

Gproductions
presents

HEATHERS

The Musical

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Kevin Murphy &
Laurence O'Keefe

Based on the film written by
Daniel Waters

Oct 26th – Nov 3rd

St Martins Theatre

28 St Martins Lane,
South Yarra VIC 3141

Tickets:

Full \$38 Concession \$35

Group Booking (5 people) \$35/person

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GJ Productions

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HEATHERS

The Musical

Directed by

JACK WILKINSON

with

Musical Direction by

PETER VERHAGEN

Gproductions

Co-Founders
Grace Maddern & Jack Wilkinson



Welcome to
Heathers: The Musical!

What a journey it has been! We began really not knowing what we were going to be producing at St Martins Theatre this October, but thankfully found our first big musical to mount in Heathers: The Musical. It is such an amazing show for our company to produce because it perfectly aligns with how we love to make theatre!

Kevin Murphy & Laurence O'Keefe explain in the Authors' Notes in the script their intention was to focus on the primal themes conveyed through musical expression, instead of on huge flashy sets and effects. We love this kind of theatre, and Jack has done a beautiful job of directing the show in this vein. So, when you head into the Irene Mitchell Studio tonight, expect to find a black box stage, a few important props, classic costumes (inspired directly from the film!) and an explosion of phenomenal music!

And making the music come to life, we have Peter Verhagen as Musical Director. This is our first time working with an additional member of the GJ Productions team and we could not be more thrilled to have Peter on board! He has been a fantastic and integral part of the heart of this production, we can't thank him enough for all he has done for us and we can't wait to work with him more in the future!

Another part of our amazing team is this incredible cast you're about to see. We are truly touched to see how they have bonded over the last few months and how much of themselves they've given to the process. You'll see some absolutely incredible work from them tonight! Thank you all so much, you can't imagine how much your hard work and commitment to the show and GJ Productions has meant to us.

We have so many people to thank – to Bronwyn Vandali for helping with some of the more tailored costume pieces, to Shane Grant, our venue manager here at St Martins Theatre, who has been so helpful across the whole process, to Kim Ransley at Origin Theatrical for a very smooth licencing process, to the lighting and sound companies that very generously supported us with equipment, to Christine Maddern for her enthusiastic support with front of house and marketing, and to all of our family and friends who continue to encourage us to grow GJ Productions and to keep pursuing our dreams!

We thank you for attending tonight's performance
and we hope you enjoy the show!

CHARACTERS

Veronica Sawyer.....	Antoinette Davis
Jason 'J.D' Dean	Jack Michel
Heather Chandler	Grace Maddern
Heather Duke.....	Madeline Pratt
Heather McNamara.....	Morgan Dooley-Axup
Martha Dunnstock.....	Elyse Batson
Kurt Kelly	Dean Robinson
Ram Sweeney	Matthew Bertram
Ms Fleming / Veronica's Mom / Student.....	Alexandra Knight
Kurt's Dad / Big Bud Dean / Coach Ripper.....	Peter Levey
Ram's Dad / Veronica's Dad / Principal Gowan.....	Houston Dunleavy
Student	Tess Branchflower
Student / Officer McCord.....	Edu Herrera
Student / Officer Milner.....	Timothy Ian McMullin
Student.....	Edward Seiffert
Student.....	Tess Walsh

SYNOPSIS

September 1st, 1989.
Sherwood, Ohio.

Welcome to Westerberg High School, ruled by the cruellest girls in all of Ohio, the Heathers. When Veronica Sawyer finds her way into this powerful clique, things start to look BEAUTIFUL! But before she can settle into popularity, Veronica falls in love with the strange and mysterious new guy in town, J.D., and is kicked out of the group by Heather Chandler, the Almighty. To save herself from becoming an "ex-somebody", Veronica must bite the bullet and kiss Heather's aerobicized ass... however, J.D. has another plan for that bullet.

