



Cats

Tribe Youth Theatre

PRESENTS

Cats

MUSIC BY

Andrew Lloyd Webber

BASED ON

“Old Possum’s Book
of Practical *Cats*”
by T.S. Eliot

“Prologue – Jellicle Songs for Jellicle *Cats*”
additional material written by Trevor Nunn and
Richard Stilgoe.

“Memory” additional material written by
Trevor Nunn.

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Bendigo Theatre Company is located on the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungurung Peoples of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. They are the traditional custodians of this land.

Let the memory live again



A word from the Chair

Welcome to Tribe Youth Theatre's 2020-2021-2022 production of *Cats*! This show has taken more than two years of planning, a lockdown, rehearsals, another lockdown, restrictions, and a final lockdown to come to the stage. I could not be prouder of the cast and crew for their tenacity, resilience, and determination to get this show on the stage.

Over the past 24 months, we have welcomed and farewelled cast and crew members alike and I hope everyone who has been involved with this production over its long rehearsal period is able to come and see the results of their hard work.

2022 marks a special year for Bendigo Theatre Company, being our 70th anniversary. When, in 1952, a group of passionate locals came together to rehearse and perform *The Chocolate Solider*, I doubt they considered the impact this company would have on the city of Bendigo. We've grown a lot since those days but we've never forgotten the importance of community. So, after *Cats* is done, ensure you jump up and get involved where you believe you can make a difference!

Cats is a special show for Tribe Youth Theatre and for Bendigo Theatre Company as it marks our first show with a full audience since March 2020, and it is the first show in Tribe's fifth year of productions. While it isn't possible to list here everyone who had a hand in getting this show off the ground, there are a few very important people who need to be recognised.

Firstly, our initial Director/Choreographer, Vanessa Bate and 2020 Production Manager, Kristen Beever were instrumental in the creation of Tribe Youth Theatre, and the beginning of *Cats*. Without these two and their incredible love of theatre and their belief in the potential of young performers, we would not be presenting this incredible show to you today.

The Production and Creative Team members, both past and present, led by Kerry Turpie and Denton Delmenico, work tirelessly, and often thanklessly, behind the scenes to ensure the show runs as smoothly as it does. This is not an easy job and I thank them all for their commitment to the show, to the performers, and to Tribe Youth Theatre.

The cast, both past and present, who have been navigating disappointment and heartache throughout the pandemic, have committed all of themselves to their craft in this show. As high school students, these incredible performers are often studying for assessments, scheduling around school and sport commitments and still manage to practice their parts for this show. It is a massive feat, one for which they should all be congratulated.

To the Tribe Committee, who in 2019 decided on *Cats* and put everything in motion, our unending gratitude is yours. Very few people will understand exactly how much time and effort you contribute, but I know that isn't why you do this work. You are passionate about



creating opportunities for young performers and for that, I thank you.

And finally, to you, the audience members who have come out and supported us after two of the most difficult years Tribe and Bendigo Theatre Company have faced in recent memory. It is for you, and because of you that we can gather and celebrate this return to the stage. That the young performers who will dazzle you today can get up there and do what they love. Your support is the greatest gift of all, for which Tribe and Bendigo Theatre Company are eternally grateful. I hope you enjoy the show!



BEVAN MADDEN

Chair, Tribe Youth Theatre
President, Bendigo Theatre Company



When you fall on your head do you land on your feet?

Formed in 2017, Tribe's first musical production was *Barnum* which, mercifully, premiered three months prior to the release of the movie *The Greatest Showman*. After a cautious but successful opening night and second performance, the remaining six were a sell-out, and the production hit all its inclusion, financial and production value targets. Tribe Youth Theatre was off the blocks.

The following year, in response to feedback requesting options for theatre enthusiasts with less of a musical bent, Tribe added a play to the season - Terry Pratchett's *Wyrd Sisters*. The musical that year was *Grease*, a popular choice amongst the cast. The *Grease* season was sold out a month prior to opening night, indicating that we needed to increase the audience capacity.

In the first quarter of 2019 we staged the play *Blood Brothers* in The Engine Room, and chose not to stage a musical that year in order to spend time planning to move into a bigger theatre the following year. *Cats* was selected as the 2020 musical with the understanding that it would attract dancers and provide a different, more creative approach to settings, costumes and makeup than other musicals, where the actors play human characters. The *Cats* Creative Team was appointed, and we held our first 'dream big' meeting in December 2019. Opening night was intended to be 25 September 2020.

We were very well organised, trialling a longer production timeline to keep the stress levels in check, and aiming to load up the front part of the production schedule. We conducted a publicity photo shoot in January 2020 which yielded our beautiful promotional image featuring Tribe Alumnus Tara Glozier and makeup by Bridget Glozier. One of these images is featured on the inside front cover of this program, they are also on the BTC website. These eye-catching, colourful photos were intended for the bulk of our promotion, prior to casting. However, very shortly after the photoshoot COVID happened.

The *Cats* information night, planned for early May 2020 could not take place in person so it was moved to a Facebook live event. Auditions were changed to video submissions, which was a steep and sudden learning curve that our young audition

candidates had to master in a very short time. With uncertainty escalating we swiftly planned and executed a week-long intensive rehearsal in the mid-year school holidays, which was enormous fun and highly successful as a team-building exercise that enabled the creative team to teach large chunks of the show right at the start of the rehearsal period. We crossed our fingers that *Cats* would be able to continue rehearsing into term three, but sadly, as the second wave ripped through Victoria, lock downs prevented any further rehearsals.

With the unfortunate news that *Cats* would be postponed, it was inevitable that some cast and crew would not be able to continue. At this point 11 of the 37 original cast members stepped away. To give the whole team room to rest and recharge we stopped all activity between September 2020 and April 2021. Meanwhile the Tribe Committee continued to meet online, and hoped that *Cats* could resume rehearsals and perform in September 2021, a year later than first planned.

Early in 2021, for a multitude of reasons, there were some sizeable changes to the production team, and in late May we held auditions to fill any vacated roles. Since it had been so beneficial in 2020, we once again held a week-long intensive rehearsal in June, and planned to recommence full cast rehearsals in Term 3 but, unbelievably, with almost identical timing as the previous year, everything ground to a halt once again.

Across the winter, as several postponed school and community productions were rescheduled on top of *Cats*' rehearsal time, decimating people's availability, somehow the Creative Team still managed to rehearse this ensemble show in small groups, in person and online. To paint you a picture, when the cast comes together again in January 2021 to put the finishing touches on the show, they will have been all together in the same room four times, since mid-2020.

