

**SYDNEY PREMIERE**

# **BY JEEVES**



**MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER**

**BOOK AND LYRICS BY ALAN AYCKBOURN**

**BASED ON THE "JEEVES" STORIES BY P.G. WODEHOUSE**

**Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse**, KBE (15 October 1881 – 14 February 1975) was an English comic novelist, who enjoyed enormous popular success during a career of more than seventy years and continues to be widely read. Despite the political and social upheavals that occurred during his life, much of which was spent in France and the United States. Wodehouse's main canvas remained that of prewar English upper-class society, reflecting his birth, education, and youthful writing career.

An acknowledged master of English prose, Wodehouse has been admired both by contemporaries such as Hilaire Belloc, Evelyn Waugh and Rudyard Kipling and by modern writers such as Douglas Adams, Salman Rushdie and Terry Pratchett. Sean O'Casey famously called him "English literature's performing flea", a description that Wodehouse used as the title of a collection of his letters to a friend, Bill Townend.

Best known today for the *Jeeves* and *Blandings Castle* novels and short stories, Wodehouse was also a talented playwright and lyricist who was part author and writer of fifteen plays and of 250 lyrics for some thirty musical comedies. He worked with Cole Porter on the musical *Anything Goes* (1934) and frequently collaborated with Jerome Kern and Guy Bolton. He wrote the lyrics for the hit song Bill in Kern's *Show Boat* (1927), wrote the lyrics for the Gershwin - Romberg musical *Rosalie* (1928), and collaborated with Rudolf Friml on a musical version of *The Three Musketeers* (1928).

**Andrew Lloyd Webber** is the composer of *The Likes of Us*; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *By Jeeves*; *Evita*; *Variations* and *Tell Me On A Sunday* - later combined as *Song & Dance*; *Cats*; *Starlight Express*; *The Phantom of the Opera*; *Aspects of Love*; *Sunset Boulevard*; *Whistle Down the Wind*; *The Beautiful Game* and *The Woman in White*. He composed the film scores of *Gumshoe* and *The Odessa File*, and a setting of the *Latin Mass Requiem*.

In 2004 he produced a film version of *The Phantom of the Opera* directed by Joel Schumacher and in 2009 he will premiere his sequel to *The Phantom of the Opera* which will be directed by the award-winning director Jack O'Brien.

In 2006 he oversaw a new production of *Evita* in London, a unique version of *The Phantom of the Opera* in Las Vegas, and pioneered television casting for musical theatre with three hit BBC series.

His awards include seven Tonys, three Grammys including Best Contemporary Classical Composition for *Requiem*, seven Oliviers, a Golden Globe, an Oscar, two International Emmys, the Praemium Imperiale, the Richard Rodgers award for Excellence in Musical Theatre and the Kennedy Center Honor.

He currently owns seven London theatres including the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and the London Palladium.

He was knighted in 1992 and created an honorary life peer in 1997.

**Alan Ayckbourn** was born in London in 1939 and has worked in theatre all his life. Before establishing himself as a writer and director, Alan worked in roles as various as stage manager, sound technician, lighting technician, scene painter, prop maker and actor. He always claims that most of these talents he developed with the help of Stephen Joseph, his mentor and founder of the Library Theatre in Scarborough who first encouraged him to write. One of Alan's greatest achievements was the establishment of a permanent home for the company of which he has been artistic director since 1972 – the Stephen Joseph Theatre. This splendid two-auditoria arts complex opened in 1996.

Probably one of the nation's most performed living playwrights, Alan Ayckbourn has written 72 plays, almost all receiving their first performance in Scarborough. Among his successes are: *How The Other Half Loves*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Just Between Ourselves*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Woman in Mind*, *A Small Family Business* and *Comic Potential*. More than 35 have been produced in the West End or at the National Theatre since his first hit, *Relatively Speaking*, opened at the Duke of York's Theatre in 1967.

His plays have been translated into 35 languages, have won numerous national and international awards and are performed on stage and television throughout the world. They have been filmed in English and French, the most recent, *Coeurs*, Alain Resnais' adaptation of *Private Fears in Public Places* winning that great film director the Silver Lion Award at the 2007 Venice Film Festival.

