

A large, expressive brushstroke in shades of red and black, sweeping across the middle of the page. The red is a deep, dark red, and the black is a solid, dark black. The strokes are thick and textured, with some white highlights where the paint has been applied over itself.

M. Les Misérables

A NEW PRODUCTION

MEDIA PACK

IPSWICHMUSICALTHEATRECOMPANY.COM.AU



Les Misérables

A NEW PRODUCTION



Ipswich Musical Theatre Company
presents
A new production of
BOUBLIL and SCHÖNBERG'S
LES MISÉRABLES

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)
and CAMERON MACKINTOSH LTD.

All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

CHRIS BRADTKE

Director

ROBERT CLARK

Musical Director

RUTH GABRIEL

Assistant Director

Ipswich begins a #journeytothebarricade.

Press Release | 18 August 2017 | For Immediate Release

“Finding a production that could follow our 2016 sold out season of WICKED, required something big, bold and breathtaking,” said Ipswich Musical Theatre Company’s (IMTC) Artistic Director, Brenda Ryan. “We just couldn’t go past Les Misérables.”

“Simply put,” says Brenda, “it is a phenomenon: a magnet for audiences, producers, creative teams and performers alike. It endures and inspires.”

Adapted from the classic Victor Hugo novel and modernised from earlier musical productions, the Schonberg Boubliil adaptation of ***Les Misérables*** has left audiences spellbound the world over.

Its messages of hope, love and the triumph of the human spirit transcend decades and continents. Its spirited, robust story has universal appeal and its powerful characters have left their indelible footprint on the stages of countless theatres.

The score is nothing short of thrilling. It is supported by a magnificent professional orchestra and brought together under the masterful hand of Musical Director, Robert Clark. Robert has performed with many international artists including Frank Sinatra, Peter Allen, Petula Clark and Shirley Bassey, as well as many acclaimed Australian artists such as Tina Arena, Julie Anthony and Anthony Warlow. 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.

“The sound this cast produces knocks me off my feet,” he said, “And I’ve heard this show sung many times, on many stages. This cast is world class.”

In fact, renowned USA Casting Director, Douglas Webster, was so overwhelmed with the quality of performers auditioning for this production that he stated, “The depth of talent we have is frightening. Each and every cast member could hold their own in a lead role – and that makes for an incredibly powerful ensemble.”

Melbourne Director, Chris Bradtke, accepted IMTC’s invitation to work with them following a successful season of this show with Melbourne company CLOC earlier this year. Chris has developed an enviable reputation as one of Australia’s most creative, dynamic and innovative music theatre talents. Since 1987, he has received an incredible 20 nominations for the Music Theatre Guild’s Best Director, taking out the award seven times.

“I have directed *Les Misérables* four times,” said Chris, “and each time I discover something new. This is a masterpiece that you can never tire of.”

Chris brings with him the dynamic set and authentic, colourful collection of costumes used in the Melbourne production. Assistant Director, Ruth Gabriel, notes that “The well-known set is a necessary accompaniment to the songs, characters and story of *Les Misérables*. They take the audience on a realistic journey because they match the grimy, steely intensity of Victor Hugo’s epic 19th century France.”

Media are invited to attend one of two Sitzprobe sessions at the Ipswich Civic Centre on Sunday 3 September. Act One will take place from 2.30-5.30 pm and Act Two from 6.30-9.30 pm.

This is the first rehearsal when the orchestra and performers will come together. The cast will sit and stand around the orchestra and the show will be run through, without movement or acting.

Past Sitzprobes have been very exciting and will provide a great photo opportunity.

Don't miss your chance – join the #journeytothebarricade!

-END-

For further information visit www.ipswichmusicaltheatrecompany.com.au/les-miserables or book tickets at www.ipswichciviccentre.com.au/les-miserables.

Please contact FIONA ALLAN on 0415 70 79 33 or email fiona@purplepatchmarketing.com.au for all media enquiries, photo opportunities or to arrange an interview.

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company presents

LES MISÉRABLES

(the worldwide phenomenon)

WHEN: 8 – 17 September 2017
WHERE: Ipswich Civic Centre
Limestone Street, Ipswich Qld
TICKETS: \$35/\$68 (Group discounts available)
BOOKINGS: ipswichmusicaltheatrecompany.com.au
Or phone 3810 6100

Tickets on sale now.

