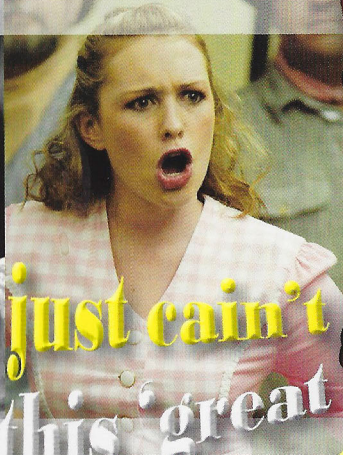
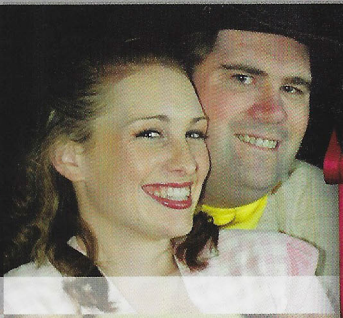
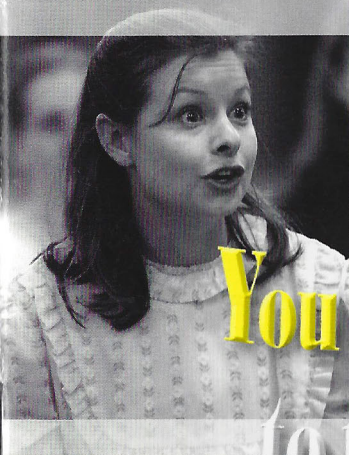
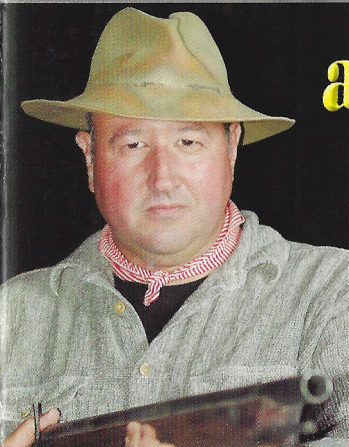


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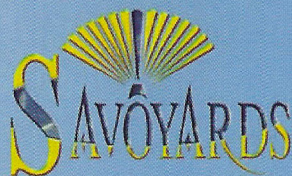
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# OKLAHOMA!

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at the theatre'.

Director  
**Jo Toia**

Musical Director  
**Shane Tooley**

Choreographer  
**Lynette Woekner**

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

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**CALOUNDRA CIVIC CULTURAL CENTRE: 8 OCT. 2005 BOOKINGS: Ph: 5491 4240**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT... GREG JOHNSON



Welcome to Savoyards' 2005 production of *Oklahoma!* You will be experiencing a Broadway classic full of familiar songs, comedy and drama: an audience favourite. This is the fourth production of *Oklahoma!* that Savoyards has presented, the first being in 1967.

One of Savoyards' favourite leading ladies, Jo Toia, is Director. Shane Tooley, well-remembered for his outstanding musical direction of Savoyards *Les Misérables* in 2002, once again takes the baton. Lynette Wockner who last choreographed *Brigadoon* for Savoyards, makes a welcome return to the company to create the wild west dances and, of course, that famous dream ballet for this presentation of *Oklahoma!*

2006 programming is well under way, and Savoyards' audiences are sure to be happy with the line-up planned, including productions of *Singin' in the Rain* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. If you are not already a Savoyards' subscriber, consider becoming one of our regular patrons for 2006, and enjoying subscriber benefits and reductions.

Meanwhile, note that the show title, *Oklahoma!*, includes an exclamation mark. It is a show needing an abundance of exuberance and energy and this has been the aim of all involved in this production. Be ready to witness an enthusiastic performance of singing, dancing, comedy and drama. Enjoy Savoyards' 2005 mounting of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR...

## JO TOIA



*Oklahoma!* is by far my favourite of all the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals. Even after more than 60 years, this musical appeals to all ages with its strong story line featuring romance, drama and comedy underpinned by an unforgettable musical score. I am indeed privileged to have worked with such a dedicated, talented and enthusiastic cast, production team and crew.