Somehow, with unbelievable dexterity and patience, the crew managed to re-fit costumes, build sets and photograph every cast member for this program. In a normal year these milestones would not stand out as much, but this time, it feels like they deserve a standing ovation.

At the time of writing this column it is almost *Cats*' opening night. The show has bumped in and the team is rehearsing hard, in the heat, with masks on and no air-conditioning. Right now, more than anything, we are hoping that everyone stays well so we can perform this run.

As I reflect on the ages of our cast members, which are in brackets beside their names, I'm remembering how many of them auditioned for this show two to three years younger than they are today. Some of our cast are now above Tribe's upper age limit, but the Tribe Committee felt it was fair and reasonable for cast members who had originally auditioned for *Cats* within Tribe's age parameters to be afforded the respect and courtesy of being permitted to perform.

I sincerely thank Kerry Turpie for taking the reins in July 2021 and steering the show through seven unprecedented months. Kerry, your calm disposition and theatrical wisdom are inspiring. I am very grateful to you for stepping in, and congratulations for delivering this production to the stage.

In 1985, as a 15 year old classical dancer, I travelled by bus to Sydney to see *Cats*. At the time it was rumoured it could never tour to Melbourne because the set was so large and all-encompassing on the theatre. Of course, it did come to Melbourne, in 1987. I loved it then and I love it still. I hope you will too.

By documenting the path *Cats* has travelled from concept to stage, I hope that we will look back in years to come and recall how this experience brought us all together, as well as how incredibly versatile and resilient theatre people are. It's said that cats have nine lives and that's just as well - we've needed every single one. To every cast, crew and orchestra member, many of whom have been on this train for more than two years, thank you for your dedication. I think you will agree that after falling on their heads, these *Cats* have well and truly landed on their feet.

KRISTEN BEEVER

Cats Production Manager (Oct 2019-June 2021),
Tribe Co-Founder and Marketing Officer





Synopsis

Cats tells the story of a cluster of cats who gather under the Jellicle moon for the Jellicle Ball once a year. Throughout the evening, they sing, dance, gossip and speculate over who will be chosen by their leader, Old Deuteronomy, as "the Jellicle choice" and be reborn to a new life by ascending to the Heaviside Layer.

An allegory for society's obsession with youth and beauty and the need for second chances, *Cats* is a magical evening that will live on forever in your memory.

A note from the Production Manager

Welcome one and all to our Jellicle Ball!

Many Jellicle cats have joined our Ball throughout this journey and I would firstly like to acknowledge all those cast, crew, production team and orchestra members who have been part of this extraordinary production process over the last two-years – thank you and I hope to work with you again in the future.

I took over the dance as production manager from Kristen Beever which has been a unique test of problem-solving skills and spontaneous initiative to work through the challenges presented by the pandemic. In the end, we have risen up and taken on these challenges and continued the dance.

What has been an important consideration in this show has been the wellbeing of all those involved. Throughout this entire production process our Welfare Team, coordinated by Jordan French, has maintained this vitally supportive role. Along with the Creative Team - Cally Bartlett, Denton Delmenico, Mason Hingston, Kelsey Oberin, Kristie Woodward, and Alex Zegelin, we have focused on continuing to be creative despite the isolation and inability to be together as a whole cast.

Working as a volunteer with community youth theatre companies has always brought such joy, creativity and surprises for me. From the beginning of a young person's creative journey to the dynamic adults they become has always been the greatest reward. Since beginning working with Tribe Youth Theatre in 2017 as the stage manager on *Barnum*, I have always been keen to encourage young creatives to find their artist voice and identify their own touchstones to develop their own aesthetic. Now more than ever, we need the Arts – to process experiences, find connections and create impact.

The special thing about Tribe Youth Theatre and about this show, is that it is a celebration of all the unique people who are part of it; from the cast and their many and varied performance skills to the experienced production team members mentoring others in their craft and passion.

We are thrilled to be able to offer a mentor program, coordinated by Liz Young, to those wishing to develop their skills in design areas. From our youngest cast and crew members who are joining our Tribe for their first show, to the older members of our Tribe sharing their love of theatre artistry.

What you will experience is a collaboration of much passion, hard-work and precision both on and off the stage from a range of volunteers. It is a celebration of the talents, adaptability and dedication from an ensemble of young performers, and an opportunity for young people to be involved in the theatre-making process working innovatively and creatively. Enjoy!

KERRY TURPIE

Cats Production Manager (July 2021 – Jan 2022)
Tribe Education and Engagement Officer



Creative Team



Denton Delmenico
DIRECTOR

As a pimply thirteen-year-old, the theatre became my safe place, a place where I could escape the realities of the often cruel world and be my true self, unashamed and brave. Performing in school productions year after year, I developed friendships with like-minded people and found my tribe. Then, at the age of sixteen, I performed the role of Judas in *Godspell* in my first Bendigo Theatre Company Production, which opened my eyes to future possibilities. So, after completing year twelve, I ventured to Melbourne to study a Bachelor of Contemporary Arts with a major in Drama at Deakin University.

At university I was afforded opportunities to perform and direct both scripted and devised work, which further deepened my passion for theatre-making, a passion that I carry with me to this day. Through several career changes, and moves from one state to another, the theatre has remained my one constant.

It has been the greatest of privileges to work with this young, vibrant and exceptionally talented cast of *Cats*. They have faced every challenge presented to them during this rehearsal process with remarkable resilience and positivity. My greatest hope is that they all walk away from this production knowing they have found their tribe and a safe place in such uncertain and challenging times.



Cally Bartlett
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Some of my earliest memories of *Cats* are listening to the London Cast recording after my parents flew to Sydney to see the premiere in Australia. The music struck me as innovative and unusual and being a Cellist, the orchestral parts were interesting and diverse. I studied Cello with Zoe Knighton at the University of Melbourne and completed a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Teaching with Honours in 2005. When I first moved to Bendigo in 2006 I was asked to play Cello for *Beauty and the Beast* and it was my first show with Bendigo Theatre Company. Since then I have played in numerous orchestras for the Company, including *Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Chicago*, and I was assistant Music Director for *Wicked* in 2019. This re-ignited my interest in being a Music Director for a show, and when asked to be involved in *Cats* I was excited to revisit this music from my childhood.