Director's Notes

When Grace and I first discussed what we wanted to do for our next production, a lot of ideas were thrown around. We knew we wanted to do a musical, but trying to choose the right musical for us as both individuals and as a company was quite the undertaking. After a few weeks, lots of chats and listening to a lot of musicals, we finally landed on Heathers, and I have to say... We definitely made the correct decision!

It has been such an incredible experience working on this production. The dialogue, lyrics and music all work so well together and really hold true to what the original film was about; teenagers figuring out who they are in a chaotic and often cruel world known as high school. There is so much in the text to read into and make discoveries about the characters, and working with the cast on fleshing out each of their very different and relatable characters has been a blast.

On top of an awesome script and cast, it has been an absolute pleasure to bring Peter Verhagen into our company as our Musical Director. Both Grace and myself were quite apprehensive about bringing another person into our process, but we could not have asked for a more dedicated and professional human to work with. When you hear our cast sing and our band rock out, you will understand only a fraction of the hard work that Peter has invested into this production and we cannot be thankful enough for that.

Now, for those of you reading this who may have seen a production or two of Heathers in the past, you may notice a few choices that are a little different to the norm. I decided that, as a director, I wanted to find something new in the show, even if it was just small changes to the interpretation of characters. I don't want to spoil anything for you, but hopefully you pick up on a thing or two. Just make sure you're watching carefully.

To those who are coming to Heathers with fresh eyes, you're in for a treat. Dark and gritty, goofy and funny, heartfelt and heartbreaking, Heathers really is a musical that will have your emotions more confused than a teenager going through puberty!



So please, settle in with some Jiffy Pop, grab some corn nuts, and prepare yourself for the journey that is 'Heathers: The Musical'.

Jack Wilkinson

ACT I

Beautiful.....	Cast
Candy Store.....	Heathers
Fight For Me	Veronica, Student & Faculty
Freeze Your Brain	J.D
Big Fun	Ram, Kurt, Veronica, Heathers, Martha & Students
Dead Girl Walking.....	Veronica & J.D
The Me Inside of Me	Heather Chandler & Cast
Blue.....	Kurt, Ram, Heather Duke & Heather McNamara
Our Love is God	J.D & Veronica

ACT II

My Dead Gay Son	Cast
Seventeen	Veronica & J.D
Shine A Light.....	Ms Fleming, Student & Faculty
Lifeboat.....	Heather McNamara
Shine A Light (Reprise)	Heather Duke & Students
Kindergarten Boyfriend.....	Martha
Yo Girl	Heather Chandler, Ram & Kurt & Dead Students
Meant to Be Yours	J.D & Students
Dead Girl Walking Reprise.....	Veronica, Students & Faculty
Seventeen (Finale)	Cast

PRODUCTION TEAM



Jack Wilkinson
DIRECTOR

'Heathers: The Musical' will be Jack's second foray into directing for musical theatre, having previously directed Essendon Keilor College's 'The Wedding Singer' (2015). Jack has also directed both of GJ Productions Shakespeare seasons, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (2017) and 'Twelfth Night' (2018). Heathers will also be Jack's first time as lighting designer for musical theatre, having previously designed for several Fringe Festival Shows, including the award winning 'Have You Tried Yoga?'. This production has been an absolute pleasure for Jack, helping him grow as a director with the help of an incredibly talented and dedicated cast.

Peter Verhagen
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Peter is a Melbourne-based producer, music director, technician, and designer, graduating Melbourne Polytechnic in 2017. Peter's credits include Be More Chill (Artistic Director/Producer/Music Director - Lightbox Productions), Chicago (Music Director - Phoenix Theatre Company), Camp Rock (Director/Producer/Music Director - YouthARK Theatre), and now Heathers, with many other technical production and performance credits. Peter would like to thank GJ Productions and the cast and crew of Heathers for the opportunity to work on such a high quality production.



Grace Maddern
PRODUCER / CHOREOGRAPHER

Grace has successfully produced all four of GJ Productions' shows since its inception in 2015. These include The Last Five Years, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night and Creatures of the Night Cabaret (Melbourne Fringe). Grace also recently was Assistant Director for Rachel Edmond's award winning show Have You Tried Yoga?

