

sedos grapevine

march 2014

'I've been taking boxing lessons'

The star of this week's production of *Heaven Can Wait*, Alex Magliaro, tells the Grapevine about preparing for the role, what's great about the show and being on national television

Who says amateur actors aren't as dedicated as the professionals?

Alex Magliaro, who plays the leading role of Joe Pendleton in Sedos' *Heaven Can Wait*, has certainly been taking his preparation seriously.

"Here's the thing," he says. "Joe is 22 — he's a boxer. I am 32 and I've never hit anything in my life. He goes on for the first half of the play about how fit he is. I just couldn't ignore that.

"So I've been taking boxing lessons and exercising like a mad man. Luckily the show has fallen on January, so I have gone dry, which, given my history, is a bit of a feat in itself. I feel great. My brain is sharper, my energy levels are up, I've been sleeping better. I don't think I've been in this sort of shape since I was 19."

And that's not all Alex has been doing.

He adds: "I've read a couple of autobiographies by some boxers in the 30s to try to get sense of character and the mentality of a boxer.

"Oh, and I also waxed my chest. Which was sort of a test to see if that would make me look

younger. Which... uh... was pretty painful. Think 40-year-old virgin."

Ouch. We're impressed. But there's more.

"I've been watching a lot of films from the 1930s — more enjoyable than I thought — to get a grasp for the language and the way men spoke. It's amazing how good these films are," says Alex, going on to explain their appeal.

"All of them, no matter what genre, have these far-fetched love stories. A burglar walks into a ballerina's hotel room and they fall in love, a bum meets a socialite, she makes him her butler, and they fall in love.

"At the end of each movie, it's almost impossible not to feel good. They make these unbelievable scenarios believable; like anything could happen. I guess with the depression and the wars, that's what movies were for: to instil hope. *Heaven Can Wait* is a great example of this."

Sedos fans will have last seen Alex in *Enron* in the 2013 Summer Festival, before which he also appeared in *Guys & Dolls*.

"In *Enron*, the scenes were very short and separated," he says. "So before each scene I was able to break and re-establish character and motivation offstage. With *Heaven Can Wait*, scenes run into each other so I need to find those moments onstage where I can ground myself, establish relationships and intents while keeping the scene going."

And did he always know the part of Joe was the obvious follow up?

"I didn't know anything about the show so I read it a few times before auditions," he says. "I had seen myself as more of a supporting comedic role. Mrs Ames was actually my favourite part.

"Tracie [Laurinaitis, *Enron* assistant director and Miss Jordan in *Heaven Can Wait*] convinced me to go for Joe — after complaining she couldn't play him herself. After several reads I realised there were a lot of similarities between Joe and me. I connected with his drive and romanticism and felt I understood him on a cerebral level."

When he's not rehearsing or boxing, Alex works

at Citi in the institutional credit sales group.

"I sell bonds and CDS [credit default swap] to institutional clients like insurance companies, pension funds, hedge funds and banks," he explains.

It was through work that Alex recently found himself starring on national television, on BBC Two's show *The Choir*.

"We filmed it while I was rehearsing for *Enron*," he explains. "I was pretty stressed — which worked for my Fastow character.

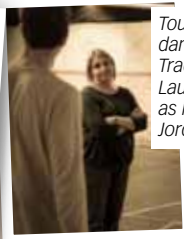
"We didn't see any of the edits until they were on the BBC. So I had no clue they would feature me. I mean I knew I got the solo, but even watching the other episodes, the solo seemed to be such a small part. I guess when I watched someone else it went quickly, but watching myself it just seemed to go on forever.

"I wasn't expecting all the positive feedback, but it has been great. Now I have a twitter account and I often get recognised when I see a show in the West End. The best one was when a grown man yelled out at me on the street, 'My wife LOVES you!' then asked to take a selfie with me. Other than that it's all sort of died down, except of course all of my colleagues constantly taking the p*ss out of me."

