

Queanbeyan Players Inc. Presents

Kismet



Director: Peter Smith
Musical Director: Jennifer Groom
Choreographer: Belinda Hassall

6th to 21st June 2014



www.qp.org.au

The Q
Queanbeyan NSW



www.theq.net.au
Phone: 6285 6290

Music and Lyrics by
Robert Wright and George Forrest

Book by
Charles Lederer and Luther Davis

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia.
Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)



QUEANBEYAN PLAYERS INC

PO Box 390
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
ABN: 49722330165

www.qp.org.au



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	Alison Newhouse
	Christina Philipp
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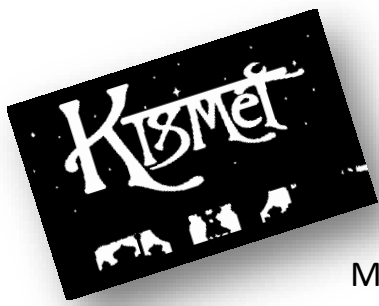
Get Involved

The Queanbeyan Players are always looking for new members – and you don't have to be able to sing dance or act to be part of the Players! There are always many other roles that need to be filled for every production – set design and construction, costume design and sewing, stage crew, front of house, makeup, graphic design and more. It's a great way to make new friends. If you would like to join us, we are on the web at www.qp.org.au or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/queanbeyan.players.

Find all upcoming shows in your area
Ticketing information
Cast and production team profiles
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Music and Lyrics by: Robert Wright and George Forrest
(from themes of A. Borodin)

Book by: Charles Lederer and Luther Davis
(based on the play by Edward Knoblock)

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Director's Notes

Kismet is an operetta; many thought it would be the last operetta to dominate the Broadway stage, though this was recently proved premature by the successes of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Boublil & Schonberg (*Les Miserables*). Operetta has powerful singers, lush orchestration, large harmonised choruses and lyrical melody.

The show came from the Civic Light Opera of San Francisco/Los Angeles to Broadway (as had *Oklahoma* 12 years earlier) winning the Tony Award for Best Musical of 1954 in the middle of what is often considered the Golden Age of the Broadway Musical. Consider a list of the Tony Award winners surrounding it; 1950 – *South Pacific*, 1951 – *Guys and Dolls*, 1955 – *The Pajama Game*, 1957 – *My Fair Lady*, 1958 – *The Music Man*.

Kismet is based on a successful play already filmed twice as a silent and once as a talkie (starring Marlene Dietrich). The music and Lyrics were written by Robert Wright and George Forrest who'd been staff composers for 55 MGM musical films including many operettas ("The Donkey Serenade" the most well-known song by Rudolf Friml was confected by them from Friml rejects for the film version of Friml's *The Firefly*). Their first Broadway show was a success in 1943; titled *Song of Norway* it was based on music of Edvard Grieg. Their other Broadway outings were moderate successes the original compositions *Grand Hotel* (1949) and *Kean* (1961), and *Anya* (1965) which was based on music of Rachmaninov.

For their great success with *Kismet*, Wright and Forrest used themes from the Russian composer and chemist Alexander Borodin (1833-1867). A well-known academic chemist who made significant contributions to organic chemistry, Borodin was a part-time composer but wrote 2 symphonies, chamber music, songs, piano music and one unfinished opera *Prince Igor*. In these Wright and Forrest found lyrical themes and highly rhythmic dance music, all with a strong middle-eastern flavour ideal for the story they had chosen.

The tale which unfolds in a single day is a comedy set in 11th Century Baghdad when it was at the peak of its power, during a period often called the Islamic Golden Age when it was the biggest city in the world and a centre of learning and science while Europe was in the Dark Ages. (The crusades that came to dominate the contact between Europe and Islam did not even begin till about 50 years later.) The Caliph in Baghdad was the head of an Empire that stretched along the whole African Mediterranean coast and into Spain. There are no genies in bottles and flying carpets in *Kismet* these come from earlier history in the "Arabian Nights". The story is centred on "The Poet" who by keeping his head, risking all, and keeping a cunning eye on the main chance manipulates the gullible, evil men of power round him.