For images or interviews please contact:

fiona@purplepatchmarketing.com.au

ipswichmusicaltheatrecompany.com.au



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Prologue - Chain Gang, Valjean, and Javert
One Parole/The Bishop - Constables, Bishop of Digne
Valjean's Soliloquy (What Have I Done?) - Valjean
At the End of the Day - The Poor, Foreman, Women, Fantine, Factory Girl
I Dreamed a Dream - Fantine
Lovely Ladies - Sailors, Hookers, Fantine, Old Woman, Crone, Pimp
Fantine's Arrest - Javert, Fantine, Bamatabois, Valjean
The Runaway Cart - Valjean, Crowd, Fauchelevent, Javert
Who am I? - Valjean
Fantine's Death (Come to Me) - Fantine, Valjean
The Confrontation - Valjean, Javert
Castle on a Cloud - Little Cosette
Master of the House - Madame Thénardier, Thénardier, and Customers
The Bargain (Waltz of Treachery) - Thénardiens and Valjean
Look Down - Gavroche and Beggars
Stars - Javert
Red and Black (The ABC Cafe) - Enjolras, Marius, Students
Do You Hear the People Sing? - Enjolras, Students, and Citizens
In My Life - Cosette, Valjean
A Heart Full of Love - Cosette, Marius, Eponine
The Attack on Rue Plumet - Thénardier, Robbers
(Montparnasse, Babet, Brujon, Calquesous, Eponine)
One Day More – Company

ACT TWO

On My Own - Eponine
Little People - Gavroche
First Attack - Policemen, Enjolras, Students
A Little Fall of Rain - Eponine, Marius
Drink with Me - Grantaire, Students, Women
Bring Him Home - Valjean
Second Attack
The Sewers
Dog Eats Dog - Thénardier
Javert's Suicide - Javert
Turning - Women
Empty Chairs at Empty Tables - Marius
Every Day - Cosette, Marius
The Wedding Choral - Guests
Beggars at the Feast - Thénardiens
Finale - Company

THE 'LES MIS' STORY

The abridged version

After 19 years as a prisoner, Jean Valjean is freed by Javert, the officer in charge of the prison workforce. Valjean promptly breaks parole but later uses money from stolen silver to reinvent himself as a mayor and factory owner. Javert vows to bring Valjean back to prison. Eight years later, Valjean becomes the guardian of a child named Cosette after her mother's death, but Javert's relentless pursuit means that peace will be a long time coming.

The not so condensed version

Act I PROLOGUE: 1815, DIGNE

Jean Valjean, released on parole after 19 years on the chain gang, finds that the yellow-ticket-of-leave he must, by law, display, condemns him to be an outcast. Only the saintly Bishop of Digne treats him kindly and Valjean, embittered by years of hardship, repays him by stealing some silver. Valjean is caught and brought back by police, and is astonished when the Bishop lies to the police to save him, also giving him 2 precious candlesticks. Valjean decides to start his life anew.

1823, MONTREUIL-SUR-MER

Eight years have passed, and Valjean, having broken his parole, and changed his name to Monsieur Madeleine, has risen to become a factory owner and Mayor. One of his workers, Fantine, has a secret illegitimate child. When the other women discover this, they demand her dismissal. The foreman, whose advances she has rejected, throws her out. Desperate for money to pay for medicines for her daughter, Fantine sells her locket, her hair, and then joins the whores in selling herself. Utterly degraded by her new trade, she gets into a fight with a prospective customer and is about to be taken to prison by Javert when the Mayor arrives and demands she be taken to hospital instead. The Mayor then rescues a man pinned down by a runaway cart. Javert is reminded of the abnormal strength of convict 24601 Jean Valjean, a parole breaker whom he has been tracking for years but who, he says, has just been recaptured. Valjean, unable to see an innocent man go to prison in his place, confesses to the court that he is prisoner 24601. At the hospital, Valjean promises the dying Fantine to find and look after her daughter Cosette. Javert arrives to arrest him, but Valjean escapes.

1823, MONTFERMEIL

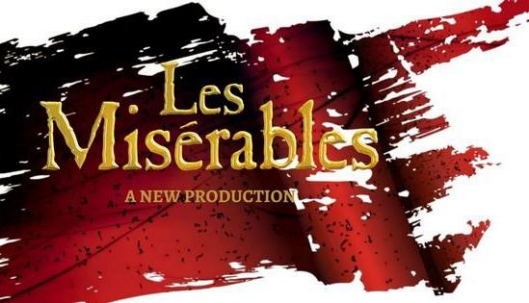
Cosette has been lodged for five years with the Thénardiens who run an inn, horribly abusing the little girl whom they use as a skivvy while indulging their own girl, Eponine. Valjean finds Cosette fetching water in the dark. He pays the Thénardiens to let him take Cosette away and takes her to Paris. But Javert is still on his tail....

