

LAS VEGAS (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE MUSICAL



It's fabulous. It's scandalous. It's everything you want in one show!

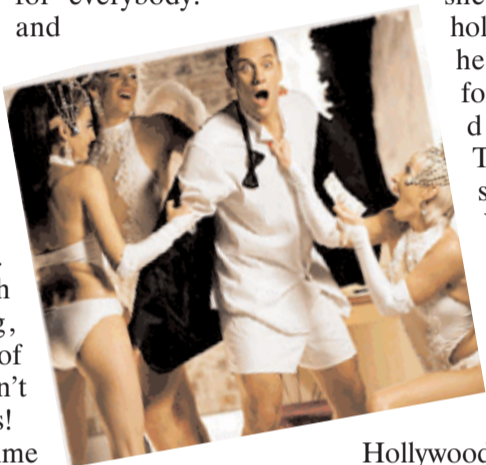
Spend a night in the city of sin! Experience the extravagance, high stakes, entertainment and scandals of classic Las Vegas... in Sydney.

This sizzling new musical captures the heart and soul of the world's entertainment capital, with something for everybody. Brilliant song and dance numbers surround a fascinating story of love, lust and luck... money, murder and the mob... complete with mind-blowing, spectacular acts of illusion. You won't believe your eyes!

Set during a time when the mob ran the strip, Las Vegas (Confidential) The Musical is based on previously untold true events. Master illusionist James Karp has created a fascinating musical which invites you to enter the stranger-than-fiction world behind the glamorous façade.

Alexander "The Great" Dean has been a headline illusionist act

on the Vegas strip for 12 years, but his bad habits are finally catching up with him. To slip past the mob and the FBI, Alex will have to perform the ultimate vanishing act. Francesca, the beautiful but streetwise chanteuse, is performing in Vegas for a limited engagement. She's been hurt before, but finds herself falling for Alex. And she just may hold the truth he is looking for. Burlesque dancer Tiffany Hills stopped in Vegas on the way to



Hollywood, and never left. She's learnt how to manipulate the seductive power of lust and money. But with Tony "The Tool" Spitori at the top of the heap, the mob is really calling the tune.

Tamlyn Henderson (We Will Rock You), Katrina Retallick (Company), Tony Nikolakopoulos (Underbelly) and sensational singing artist and

former Bardot member, Tiffani Wood, will lead a brilliant cast of 25 actors, singers and dancers to bring this compelling story to life. Wearing tonnes of feathers and sparkling jewellery, the show features the most beautiful showgirls and most spectacular dance routines ever seen outside Vegas.

The show includes the world's greatest songs of love and luck including Love Me With A Feeling, The Gambler, Que Sera Sera, Everybody Knows, Petula Clark's In Las Vegas, D'ove L'amore, and of course, Viva Las Vegas!

Don't miss the world premiere season of Las Vegas (Confidential) The Musical at Sydney's opulent State Theatre this November. It's the most fun, sexy, glamorous night out in years. And remember, what happens in Las Vegas... is strictly confidential!

Creator / Writer: James Karp
 Director: Christopher Hurrell
 Choreographer: James Taylor
 Cast includes: Tamlyn Henderson, Katrina Retallick, Tiffani Wood, Tony Nikolakopoulos, Garry Scale, Alistair Toogood plus showgirls, gamblers, henchmen and little old ladies from Utah.

JAMES KARP Creator / Writer / Producer

James Karp is not only an expert at entertaining audiences; he is also a mastermind at producing entertainment. Amongst his many achievements, he annually produces the opening ceremony of A1 Grand Prix which is televised to 70 million people internationally. He also organised and produced the official book launch for Bryce Courtney's latest release "Sylvia" to rave reviews. James Cockington of the Sydney Morning Herald reviewed his first theatre performance, referring to him as "Australia's own Siegfried and Roy."



"its Vegas-style magic" Sydney Morning Herald.

Some years ago on a three day trip to Las Vegas he met his heroes of magic Siegfried & Roy and discovered that Las Vegas itself possessed its own mystique. Travelling regularly to Las Vegas he became close friends with Peter and Coral Reveen who had been in Vegas since the days of mob rule. Inspired by the intriguing stories, myths and secrets of classic Vegas James began crafting this fascinating and exciting show.

