

A Story Ark production for ABC TV

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation presents  
in association with Screen NSW  
a Story Ark production

# *Carlotta*



**One of the most beautiful women of her generation.  
But not a woman at all.  
A film about an extraordinary life lived in changing times.**

## MEDIA CONTACTS

**Catherine Lavelle**

UNIT PUBLICITY

**T** 02 9405 2880

**M** 0413 88 55 95

**E** [catherine@clpr.com.au](mailto:catherine@clpr.com.au)

**Kris Way**

ABC TV PUBLICITY

**T** 02 8333 3844

**M** 0419 969 282

**E** [way.kris@abc.net.au](mailto:way.kris@abc.net.au)



# *Carlotta*

Currently in production in Sydney,  
**Carlotta** is being directed by **Samantha Lang** and  
produced by Riccardo Pellizzeri and Lara Radulovich for ABC1.

Based on the extraordinary life of the iconic showgirl and Australian transgender pioneer, Carlotta **Jessica Marais** (*Packed to the Rafters*), stars as **Carlotta**.

A universal story about identity, family, tolerance and acceptance, **Carlotta** lays bare the life of the confused teenager named Richard and his flight into the turbulence of the hedonistic Kings Cross of the sixties and seventies.

Against the threat of criminal prosecution as well as social rejection, we see the emergence of the all conquering drag queen and performer.

Spanning forty years, **Carlotta** is an uplifting celebration of finding your place in the world and making your mark against all the odds.

# Carlotta

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Based on the life of the iconic showgirl and Australian transgender pioneer, **Jessica Marais** stars as **Carlotta**, one of the most beautiful women of her generation, but not a woman at all. The outstanding ensemble cast includes **Caroline O'Connor**, **Alex Dimitriades**, **Anita Hegh**, **Eamon Farren**, **Andrew Lees**, **Gigi Edgley**, **Ryan Johnson**, **Socratis Otto**, **Genevieve Lemon**, **Damian de Montemas** and **Paul Capsis**.

A universal story about identity, family, tolerance and acceptance, **Carlotta** lays bare the life of a confused teenager named Richard, his flight into the hedonistic Kings Cross of the 60s and 70s and his transformation into Carol. Against the threat of criminal prosecution and social rejection, we see the emergence of the all conquering drag queen and performer Carlotta. Spanning forty years, **Carlotta** is an uplifting celebration of finding your place in the world and making your mark – against all odds.

Filming throughout Sydney, **Carlotta** was written by **David Hannam** (*Winners & Losers*) with story consultation by Carlotta. The film is being directed by **Samantha Lang** (*My Place*, *The Monkey's Mask*), and produced by **Riccardo Pellizzeri** (*Underbelly: NZ*, *Siege*, *MDA*, *Blue Heelers*) and **Lara Radulovich** (*Wentworth*), with the ABC's **Carole Sklan** and **Christopher Gist** as executive producers. Developed by Pellizzeri, Radulovich and Hannam, **Carlotta** is being produced by their new production company Story Ark Productions.

**Lara Radulovich** and **Riccardo Pellizzeri** said "This has been a passion project of ours for many years and we are thrilled to be bringing Carlotta's story to the screen. A love story and an outsider tale about an exceptional woman's desire to be ordinary, hers is an extraordinary life, lived in changing times."

**Carlotta** said "I am absolutely delighted and flattered that this story is being brought to the screen as my main motivation is to show anyone who may be struggling with their gender, or struggling to gain acceptance from their family and society at large - that you can do it. Stand tall, know who you are and be proud of yourself, as acceptance comes from within."

**Carole Sklan** said, "The ABC has been dramatising stories of remarkable Australians, from Eddie Mabo to Bernie Banton, individuals who have gone against the grain and contributed to social change."

# Carlotta

**One of the most beautiful women of her generation.  
But not a woman at all.  
A film about an extraordinary life lived in changing times.**

How many working class Balmain boys grow up to be showgirls? Not just any showgirl but a household name: a legend of Kings Cross, a daytime TV star, and a symbol of generational change. While many know her face, few have heard the real story of Australia's most famous transsexual. Until now.

Long before Australians knew what a transsexual was, Carlotta was pushing the boundaries of gender and sexuality. She was an ambassador for rebellion, freedom, and self-expression: a living, breathing symbol of emerging 60s liberalism. She was a showgirl legend.

Fleeing an abusive stepfather, 16-year-old Richard, a sexually confused innocent, arrived in swinging, "live and let live" Kings Cross. It was 1959 and the nation was waking from a long, conservative slumber. Adopted by a group of like-minded friends, Richard began to test the boundaries of gender and sexuality: to remake himself.

