Samantha Gaunt and Alex McLennan

homosexual director Roger De Bris. As a result of the characters' combined brainpower and ludicrous behavior, *Spring Time for Hitler* is born on Broadway.

## Alex McLennan of Woodvale playing MAX

Alex has had an on and off again relationship with the theatre. While working as a Physical Education Specialist at Ocean Reef PS, raising 4 children and coaching basketball and football, he makes sure that his hobby gets a gig every now and then. Alex started his theatrical journey back in 1992 with a production of "The Sound of Music", which proved to be a good move as this is where he met his wife, Sue!

His stage credits include Simon Zealotes in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at His Majesty's Theatre, Doody in *Grease*, John Hinckley in *Assassins*, Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Nicely Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*, Ko-Ko in *Hot Mikado*, Mr Speck in *Dazzle*, Frankie Cavalier in *Pageant*, Edward in *Blood Brothers*, Seymour in *A Little Shop of Horrors*, Horton the Elephant in *Seussical, the Musical*, for which he won the 2006 Finley Award for Best Musical Theatre Performer, and Chauvelin in *The Scarlett Pimpernel*, for which he won Wanneroo's Best Actor Award, also in 2006.

Playing Max Bialystock is a role that he has wanted to play since seeing the movie and to be doing it with Playlovers brings back a lot of fantastic memories.

## David Gregory of Innaloo playing LEO

David has been involved in both the professional and community theatre scenes in Perth since 1991. He has been nominated in both, and won several awards for his acting and directing work. Recent productions include Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, Bill Sikes in *Oliver*, Mereb in *Aida*, Adam in *Someone Who'll Watch over Me*, McCann in *The Birthday Party*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He recently directed a very successful season of *Open All Hours* for Serial Productions, with a production of *Blackadder*

Goes Forth next on the agenda for the same company at the Old Mill theatre.

### Samantha Gaunt of Duncraig playing Ulla

Samantha graduated high school at John XXIII college in 2012. Accepting Classical Voice studies at WAAPA, she is also studying an Arts degree at UWA focusing on music. Previous musical experience includes high school productions of *Singing in the Rain* and *West Side Story*. Singing, dancing and playing piano has been a major part of Samantha's life from the age of 4, involving herself in Old Time Music Theatre and local shows produced by Pristine Entertainment. Shows highlighting Broadway Hits, Classic 50's and 60's and annual Christmas shows have featured in Samantha's repertoire. Her love of musical theatre and opera is a life-time vocation.



Alex McLennan and Samantha Gaunt

### PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

#### Dates and times:

**June 28, 29, July 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20**

All performances at **8pm** except

Sundays July 7th and 14th - matinee performances at **2pm**.

The matinee performance on **Sunday, July 14th**  
will be followed by **high tea**.

#### Venue:

Hackett Hall, Draper St, Floreat  
Doors open 1/2 hour prior to curtain.

#### Ticket Prices:

\$25 Adult; \$20 Concession

\$20 group bookings (group =10 or more)

\$30 Matinee performance on Sunday 14th at 2pm  
*(includes post-show high tea)*:

#### Bookings:

Online: <http://playlovers.org.au/online-bookings>  
(NO BOOKING FEES!)

OR

Email: [bookings@playlovers.org.au](mailto:bookings@playlovers.org.au)  
Phone: 0415 777 173

### CAST

Max	Alex McLennan
Leo	David Gregory
Franz	Ted Simpson
Roger	John Taylor
Carmen	Cameron Butler
Ulla	Samantha Gaunt

#### Supporting Roles & Chorus:

Emily Lloyd
Ben Anderson
Sally Lansley
Alan Markham
Lizzie Howard
Melissa Clements
Clare Thomson
Elise Giaimo
Sven Ironside
Ian Greenwell
David Sema

For more information please visit our website <http://playlovers.org.au/the-producers>



From left: Alex McLennan, David Gregory and Samantha Gaunt

# NEVERMORE

What a show!