The very rich score provided several songs that were hits in the popular music charts. "Baubles Bangles and Beads" (Peggy Lee), "Not Since Ninevah" (Dolores Gray), "And This is My Beloved" (Mario Lanza), and especially "Stranger in Paradise" (Tony Bennett and many others) have had a long life outside of the show. A classic recording of the original cast was made three days after opening night and established the idea of cast recordings. Since then the show has been recorded by many star casts; including Poets – Alfred Drake (the original, also the original Curly in *Oklahoma* and *Petruchio* in *Kiss Me Kate*), Robert Merrill and Samuel Ramey; Caliphs - Richard Kiley (the original, later the original *Man of La Mancha*), Kenneth McKellar and Gerry Hadley.

The film of 1955 was also ground-breaking, an early example of keeping a Broadway musical basically intact. Earlier musical movies frequently retained little more than the title from the Broadway show they originated from.

Production Team

Director	Peter Smith
Musical Director	Jennifer Groom
Choreographer	Belinda Hassall
Stage Manager	Phil Baker
Production Manager	Janene Broere
Props	Gail Giuliano
Costumes	Janetta McRae
Makeup	Janette Humphrey, Sue Clark
Lighting	Leigh Wilmington (Lighting design)
Sound	David Garrard, Kobi Cumberland, Santo Giuliano
Set Design	Thompson Quan Wing
Set Build and Finish	Allan Johnston, Thompson Quan Wing, Trevor Roach, Adrian van Prooyen, Peter Smith
Photographer	Rebecca Doyle
Rehearsal Photographer	Alison Newhouse
Program	Alison Newhouse
Publicity	Alison Newhouse, Janet Tweedie
Front of House	Janette Humphrey
Rehearsal Refreshments	Gail Giuliano, Janette Humphrey
Stage Crew	Leanne Cramond, Alison Newhouse, Aaron Weissman , Jessie Webb, Priya Keeffe, Saara March, Rachel Laloz



Production Team



Peter Smith - DIRECTOR

Peter Smith had been on stage in music theatre productions in Canberra for about 20 years, his current count being more than fifty. A baritone singer in the chorus or soloing in opera, operetta, and musicals, his recent operatic leads have included Leporello in *Don Giovanni* and the First Priest in the *Magic Flute*. Over time he's notched up the baritone roles in almost all of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, and other leads like Alidoro in *La Cenerentola*, Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, Wild Bill Hickock in *Calamity Jane* and El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*. Peter has set out to pass on to a new generation his great enthusiasm for those classic Broadway musicals with an operetta tinge by taking on directing duties for *Kismet*, a show in which he played the Poet a decade ago.



Jennifer Groom – MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Jennifer's first involvement with the Players was in 1991 working on *The Music Man* as Repetiteur. Since then she has worked with various musical theatre groups in Canberra as Repetiteur, Vocal Director and Musical Director. Most recently she was Musical Director for *The Magic Flute* with The Canberra Opera Workshop and *Brigadoon* with Queanbeyan Players. Jennifer would like to thank Peter, Belinda and the talented members of the cast and orchestra of *Kismet* for making this show such a great experience.



Belinda Hassall – CHOREOGRAPHER

Over the years I have studied a range of dance styles including Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Modern, Ballroom and Latin American. I have always enjoyed musical theatre, whether on screen or live. As a child I often spent hours making up dance routines in my lounge room. I became involved in amateur theatre in 2002 and have choreographed productions such as *Godspell*, *Scrooge – the Musical*, *The Music Man*, *Annie*, *Ruddigore*, *Yeoman of the Guard*, *Me and My Girl* and *Brigadoon*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the cast for their contributions to the show as well as their enthusiasm. I would also like to thank Peter and Jennifer for their collaboration as well as the many people involved off stage for their work in putting together this production. Lastly, I would like to thank my family, who, without their support I would be unable to contribute to this production.

Synopsis of Scenes

One day in Baghdad,
Capital of the Abbasid
Caliphate, in A.D. 1071

Act 1

From Dawn to Dusk

- Scene 1. On the steps of the Mosque
- Scene 2. Desert encampment, just outside the city
- Scene 3. The Bazaar of the Caravans
- Scene 4. The garden of Widow Yussef's house
- Scene 5. A side street
- Scene 6. The Throne Room of The Wazir of Police

Act 2

From Dusk to Dawn

- Scene 1. Along the route of the Caliph's wedding procession
- Scene 2. The garden again
- Scene 3. Anteroom to the Wazir's harem
- Scene 4. A terrace, atop the Wazir's harem
- Scene 5. Anteroom to the Wazir's harem
- Scene 6. The Ceremonial Hall of the Caliph's Palace



