



TICKETS NOW ON SALE AS THE SIZZLING STAR-STUDED CAST ANNOUNCED FOR “THE SHARPEST, SLICKEST SHOW ON THE BLOCK”

A sizzling star-studded cast was announced today for the new Australian tour of one of Australia’s favourite musicals, **CHICAGO**. Tickets go on pre-sale tomorrow in Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne, with general public tickets on sale from Friday 18 August.

“The sharpest, slickest show on the block” (The Times UK) will play at Crown Theatre, Perth from November, the Lyric Theatre QPAC from January 2024, and at Her Majesty’s Theatre, Melbourne from March 2024. It was also announced today that **CHICAGO** will play at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney from June 2024 – waitlist now at chicagomusical.com.au to be first to buy tickets.

Returning to the stage to play the powerful and glamorous Velma Kelly is one of Australia’s favourite actors, **Zoë Ventoura**. After starting her career on the musical theatre stage, Zoë spent many years working on television and in film, and is best known for her roles as Mel Rafter in the original cast of *Packed To The Rafters* and as Dr Alex Nielson in *Home and Away*. Joining her as the irreverent and determined Roxie Hart is musical theatre star **Lucy Maunder**, who is currently playing the role of Mrs Banks in *Mary Poppins*. Lucy has shone in many musical productions including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Fun Home*, *Matilda: The Musical*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Grease* and *Pippin*.

One of Australian theatre’s greatest leading men, **Anthony Warlow**, will step into the shoes of the cunning and charismatic lawyer Billy Flynn. A beloved and prolific star on Broadway and across Australia, Anthony’s notable musical theatre roles include lead roles in *The Phantom of the Opera* (The Phantom), *The Wizard of Oz* (The Wizard), *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks), *The Secret Garden* (Archibald Craven), *Guys and Dolls* (Sky Masterson), *My Fair Lady* (Henry Higgins), *Man of La Mancha* (as Don Quixote), *A Little Night Music* (Frederik Egerman), *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Sweeney Todd) and *Les Misérables* (Enjolras).

As Roxie’s gullible and hapless husband, Amos, will be much-loved comedy icon and character actor **Peter Rowsthorn**. Recognized as long-suffering husband and pants-man Brett Craig on the hugely successful television series *Kath & Kim*, Peter has performed in many Australian television comedy series and on stage across the country. Following her star turn as Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray*, **Asabi Goodman** joins the cast as the tough and sassy prison warden Matron ‘Mama’ Morton. Asabi has starred in the Australian premieres of *Once On This Island*, *The Revolutionists* and *Disenchanted*.

S. Valeri will feature as the soft-hearted crime reporter Mary Sunshine, while the talented group of ensemble and swings comprises **Hayden Baum, Devon Braithwaite, Olivia Carniato, Angelique Cassimatis, Todd Dewberry, Louis Fontaine, Sarah Heath, Scout Hook, Matthew Jenson, Ethan Jones, Savannah Lind, Kristina McNamara, Tom New, Nathan Pinnell, Rania Potaka-Osborne, Priscilla Stavrou** and **Romina Villafranca**.

*"What an extraordinary cast we have assembled for **CHICAGO**,"* said producer John Frost. *"I'm delighted to bring Anthony Warlow back to the stage after his huge success in New York, in what is surely a perfect role for his talents. How could Velma and Roxie resist this clever and conniving Billy Flynn? I'm very excited to welcome Zoë Ventoura to a Crossroads Live production, in what is sure to be a career highlight as Velma, and to welcome back Lucy Maunder as Roxie after working with her on Dr Zhivago, Grease and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Peter Rowsthorn will be a sensational Mr Cellophane, and Asabi Goodman astounded us in Hairspray so I know will blow the roof off as Matron Mama Morton.*

*"**CHICAGO** has everything that people love about a Broadway musical - a story of fame, fortune and all that jazz, one show-stopping number after another and the most amazing dancing you've ever seen. We are thrilled to bring the razzle dazzle of this New York institution back to Australia."*

The longest-running show now playing on Broadway, this scorching hot masterpiece includes a glittering score that includes All That Jazz, Cell Block Tango and Razzle Dazzle. Created by the musical theatre talents of **John Kander, Fred Ebb** and legendary choreographer **Bob Fosse**, it's no wonder **CHICAGO** has been honoured with six Tony Awards®, two Olivier Awards, and a Grammy®.