Alan's book, *The Crafty Art of Playmaking*, published by Faber in 2002 has, to date, been published in Germany, Spain, Sweden and the US.

The holder of a number of honorary degrees, he is also the recipient of a Montblanc de la Culture Award for Europe and a Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence. A Fellow of the RSA, he was appointed a CBE in 1987 and in 1997, was knighted for services to the theatre.

Alan Ayckbourn will step down as Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre at the climax of the 2008 autumn season.

*Biography supplied by Alan Ayckbourn's official website [www.alanayckbourn.net](http://www.alanayckbourn.net).*

The Friends of Little Wittam Church Prodly present:  
**AN EVENING WITH BERTRAM WOOSTER**  
Featuring  
Bertram Wilberforce Wooster – tenor vocalist  
Accompanied by Bertram Wilberforce Wooster – banjo

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**SPECIAL NOTICE**

In the highly unlikely event of the cancellation of tonight's banjo concert the following emergency entertainment may well be performed in its stead:

**BY JEEVES**  
**A diversionary entertainment**

Bertie Wooster: Nick Hunter  
Jeeves, his manservant: Richard Cotter  
Honorina Glossop, his ex-fiancée: Jacqui Robson  
Bingo Little, his friend, in love with Honorina: Leon Wasserman  
Gussie Fink-Nottle, another friend, in love with Madeline: Rowan Witt  
Sir Watkyn Bassett, a magistrate: Rod Stewart  
Madeline Bassett, his daughter: Melanie McLeod  
Stiffy Byng, his ward: Emily Twemlow  
Harold 'Stinker' Pinker, a clergyman, in love with Stiffy: Adam Majsay  
Cyrus Budge III (Junior), an American Guest: Daniel Felkai  
With James Graham and Penelope Webber

Entirely devised, composed, written and directed by Jeeves

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*By Jeeves* was originally produced at the Stephen Joseph Theatre Scarborough directed by Alan Ayckbourn, designed by Roger Glossop  
with choreography by Sheila Carter

## NICK HUNTER



Nick graduated from Charles Sturt University's BA Acting (for screen and stage) in 2007. Since then he has been pursuing his acting career. He recently had his Sydney stage debut in Opera Australia's *Orlando*. Last year he formed Hunting Jade Productions and staged Sam Shepard's *Cowboy Mouth*. Also a filmmaker he has just completed the television pilot *Mission to Bok*. He has starred in numerous short films and television pilots.

His stage credits include: *Macbeth*; John Bolton's *Macbeth* (UTE), *Jabe*; *Orpheus Descending* (UTE), *Brick*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (SOACT), *Friar Lawrence*; *Romeo and Juliet* (UTE), *Yasha*; *The Cherry Orchard* (UTE), *Slim*; *Cowboy Mouth* (HJP), *Lieutenant*; *Orlando* (Opera Australia). This is Nick's first time branching into musical theatre since high school and he has loved the challenge.

## RICHARD COTTER



*By Jeeves* marks Richard's return to Kent Street, after appearing 16 years ago in *Tons of Money* (another Alan Ayckbourn adaptation). Since then, he has furthered his CV as an actor in the title roles of *Cymbeline* (Factory Space) and *King Lear* (Pact); *The Art of Success* (Seymour Centre); *Edmond* (Belvoir Street), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Newtown Theatre); *Dark Pony* and *Reunion* (Bondi Pavilion); *Taking Steps* and *Twelfth Night* (Iron Cove); *Amadeus* (Enmore Theatre).

Richard has also been busy as a director helming *The Club* (New Theatre), *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband* and *Mothers & Fathers* (Stables); *The Lucky One* (NIDA); *Julius Caesar* (Hunters Hill); *Big Horn* (Lookout) and for the last six years, the sensationally successful series of lawyer comedies written by Tony Laumberg, the latest, *Bondi Legal* playing at Tap Gallery in May (mark your diaries).