Through cross-dressing and performing, Richard experimented with becoming a woman, and despite persecution and exploitation, found the courage to live as Carol Lee. Later, when illegal hormone treatment had spectacular results, the striking, irrepressible "Carlotta" was born. Fêted, desired and imitated, Carlotta's reign was to endure for three decades.

Distinctly Australian, Carlotta's grit, bawdy glamour, and determination to be the best woman she could be, endeared her to a nation while echoing the desire of a generation of women who also wanted more. Yet it is away from the spotlight that Carlotta played her most important and surprising role.

In the 1980s, a fairytale romance with a "great Aussie bloke" changed everything. The infamous "Carlotta" was consigned to history as Carol fell in love, married, and gave up her stellar career for a life in the suburbs. She reveled in her new life as a homemaker and doting wife with the stable, loving family life she had always craved. But surrounded by reminders of the children she ached for but could never have, Carol found herself stranded between two worlds, belonging in neither. Her new life would test everything she knew about herself, and it would take all her courage to make the heartbreaking sacrifice for the one she loved the most.

**Carlotta** is the story of an exceptional woman's desire to be ordinary.

# *Carlotta*

## KEY CAST

CARLOTTA/CAROL/RICHARD	<b>JESSICA MARAIS</b>
EVELYN	<b>ANITA HEGH</b>
ANGELO	<b>ALEX DIMITRIADES</b>
AVA/DANNY	<b>EAMON FARREN</b>
SHEILA	<b>CAROLINE O'CONNOR</b>
PETER	<b>RYAN JOHNSON</b>
CHRISTOPHER	<b>SOCRATIS OTTO</b>
PEGGY	<b>ANDREW LEES</b>
LANCE	<b>DAMIAN DE MONTEMAS</b>
FAYE	<b>GENEVIEVE LEMON</b>
JANE	<b>GIGI EDGLEY</b>
STEFAN	<b>PAUL CAPSIS</b>
YOUNG RICHARD	<b>KAI LEWINS</b>

# *Carlotta*

## KEY CREW

DIRECTOR	<b>Samantha Lang</b>
PRODUCER	<b>Riccardo Pellizzeri</b>
PRODUCER	<b>Lara Radulovich</b>
WRITER	<b>David Hannam</b>
NATIONAL TREASURE	<b>Carlotta</b>
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	<b>Toby Oliver ACS</b>
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	<b>Murray Picknett</b>
COSTUME DESIGNER	<b>Jenny Miles</b>
MAKEUP & HAIR DESIGNER	<b>Deborah Lanser</b>

# Carlotta

Jessica Marais



is CARLOTTA

Jessica Marais will next be seen in the second season of **Magic City**, opposite Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Olga Kurylenko, for the Starz Network.

Jessica graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Australia's most prestigious acting school, in 2007.

Prior to graduation, she secured a role in her first feature film **Two Fists One Heart** and a leading role in Network Seven's **Packed to the Rafters**, which has now become Australia's highest rating family drama series. Her role as 'Rachel Rafter' on the hit show earned her two Logie Awards in 2009 for *Most Outstanding New Talent* and *Most Popular New Female Talent* as well as a further 3 nominations for *Most Outstanding Actress* and *Most Popular Actress*. In 2011, Jessica was also nominated for

the *Gold Logie Award for Most Popular Personality on Australian Television*.

Jessica has also appeared in the Australian feature **Needle** and as *Mistress Denna* in the Disney series, **Legend of the Seeker**.

In early 2008, Jessica debuted with the Sydney Theatre Company in the critically acclaimed production of *A Season At Sarsaparilla*.

# Carlotta

Anita Hegh



is EVELYN

**Anita Hegh** is a multi award-winning performer whose credits include national and international theatre productions, feature films as well as lead, recurring and guest starring roles for television.

A graduate of NIDA, Anita's extensive theatre credits include *Secret River*, *Gross und Klein* and *Our Town* for the Sydney Theatre Company. For her recent theatre performance as Gina Ekdal in Belvoir Theatre's production of *The Wild Duck*, Anita was awarded *Best Actress in a Support Role* at both the *2011 Helpmann Awards* and the *Sydney Theatre Critics Awards*. She also received two *Time Out Awards: Best Actress and People's Choice*. Other Belvoir productions include *The Seagull*, *Cut* and *Count Me The Stars*. Her work for the

Melbourne Theatre Company includes *Top Girls* and *Don's Party*.