1832, PARIS

Nine years later, there is great unrest in the city because of the likely demise of the popular leader General Lamarque, the only man left in the government who shows any feeling for the poor. The urchin Gavroche is in his element mixing with the whores and beggars of the capital. Among the street gangs is one led by Thénardier and his wife, which sets upon Jean Valjean and Cosette. They are rescued by Javert, who does not recognize Valjean until after he has made good his escape. The Thénardiens' daughter Eponine, who is secretly in love with the student Marius, reluctantly agrees to help him find Cosette, with whom he has fallen in love. At a political meeting in a small cafe, a group of idealistic students prepare for the revolution they are sure will erupt on the death of General Lamarque. When Gavroche brings the news of the General's death, the students, led by Enjolras, stream out into the streets to whip up popular support. Only Marius is distracted by thoughts of the mysterious Cosette. Cosette is consumed by thoughts of Marius, with whom she has fallen in love. Valjean realizes that his "daughter" is changing very quickly but refuses to tell her anything of the past. Despite her own feelings for Marius, Eponine sadly brings him to Cosette and then prevents an attempt by her father's gang to rob Valjean's house. Valjean, convinced it was Javert who was lurking outside his house, tells Cosette they must prepare to flee the country. On the eve of the revolution, the students and Javert see the situation from their different viewpoints; Cosette and Marius part in despair of ever meeting again; Eponine mourns the loss of Marius; and Valjean looks forward to the security of exile. The Thénardiens, meanwhile, dream of rich pickings underground from the chaos to come.

Act II

The students prepare to build the barricade. Marius, noticing that Eponine has joined the insurrection, sends her with a letter to Cosette, which is intercepted at the Rue Plumet by Valjean. Eponine decides, despite what he has said to her, to rejoin Marius at the barricade. The barricade is built and the revolutionaries defy an army warning that they must give up or die. Gavroche exposes Javert as a police spy. In trying to return to the barricade, Eponine is shot and killed. Valjean arrives at the barricades in search of Marius. He is given the chance to kill Javert but instead lets him go. The students settle down for a night on the barricade and in the quiet of the night, Valjean prays to God to save Marius from the onslaught which is to come. The next day, with ammunition running low, Gavroche runs out to collect more and is shot. The rebels are all killed, including their leader Enjolras. Valjean escapes into the sewers with unconscious Marius. After meeting Thénardier, who is robbing the corpses of the rebels, he emerges into the light only to meet Javert once more. He pleads for time to deliver the young man to hospital. Javert decides to let him go, and his unbending principles of justice having been shattered by Valjean's mercy, he kills himself by throwing himself into the swollen River Seine. Several Parisian women come to terms with the failed insurrection and its victims. Unaware of the identity of his rescuer, Marius recovers in Cosette's care. Valjean confesses the truth of his past to Marius and insists that after the young couple are married, he must go away rather than taint the safety of their union. At Marius and Cosette's wedding, the Thénardiens try to blackmail Marius. Thénardier says Cosette's "father" is a murderer and as proof produces a ring which he stole from the corpse in the sewers the night the barricades fell. It is Marius' own ring and he realizes it was Valjean who rescued him that night. He and Cosette go to Valjean where Cosette learns for the first time of her own history before the old man dies, joining the spirits of Fantine, Eponine, and all those who died on the barricades.



THE CAST

Jean Valjean :: Robert Shearer

Javert :: Lionel Theunissen

Cosette :: Sophie Salvesani

Eponine :: Emily Pluckrose

Fantine :: Jessica Ham

Marius :: Will Toft

Enjolras :: Trent Richards

Thénardier :: Ian Moore

Madame Thénardier :: Carole Williams

Young Cosette/Eponine :: Pheobe Pickersgill

Young Cosette/Eponine :: Molly-Pepper Johnson

Gavroche :: Hudson Bertram

Male Ensemble

Andrew Alley, Alex Andujar, Noah Bertram, James Burton,
Lachlan Christensen, Jeremy Clark, Connor Clarke, Justin Collier,
James Davidson, Simon Drew, Brian Garnham, Matthew French, Cameron
McAndrew.

Female Ensemble

Hannah Avery, Rebekah Barns, Melanie Bolovan, Abi Cairns,
Krystie French, Annabelle Harbison, Emily Homer, Harriet Jackson,
Hannah Kassulke, Melanie Keidge, Leigh La Roche, Laura Marsden,
Ellen Marshall, Lauren Roche, Amy Rymer, Miriam Slattery, Winona Thyssen.