Musical Numbers

Act 1

- *Overture*: Orchestra
- *Sands of Time*: Imam of the Mosque, Muezzins
- *Rhymes Have I*: The Poet, Marsinah
- *Fate*: The Poet
- *Bazaar of the Caravans*: Bangle Man, Silk Merchants, Slave Merchant, Vendors, Buyers
- *Not Since Nineveh*: Lalume, Wazir, Ensemble
- *Baubles, Bangles and Beads*: Marsinah, Caliph, Bangle Man, Vendors, Buyers
- *Stranger in Paradise*: Caliph, Marsinah
- *Gesticulate*: The Poet, Wazir, Lalume, Wazir's Council and Police
- *Fate – Finale Act One*: The Poet, Lalume, Ensemble

Act 2

- *Night of My Nights*: Caliph, Ensemble
- *Stranger in Paradise – Reprise*: Marsinah
- *Night of My Nights - Reprise*: Caliph, Ensemble
- *Was I Wazir?*: Wazir, Wazir's Police
- *The Olive Tree*: The Poet
- *Rahadlakum*: Lalume, The Poet, Lalume's Ayah, Women of the Wazir's Court
- *And This Is My Beloved*: The Poet, Marsinah, Caliph, Wazir
- *Zubbediya*: Zubbediya's Marriage Arranger, Ensemble
- *Finale, Act Two*: The Poet, Caliph, Marsinah, Ensemble



Orchestra

Conductor

Jennifer Groom



String Section

Violin

Bronwyn Potter
Elysia Fisher
Dominique Coles
Elaine Cheung



Viola

Mandy Phillippe
Dorothy Mackerras

Cello

Rebecca Larson

Wind Section

Flute/Piccolo

David Smith
Michael Row



Clarinet

Jane Russell-Jones
Stephen Hallyburton
Bronwyn Paschalidis

Oboe

Rebecca Gibbs
Naomi Elliott

Bassoon

Stuart Ferrie

Brass Section

Trumpet

Adam Pettigrove
Peter Shaw
Keydan Bruce
Farzana Choudhury



French Horn

Jillian Carson-Jackson
Andy Sheppard
David Langford

Trombone

David Tricks
Felicity Boxall

Tuba

Kevin Hill

Percussion Section

Jen Hinton



Lead Cast

Don Bemrose – The Poet

Don Bemrose is a Gungarri man working for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Unit within the ACT Education Directorate. After living out his childhood dream by singing with Opera Australia in 2012 Don recognises it is his path to educate, inspire and entertain the next generation of Indigenous excellence.

Since moving to Canberra in 2013, Don has had the pleasure to share his lyric baritone voice in scenes from Verdi's *Rigoletto* with Canberra Opera and excited audiences as the Toreador in Bizet's *Carmen*. Don's musicianship and acting was pushed to new levels in the World Premiere of a new chamber opera '*From a Black Sky*', by local Canberra composer Sandra France, presented by The Street Theatre.

Don went on to charm audiences with his role of Daddy Warbucks in Phoenix Players production of *Annie* and connect with Friends of Opera here in the ACT when he performed Arias at the Hungarian Embassy alongside Christine Wilson and Alan Hicks. To end another spectacular year Lisa Gasteen, one of Australia's finest operatic talents, awarded Don a lucrative scholarship to attend her National Opera School in Brisbane.

In this, his first production for Queanbeyan Players, Don is excited to be working with an amazing talented cast and bring this wonderful musical to delight and titillate audiences young and old.



Rosanna Boyd – Marsinah

Kismet will be Rosanna's seventh amateur theatre production in Canberra. In recent years she has appeared in shows such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables* and *Chicago*. She has thoroughly enjoyed singing as a hobby since 2006, and over the years has sung in choirs, eisteddfods and shows. She will be very happy to continue to sing as long as her family, friends and pets will tolerate the loud practicing of high notes. She is proud and excited to appear in *Kismet*, and hopes you find the show as delightful as she does.



Thompson Quan Wing – The Caliph

Thompson has been with Queanbeyan Players since 2000 when he was understudy for Lun Tha in the *King and I*.

In 2004 Thompson debut as The Caliph in *Kismet*. For the last 10 years he has been singing in the chorus in various shows, training cast in the subtleties of stage lighting and developing and building sets.

Thompson would like to thank Queanbeyan Players for the opportunity to sing in a lead role again and the opportunity to design and construct the 2014 *Kismet* set.



