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MU Student Union presents the Union House Theatre production of

SWEENEY TODD

THE
DEMON
BARBER
OF FLEET
STREET

10-18 September 2010
Union Theatre

Directed by Tom Gutteridge
Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Hugh Wheeler
From an adaptation by Christopher Bond
By arrangement with Hal Leonard
Australia Pty Ltd



Director's Note

Sweeney Todd is a complex and demanding musical with particular design problems such as sending bodies down chutes and quick shifts of location that tend to lead to expensive and occasionally clumsy solutions. We made the decision to make a virtue of our limited resources and this has led us down a particular and peculiar theatrical alleyway. We are not amplifying the singers, partly because we couldn't afford to do it well and partly because I think that the drama of Sweeney Todd benefits from the immediacy and intimacy of hearing the direct (and strenuous!) efforts of the performers. We have built the stage right out into the middle of the audience, not only to help with vocal potency, but even more because we want to implicate and enlist the audience in our bloody and gleeful escapade. There are other design and performance choices, as you will see as the show unfolds, which also grew from our desire to make a virtue of a rough, improvised, story-telling approach to the production. I hope you enjoy our take on Sweeney and finish up as impressed as I am at the energy, talent and inventiveness of the students who are performing, musically directing, designing and operating this huge, unruly beast.

Tom Gutteridge

Artistic Director

Union House Theatre



Photo: Shayen Vikk Wong

Ensemble

Scott Dunsdon
Amy Dyke
Ella Francis
Camilla Gorman
Stephanie John

Shyamini Naidu
Benjamin Riley
Nathan Trevitt
Isobel Yates

Musicians

Morna Hu
Justina Lul
Anthony Cardamone
Suzanne Zhou
James Hodson
Stephen Spencer
Jonathan Tosio

repetiteur/keyboard
violin
french horn
clarinet
trumpet
double bass
cello

Special Thanks

Peter Bailey, Iona Bernina, Evie Bicos, Scott Campbell, Stephanie Chudiak, Functions@Melbourne, Louise Hall, Alex Hammond, Joshua Hart, Jarrod Hughes, Anneliese Klotz, Jan Leishman, Kelly Manning, Qawe Mbalu, Bhavani Nadarajah, Bradley Redmond, St. Monica's College, Trinity College, Peter Turley and the Union House Theatre casuals.

Union House Theatre

'An engine room of student arts in Australia', Union House Theatre has helped nurture generations of playwrights, directors, performers and technicians. Union House Theatre engages students in a wide range of professionally-led performing arts experiences, as well as assisting with student-run productions and initiatives.

Cultural Services Manager: Josephine Byrt

Artistic Director: Tom Gutteridge

Theatre Admin & Development Officer: Erin Adams

Production Manager: Gus Macdonald

Head Technician: Clynton Jones

Stage Carpenter/Mechanist: Simon Smith

Production Team

Director	Tom Gutteridge
Musical Director	Lucy O'Brien
Set and Costume Designers	Joanna Butler, Stephan Moravski
Lighting Designer	Tom Willis
Puppets and Props Designer	Sarah Iacono
Scenic Artist	Kim Ritchie
Musical Mentor	Mark Jones
Design Mentor	Richard Roberts
Puppetry Consultant	Annie Forbes
Directing Secondment	Alice Dawes
Props/Costume Construction	Emily Adinolfi, Jacqueline Gilchrist
Puppet Construction	Alice Dawes, Amy Dyke, Ella Francis, David Haidon, Sarah Iacono, Stephanie John Maggie Webb
Make Up Design	Lucy Mann
Make Up Assistant	Gus Macdonald
Production Manager	Jo Leishman
Stage Manager	Clynton Jones
Head Technician	Simon Smith
Carpenter/Mechanist	David Haidon
Deputy Stage Manager	Cameron McCormick
Lighting Operator	Chris Heath, Nick Liley, Bradley Redmond, Tim Smith, Suze Smith, Rita Verrocchi, Erin Adams
Bump-in Crew	Josephine Byrt
Promotion and Marketing	Hannah Pelka-Caven
Producer	Shayen Vikk Wong
Front of House Manager	Angus Johnstone
Photographer	
Videographer	

