

Kelley Abbey

Dance Director, Choreographer and Performer

For over two decades Kelley Abbey has performed, danced and, choreographed for theatre, film and television.

A leading lady in musicals like **Sweet Charity and Fame – The Musical**, Kelley has won as many hearts as awards. For **Sweet Charity** she received the Green Room, Variety Heart and MO Awards for Best Female Musical Theatre Performer. In **Fame – The Musical**, she both starred and choreographed, winning a MO Award for Best Female Performer/Choreographer in a Musical and the Green Room Award for Best Original Choreography.

From 2002 to 2006 Kelley worked as the choreographer, lead performer and creative motion capture consultant on the **GOLDEN GLOBE, BAFTA and OSCAR winning**, feature film **Happy Feet**, for George Miller, Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow. Happy Feet was number one box office in Britain and America upon its release. Kelley has just been selected to be honoured in the feature film category at the **Los Angeles Choreography Media Honors** for her work in **Happy Feet**. In 2006 she co-choreographed **Hugh Jackman's The Boy From OZ Australian Arena tour** for producers Ben Gannon and Robert Fox. Kelley and co-choreographer/director Kenny Ortega won the Helpmann Award for best choreography in a musical for this production.

Other theatre credits as a performer include **Dancin' Man** and **Dynamite!** with David Atkins, **West Side Story** for the Victoria State Opera and the role of Rizzo in the return Melbourne and Sydney seasons of **Grease – The Arena Spectacular**.

From 1991 to 1993 Kelley first came to public notice as Jo-Jo in the popular soap **E-Street** which aired on Network Ten Australia and Britain's Sky network. She has since performed on many other television shows as an actor, dancer and singer. She also sang at the **1997 Grand Final** at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and at the **opening of the Olympic Stadium** in Sydney.

Kelley is also one of Australia's leading **music video choreographers** working with artists such as **Human Nature, Toni Pearen, Leah Haywood, Scandalus, Sophie Monk** and award-winning international dance group **Girlfriend** with whom she made her directorial debut on their Heartbeat video, which was nominated for Best Video at the Australian Music Awards.

Kelley staged and choreographed **Human Nature** performances on their international tours with **Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson and Celine Dion**. She has worked on Human Nature's own tours as well as choreographing their acclaimed Logie Award performance. She has choreographed Logies performances for **Pop Idol's** Shannon Noel, Guy Sebastian as well as staged **Ricky Martin's** Logies performance.

Kelley was also choreographer and staging director of **The Main Event** Arena concert starring John Farnham, Olivia Newton-John and Anthony Warlow.

In 2000/2001 Kelley worked as choreographer and staging director on **Popstars II** for Channel Seven/Screentime, which resulted in a number one hit for pop act 'Scandalus.'

Kelley has choreographed several stage musicals including **Footloose** for Gordon Frost/SEL, for which she earned a Helpmann Award nomination, the Sydney Opera House concert production of **Follies**, and **Fame – The Musical in Australia, Asia and South Africa**. Whilst playing Rizzo in **Grease – The Arena Spectacular** in 1998 she was also Assistant Choreographer and Assistant Director. In 2005 Kelley choreographed a **new arena production of Grease for Gordon Frost/SEL**. Kelley has just finished choreographing, consulting and playing a role in a new Australian feature film called "**In Her Skin**" starring Sam Neil, Guy Pearce and Miranda Otto which is released in 2008. Currently she is working on the Ten Networks new Australian series of "**So You Think You Can Dance.**"

www.kelleyabbey.com