Anita's screen work is as diverse as her theatre credits and includes film roles in **The Last Ride** opposite Hugo Weaving, **The Forest** and **Paradise Road** directed by Bruce Beresford. On television Anita's credits include ABC TV's **Time of our Lives**, **My Place**, **Darwin's Brave New World**, **Rogue Nation**, **False Witness**, **The Informant**, **McLeod's Daughters**, **Valentine's Day**, **MDA**, **Last Man Standing**, **Holly's Heroes**, **Peregrine – Loot**, **Stingers**, **Water Rats**, **Wildside**, **State Coroner**, and **Return To Jupiter**.



# Carlotta

Alex Dimitriades



is ANGELO

Alex made his film debut playing the title role in the Australian feature film **The Heartbreak Kid**, directed by Michael Jenkins. This was followed by a brilliant turn as the troubled Ari in **Head On**, directed by Ana Kokkinos, a performance that earned Alex an AFI nomination in 1998 and a Film Critics' Circle of Australia Award in 1999. He also received an AFI nomination in 2001 for his role in the film **La Spagnola**.

Alex has also appeared in the films **Three Blind Mice**, **Kings Of Mykonos**, **Summer Coda**, **Ghost Ship** and most recently he completed filming on **The Infinite Man**.

Alex's Theatre credits include the Griffin Theatre productions of *The Woman with Dog's Eyes*, *Hurlyburly*, *The Emperor Of Sydney* and *The Night Watchmen*. Alex appeared on stage in the Ensemble Theatre production of *Rain Man* where he played the title role of Charlie Babbitt.

Alex has starred in many of Australia's best television dramas. His credits include the controversial ABC TV mini-series **Blue Murder** (about the Sydney crime figure Roger "The Dodger" Rogerson), the multi AFI award winning ABC series, **Wildside** and **Young Lions**. He also appeared in the Foxtel series **Love My Way**, the tele-movies **Stepfather of the Bride**, **Society Murders**, and the Channel 9 sensational hit series **Underbelly (Series 1)** and **Rescue Special Ops**.

Most recently Alex appeared as one of the lead roles in the critically acclaimed ABC miniseries **The Slap** for which he won the 2012 AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama.

# Carlotta

Eamon Farren



is AVA/DANNY

A graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2007, the following year Eamon was cast in two Australian feature films: in the role of *Jimmy* in **Lucky Country**, directed by Kriv Stenders and produced by Kristian Moliere; and the role of *Roo* in **Blessed**, directed by Ana Kokkinos and produced by Al Clark.

In 2010 Eamon re-teamed with director Kriv Stenders to play the role of *Dave* in the acclaimed feature film **Red Dog**, and also played *Harry* in the Australian film **X**, directed by Jon Hewitt and which premiered at the 2011 Melbourne Film Festival.

In 2011, Eamon played the lead role of *Rabbit* in the US feature film **Chained**, also starring Vincent D'Onofrio and Julia Ormond, and directed by Jennifer Lynch; and the role of *Patrick* in the John Duigan film **Careless Love**.

Since NIDA, Eamon has worked for the leading Australian theatre companies, appearing in productions for Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir Theatre Company and Griffin Theatre Company. In 2012, Eamon played the role of *Moses* in Belvoir's production of *Babyteeth* to wide acclaim.

In 2013, Eamon will be appearing in two plays for Sydney Theatre Company – in the role of *Frank* in *Mrs Warren's Profession* and in the role of *Mercutio* in *Romeo & Juliet*. Eamon will also star in the lead role in the upcoming feature film **Love Is Now**, written and to be directed by Jim Lounsbury.

Eamon was awarded the place of **Runner-Up** in the Australians In Film **2010 Heath Ledger Scholarship**.

# Carlotta

Caroline O'Connor



is SHEILA

Australia's multi award-winning star of stage and screen, Caroline O'Connor is a singer, dancer and actress who continues to grace the stages of Broadway, the West End, the Royal Albert Hall and the Sydney Opera House.

On stage some of her signature and award winning roles include **Piaf** (for which she won three Australian theatre awards), **Judy Garland**, in *End of the Rainbow*, **Velma Kelly** in **Chicago in Australia and on Broadway** for which she received both the celebrated *Mo Award for Female Musical Theatre Performer of the Year* and a *Green Room Award*; **Anita** in **West Side Story** and **Mabel** in **Mack & Mabel** for which she was nominated for an *Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical*.

On screen Caroline came to the attention of the world as *Nini* in Baz Luhrmann's Academy Award winning film **Moulin Rouge**, and she received acclaim for her role as *Ethel Merman* in the Cole Porter biopic **De-Lovely**.

Caroline has performed with the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, and performed for Her Majesty The Queen in a **Royal Variety Performance**.

