

**Special thanks** - Minda Inc, the Richard Llewellyn Trust, Arts Access SA, Darren Andrews, Graham and Roma Crowhurst, Wendy Hooper, Wendy and Michael McMillan, Pat Luscombe, John and Judy Dally, Marian Edwards, Rachel Fisher, Jo Footner, Sharon Manning, Sue May, Jackie Smith, Alinka Thimm

**The Tutti Board** - President Dr John Dally, Secretary Rachel Fisher, Treasurer Graeme von Burg, Tim Hill, Linda Jacobssen, Sharon Manning, Susie Duggan, Caroline Hardy, Chris Jenner, Julianne Kuhlman, Lis Prosser, Pat Rix, Rosalind Burke.

**Tutti Artistic Advisory Committee** - Billie Cook, Catherine Campbell, Graham Strahle, Paul Hoben, Philip Griffin, Rosalba Clemente

#### About Tutti

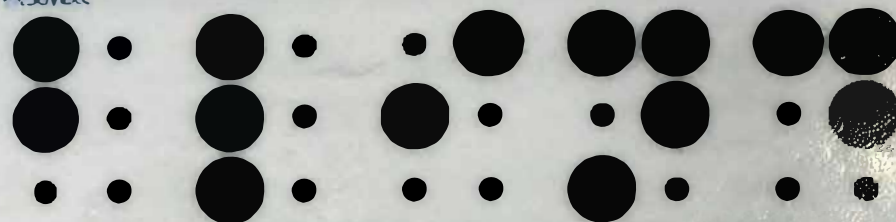
South Australia's Tutti Ensemble is recognised by the Australia Council as a Key Producer of high quality original choral music and music-theatre. Tutti offers professional experience across a broad range of artistic disciplines to artists with disabilities, enabling them to develop their skills and careers working with high calibre local and international artists, and to earn income from their work.

For more information visit our website at—[www.tutti.org.au](http://www.tutti.org.au)



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**TUTTI ENSEMBLE PRESENTS:**



**B L I N D**

**DATE**

**'An eye-opening cabaret performance by five VIPs'**  
(Vision Impaired Persons)

## **Tutti Ensemble**

**Artistic Director—Pat Rix**

**Patron Scott Hicks**

### **Blind Date Program Credits**

Script, lyrics & arrangements developed by the Second Sight Collective - Annika Hooper, Emma Taylor, Jason Crowhurst, Michele Thredgold and Chris Finnen - with Catherine Campbell and Pat Rix

### **Performed by the Second Sight Collective**

Annika Hooper

Emma Taylor

Jason Crowhurst

Michele Thredgold ( also assistant Tutti arts tutor )

Chris Finnen – also guitars and percussion.

With Pat Rix / Jorge Papanaooum – piano.

### **Song list**

I'm Gonna Knock on your Door – Eddie Hodges

Sunshine of My Life – Stevie Wonder

Evermore - Michele Thredgold

Honey to the Bee – Billie Piper

La Vie en Rose ( Life in Pink) lyrics Edith Piaf, music Louis Gugliemi ( Louiguy), English lyrics by Mack David.

Natural Woman – Carole King

Hallelujah I just love her So – Ray Charles

What are you Scared of? – lyrics by the Second Sight Collective, music- Chris Finnen

