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Jon Buswell Lighting Designer

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Sydney Theatre Company
"Jon Buswell's superb lighting design fills the dim stage with a kind of shredded brightness, with spotted pools of light for key moments and a constant inquisitiveness into what Puck is doing"
John McCallum, *The Australian* August 23 2007

La bohème West Australian Ballet
"Jon Buswell lit the piece as though he were a disciple of Vermeer"
Rita Clarke, *The Australian* May 24, 2004

Jon Buswell made his Australian debut as Lighting Designer for Melbourne Theatre Company's production of *The Glass Menagerie* in March 2004, shortly after moving to Australia from the UK. He then went on to light *La bohème* for West Australian Ballet in Perth and later in Melbourne, Bangkok and China. He also lit *Dr Faustus* for Chichester Festival Theatre and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* for the West Yorkshire Playhouse in the United Kingdom in that year.

Since then, Australasian engagements include *Things We Do for Love*, *Cheech*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Ray's Tempest*, *The Clean House* and *All my Sons* for Melbourne Theatre Company, *The Breath of Life* and *Barmaids* for HIT Productions, *Dangerous Liaisons* for West Australian Ballet, *The Hobbit* in Wellington New Zealand for International Concert Attractions, *Così fan tutte* and the *Così fan tutte* tour for Victorian Opera, *The Gate* for Monash University, *Raymonda*, *Constant Variants* and *Symphonie Fantastique* for The Australian Ballet, *Talking Heads* tour for Tinderbox Productions, *Giselle* and *Swan Lake* for The Royal New Zealand Ballet and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Sydney Theatre Company. He was also the Lighting Designer for the Victorian Arts Centre's *Beach Project*, an outdoor installation in St Kilda Road, reflecting a classic Australian beach environment, for the Commonwealth Games.

During 2008 lighting engagements included *Love Song* and *The 39 Steps* for Melbourne Theatre Company, *Ballet at the Quarry*, *Nutcracker* and *Ballet at the Regal* Theatre for West Australian Ballet, *The Female of the Species* for Black Swan Theatre Company, *Interplay* for The Australian Ballet, *The Coronation of Poppea* for Victorian Opera and *Don Quixote* for The Royal New Zealand Ballet.

2009 saw Jon light *Ballet at the Quarry*, *Giselle* and *Ballet at the Regal* for West Australian Ballet, *The Glass Menagerie* for Black Swan Theatre Company and *La Sylphide* and *Peter Pan* for the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

In 2010 Jon will light *Ballet at the Quarry*, *Don Quixote* and *Gala* performances for West Australian Ballet, and *Twelfth Night* and *Madagascar* for Black Swan State Theatre Company.

Jon studied Design and Production Management at Croydon College, before embarking on a highly successful career in British theatre, opera, ballet and television. In theatre Jon has worked extensively throughout Britain on productions including *Twelfth Night*, *Sherlock Holmes in Trouble*, *Secret Heart*, *Port* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* all for the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester. For the Chichester Festival Theatre he has lit *The Coffee House*, and *Wild Orchids* with Patricia Routledge, for the Minerva Theatre, Chichester *The Accrington Pals* and *Stairs to the Roof* and for the Royal Theatre, Northampton *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Jon's work in London has included the Theatre Royal Haymarket (*Lady Windermere's Fan* with Vanessa Redgrave, Joely Richardson and Googie Withers, and *The Royal Family* with Judi Dench, both directed by Sir Peter Hall), The Royal Court at

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the New Ambassadors Theatre (*The Vagina Monologues*), the Apollo Theatre (*My Brilliant Divorce* with Dawn French) and the Lyric Theatre (*Al Murray – Who Dares Wins*)

As well as working in theatre, Jon has gained considerable experience in opera, ballet and musicals. For the Royal College of Music he has lit *The Magic Flute* directed by Jhur Hemanus and *Oedipus Rex* and *Gianni Schicchi* directed by Jean Claude Auvray, *Otello* for Lyric Opera of Chicago directed by Sir Peter Hall, *Sally Burgess' Women*, with Sally Burgess at the Lyric, Hammersmith directed by Keith Warner, *The Prince & The Pauper*, choreographed by Irek Mukhamedov and *Faithful Gelert* for London Children's Ballet choreographed by Poppy Ben-David.

Jon has also worked as Lighting Designer for televised features such as the UEFA Gala Awards 2000 and *Nutcracker Sweeties*, for Birmingham Royal Ballet and the BBC, and as visiting lecturer in Scenography and Theatre Design at the University of Central England.

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