Song and dance extravaganza comes to Regal Theatre

From the moment the curtain rises on an impressive chorus line of tap-dancing feet, 42nd Street swings into the high-energy song and dance routines that have made it one of the world’s best-loved musical comedies.

Set in Depression-era New York, 42nd Street spins the classic showbiz tale of a young hopeful hoping to join the cast of her first Broadway show. When fading star Dorothy Brock breaks her leg onstage, director Julian Marsh plucks young Peggy Sawyer out of the ensemble and makes her a star.

Since its premiere in 1980, 42nd Street has picked up a swag of awards, including a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award and a Laurence Olivier Award for Best Musical.

Now Perth audiences can enjoy 42nd Street’s brilliant dance routines, synchronized tap ensembles and memorable tunes – including such musical theatre gems as ‘We’re in the Money’, ‘Lullaby of Broadway’ and the show-stopping title song – when the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts brings this all-time-favourite Broadway musical comedy to the stage of the Regal Theatre in June for five performances only.

42nd Street will be performed by WAAPA’s Music Theatre students at the Regal Theatre from Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 June at 7.30pm, with a matinee on 20 June at 2pm. The show will be directed by highly respected Melbourne-based director of theatre, musicals and cabaret, Terence O’Connell, who returns to WAAPA after directing its sold-out season of Oklahoma! last year.

O’Connell is no stranger to the delights of 42nd Street; in 2007 he directed the show for The Production Company at the Arts Centre in Melbourne, with WAAPA graduate Lucy Durack – who is now starring as Glinda the Good Witch in Wicked – in the lead role of Peggy Sawyer.

O’Connell’s newest leading lady is already inspiring superlatives.

“Meghan O’Shea, who plays Peggy Sawyer for WAAPA’s production, is going to be extraordinary in the role and her fellow students are rising to the challenge of this superb ensemble piece,” says O’Connell. “The concept behind this production is inspired by the old Busby Berkeley films – it’s going to be extremely funny and quite spectacular!”

O’Connell also directed the hit show, Busting Out which, after its recent Perth season, will tour Europe before opening on London’s West End. After his stint in Perth, O’Connell returns to Melbourne to direct another musical comedy, Crazy for You, starring WAAPA graduates Christopher Parker and Natalie O’Donnell.

The creative team behind 42nd Street also includes musical supervision by David King, music direction by Derek Bond, choreography by Jenny Lynnd and lighting design by Trudy Dalgleish.

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Among her extensive theatre credits, the multi-award winning Dalgleish works regularly for Opera Australia and has been lighting designer on major theatrical shows including *The Boy from Oz; Shout; Grease - The Arena Spectacular;* and *Dusty – The Original Pop Diva,* among many others.

**BOOK NOW** - Tickets for *42nd Street* will sell fast, so don’t miss your opportunity to enjoy this delicious bon-bon of musical theatre entertainment!

**Performance Information: 42nd Street**
Wednesday 17 – Saturday 20 June at 7.30pm, Matinee Saturday 20 June at 2pm.
Regal Theatre, cnr Rokeby Rd and Hay St, Subiaco.
Tickets are $50 Full, $42 Concession/Friends, $35 Restricted view.
Bookings through Ticketek on 132 849 or online at ticketek.com.au

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For further information or to discuss interview opportunities, please contact:
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BIOGRAPHIES

Terence O’Connell – Director

O’Connell has staged some 150 productions in theatres, concert halls, circus tents, comedy venues and cabaret rooms across Australia and internationally. He returns to WAAPA after directing 2008’s Oklahoma!

O’Connell is a regular Guest Director for The Production Company (They’re Playing Our Song, Oklahoma!, The Pajama Game, 42nd Street, Damn Yankees), Ballarat University Arts Academy (Into the Woods, Bat Boy – The Musical, Cabaret) and Adelaide Cabaret Festival (Metro Street, Shane Warne – The Musical, License to Thrill – The Scores of James Bond). National touring productions include Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story, Decadence, Bouncers, Circus Oz, The Rocky Horror Show, Busting Out and Certified Male.

His 2009 music theatre projects include Nine (LaSalle, Performance Space, Singapore), Crazy for You (TPC, State Theatre, Melbourne), Gypsy (BUAA, Geelong Performing Arts Centre) and the Australian premiere of Songs From an Unmade Bed. Terence’s production of Andrew Lippa’s John & Jen received 5 nominations in the 2008 Green Room Awards. He is currently writing the book and lyrics for Skindeep: Helena Rubinstein & I and developing the screenplay of his hit theatre show Minefields and Miniskirts: Australian Women and the Vietnam War.

Trudy Dalgleish – Lighting Designer

Trudy Dalgleish studied technical production at NIDA and has won numerous awards including the 2000 Helpmann Award for The White Devil, 2002 Entech Award and the John Truscott Design Award for Excellence and for Best Lighting Design for Eureka at the Green Room Awards.

Her lighting credits include Sweeney Todd, Manon, HMS Pinafore, Trial by Jury, Pirates of Penzance, My Fair Lady, Orlando (all for Opera Australia); Eurobeat (UK); Sid’s Dancing Masquerade, Inuk 2 (SDC); Bubble (Legs on the Wall); Little Women, Pippin (Kookaburra); Kaiden (Sydney Festival); King and I (Broadway Asia); Dusty – The Original Pop Diva; Anzac International Military Tattoo; Eureka; The Man from Snowy River; Singin’ in the Rain; The Boy From Oz; Shout; Fame; The Man of La Mancha; Wizard of Oz; Annie; Grease - The Arena Spectacular; The Sound of Music; Cabaret; Gallipoli, The Way of the World, The White Devil - Sydney/New York (STC); Steel City (Radio City Music Hall, Australia); Dein Perry’s film Bootmen; Disney’s Beauty and the Beast; The New Rocky Horror Show - Australia/Hong Kong; Associate: The Producers.

2009 engagements include A Little Night Music in Melbourne and the New Zealand tour of My Fair Lady for Opera Australia, David Campbell’s Good Lovin’ tour, a commercial tour of Breast Wishes, and God of Carnage for STC.

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