



For Immediate Release

CW Productions and Animax Film Present  
Leof Kingsford-Smith

## MISSION OF FLOWERS

Adelaide Fringe: Jah'z Cafe, 17:30 (ends 18:40), 20 February - 13 March 2010 (no performance Tuesdays).



***An enthralling true story of love, intrigue, adventure and loneliness.***

Thirteenth April, Nineteen Thirty-three and Bill Lancaster, one of Australia's foremost aviation pioneers, is alone, fighting for his life in the blistering heat of the Sahara Desert. The wreckage of his plane, the Southern Cross Minor, his only shelter. Memories of the last sixteen years flash through his mind: from his tempestuous love affair with Jesse "Chubbie" Miller to his trial for murder in the first degree, and ultimately, his life-long pursuit for recognition that brought him here.

An epic tale performed by Leof Kingsford-Smith, the grand nephew of Australia's legendary aviator Charles Kingsford-Smith, **Mission of Flowers** chronicles Bill Lancaster's journey from his 1917 flight from Britain to Australia and his promise to his mother to distribute pamphlets for "The Mission of Flowers" charity along the way, through to his 1933 purchase of Charles Kingsford-Smith's renowned biplane in which Bill was to make his toughest and final flight. A beguiling true story of a digger in the trenches of World War One who rose to become one of the world's celebrated pioneer aviators.

Leof Kingsford-Smith portrays Bill Lancaster, aptly capturing the conflict between his quest for a place in history and his love for an equally ambitious woman. Written by Gerry Greenland (Glen Eira Award Winner, Awgie Nominee) and directed by Damien Lay (Astra Award Winner, ACS award Winner, Logie Award Winner), this engrossing drama will have you captivated.

Co-presented by CW Productions, whose critically-acclaimed 2009 production "Unit 46" also starred Leof Kingsford-Smith and thrilled audiences at the Adelaide Fringe, Sydney's Factory Theatre and The Edinburgh Festival. Animax Films has steadily established itself as the leading producer of film animation and film documentary in Australia.

### **What the press have said about Leof Kingsford-Smith:**

"Consummate Performance" - **The List.**

"Near Flawless Acting" - **Fringe Guru.**

For more press information, please contact Stuart Martin (phone ext 102) or Calvin Wynter (phone ext 101):

Tel: +61 3 8080 3080 [Melbourne, diverts to mobile].

Email: [stuart@greenroompresents.com](mailto:stuart@greenroompresents.com); [calvin@greenroompresents.com](mailto:calvin@greenroompresents.com). Web: [www.greenroompresents.com](http://www.greenroompresents.com)

## LISTINGS INFORMATION

Venue: Jah'z Cafe, 7 Cinema Place

Dates: 20-22, 24-28 February; 1, 3-8, 10-13 March 2010 (no performance Tuesday nights)

Time: 17:30 (ends 18:40)

Tickets: \$25.00 Full, \$20.00 Concession

Box Office: 1300 FRINGE (374 643) / [adelaidefringe.com.au](http://adelaidefringe.com.au)

**ADELAIDE  
FRINGE 2010**

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Leof Kingsford-Smith - Bill Lancaster.

Leof Kingsford-Smith's full CV reads like a roadmap to acting. Geographically it extends from London's West End and English repertory to the Sydney Opera House and a host of smaller Australian theatres. In almost four decades he has played everything from Shakespeare to Ayckbourn, Emyln Williams and David Williamson in roles ranging from the tragic King Lear and Mark Antony to The Coroner and Rex in two of Australia's hottest TV series; Underbelly11 and Home and Away.

Since he graduated from training at the Independent Theatre (with further training at the Sydney Theatre School and the Actors Studio) his career has also embraced a steady stream of film and television work.

A condensed list of Leof's theatre roles includes:

New Theatre – Pantomime Midnite (Ogrady)

Edinburgh and Adelaide Festivals: Unit 46 (Tim)

Seymour Centre: The Shower, *Six Minutes* (Pollock)

Newtown Theatre: *Dial L for Love* (Archie);

Darlinghurst Theatre: *Our Country's Good* (Governor Phillip).

Acting Factory: *Twelfth Night* (Antonio).

Shakespeare under the stars (Sydney Festival): *Twelfth Night* (Antonio & Valentine).

Seymour Centre (Sydney): *King Lear* (King Lear)

Film & TV roles include:

*Underbelly (Coroner) Home and Away* (Rex)

*The Bondi Chronicles* (Goldman), *The 21 Conspiracy* (Professor), *The Audition* (Cleary), *Natural Selection* (Preston Brown), *Captain Heroic* (Captain Heroic - Lead), *Trapped* (Max - Best Actor, runner up), *Move* (The man - Lead), *The Lamp God* (Sven - Lead), *Once more* (John - Lead), *Misgiving* (George - Lead), *Nine* (Father - Lead), *The Visit* (Man - Lead), *Sanctuary* (Father - Lead), *Drama School* (Governor), *Nine*.

That he travels so smoothly in his acting career should not come as a surprise. Leof is the grand-nephew of one of Australia's most celebrated travellers, the pioneer aviator Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith.

### Damien Lay - Director

Internationally recognised director and Logie award winner Damien Lay has amassed a wealth of knowledge in film making techniques over the twenty-year period he has worked in the film and television industry. Now the managing director of Animax Films, Damien has worked successfully in almost every facet film and television production and post-production. His many other awards besides a Logie include three ASTRA awards, an ACS award and a nomination for a second Logie. Damien has written, produced and directed numerous, documentaries, animations, and a major feature film "*The Lost Anzac*". As well as films for major corporations he has directed and produced animated series for The Comedy Channel Australia, and an animated series for Foxtel and Channel Nine.

His interest in Australia's early flying history is well known, particularly the life and exploits of Charles Kingsford-Smith. "*The Lady Southern Cross*", a feature documentary about the story behind Charles Kingsford-Smith's aircraft of the same name was completed in 2008. Damien's feature documentary "The Battle of Long Tan", which he wrote, produced and directed, is now ranked by TimeLife as one of Australia's top 20 best selling DVD's of all time. Recent productions include "*He's Coming South*" and "*M24 - The last sunrise*". Damien is currently planning a full length feature film of the Mission of Flowers story. He is also leading the expeditionary work in Myanmar to locate the wreckage of the Lady Southern Cross.

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### **Gerry Greenland - Writer/Producer**

Gerry has written a number of plays for radio and the theatre. *The Visitor* was nominated for an AWGIE. *Greeting Cards* won a Glen Eira Award. His short plays are regularly performed at the Short & Sweet Festivals around Australia. *Prime Angus Buttock* was a Sydney finalist, and *Return to Sender* was awarded Best Drama Script. He has also co-written television and radio comedies with his wife Jackie. *Sydney Plantagenet's Psychedelic Quest* was broadcast live from the Sydney Opera House. As a member of the Sydney arts collective Actors Anonymous he has been involved as a writer and producer in *Journey into Sin* (2007) and *Crime Scenes* (2008). *Waiting on Jamie Oliver* was performed at Sydney's Newtown Theatre in 2007, and *The Blood on Helmut Lange* at the Fusebox Theatre in 2009.

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