



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director – **Garrick Smith**

Musical Director – **Rose Shorney**

Choreographer – **Jacquelyn Richards**

Production Manager – **Jenny Wookey**

Costumes – **Suzan Cooper**

Stage Manager – **Susie Walsh**

WINNER! Best Revival of a Musical - 2010 Tony® Awards!

WINNER! Outstanding Revival of a Musical - 2010 Outer Critics Circle Award

WINNER! Outstanding Revival of a Musical - 2010 Drama Desk Award

WINNER! Best Revival of a Musical - 2004 Tony® Awards!

WINNER! Best Musical - 1984 Tony® Awards!

Brief Synopsis

La Cage aux Folles began life as a stage play in 1973 and was then adapted into a wildly popular French film premiering in 1978, a wickedly funny musical farce about two gay men, Georges and Albin, who have had a relationship for over 20 years. They own a glamorous nightclub in St. Tropez where one is the star and the other the MC.

When Georges' son, the product of a one-night stand years ago, brings home the daughter of a very conservative French politician and announces their impending marriage, slapstick comedy ensues as everyone tries to pretend they are someone or something they are not.

The stuffy politician, his wife and the innocent young couple who just want to get married provide an hilarious storyline and Georges and Albin define the best of friendship and love that only gets stronger through the years.

In many ways, this is an old-fashioned musical about old-fashioned family values.....with a twist!

In 1996, the original film was remade....as *The Birdcage*, starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane.

"This is Jerry Herman's best musical yet--happier, more assertive, more buoyant than *Hello Dolly!* or *Mame*." - *The New York Post*

"The schmalziest, most old fashioned major musical since *Annie*. Highly enjoyable." - *The New York Times*

"Carry your maiden aunt off to *La Cage aux Folles*...It's a family show, a glittering, fast stepping extravaganza."-*New York Daily News*

BEFORE “*The BIRDCAGE*” there was

LA CAGE aux FOLLES



Character Breakdown

PLEASE NOTE: All ages are *STAGE* ages and are only approximate. EVERYONE sings and dances – not everyone has to dance in heels!

GEORGES - a star; the heart of the show; mature and attractive (40 to 60); good singer; energetic, loving and caring; must move well. Singing range: Baritone/tenor

ALBIN - a performer of star quality who becomes the fabulous Zaza onstage at the nightclub; mature (40 to 60); great powerhouse of a Broadway voice; fine comic actor; and can move in heels! Singing range: Baritone

JEAN-MICHEL - must appear to be 24 years old; handsome; brunette; masculine, well-mannered, educated; desperately in love with his fiancée, Anne; must act, sing, and move well. Singing range: Tenor (top A flat)

JACOB – Sometimes the butler, sometimes the maid! Here is a role of great comic timing, personality and zest. The wackiest role in the show. Must move well in heels. Age from 20 to 35. Singing range: Tenor (top A flat)

ANNE – Age 18 to 21; Jean-Michel's fiancée; lovely to look at; spunky; a superb dancer who acts well. Singing range: Soprano

EDOUARD DINDON - Anne's father; right-wing radical politician; pompous; quirky; must sing, move well, and be a fine comedian with excellent timing. Age from 45 to 60. Singing range: Baritone

MARIE DINDON - Anne's mother; Age 40 to 60, Starts out shy, retiring, sexually repressed and sex-starved and softens and changes dramatically by the end of the show; great singer and actress who moves well; must look great in a leotard for the finale. Age 45 to 60. Singing range: Soprano

JACQUELINE – mature (age from 40 to whatever), female friend of Georges and Albin; owns a chic restaurant; attractive, charming; VERY theatrical. Singing range: Alto

RENAUD – mature (40 to 60); male friend of Georges and Albin; owns a small seaside cafe; good mover and singer. Singing range: Baritone

Mme RENAUD – mature (40 to 60); wife of Renaud. Good mover and singer. Singing range: Mezzo

FRANCIS – fussy male stage manager in Georges' club; good comic timing; strong actor/dancer. Age 20 to 40.