As a teacher and musician I am passionate about community music and giving everyone the opportunity to participate. I currently lead the String department at Girton Grammar School where I have taught since 2007. I have been the Music Director of the City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band since 2011 and I currently lead the Viola section for the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra. I have arranged music, and conducted the band for the Forever Young Rock Choir since 2011 and have worked with Normie Rowe, Wilbur Wilde, Mark Seymour, Kate Ceberano, Grace Knight and Damien Leith.



Kristie Woodward
VOCAL DIRECTOR

I am enormously proud to be part of the Tribe team who is bringing *Cats* to you, an achievement that has followed a tumultuous journey over the past two years. As a professional singing teacher to over 40 private students, I am so pleased that many of my students decided to ride the *Cats* journey too. I was the Vocal Director for Bendigo Theatre Company's multi-Guild Award winning 2019 production of *Wicked* and for 2018's *Fiddler on the Roof*. My theatre performances in Bendigo include: *Mary Poppins* and *The Boy from Oz* (Marion Woolnough) (Bendigo Theatre Company), *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Chess* (CTProductions, now known as Apollo Productions), and *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* and *The Magic Pudding* (Victorian Opera).

When vocal directing ensembles, I lean on my choral experience which includes the Australian Girls' Choir, Monash University's Viva Voce, Bendigo's Apollo Chorus and the Gisborne Singers (including a very special Carnegie Hall performance in 2017). I hold a Diploma of Music, Estill Voice Training L1 and L2 and AMEB qualifications in Musical Theatre, Piano and Flute.

By the time *Cats* reaches the stage, I will be the only original member of the Creative team. Perseverance, patience, and a deep passion for musical theatre have been crucial to this show's success, and it has been a joy to see its progress throughout the most unpredictable and challenging of times for live music performance. I am eternally grateful to my family for their continued love and support of my time- and heart-consuming musical theatre ventures.



Kelsey Oberin

CHOREOGRAPHER

I haven't been involved with *Cats* for as long as other cast and Production Team members, but what a journey it has already been! I originally came on board as an Associate Choreographer and was assigned two numbers to choreograph. However, as with most things, COVID changed everything. I was invited to step up to choreograph after Billy-Joe unfortunately had to step down during the long lockdown in 2021.

Cats was one of the first musicals I saw when it was performed at the Capital Theatre many years ago. As a dancer, I'm totally in love with this show and the music is absolutely beautiful.

This is my first time choreographing for Tribe, the last time I choreographed was for Bendigo Theatre Company's pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*. Usually I'm found on the stage. My most recent performances include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Wicked* and this year, *We Will Rock You* with Bendigo Theatre Company. I grew up dancing since the age of 5, and joined the Young Australian Broadway Chorus when I was 13 where my love of musical theatre only continued to grow.

I've had the most amazing time working with this incredibly talented group of young adults. Every single cast member's talent blows me away and their dedication and drive across the last two years is phenomenal. I'd like to thank all the past Choreographers and Associate Choreographers that were involved these last two years, this show wouldn't be as incredible as it is without all the hands that helped along the way.



Act One

Overture	Orchestra
Prologue: Jellicle Songs for Jellicle Cats	The Company
The Naming of Cats	The Company
The Invitation to the Jellicle Ball	Sillabub and Munkustrap
The Old Gumbie Cat	Jennyanydots, Alonzo, Bombalurina, Demeter, Sillabub and Company
The Rum Tum Tugger	Rum Tum Tugger and Company
Grizabella: The Glamour Cat	Grizabella, Demeter, Bombalurina and Company
Bustopher Jones	Bustopher Jones, Jennyanydots, Bombalurina, Jellylorum and Company
Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer	Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer
Old Deuteronomy	Munkustrap, Rum Tum Tugger and Company
The Awful Battle of The Pokes and the Pollicles	Munkustrap, Rumpus Cat, and Company
The Song of the Jellicles	The Company
The Jellicle Ball"	The Company
Grizabella, The Glamour Cat (Reprise)	Jellylorum and Sillabub
Memory (Prelude)	Grizabella



Act Two

The Moments of Happiness	Old Deuteronomy and Sillabub
Gus: The Theatre Cat	Gus and Jellylorum
Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat	Skimbleshanks and Company
Macavity: The Mystery Cat	Demeter, Bombalurina and female cast
Macavity Fight	Macavity, Munkustrap, Alonzo, Rum Tum Tugger, George, Demeter and Bombalurina
Mr. Mistoffelees	Mistoffelees, Rum Tum Tugger and Company
Daylight	Sillabub, Munkustrap and Company
Memory	Grizabella and Sillabub
The Journey to the Heaviside Layer	The Company
The Ad-Dressing of Cats	Old Deuteronomy and Company
Finale - Bows and play-out	The Company

A note from the Music Director

Orchestra

Pit musicians are a wondrous group! They create amazing music for a show they'll never see and singers they can barely hear. They put their trust in the Music Director, the one amongst them who can watch all the action, and they follow, with complete faith, that their conductor won't lead them astray. Pit music played well often makes the audience think that there is a recording in the background!

So why do these talented musicians get involved?

The camaraderie of pit musicians is unmatched. Working your way through a show night after night, sharing musical moments and fun together makes it all worth it. You work as a team with your fellow musicians, and long lasting friendships are formed, and that's what keeps our musicians coming back year after year.

I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the Girton Grammar School Music Department for their generous support in loaning equipment and instruments for our production of *Cats*.

To every musician who has given their time and expertise to this production, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Music Director:	Cally Bartlett
Woodwind 1:	Cynthia Holsworth
Woodwind 2:	Meg Martin
Horn 1:	Cathy Moore
Horn 2:	Geordie Walker
Trumpet 1:	Jason MacGregor
Trumpet 2:	Henry Livingstone
Trombone:	Chloe Fitton
Cello:	Beth Penington
Keyboard 1:	Cheryl Long
Keyboard 2:	Alison Dullard
Keyboard 3:	Karin Van Poppel & Eliza McKenna
Percussion:	Annette Conway
Drum Set:	Paul Hunt
Guitar:	Alexander Zegelin
Bass Guitar:	Hanley Rourke



Photo shoot day

The publicity and program photo shoot is a highly anticipated event on every Tribe production calendar. It is a day when the cast members dress in their full costume (sometimes, depending on how far into the process we are, they might be pinned or stitched into their costume) along with wigs and full makeup. Then, when they have a good idea of how their character will look and behave, they are asked to step in front of the camera and 'be' their character to convey a moment in the script that is captured for the program. As much as possible, we plan these days to give the cast the experience of a professional photo shoot. They are enormously good fun, they take a great deal of planning: shots, scenes, logistics, COVID limitations, and the results are that the cast members are the star of their own moment in front of the camera, captured on film.