Michael Politi – The Wazir of Police

Michael studied singing with Patricia Davey and Dennis Brain in Canberra and violin with Errol Collins in Sydney. He has appeared in a number of productions with Canberra Philharmonic Society including, *Evita*, *Oliver*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *HMS Pinafore* and *Les Miserables*. Michael appeared in productions with the ACT Singers and in various concerts. He was chorus master for the School of Music's production of *The Merry Widow* and he is currently musical director for a community Singing for Pleasure group. He played in the orchestra of Supa's 2012 production of *War of the Worlds*. He teaches voice and violin at his private studio in Chapman. This is Michael's first on-stage production with Queanbeyan Players and he relishes being the wicked Wazir.



Stephanie McAlister – Lalume

Stephanie has been singing as long as she could talk. She has studied music, attaining a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours in Vocal Performance from the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music, as well as studies in speech and drama through the Trinity College of London. Studying under the tutelage of David Reedy, Steph has mastered extremely demanding and vocally taxing roles such of Mozart's Queen of the Night from *The Magic Flute* and Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*. She has also recently performed parts of the roles of Mimi (*La Boheme*), Susanna (*Marriage of Figaro*) and a Prima Donna (*The Impresario*) all in the one concert (*Christmas at the Opera 2013*).

Stephanie has been involved in many performances as both a solo recital artist as well as performing principal and chorus roles including Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music), The Sorceress in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music), Arianna in Handel's *Giustino* (University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music), Fiammetta (and understudy Gianetta) in *The Gondoliers* (ACT Singers), Principal Soloist for The Shakespeare Project (ACT Singers) and Mabel in an abridged *Pirates of Penzance* (ACT Singers). Since joining Canberra Opera, she has been in the ensemble and understudy for Gianetta in Donizetti's *the Elixir of Love* (2011), Queen of the Night in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (2012) and a soloist in *Christmas at the Opera* (2012 & 2013).

Steph would like to thank her husband Gareth, her children Zoe and Lachie and the rest of her family for their constant love and support of her, as she continues to pursue her passion for singing. This is her first show with Queanbeyan Players and she hopes you enjoy the show as much as her character enjoys flirting with most of males, except her husband of course!



Paul Jackson – Omar Khayyam

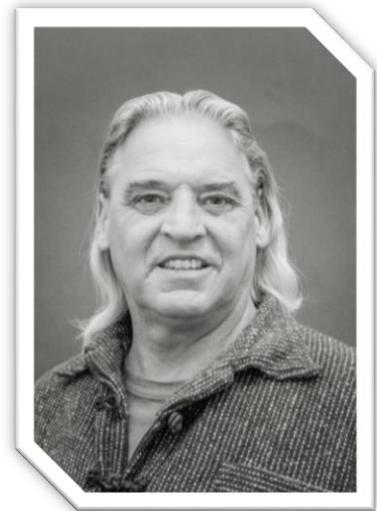
Although he was given a starring role in his year 6 French class drama production where he rescued the princess with a magic apple (“c’est la plus belle pomme du royaume!”) Paul did *not*, in fact, continue on with a career in the theatre. Being a child of the Seventies, and ipso facto a fan of Monty Python, he went away to university to learn the secrets of being a quantity surveyor, but soon discovered there was little romance to be found in spreadsheets and slide rules, so he ran away to sea to become a pirate. Unfortunately, the Canadian Coast Guard carries no cannons or cutlasses on their ships, so he quit in disgust and retired to a quiet shack to raise a family with his own Grace O’Malley.

Since then, the theatre has gradually lured him back. He particularly enjoyed playing roles such as the Sea Captain in *Frankenstein*, a singing pirate/policeman in *Pirates of Penzance*, a sailor in *HMS Pinafore*...hmmm, is there a theme here? Anyway, you may have seen him recently playing Jeff in *Brigadoon*, Louie in *Lost in Yonkers*, Gerald in *An Inspector Calls*, Mr Wickham in *Pride & Prejudice*, the Body in *Out of Order*, Giles Ralston in *The Mousetrap*, and Dr John Christow in *The Hollow*. He also was involved for the first time in Short & Sweet Canberra last year, which was refreshingly frantic.



Michael Jeffries – Jawan

Since his singing debut as a foundation member of his church choir Michael has appeared on around a dozen LPs/singles, twice including Double Live on Stage; performed for top professional stage directors from New York and London; graduated BA (Communications) from UT, Sydney; been produced and employed by ABC, NZBC and international theatre producers. Coached 2 future pop stars, helped back-up and create an ‘Entertainer of the Year’ (NZ) and consistently won best costume at the local pub’s Halloween Party! He likes to say he has been criticised by experts!