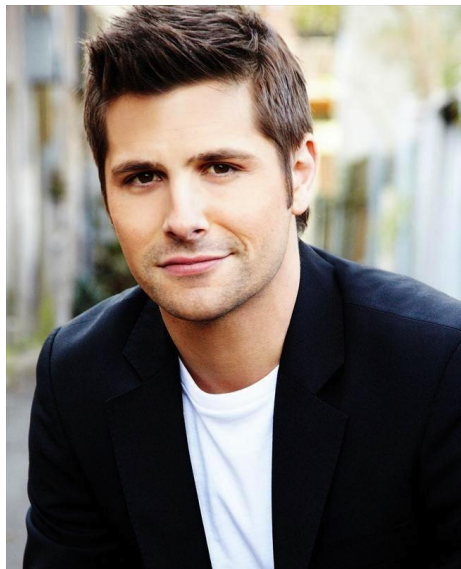
Born in Lancashire to Irish parents, and subsequently moved to Sydney, Australia. Caroline started singing and dancing almost before she could speak and at age 10 was crowned Australian Irish Dance Champion. Caroline is a graduate of the *Royal Ballet School* in London.

Her Australian productions include the one-woman play *Bombshells* written for Caroline by acclaimed playwright Joanna Murray-Smith. She has since filmed **Bombshells** for ABC TV and toured the play to sell out performances at the Edinburgh Festival (winning the coveted Fringe First Award), London's West End at the Arts Theatre (receiving her second Laurence Olivier Award nomination), and at the World Stage Festival in Toronto.

Other credits include *Man of La Mancha*, *Oklahoma*, *Cabaret*, *Funny Girl*, *Sweeney Todd* and most recently the hit Broadway production of **A Christmas Story**. Caroline's own show **From Stage to Screen** has been presented at the Sydney Opera House and was filmed for Australian television. Caroline has recorded four solo CDs and has featured on numerous cast recordings and compilations.

# Carlotta

Ryan Johnson



is PETER

A graduate from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Academy of the Arts in 1999, Ryan has since amassed an extraordinary list of credits including for television **Rake**, **SLiDe**, **Head Start**, **The Secret Life of Us**, **Underbelly**, **Satisfaction**, **Out of The Blue**, **Rake** and **Laid**.

Currently starring as *Ben Grogan* in the second season of the USA Network original series **Fairly Legal**, his feature film credits include **The Wannabes**, **Thunderstruck** with Sam Worthington, **Son of the Mask**, starring Jamie Kennedy and Alan Cumming and **Ghost Rider** starring Nicholas Cage and Eva Mendes.

On stage Ryan has been in the acclaimed theatrical productions of *Rabbit* and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at the STC and Belvoir Street Theatre.

Andrew Lees



is PEGGY

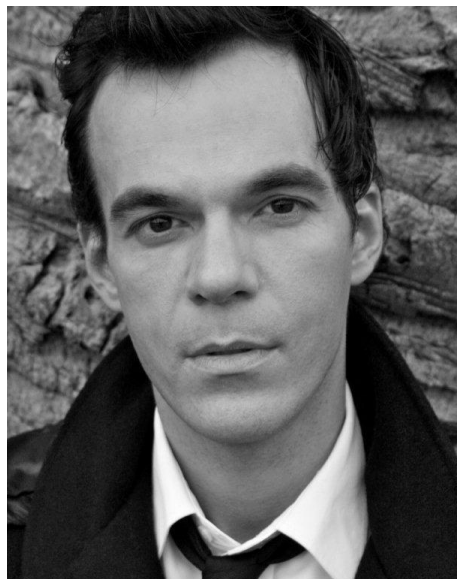
A graduate of NIDA, Andrew Lees has appeared in numerous television productions including **Dance Academy**, **Rescue**, **H2O: Just Add Water**, **Home & Away** and Steven Spielberg's **The Pacific** for HBO and Network Seven.

On stage he has played the roles of *Lysander* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Belvoir, *Fabrice* in *The Silver Donkey* for the Melbourne Theatre Company and as *Leon/Martin Baxter* in the Old Fitzroy Theatre production of *Poster Girl*.

His short film credits include **Offside**, **Flame of the West** and most recently Abe Forsythe's **The Talk**.

# Carlotta

Socratis Otto



is CHRISTOPHER

Socratis Otto has worked extensively in film, television and theatre since graduating from Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art in 2000.

In 2013, Socratis will appear alongside Bill Nighy and Aaron Eckhart in Stuart Beattie's upcoming feature, **I, Frankenstein**, Stephen Lance's **My Mistress**, and the ABC/HBO co-production, **Serangoon Road**. He will also be seen in **Paper Giants 2: Magazine Wars** on the ABC.