LES CAGELLES – These are the 8 fabulous showgirls at La Cage aux Folles. They are the most accomplished female impersonators in France. They all have different names, a different look and all must sing and dance – IN HEELS! The costumes and wigs for these characters are stunning! This is the opportunity of a lifetime to play the most glamorous characters ever. We will be casting men **AND** women as Cagelles. This adds to the “are they or aren't they?” mystery.

CHANTAL of Avignon – stunning “soprano” voice; (*MUST be able to sing falsetto*)! She's a bit of a diva!

HANNA from Hamburg – a leather-wearing dominatrix; brandishes a whip....and an attitude!

PHAEDRA the Enigma – she's tall, she's gorgeous; she has a wild tongue! Not the brightest in the pack - “lights on but nobody home”.

MERCEDES – she thinks SHE should be the star; and let's everyone know it; in her other life, she is a married man!

DERMAH – wistful and innocent (well, as innocent as a Cagelle can be!)



CLO-CLO – exotic and mysterious; a raven-haired beauty.

MONIQUE - a Cagelle with a surprise twist! He is really a she....playing a he playing a she! Confused?

ANGELIQUE – a Cagelle with a surprise twist! He is really a she.... playing a he playing a she! Confused?

TABARRO – a fisherman; also plays the Waiter in “The Best of Times”. Age 25 to 50.



Song List

Act 1

1. We Are What We Are *Les Cagelles*
2. A Little More Mascara.....*Albin & Friends*
3. With Anne on My Arm.....*Jean-Michel*
4. With You on My Arm..... *Georges & Albin*
5. Song on the Sand..... *Georges*
6. La Cage aux Folles.....*Albin & Les Cagelles*
7. I Am What I Am *Albin*

Act 2

8. Song on the Sand (Reprise)..... *Georges & Albin*
9. Masculinity..... *Georges, Albin & Townspeople*
10. Look Over There..... *Georges*
11. Cocktail Counterpoint *Georges, Dindon, Mme, Dindon & Jacob*
12. The Best of Times *Albin, Jacqueline & Patrons*
13. Look Over There (Reprise).....*Jean-Michel*
14. Grand Finale.....*The Company*



Detailed Synopsis

Act I

Georges, the master of ceremonies, welcomes the audience to his St. Tropez drag nightclub, "La Cage aux Folles". The chorus line known as Les Cagelles appears and introduce themselves to the audience ("*We Are What We Are*"). Georges and his "wife", Albin, have lived happily together for many years in an apartment above La Cage with their "maid" Jacob. Albin is a drag queen and the star performer of La Cage aux Folles under the alias of "Zaza".

As Albin prepares to perform ("*[A Little More] Mascara*"), Georges' 24-year-old son Jean-Michel (the offspring of a confused, youthful liaison with a woman named Sybil) arrives home with the news that he is engaged to Anne Dindon. Georges is reluctant to approve of Jean-Michel's engagement, but Jean-Michel assures his father that he is in love with Anne ("*With Anne on My Arm*"). Unfortunately, her father is head of the "Tradition, Family and Morality Party", whose stated goal is to close the local drag clubs.

Anne's parents want to meet their daughter's future in-laws. Jean-Michel has lied to his fiancée, describing Georges as a retired diplomat. Jean-Michel pleads with Georges to tell Albin to absent himself (and his flamboyant behaviours) for the visit - and for Georges to redecorate the apartment in a more subdued fashion. Jean-Michel also asks Georges to invite Sybil, who has barely seen him since his birth, to dinner in Albin's stead. Albin returns from the show to greet his son when Georges suggests that they take a walk ("*With You on My Arm*").

Georges takes Albin to the Promenade Café, owned by Monsieur and Madame Renaud, where he attempts to soften Albin's emotions before telling him of Jean-Michel's request ("*Song on the Sand*"). Before Georges can break the news to him, Albin suggests that they hurry back to La Cage to make it in time for the next show. They arrive in time and Albin takes the stage once more as Zaza ("*La Cage aux Folles*").

