



BAZ LUHRMANN'S
**STRICTLY
BALLROOM**
THE MUSICAL

MEDIA PACK
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Ipswich Musical Theatre Company
presents

A new production of
BAZ LUHRMANN'S

STRICTLY BALLROOM

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PAUL MERCURIO
Casting Director

CIENDA MURPHY
Director

ROBERT CLARK
Musical Director

SIMON LIND
Choreographer

BRENDA RYAN
IMTC Artistic Director

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IPSWICH stages the story that *inspired the world to dance!*

Press Release | August 2018 | For Immediate Release

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company (IMTC) is proud to announce that its new production of **BAZ LUHRMANN'S, STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL**, will open at Ipswich Civic Centre on 14th September 2018, for a strictly limited season.

"Following on from SOLD OUT Award Winning IMTC performances of new releases for community theatre: **Phantom of the Opera** 2014; **Mary Poppins** 2015; **Wicked** 2016; **Les Miserables** 2017 (GOLD COAST AREA THEATRE AWARDS - **OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY THEATRE PRODUCTION 2017** - sponsored by Arts Centre Gold Coast), we needed an audience favourite with glitz and glamour and the passion to excite. Bazz Luhrmann's **STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL** was a perfect fit. IMTC's production of **STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL** is the Queensland community theatre premiere."

Brenda Ryan (Artistic Director IMTC)



Internationally acclaimed director, **Baz Luhrmann** wrote and directed **Strictly Ballroom**, which became an **Australian iconic classic** and a **worldwide movie phenomenon**. The movie premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 1992 and was awarded Prix de la Jeunesse and went on to win eight AFI Awards.

Paul Mercurio played the leading role of **Scott Hastings** in the movie. IMTC invited Paul to come to Ipswich to be the **Casting Director** for IMTC production of **STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL**.

Strictly Ballroom the Musical tells the story of **Scott Hastings**, a champion ballroom dancer, who defies all the rules and follows his heart, finding not only his true calling but also his true love.

STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL had its Global Premiere on 12 April 2014 at the Sydney Lyric Theatre, followed by seasons at Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne and the Lyric Theatre at Qld Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) 2015. The first staging in England, premiered at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, in November 2016, directed and choreographed by Olivier Award winner, **Drew McOnie**. The UK production opened in Toronto, Canada, in April 2017 as part of the **Mirvish Theatre Season**. The latest production of **STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL** in England, opened 29 March, 2018, at **Piccadilly Theatre** in London's West End.

Created by **Baz Luhrmann**, book by **Baz Luhrmann** and **Craig Pearce**, adapted by **Terry Johnson**, this new production of **STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL** introduces new musical numbers by **DAVID FOSTER**, **SIA FURLER**, **ISAAC HASSON**, **BERNIE HERMS**, **BAZ LUHRMANN**, **MOZELLA**, **THERON FEEMSTER**, **CRAIG PEARCE**, **EDDIE PERFECT**, **LINDA THOMPSON** and **ELLITOO WHEELER**. **STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL**, also features the well-known songs from the movie: **TIME AFTER TIME**; **PERHAPS, PERHAPS, PERHAPS**; **TEQUILA** and **LOVE IS IN THE AIR**!

For high resolution media images and interviews with cast, please contact:

Brenda Ryan | ryan.brenda@bigpond.com | 0417 776 894 | 3281 5752

BAZ LUHRMANN'S
STRICTLY BALLROOM
THE MUSICAL



*Brilliant! Amazing!
it's a feel good show*

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company presents

STRICTLY BALLROOM

(the story that inspired the world to dance!)

WHEN: 14-23 September 2018

WHERE: Ipswich Civic Centre
Limestone Street, Ipswich Qld

TICKETS: Prices: Adult \$68; Concession: \$58; Child \$35
Group: 6+ \$64; 12+ (any combination) \$58 - saving \$10 / adult
Family: \$180 (2 adults, 2 children under 14 years)

BOOKINGS: Phone: 3810 6100
On line: www.ipswichmusicaltheatrecompany.com.au
or www.ipswichciviccentre.com.au
In person at: Ipswich City Council Community
Service Centre, in Ipswich Mall

Tickets on sale now.



SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

The action takes place in Australia, 1985.

ACT ONE

Scene 1 – Woongabbie Town Hall

Dream of Ballroom & Strictly Ballroom - Company

Open Latin Final – All Out war - Company

Scene 2 – Kendalls' Studio

Transition into Kendalls - Scott

Two to Tango - Shirley, Les, Scott, Liz, Ken

On The Edge - Scott

Scene 3 - Hastings Kitchen

What Was It All For? - Shirley

Scene 4 - The Roof

What Was It All For? - Shirley, Doug

Time After Time - Fran, Scott & Company

Scene 5 - Outside the Milk Bar - Scott, Fran, Rico, Abuela

Scene 6: State Championships

Dance To Win - Barry

Life After Dance - Tina, Scott & Company

Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps - Fran & Scott

Scene 7 - Outside the Milkbar

Fran's Epiphany - Fran

Scene 8 – Backyard of the Milk Bar

Magnifica - Abuela, Rico, Fran & Company

ACT TWO

Scene 1 – Forestage of the Ballroom

Beautiful When You Dance - J.J. Silvers & Company

Scene 2 - Hastings Kitchen - Shirley, Scott, Doug

Scene 3 – Backyard of the Milkbar

Love Is A Leap Of Faith - Abuela, Fran & Company

Scene 4 & 5 – Dance Federation Trophy Room

New Steps - Company

Dance To Win (reprise) - Barry

Scene 6 - Outside the Milkbar

Love Is In The Air Prelude - Scott, Fran & Company

Scene 7 - Ballroom Flashback

Flashback Sequence - Barry, Les, Doug

(The Looks, The Charm) - Shirley & Company

Strictly Ballroom (Reprise) - Tina & Company

Scene 8 - Kendalls' Studio

You Can't Have Everything - Fran & Scott

Scene 9 - Pan Pacific Grand Prix

Let's Dance! - Luke & Kylie

You Should Have Danced With Me - Shirley, Doug, Scott

On The Edge (Reprise) - Scott

Paso Doble - Scott & Fran

Love Is In The Air - Full Company

THE CAST

Principals

**Opening narration courtesy of Paul Mercurio*

Mason Hayward :: Scott Hastings

Erika Naddei :: Fran Vargas

Kayla Fritz :: Shirley Hastings

Russell Reynolds :: Doug Hastings

Robert Shearer :: Barry Fyfe

Cody Arthur :: Les Kendall

Susan Glosko :: Abuela

Liam O'Bryne :: J.J. Silver

Annabelle Harbison :: Tina Sparkle

Annabelle Armstrong :: Liz Holt

Terry Cook :: Ken Railings

Michael Santry :: Ricardo (Rico) Vargas

Nathanael Stevenson :: Wayne Burns

Dakota Duffell :: Vanessa

Kylie :: Molly Pepper-Johnson (14, 21, 22, 23 Sept)

Kirralyn Strudwick (15, 16 Sept)

Luke :: Hudson Bertram (14, 21, 22, 23 Sept)

Mason Kidd (15, 16 Sept)

Dance Ensemble

Annabelle Armstrong; Natalie Cassaniti (Suzzane Bush); Terry Cook;

Brendan Dieckmann (Merv); Dakota Duffell; Paul Fyfe (Tommy);

Kayla Fritz; Mason Hayward; Simon Lind; Nicolasa Martin (Pam (Rory);
Caitlin O'Brien (Muriel); Lachlan Palmsano; Lauren Schuster (Matilda Sands);

Nathanael Stevenson; Dayna Wilson (Sandra Snake)

Ensemble

Chloe Boike (Stephanie / cover Shirley); Jeremy Clark; Sophie Coyne;

Zoe Jeffrey (Natalie); Ildika Koppen; Hollie Scanlan



*Big, bright and joyous
captures the heart*

THE CREATIVES

DIRECTOR | CIENDA MCNAMARA

Cienda McNamara: In 2012, Cienda was selected to become a member of the prestigious Lincoln Center Directors Lab in New York City, where she worked with leading members of the Broadway community.

