



AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

A new musical based on the Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros Theatre Ventures movie

An Officer And A Gentleman

by Douglas Day Stewart

Music and lyrics by Ken Hirsch and Robin Lerner

Book by Douglas Day Stewart and Sharleen Cooper Cohen

Director	Simon Phillips
Choreographer	Andrew Hallsworth
Set and Costume Designer	Dale Ferguson
Lighting Designer	Matt Scott
Musical Director	Dave Skelton
Associate Director	Dean Bryant
Producers	Sharleen Cooper Cohen and John Frost
	In association with Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros Theatre Ventures

Cast includes Ben Mingay, Amanda Harrison, Kate Kendall, Alex Rathgeber

SEASON DETAILS

Venue: Lyric Theatre, The Star, Sydney

Opening: 19 May 2012



An Officer and a Gentleman THE MUSICAL

BEN MINGAY (Zack Mayo)



Ben is an actor, musician and international musical theatre performer. He is currently starring in the award winning musical *Jersey Boys* in the role of Tommy DeVito.

Ben grew up in the steel town of Newcastle, Australia. He was originally a construction worker by day and wrote songs and fronted rock bands by night. He trained vocally at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music and went on to study Opera Voice at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. In 2004, Ben originated the role of Billy Kostecki in the world premiere production of *Dirty Dancing* at Sydney's Theatre Royal for Jacobsen Entertainment. He has since performed in every English speaking production of *Dirty Dancing* including the original Australian/New Zealand Tour, West End Premiere (London), North American Premiere (Toronto) and the US National Tour.

Other musical theatre credits include *HAIR* directed by David Atkins, the role of Stewpot in *South Pacific*, and the lead role of Billy in the original *Side Show Alley* workshop directed by Gale Edwards. Opera credits include *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Mikado* and *Don Giovanni*. He performed as soloist for Opera in the Park in the Hunter and has sung the US national anthem for the Chicago Bears and the Boston Celtics. As an actor Ben has appeared in guest roles on Australian TV dramas *Blue Heelers* and *All Saints*.

AMANDA HARRISON (Paula Pokrifki)



Amanda's performance credits span three continents including the USA, the UK and Australia. She made her professional debut playing Jenny in *Aspects of Love*. Other theatrical credits in Australia include Betty in *Sunset Boulevard*, *Les Miserables*, *The Journey Girl*, Ellen in *Miss Saigon*, Liza in *The Boy From Oz*, Ellie in *Leader Of The Pack* and *We Will Rock You*, for which she was awarded the 2004 Helpmann for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Oz. For The Production Company, Amanda has appeared in *Mame*, *She Loves Me*, *Guys And Dolls*, *Oklahoma!* and most recently as Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*.

On London's West End Amanda has appeared as Ali in *Mamma Mia!* She was also an Original London Cast member of *We Will Rock You*. Amanda's TV appearances in the UK include *Parkinson*, *Children In Need* and guest roles in *Oscar Charlie*, *Grange Hill* and *Casualty*. As a finalist in the inaugural Voice of Musical Theatre for BBC Radio 2, Amanda featured in a BBC documentary about the competition *Broadway Babies*, which aired throughout the UK and Australia. In New York Amanda sang at Carnegie Hall in Australia Plays Broadway as part of G'day Australia Week in 2009.

Amanda is most well known for originating the role of Elphaba in the Australian production of *Wicked* for the Gordon Frost Organization. For playing the role, Amanda was nominated for Green Room, Helpmann and Sydney Theatre Awards for Best Leading Actress in a Musical.

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KATE KENDALL (Lynette Pomeroy)



Kate has an extensive career in theatre, television and film. She is best known for her ongoing role as Detective Angie Piper in Channel 9's hit TV series *Singers*. Her most recent television work includes the US TV series *The Starter Wife*, the ABC black comedy *The Librarians* and the US drama series *The Pacific*. More recently, Kate has had guest roles in popular Australian series such as *City Homicide* (Channel 10) and *Rush* (Seven Network).

Kate's theatrical work includes productions of *Dust*, *Chicago*, *Miss Julie*, *Into the Woods*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Secret of Salvador Dali*, *The Vagina Monologues* and *Art & Soul*. In 2005, Kate starred as Stephanie in the Melbourne Theatre Company's production of *Cheech*, and then held the lead role of Beatrice in the Australian Shakespeare Company's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Then in 2007, she starred as Marguerite in the production of *The Lover*, which opened to rave reviews. Kate also appeared in Malthouse Theatre's production of *Kitten* and later starred in their production of *Furious Mattress*.

In 2011, Kate completed a hugely successful season of MTC's musical production *Next to Normal* and also started work in a recurring role for *Conspiracy 365* television series for the Family Movie Channel. Kate's film work includes *King of the Mountain*, *On the Beach* and more recently, the leading role of Katherine in the film *Belladonna*. In 2009, she filmed the feature *Matching Jack* and then this year finished working on *Eliminated*.

In 2004 Kate was nominated for the Most Outstanding Actress in a Television Series at the Logie Awards for her work in the television series *Singers*. And in 2007, she was nominated for the Green Room Awards Best Solo Performance award for her work on *The Lover*.

ALEX RATHGEBER (Sid Worley)



Alex's theatre credits include Raoul on London's West End in Cameron Mackintosh's *The Phantom of the Opera*, Robert Martin in Melbourne Theatre Company's *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Older Patrick in The Production Company's *Mame*, for which he received a Green Room Award nomination. Most recently, Alex appeared as Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* after playing Peter Allen's partner Greg Connell in *The Boy From Oz*, both for The Production Company. Prior to that Alex starred in *The Boy Friend* (Tony), *Camelot* (Lancelot), *Kiss Me, Kate* (Gremio), *Annie Get Your Gun* and *The Pajama Game* for The Production Company. He will play dual roles of Joe Kennedy Jr and Jerry in their final 2011 production, *Grey Gardens*.

Further theatre credits include the New Zealand and Korean tour of *The Rocky Horror Show* (Brad Majors), *Fiddler on the Roof* (TML), *Sideshow Alley the Musical* (QPAC), solo shows *A Momentary Act* and, for the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, *Experiment*; and a range of concert and benefit appearances including City of Stonnington's *Musical Melodies in the Park* and Very Special Kids remembrance days. On television Alex has had roles on Channel Ten's *Rush* and the ABC's *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*. Alex is a graduate of The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).