

NEPTUNE PRODUCTIONS



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Present

THE CLASSICAL, HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL MUSICAL

BOOK AND LYRICS BY OTTO HARBACH, OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
& FRANK MANDEL
MUSIC BY SIGMUND ROMBERG

THE DESERT SONG

Directed by WENDY FAHEY

Choreography by SONJA HOLLAND

Sept. 25, 26, Oct. 2, 3, at 7.30pm. (Table Seating)

Mat. Sept 26, 27, Oct. 3, 4 at 1.30pm (Theatre Seating)

TWEED CIVIC CENTRE AUDITORIUM

Wharf Street TWEED HEADS

Why not visit our website: www.neptuneprods.com

*This is a Community Theatre Presentation
Neptune Productions is a Member of The Gold Coast Theatre Alliance*

NEPTUNE PRODUCTIONS

present

The Desert Song



Dear Theatre Goers,

You are in for a real treat. Neptune Productions is very proud to bring you "THE DESERT SONG". This show has not been seen for many years on the eastern seaboard and we have come up with a real bobby dazzler. A big thank you to our stellar cast, including Liza Beamish, Casey Fegan and Charles Cooper, Neptune Productions Philharmonic Orchestra under the leadership of Noelene Jeffs, and our extremely competent Director / Musical Director, Wendy Fahey.



The quality of theatre, which you are about to see, is reflected in the commitment of our members both on & off stage, and in the attendance figures. With "THE DESERT SONG", Neptune Productions will further cement an already accomplished record of providing excellent quality theatre to this end of the Gold Coast and Tweed areas. Please show your appreciation by singing along, clapping and generally having a whale of a time. That's what Neptune Productions is all about!

Best Regards,

Gill Summerville, President

Directors Message

Neptune Productions has grown as a community musical theatre developing new talent and involving family groups. It is with great pride that we have the vocal and orchestral talent to present this Sigmund Romberg Classic Operetta. Huge personal thanks to be working once again with our two amazing leads Liza and Casey who put in 100% all of the time. Neptune's foundation members Liza, Casey, Courtenay, Michael & Rhani, Jim, Gill, Andy, Noelene & Chris, who have shared in the journey, welcome you all to this magical experience that is **THE DESERT SONG**.

The warmth and support of our cast, production crew, and orchestra is amazing. With 10 of our cast are making their stage debut, included in the 30 performers tasting their first Operetta. Our tireless President, Gill Summerville – what would I do without you – 'I can find a SABRE!! Andy, and my brother TJ, expert set and prop builders – 'we love core flute!' Noelene my support and Orchestra Leader '...we can do it!'

Brenda and the sewing team, Glen, Jilliam, Maureen, Noela, Marlene, David, Lynn, Steve, Jim, Josie, John, and all those behind the scenes, front of house and canteen – we made it work!

To our audience, thank you for your continual support. Please tell everyone that *THE DESERT SONG* has to be seen!

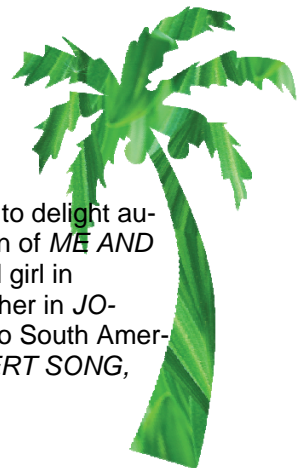


Warmest regards Wendy, Director



Sonja Holland – Choreographer

Many years of teaching Aerobic Dancing in Sydney, Sonja has continued to delight audiences both in Sydney and the Gold Coast. Sonja danced our production of *ME AND MY GIRL*, as wonderful Aunt Ella in *OKLAHOMA!*, the raunchy Bill Board girl in *CHRISTMAS AT HARTFORD HALL*, and the Slave Dancer / Choreographer in *JOSEPH*. Before taking off in the beginning of September, on an exotic trip to South America, somehow Sonja managed to tackle the choreography for *THE DESERT SONG*, with 'little time and non-dancers'. We wish her a safe and speedy return



The Desert Song

The smash hit of 1926, Sigmund Romberg's classic *The Desert Song* has its exotic setting in old French Morocco and that mountainous section to the north that lies along the Mediterranean coast - known as *Er Riff*. Occupied by the French Foreign Legion, the story of spies and adventurers of this region contribute to its glamour. This gave the composer, Sigmund Romberg an opportunity not only to write beautiful waltzes and ballads, but introduce melodies bathed in the sultry colours of North Africa and the Near East. In 1929, *The Desert Song* became the first all talking, all-singing screen operetta, with John Boles and Carlotta King. The 1953 film starred Gordon MacRae and Kathryn Grayson, while Nelson Eddy, Doretta Morrow recording is a collector's item.