"Sexy, pin-sharp and near flawless." - Sydney Morning Herald
"Broadway's Most Electrifying Show" - Entertainment Weekly, USA
"The most exciting musical of its generation." - The Times, UK
"CHICAGO remains a phenomenon." - Sunday Express, UK
"A Triumph" -Time Magazine, USA

Set amidst the decadence of the 1920s, **CHICAGO** is the story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who murders her on-the-side lover after he threatens to walk out on her. Desperate to avoid conviction, she dupes the public, the media and her rival cellmate, Velma Kelly, by hiring Chicago's slickest criminal lawyer Billy Flynn to transform her malicious crime into a barrage of sensational headlines, the likes of which might just as easily be ripped from today's tabloids.

CHICAGO, which is based on the 1926 play by Maurine Dallas Watkins, has a legendary book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb. The 1996 Broadway revival of **CHICAGO** is choreographed by Tony Award winner Ann Reinking in the style of Bob Fosse and is directed by Tony Award winner Walter Bobbie. **CHICAGO** features set design by John Lee Beatty, costume design by William Ivey Long, lighting design by Tony Award winner Ken Billington and sound design by Scott Lehrer.

Murder, greed, corruption, exploitation, adultery, treachery ... and All That Jazz. What else could you desire in a musical? The original and the best, **CHICAGO** is back. It would be a crime to miss it!

chicagomusical.com.au
@ChicagoInAU #ChicagoInAU

See and download cast announcement video [here](#) and images in the media site:
chicagomusical.com.au/media – password "Jazz"

SEASON DETAILS

PERTH

Venue Crown Theatre
Season From 21 November
Performance Times Tues-Sat 7.30pm, Matinees Wed 1pm, Sat 2pm, Sun 1pm & 6pm
(performance times vary each week)
Prices: From \$69.90 (Transaction fees apply)
Bookings: ticketmaster.com.au or 136 100
Groups 8+ email groups@ticketmaster.com.au

BRISBANE

Venue Lyric Theatre, QPAC
Season From 2 January 2024
Performance Times Tues-Thurs 7pm, Fri- Sat 7.30pm, Matinees Wed 1pm, Sat 2pm, Sun 1pm & 6pm (performance times vary each week)
Prices: From \$69.90 (Transaction fees apply)
Bookings: qpac.com.au or phone 136 246
Groups 8+ call (07) 3840 7466

MELBOURNE

Venue Her Majesty's Theatre
Season From 23 March 2024
Performance Times Tues-Thurs 7pm, Fri- Sat 7.30pm, Matinees Wed 1pm, Sat 2pm, Sun 1pm & 6pm (performance times vary each week)
Prices: From \$69.90 (Transaction fees apply)
Bookings: ticketek.com.au or phone 13 28 49
Groups 8+ call (03) 9299 9873

SYDNEY

Venue Capitol Theatre
Season From 9 June 2024
WAITLIST FOR PRIORITY BOOKING AT chicagomusical.com.au

Media enquiries, please contact:

National – Ian Phipps at ian@ippublicity.com.au or 0419 977 649

Perth – Amber Sheldon at amber@pretzelcommunications.com or 0419 921 003

Brisbane – Cinnamon Watson at cinn@cinnamonwatsonpublicity.com.au or 0432 219 643

Melbourne – Jessica Bendell at jessica@jessicabendellpublicity.com.au or 0412 369 015

BIOGRAPHIES

ANTHONY WARLOW (Billy Flynn)

Anthony has been thrilling audiences from the moment he arrived on the theatrical scene and has successfully inhabited a diversity of roles in opera and musical theatre, his versatility gaining him an honoured place on the international stage.

From his debut with the Australian Opera in Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1980, he has left an indelible stamp on the industry both at home and abroad. Anthony's lengthy stage credits include the London National Theatre production of *Guys and Dolls*, making his music theatre debut with the role of Sky Masterson in 1986, creating the role of Enjolras in the Australian production of *Les Misérables* (1988), and the title role of the Phantom in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* (1990 and 2007-2008). In 1995 he enjoyed a joyous season in Lucy Simon's *The Secret Garden* as Archie Craven, and collaborated with her again in 2010, creating the role of Dr Yuri Zhivago in the Australian premiere production of *Doctor Zhivago: The Musical*. Other highlights include Australian tours of *Annie* (2000 and 2012), seasons with Opera Australia and a critically acclaimed performance as Tevye in *Fiddler On The Roof* in 2016.