Since 2013, Bendigo Theatre Company has been very lucky to have highly respected, professional photographer, David Field from Shooter Photos and Film as our production photographer. David has photographed sixteen productions: *Hairspray*, *Chicago*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Addams Family*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Aladdin - the pantomime*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Barnum* (Tribe Youth Theatre), *Legally Blonde*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Grease* (Tribe Youth Theatre), *Sleeping Beauty - the pantomime*, *Wicked*, *Little Red Riding Hood - the pantomime*, *We Will Rock You*, and now *Cats* (Tribe Youth Theatre).

Normally, there are one, maybe two days ear-marked for the photoshoot. Over the past two years however, it seemed possible that the production photography could be the only element of the show that we would be able to achieve. At one point, we realised that if *Cats* was cancelled, the photographs would be its sole lasting legacy.

In 2020-21, between *We Will Rock You* and *Cats*, due to location changes, cast availability, lockdowns, room or building density limits, weather, re-casting (sometimes twice!) there have been approximately twenty photo shoots organised, cancelled and rescheduled. The task of coordinating this erratic project was capably managed by Jodie Field.

The planning includes identifying key scenes and character pairings, deciding upon and booking a venue, rostering makeup and wardrobe to ensure everyone's availability and communicating with *everyone* and their parents. Then on the day, the hours can be long. Depending on how quickly the cast can be dressed and made up determines whether they can be on set at their allocated time.

When density limits were imposed on public buildings and numbers of visitors to the home restricted, we broke the photography element down into small groups. Even without COVID this would have been necessary because *Cats*' makeup is much more complex than other shows where the cast play humans. With a small team of makeup

artists and 38 cats, it wasn't practical to photograph everyone in a single day. Even on days when we planned to photograph only 8 or 9 cats, from setting up before 9am, the days ran into the early evening.

At the shoot, one of David's super powers is coaching a character out of a performer. He puts the performer at ease with his warm manner, and cheerfully suggests a movement, or an expression to help the actor convey their story. David shoots hundreds, probably thousands of photographs for each production. The process of reviewing, editing and selecting the best ones adds countless more hours to the task of determining the final few. The end result is a collection of images ear-marked for use in the program and for promoting the production on social media and in various other places.

Some theatre companies photograph their dress rehearsals, on the stage and in full costume, makeup and with their sets and lighting, so that the imagery in the program directly reflects the show on the stage. This places a lot of faith in everything going to plan at the eleventh hour, and relies on ensuring a printer can print and deliver the programs overnight. Unfortunately, we don't have that luxury. With sets being built and painted right up until the final dress rehearsal, we have used photographs of old theatres to evoke the setting that our show is based in.



When the curtain comes down on *Cats* in January 2022 it will have been, we think, the longest Bendigo Theatre Company show in production ever, and its 199th production, in its 70th year.

When the cast are older and they reflect on this show, they will come back to this program where all their hard work is documented, and they will rediscover these beautiful photographs to remember their moments in the spotlight. "Let the memory live again".

The cast and crew of *Cats* would like to thank Jodie and David for their time, expertise, endless positivity, and for conquering the momentous task of ensuring every one of our *Cats* was captured on film.





Jakoby Appleby (19)

OLD DEUTERONOMY

I have performed in many productions prior to this one. Some acclaims include a witch hunter in *Wicked* (BTC 2019), a barricade boy in *Les Misérables* (Nexus 2019), Mr Bumble in *Oliver* (Nexus 2020-21), and many others from 2017 to the present.

When I perform, I get a feeling that makes me feel invincible, and more confident in my appearance and actions.

One of my favourite things about *Cats* are the beautiful songs and this cast sings them purr-fectly!!



Estella Breen (15)

VICTORIA

I have loved being part of *Cats*. Even though we had two postponements, it has been wonderful to work with new choreographers, make some brilliant new friends, and have some performances to look forward to.

This is my first production with Tribe Youth Theatre and I have really enjoyed developing the personality and behaviours of my character.

When I am not rehearsing for *Cats* I dance at Start Studio. I also play basketball and netball with my school team. I hope you enjoy the show!

Cast

Jakoby Appleby	Old Deuteronomy
Mason Bennett	Mister Mistoffelees/ Quaxo
Halle Blake-Burrows	Admetus
Amarlia Bourke	Luna
Estella Breen	Victoria
Daniel Chisholm	Bustopher Jones/ Victor / Carbuckety
Gemma Chisholm	Etcetera
Taylah Chisholm	Grizabella
Ava Cossens	Noilly Pratt
Jade Cuskelly	Demeter
Isla Devers	Squeeps
Zoe Di Camillo	Nebula
Liam Duivenvoorden	George/ Rumpus Cat
Bella Ellis	Gilbert
Tilly Favoloro	Daphne
Elisha Field	Mungojerrie
Milly Fletcher	Cassandra
Aleksia Franklin	Plato
Abe Geyer	Run Tum Tugger
Tahlia Giffard	Mittens
Indi Gilmore	Sillabub
Lily Johns-Hayden	Bombalurina
Tom Marchant	Tumblebrutus
Katie McGregor	Pouncival
Alice McKellar	Tantomile

Ava Rathbone	Skimbleshanks
Aymee Robinson	Calliope
Sonnie Rose	Munkustrap
Ella Russell	Socrates
Claudia Scott	Coricopat/Firefiddle
Oliver Sexton	Asparagus/Gus
Liam Sheppard	Bill Bailey
Georgia Skinner	Jennyanydots
Jordan Thompson	Exotica/Macavity
Abbey Thompson	Athena
Erin Tinker	Rumpleteazer
Blake Walden-Dickie	Alonzo
Eliza Wilkinson	Jellylorum

Choir

Liam Brown
Sian Fowler
Tara Glozier
Mason Hingston
Stephanie Quin
Kristie Woodward



Mason Bennett (17)
MISTER MISTOFFEELES / QUAXO

I have been dancing and performing since I was 5 years old. I love the adrenaline rush of performing on stage to a live audience, and *Cats* is my first time performing in a production with Tribe Youth Theatre.

This year I've been studying for my VCE classes as well as working part-time, and somehow I've managed to fit *Cats* in too. I'm so pleased I did, I have enjoyed every minute of it.



Halle Blake-Burrows (16)
ADMETUS

Helen O'Grady's Drama Academy was where I was first introduced to performing arts. After that, I continued performing in school productions as well as youth theatre productions, most recently Nexus BYT's *Oliver*.

