

Oscar Wilde's

*The*  
**Star Child**



23rd November -  
14th December 2013

## Act I

*There will be an interval of 15 mins*

## Act II

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### **Timothy M Carter - Musical Director**

Tim's credits as Musical Director include the Sydney premier of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *By Jeeves*, *Spamalot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Let's Hope* and *The Western Show*. An experienced musician and composer, he has written music for productions of *The Glass Menagerie*, *Saint Joan*, *Charlie's Aunt*, *The Living*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside* and a devised production based on a suite of his compositions called *FRAGMENTS*. Tim is also an acclaimed Lighting Designer, and his studies include a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Music Composition), Master of Creative Arts (Theatre Production) and a Master of Creative Arts - Research (Theatre Production).

### **Choreographer: Debbie Smith**

For the GTC, Debbie has directed *Journey's End*, *And Then There Were None*, *Cards on the Table*, *Enchanted April*, *Shadowlands* and *Coward at Christmas*. She Assistant Directed on *Northanger Abbey* and *Money and Friends* and choreographed for *Dickens Down Under*, *By Jeeves and Northanger Abbey*. *Starchild* is her third collaboration with Roger. She has also designed sets for numerous plays including *Hay Fever*, *Intent to Murder*, *Journey's End* and *Private Lives*. She is currently on the Board of the GTC and will co-direct *Frankenstein* for the GTC in 2014.

### **A note from the Authors:**

Welcome to a ‘World Premiere’ 16 years on!! Nick and I teamed up to adapt Oscar Wilde’s *The Star Child* when we were both working for West End theatre company Stoll Moss in 1996. The show was work-shopped in London and later in Sydney with casts including actors who went on to feature in *The Bill* and *Eastenders*; and even one who turned into a yellow Wiggle! However, largely because of the composer and lyricist being on opposite sides of the world the show itself spent most of the last 16 years in a bottom drawer!

We are enormously glad therefore that the ‘Stars’ have finally aligned for this belated world premiere and hugely grateful to the Genesian Theatre and our stellar cast and crew and to all those who participated in the process of bringing this new musical to the stage. RG

### **Roger Gimblett (book & lyrics)**

Roger’s previous musicals include *Flowers at Breakfast* Fortune Theatre NZ (1994), *What Santa Does other Days of the Year* Fortune Theatre NZ (1996)/SIT NZ (2009), *Pete and Hook* (Madhatter musicals). He has recently completed the workshop of a new musical *Haunted* written with Timothy Carter. His one act plays *Three Chairs! Decline and Fall*, *Horizons* and *Tant Pis* have been variously performed by theatre groups in Australia, the UK, South Africa and India. Roger adapted *Great Expectations* and *Term of His Natural Life* for the Genesian Theatre.

### **Nicholas Edwards (music)**

Nick studied music education at the University of Melbourne, before taking degrees in theology and psychology, and gaining post-graduate qualifications in psychotherapy in London. He grew up in Australia, where he studied piano, voice and tuba. On moving to the UK he initially worked as a professional tenor – firstly at Wells Cathedral, then in other parts of England. He has also worked in non-creative roles with several London theatres and Opera Australia. His first co-written full musical was staged in his final year at school. Other co-written musicals include two adaptations of Oscar Wilde works – *Star Child* and *Dorian Gray*. The University of Melbourne Institute of Education staged his full-length musical *Conspiracy Indeed!* for which he wrote the music, book and lyrics, and directed the music. His latest show, *Teach Me a Lesson*, is inspired by *Tom Brown’s School Day*.

Nick’s choral music has been commissioned, performed and recorded in Australia, UK and USA and he was composer-in-residence – working with the choirs and ensembles - of the Athens First United Methodist Church, in Georgia, USA. He lives in London.