TONY NIKOLAKOPOULOS Tony "The Tool" Spitori

Tony has had an impressive career as an actor, director, writer and producer. As an actor he has appeared in productions such as Malthouse Theatre: The Spook. Thirdcosta Productions: Wog Story. Ranters Theatre Co: Roulette. STCSA: Court Yard of Miracles. National Tour: Wog and his Mates. Kali Techni Productions: Honeymoon in Hellas. ACT 7 TC: Waiting for Godot. La Mama: Death Watch. Dodd Street Theatre: Beat The Savage Drum. St Martin's Theatre: Let Gypsies. As a director he has directed over 100 productions for the CPCA over the past 15 years. He has lectured for 6 years at Rusden/Deakin University in Drama and directed over 10 productions for Kali Techni Productions which included Last Proxy, (writer and producer), which toured nationally for 2 years. Tony's television credits include Pacific, Underbelly, All Saints, Pirate Island "Lost Treasure of Fiji", Little Oberon, Jason, Holly's Heroes, The Murray Whelan Series, Scooter Secret Agent, Stingers, Blue Heelers, State Coroner, SeaChange, Janus, Embassy. Equally impressive are his film credits : The Independent, Space Travel, Ghost Rider, The Book of Revelations, The Extra, Tom White, The Wannabes, Kangaroo Jack, The Wog Boy, Head On, Life. Short Film: Drop, Alice, Name Day, The Director, Seaborne, AD Hope. 2008 has seen Tony receive the Melbourne International Film Festival Performance Award and Special Citation for the lead role played in short film "296 Smith Street". This is an award not normally given but the judges felt compelled to do so due to the nature of the performance. The film has also won Best Australian short film, Best original screenplay.



The article below appeared in the Australian on the 27th October, 2008

His next trick is to gamble everything

THE songs in musical theatre, the truism goes, have to be in the service of the story. In a musical about a master illusionist, the same goes for the magic tricks.

"At no point does anyone say, 'And now, for my next trick,'" says James Karp, magician, entertainer and now creator of *Las Vegas (Confidential): The Musical*.

So while there is plenty of levitation and disappearance and even metamorphosis in the show, all have a dramaturgical purpose. Karp says he was adamant the magic would not become an end in itself.

"I wanted to show the magic in a different way," he says. "I wanted to make it part of the storytelling, which has worked well."

Karp has known since childhood that his life was not to be dictated by a stuffy white-collared office job. His first visit to Las Vegas changed him, and his musical is a Broadway-style tribute to the place where he discovered magic.

"When I was younger I didn't dream of becoming a magician," Karp says at Sydney's Fox Studios, where the show is in rehearsals. "I was really going to Vegas that won me over."

"I originally went for the glamour and the bling—and for the pretty girls—and it's not like I was looking for it. But I was won over by the art of the magic."

He went back several times over the years to immerse himself in the magic scene. "I wanted to meet Siegfried and Roy," he says.

He also became friendly with Australian-born hypnotist and illusionist Peter Reveen, whose stories of the old days of mob rule in the city triggered something in Karp's imagination.

"Before that I had no idea Vegas had so much mystery to it," he says.

The seed for *Las Vegas (Confidential)* had been sown.

"But then about two years ago the project stalled," he says.

"I decided that if I was going to do this, I was just going to have to go back to Vegas and write it there. I had to feel it for

It took more than a sleight of hand to capture the mystery of Las Vegas in a musical, discovers Matthew Clayfield

myself instead of trying to conduct my research from here."

As well as being the show's creator, Karp is also its writer and producer, and the result, which will open on November 4 at Sydney's State Theatre, is obviously his baby.

"It's got to a point where it's my heart and soul," he says. "And everyone is watching."

"I think it dawned on me when the tickets were printed and I saw my name on them for the first time I thought: 'Wow, I can't run now.' You're really exposed."

The show tells the story of Alexander "The Great" Dean, a headline magic act on the Vegas strip whose bad habits are beginning to catch up with him.

Dean is played by Tamlyn Henderson,

with Katrina Retallick (seen in Kookaburra's production of *Company*) as Francesca, the beautiful but streetwise chanteuse who falls for him. *Underbelly*'s Tony Nikolakopoulos and former Bardot band member Tiffani Wood also feature prominently. Reveen is credited as consulting producer, and the director is Christopher Hurrell.

The soundtrack is one of classic lounge and show tunes, and Karp's trademark illusions appear throughout, woven seamlessly into the story.

He says that while the combination of musical theatre and illusionism has been challenging for the cast and crew, rehearsals have nonetheless been going well.

"They've got a lot of courage," he says of his collaborators. "A lot of people said no to this project. It fascinated me that



'If you think of the millions that have been won and lost in Vegas, that's similar to what I'm going through'

James Karp, writer, producer, magician

people weren't willing to take the risk, because I think if you're an artist that's exactly what you should be doing."

He puts people's reluctance to work with a first-time musical producer down to a certain Australian scepticism towards the big ideas of dreamers such as himself.

"In our country we're more conservative," he says. "I think Americans are bigger dreamers than we are. If you dream big, they think it's great. Luckily, I've found 45 people who are willing to gamble with me."

The metaphor, of course, is titting: it every gambler is to some extent a dreamer, then there's no city in the world that loves dreamers more than Vegas.

"If you think of the millions that have been won and lost in Vegas, that's similar to what I'm currently going through," he laughs. "Everything's a gamble. I just hope no one takes me out for a drive in the desert once they've seen the show."

Las Vegas (Confidential): The Musical will play at the State Theatre, Sydney, from November 4-23.