In February of 2013, Cienda directed the workshop of SPARK (Joymas Creative). She also developed and directed the premiere of Joymas Creative's the25project. Cienda directed World Goes 'Round for the Queensland Conservatorium and Rhythm Junkies Revived (Australian Dance Awards). In September, she co-directed The Taming of The Shrew for the 4MBSBrisbane Shakespeare Festival. Cienda worked on the World premiere of The Waiting Room at Melbourne Theatre Company under the direction of Naomi Edwards. She also directed the Australian Premiere of Ryan Scott Oliver's 35mm, a musical exhibition and directed Only The Good Die Young, which played at the Queensland Cabaret Festival and a season at the Butterfly Club, Melbourne. She directed a production of Benjamin Britten's The Little Sweep for the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, and a new production of Little Women (BAMT).

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STRICTLY BALLROOM
THE MUSICAL

*Sensational! A dazzling
feast for the eyes*

MUSICAL DIRECTOR | ROBERT CLARK

Robert's career began at age 15, as principal percussionist with the Queensland Youth Orchestra. In his teens, he was a member of the Queensland and the Australian Youth Orchestras and performed extensively through Asia and Europe.

On completion of an undergraduate degree in Music Education he was awarded an International Fellowship by the Australia Council to undertake further performance studies at the world-renowned Indiana University School of Music where he studied percussion with Professor George Gaber and conducting with Dr Robert Stoll. Upon graduation, he was appointed to the faculties of both the University of Queensland and Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

He founded the Queensland Youth Choir in 1984 that he subsequently directed for 15 years. This community organisation continues to thrive in Brisbane.

In 1986, he was recognised as a Young Australian of the Year for his work in youth music development.

Robert has performed with many international artists including Frank Sinatra, Peter Allen, Petula Clark, Shirley Bassey, Whitney Houston, Johnny Mathis and Debbie Reynolds, as well as many acclaimed Australian artists including Tina Arena, Julie Anthony and Anthony Warlow.

Robert designed and produced shows and attractions for all of Queensland's major theme parks, including the long running Police Academy Stunt Show at Movie World. Robert's credits also include his role as producer and musical director for the 2000 Olympic Soccer Gala Opening Ceremony in Brisbane, the grand opening celebrations for the Peninsula Hotel in Bangkok, and for 14 years was the Musical Director for the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols that was televised state wide.

In 2015, he was the recipient of the Indiana University School of Music Distinguished Alumni medal for his services to music and the performing arts. He was also the Musical Director for the professional production of "Pirates of Penzance" for the 30th anniversary celebrations of Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

He is devoted to the musical development of young people around the globe and now spends his time between Australia and the USA.

Robert was Musical Director of the IMTC 2016 production of "Wicked".

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*A show to leave you grinning
and high kicking your way home!*

CHOREOGRAPHER | SIMON LIND

Simon has choreographed for a number of artists and television shows including Australian Idol, Australia's Got Talent, X-Factor (Australia) and So You Think You Can Dance (Australia). He has also choreographed for artists such as Delta Goodrem, Human Nature, Jess Mauboy, Brian McFadden, Vandalism, Paulini, The Young Diva's, Australian Idol winner Wes Carr and Cassie Davis. Music Theatre engagements has Simon choreographing Essgee's Australian production of "The Mikado" and The Production Company's production of "Singin' in the Rain".

Simon's performances include the Australian tours of West Side Story, The Boy from Oz, Jolson, Singin' in the Rain, both tours of Grease the Arena Spectacular, Kelly Clarkson, Guy Sebastian, Jess Mauboy, Shannon Noll, Paulini, The Young Diva's and Katie Underwood. Simon has also completed a nearly 7 year engagement with Warner Bros working as motion capture performer on the feature film release 'Happy Feet 2' playing the role of Mumble. This was the follow up to the world wide success "Happy Feet" in which Simon was also a featured character performer.