## Cast



### **BEN BENNETT – The Star Child**

Born in England Ben migrated to Queensland with his family when he was 5 years old and subsequently received a scholarship to attend Sydney's McDonald College of Performing Arts. He has played lead roles in both plays and musicals and in 2012 was a Top 6 finalist on Channel 9's first season of the hit TV show *The Voice*. During 2013 Ben made regular TV appearances on the children's game show *Pyramid* and was honoured to receive the inaugural *Showbiz International Future Prospect Award* as part of the Rob Guest Endowment. Other recent performances have included *Romeo in Romeo & Juliet*, a Luna Park TVC, *Carnival of Venice Opera* at Canberra Albert Hall and a lead in the short Film *Give*. Performances at charity events include Steve Waugh Foundation at Sydney Cricket Ground (live streamed to the UK) and *Miss World Australia 2013*. Ben composes and records his own songs, plays both guitar and piano and is an active member of the Sydney music scene.



### **ELIZABETH MACGREGOR - The Beggar Woman**

Elizabeth has played numerous principal roles in both musicals and operetta, including Buttercup (*HMS Pinafore*), Florence (*Chess*), Victor/Victoria (*Victor/Victoria*) and Gabby/Bobbi (*City of Angels*). This is her fourth production with Genesian, having appeared in *Richard III*, *Dangerous Corner* and *Witness for the Prosecution*. Elizabeth is thrilled to be involved in the premiere of a new musical, and, when not on a stage, she can be found gardening or flailing her arms wildly in a flamenco class.



### **ROBERT GREEN – The Leper**

When not practicing law Robert is a cabaret singer. This is his third show with Genesians. In January 2014 he makes his Melbourne debut at the Midsumma Festival in a Noel Coward cabaret. Robert always says: Singing is what I do when I am lost for words!



### **AMANDA JANE PORTER - Mary/ Rabette**

Amanda completed the Summer Musical Theatre Workshop at Circle in the Square Theatre School, NYC. She also holds a BA (Hons) in Vocal Pedagogy and Radio Documentary. Previous stage credits include *the Golden Girls Puppet Tribute Show*, *The Roomsical* and *Sense and Sensibility*.



### **TIMOTHY BENNETT - Headmaster/Chief Minister**

After having directed successful productions of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband & Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* for the Genesians Timothy is enjoying the charm of this contemporary version of one of the master's short fables. Previous roles with the Company include *Charley's Aunt* (Spettigue), *Shadowlands* (C S Lewis), *Pygmalion* (Pickering), *The Fantasticks* (Henry), *The Dream* (Bottom), *Dial M for Murder* (Inspector), *Harvey* (Elwood) & *The Imaginary Invalid* (Argan)



### **GREG THORNTON - Ben, a woodcutter/Pongo**

Greg was very surprised to be offered the dual roles of 'Ben' and 'Pongo' in *The Star Child*. Having played the non speaking role of 'The Mute' in the *The Fantasticks* with Genesian he has enjoyed adding speaking to his Repertoire. Greg would like to dedicate his performance to Guy Goma, a true professional.



### **DANIEL HITCHINGS – Guard/Gang member**

Daniel loves music, lego and making gingerbread! He is currently thrilled to be writing his last Bio for the Genesian this year, having been involved in every show in 2013, but hopes to be in many more in future years!

**MARTIN SEARLES - Simon, a woodcutter/Guard**

Martin studied drama at ANU, graduating with Honours in 2007. He has been acting since 2001 on stage and screen and as a voice-over artist. His recent credits include *Romeo & Juliet* for Impulse Theatre (August 2013); Bernard Shaw's *St Joan*, for the Genesian Theatre (December 2012); *Short Plays* for Apocalypse Cow (September 2012); and *Great Expectations*, for the Genesian Theatre (June 2012).

**SOPHIA HARRISON- Gang/Rabette**

Sophia Harrison is 18 years old and currently studying at the University of Sydney. She is a member of the Sydney University Dramatic Society and performed as the 1st witch in a production of *Macbeth* earlier this year. This is Sophia's second play with the Genesian Theatre, the first being the theatre's previous production *Daisy Pulls It Off*. Sophia is looking forward to continuing with acting both inside and outside of university!