## ROWAN WITT



Currently completing a Bachelor of Music Performance in Voice at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Rowan already boasts an impressive résumé. From principal roles in Opera Australia productions, to singing with the four-part acapella group Me Me Me, to appearing in dozens of television commercials and in a variety of film and television roles including Tony in *Home and Away*, Spoon Boy in *The Matrix* and Oliver Twist in *Escape of the Artful Dodger*, Rowan has hardly any time to indulge his passion for playing the piano accordion. Later this year he will appear as Papageno in the National Youth Opera's premiere production, *The Magic Flute*.

A fan of all things Wodehouse, Rowan is also managing to enjoy bonding with the newt-collecting character of Augustus Fink-Nottle.

## JACQUI ROBSON



Jacqui Robson graduated from drama school this year where her roles included Harper in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*; Karen in Lillian Helman's *Children's Hour*; Miriam in Clare Boothe Luce's *The Women*; Isobel in *Measure for Measure* and Mascha in Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

Jacqui is mightily chuffed to be cast as the robustly endearing Honoria, in keeping with her long time love of *Jeeves and Wooster* and is enjoying her new association with musical theatre.

## ROD STEWART



Thirty five years ago a musical play called *Nuclear* opened at the Metro Theatre in Kings Cross. It was a smash flop! A far cry from the original workshop performances by the Pact Theatre that were so successful. The author/composer was Rod Stewart.

Passionate about musical theatre since a teenager, Rod has since written two more musical plays: *Devil May Care*, workshopped by the Lane Cove Theatre Company in 2007, and *Rikky*, which he hopes will be staged next year. He has also appeared in five plays at the LCTC in the past three years, most recently as Colonel Mustard in the musical *Clue*. This is his first role with the Genesisians.

## EMILY TWEMLOW



As likely to be found on the ski slopes as treading the boards, Emily has had a long and varied career on the stages of Sydney. A classically trained pianist from an early age, she can also sing and dance in a variety of styles.

Recent productions include *The Medieval Mystery Cycles* as Satan; *Blood Weddings* as the Moon - for which she not only acted but was the Musical Director and Choreographer, *The Tempest* as Ariel; *Forty Years On* (Musical Director); *Relative Values* as Miranda; *School for Scandal* as Lady Teazel; *Something's Afoot* as Hope Langdon, and *Away* as Meg. Emily was also Musical Director for two recent pantomimes for Lane Cove Theatre Company: *Pinnocchio* and *Cinderella*, in which she also starred in the title role.

Her hobbies include tomato sauce and correcting people who are unable to spell or pronounce her last name.

## LEON WASERMAN



Leon was born and grew up in Sydney until 2003, when he moved to Mackay in Queensland.

In year 11 Leon participated in a school production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Oberon and was bitten by the acting bug.

Since 2003, Leon has participated in a number of short films as well as plays, leading to his return to Sydney in February of 2008.

In March 2008, Leon joined the Genesian Theatre and wasted no time in auditioning for parts, landing the title role in *The Director*, as well as small parts in *The Medieval Mystery Cycles*.

## MELANIE MCLEOD



Melanie has loved musical theatre since the tender age of 11, when in her first school production of *The Wiz*, she was cast as Dorothy. Since then, she has participated in many musical productions, choirs and plays. Some of her favourites include Bet in *Oliver!*; Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors*; Wendy in *Peter Pan* and Cosette in *Les Misérables* just to name a few. In 2006, Melanie was part of the School's Spectacular featured Choir, and also an ensemble member in *A Midsummer's Opera* with Alexander Productions.

At 19 years old, and currently studying at the University of Western Sydney, Melanie is in her first year of a Bachelor of Music Degree majoring in voice and performance, and is also preparing to take her eighth grade exam in piano next year.

Melanie says it has been a wonderful experience to play this bubbly, full of life (among other things) character, Madeline, in *By Jeeves*.

## ADAM MAJSAY



Adam's experience in the theatre spans 20 years with a broad palette of music theatre roles to his credit. Roles of note include: The Baker in *Into the Woods* (OOTB & HMS); Man 2 in *Songs for a New World* (SMT); and Rolf in *The Sound of Music* (Hills Centre). Adam trained under Roland Maconaghie and Robert Allman at The Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Adam's performance experience also includes roles in Opera and Cabaret, along with corporate singing and piano accompanist engagements.