Theatre to me is a place where I am able to express myself in a community where I don't feel judged.

Cats has challenged me to extend my skills in character acting and I am very excited to be back on stage!



Amarlia Bourke (12)
LUNA

I have been learning dancing for 9 years, taking tap, jazz, and ballet lessons, and dancing at concerts and competitions.

I love being up on the stage, because I love to perform.

Cats is my first musical theatre production, and I am very excited to be a part of this show. A highlight has been learning new skills with acting and stage choreography, and making new friends with this amazing cast.



Daniel Chisholm (17)
BUSTOPHER JONES / CARBUCKETTY/VICTOR

My name is Daniel Chisholm, I am 17 years old and attend Victory Christian College. I have been performing with Tribe Youth Theatre since the first show, *Barnum* (2017).

I wanted to be in *Cats* as I believed it would challenge my physical and theatrical self. *Cats* also is hugely different to any previous productions I have performed in.

My favourite part of rehearsal was trying to embody a cat, this helped test my flexibility.





Gemma Chisholm (14)

ETCETERA

Tribe's *Cats* will be my first musical production. I have previously performed in the pantomimes *Beauty and the Beast* (2018), and *Sleeping Beauty* (2019).

Cats has been a huge challenge for me after months of work in 2020, then completely re-starting the show after postponing to 2021. This experience has taught me how to adapt and be resilient with rehearsals during these times. I am so excited to be able to return to the stage and bring my character of Etcetera to life.



Taylah Chisholm (19)

GRIZABELLA

Cats is my third Tribe show, my last show with the company being *Grease* in 2018. Coming off playing Scaramouche in *We Will Rock You*, Grizabella has been a great contrasting challenge, as I've learnt to adapt in characterisation and vocal skills.

Musical Theatre is a passion of mine, and I am hoping to pursue it as a career, and have accepted a place in WAAPA's Diploma of Musical Theatre, commencing in a few weeks.

There's no better way to bring theatre back to Tribe Youth Theatre than *Cats*! Enjoy the show.



Ava Cossens (13)

NOILLY PRATT (AND SILLABUB UNDERSTUDY)

I am so grateful to be able to be a part of this production. During the extended rehearsal period and process I have grown within myself as well as my character. Having auditioned in Grade 6 to be a kitten, I have now grown into a cat!

I saw *Cats* when I was little and adored the singing, dancing and energy of the show. I am so excited that we are finally able to perform it.



Jade Cuskelly (17)

DEMETER

I was so excited when Tribe announced that we would be doing *Cats*. I love my character Demeter as she is such a complex character. Her vocal parts are really fun to sing and her back story is tragic, which I enjoy to play. *Cats* is a show like no other, it's much harder than any other production I've been in but that's what I love about it. I've learned so many new skills and have grown as a performer.

When I am performing I love seeing the reaction of the audience, it gives me a feeling of satisfaction like no other. I hope to pursue a future in the Performing Arts sector at the end of VCE.



Isla Devers (13)

SQUEEPS

I attend Eaglehawk Secondary School, and have been dancing for over 10 years, currently attending classes at Z-Fit Studios. *Cats* is my second Tribe production, following a special guest role in Tribe's *Barnum*.

I was excited to be cast as a kitten in 2020, and was thrilled to become a part of the ensemble in 2021. I would like to thank Tribe, as well as Vanessa Bate and Denton Delmenico for giving me the opportunity to be part of the *Cats* cast. I have very much enjoyed being part of this very unique theatre experience.



Zoe di Camillo (13)

NEBULA

I have been performing since I was 5 and I just love it because it is so much fun and I make so many friends each time. I love the sound of the crowd cheering at the final bow. I love the feeling when we finish a scene, watch it back and see how much progress we have made.

At first, I didn't think I would get into *Cats* because I'm not a dancer but that made me even more determined to succeed. I have learned how to portray a character even if sometimes I feel a bit self conscious. I can't wait until the whole show comes together.



Liam Duivenvoorden (17)
GEORGE/RUMPUS CAT

For me, being a part of *Cats* is about community. I began my journey into performing arts at age 10 with Helen O’Grady’s Drama Academy, and continued it with school productions, but in 2021 I ventured into the world of Bendigo’s local community theatre with Bendigo Theatre Company’s *We Will Rock You*, and Nexus’ *All Together Now*.

I love the new friendships that I’ve made here, and performing with friends is exhilarating, and I just can’t wait to return to the stage!



Bella Ellis (17)
GILBERT

I have recently completed year 10, and have managed to perform in multiple musicals in 2021 including Girton’s Senior School production *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, and *Oliver!* with Nexus BYT. I am very excited to be part of *Cats* as it is my first time performing with Tribe Youth Theatre.

My strong passion is for the performing arts, and I am grateful for the opportunity to perform again. I have particularly loved getting to further develop my skills whilst building new friendships during the *Cats* rehearsal process.



Tilly Favoloro (11)
DAPHNE

I enjoy being in *Cats* because I like rehearsals, performing and talking to my friends during breaks. This is my first stage show so I’m really excited to be in it.

I love performing because it’s fun, and it’s great being on stage, it’s also great seeing people smile!!





Elisha Field (17)
MUNGOJERRIE

Hi I'm Elisha and I'm 17 years old. *Cats* will be my second Tribe show. I've been lucky to perform in many shows with Bendigo Theatre Company, production companies in Melbourne, and also star in a short film which went on to win awards overseas.

The reason I keep auditioning for theatre is because I love it! There is no better feeling than being on stage in front of a live audience with a group of friends who also love it. When

COVID hit our show last year it was really hard to deal with, but with lots of hard work we are back and even bigger!



Mille Fletcher (17)
CASSANDRA

I have been with Tribe since their first production of *Barnum*, and I have fallen in love with performing since.

Through theatre I have made many friends and gained so much more confidence as performing has pushed me outside of my comfort zone. My favourite part of *Cats* is the choreography as it is so unique and different from any other show I've been involved in. I've been in the *Cats* cast since 2020 and I'm very excited to finally perform this show and play the role of Cassandra in January.





Aleksia Franklin (15)

PLATO

I first found acting as my hobby when I did a talent show for camp in grade 4. I dressed up as a cop with a blue afro and Aussie gold glasses. I put on a bogan voice and acted and made people laugh so much. We didn't win, haha, but it was definitely worth it.