Supporting Cast



Margaret Franks – Widow Yussef

Margaret has been in musical theatre since 1996. She has appeared in numerous productions and with many different companies during this period. Some of her career highlights were as Mrs. Lord in *High Society*, also Mabel in *The Pyjama Game*. Margaret was last seen “riding into the sunset” in Queanbeyan Players’ production of *Annie Get Your Gun*.

For many years Margaret performed as a vocalist on the Sydney club scene and she was also a member of the Country Music Association of Canberra. She is now looking forward to performing with the cast of *Kismet* and hopes that you enjoy it.

Christina Philipp – Princess Zubbediya

Christina has been performing in local musical productions for a number of years. Most recently she was in the chorus of *Annie Get Your Gun* and played Maggie in *Brigadoon*. Before this she was in *Me and My Girl* with Queanbeyan Players, and *42nd Street* for Canberra Philharmonic. Christina has also tried her hand as a choreographer with Queanbeyan Players' - Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* and Ickle Pickle's production of *Oliver*. She hopes you enjoy this production as much as the cast enjoys performing it for you!



Dorothy Kocsi – Princess Samahris

Dorothy has been dancing since she was 6 years old and started doing musicals after an injury forced her to take some leave from full time dance training. Her most recent shows include *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dancer) and *Brigadoon* (dancer & Jane Ashton). Dorothy also acts and directs films (shorts and features) most notably *Theatre of the Dead* (2012) in which she played Maggie. When she isn't performing she enjoys horse riding, studying for her bachelor degree, working with kids and taking care of Newfoundlands. She hopes you enjoy watching the show as much as she did performing it."

Janene Broere – Ayah to Zubbediya

Normally Janene is seen in Queanbeyan Players renditions of Gilbert and Sullivan but the beautiful Borodin inspired music of *Kismet* was too much to resist. However, her role as Zubbediya's Ayah sees her singing in a very different way than her normal classical experience has ever presented. Her character has little to give in life lessons – 'marry the Caliph or die' is not much help for everyday mortals. Instead she would like to celebrate the wonderful voices of the principals of this show because the audience will enjoy the great singing (and since she is usually the old bag mezzo with 30 years training, she is pretty damn hard to please).



Maureen Stewart – Ayah to Samahris

Maureen is a Committee Member for the Queanbeyan Players. Her first production with the Queanbeyan Players was in the *Sound of Music* as a nun. Since then she has regularly appeared in the chorus of various Queanbeyan Players and ACT Singers productions. Prior to re-settling in Australia, Maureen appeared in a number of productions with the Stalham Players, a small village group in the county of Norfolk, England. The theatre group was so small that Maureen often had to double up on either male or female characters in the same production which meant many costume changes.

Janet Tweedie – Ayah to Lalume

Janet returned to the stage, after a 21 year break, as a Fairy (third from the left, yellow) in Queanbeyan Players' production of *Iolanthe* in 2012. She was absolutely thrilled that another 21 years didn't go by before she was able to tread the boards again and in the second half of 2012 found herself playing the part of Meg Brockie in QP's *Brigadoon*. This was followed by the chance to tap dance for the very first time ever as a chorus member in *Annie Get Your Gun!* – again with QP. Janet has performed in musical theatre, plays, and revues, sung in an a capella band and studied acting in Perth a very long time ago, where she had a lovely old singing teacher called Arthur who wouldn't let her sing in anything but English. Janet now studies singing with the very lovely (but not old) Jenni Reeves and is allowed (sometimes) to sing in Italian. Janet is very happy to be a chorus member in the wonderfully colourful and magical *Kismet* and is glad that the production crew found enough younger ladies to don harem pants.



Theresa Buetre – Princess of Ababu

This is Theresa's fourth show with Queanbeyan Players, having performed in *Annie Get Your Gun* (2013), *Return To The Forbidden Planet* (2013) and *Me And My Girl* (2010). Theresa has also performed in the choruses of *Oliver!* (Ickle Pickle, 2012) and *Hairspray* (Canberra Philharmonic, 2012); as Chip in *Beauty And The Beast* (Karabar HS, 2008); vocalist in *Gods Of War* (Karabar HS, 2008) for which she received a CAT Award nomination for the Patricia Kelson Encouragement Award; and Ruth in *Pirates Of Penzance* (Karabar HS, 2010) for which she received the CAT Award for Best Supporting Actress in a School or Youth Musical. She is thoroughly enjoying being involved in this production of *Kismet*, especially the catchy music and the company of her Ababunian sisters.