We hope you will be enchanted by the performances of the principals and chorus; the wonderful music and choreography; all further enhanced by creative sets, colourful costuming and innovative lighting and technical effects.

Sadly the Savoyards family lost two of its Life Members during this production, Reg Nutley (Photography and Front of House) and my mum Ada Groenhart, who many of you will remember from her performances and productions. Their legacy is alive and well however, through their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who are part of this production. I am sure they are watching with pride.

*Jo first joined Savoyards at age twelve as a dancer in the company's first production of The Merry Widow. She has since gone on to perform many chorus, minor and leading roles for the company including Laurey in Oklahoma!, Fiona in Brigadoon and Sister Hubert in Nunsense. Jo credits her favourite role as Lady Thiang in The King and I, however Dolly in Savoyards 2004 production of Hello, Dolly! is probably the most challenging role she has ever undertaken. Away from the theatre, Jo is a qualified veterinarian and past president of the Australian Veterinary Association. Currently she is the member networks coordinator for the Spinal Injuries Association.*



## FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR... SHANE TOOLEY



Across the world, two productions of *Oklahoma!* are staged on any given day. The appeal of this musical is just as strong today as it was in 1943 when it opened on Broadway. *Oklahoma!* is a landmark work as it was the first musical to be driven by the story with the acting, singing and dancing arising out of the dialogue. The story which unfolds is universal and relevant even today. It is a story of friendship, new adventures, tragedy, struggle, determination and of course, love. The music by Richard Rodgers is timeless and will forever be a part of our culture. Songs such as 'Oh What A Beautiful Morning', 'I Cain't Say No' and 'Oklahoma' are known throughout the world, even by those who are not theatre goers. There is a vitality, richness and emotion within this score which we have recreated on stage in this production. The tireless dedication of our cast, musicians and crew, has made this production truly spectacular. The countless hours given by each and every person is a true indication of the passion they have for this show and volunteer musical theatre productions, for without them there would be no show. I invite you to escape to a time and engage with a life which was far less complicated, where emotions were true and goodwill was shown to all.

*Shane is a graduate of the Creative Industries Faculty at QUT with bachelor degrees in Vocal Performance, Conducting and Music Education. He is an experienced musician having worked as a performer, conductor, vocal coach, producer, accompanist, educator and musical director. This vast and varied experience allows Shane to bring a depth of both onstage and offstage knowledge to the production. His theatre credits include Sherwoodstock, The Pajama Game, Me and My Girl, The Pirates of Penzance, Jesus Christ Superstar, Les Misérables, Hot Mikado, Little Shop of Horrors, Singin' In The Rain and West Side Story. Oklahoma! is Shane's second production as musical director for Savoyards, having been musical director for their 2002 production of Les Misérables, which was nominated for the Perform/4MBS Award for Best Musical in the same year. He has also performed at the Qld Biennial Festival of Music and regularly works as choral conductor and solo performer. Shane is currently completing his Masters of Learning Innovation degree at QUT, majoring in Music Technology Education. He has had a number of research papers and articles published in professional journals and conducts professional development workshops. Shane is the Choral Director and Middle and Senior School Classroom Music Specialist at Forest Lake College.*



# FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER... LYNETTE WOCKNER

*Oklahoma!* was my first musical and also my introduction into the wonderful world of theatre in 1980. It has been very exciting to come full circle and to choreograph this production for Savoyards.

Dancing has always been a part of my life as I commenced Highland Dancing at the age of 5 and have studied various forms of dance over the years.

I have choreographed many shows in and around Brisbane with some of the most recent productions being *Kismet*, *Brigadoon*, *Snapshots from Home*, *As You Like It*, *Patience*, the children's Christmas musical *Humbug* and *The Little Mermaid*. This is my third production for Savoyards. The first was *The King and I* in 2000 followed by *Brigadoon* in 2003.