As a Choreographer, Grace's credits include Women Beware Women, Orpheus Descending, and A Jovial Crew (Federation University Arts Academy), The Wedding Singer and Beauty and the Beast Jr. (Playback Productions), All Shook Up and The Wedding Singer (Essendon Keilor College) and Tying the Knot (Seven Point Eight Productions). Grace's years of dance training was with Bev Palmer Performing Arts and then during her years at the Federation University Arts Academy, whilst

completing her Bachelor in Acting. Grace is incredibly proud of Jack, Peter and the whole cast on an amazing process of what is surely be a fantastic production of Heathers: The Musical.



CAST



Elyse Batson

Originally from Adelaide, Elyse moved to Melbourne in 2014 to study musical theatre full time at APO Arts Academy. During this time she performed as a backing vocalist at the Melbourne United Half Time Show and previously performed with Paramore at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. She has also trained at NIDA open in Melbourne. Previous credits include We Will Rock You (Killer Queen U/S, ensemble - Centrestage), Rent (Ensemble - WMTC), Forbidden Broadway (Player - Playback Productions), Phantom of the Opera (Carlotta U/S, ensemble - MBM) Fiddler on the Roof (Fruma-Sarah, U/S Hodel - OPUS), Pirates of Penzance (Isabel - NLTC). Elyse is very excited to be working with GJ Productions in one of her favourite shows.

Matthew Bertram

Matt is a Melbourne based actor and graduated from the National Theatre Drama School in 2016. Matt's credits include: A Room With A View (George - SOOT), By The End Of The Year (Bernd/Walter - BYTE), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Flute - GJ Productions). This is Matt's first supporting role in a musical and is thrilled to have to opportunity.



Tess Branchflower

Tess is a Federation University (Musical Theatre) graduate from 2015. Her most recent credits include Tinkerbell and The Dream Fairies (Peaseblossom - The Australian Shakespeare Company), Paris: A Rock Odyssey (Chorus - Musical Theatre Melbourne) and My Friend Ana (self-devised cabaret - The Butterfly Club). She will also go on to tackle the role of Huckleberry Finn in a musical adaption of Mark Twain's famous book this November/December at Chapel Off Chapel.

Instagram: @tessbranchy

Antoinette Davis

Originally from Melbourne, Antoinette's love for storytelling led her to pursue Musical Theatre, studying at both Showfit (Centrestage Performing Arts School) under Scott Johnson and Mathew Frank, and Federation University's Arts Academy, graduating in 2017. Her credits include new Australian work Showtrain (Bear – Federation University), Bye Bye Birdie (Rosie Alvarez – Federation University), RENT (Maureen Johnson – Federation University) and Sweeney Todd (Ensemble/violinist – Federation University). Antoinette also wrote her own solo cabaret Ain't Nobody's Business; A Tribute to the Night, to successful Ballarat and Melbourne seasons. This is Antoinette's first show since university and she is grateful to have shared this experience with such a talented cast and crew.





Morgan Dooley-Axup

Morgan, age 21, has been a part of the performing arts since a young age and has since graduated from Federation University Arts Academy in 2018 with a degree in Music Theatre. Her credits include Sweeney Todd (Beggar Woman - Federation University), RENT (Joanne - Federation University) and most recently Oops! (Molly - 9 Owl Productions) as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. It has been a delight to bring one of her dream roles from page to stage and hopes to continue developing theatre for years to come.

Instagram: @morgandooleyaxup

Houston Dunleavy

Houston has had an international career as a composer, conductor, actor, singer and academic. His theatre credits include The Tempest (Prospero); The Death of Albatross (Vince); The Merry Wives of Windsor (Ford) and opera roles such as Trial By Jury (Defendant); The Pirates of Penzance (Frederick) and Medea (The Soldier). His music is performed and broadcast internationally, he has conducted over 50 operas and musical theatre works, he runs a vocal coaching and teaching studio, and has headed music departments at The University of Wollongong and The Australian Institute of Music. Currently, he is Academic Director at The Australian Guild of Music Education.

houstondunleavy.com



Edu Herrera

Edu is a Brazilian singer and actor with credits including Shrek - The Musical (Shrek - Hebraica Productions), Beauty and The Beast (Cogsworth - BRZ Productions), Jesus Christ Superstar (Simon/Annas - TeenBroadway Productions) to mention a few. He worked for 4 years as a singing-waiter for a restaurant which had a Broadway themed show. At the same time, he got experience as a musical director's assistant and translator for a musical theatre school. He was also part of an acapella group called Aklave. Edu would like to thank GJ Productions for this incredible opportunity and his family and friends for all their support.