While Albin is performing, Georges and Jean-Michel quickly redecorate the house. While Albin is changing for his next number, he notices the two carrying his gowns and demands to know what is going on. Georges finally tells Albin of Jean-Michel's plan and expects Albin to explode with fury, but he remains silent.

Albin then re-joins Les Cagelles onstage, tells them to leave, and begins to sing alone in defiance of Jean-Michel, stating that he is proud of who he is and refuses to change for anyone ("*I Am What I Am*"). He throws his wig at Georges and storms out of the club.

Act II

The next morning, Georges finds Albin at the Promenade Café after his abrupt departure and apologizes ("*Song on the Sand [Reprise]*"). He then suggests to Albin that he dress up for dinner as macho "Uncle Al". Albin is still upset, but reluctantly agrees to act like a heterosexual for Jean-Michel. With the help of Monsieur and Madame Renaud, Georges successfully teaches Albin to abandon his flamboyancy ("*Masculinity*").

Back at the chastely redesigned apartment, Georges shows "Uncle Al" to Jean-Michel. Jean-Michel doesn't like the idea and expresses his dislike for Albin's lifestyle. Georges angrily reminds Jean-Michel of how good of a "mother" Albin has been to him ("*Look Over There*"). They then receive a telegram that Jean-Michel's mother Sybil is not coming and Anne's parents arrive ("*Dishes [Cocktail Counterpoint]*").

Hoping to save the day, Albin appears as Jean-Michel's buxom, forty-year-old mother, in pearls and sensible shoes. The nervous Jacob burns the dinner, so a trip to a local restaurant, "Chez Jacqueline", belonging to an old friend of Albin and Georges, is quickly arranged. No one has told Jacqueline of the situation, and she asks Albin (as Zaza) for a



song, to which he hesitantly agrees ("*The Best of Times*"). Everyone in the restaurant begins to take part in the song, causing Albin to yield to the frenzy of performance and tear off his wig at the song's climax, revealing his true identity.

Back at the apartment, the Dindons plead with their daughter to abandon her fiancé, for they are appalled by his homosexual parents, but she is in love with Jean-Michel and refuses to leave him. Jean-Michel, deeply ashamed of the way he has treated Albin, asks his forgiveness ("*Look Over There [Reprise]*"), which is lovingly granted.

The Dindons prepare to depart, but their way is blocked by Jacqueline, who has arrived with the press, ready to photograph the notorious anti-homosexual activists with Zaza. Georges and Albin have a proposal: If Anne and Jean-Michel may marry, Georges will help the Dindons escape through La Cage downstairs.

Georges bids the audience farewell while Les Cagelles prepare the Dindons for the grand finale ("*La Cage aux Folles [Reprise]*"). Georges then introduces the Dindons, dressed in drag as members of the nightclub's revue, and they escape the paparazzi with Jean-Michel and Anne behind them. With everyone gone, Albin enters and he and Georges briefly sing of their love for each other before walking off arm-in-arm into the St. Tropez sunrise ("*Finale [With You On My Arm/La Cage aux Folles/Song on the Sand/The Best Of Times]*").



Audition Requirements

Auditions will be held on:

- Saturday 17 May from 10am – Cook Community Hub
- Sunday 18 May from 10am; **Dance Audition** – 3pm – 4pm (General cast); 4pm – 5pm (Les Cagelles ONLY) – Cook Community Hub
- Monday 19 May from 7pm – Cook Community Hub
- Wednesday 21 May from 7pm – Callbacks – Cook Community Hub

Production Dates:

