

About Miss Saigon

Miss Saigon is a West End musical by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil, with lyrics by Boublil and Richard Maltby, Jr. It is a modern adaptation of Giacomo Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly, and similarly tells the tragic tale of a doomed romance involving an Asian woman abandoned by her American lover. The setting of the plot is relocated to the 1970s Saigon during the Vietnam War, and Madame Butterfly's American Lieutenant and Japanese geisha coupling is replaced by a romance between an American GI and a Vietnamese bar girl.

It premiered at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in London on September 20 1989, closing after 4,264 performances on October 30 1999. It opened at the Broadway Theatre in New York City in 1991. It subsequently opened in many other cities and embarked on tours.

The musical represented Schönberg and Boublil's second major success, following Les Misérables in 1980. As of April 2009, Miss Saigon is still the 10th longest-running Broadway musical in musical theatre history.

Inspirations

"This Photograph was for Alain and I the start of everything..."

I well remember the autumn afternoon in Paris. Between two chords of the keyboard, I broke for coffee and thumbed through a magazine someone had left on the piano.

I had no idea how important this simple action would be for me. There was no way I could predict the impact of this photograph.

The silence of this woman stunned by her grief was a shout of pain louder than any of the earth's laments. The child's tears were the final condemnation of all wars which shatter people who love each other.



The little Vietnamese girl was about to board a plane from Ho Chi Minh Airport for the United States of America where her father, and ex-GI she had never seen, was waiting for her. Her mother was leaving her there and would never see her again.

Behind this particular picture lay a background of years of enquiries and bureaucratic formalities, in order to find the ex-soldier from the other side of the world, with whom the woman had shared a brief moment of her life.

She knew, as only a mother could that beyond this departure gate there was both a new life for her daughter and no life at all for her, and that she had willed it.

I was so appalled by the image of this deliberate ripping apart that I had to sit down and catch my breath. I suffered for the mother as though I might see my own little boy leaving me forever and I suffered for the child as though in my early youth I had been forcibly removed from my parents. Was that not the most moving, the most staggering example of 'The Ultimate Sacrifice', as undergone by Cio-Cio San in Madame Butterfly, giving her life for her child?

This photograph was for Alain and I, was the start of everything...

Claude-Michel Schönberg, October 1995

Production Team

Director	Sue Salvato
Musical Director	Andrew Houston
Choreographer	Karen Ingwersen
Associate Musical Director	Amber Simm
Production Manager	Mike Schimizzi
Lighting Design	Jason Bovaird
Sound Design	Marcello LoRicco
Set Design	Alberto Salvato
Costume Design	Glenda Novotny
Technical Director	Andrew Edge

WELCOME





SYNOPSIS

Miss Saigon is generally accepted to be the dramatic reworking of Puccini's Madame Butterfly by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil the team that wrote the mega-hit Les Misérables. It is set in late April 1975 in Saigon during the final days and the evacuation of the American forces and embassy personnel.

An intense love story describes the complex relationship, due to the cultural differences, between the Vietnamese and the Americans encompassing the last dramatic final airlift from the roof of the American Embassy.

The main character, a young girl named Kim, who had fled her village after the killing of her family, had no choice but to start work in a sleazy Saigon night club owned by a notorious wheeler-dealer known as 'The Engineer'. John an American GI, buys his friend Chris the services of Kim for the night. That night will change their lives forever.

At a very young age Kim had been betrothed by her parents to her cousin Thuy. During the final evacuation Kim and Chris are separated and Chris is flown out of Saigon leaving Kim behind.

Chris returns to America and eventually marries Ellen, an American woman. He believed that Kim had died during the fall of Saigon in the final stage of the Vietnam War. Unbeknown to Chris, Kim bore Chris a son, Tam.

Some 3 years after the fall of Saigon, Thuy, who still believed that Kim should become his wife, hires the Engineer to find her. The Engineer finds and delivers Kim to Thuy. Thuy is outraged in learning about Tam and threatens to kill him. Kim kills Thuy to save her son and with the help of the Engineer they flee to Bangkok.

Kim firmly believes that one day she will be reunited with the love of her life Chris. Through John, Chris discovers that Kim is alive and that Tam is his son. John and Chris go to Bangkok in search of Kim and Tam.

When Kim learns that Chris is in Bangkok with his wife all her hopes to be reunited with him disappear.