Facebook: @Edu.Herr

Instagram: @Duherrera



Peter Levey

Peter made his stage debut in 2005 in Anything Goes (NOVA). Since then he has appeared in a wide variety of shows with NOVA, Babirra, SLAMS, MDMS & Lumina. Favourite shows include The Sentimental Bloke (Mr. Smithers - Babirra 2009), Carousel (Heavenly Friend - Babirra 2013), Grease (Vince Fontaine - NOVA 2015), Fame (Mr. Myers - Lumina 2016), Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (Sid - Babirra 2017), West Side Story (Doc - Lumina 2017) and Guys & Dolls (Lt. Brannigan - NOVA 2018). Peter is delighted to be appearing in his debut performance with GJ Productions in Heathers – The Musical.





Alexandra Knight

Alexandra Knight is a Melbourne based actor who has trained and worked internationally. Alexandra has trained with Federation University Arts Academy, Second City Hollywood and NIDA. Her credits include Universal Studios Singapore (Marilyn Monroe & various other roles), Parade (Luther Rosser – Federation University), Little Shop of Horrors (Ensemble – OPTC). Alexandra would like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive of her choice of career and always believing in her (she's sorry she's spent so long away from home!). Thank you to GJ Productions for giving me a chance to be a part of this show.

www.alexandrahknight.com

Instagram: [@alexandrahknight](https://www.instagram.com/alexandrahknight)

Grace Maddern

Grace is a Melbourne based, actor, producer and choreographer and graduated from Federation University Arts Academy in 2013. Grace's credits include The Last Five Years (Cathy Hiatt - GJ Productions), The Wedding Singer (Holly - Playback Productions), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Helena - GJ Productions) and Twelfth Night (Olivia - GJ Productions). Grace would like to thank her family and friends for all their continuous love and encouragement, and would like to send all her love to Jack, for whom she is so proud to call her partner in love and business.

www.gracemaddern.com.au

Facebook: [@gracejmaddern](https://www.facebook.com/gracejmaddern)

Instagram: [@gracejmaddern](https://www.instagram.com/gracejmaddern)



Timothy Ian McMullin

Timothy Ian grew up in Melbourne from a performing arts family and that brought him to Ballarat's Arts Academy in 2015. Since graduating in 2017 he's performed in As You Like It (Orlando - The Bard in Buninyong) and Holy Cow! (Costello - Bloomsday in Melbourne). Heathers: The Musical is Timothy's second meeting with GJ Productions having previously relished every second of his role in their production of Twelfth Night playing Malvolio. He's currently working further on his own show iMillennial which previously was performed in Ballarat in 2017.

Jack Michel

Jack Michel is an actor based in Melbourne, Australia. He completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts, majoring in Performance at the University of Wollongong in 2012. He has performed with multiple theatre companies in both plays and music theatre, along with multiple rock bands. Stand out roles include "Roger" in the musical Rent and "Leading Player" in Pippin. In 2017, Jack played the leading role of Alex in the independent feature film "Cerulean Blue", directed by Adrian Ortega, set for a 2019 release. Jack is currently studying Perdekamp Emotional Method at PEM Studios Australia and is represented by Helen Pandos Management.