Quietly In-between – Chris Finnen

Tiresius Bluegrass Jacqy Philips for the Second Sight Collective

I Can See – Jacqy Philips for the Second Sight Collective

Stranger – Stephen Dietz and Eric Peltoniemi

My Life is Music – by Robie G. Porter and Jill Wagner-Porter

**Director - Catherine Campbell**

**Musical Director - Pat Rix**

**Design - Louise Dunn**

**Sound - Robin Eadha**

**Lighting - Pumpy**

**Project Manager - Rachel Fisher**

**Art work - Pavlos Soteriou**

**Program - Jackie Smith**

### **Tutti Ensemble Staff**

**Artistic Director -Pat Rix**

**Tutti Arts Manager - Sharon Manning**

**Project Manager - Rachel Fisher**

**Tutti Publicity - Linda Jacobssen**

**Office Administrator - Jackie Smith**

### **High Beam Global staff**

**Festival Director - Peter Tregilgas**

**Production & Venue Coordinator - Tracey Davis**

**Communications Officer - Chris Wainwright**

**Project Officer Arts Programs - Phil Noack**

**Program Coordinator - Darren Andrews**

**Office Administrator - Emma Wilsher**

**Admin Assistant - Desiree Laz**



### Artistic Director Notes

Blind Date is a first for Tutti in three significant ways. It is our first cabaret performance, our first small scale performance and also the first work by a group of emerging artists within Tutti who identified professional artists to help them develop their writing and performance skills for cabaret.

Last December for International Day of Disability these artists known as the 'Second Sight Collective' presented two performances of material developed with Catherine Campbell to an invited audience at La Boheme. Feedback received, together with an invitation by Arts Access to be part of High Beam Global for the Fringe led to a second creative development period for this World Premiere season.

Speaking personally my involvement in the script development and musical direction of Blind Date has been a joy. To work with four superb young voices and pass on MD skills to future leading performers is incredibly exciting. To play with Chris Finnen is exhilarating; as is working on the subtleties of developing story for cabaret with Catherine Campbell and the group. But more than that, working closely with the Second Sight Collective has confirmed that the Tutti Arts program is a first rate incubator of emerging artists with a disability in South Australia. It is now an established hub where the complete acceptance of difference enables the freshness, originality and talent of people to shine, find an audience and become a springboard for careers.

There are many artists who have worked closely with the Second Sight performers in the last couple of years and I'd like to especially thank Jacqy Phillips for creating two songs inspired by our singers especially for Blind Date. I also thank Kate O'Brien for allowing us to include a line from 'Out of the Blue'.

To everyone in the Second Sight Collective, thank you for a really eye-opening experience. I love this show and hope it will continue to delight audiences long after this premiere season. I will always remember the countless moments of extraordinary honesty, insight and side-slapping humor which have informed its development. My ears, eyes and other sense organs will be forever in your debt!

We are thrilled and honored that Blind Date has been supported by the Richard Llewellyn Trust, a funding source committed to valuing and enabling visible contributions by artists with experience of disability to the arts sector.

Pat Rix March 2008

Catherine Campbell has worked with the Tutti performers on two previous projects and is recognised as a leading cabaret performer in Adelaide. Her solo show, MY BLUE ANGEL: Marlene Dietrich (co-written with Frank Ford) played in New York at Don't Tell Mama, the 2004 Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Out Of The Square, the Barossa International Music Festival, Midsumma Melbourne, Country South Australia Touring, and FEAST Adelaide. Awarded an Emerging artists grant by Arts SA in 2005 Catherine was the first South Australian to take part in the 2006 Cabaret Conference at Yale in the USA with US cabaret legends Julie Wilson, Amanda McBroom (writer of The Rose), Laurel Masse (Manhattan Transfer), Michael Orland (Musical Director of American Idol) and many others. Catherine recently co-created the role of Claire in **Northern Lights Southern Cross** (Tutti AUS/Interact Theatre USA) with Kevin Kling and composer Pat Rix which premiered at the Bunderdale Forest Weekend (also 2007 Adelaide Fringe)

Pat Rix South Australian playwright, composer and social entrepreneur Pat Rix is widely respected as a national leader in social inclusion and internationally recognised for bringing community and professional artists with and without a disability together for high quality performance. Pat has written and composed for many theatre companies and festivals since 1986 including Vancouver's 2001 and 2004 KickstART Festivals. Significant music-theatre works include the award winning *My Life, My Love* produced by SA State Theatre Company for the 2002 Adelaide Festival, *Singing of Angels* for the 2003 Australian Youth Arts Festival and *Between the Worlds* for the 2005 Awakenings Festival. Most recently she composed the music for *Northern Lights Southern Cross* an international collaboration which won the Advertiser Critics OscArt for best new music-theatre of 2007. Pat received the inaugural Arts SA Mid Career Fellowship in 2001 and a Governors Leadership Foundation Scholarship in 2006. In 2007 she received the Australian of the Year - South Australian Local Hero Award and the High Commendation from the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission for her work in challenging stereotypes and public perceptions about disability.



