



KEATING!

THE MUSICAL WE HAD TO HAVE

Music and lyrics by Casey Bennetto

Presented by Kore Productions
in association with Bella Union Productions
by arrangement with David Spicer

CAST

Paul Keating

John Howard/Chorus

Bob Hawke/Chorus

John Hewson/Alexander Downer

Gareth Evans

Cheryl Kernot/Chorus

Gough Whitlam/Chorus

Antony Green/Chorus

Andrew Jackson

Ryan O'Donnell

Jordan Shea

Toby Rosengarten

Peter Hoekstra-Bass

Caillin McKay

William Nelson

Jonty Davies-Conyngham

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer

Director

Music Director

Assistant Producer

Lighting Designer/Stage Manager

Kyle Stephens

Amy Lester

Alvin Mak

Liam Kinney

Samara Kinney

BAND

Repetiteur / Keyboard / SFX

Electric Guitar

Acoustic Guitar

Bass Guitar

Percussion

Saxophone

Roman Benedict

Adam Disney

Lily Chen

Josh Richards

Poppy Burnett

Alvin Mak

MEET THE CAST!



Andrew Jackson
Paul Keating

Andrew is a recent graduate from Macquarie University. After taking on main roles in productions of 'The Gondoliers', 'The Producers', 'Singin' in the Rain' and 'Cabaret', Andrew is extremely excited to have the opportunity to play the lead in 'Keating!' And to have an excuse to wear suits again...



Ryan O'Donnell
John Howard/
Chorus

Ryan is a 3rd year UTS student, studying Media Arts and Production. He has performed in roles including The Beast ('Beauty and the Beast'), Scarecrow ('The Wiz'), Ralph Rackstraw ('HMS Pinafore'), General Harrison Howell ('Kiss Me Kate'), and many more. He has enjoyed walking in Little Johnnie's shoes immensely.



Jordan Shea
Bob Hawke/Chorus

Jordan is a BA (Theatre & Politics) student at Notre Dame AU. He has appeared in 'Back to the 80's', 'Annie', 'Les Miserables', 'Seussical', 'Memor Min', 'Imaginary Creatures', 'As You Like It' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. He will next perform in 'Anything Goes' and 'Assassins'.



Toby Rosengarten
John Hewson/
Alexander Downer

Toby recently completed a Bachelor of Socio-Legal Studies at Sydney University. He has appeared in 'The Sound of Music' (Rolf) with Waverley Lugar Brae Players, 'The Mikado' (chorus), 'Cabaret' (chorus) and 'Kiss Me Kate' (Gangster 1) with the Sydney University Musical Theatre Ensemble. He is excited to appear in 'Keating!'



Peter Hoekstra-Bass
Gareth Evans

Peter is an Arts student at the University of Sydney. Most of his stage experience comes from the Sydney University Musical Theatre Ensemble, appearing as Herr Schultz ('Cabaret'), the Narrator/Mysterious Man ('Into the Woods') and Harry Trevor/Baptista Minola ('Kiss Me Kate')



Caillin McKay
Cheryl Kernot/
Chorus

Caillin is a physics major at the University of Sydney, and is training to be an acrobat. He occasionally does musicals on the side, having performed in 'Kiss Me Kate' and soon to be rehearsing for a production of 'Patience'. He thinks the 'Keating!' cast are sounding pretty damn fantastic.



William Nelson
Gough Whitlam/Chorus

William is a 2nd year student at Sydney University studying Liberal Arts and Sciences. This will be his 12th musical in 8 years. He has played Rodger De Bris in 'The Producers', General Harrison Howell in 'Kiss Me Kate' and Captain Corcoran in 'HMS Pinafore'. He has enjoyed working on 'Keating!'.



Jonty Davies-Conyngham
Antony Green/Chorus

Jonty is a Year 10 student at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. He has appeared in 'Bugs The Musical' and 'The Chapel Perilous' in choirs and other chorus sections through NHSPA, and is very excited to be expanding his musical and theatrical adventures.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

My Right Hand Man

Do It In Style

I Remember Kirribilli

It's Time

Ruler Of The Land

The Beginning Is The End

On The Floor/ I Wanna Do You Slowly

Antony Green

Sweet

Hawke

Keating and Company

Keating

Keating and Hawke

Keating and Company

Evans, Keating and Whitlam

Hewson, Keating and Company

Green

Keating and Company

Arse End Of The Earth

Freaky

Heavens, Mister Evans

Redfern/Ma(m)bo

Power

The Mateship

Choose Me

Light On The Hill

Historical Revisionism

Evans, Keating and Company

Downer and Keating

Evans and Kernot

Keating and Company

Howard

Howard and Company

Keating and Howard

Keating

Green, Keating and Company



“BUT I DON’T UNDERSTAND POLITICS!” - THE SYNOPSIS OF ‘KEATING!’