It has been wonderful working with Jo, Shane and Shelley as part of the Production Team and it has been a joy to watch the show come together with the excitement and enthusiasm from our talented cast.

I hope you enjoy Savoyards production of *Oklahoma!* as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.



## ABOUT OKLAHOMA!...

Rodgers & Hammerstein's first collaboration remains, in many ways, their most innovative, having set the standards and established the rules of musical theatre still being followed today. Set in a Western Indian territory just after the turn of the century, the high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colourful background against which Curly, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey, a winsome farm girl, play out their love story. Although the road to true love never runs smooth, with these two headstrong romantics holding the reins, love's journey is as bumpy as a surrey ride down a country road. We have no doubt that they will succeed in making a new life together, and that this new life will begin in a brand-new state, the name of which provides the ultimate musical climax to the triumphant *OKLAHOMA!*



**TIME ~ JUST AFTER THE TURN OF THE CENTURY**  
**PLACE ~ INDIAN TERRITORY (NOW OKLAHOMA)**

**ACT I**

Overture..... Orchestra

*Scene 1 ~ The Front of Laurey's Farm House*

Oh What A Beautiful Mornin' ..... Curly  
The Surrey with the Fringe on the Top ..... Curly, Aunt Eller, Laurey  
Kansas City..... Will, Aunt Eller, Boys  
The Surrey with the Fringe on the Top (reprise) ..... Curly  
I Cain't Say No ..... Ado Annie  
Oh What A Beautiful Mornin' (reprise)..... Curly, Chorus  
Many a New Day ..... Laurey, Girls  
It's A Scandal! It's A Outrage!..... Ali Hakim, Men  
People Will Say We're In Love ..... Curly, Laurey

*Scene 2 ~ The Smoke House*

Pore Jud is Daid ..... Curley, Jud  
Lonely Room..... Jud

*Scene 3 ~ The Front of Laurey's Farm House*

Out Of My Dreams ..... Laurey, Girls  
Dream Ballet..... Ensemble

**ACT II**

Entr'acte ..... Orchestra

*Scene 1 ~ The Skidmore Ranch*

The Farmer and the Cowman..... Old Man Carnes, Aunt Eller, Chorus  
All Er Nothin' ..... Will, Ado Annie  
People Will Say We're In Love (reprise)..... Curly, Laurey

*Scene 2 ~ The Front of Laurey's Farm House*

Oklahoma ..... Aunt Eller, Ike, Curly, Laurey, Chorus  
Finale..... Company

*Please Note: There will be a 20 minute intermission between Acts.*



## CHARACTERS

Curly.....	Damien Orth
Laurey .....	Kellie Ireland
Aunt Eller .....	Liz Quinn
Jud Fry.....	Greg Quinn
Ado Annie .....	Astin Blaik
Will Parker .....	Jason Lawson
Ali Hakim.....	Christopher Thomas
Andrew Carnes.....	Rob Vella
Ike Skidmore .....	Alec Raymond
Cord Elam.....	David Longton
Gertie Cummings.....	Kathy Eisentrager
Slim.....	David van der Giessen
Fred .....	Tony Scotte
Aggie.....	Taryn Ryan

## DREAM BALLET

Curly.....	David van der Giessen
Laurey .....	Natalie Lennox

## MALE CHORUS

George Canham, Gary Clarke, Stephen McLachlan, Victor Meirinhos,  
Gordon Milward, Steve Norris, Daniel Nutley, Matthew Nutley,  
Corey Rapley, Luke Raymond, Rex Wainwright

## FEMALE CHORUS

Jacqueline Atherton, Sonja Bancroft, Trudie Brazier, Kim Bridges,  
Michelle Coates, Colleen Frith, Elissa Greer, Chantelle Hill,  
Bronwyn Holley, Natalie Lennox, Jane Milward, Alice Nixon,  
Rowena Plant, Terri Quinn, Tracey Rowland, Donna Shipley,  
Lynne Swain, Melissa Thomas, Sylvia van der Weyden,  
Vanessa Wainwright

