



Heathers: The Musical

**Move over, Regina George!
The original Mean Girls are in town**

Teen angst gets a body count when Westerburg High's hottest mean girls return in *Heathers: The Musical* this **June (8–26)** at the **Sydney Opera House**.

Based on the 1988 cult comedy that launched Winona Ryder, Shannon Doherty and Christian Slater's careers, *Heathers: The Musical* is directed by Australian cabaret darling **Trevor Ashley** (*Les Misérables*, *Fat Swan*).

This is a deliciously dark tale of brainy, beautiful Veronica Sawyer, who hustles her way into the cruelest clique in school, The Heathers. *Heathers: The Musical* comes to life on stage with a rocking, energetic musical score, and all the shoulder-padded, scrunchie-sporting bitchiness and quotable catchphrases you can handle.

Debut director Trevor Ashley says: "I've always loved the movie *Heathers*. The stage production is quite true to the film, so all that black comedy and satirical fun is in there – just with a whole lot of terrific music! After our previous seasons in Sydney and Brisbane, I could not be more proud of this show and its vibrant cast."

With a pop-to-rock soundtrack and a subversive, snappy script that employs all the satire of the film, *Heathers: The Musical* is the brainchild of Kevin Murphy (*Desperate Housewives*) and Tony-nominated writer, Laurence O'Keefe (*Legally Blonde*).

Sydney's stellar cast includes Sydney Theatre Awards nominee Hilary Cole (*Dogfight*, *Miracle City*) as Veronica Sawyer, and Helpmann Award nominee Lucy Maunder (*Grease*, *Doctor Zhivago*) in the role of Queen B herself, Heather Chandler.

Co-presented by the Sydney Opera House and Showwork Productions, the brand-new theatre company headed by Ashley and show promotor and artist manager Wendy Richards, *Heathers: The Musical* had its Australian debut at the Hayes Theatre Co. in 2015. Playing to sold-out audiences and critical acclaim, the production now returns for a repeat Sydney season at the Opera House.

Dark, funny, romantic, crude, lewd and moving, *Heathers: The Musical* is one hilarious, heart-felt and homicidal tale for anyone who's ever been in love, in trouble, or in high school.

If you're a fan of the movie or a just bit of a Heather yourself, come along, dress up in your best '80s gear, and revel in the joys and anguish of high school. Come on, it'll be "very"!

Tickets on sale Monday 7 March, 2016.

KEY INFORMATION:

What: Heathers: The Musical

@HeathersOz #HeathersOz

Where: Playhouse Theatre, Sydney Opera House

When: 8 - 26 June, 2016

Tickets:

- **Premium** Full price: \$89.90
- **A Reserve** Full price: \$74.90 Concession/Members/Sponsors: \$59.90
- **B Reserve** Full price: \$64.90

More info: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/heathers_the_musical.aspx

**MEDIA ENQUIRES:**

Matt Fraser

matt@cardinalspin.com.au

02 8065 7363 / 0401 326 007

Amber Forrest-Bisley

amber@cardinalspin.com.au

02 8065 7363 / 0405 363 817

EDITORS NOTES:**ABOUT HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL**

Heathers: The Musical is a rock musical with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe (*Legally Blonde*) and Kevin Murphy (*Desperate Housewives*) and is based on the 1988 cult film *Heathers*. After a sold-out Los Angeles tryout, the show had a production Off-Broadway in 2014. In 2015, new Australian Theatre Company, Showwork Productions headed by Trevor Ashley and Wendy Richards, introduced the stage musical to Australian audiences in a limited season to sellout audiences.

ABOUT TREVOR ASHLEY

Trevor Ashley is one of Australia's most sought-after and successful performers. He has built a career and following as an actor, writer and international queen of cabaret – not necessarily in that order. In 2012 he was a double Helpmann nominee, recognised for his work in musical theatre and cabaret. Ashley starred as the villainous Thenardier in Cameron Mackintosh's production of *Les Miserables*. Previously Trevor played the role of Edna Turnblad in David Atkins' acclaimed production of *Hairspray* in both Sydney and Melbourne, earning a Sydney Theatre Award nomination as Best Actor in a Musical. In July 2015, Trevor made his directorial debut with the Australian premiere of *Heathers: The Musical* at Sydney's Hayes Theatre Co, playing to sold-out Sydney audiences and critical acclaim. His own creations include the mega-smash *FAT SWAN* - his first adults-only panto – which played to sell-out houses in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane with return seasons and rave reviews. His performance as Natalie Portly, a ballerina with body-dysmorphia, garnered him a Helpmann nomination for Best Actor in a musical. He and long-time collaborator Phil Scott co-wrote the piece, and followed it up with *Little Orphan TrAshley*, a parody of the musical *Annie*. Co-starring Rhonda Burchmore and Gary Sweet, *TrAshley* was commissioned by the Sydney Opera House, and toured Melbourne and Brisbane. He last appeared at Adelaide Cabaret Festival with the show *I'm Every Woman* and previously *Liza (on an E)*, a show which has taken him around Australia and the world, culminating with a season in London's West End. It remains his most popular show, with rave reviews from critics here and overseas. Trevor was listed as one of the 25 Most Influential Gay and Lesbian Australians by *same same*, and was listed as one of the 500 Most Powerful Gay Men of all time by Europe's *Mate Magazine* (somewhere after Alexander the Great, yet before Cameron Mackintosh). He also has raised countless dollars for AIDS charities, through both his audience donations and the World AIDS Day Concert which he created and directs to raise money for ACON.

ABOUT SHOWWORK PRODUCTIONS

Showwork Productions is Australia's newest theatre company. Headed by leading cabaret star Trevor Ashley and show promotor and artist manager Wendy Richards. Showwork Productions, an amalgamation of Ashley and Richards' own companies ShowQueen Productions and Working Management see these two industry powerhouses join force and utilise their 25+ years' experience in stage production to bring quality theatre to Australia. In 2015, Showwork Productions made their debut with the Australian premiere of *Heathers: The Musical* at Sydney's Hayes Theatre Co. Playing to sold-out Sydney audiences and critical acclaim, the production is set to tour in 2016, including a return Sydney season at the Sydney Opera House.