

# David Campbell OAM

## *Superb performer, presenter and MC*

David Campbell is a highly versatile entertainer who has proven his extraordinary talents in television, radio, theatre, cabaret and in concert performances. A multi-platinum recording artist, in 2019 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to entertainment and the arts.

As well as being in demand for his live performances and recordings, David is a popular MC and host at corporate events for some of Australia's top businesses.



## *More about David Campbell:*

David Campbell's career has been as diverse as it has been successful. On television, he hosts the national *Today Extra* show for the Nine Network, as well as the beloved annual *Carols by Candlelight* telecast, both alongside Sonia Kruger. He also hosts *Weekend Today* alongside Allison Langdon and has been host of the relaunch of *Wonderful World of Disney* for Nine. On radio, David presents his own top rating, national weekend afternoon radio show on Smooth FM and in print, David is a regular featured columnist in Stellar, News Corp's popular Sunday magazine. Most recently, David released the albums *Baby it's Christmas* and *Back in the Swing*, both achieving instant chart success.

David is one of our leading musical theatre stars and has achieved similar success on the international stage, most notably captivating New York with his award winning cabaret show.

In 2016, David was honoured to originate the title role in the World Premiere production of *Dream Lover* the Bobby Darin Musical in Sydney, and in 2017-18, he again helmed the show for the return of the *Summer Musical* at Melbourne's State Theatre, making history as the highest selling show of all time at the Arts Centre. He was honoured to go on to receive a Helpmann Award for his portrayal of Bobby Darin.

David's position in the Australian entertainment industry extends beyond his roles as a performer. He was appointed to the coveted role of Artistic Director of the Adelaide Cabaret Festival (the

largest cabaret festival in the world) for 2009-2011. With Luckiest Productions, the production company he runs with his wife Lisa Campbell, David now produces national concert tours and live theatre productions, which includes the critically acclaimed revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, in which David also starred, receiving the 2017 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical.

In 2016, David was thrilled to voice the character of the news reading Koala in Disney's Oscar winning animated feature film *Zootopia*. His love for Disney was further underscored that year, with David starring in the spectacular national concert tour of *Disney Under the Stars*. David went on to appear in another momentous concert at the Sydney Opera House, with the SSO and a cavalcade of stars paying tribute to George Michael in *Praying For Time*. In 2018, he joined legendary American singer songwriter Jimmy Webb on stage in concert for *Jimmy Webb and Friends*.

Born and raised in Adelaide, David was drawn to the performing arts initially as an actor. He was performing at the STC and Sydney Opera House by the age of 22, and in 1997 starred in a major revival of *Les Miserables* in Sydney. Shortly after this, David moved to New York, where his downtown cabaret show attracted major crowds. Due to what Time Out New York described as "the biggest buzz since Barbra Streisand", David moved his show to the iconic cabaret room Rainbow & Stars, becoming the youngest performer ever to headline the venue.

With this success as a launch pad, David was soon in demand from Broadway's most prestigious writers and directors. Stephen Sondheim cast him in the New York premiere of his musical, *Saturday Night*, and he played leading roles in shows such as *Babes In Arms* (at the Lincoln Centre) and *South Pacific*.

In 2001, at the height of his New York success, David was tempted back to Australia by the role of a lifetime - 'the wild one' Johnny O'Keefe, in the musical phenomenon *Shout!* He toured Australia in the show for over a year and became a household name as a result. David went on to star in Australian productions of classic musicals such as *Carousel and Company*, new works at the MTC and STC, and even in *Pirates of Penzance* for Opera Australia. Along the way, he picked up a Helpmann Award for Best Actor for his 2005 role in *Sunset Boulevard*.

David quickly established himself as one of Australia's biggest selling recording artists. Before his releases of the albums *Baby It's Christmas* (2018) and *Back in the Swing* (2019), his albums *The Swing Sessions* (2006), *The Swing Sessions 2* (2007), *Good Lovin'* (2008) and *On Broadway* (2010) were also all chart successes and achieved platinum sales awards.

David has mounted five sell-out national concert tours in Australia, for which he has received a further two Helpmann Awards. In 2009, his live concert DVD *Good Lovin' Live* reached number one on the ARIA chart. I

Returning to the recording studio in 2014, David recorded *David Campbell Sings John Bucchino*. The album was released in June 2014 to critical acclaim, reaching #1 on the Australian Jazz Charts followed by a successful tour throughout venues across Australia.

The release of *On Broadway* was complemented by the specially commissioned television documentary, *David Campbell On Broadway*, produced by Luckiest Productions. A mixture of Broadway history, exclusive interviews and behind-the-scenes footage of the album recording, the documentary was broadcast on the STVDIO Channel on Foxtel.

Regularly performing in the USA as a headlining artist at G'Day LA, David has also acted as MC and headlined at G'Day NY on several occasions.

David is a founding member of Independent Music Theatre, the group of producers behind the Hayes Theatre Co., a venue in Potts Point devoted to musicals and cabaret. It opened in January 2014 and has quickly established itself as a venue of productions of exceptional quality, winning a poll as Australia's favourite theatre.

David is a proud ambassador for Backpacks 4 SA Kids.

Despite having such a fascinating and varied career, David's favourite role by far is being father to his three adorable and adored children.

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