(NB: This is a synopsis of the show, packed with creative license from both Writer Casey Bennetto and Director Amy Lester - not an accurate representation of the events that inspired it)

The year is 1990. The All-Australian and eternally optimistic Bob Hawke has been Australia’s Prime Minister for seven years, making him (at the time) Australia’s second-longest serving Prime Minister. His stylish, silver-tongued Treasurer and “Right Hand Man” Paul Keating is the antidote to Bob - he’ll choose Zegna suits and Mahler symphonies over Bob’s beer and sport any day (“Do It In Style”). In a meeting two years previous, Hawke had promised to hand the leadership over to Keating, but he breaks the deal, believing that Keating would be an unpopular candidate for the leadership. Keating challenges Hawke, and loses (“I Remember Kirribilli”). Convinced that he is more in touch with the people and would be a better leader, Keating challenges Hawke again, and is this time successful (“It’s Time”).

Keating’s early days as Prime Minister are packed with ambition, energy and enthusiasm. He includes on his agenda making Australia a republic, increasing ties with Asia, and the introduction of a treaty with Indigenous Australians (“Ruler Of The Land”). However, he is warned in a dream by Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans and Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam to be conscious of the fact that his days are numbered, and of the dangers of too much ambition (“The Beginning Is The End”).

The economic recession that has clouded the Labor government thus far is targeted by Opposition Leader John Hewson, who proposes a tax of 15% on all goods and services as part of a scheme to ‘Fightback!’ against recession (“On The Floor”). Keating asserts his knowledge of what the people want and need, to which Hewson suggests that Keating call an election. Keating replies, “I Wanna Do You Slowly”. The ‘93 election takes place (“Antony Green”), and Keating wins what was considered an ‘unwinnable’ election for the party. He rejoices, delivering his infamous ‘true believers’ speech (“Sweet”).

When we return, all is not well in the Labor party. Keating struggles to concentrate on the day-to-day, menial tasks of the Prime Ministership that stand in the way of him achieving his larger goals of a Republic and stronger ties with the Indigenous community (“Arse End Of The Earth”). Luckily for the Labor party, Liberal leader Alexander Downer is embroiled in a series of gaffes that keep labor steadily ahead in the polls (“Freaky”). Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans falls madly in love with Democrat Cheryl Kernot, and the two share an illicit affair frowned upon by their parties - and also, their spouses (“Heavens, Mister Evans”).

Things begin to look up for the Keating government as Paul delivers the “Redfern” speech - one which would come to be regarded as one of the greatest in Australian political history. The introduction of Native Title via the High Court’s Mabo decision sees Keating’s objective of a better relationship with the Indigenous community begin to look like a reality (“Ma[m]bo”).

However, things turn sour for the Labor government as Liberal finds a new leader in John Howard. Unpopular in school, Howard is determined to take the leadership to assert himself and prove his critics wrong (“Power”). Howard proves to be a chameleon, adapting his look and personality to appease all facets of the Australian public, and declaring himself ‘An Aussie bloke’ (“The Mateship”). Howard’s popularity soars, as Australia appears tired of the Keating government and hopeful at the prospect of the comfort and consistency of a Liberal government (“Choose Me”). After a final showdown between the pair, Keating resigns himself to the impending loss of the ‘96 election, and accepts that his fate is no different to that of any Prime Minister - he, like his predecessors, must succumb to the whim of the Australian public (“Light On The Hill”).

The final election result is left up to you, the audience - now it’s time to sit back, enjoy the show, and decide who you think should be the “Ruler Of The Land”!

FROM THE PRODUCTION TEAM...

I hadn't seen 'Keating!' when Kyle first asked me to direct it, but on watching it, was charmed by its wit, catchy tunes, and quintessentially Australian sense of humour - not to mention, all the men in suits! My goal in directing a youth amateur production of Keating! was to bring it to a newer, younger audience - I myself was four when Keating left office, and our youngest cast member hadn't yet been born. To achieve this I've given the chorus a bigger role, including some dance sequences, to ensure the show is a visual feast as well as a lyrical one. Ultimately, though, I have aimed to preserve the honesty and modest simplicity that gave 'Keating!' its integrity, through keeping the set and the costumes basic, and letting the talent of our cast take centre stage.