THE STORY

The Riffs, a rebel desert band, are resting after a hard day's riding. They discuss the French Army's Captain Fontaine, and the fact that their leader, the Red Shadow, would be his equal. A Riff spy reports of a young French woman Margot Bonvalet. Cpt. Paul Fontaine's bride to be. Fontaine has promised to bring Margot the head of the Red Shadow as a wedding present.

Pierre, formerly a French soldier had resigned, due to the previous cruel Governor, Captain Paul Fontaine's father. In a twist reminiscent of Robin Hood the true identity of the Red Shadow is Pierre, the supposedly stupid and timid son of the Governor of Morocco, General Birabeau. The General has a mission to 'wipe out' the Red Shadow and his rebel band.

Bennie, an English reporter sent out from France to report on the Red Shadow and his band, stumbles upon the Riff camp. Bennie has fallen off his horse/camel while riding with his friend Pierre. Naturally the Red Shadow (Pierre) lets Bennie escape to return to Morocco and his dim-witted girlfriend, Susan.

The French soldiers wives, and Margot, lament the fact that their husbands give them little attention, excitement or romance, as they are always after the Riffs.



Enter Azuri, a desert girl and mistress of Paul Fontaine, and a spy for the Riffs. Azuri threatens Paul and tries to blackmail him. Pierre is in love with Margot and has entered the General's headquarters as the Red Shadow. He sings Margot a love song - she screams for help, and the Red Shadow disappears - only to be replaced by the dull Pierre. The Red Shadow returns, sings another love song, kidnaps Margot and Susan - and off to the Desert.

Bennie sets off in pursuit and finds himself in the company of the ladies of Spain, and Clementina, a dancer, singer, and seductress. He is rescued by, Susan! Paul and the French army are closing in on the Riffs. The rebels are tracked down, and the Red Shadow (Pierre) finds himself in the unenviable position of having to duel his own father, General Birabeau. Naturally Pierre backs down, much to the derision of his not so merry band, who cast him into the desert to die. Captain Paul Fontaine vows to bring the Red Shadow in dead or alive.

The jealous Azuri, reveals to General Birabeau the true identity of The Red Shadow as none other than his son, Pierre. Birabeau is distraught, as he has sent Paul Fontaine out to kill The Red Shadow. Paul returns jubilant that they have killed the outlaw. Birabeau is heartbroken, until Pierre announces that he is the man who put an end to the Red Shadow. All is forgiven. Birabeau will keep his son's secret, as the Riff Robin Hood is no more.

Enter Margot, another distraught soul declaring, as women do, she loves the Red Shadow - 'as she would never love another!' She sings their love duet as Pierre, hidden, puts on the Red Shadow's cloak and joins her in song for a romantic ending.



CAST

In order of appearance

SID	MICHAEL BELLINGER
MINDAR	JAMES SNEE
HADJI	STEVE CARRATT
NERI	JESSIE CLARKE
HASSI	JIM FURY
THAN	JONATHAN WOODWARD
SENTINAL	CHRIS ERICKSON
RED SHADOW / PIERRE BIRABEAU	CASEY FEGAN
BENJAMIN— English Reporter	ANDY FAHEY
CAPTAIN PAUL FONTAINE	CHARLES COOPER
LIEUT. LAVERGNE	ROBERT HOVEY
SERGEANT DE BOUSSAC	STEPHEN POWELL
AZURI	KATHRYN FENNELL
SUSAN — Birabeau's ward	COURTENAY KENNETT
EDITH— Susan's friend	DEBBIE TANNER
SERVANT BOYS	JEREMY BEAMISH, JESSE LAYT
MARGOT BONVALET	LIZA BEAMISH
GENERAL BIRABEAU	THIAN SYKES
CLEMENTINA	JENELLE LAWRENCE
ALI BEN ALI	PETER MEGGITT
SPECIAL GIRLS	JESSIE CLARKE, JENELLE LAWRENCE, DEBBIE TANNER, KIRALEE WATSON
CARMEL the CAMEL	MERRIDIE FURY, GILL SUMERVILLE
CARAMEL the CAMEL	FANG

