

The
who's



TOMMY



**the armidale drama and musical
society presents**

**The
who's
TOMMY**

Music and Lyrics by PETE TOWNSHEND
Book by PETE TOWNSHEND and DES MCANUFF
Additional Music and Lyrics by JOHN ENTWISTLE and KEITH MOON
Originally produced on Broadway by
PACE THEATRE GROUP and DODGER PRODUCTIONS
with Karana Productions

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The Rock Opera TOMMY, which was first performed by The Who in 1969, was originally conceived by Pete Townshend and Kit Lambert with contributions to the development by John Entwistle, Keith Moon and Roger Daltrey.

The Who's Tommy contains war themes, death, drug use, bullying and occasional coarse language. Tommy also contains a scene where it suggests that his uncle molests him. We believe the adult content has been dealt with sensitively and appropriately, however we apologise if this content distresses some audience.

Tommy is a full scale musical with loud sound, bright lights including strobe lighting, and pyrotechnics



President's Welcome

On behalf of the Armidale Drama and Musical Society welcome to our major musical production for 2016. We seem to be having a trend of late staging rock or pop musicals and now the fabulous *Tommy* can be added to that list. This has been a "passion" project of Director Warren Bartik and Musical Director Bruce Menzies for a number of years and it was only a matter of time before they brought their vision to the Armidale stage. The meticulous planning and direction of Warren along with the assured musical direction of Bruce will no doubt once again make for a magnificent night's entertainment for our Armidale audiences. The cast along with many of Armidale's most accomplished musicians will no doubt do more than justice to The Who's timeless classic rock musical.

We are indebted to so many people who all contribute in various ways to stage such a significant undertaking. I would like to pay special tribute to Robyn Bradley for her immense skill and patience as assistant musical director and repetiteur. Pat Bradley whose skills at bringing our set dreams to life are unsurpassed and Tracey James whose choreography brings to the show that essential extra dimension to ensure a magnificent night's entertainment.

So settle back in to your seat and come with us on the "Amazing Journey" with that "Pinball Wizard" Tommy.

Neil Horton
President, ADMS



Message from the Director

The song "Amazing Journey" begins Tommy's narrative for the events in his life that are laid out for us in the story to follow. My own amazing journey with the music of *Tommy* started a few decades ago with the double album by The Who released in 1969 and the first record I owned. This started a passion for The Who's music that continues to this day. The band are still playing live and touring the UK at the time of this production. I saw The Who play live in Sydney in 2004 and again in Brisbane in 2009 with Bruce Menzies our MD. The energy and delivery was amazing with the Tommy numbers a standout. It was at that time that Bruce and I started talking about staging the musical, so here we are seven years later.

Tommy is not often performed and it was apparent to me that the story had to be more cohesive and the characters have more depth. The story is almost entirely sung so in essence a "rock opera" as The Who first described it in 1969. In the 60's the band's music was about alienated youth struggling in a world that didn't understand them. Then as now, the struggles through childhood into adolescence and adulthood remain much the same and sometimes the only way to survive what life throws at you is to shut down the senses. Being deaf, dumb and blind may have been brought on by Tommy witnessing an act of violence, but in a larger sense this mirrors how society sometimes deals with unspeakable horrors we can inflict on each other. There is adult content that might distress some audience, but ultimately this show is about the music, the joy of being and of awakening. For those who know The Who's music, the rediscovery of its power and passion will once again excite your senses. For those hearing it for the first time, I guarantee you will not forget it!

Thank you to everyone involved with this production; particularly Bruce for his inspired musical direction, Deborah for the amazing and many many costumes, Tracey for brilliant choreography, Pat for engineering my set design to life, Pam who hunts to the end of the earth for props, Robyn for her masterful "but not my genre" piano, and Neil for his steady hand on production. As Tommy sings... "I'll be your leader, I'll be your guide, on the Amazing Journey, together we'll ride!

