



Shaun Murphy

Resume



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Background Information

Shaun Murphy is currently Resident Director on Dr Zhivago for the Gordon Frost Organization for the Australian tour 2011.

Shaun has broad-ranging skills and experience as an actor, singer, acting coach & voice teacher, administrator, and director, working in the fields of live theatre, classical and contemporary music, broadcasting, television, concerts and cabaret.

He has worked as a principal artist in the area of commercial theatre, and with the various Opera companies throughout Australia and New Zealand. He was also a soloist with the Queensland, Sydney & Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, the Australian Pops Orchestra and the Melbourne Philharmonic.

With the group *combo fiasco*, Murphy was at the forefront of cabaret and corporate entertainment in Australia. Pioneering a culture of Australian artists taking their work to New York, *combo fiasco* launched onto the Manhattan Cabaret scene in 1998 where they received rave reviews for their work. They appeared on the *NBC Today Show* and were invited to open the New York Cabaret convention. Murphy appeared with this group in three successful CD recordings, and regularly wrote their vocal arrangements, undertaking the role of co-managing their work in the areas of corporate entertainment and many self-produced seasons.

He has directed productions of new Australian Music Theatre works, as well as straight drama and cabaret, achieving Green Room awards for his work in this field.

Throughout much of his performing life, Murphy maintained a flourishing private teaching studio working with many well established and high profile performers. He has also taught in numerous Masterclasses in audition and performance techniques for actors and singers.

In 2004, he assumed a position as the Head of Theatre Studies at PLC in Perth where his duties included a combination of creative and entrepreneurial skills, adept administrative acumen and leadership in the management of an active and progressive team of practitioners in the performing arts.

He left this position at the end of 2006 to become an Artist in Residence at LaSalle College of the Arts in Singapore from January to May 2007, teaching acting studies, voice, and directing their first group of music theatre graduates.

For the remainder of 2007, he assisted the director Terence O'Connell in *The Production Company's* staging of *42nd St.*, and he directed a new Australian piece written by Peter J. Casey called *The Happy Medium* for the production house *Magnormos*.

He assumed the Artist in Residence position at LaSalle again in 2008 where he directed *Into the Woods* and the *Industry Graduation Showcase*. He has just completed directing *Once Upon a Mattress* for Arts Academy.

He is a passionate and dedicated practitioner in the field of the performing arts with strong skills in organisation and interpersonal communication. Shaun is passionately committed to like to taking on the challenges and responsibilities of Resident Director for Musical Theatre productions in both Australia and Overseas. **IWM is eager to discuss all possibilities of RD positions for Shaun Murphy.**

Shaun Murphy

Career History

- 2011 **Resident Director**
Dr Zhivago for Gordon Frost Organization
Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane
- 2009 **Directing** –
The Little Sweep (Victorian Opera)
Suddenly Single (Script Workshop & Performance) – QPAC, Brisbane
Industry Graduation Showcase – Lasalle CAE, Singapore
Performing – Murphy & Wood (with Anne Wood), nationally
Teaching –
VCA (Musical Theatre)
The Arts Academy Ballarat (Actors)
Private teaching practice for Industry Professionals
LaSalle (Acting Studies)
- 2008 **Directing** – *Once Upon a Mattress* (The Arts Academy - Ballarat)
Coaching – Voice to Industry Professionals, VCA &
The Arts Academy - Ballarat graduates
Performing – Murphy & Wood (with Anne Wood), nationally
- Artist in Residence – LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore**
Directing *Into the Woods*
Directing *Theatre Industry Graduation Showcase*
Teaching *Acting & Voice*
- 2007 **Assistant Director** – *42nd St.* for The Production Company
Writing – A Kander & Ebb review with Mark Jones
Performing – A cabaret project with Anne Wood
Directing – *The Happy Medium* for Magnormos
Teaching – Voice at *The Arts Academy - Ballarat*
Coaching – Voice to Industry Professionals, VCA & *The Arts Academy - Ballarat* graduates
- Artist in Residence – LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore**
Directing *Once on this Island*
Directing *Theatre Industry Graduation Showcase*
Teaching Acting, Voice and Career Management
- 2004 -2006 **Director of Theatre Studies, PLC**
Duties include:
- Co-ordinating/scheduling the school of Dance and Drama.

- Directing/Staging productions of *Into the Woods*, *Sweet Charity*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Metamorphoses*, *Inheritance* and *Original Solo Productions*.
- Produced *Marina Prior in Concert* at Perth Concert Hall.
- Produced *Awards Night 2004, 2005, 2006*
- Teaching all aspects of Performing Arts to TEE Students.
- Overseeing the general operation of the Drama theatre.
- Mentoring and appraising staff and providing professional learning opportunities for their advancement.
- Targeting opportunities and appropriate training grounds for students aspiring to careers in the Performing Arts.
- Inaugurating an Artist in Residence programme.
- Facilitating Masterclasses and Forums with visiting professional performers.

1990 –2004 **Performer in theatre, opera, concert, television, recording, corporate entertainment and direction.**

Please see [Appendix 1 page one](#) for detail.

Vocal coach and technical voice teacher.

Established a successful studio frequented by a broad cross section of singer/actors ranging from new course graduates through to highly polished professionals.

1989 – 1990 **The Australian Opera Chorus.**

I was employed as a chorister and understudy with this company.

Please see [Appendix 1 page two](#) for details.

1987 – 1989 **Head of Drama at St. Michael's Collegiate School, Hobart**

Undertook to run the department as Acting Head of Drama, but continued in the role for two years.

1984 – 1987 **Freelance actor, musician and teacher - Sydney.**

Worked as a performer for

- The Seymour Centre
- Peter Rix Management (Jesus Christ Superstar – National Tour)
- The Australian Opera chorus
- Macquarie University concert series
- Sydney Philharmonia Motet Choir
- Sydney University Chamber Choir
- Drama / Music specialist in Sydney Schools.

Education & Academic Qualifications

2004: Performance workshops with The Bell Shakespeare Company
Workshops with Goran Banyai on Brecht & Stanislavski

2000: Scene into Song – workshops with Andy Gale (NYC)

- 1999: The song as a scene – masterclass and workshop with Joel Silberman (NYC)
- 1993 – 2001: Voice (ongoing)
Studied with Glenn Winslade in London and Stuttgart.
Studied with Merlyn Quaipe in Melbourne.
Studied with Amanda Colliver in Sydney.
Coached with Andrew Green in Sydney.
- 1983: James Cook University of North Queensland
Associate Diploma of Performing Arts - Voice and Acting.
- 1982: Townsville College of Advanced Education
Diploma of Teaching - Distinction for Practical and High
Distinction for Drama.

Performance Skills

- Communication
- Stage direction
- On-stage performance
- Acting teaching and coaching
- Design
- Vocal Arranging

Commercial Strengths

- Highly developed skills in budgetary management, particularly in expenditure control and appropriation of funds.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, writing and presentation skills for a wide range of audiences and contexts.
- Thorough knowledge of live theatre, pre-production, recording, technical staging, event production and company management.
- Very sound entrepreneurial skills, particularly in the areas of planning and systematizing of resources, accountability and developing business networks.
- Outstanding leadership qualities, specifically with collaborative work practices, mentoring and establishing a corporate vision.
- Broad experience with Microsoft Office and Apple Macintosh applications.
- Intellectually incisive and professional: wholly results-oriented.
- High degree of business acumen and company management experience.



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