

# Smoky & Herb

By Leader Entertainment  
(in association with QPAC)



Set: Smoky & Herb, shot at QPAC October 2015. Credit: Shane Caddaye

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## COMPANY PROFILE

### Leader Entertainment

Formed in 2002 to stage the Australian premiere season of Broadway musical "LEADER OF THE PACK - The Ellie Greenwich Musical" at Star City (Sydney) and later at Crown Casino (Melbourne), Leader Entertainment has produced numerous live concert and special events in NSW and throughout Queensland.

Leader Entertainment produced the TV documentary "TODAY on the Variety Bash" in 2006 (seen nationally on the Nine Network) and works closely with a number of large corporate organisations to stage private theatrical conferences and events.

Leader Entertainment Director/Principal Glenn T was a close and personal friend of the late Smoky Dawson and produced the memorial concert following Smoky's passing in 2008. He has since penned "The Final Chapter" as an update to Smoky's autobiography (set for re-release in 2016) and was subsequently compelled to bring Smoky's life and personal history to the stage for the first time, writing *Smoky & Herb*.

## ABOUT THE SHOW

### SHOW SYNOPSIS

SMOKY DAWSON was, in the days before television, the country's first singing cowboy and the biggest star on Australian radio. However few know the stories of the man beneath the Stetson hat – until now.

*"I'm not Smoky" he once said, "I'm just little old Herb! That's Smoky there in the chair..."* he continued, pointing to the Stetson and cowboy boots in the corner.

This is not a tribute show – it's a contemporary drama, in which theatre-goers are invited into a typical suburban living room for a personal audience with an Aussie show business icon - a poet, artist, philanthropist and country music legend – and, for the first time, they will get to meet the man behind the household name.

The audience will laugh at his anecdotes and be drawn into the heart-breaking stories of a brave little boy who grew into a great man - despite the odds being set against him from the start. They will be buoyed by the long standing love affair he enjoyed with his wife Dot, and will no doubt shed a tear when the ageing cowboy remembers his equine companion of 35 years - his pony, "Flash".

As the early audiences said: "Every Australian should see this show!"

Smoky & Herb

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Herbert "Smoky" Dawson	Ian Stenlake
Writer/Director	Glenn T
Marketing	Lance Smith AM
Publicity	Dianna O'Neill Publicity
Music Director	Wesley Taylor, Q Records
Hair & Make up Design	Vicki Sands
Lighting Design	Greg Yates
Sound Design	Wesley Taylor, Q Records
Technical Operator	Andrew Knight
Production Design	Glenn T
Photography	Shane Caddaye
Merchandising Stills	Geordie McRae, Aussie Shots
Videography	Damien Hussey & Dean Mayer, Iron Forge
Graphic Design	Marney Atkins-Smith, Inspired Creative Solutions
Costume (Boots)	Maverick Western Wear
Kids on the Street performers	Molly Orpwood & Levi Koppes ( <i>video content</i> ).

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Glenn T - Writer/Director



With over thirty years professional experience in the entertainment industry, Glenn is an accomplished character actor and set designer, a published writer and between 1998 and 2003 became one of Australia's most popular on-screen television renovators.

In 2003 Glenn formed Leader Entertainment and staged the highly acclaimed production of the Broadway hit, *Leader of the Pack – The Ellie Greenwich Musical*. He co-produced and designed the show having completed extensive re-writes of the script to make it more appealing to an Australian audience. "Leader" played a twice-extended season at the Star City Showroom in Sydney before moving to Melbourne to open the new Palms Showroom at Crown.

Glenn and co-producer Lance Smith created and staged the 2CH Carols in the Caves concert series; for some 12 years they staged musical theatre productions, tribute concerts, charity performances and special events in Jenolan Caves and around Australia.

Glenn was, for five years, one of the regular on-camera designers on the Nine Network's *Changing Rooms* and the *Renovation Rescue Series*. In his capacity as National Ambassador for *Variety: The Children's Charity* Glenn fronted regular live crosses to the *TODAY Show* and in 2006 produced and hosted a one-hour documentary on the story of Variety. Glenn has worked behind the television cameras on shows such as *Sons and Daughters*, *A Country Practice*, *Sounds* and *The Mike Walsh Show*. As well as dozens of TV commercials over the years, he spent 3 years as Art Director of *Home and Away* and was Production Designer for the Network Ten drama *Breakers* (1996-1998); *Playing is Straight* (2004-2005) for Fox Television and the Seven Network and for three series of *Camp Orange* for the Nickelodeon Channel.