Anthony made his Broadway debut in 2013, portraying the iconic role of Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks in the 35th Anniversary production of *Annie*, directed by James Lapine. His performance won him several Broadway nominations (Drama Desk, Drama League, People's Choice), and in 2015 he was invited to return to the US to perform the dual roles of Miguel De Cervantes/ Don Quixote in The Shakespeare Theatre Company of Washington production of *Man of La Mancha*. This portrayal won him the prestigious Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actor in a Musical. The same year he replaced Kelsey Grammer (*Frasier*) in the Broadway production of *Finding Neverland*, playing the roles of Charles Frohman/ Captain Hook.

Anthony made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 but is no stranger to the concert platform, performing around Australia with our Symphony Orchestras. His studio recordings have spanned more than 20 years and include solo albums, cast recordings and live performances in concert and with Opera Australia. His love of "flawed anti-heroes" continued with his portrayal of *Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. His performance was hailed by critics and was a welcome addition to his theatrical canon.

Anthony has been honoured by the nation receiving the title of Living National Treasure, and his outstanding achievements acknowledged with his investiture as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the performing arts. He is married to Amanda and divides his time and career between Australia's capital cities and New York.

ZOË VENTOURA (Velma Kelly)

Zoë is thrilled to be returning to the musical theatre stage after many years in television and film projects which have made her one of Australia's most loved actresses.

Zoë is perhaps best known for her role as Mel Rafter in the original cast of *Packed To The Rafters* (Seven Network), which garnered her a nomination for a TV Week Silver Logie for Most Popular Actress following her character's shock death that left Australian audiences heartbroken. Zoë had previously been nominated for two TV Week Logie Awards for her lead role as Miki Mavros in the SBS comedy series, *Kick*.

Following *Packed to the Rafters*, Zoë went on to play leading lady Mary Barrett in Seven Network's period drama series *Wild Boys*. For the Nine Network, Zoë played Sonya Hyde in *Hyde and Seek*, Mary Ann Hodge in *Underbelly Files: Chopper* and appeared in *Love Child* and the final series of *Doctor Doctor*. She then returned to the Seven Network to spend time in Summer Bay, where she played Dr Alex Neilson in *Home and Away* and, most recently, completed filming on Taika Waititi's *Time Bandits* for Apple TV+.

Overseas, Zoë played the lead role of McKenzie in Nicole Conn's US indie feature *More Beautiful For Having Been Broken*, which premiered at the Frameline Festival in San Francisco and earned her Best Actress awards at various film festivals globally. Her other feature credits include Shane Abbess' *The Osiris Child: Science Fiction Volume One*, *Drive Hard* starring John Cusack, *Fatal Honeymoon* with Harvey Keitel, and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*.

A graduate of The Victorian College of the Arts (Bachelor of Dance), earlier in her career Zoë performed in several seasons for Opera Australia and toured nationally in musicals such as *Grease - The Arena Spectacular*, *Footloose*, *We Will Rock You*, *Oh! What A Night* and *Eurobeat*. Most recently Zoë played Mme Dindon in *La Cage Aux Folles* starring alongside Paul Capsis and Michael Cormick.

Zoë feels honoured to be playing the iconic Velma Kelly in *Chicago*, a role which has not only been played by some of musical theatre's biggest stars around the world, but has always been at the top of Zoë's wish-list of characters she would love to play.

LUCY MAUNDER (Roxie Hart)

Since graduating from WAAPA in 2006, Lucy has cemented her reputation as one of Australia's musical theatre leading ladies performing in a huge range of roles over the last 17 years.

She is currently appearing as Winifred Banks in the critically acclaimed Cameron Mackintosh/Michael Cassel Group/Disney revival of *Mary Poppins*. Prior to this Lucy starred in Victorian Opera's production of Kurt Weill's anti-capitalist musical *Happy End* as Lillian Holiday. The start of 2022 also saw her play the protagonist Alison Bechdel in the acclaimed MTC/STC Australian premiere production of *Fun Home* (Green Room and Sydney Theatre Award nominations for Best Performer in a Leading Role in a musical). In between seasons of *Fun Home*, Lucy reprised her role of Mrs Bucket in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Crossroads Live) for which she received a Helpmann Award nomination.