Playlovers has lived up to its reputation for presenting excellent unusual works. With this relatively unknown production the audiences were immersed into the world and works of Edgar Allan Poe with a surprising resurgence of interest and fascination. Many who did not know or knew little of Poe's work were now hooked with a new found appreciation for his creative genius.



Left to right: Tate Bennett (Young Edgar),  
Paul Spencer (Edgar), Caleb Robinson-Cook  
(Dark Edgar) and Gemma Sharpe (Mother)

There was an excellent review of the show on the Theatre Australia website, which was then followed by additional favourable comments. These can be seen at:

[http://www.theatre.asn.au/theatre\\_reviews/nevermore\\_one\\_seriously\\_twisted\\_musical](http://www.theatre.asn.au/theatre_reviews/nevermore_one_seriously_twisted_musical)



Gemma Sharpe (Mother)

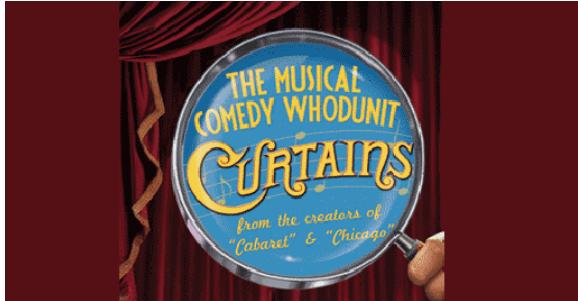
Particular praise was directed at the costumes ("superb", "outstanding" "amazing") and the set ("wonderful", "ingenious"). The cast and Musical Ensemble were "exceptional", the lighting "eerie", "atmospheric and moody".

Finally, director Jenny M Ferguson deserves special commendation for her courage and vision in selecting this work (which has not had previous good comment online) and then taking responsibility for so many aspects of the production (Choreography, Set Design and Artwork, Poster, Programme and Photography) to ensure her vision was realised.

Congratulations to all involved!



Left to right: Tate Bennett (Young Edgar), Monica Brierley-Jones (Virginia), Vivienne Glance (Muddy), Paul Spencer (Edgar),  
Donna-Maree Gavin (Whore), Gemma Sharpe (Mother), Tyla De Brett (Elmira) , and Caleb Robinson-Cook (Dark Edgar)



Book by RUPERT HOLMES

Music JOHN KANDER and Lyrics by FRED EBB

Directed by Kristen Twynam-Perkins

Musical Direction by Belinda Flindell and  
Krispin Maesalu

### A musical send-up of backstage murder-mystery plots

*Curtains* unfolds backstage at Boston's Colonial Theatre in 1959, where a new musical could be a Broadway smash, were it not for the presence of its talent-free leading lady. When the hapless star dies on opening night during her curtain call, Lieutenant Frank Cioffi arrives on the scene to conduct an investigation. But the lure of the theatre proves irresistible and after an unexpected romance blooms for the stage-struck detective, he finds himself just as drawn toward making the show a hit, as he is in solving the murder

*Curtains* had its world premiere on 25 July, 2006 in Los Angeles. Local reviews were mixed but not discouraging, and the producers decided to transfer the show to Broadway with minor alterations, opening there on 22 March 2007. The cast included David Hyde Pierce (Niles in the TV sitcom Frasier). Reviews were again mixed, but the show was nominated for 8 Tony Awards nominations, with Hyde Pierce winning the award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical. It ran for 511 performances. The Australian premiere was in 2010 at the Gold coast, where it ran for 4 weeks.

Playlovers' production has now been mostly cast and rehearsals are underway.

The season runs from 13th to 28th September 2013. Performances are at 8pm except for the 2pm matinee on Sunday 22nd September.

Watch the website for updates: <http://playlovers.org.au/curtains>

## Booking Theatre Tickets Online

Booking tickets for Playlovers shows has never been easier. Not only can you choose the seats you want, but, if you wish, you can also print out your tickets; so there is no need to wait in line at the box office when you get to the theatre. You can walk straight into the bar and accept your complimentary port or sherry!