Ever since then I have always loved making people laugh and smile. I don't mind behaving weirdly or putting on a voice. I love acting and changing my personality to portray different characters. I don't fear judgement when I'm acting and, hopefully, I never will.



Abe Geyer (17)

RUM TUM TUGGER

I have appeared in many school and community productions including Girton's *Matilda*, Nexus's *Les Misérables*, Tribe's *Grease* and Bendigo Theatre Company's award winning *Wicked*. In 2020 I played the Artful Dodger in Nexus's *Oliver!* and Arturo Ui in Girton's *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui*.

After a long but fun rehearsal process, I am so grateful for the community and the privilege of bringing joy and music to an audience. *Cats* will start my 2022 with a bang, before I dive into year 12! After that, I am striving to attend a performing arts university and aspire to a professional future in the musical theatre industry.



Tahlia Giffard (11)

MITTENS

My name is Tahlia, I am so happy to be a part of the Tribe *Cats* theatre production. I have dance and performance experience from spending 3 years at a calisthenics club, and I have acted at Props Theatre.

I was really excited when I heard I had a chance to get into a real musical, as I love performing and it would carry my dream of being a performer. I love singing and playing guitar, and I can't wait for you to see our awesome show.





Indi Gilmore (16)

SILLABUB

I first started performing when I was 12, I got my very first lead role in Echuca Moama Theatre Company's production of *The Little Mermaid* and ever since then I have loved to perform. I take singing, dance, piano and other classes at Dillmac Entertainment.

I live in Moama/Echuca so I have to travel a lot but it is all worth it in the end. I love being in this show because of how amazing the cast and crew are and how friendly they have been to me since I didn't know anyone. I have made so many new friends and I really hope the rest of my life will include performing.



Lily Johns-Hayden (17)

BOMBALURINA

I am 17 years old attending Bendigo Senior Secondary College.

Cats will be my fifth production with Tribe and my tenth with Bendigo Theatre Company overall. I love to perform and especially love to sing.

I am super excited to be playing Bombalurina and I am looking forward to making this character my own. I have loved working with this amazing cast and hope you love the show!



Tom Marchant (13)

TUMBLEBRUTUS

I have really enjoyed being part of the *Cats* cast, and meeting new people. I have recently completed Year 8, and this is my first Tribe production.

In 2021 I played Charley Bates in Nexus's production of *Oliver*, Young Dogsbrough in Girton's production of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and Emmett Forrest in Girton's year 8 production of *Legally Blonde*.

I hope everyone enjoys the show and I am hoping for a COVID free year in 2022.



Katie McGregor (14)

POUNCIVAL

This is my first production with Tribe. I have been dancing for 5 years at Start Studio and I'm so excited to have the opportunity to be a part of *Cats*. I have enjoyed making lots of new friends during rehearsals and I am feeling so ready to perform.

Cats has been a great experience and I am thrilled to work with amazing performers and creatives. I would like to thank Ms Shantelle from Start Studio for everything you've taught me.



Alice McKellar (15)

TANTOMILE

My motivation for performing is the feeling of being on stage - it is like no other feeling in the world.

I have loved theatre from a very young age. I particularly love the sense of community that Tribe has given me.

In 2020-2021 everyone faced some hurdles that we have had to overcome, but they have helped me to build my resilience skills and become a stronger person altogether.

I really hope you enjoy the show.



Ava Rathbone (15)

SKIMBLESHANKS

Cats is my first show with Tribe Youth Theatre and I have loved every moment! After previously taking part in Bendigo Theatre Company pantomimes, The Kids' Christmas Concert, and many years of dance training at Start Studio, it feels incredible to be back in the rehearsal room and on the stage with friends and fellow performers.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the creative team for putting in so much hard work and dedication to the show and also to my friends and family for supporting me through the whole process.



Which was which cat?

He says as he scratches himself with his claws...
"Well the theatre is certainly not what it was..."





Amyee Robinson (15)

CALLIOPE

My love of performing began when I started dancing at the age of 3 with LM Dance School. Although this is my first production with Tribe, I have previously performed in pantomimes with BTC and in various school productions. I also portrayed Cha-Cha DiGregorio in Weeroona College's production of *Grease* last year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed making new friends and learning from the amazing Creative Team. I am so grateful to finally be back on the stage again and I hope everyone enjoys the show.



Sonnie Rose (17)

MUNKUSTRAP

I grew up with all the good stuff: Michael Jackson, ACDC, Steve Wonder, Queen, and I expressed myself through poetry. As a writer, performance wasn't the most important thing... but that didn't mean I didn't adore it.

The most thrilling part about being on stage is the Split-Second-Feeling of "I've worked hard for this moment". In the 2019 ACA Showcase I sang a solo I'd been practising for all year. I also choreographed a duet for the dancers in my performance. When I performed that song, I experienced that Split-Second-Feeling...and cried. That is still the best moment of my life.



Ella Russell (15)

SOCRATES

I love performing, singing, dancing and acting. I have been dancing for 7 years at CV Dance studio and currently learn singing from Kristy Woodward. I have performed in school productions, the Bendigo Christmas Concert, Carols by Candlelight, the Easter Parade and at Australia Day.

I love performing as you are right in the moment, and it is heaps of fun performing for an audience with my friends. This is my first Tribe production and I cannot wait. Rehearsals have been so much fun and I have learnt so much and have met many new friends. I can't wait to perform again soon.



Claudia Scott (17) DANCE CAPTAIN
CORICOPAT / FIREFROFIDDLE

I am a student at Catherine McAuley College, and I have been dancing for 14 years, following the Cecchetti syllabus. Performing brings out my true character, my love for theatre and the memories that are created are precious.

My first show with BTC was *Aladdin the pantomime* (2017), followed by *Fiddler on the Roof* (2018). I operated the follow spot for *Grease* (2018), *Wicked* (2019) and *We Will Rock You* (2021). I played George in Melbourne City Youth Theatre's performance of *Cats* in 2019. I am thrilled this time around to play Coricopat and Fireforefiddle, and to also have a twin in Tantomile.



Oliver Sexton (14)
ASPARAGUS

I recently completed Year 9 at Catherine McCauley College. *Cats* is my first Tribe production, but I have performed in BTC's *Fiddler On The Roof* (2018) and the Bendigo Kids' Christmas Concert. I relished performing with Nexus in *Les Misérables* (2019) and *Oliver* (2021).

I study musical theatre, singing, piano and saxophone, and love being a member of various CMC bands/choir. I enjoy computers and producing music. I think the friendships I have made in Tribe and learning from the talented creative team are the highlights of *Cats*. And I have enjoyed the challenge of developing such an emotional role.