He has appeared in some of Australia's most popular television series including **Home and Away**, **All Saints**, **Young Lions**, **Rake** and **City Homicide**. Socratis' other television credits include the UKTV telemovie **False**

**Witness**, Steven Spielberg's mini-series **The Pacific**, playing Charles Darwin in **Darwin's Brave New World**, the BBC/ABC historical dramatisation **The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce**, **Miracles**, **Dance Academy** and **The Doctor Blake Mysteries**.

Socratis film credits include **Matrix Reloaded**, **The Rage In Placid Lake**, **'M' Macbeth**, **Monkey Puzzle**, **Beautiful**, **X-Men Origins: Wolverine**, **Anyone You Want** and most recently, Heitor Dhalia's thriller **Gone**, starring Amanda Seyfried.

On stage, Socratis has starred in *The Wonderful World Of Dissocia*, *Saturn's Return*, *Morph*, *Don Juan*, *Salt*, *Fireface* and the critically acclaimed *Stockholm* for the Sydney Theatre Company; *Woyzeck* for Malthouse Theatre; *Macbeth*, *Peribanez* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Company B; *Are You There?* for Ensemble Theatre; *Rabbit* for Griffin Theatre Company; and *House Among the Stars* for the State Theatre Company of South Australia. He also appeared in Jim Sharman's award winning, *Three Furies* as Francis Bacon's muse George Dyer.

# Carlotta

Damian de Montemas



is LANCE

Since graduating from WAAPA, Damian has appeared in numerous television, film and stage productions.

In television he has appeared as a series lead in **The Secret Life of Us**, and had roles in **Farscape**, **Water Rats**, **My Husband My Killer**, **Stingers**, **All Saints**, **To Catch a Killer: The Joanna Lees Story**, **East West 101** and **Underbelly: Tale of Two Cities**.

Damian appeared in the award winning short, **Every Other Weekend**, the tele-feature **The Silence** and the feature film **Somersault**. Damian was the lead in the 2011 feature film **Blame** which screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and the 46th Chicago International Film Festival.

Damian won the *2009 AFI Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama*, for his portrayal of Bryan Alexander in **Underbelly: Tale of Two Cities**.

Kai Lewins



is YOUNG RICHARD

Belying his age, actor Kai Lewins has a long list of credits including television productions **The Elegant Gentleman's Guide to Knife Fighting**, **Wild Boys**, **My Place** and **Underbelly: Tale of Two Cities**.

His short film credits include the lead in **Meet Timothy**, **The Uneducated** and **Son**.

On stage he has performed the lead role in the STC/ATYP production of *Tusk Tusk Finn* and the Boy in Headlong Theatre Company's production of *Six Characters in search of an Author*.

# Carlotta

Genevieve Lemon

is FAYE



Genevieve has enjoyed a successful career in Theatre, Film and Television spanning over 25 years. Most recently she performed onstage in Belvoir's *Death Of A Salesman* opposite Colin Friels and in *Fat Swan* alongside Trevor Ashley. Her other theatre credits include *Billy Elliot* (Australia & UK), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert – the Musical*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Miracle City*, *The Girl Who Saw Everything*, *Summer Rain* for STC; *Summer Rain*, *And A Nightingale Sang*, *The Venetian Twins* (QTC/Gordon Frost) and *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (MTC) and the original Australian production's of *Steaming* and *Steel Magnolias* with Nicole Kidman.

Genevieve's Cabaret appearances include *Narrabeen Girl*, *Lemon, Live and Bitter*, *Lonestar Lemon*, *The Lemon and I* and *The Amazing Browns* for the Sydney's Tilbury Hotel.

She recently finished filming on Jane Campion's miniseries **Top Of The Lake** alongside Elizabeth Moss and David Wenham. Her other television credits include **After The Beep**, **Three Men and a Baby Grand**, **Prisoner**, **Postcard Bandit**, **Mermaids** and **The Adventures of Charlotte and Henry**.

Genevieve's film credits include **Suburban Mayhem**, **Billy's Holiday**, **The Piano**, **Sweetie**, **Holy Smoke** and **Soft Fruit**.

Genevieve was a Board Member of the Sydney Theatre Company and has been awarded several times for her role in *Billy Elliot*. She has received the *Green Room Award for Best Female Role (2008)*, the *Helpmann Award for Best Female Actor in a Musical (2008)* and the *Sydney Theatre Critics Judith Johnson Award for Best Performance by an Actress in 2007*. In 2006 she was nominated for An Australian Film Institute Award for Best Supporting Actress in the film **Suburban Mayhem**.

Genevieve has an album *Angel's In The City* and the soon to be released *Live In London*.

She recently finished a successful season of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* for Louise Withers & Associates.

# Carlotta

Gigi Edgley



is JANE

One of Australia's most experienced female actors Gigi Edgley has an extensive list of film, television, theatre and radio credits.

