

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT THE MUSICAL
MOTORS INTO TOWN AS BOX OFFICE OPENS FOR WEST END PRODUCTION

JASON DONOVAN, TONY SHELDON AND OLIVER THORNTON TO LEAD CAST
PALACE THEATRE MARCH 2009

Jason Donovan, Tony Sheldon and **Oliver Thornton** will lead the cast in the West End production of ***Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical***, written by **Stephan Elliott** and **Allan Scott**. The spectacular new stage musical, directed by **Simon Phillips**, will open at the Palace Theatre in March 2009.

Priscilla will have its first preview on 10 March, with Press Night on 23 March and Gala Night on 24 March 2009.

Booking is now open for performances until 26 September 2009.

Further casting for ***Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical*** will be announced shortly.

Based on the Oscar® award-winning film, ***Priscilla*** tells the story of Tick (Jason Donovan), Bernadette (Tony Sheldon) and Adam (Oliver Thornton), a glamorous Sydney-based performing trio that agree to take their show to the middle of the Australian outback.

Priscilla Queen Of the Desert The Musical is a heart-warming, uplifting adventure of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus (nicknamed *Priscilla*) searching for love and friendship and end up finding more than they could ever have dreamed. With a dazzling array of outrageous costumes and featuring a score of dance-floor classics, this new musical is a sensational journey to the heart of fabulous.

Multi award-winning actor and recording-star **Jason Donovan** will play Tick. Donovan's more recent theatre credits include the part of Christian in David Eldridge's adaptation of Thomas Vinterberg's film *Festen* for the Melbourne Theatre Company, Caratacus Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at the London Palladium and the title role in John Doyle's production of *Sweeney Todd* which toured nationally. After playing Scott Robinson in *Neighbours* for over four years, Donovan has enjoyed a hugely successful pop career releasing three major albums and numerous top 10 hits around the world. His first new album for over fifteen years, *Let It Be Me*, is due for release in November this year.

Acclaimed actor, writer and director **Tony Sheldon** will play Bernadette, the award-winning role he created on stage at Sydney's Lyric Theatre and has subsequently played in Melbourne and Auckland. Sheldon's extensive work for the Sydney Theatre Company includes *Private Lives*,

Into The Woods and *The Venetian Twins*. His work for Australia's Marian Street Theatre includes *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *The Odd Couple* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Sheldon's award-winning roles include Roger De Bris in Mel Brook's *The Producers*, Arnold Beckoff in *Torch Song Trilogy* and his acclaimed portrayal of John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet* for the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Oliver Thornton will play Adam. Thornton's West End credits include the roles of Mark in William Baker's revival of *Rent* at the Duke of York's Theatre, Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's Theatre, Enjolras in *Les Misérables* at the Palace and Queens Theatres and Harrison in *Chicago* at the Adelphi Theatre. He also played Rusty in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express* on tour in the UK and in Bochum, Germany. On film his credits include *Godforsaken* and *De-Lovely*.

Clive Carter, who will play Priscilla's trusty mechanic Bob, can currently be seen in *Crooked Wood* at the Jermyn Street Theatre. His other theatre credits include *Take Flight* for the Menier Chocolate Factory, a world-tour of *My Fair Lady* in which he played Professor Henry Higgins and *A Man for All Seasons* for the Theatre Royal Haymarket. Carter's many cast recordings include *Les Misérables*, *Into the Woods*, *Always*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Essentials* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical - adapted from the Oscar®-winning film *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert* starring Terence Stamp, Guy Pearce and Hugo Weaving - is written by Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott. Direction is by Simon Phillips, choreography is by Ross Coleman, arrangements, musical direction and supervision by Stephen 'Spud' Murphy and production designs are by Brian Thomson. Tim Chappel and Lizzy Gardiner have re-created their Oscar®-winning costume designs which were originally designed for the film. Lighting designed by Nick Schlieper and Sound design by Michael Waters.

Director **Simon Phillips** has worked extensively throughout Australia and has won many awards for his productions including *Proof*, *Company*, *Inheritance* and *Bombshells* all for the Melbourne Theatre Company. His production *Bombshells* visited the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2004 winning a Fringe First. He has directed productions of numerous musicals including *Cabaret*, *Oliver!*, *High Society*, *Urinetown The Musical* and *The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert, one of the most successful Australian movies of all time, was **Stephan Elliott's** second feature film. Subsequently he has directed *Welcome to Woop Woop* starring Rod Taylor, Barry Humphries and Rachel Griffiths, and *Eye of the Beholder*, for which he also wrote the screenplay, which starred Ewan McGregor, Ashley Judd, KD Lang and Jason Priestley. He recently directed his own adaptation of Noel Coward's *Easy Virtue*, with a cast including Kristin Scott Thomas and Colin Firth, to be released in the UK in November.

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical made its world premiere in Sydney in October 2006. has subsequently wowed audiences and critics alike in Melbourne and New Zealand to

become the most successful Australian musical of all time. A Sydney return season due to popular demand will commence in October 2008 and plans are afoot for a North American production to open in Toronto and another in Germany in Autumn 2009. A Swedish production will open in 2010.

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical is produced in London by Liz Koops and Garry McQuinn for Back Row Productions, Michael Hamlyn for Specific Films, Allan Scott, and the Really Useful Theatre Company.

Listings Information

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical

Address:	Palace Theatre, Cambridge Circus, London W1
Performances:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7.30pm Fridays at 5.15pm (from 8 May) & 8.30pm Saturdays at 2.30pm & 7.30pm Press Night Monday 23 March at 7pm Gala Night Tuesday 24 March at 7.30pm
Website:	priscillathemusical.com
Ticket prices:	Monday to Thursday & Friday at 5.15pm £60.75, £40.75, £25.75, £20.75 Fridays at 8.30pm & Saturdays at 2.30pm & 7.30pm £65.75, £45.75, £25.75, £20.75 NB All tickets include 75p Theatre Restoration Levy
	Preview Performances 10 – 21 March 2009 £10 of top two prices
	Group Tickets for 12 or more Best available tickets £39.75 Monday to Thursday performances subject to availability call 0844 412 4650
	Booking Fee £2.00 booking fee applies for all tickets purchased except postal and personal bookings at the Palace Theatre
Box Office:	0844 755 0016