## CHILDREN'S CHORUS

David Canham, Samuel Canham, Braedyn Quinn,  
Kylara Swain, Rebecca Swain, Dayna Thomas











## CURLY ~ DAMIEN ORTH



Born in New Zealand, Damien began his musical career at the age of 12 with the Queensland Children's Choir. Through this, he was part of a small ensemble that represented Australia at the Osaka Music Festival in Japan. In 1996, while studying under Margreta Elkins at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Damien made his professional operatic debut at the Inaugural Brisbane Music Festival as Mingo in *Porgy & Bess* (Andrew McKinnon's Concert Presentations). Damien has since gone on to perform roles in *Carmen Jones*, Chamber Made Opera's world premier of *Gauguin* at the Melbourne Festival, *The King and I*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Les Misérables*, *Die Fledermaus*, and several concerts around Brisbane. Damien is thrilled to be playing the role of Curly in Savoyards production of *Oklahoma!*

## LAUREY ~ KELLIE IRELAND



Kellie's musical theatre career began in North Queensland where she played leading roles for North Qld Opera & Musical Theatre Company and the Townsville Choral Society in *My Fair Lady*, *Showboat*, *The King and I* and *Camelot*, and featured regularly as an anthem singer for the NRL North Queensland Cowboys. Since moving to Brisbane in 2000, she has appeared for Harvest Rain Theatre Company as Kim in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Bet in *Oliver* and Chloe in *Off the Planet*. She also sings professionally in local swing group 'It's Martini Time'. In 2003, Kellie completed a Bachelor of Creative Industries at QUT, majoring in Theatre and Music. Kellie is an Environmental Scientist and, by day, manages the RSPCA Qld Education Department. *Oklahoma!* is Kellie's first appearance for Savoyards.



## AUNT ELLER ~ LIZ QUINN

Liz Quinn, despite many years as a Director in theatre both here and abroad, has rarely been tempted to tread the boards herself, the most notable exception being her portrayal of Mother Superior in *Nunsense*. She takes her place on stage in *Oklahoma!* as Aunt Eller because “it is one of those rare musical roles for more mature ladies that allows me to kick up my heels without being too demanding vocally”.



## JUD FRY ~ GREG QUINN

Greg started acting at age 7 in *Anything Goes*. Moving to Queensland in 1988 he joined Savoyards for *Oliver* after which he performed in the chorus and in several small roles for Savoyards before being cast as Motel the tailor in *Fiddler on The Roof* and Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*. Greg then moved to Sydney to undergo professional training at Three Stage Theatre School. For the past four years, he has appeared in professional productions of *Ladies Night*, *The Odd Couple*, and most recently *Dad's Army* with Jon English.



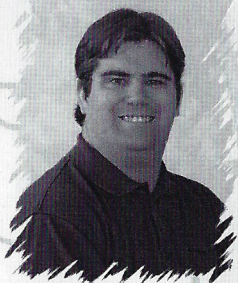


## ADD ANNIE ~ ASTIN BLAIK



Astin recently graduated with distinction for a Bachelor of Music Theatre from Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music. A dancer from an early age, Astin's love for performance encouraged her to develop skills also as a singer, actor and musician, displaying these attributes overseas in Singapore and New Zealand. Astin has had the privilege of working with Music Theatre professionals such as Nancye Hayes, Trevor Green, Keith Hawley, Will Conyers, Michael Turkic and Brendan Ross and aspires to pass on the knowledge she has gained from their direction through teaching those with a keen interest and love for Music Theatre. Astin is currently a member of 'The Love Bugs' - Fabulous Sounds of the Sixties Tribute Show and lead vocalist for The Gone Troppo Swing Band. Astin's recent credits include, Swing in *Assassins* and the lead roles of Rose in *A Sentimental Bloke* and Ariel Moore in *Footloose*.