On television she has played the series lead role of *Chiana* in the mini-series **Farscape: The Peacekeeper Wars** and the long running series **Farscape**, *George* in **The Secret Life of Us**, *Liz Kempson* in **Blackjack Series I, II & III**, *Kate* in the hugely popular series **Stingers**, *Lara* in Channel 9's **Rescue Special Ops** (Series I, II & III) and the series lead as *Kate* in **Tricky Business**.

Her other television work includes guest starring roles in series such as **Water Rats**, **The Day of The Roses**, **The Starter Wife** and the Coote/Hayes productions **The Lost World** and **Beastmaster**.

Gigi's film work includes starring roles in **Newcastle**, directed by Dan Castle and **Last Train to Freo**, directed by Jeremy Sims - which earned her a nomination from the Film Critics Circle for Best Actress.

Gigi also starred in the award-winning film **The Monkey's Mask**, directed by Samantha Lang. Her other film work includes leads in **Judgement Day**, **Showdown at Area 51** and **The Final Frontier**. More recently, Gigi performed a lead character voice in the animated film **The Della Morte Sisters & The Carousel of Shame**.

Gigi's theatre credits include the character *Sarah Kane* in *4.48 Psychosis*, *Emma* in *Kill Everything You Love*, *Hellena* in *The Rover*, *Maggie* and *Carla* in *Boy's Life*, *Benvolio* in *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Wild One* in *The Caged Birds*, *Blue People*, the lead role in *Princess and the Pea*, *Carol* in *Road*, *Sara Waybourne* in *Picnic at Hanging Rock* and the Gold Coast Arts Theatre production of *Les Miserables*. In radio Gigi was the lead in the USA Network's Interactive *Titanic Dreams*. She was also the host of TV series **Creature Features** as well as the lead in the radio program **Lost**.



# Carlotta

Paul Capsis



is STEFAN

With an extensive career, multi award winning Paul Capsis is best known as a performer of theatre, concert and cabaret. His theatre highlights include: *Angela's Kitchen* (his co-written solo piece), *The Threepenny Opera*, *Boulevard Delirium*, *Three Furies*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *All About My Mother*, *Thyestes* and *Volpone* with various State and independent theatre companies throughout Australia. Paul has worked extensively internationally, with his

favourites being New York, London, Vienna, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Having recently completed filming a leading role in the forthcoming Australian feature film, **The Boy Castaways**, Paul's debut feature film role was the groundbreaking Australian film **Head On** in 1998. Paul has also appeared in several short films, including **Let Me Die Again** and **Oscars First Kiss**.

Capsis' vocals featured on the soundtrack of the hit television series **Underbelly: Badness** and the award winning short film **Franswa Charl**.

A popular guest for various television programs, Paul has recorded four albums. His award highlights include five Helpmann Awards, including Best Actor in a Play in 2012, a Greenroom award, Film Critics Circle Award and the 2010 Sidney Myer Individual Performing Arts Award.

# Carlotta

## SAMANTHA LANG

DIRECTOR

Samantha Lang is one of Australia's most prolific and awarded directors.

Since graduating with a BA in Directing from the Australian Film and Television School, her career has been punctuated by artistic verve and achievement. Working across a variety of mediums – film, television, theatre and visual arts – Sam has continued to embrace confronting and ambitious material.

In 1997 Sam's debut feature film, **The Well** was nominated for a remarkable eleven Australian Film Institute (AFI) Awards and went on to screen at over 30 festivals worldwide. It was accepted into Official Competition at the 50th Cannes International Film Festival where it was nominated for the prestigious Palme d'Or.

2000's **The Monkey's Mask** was followed by a third feature, **L'Idole** (2003), which she co-wrote with renowned Roman Polanski collaborator Gerard Brach (*Repulsion, The Tenant, Frantic*). Filmed on location in Paris, the French language picture was released internationally in 2003. Samantha's work is often described as visually sophisticated and she garners warm, natural performances from her cast.

Sam has directed TV campaigns for clients such as Jaguar, Northern Territory Tourism, Caltex, Inghams, Woolworths, Optus and most recently Masterfoods.

In 2004 Samantha made her theatre debut with the confronting play *4:48 Psychosis* by the British playwright Sarah Kane which opened to rave reviews at the Stables Theatre.

In association with Australian Theatre for Young People Samantha followed up her commitment to storytelling and community development by conceiving a drama/filmmaking program for indigenous students on Palm Island, Queensland.