Warren Bartik



Warren Bartik - Director

Warren has been involved with theatre and film in Armidale over the last 20 years with credits in writing, production, direction and performance. Recent key performance roles have included *Titanic the Musical*, *Blood Brothers the Play*, *Urinetown*, and *The Hatpin*. Warren has directed a number of shows of different genres from *St Marys Revues*, *Community Pantomimes*, and *Favourite Shorts*. He is also a production member of *Opera New England*. This is Warren's first musical direction role for the ADMS...and he also knows just about every Who song ever written!



Bruce Menzies - Musical Director

This is Bruce's 20th production for the ADMS, with the most recent being *A Cole Porter Celebration* with the ASO and *Legally Blonde*. He also conducts regularly for the Armidale Symphony Orchestra and *Opera New England*. Bruce has been a longtime Who fan and is thrilled to finally bring this longtime favourite of his to the Armidale stage.



Tracey James - Choreographer

Tracey has been performing on stage for almost fifty years and has worked in the entertainment industry in a variety of capacities from singing and performing, playing the piano and as a choreographer. She has choreographed many productions for the Armidale and Drama Musical Society and the former Armidale Playhouse including *Cabaret*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Titanic*, *Music Man*, *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Tracey has played a number of roles with the ADMS and the Armidale Playhouse including the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*, Alice Beane in *Titanic*, the Narrator in *Joseph*, The Crofter's Wife in *The 39 Steps*, and Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. She rarely performs in her real hair and has a large collection of wigs.



Robyn Bradley - Assistant Musical Director/Repetiteur

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Deborah Hunter - Costume Design, Manager and Construction

Deborah has been involved with the ADMS as a costume manager and performer since 2006. She has a passion for textiles, completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Visual Culture majoring in textiles in 2012 (Curtin). She has costumed many productions through the ADMS including *Sweeney Todd* (2007), *Titanic* (2008), *Urinetown* (2010) and *Hatpin* (2012). She has also costumed the 4 productions of Opera New England and is now delighted to be on the production team of *Tommy* with the ADMS.



Pat Bradley - Construction and Engineering

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Tommy Will Smidt

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Young Tommy Alex Elder

Alex has performed in a number of plays with local theatre group, Felt Tip Theatre Company, including Wind in the Willows and The Tempest, and also drama events in the Armidale Eisteddfod, but this is his first time as a principal character in a musical.



Young Tommy Alexander Gibson

Alexander is a new and learning actor and singer. He aspires to achieve great things and has shown determination to succeed in Treasure Island, an Armidale School musical where Alex played the lead role. He is currently studying the Australian Curriculum at The Armidale School and enjoys himself. He is taking weekly singing lessons with Will Smidt at the moment and hopes to, eventually, finish his path towards a diploma. His grade 5 violin skills have helped him greatly with his pitch and musicianship. Alexander hopes you will be able to see him performing again sometime soon.



Mrs. Walker **Carol Elder**

Carol has been treading the boards for a number of years now and thoroughly enjoys every show. Previously she has been involved in the The Armidale Playhouse production of *Into the Woods* as the evil stepmother, and ADMS productions of *Oliver*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Titanic*, *Urinetown*, *The Hatpin*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Legally Blonde* and the drama, *Steel Magnolias* as M'Lynn. Carol is also vocalist in a number of local bands including The BopCatz and The Al Heeney Rhythm & Blues Experience.



Captain Walker **Neil Horton**

Captain Walker is Neil's first major lead role since Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown* in 2010. But he hasn't been far away, lurking around in recent shows with minor roles such as Annas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Elle's father in *Legally Blonde*. Neil's history with ADMS goes back almost 20 years. Neil has directed and/or performed in far too many shows to mention them all. Lead roles in *Les Misérables*, *Titanic* and *South Pacific* and directorial ones for *Les Misérables*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and last year's *The 39 Steps* are but a few. Neil is also a life member and the current President of the ADMS.



