

## **SIMON PHILLIPS (DIRECTOR)**

Since becoming Melbourne Theatre Company Artistic Director in July 1999, Simon has directed *Two Brothers*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Urinetown*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Visit*, *Inheritance*, *The Blue Room*, *Great Expectations*, *Proof*, *Life x 3*, *Bombshells*, *The Seagull*, *The Tempest*, *Man the Balloon*, *The Unexpected Man* (co-produced with Company B Belvoir), *Company*, *Measure for Measure* and *Trelawny of the Wells*. Simon was first connected with MTC as Associate Director from 1987 – 89, directing, among others, *Serious Money*, *Burn This*, *Tristram Shandy - Gent*, *What The Butler Saw*, *Mrs Klein*, *Dreams in an Empty City*, *Macbeth*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which was revived twice and toured interstate. He subsequently directed many plays for MTC as a freelance artist, including *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *The Misanthrope*, *Amy's View*, *The Herbal Bed*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Julius Caesar*, *Arcadia*, *Hysteria*, and *the musical High Society*, which also had a successful UK production.

Simon trained at the New Zealand Drama School and was Associate Director of the Mercury Theatre in Auckland and Artistic Director of Centrepoint Theatre, Palmerston North. In 1984, he became a lecturer and director at the Western Australian Academy of the Performing Arts and from 1990 -1993 was Artistic Director of the State Theatre Company of South Australia. He has also directed for Sydney Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company, Western Australian Theatre Company, Opera Australia, Australian Dance Theatre, Opera NZ, Montreal's Centaur Theatre, and on Broadway. Simon won Green Room Awards for Best Direction for *Lulu* (Opera Australia 2003) *Proof* (2002), *Bombshells* (2001), *Company* (2000); and Helpmann Awards for Best Direction of a Play for *Inheritance* (2004); Best Presentation for Children and Best Visual or Physical Theatre Production for *Twinkle Twinkle Little Fish*; and Best Direction of a Musical for *Company* (2001).