Sam continues to develop feature films including *The Jungle*, produced by Amanda Higgs, written by Alice Addison and has just finished a three year stint as Head of Directing at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

# Carlotta

## RICCARDO PELLIZZERI

PRODUCER

Over a career spanning 30 years, Ric has directed over two hundred hours of drama and produced hundreds of hours of television drama including mini-series, telefilms, series, serials and sitcoms. Some of his Australian credits include **Sweet and Sour, Palace of Dreams, Rafferty's Rules, The Flying Doctors, Police Rescue, A Country Practice, Home and Away, Col'n Carpenter, Blue Heelers, MDA** and **Neighbours**.

He has worked on a number of network pilots as well as developing and directing the successful telemovie pilot of **Home and Away** for the Seven Network. Ric has worked in drama development for all three Australian commercial Networks as well as Screentime in New Zealand.

Ric was Supervising Producer of **Blue Heelers** and performed that role for 127 episodes before becoming Executive Producer. Under his guidance **Blue Heelers** became the most watched programme on Australian television winning twenty-two Logies and being nominated fifty times. He was responsible for over 300 hundred episodes and also directed several episodes.

He produced the first series of **MDA** for the ABC and Screentime and was Executive Producer of **Neighbours** and subsequently **Head of Drama** for FremantleMedia Australia. For Fremantle he was Executive Producer of the telefilm **Little Oberon** and developed numerous drama projects.

In 2009/10 Ric produced the UK/NZ film **Ice** for Screentime in New Zealand, then in 2011 produced the mini series and directed episodes of **Underbelly NZ - Land of the Long Green Cloud** for TV3. He also produced the multi award winning telefilm **Siege** for Screentime and TVNZ, as well as directing second unit and script consulting on the TVNZ telemovie **Safe House**.

# Carlotta

## LARA RADULOVICH

## PRODUCER

Lara created, developed and script produced the hit drama series **Wentworth** for FOXTEL's SoHo channel. Receiving rave reviews, **Wentworth** is the biggest Australian drama series premiere in Foxtel's history. A re-imagining of iconic Aussie drama *Prisoner*, **Wentworth** is being heralded by critics and audiences alike. **Wentworth** will air on UK's Channel 5 in 2013.

Having commenced her career on the ABC drama **Something In The Air**, Lara has since spent the last eleven years with FremantleMedia Australia in various roles including Drama Producer and Development Executive and Drama Development Producer where she developed, script produced and story produced dramas including **Neighbours**, and **Wentworth**

This year Lara established Story Ark Productions with producer Ric Pellizzari and writer David, Hannam, with **Carlotta** being their first production.

## DAVID HANNAM

## WRITER

David Hannam has written, story edited or script edited series drama for all three commercial networks, FOXTEL, and ABC TV.

His credits include **Winners and Losers, Bed of Roses, Last Man Standing, Neighbours, All Saints, Stingers, Always Greener, Something in the Air** and numerous high-end international dramas for children, including **Lightning Point** and **Dance Academy**.

David graduated from the University of South Australia with a journalism degree, and worked extensively for ABC TV as a reporter and producer in news and current affairs, and later arts and entertainment.

More recently David has specialised in new project development, working with Matchbox, Playmaker, and the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

Prior to writing **Carlotta**, David was part of the development team for **Wentworth**, the hit FOXTEL reboot of the iconic Australian series *Prisoner*.

In 2009 David lived in Los Angeles and undertook a showrunner attachment on CBS Television's **NCIS** in Los Angeles.

# Carlotta

## TOBY OLIVER ACS

## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Multi award winning cinematographer, Toby Oliver ACS is internationally renown for his work across feature films, prime-time television drama and short films through to documentaries and TV commercials.

A graduate of Melbourne's renowned Swinburne Film School in 1988, Toby has created some remarkable film images, from the 'beautifully lit' gritty black and white of his first feature **Everynight... Everynight** (ACS Silver Award) to the box-office hit teen movie and AFI winning **Looking For Alibrandi** (ACS Silver Award, AFI and IF Award nominations) directed by Kate Woods and starring Anthony LaPaglia and Greta Scacchi; and the 'painterly approach' of **Tom White** (ACS Gold Award, AFI and IF Award nominations). His work on short films, documentaries and features has been seen at major festivals around the world, including Venice, Sundance, Sydney, Melbourne, Busan, Montreal, Tokyo and Toronto.

In 2010 Toby was again nominated for an AFI for the 'landmark achievement' World War 1 action drama **Beneath Hill 60** (ACS Gold Award, AFI nomination) directed by Jeremy Sims, and received the AFI for the dramatised documentary **Miracle In The Storm** (ACS Gold Award) for ABC TV. Other feature films include the Chinese-Australian co-production **33 Postcards** (ACS Bronze Award) directed by Pauline Chan and starring Guy Pearce, festival favourite **Last Train To Freo**; controversial gang picture **The Combination** (ACS Silver Award for Cinematography); the acclaimed feature documentary **Forbidden Lie\$**; Chinese hit film **Waiting Alone** and the 3D documentary **Cane Toads The Conquest**.

