

# The Witness

**T**ouring thirty one people, plus a truck load of sound and lighting equipment for three months is no easy task. By the time the tour had finished "The Witness" had been seen by over 60,000 people in 24 cities throughout Australia and New Zealand.

It is the first time that a musical has toured so extensively in Australia on a 'love offering' basis, and in many ways has been a 'test case' for Australia. The future of concerts on a love offering basis depends on how successful "The Witness" was.

The cast was made up of people from Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and the U.S.A., with most of the leading roles going to Australians.

The Witness is the story of Jesus told and sung by Peter - "the witness" - and the other men and women who knew Him best. Its the world's most extraordinary true story, told by ordinary people whose lives were transformed by their encounter with a carpenter who was much more than He seemed.

Robert Colman was Peter, the fisherman who became an apostle; for Robert this was his first return to a stage musical since he played opposite Julie Anthony in Irene. Chris Foley and Randall Waller were the "Sons of Thunder", James and John; Vicki Robbins was their mother, who watches out for her boys. Susi Meredith sang the funny, touching song of Peter's wife, and ex-3MP traffic report girl, Mandy Beckwith, who was 'discovered' at the Australian Christian Music Seminar, played the part of Mary. Versatile Tim Lynk, who comes from Christchurch, England, was the tormented Judas.





Producer of "The Witness" was Jean Darnall. Jean has long been associated with Jimmy and Carol Owens, who have written other well known musicals such as "Come Together" and "If My People". Jean is the author of "Heaven Here I Come" and "Life In The Overlap". She was also the co-ordinator for the British Isles presentation of "The Witness".

Irene Gould from Melbourne, who has been working as Jean Darnall's personal secretary for the last two and a half years, was the Australasian Co-ordinator. It was through Irene's vision and hard work that "The Witness" came to Australia.

For those who have seen the musical it has been an experience they will never forget. For the hundreds of people who responded to the call of Christ and accepted Him as Lord and Saviour it was the start of a whole new life. Certainly for the people involved, the local co-ordinators, local choirs, and the members of the cast who gave up three months of their time, it has all been worth it.

