



Victorian College of the Arts
Media Release 2007
 Monday 15 October

VCA Music (Music Theatre) in association with VCA Production present
STEPHEN SONDHEIM AND HUGH WHEELER'S
A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
 Friday 16 to Sunday 25 November

Directed by Martin Croft ~ Musical Direction by Vicky Jacobs
Featuring first year Music Theatre students ~ Special guest artist: Robyn Arthur

VCA Music Theatre is once again excited to be working with VCA Production, building on their great sell out successes of *Into The Woods*, *Up* and *Company*. From Friday 16 November they present a fully staged production of *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC*, the most glorious of Sondheim and Wheeler's shows, performed by the next generation of music theatre professionals, currently in their first year of training.

Based on the Ingmar Bergman film *Smiles of a Summer Night*, *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC* tells the story of a lawyer, Fredrik Egerman, who is married to Anne, a beautiful, featherbrained and inexperienced 18-year-old trophy wife, who refuses to lose her virginity. Frederik's romantic interest in an old flame, Desiree Armfeldt is rekindled. However, she is having an affair with an arrogant and insanely jealous military man, Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm. Complicating matters is Frederik's son, Henrik, a dull, boring, stodgy and resentful divinity student who is in love with his stepmother.

The play culminates in a weekend at the country estate of Desiree's mother, Madame Armfeldt, a profane yet matronly old woman who is looking after Desiree's precocious daughter, Fredrika, while Desiree is on tour. Furthermore, 'The Liebeslieder Singers', wander in between and around the main characters, sometimes acting as narrators, sometimes expressing the main character's thoughts and sometimes acting as a Greek chorus and setting the scene.

The characters, from royalty to bourgeoisie to servant, present a cross section of society at a particular place and time and their views on life, love and sex are explored in depth and with great compassion and humor. (The role of Madame Armfeldt is played by Australian music theatre icon, **Robyn Arthur**...Mrs Potts from *Beauty and the Beast* and Madame Thenardier from *Les Misérables*)

The score contains Sondheim's best-known song, *Send in the Clowns*, and such classics as *The Glamorous Life*, *You Must Meet My Wife*, *Every Day a Little Death*, *Liaisons*, *In Praise of Women*, *A Weekend in the Country* and *The Miller's Son*.

Directed by Martin Croft with musical direction by Vicky Jacobs, A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC is presented in conjunction with VCA Production and features fabulous costume, set and lighting design. This season will build on the highly successful seasons of *Company* and Eddie Perfect's *Up* (2006) and *Into the Woods* (2005).

VCA Music's popular **Music Theatre** course, established in 2003 has been a wonderful success with alumni working across the spectrum of the big shows and internationally. VCA Music Theatre offers the tools of the profession in the spirit of enquiry and adventure, and covers a diverse range of repertoire, styles and skills in a nurturing workshop environment. Students are instructed in the technical and artistic elements of Voice, Dance and Acting. The final weeks of each year are dedicated to the presentation of a full-scale music theatre production, working with a Director, Music Director, Choreographer and VCA Production. Music Theatre co-course coordinators are **Martin Croft** and **Margot Fenley**.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC:

Performance dates/times: Friday 16 and Saturday 17, Wednesday to Sunday 25 November at 7.30pm
 Sunday 18, Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November at 2pm

Cost: \$25/\$22

Venue: Studio 45, 45 Sturt Street, Southbank (next to the new Recital Building)

Bookings: www.magtix.com Enquiries: 03 9685 9405

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