Kate Terry – Princess of Ababu

Kate has been interested in the arts since she was little. She performed in various musicals, plays, as well as dance and drama shows both through school activities and out. She grew up near Grafton NSW, and is currently studying Jazz Clarinet at ANU in Canberra. She is also active in salsa and swing dance studios which like *Kismet* have been great ways to socialise and have some fun in the community.



Zoe Swan – Princess of Ababu

Zoe is 16 years old and currently studies at Saint Francis Xavier College in Year 11. She has had dance training in Jazz, Ballet and Irish Dancing. Zoe has been in many class shows such as *Peter Pan* and outside of school she has performed with Child Players in *The Marvellous Land of Oz*. This is her first year with Queanbeyan Players and she has enjoyed and is very thankful for the experience she has had here. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Karinne Fisher – Buyer in the Bazaar

Karinne has enjoyed singing in various community choirs around Canberra and Perth. Her first stage performance was 30 years ago in the chorus of the *Gondoliers* in Melbourne. She revisited the *Gondoliers*, singing in the chorus of the Queanbeyan Players' production 3 years ago. Finding it a lot of fun she then auditioned for *Me and My Girl*, where she also sang in the chorus. *Kismet* is proving quite a challenge but very enjoyable as well. Apart from musicals, Karinne has been in some TV commercials, a documentary for Centrelink and was an extra in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia* which was a huge buzz for her.



Laura Higgins – Girl at the Silk Market

At 14 years of age, this is Laura's fourth show with the Queanbeyan Players, having also been in the chorus of *Brigadoon*, *Me and My Girl* and *The Gondoliers*. She is a keen drama student, and has also been in Trinity Christian School productions of *Seussical the Musical* and *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Liz Kenny – Slave Girl/Harem Girl

Liz has been interested in music and singing for as long as she can remember. This is her first performance with Queanbeyan Players and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Bronwyn McIlvar – Slave Girl/Harem Girl

Bronwyn is currently focused on her Bachelor of Secondary Music Education with the ANU School of Music and the University of Canberra. In 2010 she appeared in David Reedy's abridged version of *The Magic Flute* as one of the three spirits; in 2011 as a chorus member in *The Elixir of Love*, performed by Canberra Opera; in 2012 with the Queanbeyan Players as a fairy in their production of *Iolanthe*; and also in 2012 she revisited *The Magic Flute* with Canberra Opera – again, as one of the three spirits. She also appeared as the page in *Rigoletto*, and as a chorus member in *Carmen*, and in Canberra Opera's Christmas concert in 2013, she looks forward to performing in The Q again for *Kismet*.

Isabelle Jan – Slave Girl/Harem Girl

This is Isabelle's second show with Queanbeyan Players, having recently found her way back to the stage in their production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. She has previously been onstage in *Seussical* with Ickle Pickle and productions of *Oliver* and *Annie* in her distant hometown of Perth, but is more commonly found keeping her vocal chords limber with the ANU Choral Society. She has loved working with the cast of *Kismet* and pretending to be a dancer, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Maxine Johnson – Belly Dancer/Harem Girl

“Maxina” is a Belly Dance Teacher in the ACT. She has 19 years experience in Middle Eastern Dance under her coin belt.

She has sung with the Sweet Adelines, a barber shop chorus in Geraldton WA and sung in church choirs.

This is her first production with the Queanbeyan Players.

Janetta McRae – Market Buyer

A life-member of Queanbeyan Players, Janetta has been involved with music theatre now for over forty years. She has tried her hand at acting, singing, directing, costume design and committee work. Her persistence was rewarded this year with a nomination for a CAT Award in the “Senior” category. Here’s to the next 40 years.



Marcus Hurley – Iman/Bangle Man/Policeman

Marcus Hurley returns to the stage in *Kismet* - his fourth show in Canberra. Growing up in a musical family, Marcus draws great inspiration from his mother’s contagious passion for singing. Marcus most recently appeared in Canberra's first production of *Phantom of the Opera* and quickly followed by a role in *Annie* and *Witches of Eastwick*. Marcus hopes to have a long and successful relationship with the theatrical community in Canberra throughout 2014 and the years to come.

