

## Peter Cousens

Peter is the only Australian to play the Phantom in **The Phantom of the Opera** on London's West End which he did for eleven months in 1997/98. He has starred alongside Russel Crowe in **Blood Brothers**, the late Richard Harris in **Camelot** and has had an extensive career playing major roles in musicals throughout Australia and New Zealand. Peter also performs the role of Chris on the **International Symphonic Recording of Miss Saigon**.

His musical theatre roles include Tony in **West Side Story**; Eddie in **Blood Brothers**; Mordred in **Camelot**; Chris in **Miss Saigon**; Nanki Poo in **The Mikado**; Motel in **Fiddler on the Roof**; Eddie in **Blood Brothers**; Bill in **The Sentimental Bloke**; Raoul in the Australian production of **The Phantom Of The Opera**; The Phantom in London's West End production of **The Phantom of the Opera**; Alex in **Aspects of Love**; Marius in **Les Miserables**; Ravenal in Hal Prince's **Show Boat**; Marius in **Fanny**; The Celebrant in **Bernstein's Mass**; Anthony and Tobias in **Sweeney Todd**; Bobby in **Company**; Mr Makin in **The Hatpin**; Floyd in **Floyd Collins**; Bobby in **Company**; Vince in **Strange Bedfellows**

From 2006 to 2008 he was CEO and Artistic Director of **Kookaburra The National Musical Theatre Company** and produced two major concerts and fourteen cabaret events and seven musicals- **Pippin, Company, Tell Me on a Sunday, I Love You Your Perfect Now Change, Songs for a New World, The Emperor's New Clothes** and **Little Women**.

As an actor he has worked extensively with Australia's major performing arts companies-

Sydney Theatre Company productions of **Macbeth, Measure for Measure, Nicholas Nickleby, Chicago, Chinchilla** and **Convict's Opera** a co production with Max Stafford Clarke's acclaimed Out of Joint Company with which he toured England for four months in 2009.

For John Bell and Griffin in **The Falls**;

For Philip Street Theatre in **Whose Life is it Anyway?**

The Queensland Theatre Company in **Camille, Breaker Morant, You Never Can Tell** and **The Sentimental Bloke**

For Marian Street **London Assurance**

Melbourne Theatre Company in **Company**

Sydney Dance Company in **Tivoli**

Out of Joint (London) **The Convicts Opera**

On Television he was last seen on **McCloud's Daughters** and previously starring roles in **Return to Eden, The Sullivans, Carson's Law, The Young Doctors, Son and Daughters, The Timeless Land** and **Under Capricorn**

He has recorded five albums- **Corner Of The Sky, From A Distance, A Life on Earth, A Musical Christmas** and a children's album, **Are We Nearly There Yet** Peter also performs the role of Chris on the **International Symphonic Recording of Miss Saigon**

Peter won the **Variety Heart Award for Best Performer** for Chris in Miss Saigon

He has been nominated for seven **Mo Awards** and in 2009 he won the **Glug Award for Services to Theatre**

Peter was Visiting Fellow at the University of Wollongong where he devised and directed **Migratory V** and was **Artist in Residence** at Australian Institute of Music. (AIM)

Peter co produced and co directed with Guy Noble, a series of short films for **Ovation Television** on the lives of his fellow music theatre performers called **Break a Leg.**

Peter tours extensively around Australia with his own one man show -**A life on Earth** and works regularly in concert performing in Australia's major performing arts venues and Symphony Orchestras.

Peter teaches regularly and delivers Masterclasses on "Bringing a Song to Life" -details of which can be found at -

[http://www.petercousens.com/masterclass\\_peter\\_cousens.html](http://www.petercousens.com/masterclass_peter_cousens.html)

As Director of **Musical Theatre for Young People** Peter directed **Crusade** and is conducting workshops reconceiving a new musical based on the iconic Australian cartoon **Ginger Meggs** and in April 2011 completed directing the Musical **How to Succeed in Business** for The Central Queensland University Conservatorium of Music in Mackay.

Peter is an Ambassador for the White Ribbon Campaign- making violence against women a thing of the past.

Peter has a degree in Dramatic Art from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

www.petercousens.com

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