Uncle Ernie **Stuart Pavel**

Since first taking to the boards as a rat in kindergarten, Stuart has been actively involved in theatre and musical theatre ever since. Serious roles started in Year 10 with *The Beggar's Opera* and continued through his time at Sydney Conservatorium and roles with the Young Opera Company. For many years Stuart was heavily involved with the Blue Mountains Musical Society as performer and musical director. While living on the Blue Mountains he was a member of the Sydney Philharmonia Choir and performed at the Sydney Olympics opening ceremony and the backing choir for the Barbra Streisand millennium tour. Since moving to Armidale, Stuart has been Director of Music at PLC and has performed in a number of shows and concerts for ADMS and the Armidale Symphony Orchestra.



Cousin Kevin Matthew Whittingham

Although this is his first major role with ADMS, Matthew is no stranger to the boards. He has previously performed with the Ballina Players as Enjolras in *Les Misérables*, Molokov in *Chess*, and Melvin P Thorpe in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*; with the Young Opera Workshop Lismore as Jupiter in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Koko in *The Mikado*, and The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*; with the Earle Page College Musical Society as Benjamin Coffin III in *Rent*, the voice of the Plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*; and with the Port Macquarie Players as the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*.



The Acid Queen Tracey Hughes-Butters

Tracey is extremely proud to be joining the ADMS cast of *Tommy*. As a child, Tracey was introduced to the joys of musical theatre as she watched her father direct musicals for the Grenfell Dramatic and Musical society. She first appeared on stage while fronting bands in her teenage years. In the early 80s, Tracey joined the Vandenberg Players in Forbes, working with Peter Cox and Bruce Mumford and later, the Spectrum Theatre company in Merimbula. From the obnoxious sword-flashing Lelio in *The Venetian Twins* to the highly strung Rita LaPorta in *Lucky Stiff*, Tracey is pleased to say that she has never been type-cast!



Sally Simpson Eleanor Logan

This is Eleanor's first ADMS musical, and she is very excited to be involved. Her love of music and performance developed at a young age. Growing up in Armidale, the rich artistic culture of the town provided her with many opportunities to develop as a performer. Eleanor was a part of the NECOM choir program for 10 years, took singing lessons throughout high school, and spent 4 years as a member of a national choir, Gondwana Voices. She is currently taking a gap year after completing her HSC last year, and is hoping to either study musical theatre, or continue developing her performance skills as opportunities arise while at university next year.



Xanthe Barratt



Gabby Beer



Anita Brown



Zoe George



Rachel Horton



Ria Kealey



Elissa Manley



Tomas McDougall



Josh St Ledger



Geneva Stocker



Arnold Drielsma



Alex Evans



Cal Hunter



Deborah Hunter



Tracey James



Alyssa Nicoll



Maree Puxty



Laura Stodart



Marney Tilley



Director Warren Bartik
Musical Director Bruce Menzies
Choreographer Tracey James
Publicity Marney Tilley
Costumes Deborah Hunter
Costumes Assistant Annie Keoghan
Production Manager Neil Horton
Assistant Musical Director/Repetiteur Robyn Bradley
Stage Manager Sarah Watson
Lighting Design Anthony Carlon
Lighting operator James Wood
Construction and Engineering Pat Bradley
Sound team Pat Bradley, Arlene Fletcher, Carolyn
Shepherd, Colin Butters, James Durham,
Jock Campbell
Props Pam Menzies, Heather Pavel, Anna
Gayner, Jenny Rawbottom
Hair Lindy Hardman
Set Design Warren Bartik, Pat Bradley
Set Construction Warren Bartik, Pat Bradley, Stuart Pavel,
Bruce Menzies, Neil Horton, Colin
Butters, Tom McDougall, Matthew
Whittingham, Carolyn Shepherd, Diana
Helmrich, Sabine Schmoelzl, Vanessa
Hunter, Jodie Brash & cast members of
Tommy
Make Up Michael Gibson & Abbie Brown
Poster/Programme Design Matthew Whittingham
Front of House Managers Peter and Terrie Crick
Front of House Staff

With thanks to

Principal Murray Guest, Andrew O'Connell, Michael Cornford
and the staff at The Armidale School

Leanne Roobol and the
TAS music department 2ARM Community Radio

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Armidale City Signs Armidale Men's Shed

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12/16 Hunter River Lancers Evans Printing

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