Amy Lester
Director

The support of those who believed in 'Keating!' has been invaluable to helping me realise my vision. Kyle and Liam, your boundless enthusiasm and optimism have been the driving force behind 'Keating!' - you are never afraid to push yourselves and aim for the stars. Alvin, your professionalism has been an asset to the show. You have grounded us and shared your years of wisdom to help us get the most out of the experience - I've learnt so much from you. Samara, your support for the practicalities and logistics of the show has truly held it together. You're always there with cake, a hug, and a solution for every problem. Ylaria and Chloe, it has been a privilege to work with both of you. You've both got a knack for taking a singular theme or idea and turning it into dance steps, or taking a dull moment in my staging and making it shine. 'Keating!' would not be the show it is without you. To everyone who has helped us out in any way, I am indebted to you for seeing something special in this show and giving it your time.

Last but not least, our incredible cast. Each and every one of you astonished me at auditions with your suitability for your role, and have continued to do so with your professionalism, commitment, humour, and talent. You have inspired me to stay involved and energised, and I have loved every minute of working with you. Thank you for the experience, and I hope we can do it again soon.

To the holder of this program - thanks for coming, and enjoy the show! Let's go back to 1990 - it's not so far away...

When I said to people I wanted to do 'Keating! the Musical' as the first showcase for Kore Productions, people told me, "That's a bit ambitious!". This gave me the perfect reason to have Keating! as our goal for 2012. Although the rehearsal process was slow to begin with, the rehearsals ran more smoothly over time; and when the cast and musicians combined for the first time, both the cast and the entire production team felt much more confident about the final product. It has been a fantastic experience for me to work on 'Keating!' and I look forward to producing many more great shows in the years to come.



Kyle Stephens
Producer

A special shout out goes out to Liam, who not only took on the often-forgotten role of co-producer, but also managed the entire budget for show. I would like to thank the entire production team, especially Amy, Alvin and Samara. I would also like to thank my family for supporting me through this whole process. I hereby extend my thanks to the amazing cast, musicians and crew for their tireless efforts for polishing the show to what you are about to see tonight.

..... and now it's time for the musical we had to have.

Keating! is a musical which follows Paul Keating's ascent to the leadership through to his eventual electoral defeat by John Howard. Written by Casey Bennetto and described as "ridiculously pro-Paul Keating", the musical highlights Paul Keating's political career through humorous and satirical musical numbers.

Originally performed by musical group the Drowsy Drivers, the show achieved rapid success at the 2005 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Reworked into a two-act piece for Company B in 2006, with six new songs added by Bennetto, the revised musical enjoyed sold-out seasons as it toured Australia.

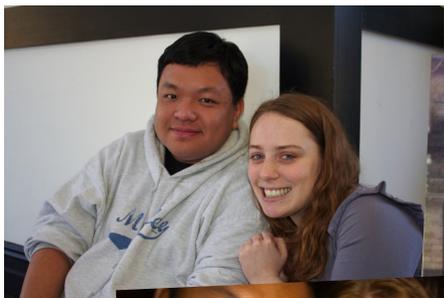
Keating! features mellifluous melodies and counterpoints, intertwined with witty lyrics drawn from the real Keating and other political figures. The musical numbers of Keating! spans a variety of musical styles, including bossa nova, blues, rap, reggae, soul, swing and beer-barrel waltz; adding to the complexity of the musical.

It has been a fantastic journey putting together all musical aspects of the show, albeit a challenging one. I would like to thank everyone involved for making this such an enjoyable experience. To the courageous cast and the magnificent musicians who took on such a complex musical, you are all truly amazing. A huge thank you goes to the entire production team, but especially to Amy for her amazing artistic direction and Kyle for his keen kooky ideas. It has been a pleasure working with you all, and I look forward to working with you in upcoming productions.

Without further ado, it is with my greatest pleasure as musical director to present to you Kore Productions' inaugural production of 'Keating!'



Alvin Mak
Music Director



SPECIAL THANKS

David Spicer and Bella Union Productions

Ylaria Rogers

Chloe Paul

Roman Benedict

Jordan, Michael and Agnes Shea

Eddie Mak

Liam Beiglari

Julian Keledjian

Siobhan O'Hanlon

Cameron Jane Makeup Design

King Street Theatre

The Sydney University Musical Theatre Ensemble

SURCAS

Smithy's

James Worner

The Hon. Michael D. Kirby AC CMG

Sidetrack Theatre