She is desperate for her son to have a future in America with his father - she makes the ultimate sacrifice to achieve this.



Chris

Male leading role, American Marine. Basically a caring sensitive person but due to the war is troubled and empty until he meets Kim. On-stage appearance to look mid twenties to early thirties. Strong, fit singer/actor

Engineer

Male actor/singer and good mover, sleazy and small time hustler, wheel-er/dealer. On stage appearance to look mid thirties to mid forties.

Kim

Female leading role. On stage appearance to look seventeen to twenty. Complex role seemingly vulnerable, naïve and pure and yet does display a remarkable inner strength

Strong singer/actor

John

Male supporting role. Chris best friend. American Marine. On-stage appearance to look mid twenties to early thirties. Strong, fit singer/actor

Ellen

Female supporting role. Chris' wife. Typical American girl next door type. On-stage appearance to look mid twenties to early thirties. Strong, singer/actor

Thuy

Male supporting role. Kim's cousin, betrothed to Kim by their parents. Intensely patriotic and displays strong national values and beliefs. On-stage appearance to look mid twenties to early thirties. Strong singer/actor

Tam

Child featured role, Kim and Chris's son, it is a non-speaking or singing role. To look three to four years old.

Gigi

Female featured supporting role; bargirl, stripper and prostitute, on stage appearance to look mid twenties. Raunchy and provocative role. Strong singer/actor/dancer

Mimi, Yvette, Yvonne

Female featured role; bargirl, stripper and prostitute, on stage appearance to look mid twenties.

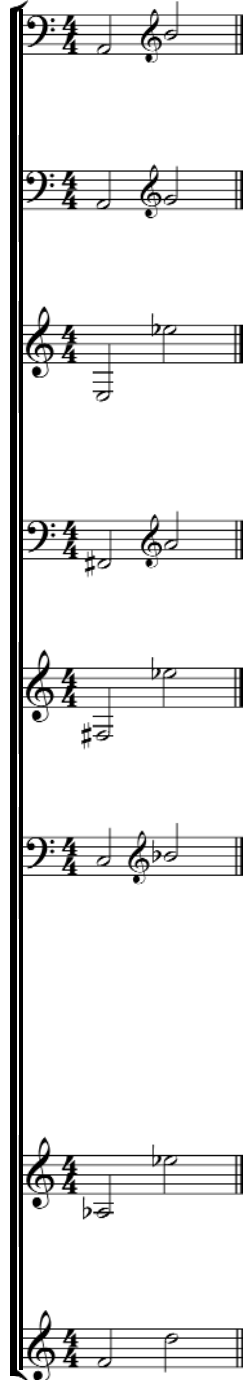
Raunchy and provocative role.

Strong singer/actor/dancer. Similar to Gigi

Ensemble

The following roles will form the ensemble: solo work, company singing and dancing.

Many characters consisting of Marines and American officers, Vietnamese soldiers and civilians, hustlers, vendors, refugees, Japanese tourists, bargirls, conference delegates. Strong singer/actor/dancers.



CHARACTERS & VOCAL RANGES



Act I

Overture/Backstage Dreamland - Gigi, Kim, The Engineer, bar girls

The Heat is On in Saigon - Soldiers, Bar Girls, The Engineer, Kim, John, Chris, Gigi

The Movie in my Mind - Gigi, Kim, Bar Girls

The Transaction - The Engineer, John, soldiers, Chris, Kim

The Dance - Kim, Chris, The Engineer

Why God Why? - Chris

This Money's Yours - Chris, Kim

Sun and Moon - Kim, Chris

The Telephone Song - Chris, John

The Deal - The Engineer, Chris

The Wedding Ceremony - Gigi, Kim, Bar Girls, Chris

Thuy's Arrival - Thuy, Chris, Kim

Last Night of the World - Chris, Kim

The Morning of the Dragon - Soldiers, The Engineer, two Guards, Thuy

I Still Believe - Ellen, Kim

Back in Town - The Engineer, Kim, Thuy, Soldiers

Thuy's Death/You Will Not Touch Him - Thuy, Kim

This is the Hour - Chorus

If You Want to Die in Bed - The Engineer

Let me see his Western nose - Kim, The Engineer

I'd Give My Life for You - Kim



Act II

Bui Doi - Chorus, John

The Revelation - Chris, John

What a Waste - The Engineer, hustlers, tourists, John, Kim

Please - John, Kim

Chris is Here - The Engineer, Kim, Club owner, John

Kim's Nightmare - Thuy

Fall of Saigon - Soldiers, Chris, Kim, John, citizens

Sun and Moon (Reprise) - Kim

Room 317 - Kim, Ellen

It's Her or Me - Ellen (recent productions have replaced this with Now That I've Seen Her)

