

For immediate release - Tuesday 5 June 2007

COME TO CABARET AND CATCH “FROM SAINTS TO THE WEST END”

During the **2007 Adelaide Cabaret Festival**, the Adelaide Festival Centre's Performing Arts Collection will present ***From Saints to the West End***, an exhibition celebrating the work of South Australian sheepfarmer, theatrical entrepreneur, author and composer **Kenneth Lancelot Duffield** (1885-1958).

From his early success in the West End to his musicals and songs, **Duffield** was a pioneer in the development of the Australian musical. Born into a wealthy and prominent pastoralist family, he was educated at St Peter's College, Adelaide, and later Trinity College, Cambridge where he wrote, performed and produced songs for the Cambridge University Footlights Club (along the way obtaining a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Agriculture).

With his great friend, Australian actor, producer and playwright **Dion Titheradge**, he wrote an evening of music that was presented at a West End Theatre in 1920. This was such a success that Duffield then wrote complete scores for, or contributed to, five West End Revues between 1920-22: ***Puss Puss!, A-Z, Pot Luck, Snap*** and ***The Nine O'Clock Revue***, becoming an overnight success. Returning to Adelaide after the death of his father to deal with the family pastoral business, he finished his only book musical ***Healo*** (book by Titheradge, 1924), which became the first Australian musical to be seen at the **Theatre Royal in Hindley Street**.

Duffield formed Australian Musical Productions Pty. Ltd in 1925 to produce his own musicals in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. As a result, several Duffield musicals were produced around Australia between 1925 - 1931. In 1929, at the request of the League of Nations, he wrote the music for, and produced, an enormous pageant called ***The Warrior***. He died in Adelaide in 1958 and is buried at St Jude's cemetery in Brighton.

In association with the exhibition, composer/academic/performer Peter Wyllie Johnston will present **Kenneth Duffield & Friends** on Saturday 16 June in Lyrics at 2.30pm. Peter will introduce his recently completed PhD Thesis: *The Definitive Guide to the Australian Musical Theatre 1900-2000*, followed by a tribute to Kenneth Duffield, the man and his music.

Exhibition Co-ordinator **Jo Peoples** says: “As with our exhibition during the *2005 Adelaide Cabaret Festival*, which was on Jack Fewster and Tom King, ***From Saints to the West End*** looks at the contribution made by South Australian composers and songwriters in the development of the Australian musical theatre through their programs, posters, music and photographs”.

What: Adelaide Festival Centre Performing Arts Collection
exhibition:

From Saints to the West End

Where: Festival Theatre Foyer
When: 8 June - 13 August 2007
Cost: FREE

For more information go to www.adelaidecabaretfestival.com.au

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