Liam Sheppard (17)
BILL BAILEY

In 2020, I danced in *Little Red Riding Hood the Pantomime* with Bendigo Theatre Company. This led to a decision to audition for *Cats* as I'd enjoyed working alongside the talented cast.

The process of preparing for *Cats* during COVID has helped me improve my resilience, persistence and, more recently, time management. With the uncertainty surrounding the show being able to start, I've learned to be flexible and work around other commitments to remain involved. I am most excited by the show revolving around dance as it is my passion and a career pathway for me.



Georgia Skinner (20)
JENNYANYDOTS/ELECTRA

Cats has been a show I've always longed to perform in. Being a dancer for more than 15 years, it was obvious that I would audition.

Cats will be my last youth show, and I can't think of a better way to go out than with such an iconic musical.

When the show was postponed in 2020 and again in 2021, I have learned how to work through the unpredictability of rehearsals schedules, lockdowns and the unknown. But after so much delay it has finally all been worth the wait.



Jordan Thompson (16)
EXOTICA/MACAVITY

Cats has been a wonderful experience that has taught me how to be resilient in all the difficult times. After running rehearsals for over 6 months and having to rework and re-audition some roles due to COVID, we are all so excited and can't wait to perform for you.

I've always loved to perform as it gives me a rush of adrenaline every time I step on stage. This will be my first Tribe show and I'm so excited to adventure out and audition for more shows. This show is really spectacular and I can't wait to bring Macavity and Exotica to the stage.



Abbey Thompson (17)
ATHENA

Cats is my first performance with Tribe, but I have been in many school productions such as *Matilda* and *Peter Pan*.

I love the feeling that I get when stepping out on the stage after all the hard work that has been put into rehearsing the show.

Being in *Cats* has allowed me to meet so many wonderful new people while expressing my individuality. I cannot wait to perform many more productions with Bendigo Theatre Company.



Erin Tinker (17)
RUMPLETEAZER

My love of performing started with Helen O'Grady drama classes. When Tribe began I jumped at the chance to be in the musical *Barnum* because of my love of singing. Since then I performed as Brigitta in Nexus' *The Sound of Music*, and in Tribe's *Grease*, *Blood Brothers* and several school productions at CMC and Girton.

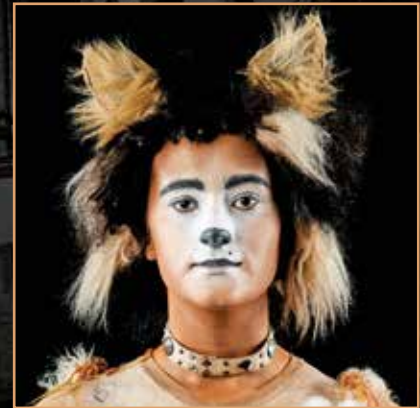
I am so excited to be Rumpleteazer as it is a fun character-filled role and have loved working with all the directors and choreographers from start to finish.



Blake Walden-Dickie (14)
ALONZO

I attend Weeroona College and played the Guardian Angel in *Grease* in 2021. I am a Chinese Lion Dancer with the Bendigo Chinese Association where I love celebrating Bendigo's multiculturalism. My singing teachers are Kristy Woodward and Lou Marshall.

Cats is my first Tribe production. In 2021 I took part in Props and Tribe's intensive theatre where I learned about *Cats* and was encouraged to audition. I'm so glad I did. To be surrounded by like minded people all sharing the same passion has given me so much more confidence. I look forward to being in future Tribe productions.



Eliza Wilkinson (17)
JELLYLORUM

I have just completed Year 11 at BSSC, and I have loved performing on stage since I was a kid. I have been involved in many shows but *Cats* is my first Tribe production. This show has extended me beyond my comfort zone by teaching me how to use my body to imitate the way *Cats* move.

I feel very grateful for the experience of being in *Cats* because it has been an escape from the other obstacles these past two years have brought.

I hope you enjoy the show!



Settings

Traditionally, in the professional shows, *Cats* is set in a rubbish dump. The amateur license, however, encourages adaptations of other spaces that *Cats* might be found. We decided very early on that setting our production in an old, abandoned theatre would make for an interesting interpretation.

The scale for making things 'cat-sized' is 3:1. It was a big challenge to make all the over sized pieces, but once the giant chair was completed, the vision started to develop more fully.

With the fabulous team of Steve (muscle) , Kate (brains), Sam (artistic talent) and all the Wednesday crew, the set has come to life, making a wonderful playground for our *Cats*.

*And were all of us proud to be noddod or bowwed to
by Bustopher Jones in white spats*

ASPIRE • TO • STAR!



Girton Grammar School is a proud supporter of BTC's Tribe Youth Theatre and would like to congratulate them on their production of *Cats*.

If you'd like to find out what opportunities Girton's Performing Arts Program and scholarships could offer your child, please contact our Registrar on 5441 3114 or email: registry@girton.vic.edu.au

WITH BENDIGO'S LARGEST PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

With one of the largest Performing Arts programs in Regional Australia, Girton Grammar School currently has recent graduates studying Music, Drama and Film tertiary education courses at prestigious institutions including

the Victorian College of the Arts, NIDA and WAAPA. It all starts by providing opportunities, and with 35 musical ensemble groups and 3 major theatrical productions every year, there are endless ways that students can follow

their passions in Music, Drama and Dance both on stage and behind the scenes with our Backstage, Make-up and Theatre Techs co-curricular programs.

 **Girton** Grammar School Bendigo
ASPIRE TO STAR



LIGHTING DESIGN - VISION DESIGN - PROJECTION MAPPING - EQUIPMENT RENTALS

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31 MARCH - 3 APRIL

BTC Arts Shed

This ten minute short play festival is a much loved event on BTC's annual calendar. It regularly sells out and the standard of plays is always inspiring. We encourage and support first time directors and performers to step up and have a go.



19 - 24 APRIL

Venue TBC

Theatre in a Week is an accelerated short-format musical taking part in the April school holidays. One script, one week of singing, dancing, acting, backstage work and fun, concluding with a weekend of performances.



7 - 10 JULY

Ulumbarra Theatre

Based on the best-selling book by Roald Dahl, we are incredibly excited to present a world of pure imagination. Premiering at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in 2013, this musical has been nominated for numerous awards across the West End and Broadway.