To book your tickets, just click on ONLINE TICKETING at the top of any page on the Playlovers website, or go to [playlovers.org.au/online-bookings](http://playlovers.org.au/online-bookings). After choosing the event, you will be taken through a series of screens where you enter the number of tickets, the performance date, the type of ticket (adult, concession, etc.) whether to print the tickets at home or collect them at the box office, and then you can select your seats from a seating image map. The screens are quite easy to follow.

Having made your selections, you can then create a login using your email address. If you do this, the system will remember your *contact details*, so the next time you book tickets, you will not need to enter this information again. However, it does NOT store your credit card details.

The system is very secure. It passes payment details directly to the bank. The only information Playlovers receives is how much has been paid and what type of card.

So this time try booking your seats online. If you get into difficulties, we will sort it out for you – just email or phone the bookings line. The system has been in operation at Playlovers for over 2 years now, and those who use it seem very happy to book this way.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Calling all directors and potential directors.....!

**Submissions are now open for our 2014 season.** Can you top the fantastic shows in 2013? The submissions review panel is looking for plays, musicals, drama, comedy and shows that will continue to uphold the high standards that Playlovers is renowned for.

Submissions close at the end of July.

To express interest in submitting, email [info@playlovers.org.au](mailto:info@playlovers.org.au) to request a submission form. Please submit the completed form along with a script (if available), cd (if relevant) and other supporting material to the email address or the postal address.

All submissions will be evaluated for artistic merit, relevance, season dates, variety across the whole season as well as audience potential. Playlovers welcomes a variety of shows — from the bizarre through to the popular and the classics.

As we are anticipating an influx of submissions, tell us as much as you can about your intentions for the show and why your show should be produced in 2014. The review panel and committee can't wait to see what you all have in store for us as we continue to be at the forefront of community theatre in Western Australia!

#### EXPRESSIONS OF iNTEREST

##### Submissions Review Panel

Do you have a passion for theatre? Do you know your musicals? Do you know what makes a great show?

Become part of Playlovers history, and express your interest to be on the submissions review panel that will help us choose our seasons for 2014.

The task of the panel is to look through submissions from directors, and to prepare a shortlist to be presented to the Playlovers Committee for selection.

Tell us why you would like to assist and why you should be selected. No qualifications needed, just a passion for all things theatre and the ability to read scripts, work as part of a team and find the best — for the best community theatre around!

Expressions of interest should be emailed to: [info@playlovers.org.au](mailto:info@playlovers.org.au)



### INTRODUCING EWEN MALCOLM

After a couple of years of retirement, Ewen went looking for additional forms of activity, and to do something different from his previous life of running an accounting practice. Therefore, with no background in theatre, Playlovers' Annual General Meeting looked like a good place to start. So he attended the 2010 AGM of Playlovers where he was elected onto the committee — as normally happens! Shortly thereafter, he was asked, and he agreed, to complete an application for his bar manager's licence, and with that done, he became Playlovers bar manager — and that was three years ago!

Also, Ewen has been instrumental in launching Playlovers' application to Lotterywest for funding to refurbish Hackett Hall to meet modern building, health and safety standard, and audience comfort. This application is still a work-in-progress and update reports appear in the newsletter from time to time.

Other activities include conducting accounting practice reviews for the Chartered Institute of Accountants, splashing paint on canvas, volunteering for the Nedlands Waratah Club, and training to walk the Bibbulmun Track in 2014.