Following the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic to the Arts, Lucy was lucky enough to appear in the first main stage commercial musical to return after the shutdown of all theatre as Catherine in *Pippin* for Crossroads Live. Her other recent career highlights include Cynthia in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Michael Cassel Group, Green Room Award nomination), Miss Honey in *Matilda: The Musical* (Louise Withers/RSC, Helpmann Award nomination), *The Spirit of Christmas* (QPAC), *There's Something About Music* (The Little Red Company), Heather Chandler in *Heathers* (ShowWork Productions), Patty in Tim Finn's *Ladies in Black* (QTC/MTC), Rizzo in *Grease* (GFO, Helpmann and Sydney Theatre Award nominations), Cinderella in *Into the Woods* (Victorian Opera, Helpmann and Green Room Award nominations), Georgia Hendricks in *Curtains* (The Production Company), Gertrude Lawrence in *Noël and Gertie* (CDP Theatre Producers, Glug Award for Best Actress in a Musical), Polly Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* (STC/Malthouse/Victorian Opera), Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (TML Enterprises), Emma in *Jekyll & Hyde* (TML Enterprises) and Anne in *A Little Night Music* (Opera Australia). Lucy also created the role of Lara in the world première of *Doctor Zhivago* opposite Anthony Warlow (GFO, Helpmann and Sydney Theatre Award nominations).

Lucy's film credits include *The Eternity Man* (Channel 4 UK/ABC) and the lead role in the short film *Identical*, amongst other commercial and television appearances including the National Anthem at the State of Origin, *The Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols* (Channel 9) and appearances on *The Morning Show* (Channel 7) and *Today Extra* (Channel 9).

Lucy's one-woman show *Irving Berlin: Songs in the Key of Black* toured Australia to rave reviews at venues such as the prestigious Spiegeltent, the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, His Majesty's Theatre Perth and La Salon at Claire's Kitchen. Her album featuring arrangements and musical direction by Daniel Edmonds is available across all streaming platforms.

Lucy is over the moon to be starring as Roxie in *Chicago*, a true bucket list moment.

PETER ROWSTHORN (Amos Hart)

Peter Rowsthorn is a well-loved Australian comedy icon and character actor. A masterful MC of corporate and private functions, he has been performing across mediums for four decades. Peter is best known as long-suffering husband and pants-man Brett Craig on the hugely successful television series *Kath & Kim*, reprising this role on the silver screen in 2012 in *Kath & Kimderella*.

Peter appeared regularly on four series of *Thank God You're Here*, popped up on *Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation*, and hosted four series of the delightful *Can We Help* on the ABC. He has had roles in *Open Slather*, *Underbelly: Squizzy*, *It's A Date*, *Timothy*, and featured on the SBS genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?*. In 2018 Peter was one of the most popular celebrity contestants on the fourth series of *I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!*. Most recently Peter travelled the world with his daughter and Triple J broadcaster, Frankie, in the Network Ten series, *The Amazing Race: Celebrity Edition*.

Peter has performed on stage in Black Swan State Theatre Company's productions of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Importance Of Being Ernest* and *Laughter On The 23rd Floor*. His other theatre credits include *The Tempest*, *Certified Male* and *The New Rocky Horror Show*. Peter's film credits include *Crackers*, *Paper Planes*, *Looking For Grace* and *I Met a Girl*, the short film *Welcome To Dookie*, and the feature film *Three Summers*, the first Australian movie from British writer and comic Ben Elton.

In 2019, he performed in Bonnie Lythgoe's latest pantomime production, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and in 2020, he sang and danced as Bernadette in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* at Crown Perth.

ASABI GOODMAN (Matron 'Mama' Morton)

Asabi is an American-born Australian performer. Her most recent credits include Motormouth Maybelle in both the Australian national tour of the Original Broadway production of *Hairspray! The Musical* (Crossroads Live) and the US Broadway national tour of *Hairspray!* (NETWorks), Mama Euralie in the Australian Premiere of *Once On This Island* (Altitude Theatre), Marianne Angelle in the Australian Premiere of *The Revolutionists* (The Curators), The Princess Who Kissed The Frog in the Australian Premiere of *Disenchanted* (Mad About Theatre) and Erma Franklin in *RESPECT: The Show* (McGee Entertainment).

Asabi is thrilled to join the cast of *Chicago* and play her dream role, Matron Mama Morton, and wishes to thank her friends and family for their never-ending support and her agents at Kermond Management for tirelessly looking after her. Asabi is a proud member of MEAA.