

ROLAND ROCCHICCIOLI

The AFL Footy Show regular ROLAND ROCCHICCIOLI has worked for 42-years in the Australian television and entertainment industry. He has also worked in England and America. A trained dancer, his first role was playing the front-end of MAVIS THE DANCING HORSE, in the pantomime GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS AT THE CIRCUS, at the Playhouse theatre in Perth.

ROLAND joined together with SHANE CRAWFORD, GARY LYON, BILLY BROWNLESS, SAM NEWMAN, NICKI MCCARTHY and former MISS AUSTRALIA, RENEE HENDERSON, in the FOOTY SHOW SOAP OPERA, THE HOUSE OF BULGER. ROLAND played JOFFA, the foul-mouthed, womanizing, sex-mad, former hard-bitten football coach who has seen-it-all and is now the model-coach. The second series was HANK BULGER MD – and Joffa was a janitor at the Bulger General Hospital.

He played Senior Detective Collins in the police spoof BULLETT AND GUNN.

Roland joined Harry M Miller Attractions as a stage manager and stage director. It was the most productive time in the history of HMM Attractions and he worked on a string of hit and star productions, including HAIR, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, THE BOYS IN THE BANK, THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, GREASE, and the musical YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN.

Over the years his work and television interviews have included HM THE KING OF GREECE, TOM CRUISE, DAME BARBARA CARTLAND (I stayed often with her), YVONNE DE CARLO, JANET LEIGH, ANGIE DICKINSON, PHYLLIS DILLER (she has the most wonderful house and always cooks for me), OTTO PREMINGER (said he would have made me a star in Hollywood), MILTON GOLDMAN (the most powerful agent in the world and who also became a friend), SIR ALEC GUINNESS, SIR JOHN GIELGUD, DAVID LINLEY (SON OF PRINCESS MARGARET – he came to lunch clutching a bottle of Brown Bros white), LORD SNOWDON, SIR NORMAN HARTNELL, SIR HARDY AMIES, JEAN SIMMONS, DEBBIE REYNOLDS (a very close friend), INGRID BERGMAN, HAYLEY MILLS, JANET LEIGH, JACKIE COLLINS (became a friend), ZSA ZSA GABOR (became a friend), WARREN MITCHELL as Alf Garnett (who also became a friend), SHIRLEY BASSEY, MIA FARROW and ANTHONY PERKINS, DORIS DAY, GORDON JACKSON (a close friend), GORDON CHATER (we talked most days on the phone), SEAN CONNERY, TIMOTHY DALTON (I tried to teach him to sing), GLENDA JACKSON (the only woman in the world who terrified me); SUSAN HAMPSHIRE (one of my very favourite people – such a delight) LEO MCKERN (he did his brilliant drunk impersonation every night in the theatre), PATRICK MACNEE (THE AVENGERS); ANGIE DICKINSON; husband and wife team GOOGIE WITHERS and JOHN

MCCALLUM (have done 6 plays together), and the late FRANK THRING - from and about whom he has an endless list of stories.

ROLAND has worked on about 500 Australian, West End and Broadway plays and musicals; productions have included, ME AND MY GIRL, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, A NUMBER OF BARRY HUMPHRIES PRODUCTIONS, THE CHERRY ORCHARD, AN IDEAL HUSBAND, BUTLEY, THE MAN WHO SHOT THE ALBATROSS,

He spent four years as stage director at the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Roland fronted a television special HOLLYWOOD LIVES for Warner Bros and Michael Edgley International. He interviewed a number of female Hollywood stars who had been relieved of millions of dollars by their lovers, husbands and managers.

He co-wrote the book THE ACTOR WHO LAUGHED with the FRANK THRING, and is currently working on a biography of his mother Beria. He has also written his own childhood biography AND BE HOME BEFORE DARK. He collated the AFL COOKBOOK, which contains the favourite recipes of 150-players - past and present, coaches, club presidents, and radio and television personalities associated with the game.