The Confrontation - Chris, Ellen, John

Paper Dragons - The Engineer, Kim

The American Dream - The Engineer

This is the Hour (Reprise) - Kim

Finale - Chris, Kim

MUSICAL NUMBERS





Auditions

Windmill Theatre Company will be seeking a multicultural cast consisting of Caucasians, Asian, African American singers, dancers and actors for their forthcoming production of Miss Saigon.

It must be noted that the audition panel will select the cast on the merit of each audition.

For further information please visit our website www.wtc-theatre.com or you may call Geoff Sheilds on 9704 5410.

Please note that the call may not be answered immediately, we will endeavour to get back to you on the same day.

General auditions for principals, minor principals and onstage singers and dancers, requirements are as follows:

Singing

- Prepare two contrasting songs in the style of the show. Do not choose pieces from Miss Saigon. As audition time is limited, you may not get to complete the song, so choose an appropriate starting point that best shows your vocal talents.
- Bring two (2) copies of the sheet music in the key you wish to sing (1 for the pianist and 1 for the Music Director). No requests to transpose music will be accepted.
- No taped/recorded music, backing tracks or unaccompanied singing at the audition will be permitted.
- Windmill Theatre Company will provide an accompanist

Choreography / Movement

Sunday 8th November

10.00am to 12.00pm

Berwick Leisure Centre

Manuka Road Berwick

All auditionees are required to attend the dance audition. Trained dancers will be required but well co-ordinated movers who can display good acting skills and musicality will be very welcome.

Please advise us if you have additional skills such as acrobatics, gymnastics and juggling.

Please wear clothing that you can move easily in and which allows your body shape to be visible. Wear suitable footwear and girls, please bring heels also.

Dialogue

Those auditioning for a principal or minor principal role may be required to read selected material from the Show. The material will be provided at the time of the audition.

Call Backs

Call back material will be provided by the audition panel - no other material will be accepted.

It is the Company desire that the casting is completed as soon as practical and therefore there will be no extended waiting time.



Audition Dates

4th November from 7.45pm
 5th November from 7.45pm
 8th November from 10.00am to 12.00pm (Dance Audition)
 8th November from 12.00pm to 4.00pm

Call Backs

Sunday 15th November

Audition / Call Back / Rehearsal Venue

Berwick Leisure Centre Manuka Road Berwick

Audition Secretary

Geoff Sheilds, Phone Number 9704 5410

Performance / Production Dates

Bump In Saturday 5th June
 Bump Out Saturday 27th June after final performance

Friday 11th June 2010 @ 8.00pm
 Saturday 12th June 2010 @ 8.00pm
 Sunday 13th June 2010 @ 2.00pm (Matinee)

Friday 18th June 2010 @ 8.00pm
 Saturday 19th June 2010 @ 8.00pm
 Sunday 20th June 2010 @ 2.00pm (Matinee)

Friday 25th June 2010 @ 8.00pm
 Saturday 26th June 2010 @ 8.00pm
 Sunday 27th June @ 2.00pm (Matinee)

Performance Venue

The Drum Theatre Dandenong

Rehearsal Commencement Date

Rehearsals prior to Christmas will be as follows
 Wednesday 25th November 7.30pm to 11.00pm
 Wednesday 2 December 7.30pm to 11.00pm
 Wednesday 9th December 7.30pm to 11.00pm
 Sunday 13th December 12.00noon to 6.00pm

Rehearsals will then recommence on Wednesday 10th February 2010 at 7.30pm followed by each Sunday & Wednesday night thereafter

Rehearsal Dates & Times

Rehearsals will be held on each Wednesday night from 7.30pm to 11.00 pm and Sundays from 12.00noon to 6.00pm

Rehearsal Camp Dates

A rehearsal weekend will be held in Bacchus Marsh on the weekend of 30th of April to the 2nd May 2010
 Attendance is compulsory

Fees

Membership	\$35.00
Show Fee	\$80.00
Camp Fee	\$120.00

SHOW INFORMATION



NOTES



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