Offstage, Adam has Musically Directed such shows as *Les Misérables*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *Oliver* and *Little Shop of Horrors* and directed *Dads Army*; *The Billion Dollar Saint* and *Room Service*. Adam devised, musically directed and performed in *A-Z-A MUSICALPHABET Cabaret* in 2007.

Professionally, he is Head of Music at an independent school in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs where he co-ordinates a large and vibrant music programme.

## DANIEL FELKAI



Daniel has been performing since age 12, after getting involved in a high school production of *Romeo and Juliet*, initially as an excuse to miss class! Having discovered his passion for performance, Daniel trained as an actor at the University of Wollongong, graduating in 2004 with a Bachelor of Creative Arts in Performance (Theatre). His theatre credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (UOW); *Russian Egg Flip* (UOW); *Terrorism* (UOW); *Seeking Stephen Sondheim* (Fat Lady Productions); *Dracula Triumphant* (The Ocracy/Theatre Royal); *Our Country's Good* (Castle Hill Players/Australian Centenary of Federation Festivities); *The Imaginary Invalid* (Castle Hill Players); *The Underpants* (Castle Hill Players); and most recently *True Times Three* (SubtleNuance Productions).

His film/TV credits include *Footy Legends* (Suitcase Films); *Feeling Amorous* (James Rubbo); *Battle Therapy* (Particip8); *Drastic* (Kuse Mono Productions); *House of Horace* (CineDream); and *Mondays* (UTS Student Film). When not performing, Daniel works as a projectionist for Greater Union Cinemas, and is a keen traveler, writer, filmmaker, and guitar player (Although his long suffering neighbours may well have something to say about that!).

## PENELOPE WEBBER



*By Jeeves* marks Penelope's debut with the Genesian Theatre. She has enjoyed performing in many amateur productions in both Sydney and The Southern Highlands over the years. Her most recent achievement would be writing, producing and distributing two original tracks, with positive industry feedback. Penelope has also taken on the co-ordinator role for the *By Jeeves* cast and crew charity cabaret, to be performed in late November which will benefit two very good causes.

Penelope has enjoyed the schizophrenia of *By Jeeves* over the last few months, only adding to the confusion when covering the three female roles. She hopes you enjoy this wonderfully unique production.

## JAMES GRAHAM



James has been acting in one thing or another since he was able to walk. His real life roles include a university student, tutor and retail assistant. He always tries to have some theatre in his life to keep things as interesting as possible.

He has done shows with Marian Street Theatre, Lane Cove Theatre Company, Dural Musical Society and Willoughby Musical Society. He has also been on T.V. and student films. This is his first show at the Genesian, in which he is understudying several of the roles, working backstage and performing vocal back-up.

## DIRECTOR

Roger has been directing for the past 18 years in England, Australia and his native New Zealand. He has assembled an intriguing collection of past productions ranging from literary adaptations such as *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Brideshead Revisited* to contemporary American plays, murder mysteries and a number of musicals including *Carousel*, *Grease* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Shakespeare has been a special favourite for many years with previous productions including *Merchant of Venice*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest* and his 2005 production of *Hamlet*.

As an actor, Roger's roles range from the deluded Roy in *Cosi*, to the obsessive Soames in *The Forsyte Saga*. Recent highlights include donning a fat suit and oceans of green make-up to play Toad in Alan Bennett's adaptation of *Wind in the Willows* and most recently appearing as Siegfried Sassoon in the WWI Drama *Not About Heroes* in Sydney, Canberra and Christchurch. He has also worked professionally as a voice artist for talking books and worked for two years in London with the Stoll Moss Theatre Group.

Roger is a professionally produced playwright, writing the book and lyrics for *Flowers at Breakfast*, at the Fortune Theatre in Dunedin NZ, and authoring the winning entries in the 2004 and 2008 Noosa National One-Act Playwriting Competition. ABC Television produced his monologue *Looking Back* in 2003 and he has also authored a number of 'rather dodgy' Theatre Restaurant scripts. Roger works as an investigating solicitor with the Law Society of New South Wales.