# What's on Where

What's on	Where	When	Bookings
Move Over Mrs Markham	Rockingham Theatre Rockingham	14-29 Jun	<a href="http://www.rockinghamtheatre.com">www.rockinghamtheatre.com</a>
Twelfth Night	Melville Theatre	21 Jun-6 Jul	9330 4565
Project Macbeth	Garrick Theatre, Guildford	21 Jun-13 Jul	9378 1990
Unwanted Wishes (Pantomime)	Roleystone Theatre	5-20 July	<a href="http://roleystonetheatre.com.au">roleystonetheatre.com.au</a>
The Shifting Heart	Marloo Theatre, Darlington	5-25 Jul	9255 1783
Two Weeks with the Queen	Stirling Theatre, Innaloo	12-27 Jul	9440 1040
The Merry Go Round in the Sea	GRADS, UWA	19 July-3 Aug	6488 7407
The Season at Sarapilla	Harbour Theatre, Fremantle	19 Jul-3 Aug	9255 3336
And evermore shall be so	KADS Theatre, Kalamunda	19 Jul-10 Aug	9357 2668
A Conversation	Old Mill Theatre, South Perth	22-17 Aug	9367 8719

## Mirrabooka Pop-up Op Shop

Books, clothing, home wares and more, all at great prices!



Mirrabooka Square  
43 Yirrigan Drive  
Mirrabooka



## Volunteers Needed

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm  
Sunday 11am - 5pm

**2 hour shifts available**

For more information contact Ashlee Corfe on (08) 9267 3916  
or [ashlee.corfe@savethechildren.org.au](mailto:ashlee.corfe@savethechildren.org.au)

[www.savethechildren.org.](http://www.savethechildren.org.)



## Playlovers' Playbill 2013

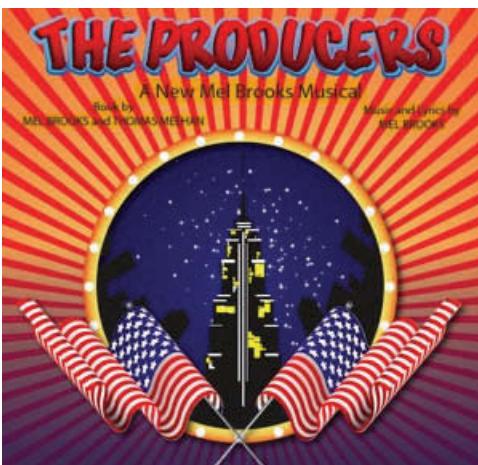
AMERICAN BUFFALO	NEVERMORE	THE PRODUCERS	CURTAINS	BOEING, BOEING	PLOVERS
Directed by John Milson 15-23 March	Directed by Jenny M Ferguson 3-18 May	Directed by Peter Clark 28 June-20 July	Directed by Kristen Twynam-Perkins 13-28 September	Directed by David Nelson 15-30 November	tba
<b>CANCELLED</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>	<b>BOOKINGS</b>	<b>IN REHEARSAL</b>		

If undelivered, please return to -  
**PLAYLOVERS INC**  
**PO BOX 164**  
**WEMBLEY 6913**

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID**

**PP602669-00364**



## **BOOKINGS NOW OPEN**

### **The Producers**

Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan  
Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks

Director: Peter Clark  
Musical Direction: David Hardie

Bookings: [www.playlovers.org.au](http://www.playlovers.org.au)  
[bookings@playlovers.org.au](mailto:bookings@playlovers.org.au)  
0415 777 173

PLAYLOVERS WEBSITE: [www.playlovers.org.au](http://www.playlovers.org.au)

PLAYLOVERS INFORMATION EMAIL: [info@playlovers.org.au](mailto:info@playlovers.org.au)

## **COMMITTEE 2013**

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Committee Members:**

David Young	9444 2395
Wayne Herring	0414750093
Alida Chaney	0403 367 047
Marie Corrigan	9445 8626
Barbara Zahari	9379 3531
Bronwyn Hammond	9447 0945
Jenny Ferguson	6460 2467
Ewen Malcolm	9284 9785
Noel Herbert	0403 040 484
David Hardie	041 166 3032
David Gardette	0416 290 055
Wally Fry	0419 838 414