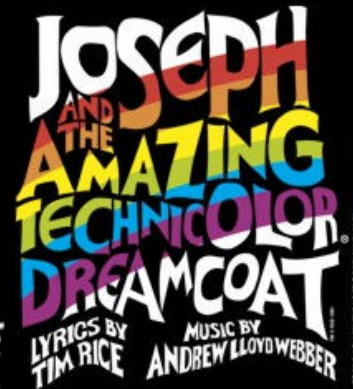




MEDIA RELEASE



JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT from August 19

With a crash of drums and a flash of light, Harvest Rain Theatre Company's sell-out production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* makes a triumphant return to the Playhouse stage! By overwhelming popular demand, this spectacular Swinging Sixties production features a massive cast of talented musical theatre performers, led by Queensland's most outstanding young singers **Angela Harding** as the Narrator and **Jordan Pollard** as Joseph. Directed by **Tim O'Connor**, this colourful retelling of the biblical story of Joseph, the boy with the dreams and the dazzling designer coat of many colours, sings out to young and old alike with a score full of wall to wall hits - including *Close Every Door* and *Any Dream Will Do*.

This all-new staging of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's family classic is ready to make its encore performance, with special guest star **Sandro Colarelli** appearing in a show-stopping turn as Pharaoh. Having toured last year as the title role in La Boite Theatre Company/Sydney Theatre Company's *The Narcissist* and this year with Queensland Theatre Company/Bell Shakespeare's *The Alchemist*, Sandro is one of Australia's leading professional actors and is no stranger to musical productions having recently starred in award-winning productions *The Lady of the House of Love* and *Tom Waits for No Man* for the Brisbane Festival. "JOSEPH was Harvest Rain's first musical at QPAC so it's really exciting to be bringing back this production due to popular demand after such a successful run in March," says director **Tim O'Connor**. "This production really established Angela and Jordan as major musical theatre talents, and of course it's terrific to have an artist of Sandro's calibre joining the cast."

The return season of **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** will be the third Harvest Rain Theatre Company production to be performed under their new residency at Queensland Performing Arts Centre. QPAC's Artistic Director **John Kotzas** says of the new partnership, "QPAC is committed to strengthening the Queensland performing arts sector and we're delighted to collaborate with Harvest Rain in developing opportunities for local artists and producing new theatre works. It is our hope that this relationship will see the creation of some great theatre over the coming years."

Audiences will need to go-go-go and book tickets now for this high-energy, all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza, as the first season sold out in a few short weeks. [This toe-tapping musical treat hits the stage for a limited number of performances at the Playhouse Theatre, QPAC from August 19.](#)

DIRECTOR **Tim O'Connor**
DESIGNER **Josh McIntosh**

CHOREOGRAPHER **Callum Mansfield**
MUSIC DIRECTOR **Maitlohn Drew**

STARRING
FEATURING

Angela Harding and **Jordan Pollard** with special guest star **Sandro Collarelli**
Grant Buse, George Canham, Grant Couchman, Andrea Dighton, Alex Feifers, Justin Geange, Matthew Godbold, Anna Hall, Jo Heath, Cameron Hurry, Conrad Lange, Sarah McCreanor, Jared Mifsud, Natalie O'Connor, Tom O'Reilly, Claire Owen, Michael Priest, Jasmine Raftery, Tye Shepherd, Kimmy Smith, Tyson Stuetz, Eleni Symeou, Justin Truloff and Kimie Tsukakoshi

SEASON
SHOW TIMES
TICKETS

From 19th August 2009 at Playhouse Theatre, QPAC
Tues at 6.30pm / Weds to Sat at 8pm / Sat matinee at 2pm / Sun at 1pm and 6.30pm
www.harvestrain.com.au or QTIX 136 246

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact Harvest Rain Theatre Company's Publicist, Naomi Price on (07) 3103 7438 or 0414 236979 or naomi@harvestrain.com.au

What the critics have said:

Sue Gough of [The Courier Mail](#) says "It was an astute move of QPAC director, John Kotzas, to invite the Harvest Rain Theatre Company to move in to the Centre. If you want proof, you only had to be at the opening night of JOSEPH. I've never seen an audience receive a show with such open-hearted enthusiasm. Harvest Rain seems to have an uncanny intuition for what people want.....**Angela Cornford** does a mighty job with a voice that rises acrobatically to the occasion when needed. **Michael Falzon's** guest appearance brought the house down. **Jordan Pollard** steers an even course and sings up a storm."