EDWARD MCGUIRE and ROLAND first worked together in the Newsroom at Channel 10, Melbourne. Edward invited Roland to join THE GRILL TEAM (TRIPLE M) and later Channel 9's THE FOOTY SHOW. His unlikely "odd couple" association with SAM NEWMAN has developed into a running gag. (Sam and Roland are friends and worked together at 3AW in Melbourne). ROLAND was an original member of the successful GRILL TEAM on TRIPLE M in Melbourne; he writes features and travel pieces.

In London he presented a Saturday evening Australian programme on LBC radio. His television credits include: 11AM; THE MIDDAY SHOW with Ray Martin; TODAY TONIGHT; THE BERT NEWTON SHOW; GOOD MORNING AUSTRALIA; FRONTLINE; DAY BY DAY; on-the-road reporter with TEN NEWS; MELBOURNE EXTRA (Channel 9); SEVEN NIGHTLY NEWS.

Roland has performed two successful seasons of the stage play NOW YOU CAN EAT FATHER CHRISTMAS, which he wrote about his mother, Beria. He plans to tour it around Australia in the future.

He also writes a weekly column – VIEWPOINT - for The Fairfax publication MELBOURNE WEEKLY – BAYSIDE.

His favourite achievement! ROLAND was the first nude male in New Idea.

Together with Sam Newman, Billy Brownless and Dermott Brereton he did the FULL MONTY on the GRAND FINAL FOOTY SHOW. "There is something very silly about standing naked in front of 15,000 people!" A critic wrote of their performance: "Looking at them naked on stage, it was obviously colder than I realised!"

ROLAND grew-up in the north-eastern Goldfields of Western Australia where his father, Ginger, was a laborer and prospector.

Roland's autobiography, AND BE HOME BEFORE DARK, covers those years, and will be published by Hardie Grant.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS – ROCKMAN'S REGENCY HOTEL.

- Preparing and administering advertising and publicity budget.
- Writing copy and press releases
- Customer relations
- To promote and attract international artists to the hotel.

Owned and operated ROCCHICCIOLI'S RESTAURANT AND BAR – St Kilda Road.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:

Budget, produce, cast, and mount the stage plays:

Love They Neighbour – Australian tour

Doctor In Love – Australian tour.

Initiated and co-ordinated stage production

THE DAY AFTER THE FAIR – Deborah Kerr.

Casting director - London stage production

THE PLEASURE OF HIS COMPANY STARRING:

- Sir Douglas Fairbanks Jnr
- Stanley Holloway
- David Langton
- Carol Raye

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

- Bolshoi ballet tour Venice and Australia.
- La Bayadère
- The Golden Age
- Spartacus

ARTISTIC ADVISER

THE SHANGHAI BALLET tour of Australia

PRODUCER/WRITER/PRESENTER

- THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS – ONE HOUR CHRISTMAS MUSICAL SPECIAL CHANNEL 10
- Arts reporter Channel 7 11AM.
- Channel 10 - EYEWITNESS NEWS; GOOD MORNING AUSTRALIA; GOOD MORNING MELBOURNE; ROLAND'S WEEKEND; NIGHTLIFE.

Owned and operated ROCCHICCIOLI CASTING CONSULTANCY

- Working for many of the Melbourne advertising agencies, film and television production companies, casting television commercials and films.
- Number 96 – Melbourne casting.
- Directed Melbourne ROCKY HORROR SHOW
- Produced and directed Adelaide production ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Freelance publicity:

- Garry Van Egmond Promotions
- Harry M Miller Attractions
- Dennis Smith Promotions.
- Melbourne Theatre Company
- Bill Kenwright Productions – London
- Shanghai Ballet Company – Shanghai, Chengdu (China) and Australia.

Freelance reporter – travel and people pieces:

- Woman's Day
- Women's Weekly
- The Age
- Herald Sun
- Fairfax
- Kalgoorlie Miner
- New Idea
- Columnist:
- Melbourne Weekly/Melbourne Weekly Bayside.

Numerous stage shows:

La Cage Aux Folles

Me and My Girl

ARTS AND TRAVEL REPORTER –

LONDON BUREAU – CHANNEL 7 AND CHANNEL 10

Currently:

Artistic Director – City of Ballarat