RIFFS

JEREMY BEAMISH, MICHAEL BELLINGER, JACKSON BRASH, STEVE CARRATT, CHRIS ERICKSON, JIM FURY, MERRIDIE FURY, ROBERT HOVEY, COURTNEY KENNETT, JESSE LAYT, PETER MEGGITT, STEPHEN POWELL, JAMES SNEE, THIAN SYKES, JONATHAN WOODWARD

FRENCH SOLDIERS

JACKSON BRASH, CHARLES COOPER, STEPHEN POWELL, JONATHAN WOODWARD

RIFF WOMEN, MARGOT'S FRIENDS / NATIVE DANCERS / HAREM GIRLS / SPANISH LADIES

JESSIE CLARKE, TEGAN DRAKE, MERRIDIE FURY, JENELLE LAWRENCE, GULSEREN MUSA, TRISH SIMMONS, JILLIARN STEINER, LIZ SYKES, DEBBIE TANNER, KIRALEE WATSON, DANITA van der WEEGAN

ORCHESTRA

Musical Director/ Conductor WENDY FAHEY

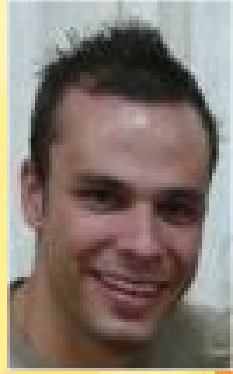
Orchestra Leader—Violin 1—NOLENE JEFFS **Violin 2** HEATHER GREEN **Violin 3** HEATHER MALCOLM

Viola SANDRA NISSEN **Cello** BEV SIMPSON **Harp** SHERIE SUNDERLAND **Pianist** RHANI BELLINGER

Flute CARMELIA MacWILLIAM **Oboe** MELISSA HENSHAW **Clarinet** DI MILEY

French Horn FIONA WORSNOP **Trumpet 1** DALE NORTON **Trumpet 2** CODY ANDERSON

Trombone JESSE EDWARDS **Bass** MARTIN WYATT **Percussion** REG St LEON
Pianist's Assistant ROSIE DIAMOND



Old. Conservatorium, plays piano, violin, and runs his own business.

CASEY FEAGAN

**The Red Shadow
& Pierre Birabeau**

We are fortunate to showcase Casey's magnificent tenor voice as he combines with Liza Beamish in this unforgettable role of The Red Shadow. From Judas in Superstar, leads in Fame, Chorus Line, The King and I, Pirates of Tweed Heads, Oklahoma, Joseph ... Dream Coat, Casey has the warmth, talent and enthusiasm for this split personality role. Casey has completed 2ys of his Degree at the

LIZA BEAMISH

Margot Bonvalet

Leading Australian popular coloratura soprano, Liza's outstanding talents cover opera, musical theatre, jazz and popular ballads. Liza busy life includes performances with Lachlan Baker as the Lady & The Larrikin, Kathleen Procter-Moore a DUO DIVA, the NRS Orcherstra, GCSO, St. John's Cathedral Choir, the Qld. Pops Orchestra, and Operapolitan, with Andrew Prior. Her amazing theatrical career includes a stint in the Melbourne season of Phantom of the Operetta as Carlotta, Desert Song, Pirates of Penzance. Liza combines beauty & artistry to delight us all with this challenging role, and a return to her love of musical theatre. We are thrilled to have her working again with Neptune Productions and showcase her wonderful talents.

Visit www.lizabeamish.com.au



ANDY FAHEY

Bennie

Has a wealth of experience in all facets of theatre. MM Gen. in *Pirates*, Joe Cable in *South Pacific*, Bill in *M & M Girl*, Will Parker in *Oklahoma*, Pharoah in *Joseph*, Rooster in *ANNIE*, and now the challenging role of Bennie.



CHARLES COOPER

Capt. Paul Fontaine

A professional tenor artist, coupled with charisma and charm, Charles' stage credits include; Red, Hot & Cole, Mack & Mabel, A Funny Thing Happened. Forum, The Boyfriend, Funny Girl, The Blenders, Scooby Doo, Police Academy Stunt Show. TV appearances in The Shack, Toasted TV, The Collectors, Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? Deal or No Deal, WB Kids, The Edge, The Xtra Factor and Good Morning Aust.