Joseph Hanna – Ben Hassan

Joseph is a keen amateur singer who has studied singing with James Macaulay in Melbourne and with David Reedy and Brian White in Canberra. He’s previously been on stage with the Queanbeyan Players in *Brigadoon* and with the Canberra Opera Workshop in *Elixir of Love* and *The Magic Flute*.



Christian Hemsley – Silk Merchant

This is Christian's second production with Queanbeyan Players since moving to Canberra from Sydney five years ago. Christian has performed in many shows over the years with Ashfield Musical Society, and recently finished appearing in the *Witches of Eastwick* with Supa Productions. Christian love of singing ensures he is either treading the boards or performing like he has with Canberra's QWIRE. It's great to be back with some familiar faces at QP!



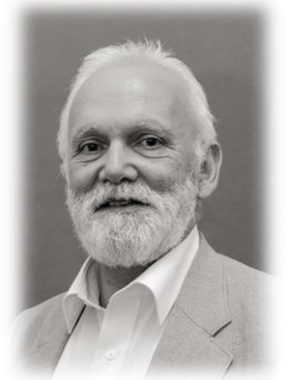
Phillip Fernandez – Silk Merchant/Prosecutor

Phillip has been involved in Musical Theatre since 2009 when he first ventured onto the stage with the cast of *The Mikado*, followed by *The Yeomen of the Guard*. In 2010 he was involved in the ensemble of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *The Gondoliers*. In 2011 he got his first supporting role as an Apostle in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and then played Lord Battersby in *Me and My Girl*. In 2012 he got to perform in *Chicago* as the Night Club Singers where he got to perform with The Sassy Sinners in his first solo in the foyer at The Q. He then got to perform as George and a Pirate cat in *CATS*. 2013 he was part of the cast of *Annie Get Your Gun* where he was challenged to perform in his first Tap dance number. Now in 2014 he joins the talented cast of *Kismet*, he would like to thank all the people involved in bringing this show together and hopes you enjoy the experience as much as he has enjoyed bringing this fine production to the stage.



Tony D'Abreva – Fig Seller

In his 38 year of teaching Tony has enjoyed being part of several school musical productions both on stage and back stage, particularly in the role of the Persian peddler man Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma* in his early teaching years. He leads singing at his church and encourages others to use their gift of singing/performing. His first adventure into community amateur musicals was in *Les Miserables* with Canberra Philharmonic last year, as a member of the ensemble. This has been a delightful cast to work with, not to mention with the two young chaps with the same surname.



Dale Stam – Orange Merchant/First Beggar

Dale Stam has thoroughly enjoyed being involved in this engaging production of *Kismet*. Dale is also known around the local scene for his comedic bit parts in the productions of the Canberra Opera and Queanbeyan Players, and hopes that this show also brings a smile to your face. Outside of performances Dale is a creative writer in the realm of speculative fiction and is currently editing his first novel and full length stage play.





Peter Evans – Pearl Merchant

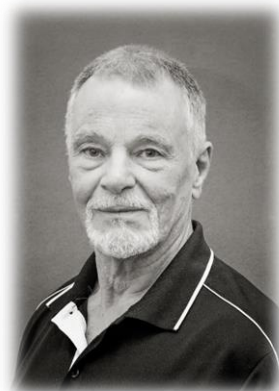
For many years of working in the technical field of computers, Peter felt there was something missing in his life. He needed to exercise the creative side of his brain.

Peter first took up landscape photography which helped but didn't quite "scratch the itch". After meeting his now wife, he became seriously involved in music and singing. To further this Peter and Margaret formed a group with a friend of theirs and regularly perform concerts. Peter felt that musical theatre was an ideal way to extend his creative abilities into acting so he joined Margaret in the Q.P. production of *Brigadoon*. Buoyed by this experience he has now joined the cast of *Kismet*.

Robert Grice – Chief of Police

Rob has been performing in musicals for about forty years, the first couple alongside a young Anthony Warlowe. Over the years he has played numerous leads and major roles as well as theatre restaurant and a very forgettable movie called "Last Chance"

Since moving to Canberra he has played "Emille De Beq", "Buffalo Bill", "Herbie", "Pellinore", "Uncle Willy", and other supporting roles, He is looking forward to *Kismet* hitting the stage.