EXTRA READING -

THE MUSICAL EVENT OF A LIFETIME

By Cameron Mackintosh

“The opening night of Les Misérables at the Barbican Theatre on 8 October 1985 was one of those extraordinary occasions when against all the odds a theatrical alchemy took place that made everyone forget the years of work and months of rehearsal – racing against the clock – that went into adapting Hugo’s sweeping masterpiece for the musical stage.”

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE >> <https://www.lesmis.com/uk/history/creation-of-a-musical/>

The Australian Music Theatre Database is a great source of detailed information. Access the Les Misérables page here >> <http://amtdb.com.au/show/les-miserables/>

THE CREATIVES

DIRECTOR | Chris Bradtke

In a career that spans all aspects of theatrical production, multi award-winning director and actor Chris Bradtke has developed an enviable reputation as one of Melbourne's most creative, dynamic and innovative music theatre talents.

Chris began his theatre life as a performer of note before making the move into directing over thirty years ago.

Since then, his achievements have been truly outstanding – since 1987, he has received an incredible twenty nominations for the Music Theatre Guild's Best Director (plus once for Best Actor), taking out the award seven times. Among his credits are shows such as: *Candide*, *My One and Only*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Chess*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *The Secret Garden*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Producers*, *Sweeney Todd*, and for CLOC *Song and Dance*, *A Chorus Line*, *A Little Night Music*, *West Side Story*, *Gigi*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (for which Chris won Guild awards for both Best Direction and Best Production), *The Boy from Oz*, *Miss Saigon*, *High Society*, *Sunset Boulevard* and the world, non-professional premiere production of *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2013.

Aside from working with CLOC, Chris has also directed plays, musicals, concerts and operas for Whitehorse Music Theatre, OSMaD, Stonnington City Council and the National Boys Choir. Most recently Chris has directed three shows with Babirra Music Theatre – *Carousel*, *The Boy from Oz* and *Mary Poppins*, all three collecting numerous Lyrebird awards and nominations.

In 1993, the first show that Chris directed for CLOC was the Victorian non-professional premiere of *Les Misérables*, which at the time broke box office records for the company and was one of CLOC's most successful shows. Eleven years later in 2004, Chris directed another record breaking production of *Les Misérables*, this time for Whitehorse Musical Theatre. Twenty-four years after his first *Les Misérables* incarnation with CLOC, Chris returned to direct *Les Mis* again, his fourteenth CLOC show.

This is Chris' first production with Ipswich Musical Theatre Company.

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 Policy 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'.

Les Misérables

A NEW PRODUCTION



THE PRODUCER

IPSWICH MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company was founded in 2001 to support local children in their desire to perform on stage. The company's first production was "Seven Little Australians – the Musical" based on the classic Australian novel by Ethel Turner, to celebrate the Centenary of Federation.

Since then, IMTC has staged shows and dinner theatres each year in the historic Old Ipswich Courthouse and an annual major production in the Ipswich Civic Centre. Past productions include classics such as Oliver, Annie, The Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast, South Pacific, The King and I, The Producers, The Boy from Oz, The Sound of Music and Mary Poppins.

In 2014, IMTC was granted the performance rights to stage the Ipswich premiere of The Phantom of the Opera. This production, with all the majesty, grandeur and romance, enjoyed a sold-out season with many patrons travelling great distances to attend. This production received a 2015 Australia Day Award for Ipswich's Best Citywide Community Event.

In 2016 IMTC's production of WICKED, was critically acclaimed in numerous reviews, almost selling out before opening night, leading to extra performances being added to the season.

"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." Peter Pinne, *Stage Whispers*

From small and humble beginnings, IMTC has evolved into a major community theatre company, capable of staging the most technically challenging shows that today's audiences have come to expect: The Phantom of the Opera 2014; Mary Poppins 2015; Wicked 2016; Les Misérables 2017, which have only recently been made available to community theatre groups. IMTC is widely recognised as being part of a network of major musical theatre community groups in Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane, that have staged such shows.



Les Misérables

A NEW PRODUCTION

PERFORMANCE DATES

SEVEN PERFORMANCES ONLY | 2017

Friday 8 September, 7.30 pm

Saturday 9 September, 7.30 pm

Sunday 10 September, 1.30 pm (matinee)

Wednesday 13 September, 7.30 pm

Friday 15 September, 7.30 pm

Saturday 16 September, 7.30 pm

Sunday 17 September, 1.30 pm (matinee)

THE IPSWICH CIVIC CENTRE

Limestone Street,

Ipswich Queensland 4305