COURTNEY KENNETT

Susan

A Uni student, Courtenay is a foundation member of Neptune, with leads in *PIRATES, ME AND MY GIRL, OKLAHOMA, ANNIE*. Courtenay is delighted take on the role of Susan, working with Liza & Casey again, is this her first Operetta



THIAN SYKES

General Birabeau

This is Thian's first show with Neptune. He has a passion for live theatre and has appeared with GCPC in Oliver, Tweed TC in Sing for your Supper, The Wizard of Oz, Hello Dolly! South Pacific, and is relishing the challenge of this, his first Operetta

JIM FURY **Gassi**

Part of the furniture at Neptune Productions Jim has performed in Me & My Girl, Oklahoma, Joseph and Annie. Also shows with Tweed and Tugun Theatre Companies and is a member of *The Bellywackers* arguably the most musically challenged band in the world.



MICHAEL BELLINGER

Sid El Kar

Michael trained with the Hunter Valley Opera Co. in Newcastle, and is one of the very few tenors who can hit top 'C' in full voice!! He performs as a Duo with his talented wife, our wonderful pianist Rahni, and they have cut a CD together. Michael has performed lead roles in Jeckel & Hide at the GC Arts Centre, with the late Rob Guest, Calamity Jane, Lola Montez, M & M Girl, Oklahoma, Hartford Hall, and now the vocally challenging role of Sid El Kar shows. A foundation member of Neptune Productions who loves a stage!



KATHRYN FENNELL

Azuri

A late bloomer, this is Kathryn's first experience in a Theatre performance and she loves the business. When not attending rehearsals, Kathryn leads a busy life as a mid-wife.

DEBBIE TANNA **Edith**



Deb, completed a Music Degree (Voice Major) at the S.C.University. As the Narrator in *Joseph & the Amazing Techno Dreamcoat*, Miss Hannigan in *ANNIE*, and now the bubbly Edith, displays her versatility.

PETER MEGGITT **Ali Ben Ali**



Peter has been performing in musicals since 1964. His favourite roles have been Professor Higgins, Captain Starlight and Pooh-Bah. For Neptune he has played Judd Fry (Oklahoma), Potiphar (Joseph) and now a misogynist harem-keeper- all villains but great parts.

JENELLE LAWENCE **Clementina**



Jenelle is a voice/performance teacher and is studying speech pathology, She has performed for Channel 9 and Qld Arts Council. Jenelle appeared in our recent season of Annie.

FANG **Caramel the Camel**



Fang first appeared in Annie earlier this year and then headed to Paris to study at the Sorbonne majoring in Advanced Moroccan Camel impersonation. It was just by chance that she returned in time to be Caramel the Camel, her first Cross-species role. Naturally, we're thrilled!

Scenes And Musical Numbers

ACT I

SC 1

RIFF SUMMIT CAMP

PRELUDE AND OPENING CHORUS (*High on a hill is our stronghold*) Sid & Riffs
THE RIFF SONG (*Over the ground there comes a sound*) Red Shadow, Sid & Riffs
REPRISE (*Ho! Bold men of Morocco*)

FINALETTO – Scene 1.

ENTRANCE OF AZURI

MARGOT (*O! pretty maid of France*) Paul, La Vergne, De Bouscass

SC 2

OUTSIDE GENERAL BIRABEAU'S HOUSE

I'LL BE A BUOYANT GIRL (*Has anybody seen my Bennie*) Susan & Edith

SC 3

GENERAL BIRABEAU'S HOUSE

WHY DID WE MARRY SOLDIERS - Girls

FRENCH MILITARY MARCHING SONG (*Oh! Girls, girls, here are cavaliers*) Margot & Girls

ROMANCE (*Romance – a play boy who is born each spring*) Margot & Girls

THEN YOU WILL KNOW – Duet (*My passion is not to crash on*) Margot & Pierre

I WANT A KISS – Trio - Margot, Paul, Pierre & Chorus

IT - Duet (*There was a time when sex seemed something*) Bennie, Susan & Girls

THE DESERT SONG (*Blue heaven and you and I*) Red Shadow & Margot

FINALE ACT I – AZURI'S DANCE

SOFT AS A PIGEON LIGHTS – Sid & Ensemble

BLUE HEAVEN – Red Shadow, Margot, Ensemble

INTERVAL 20 min

ACT II

ENTR'ACTE - Orchestra

SC 1

THE HAREM IN THE PALACE OF ALI BEN ALI IN THE RIFF HILLS

MY LITTLE CASTAGNETTE - Clementina & Girls

SONG OF THE BRASS KEY (*On the streets of Spain*) Clementina, Ali & Girls

REPRISE (*Give him the key*) Clementina & Margot

ONE GOOD BOY GONE WRONG – Duet (*Bold women please unhand me*) Bennie & Clementina

