

Adelaide University Footlights  
presents

Aristophanes'

# THE FROGS

With music composed, parodied and pinched by Karim Soetratma  
and Michael Spargo

Aristophanes (c445-383 BC), the supreme master of Old Comedy, caught the eye of the Footlights talent scout at the Athens Festival of 405 BC when he won first prize with The Frogs. With his recommendations ("shows promise") found on a scroll at the bottom of the Footlights office, Footlights now proudly presents it in the original Greek with Australian accents.

Bigger than Cats

Les Miserable than Les Miserables

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My own thanks go to the cast and crew for their patience and enthusiasm.

I wish to thank especially Michael Spargo, who has led the chorus and together with Karim Soetratma composed and directed the music. Michael's empathy and intelligence and Karim's expert musicianship have been invaluable.

Shaun Micallef's interest and thoughtful compliance have been greatly appreciated as has his and Alex Ward's comic genius, particularly in rehearsal.

My thanks also to Liz Sexton for her usual display of patience, willingness and competence.

To Gavin Wood for odd hours and technical work, to Ewart Shaw for his set designs and to Tim Heffernan for his keen co-operation from the outset.

Stephen Horan

## ACT ONE

The god Dionysus in an effort to save Athens during the dark days of the Peloponnesian war decides to bring back the poet Euripides from Hades, the resting place of the dead. With his slave Xanthias he seeks out Heracles who gives them directions to the underworld.

On their descent they meet Charon the ferryman who takes Dionysus across the Great Lake leaving Xanthias to walk. The croaking chorus of Frogs annoy Dionysus so much he takes to singing like Elvis Presley. Dionysus and Xanthias are reunited and make their way to the Gate Keeper of Hades where they are met by Aeacus in an unusual fashion.

## ACT TWO

After Xanthias unleashes his libido on a slave girl and comes off third best a contest ensues between the two great dead poets: Aeschylus and Euripides.

Aeschylus representing the old school, wishes to retain the Chair of Tragedy next to Pluto: a great honour - but Euripides, a wet behind the ears, iconoclastic modernist is keen to plant himself firmly in the same place. The Battle of The Bards ensues with Dionysus as referee. The two poets thrust and parry, weave and bob, in a war of words from which there can be only one victor. Who shall rise from the ashes? Watch and See.

## CAST

Dionysus - god of drama - Shaun Micallef  
Xanthias - his slave - Alex Ward  
Heracles (Hercules) - John Eastman  
A Corpse - Tim Heffernan  
Charon - ferryman of the dead - Chris Symes  
Aeacus - doorkeeper of Hades - Tim Heffernan  
Maid - Maryanne Haddad  
Landladies - Franca Petrone  
                  - Marissa Han  
Slavegirl - Louisa Condous  
Euripides - Tim McKeough  
Aeschylus - Henry Silvester  
Pluto - Steve Jackson  
Dancing girl - Mia Kossiavelos

Chorus of Frogs and Initiates  
- Michael Spargo  
- Karim Soetratma  
- Damien Storer  
- Steve Jackson  
- Jenny Zerk  
- Bunny Debelle  
- Kate Cawley  
- Therese Manson  
- Rachel Healy  
with - Chris Symes  
- John Eastman

### Musicians

- Lauran R. Huefner  
- Vivienne Taberner

# SONGS

## ACT I

*We are the musical frogs* - Chorus

~ Initiates Mystic Revels ~

*Come, Iacchos* - Chorus

*Stand away there outsiders* - Steve, Karim, Kate

*Now we're well fortified* - Chorus

*Queen Demeter* - Steve, Karim, Michael, Damien

*Iacchos, Dance on and we'll follow* - Jenny, Karim, Michael, Rachel

*Let us hasten to the meadow* - Karim, Jenny, Michael

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*Moral of the story* - Karim, Shaun

*Same as before* - Bunny, Karim, Alex

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*Come muse of the Holy Dancing Choir* - Chorus

*Cleigenes the Greek* - Karim, Jenny, Kate, Bunny

*Come wise Athenians* - Michael

## ACT II

*Heart of the Thunderer* - Chorus

*Hymn to the Muses* - Michael, Jenny, Bunny, Karim

*Give him all you've got* - Jenny, Bunny, Rachel

*Fiercely the fight goes on* - Chorus

*What Aeschylus not write good lyrics?* - Karim

*How thorough these geniuses are* - Therese

*Save the city and save the stage* - Jenny, Karim, Michael, Bunny

*Going home* - Chorus

## PRODUCTION

Director - Stephen Horan

Producer - Tim Heffernan

Musical Directors - Michael Spargo  
- Karim Soetratma

Technical Director - Gavin Wood

Assistant to Mr Horan - Liz Sexton

Set Design - Ewart Shaw

Artwork - Baden Smith (Poster and T-Shirts)  
- Alex Boyle

Set Construction - Joseph Carney  
- Alex Champion  
- Louisa Condous  
- Rob Greenslade  
- Maryanne Haddad  
- Marissa Han  
- Tim Heffernan  
- Tim Kildea  
- Mia Kossiavelos  
- Tom Russell  
- Liz Sexton  
- Caroline Smith  
- Zachariah Tableleg  
- Gavin Wood

Publicity - Michelle Meegan  
- Rosie White  
- David Meegan  
- Ilka Priebe

Costumes - Josie Gugis  
- Alex Boyle (Frogs)  
- Ewart Shaw

Lighting - Gavin Wood  
- Tom Russell  
- Rob Greenslade

Sound - Andrew Bayfield  
- David Meegan  
- Michelle Meegan

Props - Rob Greenslade  
- Alex Champion  
- Joseph Carney

Front of House - Matt Hawkins  
- Antra Hood  
- Caroline Smith  
- Stephen Thomas  
- Jane Adcock  
- Tim McGrath

Makeup - Mia Kossiavelos  
- Maryanne Haddad  
- Josie Gugis

Photography - Phil Crowe

Cleaner - Luke Anderson (with thanks!)

## Cast Notes by Dave Footlights

Tim Heffernan has just returned from a world tour as Antony Sher's hump in Richard III.

Shaun Micallef has featured in many Footlights productions, most after he left university. Whilst away from campus and legal work, Shaun sits by the phone expectantly, waiting for a call from S.A. casting and the promise of a soap powder commercial.

Tim McKeough first acted in a Nativity play as the baby Jesus. He was 22.

Having recently designed and constructed the kitty litter for the Melbourne production of Cats, Gavin Wood is looking for a job.

Aristopanes is a dead Greek.

Therese Manson's pixie-ish grin was specially designed by Jane Reilly.

Alex Ward appears courtesy of the fact that he is not existing in the eight dimension. His donkey, Dean, first appeared as an extra in The Man From Snowy River. Alex's clothes are by an industrial cleaner and his body by Clark Rubber.

Damien Storer is not a homosexual.

Bunny DeBelle, commenced her dancing career in the French Touring Company of La Cage Aux Folle IV as a furnace cleaner. She believes that The Frogs is a fine musical comedy, then again she still thinks that the tooth fairy exists.

Lou Condous, dancing vixen, wished to appear nude but fire regulations prevented this.

Footlights Committee is anxious to get into contact with Rex Oedipus.

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