Cast

Raphael Wong	Sweeney Todd
Kimberley Colman	Mrs. Nellie Lovett
Adam Lyon	Tobias Ragg
Josh Burton	Anthony Hope
Kate Amos	Johanna Barker
Nelson Gardner	Judge Turpin
Nicholas Jones	Beadle Bamford
Matilda Dixon-Smith	Beggar Woman
Emma Leaver	Adolfo Pirelli



Sondheim's Sweeney Todd

The legend of Sweeney Todd, a London barber whose clients wound up in his neighbour's meat pies has its origins in the 'penny dreadful' novels of the Victorian era. Some frisson kept this tale alive well into the twentieth century in various incarnations. Perhaps it is the unavoidable vulnerability of a man having his face and throat shaved with a cut throat razor. Anyway, Sondheim encountered the story in Christopher Bond's 1973 non-musical stage adaptation and immediately saw its potential. His version opened on Broadway in March 1979, directed by Harold Prince with Angela Lansbury as the enterprising pie-shop owner, Mrs Lovett and Len Cariou as Sweeney. The production won 8 Tony Awards and since then Sweeney Todd has seen many revivals around the world. The musical's combination of theatricality and its Grand Guignol delight in horror and madness have a particular appeal that keeps on attracting new generations of performers and directors. Union House Theatre's new version will continue this long, bloody but exhilarating tradition.

'What distinguishes Sweeney Todd from simple Victorian dramaturgy is its deliberate theatricality, its desire not just to scare us, but to invest the horror with irony. 19th century realism assumed its audience was naive and innocent: post-Brechtian theater presumes its audience is theatrically knowing and socially guilty.'

— Howard Kissel about the original Broadway production

Sweeney Todd

Scene Breakdown and songs

ACT I

Prelude

Ballad of Sweeney Todd

Scene 1 - *London Docks*

No Place Like London

Scene 3 - *Mrs Lovett's Pie Shop*

Worst Pies In London

Poor Thing

My Friends

Scene 4 - *Judge Turpin's House*

Green Finch & Linnet Bird

Ah, Miss

Johanna

Scene 5 - *St Dunstan's Marketplace*

Pirelli's Miracle Elixir

Pirelli's Entrance/Contest

Ballad of Sweeney Todd

Scene 6 - *Judge Turpin's House*

Johanna

Scene 7 - *Sweeney Todd's Tonsorial Parlour*

Wait

Pirelli's Death

Ballad of Sweeney Todd

Scene 8 - *The Court. Then London's streets and Judge Turpin's House*

Kiss Me

Ladies In Their Sensitivities

Scene 9 - *Sweeney Todd's Tonsorial Parlour*

Pretty Women

Epiphany

A Little Priest

Interval - 15 mins

Food and drink are available for purchase at the Theatre Bar

ACT II

Scene 1 – *Mrs Lovett's Pie Shop*

God, That's Good!

Scene 2 - *Sweeney Todd's Tonsorial Parlour and surrounding streets*

Johanna

Scene 3 – *Outside Fogg's Asylum*

Scene 4 – *Mrs Lovett's Parlour*

By the Sea

Wigmaker Sequence

The Ballad of Sweeney Todd

The Letter

Scene 5 – *Mrs Lovett's Pie Shop then The Bakehouse*

Not While I'm Around

Scene 6 – *Mrs Lovett's Parlour*

Parlour Songs

Scene 7 – *Fogg's Asylum and surrounding streets*

The Ballad of Sweeney Todd

City On Fire

Scene 8 – *Sweeney Todd's Tonsorial Parlour*

Searching

Pretty Women – Part II

My Friends - reprise

Scene 9 – *The Bakehouse*

Final Scene

Epilogue

The Ballad of Sweeney Todd