



JANINE DONNELL ATCL (Musical Theatre)

Janine's theatrical career began at age 3 with her stage debut as "Trouble" in Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly*. As the youngest child, raised in a theatrical family Janine gained her first professional role at age eleven in the musical *Evita* and went on to pursue an extensive onstage career. An award winning "triple threat" Janine has performed in numerous musicals, appeared in film & TV, and danced with the Royal NZ Ballet. In addition to her onstage experience Janine effectively expanded into creative and production roles and works as a freelance Producer, Director, Choreographer and Vocal Coach.

Janine holds an ATCL in Musical Theatre from Trinity College, London and has lectured on the *AUT* Bachelor of Arts and *UNITEC* performing arts programmes. She worked as the Artistic Director of the *Auckland City Theatre Academy (ACTA)* through to its 20th Anniversary in 2017 before starting Donnell Studios in 2018. Her students have been awarded the highest marks worldwide on several occasions for the Trinity College of London Musical Theatre Syllabus and she boasts an impressive 100% acceptance rate for graduate students into several highly acclaimed full time tertiary institutions in NZ, Australia, London and New York.

During her career Janine has enjoyed working with many inspiring producers, creatives and performers. Career highlights include: *A Night to Remember* in 2011 featuring internationally acclaimed opera singers Placido Domingo & Katherine Jenkins which raised over \$300,000 for the Christchurch earthquake relief fund and arts community. The NZ season of the international tour of *Wicked* produced by the Gordon Frost Organisation in 2013, Casting Director/Creative Assistant for the international touring productions of *Annie* and *The Sound Of Music* for UK based company Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, also working through 2014/2015 as a Creative Assistant to the Resident Director Jonny Bowles (UK), for the Gordon Frost Organisation's Australian Tour of *The Sound of Music*. Janine worked as Associate Choreographer on the 2018 NZ/Australian Tour of *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*.

In 2019, Janine was offered a green card and moved to New York to work in the international home of theatre and entertainment. She was able to access esteemed professional development opportunities and gain valuable industry experience working for the Manhattan Theatre Club, who for more than four decades have been a pre-eminent producer of the highest quality, award winning theatrical Broadway productions. She also worked as Event/House Manager for LDK Productions on 'Sideways the Experience' which celebrated the essence of the well known play with a wine tasting and accompanied food pairing experience, prior to the start of each performance, prepared by celebrity chef Mary Giuliani.

Due to COVID-19 and the resulting shutdown of Broadway and the entire American Theatre circuit Janine returned home to Auckland where she worked as Casting Director/Choreographer for Michael Cassel Group on the international tour of *The Lion King* and after having the opportunity to previously present *Beauty and the Beast (2015)*, *Sugar (2017)* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations for Auckland Grammar School she was delighted to be asked back as Director/Choreographer for Monty Pythons *Spamalot* in 2021.

In 2022 Janine presented the musical theatre review *Broadway & Beyond* in her home town of Auckland, as a tribute to all those working in the theatrical industry who were severely impacted by COVID-19. She was then offered a role as Venue & Event Manager working across all the major Wellington arts venues, where she is currently enjoying the opportunity to engage with a variety of arts professionals, across a diverse range of international and NZ events. Recent highlights include *RNZB's Cinderella*, *NZSO's Requiem* and the *World of WearableArt (WOW) Show*.