Since relocating to Queensland in 2011, Glenn has headed the Costume Art team for the USE mega TV series *Terra Nova*, the Channel 10 dramas *Reef Doctors* and *Mako: Island of Secrets* (season 1) and most recently worked within the Costume Art teams on the feature films *San Andreas* and *Pirates of the Caribbean 5*. Glenn was the Art Director for the feature film *Absolute Deception* (2012) starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and in 2014 was an Assistant Producer on season two of *Mako: Island of Secrets* for Jonathan M Shiff Productions and Network 10.

Ian Stenlake as Herbert "Smoky" Dawson\*



Ian Stenlake is one of the most sought after performers in Australian film, television and theatre.

His television credits include the lead roles of Mike Flynn in *Sea Patrol*, Oscar Stone in *Stingers* as well as James in *Children's Hospital* and a guest role in successful ABC series *Dance Academy 2*.

Ian's film credits include the lead roles of Anthony in *Dingles Down Under*, John in *Diana & Me*, starring opposite Toni Collette, Tug Medic in *Trapped in Space* as well as a role in *The Godfather III*.

Ian has starred in many successful theatrical musicals including the character of Skye Masterson in *Guys & Dolls*, *The School of Arts*, Sid in *The Pyjama Game*, Curly in *Oklahoma*, Cliff in *Cabaret*, Hatter in *Charters Towers*, Peter Lalor in *Eureka*, as well as roles in *Songs for a New World*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Music Hall* and *Angry Housewives*.

In 2013 Ian reprised the role of Curly in Harvest Rain Theatre Company's production *Oklahoma!* before starring again in Harvest Rain's production of *Guys & Dolls* in 2014. Later that year Ian starred in Darlinghurst Theatre Company's production of *Daylight Saving* and most recently he starred in a Hayes Theatre Company production of *Truth, Beauty & A Picture of You*. His theatre work also includes Prince Charming in the Malthouse Theatre's production of *Sleeping Beauty*, the Narrator in *Carnival of the Animals*, Carton and Darney in *A Tale of Two Cities*, Grey and Pistol in *Henry V*, Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet*, Paris and Prince in *Romeo & Juliet* and the production of *Walkabout*. His most recent theatre credit is the Griffin Theatre production *Caress/ache*.

In 2010, Ian played the title role in *Jack* for Baby Proms as well as performing for Late Night Lounge, both initiatives of Sydney Opera House. He performs regularly with Rachael Beck in concerts such as QPAC's *Twelve Acts of Cabaret* and *More Than Words* at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Canberra Symphony Orchestra's *Hollywood Hits*, QLD Pops Orchestra's *On Broadway*, *Broadway Hits* for Queensland Pops Orchestra (QPAC), *Goodnight Hamer Hall* for The Arts Centre, Victoria, and solo performances for the 2012 Premiere's Seniors Week Gala Concert. He also continues to tour and perform with the highly successful group *The Leading Men*.

Ian has won many awards throughout his career. He is a two time Green Room Awards Winner for Best Male Artist in a Leading Role in 2004 (for the production *They're Playing Our Song*) and again in 2006. He also received three Green Room nominations for Best Male Actor in a Musical for *Oklahoma!*, *Cabaret* and *Eureka*.

Ian has been a regular guest on Network Ten's GMA as a vocalist as well as a guest on many other live television shows such as Carols by Candlelight. Ian also has extensive experience headlining corporate events and performed as a member of the group Bravo.

\*Note: Ian Stenlake has been attached to this project since 2015 however future casting will depend on lead time to confirm availability.

## PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

### DURATION

Act 1 – 55 minutes

Interval – 20 minutes

Act 2 – 45 minutes

### SUITABLE VENUES

The production is suitable for pros arch, town hall, flat floor or black box venues.

### MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

8 x performances

### MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

90 minutes

### LICENCING AGREEMENTS

All music use has been negotiated directly with the publishers:

- The Days of Old Khancoban, Kids on the Street, Ridin', My Favourite Country Song, Good Time Radio, My Wonderful Four-Legged Friend, The Homestead of my Dreams, Where the Waterlilies Grow used with permission of **ORiGiN Music**.
- Good Time Radio also used with permission of **Arthur & Berice Blanch**.
- Ridin', The Last of the Kellys and I'm A Happy Go Luck Cowhand used with permission of **EMI**
- Allans, Jindawarrabell used with permission of **Southern Music**.

### TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 4 people:

Name	Role
Glenn T	Production/Stage Manager
Ian Stenlake	Cast
Andrew Knight	Technical Operator
TBC	Driver/Mech

### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2012	Arts Centre Gold Coast	(reading) 1
2013	City Recital Hall Angel Place	(reading) 1
2015	Cremorne Theatre, QPAC	1



## AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

### OVERVIEW

The production has the full support and endorsement of the Smoky Dawson Foundation - their support extends to providing grants for local young artists (of all artforms) to realise their creative ambitions and goals as well as organising other opportunities for these artists (e.g. mentorship sessions with artists and foundation ambassadors) in the communities where the production is staged.

### DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

An example of the support offered by the Foundation in support of seasons of Smoky & Herb include:

In 2015 the Foundation provided a \$2,000 grant for young singer/songwriters. Finalists for the grant were also recognised with mentorship and career guidance sessions with leading industry professionals:

1. Sabrina Durante whose ambitions include attending WAAPA spent an afternoon with Foundation ambassador and writer/director Glenn T and television and musical theatre superstar Ian Stenlake to discuss career pathways, receive general guidance on navigating the industry as well as audition preparation and feedback (image attached).
2. Other finalists were also afforded the opportunity to hold one-on-one mentorship sessions with Philip Mortlock, Head of Repertoire at Albert Music – the infamous and industry leading music publisher whose artist roster includes Megan Washington, AC/DC, Tania Kernaghan and Gotye.

The SDF cannot guarantee a grant for each season/presentation of the production however grants and mentorship sessions will be coordinated in support of the tour – the number/volume will be confirmed once the number of participating venues is defined.

### TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The grants and mentorship sessions/activities provided by the production is usually targeted at young artists (aged 12-25) in aligning with the core purpose of the Foundation.

## MARKETING

### MARKETING COPY

#### One line

*Imagine being invited into the living room of a legend...*

#### Short

When old Herb dons the Stetson the showman Smoky Dawson comes to life and, always the entertainer, he will regale his audience with the most meaningful and memorable songs from his incredible career. When the hat comes off, we are witness to the man behind the character – whose stories are just as remarkable.

From a tormented and tragic childhood, his almost fatal adventures at war and a romance that lasted almost 70 years, the audience will be taken on a moving journey that charts the inspiring life of a man of great resilience.

#### Extended

Smoky Dawson was a famous radio star, Australia's first singing cowboy and an incredibly charitable and well-loved icon - however few know the stories of the man beneath the Stetson hat – until now.

When Herb dons the Stetson the showman Smoky comes to life and, always the entertainer, he will regale his audience with the most meaningful and memorable songs from his incredible career. When the hat comes off, we are witness to the man behind the character – whose stories are just as remarkable. From a tormented and tragic childhood, his almost fatal adventures at war and a romance that lasted almost 70 years, the audience will be taken on a moving journey that charts the inspiring life of a man of great resilience.

You are invited into the living room of an icon to relive the adventures of a country music legend – and the man behind the famous name.

### VIDEO LINKS

- Ian Stenlake talks about Smoky Dawson:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5DKWjMy5EE>
- Ian Stenlake talks about *Smoky & Herb*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLZvW5J\\_nGw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLZvW5J_nGw)
- Glenn T remembers Smoky Dawson and talks about *Smoky & Herb*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l48lgOkSLy0>
- John Laws recites *Kids on the Street* – the poem used in the play (incorporating AV content):  
<https://web.facebook.com/herbertsmokydawson/videos/vb.1515755341980369/1562309820658254/?type=2&theater>

Broadcast quality footage shot at QPAC in October 2015 is currently being edited. Raw and edited footage will be available for presenters for TVC's and other promotional use.

## IMAGES

Below and overleaf are a sample of production images shot onstage at the Cremonne Theatre, QPAC in October 2015. A large selection of high res images will be available via dropbox link.

All photo's credited to Shane Caddaye.



The set can be struck, dressed and lighting focused within a 3 hour call.



*"I'm not Smoky" he said, "I'm just little old Herb! That's Smoky there in the chair..." he continued, pointing to the Stetson and cowboy boots in the corner.*



## MARKETING MATERIALS

We have a full complement of marketing collateral and limited merchandise ready to go. Broadcast television quality footage and a large range of production stills were shot live on stage at QPAC in October 2015. We have a large amount of original footage and stills of Smoky to support marketing. Current Facebook followers: 1.9K

## SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Maverick Western Wear is our wardrobe sponsor – only acknowledgements required is in the production program. Four house seats are required per tour however these will be drawn from the producer's allocation.

