

12 February, 2008

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
WICKED
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

PRESENTED BY **ANZ**

**Rob Guest, Rob Mills,
Anthony Callea and
Maggie Kirkpatrick
have won Principal roles in
WICKED The Untold Story
of the Witches of Oz.**

The casting of the four, the culmination of the most exhaustive auditions in Australian theatre history, was announced in Melbourne today by **WICKED**'s Co-Producer in Australia, John Frost.

At the same time ANZ Group Managing Director, Personal Division, Mr Brian Hartzler, announced that ANZ would be the Presenting Sponsor. The sponsorship, worth \$1 million, is the biggest of its type ever in Australia. Mr Hartzler said that from today ANZ customers would be able to purchase tickets before counter bookings went on sale to the general public on 25 February.

'This is a terrific day in what will be, I'm sure, the very, very long history of **WICKED** in Australia,' John Frost said. 'I'm thrilled that the New York creative team who conducted the auditions with me have chosen *Australian Idol*'s standouts stars - Rob Mills and Anthony Callea - both now firmly in the front ranks of our entertainers.

'Rob Guest is one of Australian music theatre's most popular and enduring performers - he played the Phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera* for a record seven years in Australia and New Zealand.

'And Maggie Kirkpatrick is one of our best loved stars. As The Freak in *Prisoner*, she remains a legendary, cult figure to television audiences internationally, but Maggie is also a renowned stage performer.

'Each of the four will bring their own, unique star qualities to **WICKED**. And of course the \$1 million sponsorship involvement of ANZ is a powerful endorsement of the show.'

WICKED The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz has its Australian premiere at Melbourne's Regent Theatre on 12 July. Rehearsals begin in Melbourne on 12 May.

The smash-hit musical with (music and lyrics) by Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, Academy Award-winner for *Pocahontas* and *The Prince of Egypt*) and book by Winnie Holzman ('My So Called Life,' 'Once And Again' and 'thirtysomething') is Produced by Marc Platt, Universal Pictures, The Araca Group, Jon B Platt and David Stone.

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THE BROADWAY MUSICAL **WICKED** THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

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WICKED The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz, tells how, long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. Unlikely friends, they grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch. John Frost announced the casting of Amanda Harrison as Elphaba, the 'Wicked Witch' and Lucy Durack as Glinda, the 'Good Witch' on stage of Broadway's Gershwin Theatre last week. And today, at Melbourne's Plaza Ballroom, he introduced four more of the eight Principals.

Rob Guest is the *Wizard of Oz*, an engaging, sweet character with powerful presence.

Rob Mills is *Fiyero*, the prince, a very handsome and wealthy party boy.

Anthony Callea is *Boq*, a quirky munchkin enamoured with Glinda, who pays him no mind.

And **Maggie Kirkpatrick** is *Madame Morrible*. Headmistress of Shiz University, Madame Morrible is dignified, powerful and haughty – with a dark side.

WICKED opened at the Gershwin Theatre in October 2003, regularly grosses more than \$US 1.4 million a week and is already, says the *New York Times*, 'one of the most successful shows in Broadway history.' More than five million have seen the show in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and on tour in North America and combined box office sales top \$US 700 million in North America alone.

The Washington Post called **WICKED**, 'A breathtaking success story of a magnitude that North America has not witnessed since the peak years of *The Phantom of the Opera*.' In England it had the highest weekly gross in West End history, and in Tokyo and Stuttgart it again set new box office records. Amsterdam and Melbourne have their premieres this year.

Counter bookings open on 25 February Ticketek: 1300 795 012
www.wickedthemusical.com.au

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