He is thrilled to have the opportunity to stage the musical he saw in London in 1996 and loved and is most grateful to all the Company for their patience, hard work and dedication.

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Although new to the Genesian Theatre Tim is no stranger to the magical world of theatre and production. When studying his Bachelor of Creative Arts in Music Composition, Tim became involved in theatrical production and has subsequently completed both a Course Work Masters and a Research Masters Degree in Theatre Production.

He has worked in most aspects of production including Production/Tour Manager, Stage Manager, Musical Director and Designer. In addition to his theatrical endeavors Tim also managed a event business for 5 years.

## CHOREOGRAPHER

Debbie's passion for theatre started at an early age when she began classical dance classes. Over many years she broadened her dance style interest and undertook further training in jazz, character and modern dance. Being interested in movement studies, Debbie pursued academic qualifications and holds a Masters of Education and a post-graduate certificate in Drama from Sydney University.

Debbie has performed in numerous musicals for the Parramatta Musical Comedy Company and the Strathfield Musical Society. During 1987-88 she opened a small dance academy which traveled to primary school venues giving children the opportunity to study dance. She has worked professionally as a dancer and choreographer for cabaret and nightclub shows. She has also choreographed for the Parramatta Pageant and other Department of Education events. In the past 18 years of teaching she has also directed and choreographed many high school plays and musicals.

For the past twelve years, Debbie has been an active member of the Genesian Theatre acting in numerous workshops including *Separate Tables*, *Mystery Cycles*, *Under Milkwood* and *Bus Stop*. Her last role in a major production was Mrs Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility*. She has directed three plays for the Genesian Theatre: *Cards On the Table* (2006), *Shadowlands* (2007) and *Enchanted April* (2008) and has 'workshopped' productions of *Under Milkwood*, *A Night of Noel Coward* and *Waiting for Godot*. She says 'working on productions is so creative... but if I can't be on the stage acting, then I'm nearly as happy being on the set painting it'.



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# **BY JEEVES – An Almost Entirely New Musical**

By Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Ayckbourn

based on the novels of PG Wodehouse

**THE GENESIAN THEATRE SEASON 18 OCT to 6 DEC 2008**

## **PRODUCTION**

Director: Roger Gimblett

Musical Director: Timothy M. Carter

Choreographer: Debbie Smith

Set Design: Owen Gimblett

Costume Design: Sue Carveth and Lissa Knight

Lighting & Sound Design: Michael J. Schell

Production Manager: Joyce Birch

Assistant MD: Jennifer Brown

Set Construction: Grant Fraser, Owen and Wendy Gimblett, Paul Gilbert, Paul Treacy

Publicity: Marissa Carey-Brenton and Committee

Graphic Design: Tom Massey

Photography: Craig O'Regan and Grant Fraser

Acknowledgements: Philippa Shugg, Josephine Jones, Formular 1 Original Spare Parts

## **ORCHESTRA**

Piano (Izzie Nutledge): Maiko Inoue

Woodwind: Jennifer Brown

Bass: Iain Tallis

Guitar: Tim Hunt

Percussion: Dominic Robinson

## **CREW**

Stage Manager: Caroline Gage

ASM: Michael Sterbal

LX/SFX Operation: Lachlan Mennie, Eric Bicknell, and Team

## **SONGS**

### **Act One**

A FALSE START Bertie

NEVER FEAR Bertie/Jeeves

TRAVEL HOPEFULLY Bertie/Bingo

THAT WAS NEARLY US Honoria

LOVES MAZE Stiffy

THE HELLO SONG Bertie, Budge, Gussie

### **Act Two**

BY JEEVES Bertie, Bingo, Gussie

WHEN LOVE ARRIVES Bertie/Madeline

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY, JEEVES? Bertie/Jeeves

HALF A MOMENT Harold/Stiffy

IT'S A PIG Honoria, Madeline, Bassett, Gussie, Bertie

BANJO BOY The Company

THE WIZARD RAINBOW FINALE The Company

*There will be one interval of 15 minutes*

**Coming next to the Genesian Theatre...**