## WILL PARKER ~ JASON LAWSON

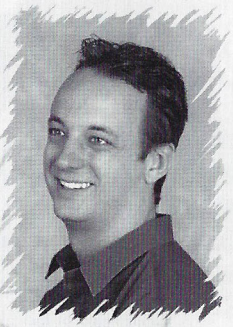


*Oklahoma!* holds a special place in Jason's heart. Not only is it one of his favourite musicals, it was also his first...playing Will Parker in high school 17 years ago. Jason is thrilled to be able to reprise that role for Savoyards. Since joining Savoyards in 2001, Jason has appeared as a principal or soloist in numerous musicals and concerts. His most memorable roles include Lt. Cable in *South Pacific*, Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys & Dolls* and understudying Javert in *Les Misérables*. More recently, he appeared in Sunnybank Theatre Group's production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Jason hopes his father's endless playing of John Denver records as a child will hold him in good stead for this show.



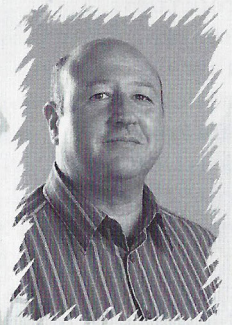
## ALI HAKIM ~ CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

With a background of professional rock singing, Christopher first ventured into musical theatre landing the coveted role of Marius in a 2000 production of *Les Misérables* (Phoenix Ensemble). He has since performed lead roles in *West Side Story*, *Les Misérables*, *South Pacific*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Crazy For You* all for Savoyards. In 2004, he was cast in a principle role opposite Rob Guest in the 2004 Australian Pro-Am premiere of *Jekyll & Hyde* (Gold Coast Arts Centre). Christopher most recently finished performing the role of Javert in the Ignations' *Les Misérables*, to critical acclaim, and will continue on to play Jean Valjean in North Shore Theatre Company's *Les Misérables*.



## ANDREW CARNES ~ ROB VELLA

Rob's musical background is as a rock singer with Melbourne bands during the seventies and eighties. After a long break from the stage he found himself roped into a production of *The Student Prince* in Townsville in 1996, taking his first steps into musical theatre. He continued to perform in various vocal groups along with roles in *42nd Street*, *A Chorus Line* and *Camelot*. Rob joined Savoyards after relocating to Brisbane and settling in Manly where he has performed as Captain Brackett in *South Pacific*, Claquesous in *Les Misérables*, and Horace Vandergelder in *Hello, Dolly!*



## IKE SKIDMORE ~ ALEC RAYMOND

Alec was first bitten by the 'Theatre bug', aged 10, in a Mercury Theatre production, *I Remember Mama*, with his mother and Drama Teacher, Daphne. Teenage experiences in pantomime and plays and memorable high school G&S productions, (including "Little Buttercup" in *HMS Pinafore*) paved the way for Alec's love of Musical Theatre. Joining Savoyards in 1976, he has performed in or directed nine G&S operas; five operettas; directed three Broadway shows and performed in eleven other Broadway shows including Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*, and Bela Zangler in *Crazy For You*. He is delighted to be in the Broadway classic, *Oklahoma!* with his son Luke, their first show together.





## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .....	Jo Toia
Musical Director .....	Shane Tooley
Choreographer .....	Lynette Wockner
Fight Choreography .....	Greg Quinn, Shelley Quinn
Rope Choreography .....	Steve Sutherland
Assistant Director .....	Shelley Quinn
Executive Producer .....	David van der Giessen
Stage Manager .....	Julie Canham
Repetiteur .....	Regis Danillon
Set Design .....	Susanna Jowett
Lighting Design .....	Allan Nutley
Wardrobe Mistress .....	Marilyn Freeman
Hair Stylist .....	Ede's Salon
Properties .....	Colleen Frith
Artwork .....	Admedia
Programme .....	Barry Henzell, Matthew Nutley
Publicity .....	Kaye Nutley, Jan Raymond
Photography .....	Christopher Thomas, Michelle Coates
Ticket Sales .....	Kaye Nutley, Edes Salon
Front Of House .....	Doris Nutley & Friends of Savoyards
Stage Crew .....	Mark Canham, Cassie di Pasquale, Barbara Granato, Annette Hoffman, Jacinta Priedits, Kylie Shearsmith, Jan Raymond, Sharyn Raymond,
Lighting and Sound .....	Barry Henzell, Allan Nutley, Keith Nutley, Peter Rabe, David Sowdon
Set Construction .....	Bryan Phillips, Graham Colenutt

