

TOM SWEENEY - SPEAKER NOTES



Tom Sweeney is President of Willoughby Theatre Company which in 2017 celebrated 60 years of staging Broadway musicals to patron on the north shore and wider Sydney.

Both Tom and his wife Joy have been members of WTC for 49 years and during that time Tom has directed over 40 musicals for that company and directed plays and musicals for other companies in Sydney.

The Company now stages all its productions in the magnificent Concourse Chatswood and annually stages two major Broadway musicals and one Concert with a 100 voice choir, 32 piece orchestra and soloists. This year it is the music from the musical MAME.

Tom has directed such shows as *Les Miserable*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Titanic*, *Zorba*, *Meet Me In St Louis*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *42nd Street* and has appeared on stage in *Camelot*, *Half a Sixpence*, *Brigadoon* and *Pyjama Game* to name a few.

Tom and his wife, try to visit New York every two years to catch up on the latest Broadway shows and gather ideas for productions with WTC.

Tom will present a behind the scenes description of how musicals are actually chosen, cast, rehearsed and staged and how it is now a big business not just a hobby.

Willoughby Theatre Company regularly attracted approximately 10,000 patrons a year to its shows and spends an average of \$275,000 on each production. They are currently in rehearsal for *STRICTLY BALLROOM* (May) and then *SHREK* (October).