**Chris Finnen** is a legendary blues performer living in SA who draws musical inspiration from across the globe. He blends blues, African, Indian, Celtic influences like no other and combines guitar and percussion with an amazing voice. Chris has hundreds of acclaimed performances and recordings to his name and has played with the greats including Jeff Lang, Phil Manning and Matt Taylor.

**Michele Thredgold** is an award winning, multi-talented blind writer and musician active in Blind Welfare, health and related areas since the early 90's. In 2005 she participated in the compilation of a CD put together by musicians with visual impairments, contributing 2 original songs which she sang, arranged and performed herself. She performs a wide range of music from jazz standards to classical and pop.

**Annika Hooper, Jason Crowhurst and Emma Taylor** are all talented artists with multiple disabilities involved in the Tutti Performing Arts Program. All three are singers and instrumentalists and passionately committed to challenging public perceptions about disability through music and song. Annika and Jason in particular have a strong track record in performance having sung solo in a number of high profile concerts and also as soloists in *Between the Worlds* and *Mouth Music*. Most recently they featured as the 'Crows' in *Northern Lights Southern Cross*. At 20, Emma Taylor has only recently joined Tutti. She previously attended SASVI (SA School for the Vision Impaired) where she performed in the Tutti/DECS collaboration - *Fields of Gold* in December 2004.

**George Papanoum**, George has been a professional pianist/teacher for over 15 years he began a solo career in 1989 and has played in a variety of ensembles including solo, duo, trio and quartets. He graduated from Adelaide Uni in jazz and has also studied jazz in New York (1996). George has supported the Tutti Ensemble for many years.

#### Director's Note

Working with Tutti is an amazing experience and I am thrilled to be a part of this new project. For me cabaret is about storytelling, and involving the audience in that story. In developing *BLIND DATE*, we have focussed on the songs and stories these performers have to tell – about love, life, desires, needs, wants, fears and the nature of seeing. Our smallest moments and most amazing experiences, when shared, become epic, as we realise we have more in common with each other than we thought, and understand we are not alone in feeling like we are in the dark, with deep-felt or fledgling thoughts, ideas and feelings.

My starting point was to focus on what I thought a sighted audience would be most interested in – what it was like to be blind. When I put this idea to the cast as a question, I was promptly met with the reply "Well, what is it like to see?" I knew then we were in for an amazing process! During this project we have shared stories and experience and much laughter, and I am indebted to the performers for sharing their stories with me.

Some music was written in development for this project with Chris Finnen and the singers, and some written especially for these performers by people who know them well - we especially thank with much love Jacqui Phillips for her two beautiful songs.

Working on a new show with Tutti is always an adventure and my role in this project has not been a typical director's role: I have helped steer the development of a brand new show, also develop the performance skills of these four talented singers and been responsible for choosing and preparing the songs for the showing last year. My heartfelt thanks to Pat for trusting me with this project, to Chris Finnen for always astounding with music and making us laugh, and to the completely amazing Emma, Annika, Jason and Michelle for always finding the courage to leap off train platforms and continually surprise and inspire with the depth of their talent.

I often reflect that without the work of Tutti and especially Pat's untiring advocacy, I would never have heard these voices. I hope *BLIND DATE* has a long and healthy life, lets many more people hear these extraordinary voices, and continues to develop and expand the performance skills of its cast, as well as inspire audiences in many different places.

Thank you for coming on this blind date with us – as the performers say, it's a lucky dip – you never know what you are going to get, it is exciting and scary. All first dates begin with getting to know each other, so relax, say hi and enjoy getting to know The Second Sight Collective.

**Catherine Campbell, March 2008**