**CHRISTINA SWAN – Gang/Rabette**

Christina has recently completed Module 1 'Power of Performance' at Actors Centre Australia. She works in a daycare centre and is also a children's party entertainer. She hopes to one day be a Disney Princess, either Ariel or Jasmine, she can't decide. This is her first theatre production.

**AMBER WILCOX-Sarah, the woodcutters wife**

Amber fell in love with performance at a young age. Having completed drama at HSC level, and participated in various performing arts festivals, Amber was lucky enough to receive the inaugural scholarship from Fort Street High School alumni, Justice Michael Kirby, for the Highest Achieving Student going on to Study Drama at a Tertiary Level. She continued her education at Charles Sturt University where she studied a BA(Acting for Screen & Stage). In 2011, Amber was selected for the PACT Theatre Ensemble. This six month artistic residency devised a completely new work; leading to a 3 week season of the multi-disciplinary performance art installation *Beguiled*.

**ROBERT WELLS –Evil Magician**

From Lincoln UK, Robert had been in Sydney for only two weeks when he auditioned. He's played many leading roles for the Lincoln Theatre Royal, starting at age 7 as the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*, then Pharaoh in *Joseph* at age 10. Since then roles have included Khashoggi in *We Will Rock You*, Frank 'n' Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*, and Danny in *Grease*. Rob was cast as Billy Flynn in a sell-out *Chicago* during a recent stint in Queenstown NZ. Memorable roles at University, where he was President of the Theatre Arts Society, were Kisster in *12 Encounters With A Prodigy* and Pentheus King of Thebes in *The Bacchae*, where he performed completely naked on 3-foot high stilts!

**MICHAEL JONES – Guard/Gang**

Michael is originally from North Queensland where he performed in lots of musicals and plays. This is Michael's second show with the Genesian Theatre, having performed earlier this year as Brackenbury and Ratcliffe in *Richard III*.

**DOMINIC SCARF- The Rabbit/ Guard/Gang**

Having been bitten by the performing arts bug at school Dominic was most recently seen on the Seymour Centre stage playing the Tin Man in the large cast musical *The Wiz*. Recent other roles include leads in *The Boyfriend* and *The Crucible*.

## **CREW**

Directors	ROGER GIMBLETT & STEPHEN LLOYD COOMBS
Musical Director	TIMOTHY M CARTER
Choreographer	DEBBIE SMITH
Costume Designer	SUSAN CARVETH with LISSA KNIGHT
Set Designer	OWEN GIMBLETT
Lighting & Sound Designer	MICHAEL SCHELL
Stage Managers	LAUREN CHURM and NOEMIE JOUNOT
Set Construction	GRANT FRASER & OWEN GIMBLETT
Production Assoc	WENDY GIMBLETT
Programme/Graphics	ROSS OBLEA, TOM MASSEY
Photography	MARK BANKS
Lighting Operator	AMY ROBERTS

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

DEBBIE NEILSEN (assistant tap choreography)  
GARRY BATES, PAUL GILBERT, CARLIN HURDIS, MANNY SAID (set  
construction)  
DANIEL HITCHINGS (Magic)  
EDEN SEGEV (lighting Assistance)  
SANDRA BASS (props)

## **THE ORCHESTRA**

Piano	MARIE YEO
Guitar	DANIEL DYDEY
Bass	MATTHEUS ADITIRTONO
Drums	AARON BUGO
Trumpet	ELIZABETH GILBERTHORPE



## About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are, however, just as proud of the hundreds of talented amateur actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre over the years.

Over the years the company has developed into a group providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six or seven main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

Membership of the company is open to all people over the age of eighteen.

Originally constructed in 1868 as the Church of St. John the Evangelist served as both church and poor school until 1927. The school was operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph and was visited on many occasions by Mother Mary MacKillop now St. Mary of the Cross. In 1932 it was converted into the Kursaal Theatre and later, from 1938, was the first site of the Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre which was formed in 1944.

## Membership

If your interest is in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

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# Hotel Sorrento

17th January - 22nd February 2014



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[www.genesiantheatre.com.au](http://www.genesiantheatre.com.au)