EASTERN & WESTERN LOVE - Ali, Sid, Red Shadow, Paul, Edith

LET LOVE COME AS SOME RARE TREASURE – Ali

IF ONE FLOW'R GROWS ALONE IN YOUR GARDEN – Sid

ONE ALONE – Red Shadow

SC 2

A CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MARGOT'S SUITE

SC 3

THE ROOM OF THE SILKEN COUCH IN ALI'S PALACE

THE SABRE SONG – Red Shadow, Margot SABRE BRIGHT AND GLEAMING – Margot

BLUE HEAVEN – Red Shadow & Margot

SC 4

THE EDGE OF THE DESERT FAREWELL - Red Shadow & Riffs

ONE ALONE – Red Shadow

SC 5

A COURTYARD LEADING TO GENERAL BIRABEAU'S HOME – TWO DAYS LATER

OPENING: ALL HAIL TO THE GENERAL – Girls, Birabeau

REPRISE "IT" (*I didn't know, what I know now*) - Bennie & Susan

AS WE ARE DRINKING, MERRILY DRINKING – Riffs

FINALE Act II – SOLDIERS WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER - Paul & Ensemble

ONE ALONE – Margot, Red Shadow, Ensemble



Danita van der Weegan
Jenelle Lawrence, Jesse Clarke



Tegan Drake



Guelseren Musa



Kiralee Watson



Trish Simmons, Courtney Kennett,
Julliam Steiner, Liz Sykes, Merridie Fury



Robert Hovey



Stephen Powell



James Sneer



Steve Carratt



Chris Erickson



Jesse Layt, Jackson Brash Jonathan Woodward, Jeremy Beamish



Voila! THE NEPTUNE PRODUCTIONS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Production Team

President	GILL SUMMERVILLE	Sound	DAVID WHITE, ANDY FAHEY
Treasurer	ANDY FAHEY	Wardrobe	NEPTUNE COSTUME HIRE
Director	WENDY FAHEY	Sewing team	BRENDA RICHER, JILLIARN STEINER MAUREEN WHITE
Choreography	SONJA HOLLAND		NOELA CHAPMAN, NOELENE JEFFS LIZA BEAMISH, WENDY FAHEY
Stage Crew	GLEN BRASH HEATHER SHRIMPTON		
Properties Manager	MARLENE MCCAIN		
Set Design	WENDY FAHEY	Sign Writing	STACEY BECH ph.55230969
Set & Prop Construction	ANDY FAHEY TERRY SMITH <i>The Ideas Man</i> ph. 5591 6165	Front Of House /Canteen	GILL & CHRISSIE SUMMERVILLE, TED MALCOM
Painting	JOSIE & JOHN GORHAM JULIE BOYLE, JILLIARN STEINER BRENDA RICHER, NOELENE JEFFS		JULIE CARRATT, TIM CHAPMAN LYNNIE HARDCASTLE MICHELLE & HANNAH CLARK JACQUIE THURLOW NICOLA & JASMINE POWEL DEBBIE DUNDON, CHISHAWNEE BATES BERNADETTE, GRACE & MADDISON BEATTIE
Lighting	JOHN GORHAM	Programme	ROGER MCKENZIE, JIM FURY
Spot:	LYNNE CURNOW	Photography	STEVE CARRATT

And Special Thanks to

- Terry's Locksmiths, Burleigh - CASEY FEGAN Manager ph.55765448
- Publicity – DEBBIE MCGRATH - Seniors Newspaper, SHAE JOHNSON & SEANNA CRONIN GC News Ltd, MARK ASHFORD,
- MOLLIE BUTLER Tweed News & Daily Mail, KATE PETERS – GCB. JOHN GORHAM RADIO 4CRB, NBN CHANNEL 9
- JOEL BESKIN - ABC, GCTA
- WARDROBE assistance: LIZA BEAMISH, ALAN GRANT ph. 5534 8688, BELL BIRDS VARETY ph. 5534 8020,
- NORTH SHORE THEATRE COMPANY – ANNIE AND WAL LOTOCKI
- UNIFORMS & CAMEL GAS MASK – AUSSIE DISPOSALS & CAMPING SUPPLIES ph. 5523 1788
- TWEED THEATRE COMPANY INC. for loan of Pillars
- CAMEL supplied by IVAN REPIN, ANIMAL CRACKERS COSTUME HIRE
- Backdrop - UNCANNY PRODUCTIONS ph. 0266728379
- Storage of Neptune's Sets & Costumes – CHERIE GOOSEY LUV 2 DANCE STUDIO
- DAMIEN & DEBBIE DUNDON,

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