His television credits include the critically acclaimed ABC miniseries **Devil's Dust**; ratings-winning TV movie **Beaconsfield** (ACS Gold Award) directed by Glendyn Ivin for the Nine Network; **Spirited – Season 2** for FOXTEL (ACS Bronze Award); series 2 of **Stupid Stupid Man**; Series 1 of **Lockie Leonard**; **Dossa And Joe** for the BBC; **SHORT CUTS** for Disney UK and **Love Is A Four Letter Word** for ABC TV.

To date Toby has received three AFI Award nominations and one AFI Award, two IF Award nominations and two FCCA Award nominations for his cinematography. His work has been judged by his peers for a number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards from the Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS), including the Golden Tripod Award for **Tom White** in 2005, and the Best in Show Award for **Beaconsfield** in 2012.

His most recent project was the sequel **Wolf Creek 2** (2013), directed by Greg Mclean, and slated for 2013 Toby also has the gangster crime thriller **The Albanian** to be directed by long-time collaborator Alkinos Tsilimidis across four countries.

# Carlotta

## MURRAY PICKNETT

## PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Murray Picknett worked originally at the BBC and then the ABC, where he designed many mini series, including the seminal **Blue Murder**.

Later as a freelancer, he designed nine feature films, among them **Risk, Black and White** and **The Final Winter**. For his work on **Passion**, the film about the composer Percy Grainger, he was awarded an AFI Award and a second AFI for the tap dancing steelworker film **Bootmen**.

Most recently, he has been working on series television, especially the hugely successful childrens' drama **Dance Academy**.

## JENNY MILES

## COSTUME DESIGNER

One of Australia's leading costume designers Jenny Miles most recently completed production on the Screentime mini series **Janet King** for ABC TV. Her previous credits include **Rescue Special Ops, A Model Daughter: The Killing of Caroline Byrne, McLeods Daughters, Head Start** and **Police Rescue**. Her long list of feature credits includes costume supervisor on the highly acclaimed and Academy Award winning film **Shine**, costume buyer on the celebrated and Academy Award winning feature **Babe**, as well as wardrobe supervisor on **Travelling North** and costume buyer on **The Nostradamus Kid**.

Over a career spanning 30 years her other credits include **BMX Bandits, Bliss, The Girl Who Came Late** and the mini series **Bangkok Hilton**.

## JO-ANNE ROBINSON

## CHOREOGRAPHER

With an international career as a performer, Jo-Anne's stellar list of credits includes the West End musicals *Oklahoma!*, *Billy*, *A Chorus Line*, *No No Nannette*, *Flowers for Algernon* and three Royal Command Performances.

As a choreographer, Jo-Anne's list of credits includes on screen **Burke & Wills: The Untold Story, Journey To The Centre of the Earth, Noah, Georgia, Waterfront** (The Dunera Boys) and the **TV Week Logie Awards**.

On stage her outstanding credits as resident director and choreographer include *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, as well as director and choreographer of *South Pacific*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Into The Woods* and *Titanic the Musical*. As choreographer Jo-Anne's credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Minnie's Boys*, *Hunting of the Snark*, *Aspects of Love*, *Nine* and Opera Australia's *Manon Lescaut* and *Romeo et Juliette*.

# Carlotta

## DEBORAH LANSER

## HAIR & MAKE UP DESIGNER

Award winning Deborah Lanser has over 30 years experience in the craft of film and television makeup, prosthetic and hair design both in Australia and internationally.

Along with her many Australian Make Up Industry Awards for her work on feature films and television including **Jessica** and **Mary Bryant** Deborah is also an Emmy Award nominated make up artist for her many brilliant *looks* on Deborah Messing in the US series **The Starter Wife**.

Throughout her career Deborah has designed make up for great actors including Denzel Washington, Emma Thompson, Glenn Close, Simon Baker, Rose Byrne, Rebecca Gibney, Harry Connick Jr. and Melanie Griffith to name a few.

She has also designed make up and hair for over 25 high profile Australian television series, telemovies and feature films and has made up most of the familiar faces we see on screen today. Most recently, Deborah was the Make up and Hair Designer on Australia's highest rating and multi Logie Award winning television series **Packed to the Rafters**.

Some of Deborah's other credits include the feature films **The Night we Called it a Day**, **The Oyster Farmer**, **Garage Days** and **Illustrated Family Doctor** and the telemovie of the musical **South Pacific** for Hallmark USA.