## ORCHESTRA

Conductor .....	Shane Tooley
Violin .....	Alex Black, Damien Kee, Stephanie Eggins, Ann Whitaker
Viola .....	Sherilee Way
Cello .....	Karen Thompson
Double Bass .....	Helen Iliff
Flute / Piccolo .....	Matthew Cowlrick
Oboe/Cor Anglais .....	Alexander St Vincent Welch
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet .....	Angie Robinson
Clarinet .....	Roslyn Sharp
Horn .....	Brian Morrison, Tracey Hume
Trumpet .....	Daniel Delbridge, Josh Sinclair
Keyboard .....	Roger Martin
Percussion .....	Ben Surman



# SAVOYARDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President .....	Greg Johnson
Secretary .....	Phyll Griffin
Treasurer.....	Jan Raymond
Executive Producer.....	Jo Toia
Future Planning & Development.....	David Longton
Publicity & Public Relations .....	Kaye Nutley
Property & Facilities.....	Rob Vella

## LIFE MEMBERS

Olwyn Foley, Allan & Jess Jefferies, Margaret Gibbs, Doris Nutley, Thea Gray, Margaret Scott, Coral Readshaw, Arthur & Rosemary Hall, Betty Hill, Jim & Issy Tomkins, Gill Wright, Bryan Phillips

## IN MEMORIAM

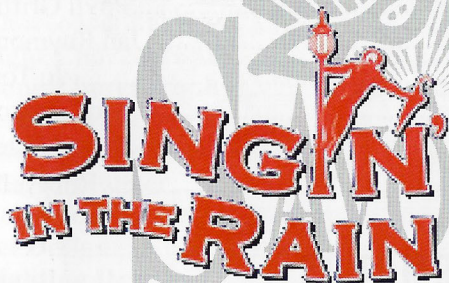
Geoff Arnell, George Daniels, Ness Wright, Bill Whitter, Allan Nuttall, Marie Walsh, Jim Foley, Ed Scott, Reg Nutley, Ada Groenhart

## PLEASE NOTE

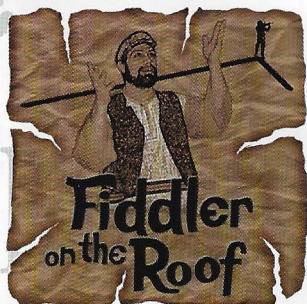
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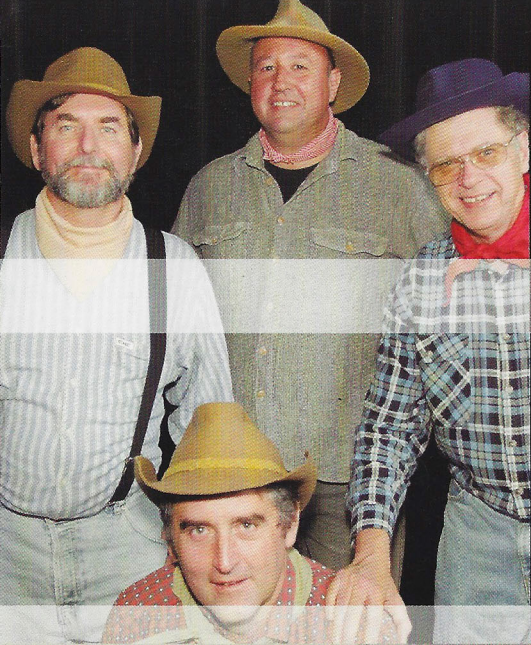
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