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IMTC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | BRENDA RYAN

Brenda's formal music training began as a child with violin lessons. As a young adult, she studied singing and competed successfully in eisteddfodau. As a newly graduated teacher, Brenda conducted her first choir.

Prior to co-founding IMTC 2001. Brenda was Musical Director of Young Orpheus Singers and sang with Orpheus Chorale for over 30 years and played a number of principal roles. Brenda also sang in choruses of Brisbane Light Opera Company and the Conservatorium of Music Opera School under direction of Guiseppe Sorbello and Dr Roy Wales.

In QPAC Concert Hall, Brenda has sung in New Year's Vienna Pops in QPAC Concert Hall, Brenda has sung in New Year's Vienna Pops under direction of late Colin Harper; Verdi's Requiem (combined choruses of Opera Qld/Brisbane Chorale/Brisbane Light Opera) and in December 2010 the epic Havergal Brian's The Gothic.

Having had her life enriched by music from a very young age, Brenda enjoys sharing her love of music with you young people and providing opportunities for young artists to perform in extraordinary musical theatre productions.

THE PRODUCER

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company (IMTC) was founded in 2001 to give training for children and youth in all aspects of musical theatre and to provide opportunity for them, when ready, to perform on stage with outstanding adult actors as role models and mentors. It also aimed to provide high standard live theatre, at affordable prices for Ipswich audiences. The first production in 2001, was "Seven Little Australians – the Musical". Since then, IMTC has staged a major production in the Ipswich Civic Centre each September. Major productions include: Annie (twice), The Wizard of Oz, Oliver (twice), The Sound of Music (twice); The King and I; South Pacific; Beauty and the Beast; The Producers; The Boy from Oz; The Phantom of the Opera; Mary Poppins; Wicked; Les Miserables.

IMTC has evolved into a major community theatre company, recognised Australia wide, as being capable of meeting audiences' heightened expectations by staging technically challenging, newly released to selected community/amateur companies, shows such as The Phantom of the Opera (2014); Mary Poppins (2015); Wicked (2016); Les Miserables (September 2017); and now Strictly Ballroom. IMTC is proud to be a part of a network of major musical theatre community companies, in Melbourne, Launceston, Canberra, Sydney and Ipswich, that have staged such high tech shows.

'Stage Whispers' magazine review of WICKED 2016 began:

"SOMETIMES THE LINE BETWEEN A TOP COMMUNITY THEATRE PRODUCTION AND A PROFESSIONAL ONE CAN BE VERY THIN INDEED, AND THAT'S WHAT WE SAW IN IPSWICH MUSICAL THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF WICKED. WITH SO MANY PROS ON BOARD BEHIND-THE-SCENES AND EX-WICKED WIZ, SIMON GALLAHER, STEPPING IN AS CASTING DIRECTOR, THE RESULT WAS PRO-AM MUSICAL THEATRE AT ITS FINEST."
PETER PINNE

As well as major productions in the Civic Centre, IMTC stages an annual Dinner Theatre, concerts and smaller productions, including contemporary and junior IMTC shows, in the historic Old Courthouse, which is out 'theatre home' and rehearsal venue. Into the Woods; Danni Girl; Secrets Every Smart Traveller Should Know; I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change; Title of Show' Songs that Won the War' Live at the Courthouse' The Vicar of Dibley; Eurobeat and Are You Being Served? are some of the most recent.

We are steadfast in our commitment to meet the heightened expectations of audiences by providing exciting and technically challenging, newly released musical theatre productions at affordable prices. We are also committed to continuously raising the profile of IMTC and the City of Ipswich, by attracting performers and audiences from all over the Great South East IMTC major productions in the Ipswich Civic Centre would not be possible without the commitment of our generous sponsors and donors.



PERFORMANCE DATES

SIX PERFORMANCES ONLY | 2018

Friday 14 September, 7:30pm

Saturday 15 September, 7:30pm

Sunday 16 September, 1:30pm (matinée)

Friday 21 September, 7:30pm

Saturday 22 September, 7:30pm

Sunday 23 September, 1:30pm (matinée)

THE IPSWICH CIVIC CENTRE
Limestone Street,
Ipswich Queensland 4305