Brenton Warren – Policeman/Merchant

Brenton has been involved in theatre around Canberra for more years than he cares to remember. You can usually find him working front of house for the different theatre companies including Canberra Rep, Free Rain Theatre Company, Canberra Philharmonic, to name just a few. He does occasionally venture out of his comfort zone from front of house or back stage to be in front of the footlights. He last appeared in *The Magic Flute* for Canberra Opera Workshop in 2012 and *Brigadoon* for Queanbeyan Players, also in 2012. He has recently worked as Properties Manager for Canberra Rep's *Steel Magnolias* (2014) and *Fox on the Fairway* (2013), and Free Rain's *Phantom of the Opera* (2013) at the Canberra Theatre Centre. He also assisted with props for Canberra Philharmonic's *Little Shop of Horrors* (2013). He hopes you enjoy *Kismet*.



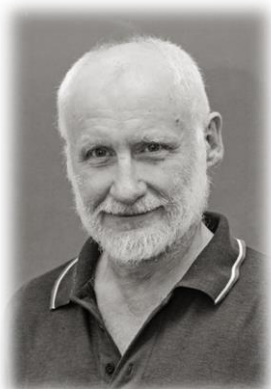
Josh D'Abreera – Policeman/Brigand

Not much is known about this handsomely bearded man of mystery, mischief and adventure however all reports confirm that *Kismet* is in fact the first production of any kind he has ever been in. He usually spends his time pursuing endeavours of a more 'outdoor' nature including rock climbing, hiking and a little-known extreme sport called Street Luge. Earlier this year he made his debut into the Australian Luge Circuit and was ranked 7th in the country for a time. Despite high speeds in excess of 100km/h he maintains that the thought of singing to an audience of any kind still scares him more. He has thoroughly loved being part of this, his first musical.



Daniel D'Abbrera – Policeman/Bandit

Dan enjoyed drama all through his school years where he learned the thrill of engaging an audience. He played Demetrius in Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* in Year 10 and majored in drama at college. His final school production was as Jacob in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat*, and was also the understudy for Joseph. He is currently a full time metal work apprentice and has used his skills to make the three bucklers (small metal shields) and swords used by the Princesses from Ababu in our production. He is relieved to have finally gotten back into the theatre. He has enjoyed *Kismet* immensely and has learned heaps about singing and looks forward to learning more.



Jan Vickers – Beggar/Buyer

This is my first venture into Musical Theatre and I am enjoying it very much. I hope you do too!

Graeme Trompf – Merchant

Until now Graeme's only brush with the theatre was when the Musical Director of the *Mikado* felt that the chorus needed some support. She asked a number of singers that she knew to sing the chorus parts from the orchestra pit - sandwiched between the bass drum and the tuba.

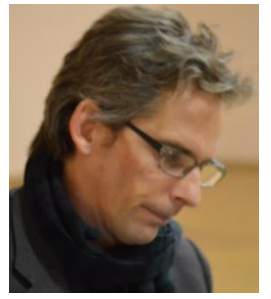
He still cannot read a note of music and continues with the choirs. But now he has also joined a group of volunteers who travel throughout the district and put on performances at nearly 50 Aged Care facilities from Dalmeny to Yass as well as Canberra/ Queanbeyan. Some of his colleagues have been doing this volunteer work for more than 17 years. They find it highly rewarding because they can see directly the joy it brings to the audience and they have a ball in the process.

And so now the journey has brought this bloke to his *Kismet*.



Adrian van Prooyen – Slave Merchant

Adrian likes singing. He has been singing in Canberra since 1981. As they were short of Tenors for QP's earlier production of *Kismet* he was "volunteered" into the cast and therefore this time thought it would be relatively easy to do it again. How wrong can you be? Adrian has also done several G&S's with QP. Adrian's main regular sing is with St Christopher's Cathedral choir in Manuka and is a member of UC Chorale. He occasionally finds himself singing with a choir of twenty or so people wherein he is the only tenor. It's nice to be needed! He has singing lessons with Christina Wilson and lives in Wamboin with 2 cats and 7 sheep.



Rebecca Doyle Photography



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PHOTOGRAPHY



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Performance: 1st-15th November 2014

Director Janetta McRae Musical Director Jennifer Groom Choreographer Christina Philipp

Auditions

Contact:

janette@webone.com.au

Or phone Janette on 0419 406
702

Between 6:00 & 9:00pm

**MY
FAIR
LADY**

By arrangement with Tams Witmark

Director

Fiona Hale

Musical Director

Rose Shorney

Choreographer

Jacquelyn Richards

5th – 14th June 2015



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