In 2022 Bendigo Theatre Company and Tribe Youth Theatre will collaborate to bring this much-loved family story to the stage, providing opportunities for theatre lovers of all ages.



22 - 25 SEPTEMBER

The Capital Theatre

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has *never* been destined to save the world.

In the September school holidays Tribe Youth Theatre presents the off-Broadway comedy sensation Puffs. This play sees Tribe take a giant leap into a much bigger venue and provides a fantastic opportunity for young actors.



WE ARE RECRUITING NOW FOR ALL PRODUCTION TEAM ROLES

Are you interested in being involved with any of these productions? We are currently seeking expressions of interest for all off stage roles: from Directors to Stage Managers and everything in between.

For more information go to bendigotheatrecompany.org.au/season-2022 or scan this QR code.



Production team

Production Manager

Director

Assistant Director

Musical Director

Choreographer

Vocal Director

Assistant Musical Director

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Deputy Stage Manager

Backstage Crew

Rehearsal Pianist

Costume Coordinator

& Construction

Wigs

Makeup Design

Makeup Artists

Lighting Design & Programming

Lighting operator

Dome operators

Audio Technician

Sound Operator

Set and Prop Design

Set construction

Scenic Artist

Production Photography

Photography Coordinator

Marketing & Program Design

Cats Welfare Team

Former production team

Kerry Turpie

Denton Delmenico

Mason Hingston

Cally Bartlett

Kelsey Oberin

Kristie Woodward

Alexander Zegelin

Andrew Dyer

Danni Tugaga

Amelia Howden

Levity Camilleri, Kate

Holdaway

Karin Van Poppel

Lauren Mitchell

Lauren Mitchell, Denton

Delmenico

Gretel Hitchcock

Ally Bedson, Nicole Cilauro,

Steph Foote

Ian Scott - ISLX

David Field

Lachlan Careedy, Tas

Careedy, Jerry Steen

Jared Hodges

Lizzy Neunhoffer

Kate Tinker

Steve Tinker, Colin Brown,

Bob Caldwell, Grant Finlay,

John Freeman, Keva Lloyd,

Ernie Moore, Roger Ogilvie,

Rodney Pearce, Ray Smith,

Kyle Waddington, Vern

Wall, Len Wallace, Peter

Warburton

Samantha Lempio-Franklin

David Field - Shooter

Photos and Film

Jodie Field

Kristen Beever - Central

Design Studio

Jordan French, Kit Godfrey,

Natalie Hercus, Alexander

Zegelin

Seamus Allan, Vanessa

Bate, Maddi Churchill,

Charlee Harris, Lorelei

Bolton, Matthew Dudfield,

Bridget Glozier, Tara

Glozier, Tayla Ham, Lucy

Iwasa, Sally Johnstone,

Billy-Jo Royle, Kira Walker,

Julia Wellard

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Kristen Beever

Mentor Program Manager

Elizabeth Young

Scribe

Jenni Clohesy

Welfare

Natalie Hercus

tribe


YOUTH THEATRE

Tribe Youth Theatre is part of Bendigo Theatre Company. Tribe's mission is to create performance opportunities for secondary school age participants.

Contact Tribe: tribe@bendigotheatrecompany.org.au

Bendigo Theatre Company
15-17 Allingham Street, Golden Square Vic 3550.

www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au

 BENDIGO THEATRE COMPANY

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge all the former cast and choir members who were not able to stay on in their role when *Cats* was postponed in either 2020 or 2021: Seamus Allan, Max Beever, Millie Bennett, Olivia Brereton, Annie Claxton, Erin Collins, Isabella Conroy, Remy Cugura, Laura Freeman, Ingrid Fisher, Lucy Hall, Ella Honey, Lucy Kitching, Alyssa Lai, Lucy Mills, Abby Perdon, Inika Reinhardt, Jett Robbins, Oliver Scott, Jeremiah Steen, Jay Thomas, Danni Tugaga, Jacob Ware.

2020 photoshoot hair stylist Tara Purden. 2020-2021 wig assistants: Jenny Geyer, Jodie Field, Lucy Mills, Kristen Beever. 2020 photoshoot (#2) makeup artists: Georgia Campbell, Julie Drake, Bridget Glozier, Danika Hill, Liv Ryan, Kiera Stone, Ben Thewlis.

2020-21 Costume Assistants: Seamus Allan, Laura Brereton, Georgia Campbell, Jodie Field, Laura Freeman, Jordan French, Sarah Gifford, Kit Godfrey, Danika Hill, Jeanette Leach, Lucy Mills, Cedar-Rose Russell, Ashlee Taylor, Erin Tinker, and Joyce and Janice Webster.

Tribe Youth Theatre and the *Cats* cast and crew would like to thank:

Girton Grammar School for their continuous support of Tribe Youth Theatre since its inception. Girton's generosity has enabled Tribe to unite students from about 15 secondary schools in and beyond Bendigo, and many friendships, memories and futures have been seeded in the opportunity to perform these shows in this venue.

Claire Sexton, Z-Fit Studios, Bendigo Eye Clinic, and last, but not least, the Wednesday Boys - Bendigo Theatre Company's maintenance and set building team.

The final word

I joined this production as Director in April 2021, replacing the outgoing Director, Vanessa Bate, and I am forever grateful to Kristen Beever for affording me this opportunity. At the time, I could not have predicted the long and arduous journey of bringing *Cats* to production. A journey that could not have been possible without the outstanding commitment and perseverance from many.

To Kristie Woodward, Cally Bartlett, Kate Tinker and Lauren Mitchell, thank you for staying the course since 2020. I am sure you never imagined that this production would take the time it has when you first signed on. Your deep understanding of this show has provided the cast and me with consistency and strength during uncertain times. To Mason Hingston, Kelsey Oberin and Billy-Jo Royle, thank you for joining the Creative Team at the same time as me, and injecting the creative process with a hit of adrenaline after the long, dormant spring/summer. To Kerry Turpie, thank you for keeping me in check, on time, and sane.

To our beautiful cast: many of you have been with us since the very beginning. Your adaptability and commitment are truly commendable; learning new choreography, new blocking, and in some cases taking on new roles, always with smiles on your faces, and a determination to get the job done. It has been an honour to work with you all.

Finally, to you the audience. It is very easy to stay at home; read a book, watch TV or a movie. Instead, you have chosen to support our show. The Arts industry has been decimated by this dreaded pandemic that we continue to navigate. With your ongoing support of live performance, we will be reborn.

DENTON DELMENICO
Director





tribe
YOUTH THEATRE

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