Instagram: [@jack.c.michel](https://www.instagram.com/jack.c.michel)





Madeline Pratt

After years of extensive dance training, Madeline moved to Ballarat for her studies in Music Theatre at Federation University; graduating November 2017. Her University credits include Showtrain (Mr White/Dance Captain), Bye Bye Birdie (Gloria Rasputin/Ensemble), Rent (Maureen) at the Athenaeum Theatre, Dance Wankery (a self-devised cabaret) and Sweeney Todd (Ensemble/Choreography). Other credits include; The Tempest (Queens of Sprites/MC/Choreographer - The Bard in Buninyong), Twelfth Night (Maria - GJ Productions), Drowsy Chaperone (Choreographer - UMMTA) and recently finished Legally Blonde (Choreographer/Assistant Director - Lumina Theatre Co.)

and Transience (Attitude Dance Company). Madeline has loved working with GJ Productions again and hopes you enjoy the show!

Instagram: @madeline.pratt

Dean Robinson

Dean is a Melbourne-based Actor, Producer, Choreographer and Writer. Dean graduated from ShowFit in 2016. Dean's Performing credits include The Date (Justin/ Producer/ Writer - Melbourne Fringe, The Butterfly Club), DRAGGED (Simon - La Mama, Midsummer 2018), A Chorus Line (Mark - CLOC Music Theatre), The Helendale Nude Footy Calendar (Heath - Kissing Booth, Midsumma 2017) and GOLD (Lenny - Showfit). Dean Choreographed Wicked, Godspell and Guys and Dolls (Nova Music Theatre). Dean has also worked as a Production Assistant, Assistant Stage Manager and Marketing Assistant on In The Heights, Titanic and Nine the Musical (StageArt). Dean is excited to have a Big Fun time!

Facebook: @deanwrobinson

Instagram: @deanwrobinson



Edward Seiffert

Eddie is in his first year of university, studying a Bachelor of Film, TV, and Animation. He started training to be an actor at a young age for both the screen and the theatre, having achieved his first role on Rove Live, and in the Nicholas Cage film, "The Knowing" at the age of nine. Through his training at Screen Actors Australia, he has received mentoring from many professional figures such as Kate Gorman, and through his high school years, he held leading roles in musicals. The pursuit of acting is one of his highest priorities, believing that the skill is the best way to enhance one's interpersonal skills and empathy for others.



Tess Walsh

Tess is a Melbourne based actor and director, who graduated in 2016 from Federation University Arts Academy with a BA in Music Theatre. Tess' credits include The Addams Family Musical (Wednesday- FedUni), Tinkerbell and the Dream Fairies (Peaseblossom- ASC) and No More Silence (Wordsmith Theatre Company). Tess is looking forward to performing in the premiere production of Huckleberry: The Adventure Musical later this year at Chapel Off Chapel. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support.

Instagram: @tesselizabethx



BAND

KeyboardJayla McLennan
BassOliver Ryan
Guitar.....Cody Leggett
PercussionMatt Di Nardo
Trumpet.....Sean Smyth
ViolinAimee Nguyen
Reeds.....Alison Shuttleworth

CREDITS

Grace Maddern
Producer / Choreographer

Jack Wilkinson
Director / Lighting Design

Peter Verhagen
Musical Director

Sound Technician
Elizabeth Munro

Christine Maddern
Front of House Manager

Matthew Howat
Photography

Special Thanks to...

Bronwyn Vandali
for costume assistance

Shane Grant
at St Martins Youth Arts Centre

**ST
MARTINS
YOUTH
ARTS
CENTRE**

Kim Ransley
at Origin Theatrical



Ashley Reeves
at Starlite Productions



Tom Willis
at Tom Willis Lighting Design



Peter Verhagen
at Lightbox Productions



Martin Bowman
at Clearlight Productions



Chris Hughes & Rob Clarke
at Theatrepeople



Myles Baron
at Snap Printing Heidelberg



print design websites

Nathan Fernandez
for casting assistance

Gproductions
presents

Romeo
&
Juliet

**COMING THIS
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Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield



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Have an idea for a show?

A script you'd like produced?

GJ Productions are looking for new,
innovative works to produce!

Email **gj.productions@outlook.com**

Send through your script or an email
outlining your concept for a show and
we'll get back to you!

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