Adam Brunet of [Britzix.com](#) says "...the creative team behind Harvest Rain's latest blockbuster deserve only the highest accolades for this incredibly spectacular production. Director **Tim O'Connor** is the undisputed king of musical theatre in Queensland....Time after time he demonstrates an extraordinary ability to turn even the most meagre, dated scripts into theatrical magic, and this is exactly what he achieves with JOSEPH.....For this production, O'Connor has assembled his usual troupe of local creatives. **Josh McIntosh's** 1960s Beatles-esque design provides a refreshing spin on the classic tale and is supported beautifully by **Jason Glenwright's** brassy Broadway lighting design. The signature choreography from Brisbane's favourite dancer **Callum Mansfield** is flashy (if not ever-so-slightly camp!) and the musical direction by **Maitlohn Drew** is first class.....In a career-capping performance as the Narrator, **Angela Cornford** once again confirms herself as one of Queensland's leading ladies of musical theatre. Her performance is completely unaffected, and the switch between gentle school teacher and sexy showgirl is effortless. But without question, the night belongs to **Jordan Pollard**. In the title role, 18-year-old Pollard is a revelation. He breezes over Lloyd Webber's complex score and raises the roof with his extraordinary voice. His performance of the infamous Close Every Door is heartbreaking, and casts an eerie stillness over the enchanted audience. You will not find another vocalist who can sing this song better than he can. It would be an absolute crime not to mention the remarkable work of the JOSEPH band under the musical direction of **Maitlohn Drew**. In the same way that the show has been revitalised by director O'Connor, minor modifications by Drew to Lloyd Webber's classic score produce an entirely new, epic sound which is executed flawlessly by the 12-piece onstage band.....This is undoubtedly one of the most ambitious productions to be staged at QPAC's Playhouse in recent times, and all members of the cast and creative team are very deserving of the opening night standing ovation."

Katherine Lyall-Watson of [ourbrisbane.com](#) says "Harvest Rain were on to a winner when they decided to stage JOSEPH at QPAC. Opening night played to a packed house and a much younger audience than you'd normally see in the Playhouse Theatre. There were groups of school age kids and lots of people in their early 20s – exactly the demographic theatres are trying to encourage. And they loved the show, giving the performers a screaming, standing ovation at the end.....**Jordan Pollard** plays our squeaky clean hero....he has a beautiful and powerful voice. Jordan is just 18 and is an incredible talent to watch out for. **Angela Cornford** was the Narrator and, in my book, she had by far the most difficult role. Fortunately she sings like an angel and she was able to carry the story through all its convolutions as she kept the audience up to speed with what was happening, introduced characters and commented on the action. **Michael Falzon** is the show's special guest star and he makes a fabulous Elvis – oops, Pharaoh! His pelvic gyrations were something to behold and were greatly enhanced by his fabulous costume....But the highlight of the night for me was the dancing. **Callum Mansfield** has done a brilliant job with the choreography and the ensemble cast handled the pace, changes, complex steps and go-go dancing with aplomb. This is a new look Joseph with a lot more dancing and a real sixties feel. And with 88 performers on stage (by my count) it's no wonder the energy is high voltage."

Eric Scott of [Absolutetheatre.com](#) says "This is a show that only a company like Harvest Rain could do - it's big, bold, exuberant and noisy with fantastic vocals, dance, music and characters. A vital part of a show like this is the ensemble, and on opening night it was the tops. No-one flagged for a moment. **Callum Mansfield** did an amazing job with the choreography. He deserves a medal for pulling the entire cast into shape. Eighteen-year-old **Jordan Pollard**, with his hair combed in 60s fashion was a Donny Osmond look-a-like but he has a great voice! **Angela Cornford** had the vital job of the narrator and she fitted the role like a glove. She was dressed in sexy gowns and looked gorgeous. **Michael Falzon** guested as Pharaoh and, we wondered before the show started: Would he do Elvis? And he did. His Pharaoh was a hip swinging Pelvis thrusting, Presley in bejewelled jump suit who brought the house down as he sang. Grab a ticket if you can find one!"

Jason Whittaker of [Australian Stage Online](#) says "Brisbane's Harvest Rain Theatre Company has sold out its spacious new venue, QPAC's Playhouse, for the full run of JOSEPH. Few are likely to be disappointed. A company that aims to make theatre accessible has injected the pop back into JOSEPH.....this is a toe-tapping, sing-along Joseph mega-mix in the gaudy, cracked-smiles tradition of high school Rock Eisteddfod.....Harvest Rain Artistic Director **Tim O'Connor** and Choreographer **Callum Mansfield** take it up a notch with a frenetic all-singing, all-dancing explosion of sequins and back flips.....The giddy enthusiasm is infectious and had the first-night crowd out of their seats for a finale that just about blew the speakers.....**Jordan Pollard** is irresistibly charming as Joseph. His trained voice rises above the massive choir to barely crack with nerves. The technical coat fits like a glove. As the chameleon Narrator, Harvest Rain regular **Angela Cornford** brings the pouting sex appeal with a versatile and stunning set of pipes that, like her legs, just don't quit."