## TEACHER'S RESOURCES

Our teacher's resources are originally sourced (and used with permission) from the Australian Film & Television Archive based on a documentary produced about Smoky's life. These have been updated to reflect production content.

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

### TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*The production is designed for touring.* The set can be bumped in/dressed and lighting focused within a three hour call (assuming lighting pre-rig is completed). Bump out can be completed within 45 minutes to 1 hour.

The company utilises QLAB to operate sound and lighting so only one (touring) technician is required for operation. The production manager will discuss compatibility with venue desks.

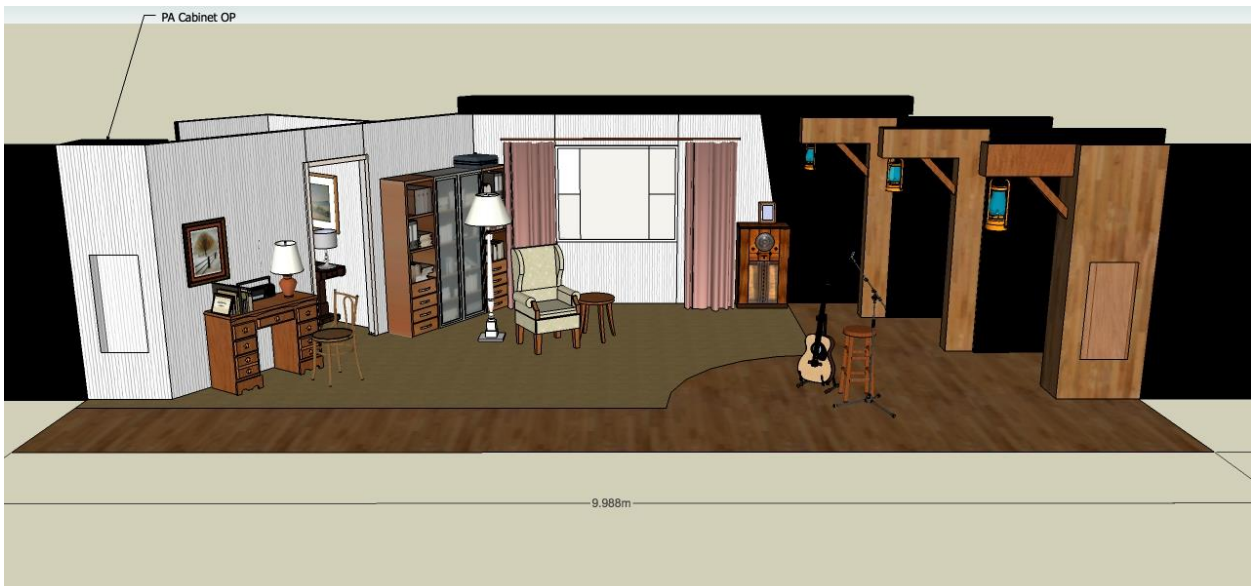
### CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Only one venue tech is required to assist the travelling crew – no specialty required as travelling technicians conduct all show operations.

### STAGE

The touring set is based upon a 10m wide x 8m deep stage. (Set can be reduced to 8m wide x 7m deep). Set height is 2.4m.

See plans/designs:





*Leader Entertainment to supply*

We tour full set, pac lights, flooring, props and dressing.

*Venue to supply*

No staging elements required from venue.

### LIGHTING

A simple lighting plot will be forwarded well in advance for pre-rig. Most reasonably well-equipped performing arts centres house rigs will be sufficient to supplement touring gear.

*Leader Entertainment to supply*

The company will supply all on-stage lighting / pac lights. (All carrying current test/tags)

*Venue to supply*

The venue would be asked to supply basic lighting - pre-rig specs available advance.

### SOUND

Audio is simple: one head-mic, one live guitar. Pre-recorded tracks and video supplied.

*Leader Entertainment to supply*

Company tour head mic & in-ear monitor, live guitar and all backing tracks, audio tracks on company laptop. (with back-up).

*Venue to supply*

Standard PA system required.

## AV

The stage set includes a rear-projection screen. Projection equipment & all imagery supplied.

*Leader Entertainment to supply*

Company will tour data projection and all video imagery.

*Venue to supply*

Nothing required from venue.

## WARDROBE

Single costume for both acts - supplied by company.

*Leader Entertainment to supply*

All costume elements supplied by company.

*Venue to supply*

One dressing room including a costume rack, make-up and personal washing facilities. No costume cleaning required.

## FREIGHT NOTES

The show travels in a 3t pan-tech truck. Loading dock / stage access required for set load-in.



## CONTACTS

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