- VENUE: ANU Arts Centre, Union Court, Australian National University
- Media Call – Wednesday 12 November, 11am (cast to be available from 9am – makeup takes time!)
- Preview – Friday 14 November, 8pm (reduced ticket prices)
- Gala Premiere – Saturday 15 November, 8pm
- Week 2 – Wednesday 19 – Saturday 22 November, 8pm; Matinee 2pm, 22 Nov
- Week 3 – Tuesday 26 – Saturday 29 November, 8pm; Matinee 2pm, 29 Nov

Rehearsals

- MEET & GREET – Saturday 28 June, 1pm
- **Les Cagelles** commence rehearsals – Monday 21 July (you need time to get used to dancing in your heels!)
- **General cast** commence rehearsals – Monday 25 August
- Rehearsal days are Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays
- Cast will be called to rehearsals as required – a rehearsal schedule will be in place, but may be subject to change – apologies in advance for any inconvenience.
- Clash dates MAY influence the casting.

Rehearsals Venue(s)

- The Cook Community Hub, Templeton St, Cook (Mondays, Wednesdays)
- Belconnen Labor Club – Whitlam Room (downstairs) – Sundays

Audition Times

- Bookings for Auditions open Saturday 3 May – 9am
- Timeslots will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
- **ALL** cast **MUST** attend a **SEPARATE** dance audition – Sunday 18th May @ 3pm for General Cast; 4pm for Les Cagelles (Cagelles to wear shorts and/or tights to their dance audition)
- Some auditionees will be required to attend a callback on Wednesday 21 May from 7:30pm. If you do not get a callback it does NOT mean you aren't in the show – we just don't need to see you again.



Audition Requirements

- Auditions will be held in groups of up to 6 auditionees within a 1 hour timeslot. Each auditionee will sing solo, but act with the group.
- You will audition in front of a panel consisting of the Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, Production Manager and a person from the Supa committee.
- Minimum age: auditionees must be at least **16** at the time of the audition.
- All potential auditionees **MUST** complete an AUDITION FORM and return it to Supa (available online at www.supaproductionsinc.com) **BEFORE** the audition day. This is to allow for the form to be copied for each member of the audition panel.
- Please indicate ALL the roles for which you wish to be considered. But be aware of the age and vocal requirements – be *realistic* about your choice(s).
- Please arrive at the audition TWENTY MINUTES before your scheduled time to allow time for a photograph and to warm up sufficiently.
- Please wear comfortable clothing that is APPROPRIATE for movement (no wrap arounds, no loose tops). Wear SENSIBLE shoes for dancing. Les Cagelles do NOT have to wear high heels.
- Les Cagelles - the dance requires very confident movement and a good sense of rhythm. Stage experience is beneficial (but not essential). Dancing training (including tap) is an advantage (but not essential). And boys, if you can already walk in heels, that's an advantage (but not essential - that's what rehearsals are for).
- Please bring with you the audition readings (available online at www.supaproductionsinc.com).
- Please bring your sheet music with you for a song of your choice that BEST SHOWS OFF your vocal strengths. But this show does NOT have any opera, so don't bring an aria! Best to choose a song that is the same STYLE as songs from La Cage. Time is limited so just sing the "best part" of the song – usually one verse and one chorus.
- Bring sheet music in the key you wish to sing (NO transposing on the fly). PLEASE bring your music in a folder with plastic sleeves for ease of page turning for the musical director. Sheets held together with a staple is NOT acceptable.
- You MAY be required for callbacks on WEDNESDAY 21 May so please keep this date free.
- For those auditioning for the following roles, you MAY need to sing the song(s) listed at audition and DEFINITELY at callbacks. Sheet music is available for download at www.supaproductionsinc.com.
 - Georges – "Look Over There"; "Cocktail Counterpoint"
 - Albin – "I Am What I Am"; "The Best of Times"
 - Jean-Michel – "With Anne On My Arm"
 - Jacob – "Cocktail Counterpoint"
 - Marie – "Cocktail Counterpoint"
 - Dindon – "Cocktail Counterpoint"
 - Jacqueline – "The Best of Times"
 - Les Cagelles – "We Are What We Are"