Will he win more fans in *Heaven Can Wait*? Get your tickets to find out.



Sax appeal:
Alex Magliaro
as Joe



Tough
dame:
Tracie
Laurinaitis
as Miss
Jordan



Alex's Joe
falling for
Bette (Ally
Demicoli)



Joe's friend
and trainer
Max (Nick
Mouton)
consoles
Bette

The fights on!
Susie and Mr
Ames (Sian
Levett/Paul
Francis) agog



Sordid love
affair - Julia
(Kelly Stone)
and Tony
(Craig Karpel)



Heaven Can Wait is on
4-8 March at the
Bridewell Theatre.
Tickets at sedos.co.uk

Sedos supports Cardboard Citizens



Sedos' Charity of the Year for 2014, receiving half the proceeds from one performance of every Sedos show, is Cardboard Citizens.

The charity aims to change the lives of homeless and displaced people through theatre and the performing arts. Every year the charity reaches over 1500 homeless and at-risk Londoners.

Cardboard Citizens chief executive officer and artistic director Adrian Jackson said: "We're thrilled to be your Charity of the Year — your support will help us use theatre to connect with, support and empower homeless and vulnerable Londoners. It's wonderful to partner with another theatre family that knows how the arts can change lives. Thank you!"

Find out more at cardboardcitizens.org.uk and during our next two charity nights: Wednesday, 5 March (Heaven Can Wait) and Tuesday, 8 April (Into the Woods).

£4,586.75

amount Sedos donated to our 2013 Charity of the Year, Angel Shed

Susan's on telly!

Heaven Can Wait cast member and The Choir star Alex Magliaro (see page one) isn't the only Sedos member to have been on television in the past couple of months — Susan Booth recently took part in the quiz show Who Dares Wins. Sadly she didn't win lots of money, but we all enjoyed seeing her on the box.



Susan Booth on Who Dares Wins

Dates for the diary

4-8 March

Heaven Can Wait performances

8 & 9 March/16 March

Eurosedos auditions/recalls

2-12 April

Into the Woods performances

22 & 24 April/27 April

In Cahoots auditions/recalls (provisional)

7 May/12 & 13 May

Government Inspector workshop/auditions

1-19 July

Summer Festival performances

Contacts

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Sedos website

sedos.co.uk

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Sedos committee

Chris de Pury (chairman), Matt Gould (secretary), Craig Topp (treasurer), Stephen Beeny, Dawn Harrison-Wallace, Matt Hudson, Angus Jacobs, Deborah Lean, Pippa Roome, Bob Stanex

Contact the Sedos committee

committee@sedos.co.uk

Contact the Sedos Groups

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News in brief

• Some 40 members attended our **Christmas party** at The Bowler, in Clerkenwell, and they all wore hats! See more pictures at tinyurl.com/Sedoschristmasparty2014.



Becky Chisholm, Paula Mount and Fran Rafferty

• Planning is well underway for our Summer Festival (1-19 July) shows, The Eurosedos Song

Contest 2014 — Strictly NOT Winners, In Cahoots and Government Inspector. **Auditions for Eurosedos** are this weekend, so visit sedos.co.uk/audition/index.htm for full info. And Government Inspector have confirmed that their **Edinburgh Festival Fringe run will be at Monkey House at ZOO** (17-25 August), following the same team's successful As You Like It at ZOO in 2012.



• Big thanks to the specialist executive search company **Cripps Sears & Partners**, who have signed up to support Sedos again by taking advertisements in all our 2014 programmes. Cripps Sears use the adverts to raise awareness of their charitable work with the ABC Challenge, a hiking and cycling trek in South Africa in aid of Action for Burns and Children (ABC). More info: www.abc-challenge.com.

• We're still looking for a **designer for the Grapevine**, your five-times-a-year Sedos e-magazine. While Pippa Roome is very happy to continue collating the content, she would love to share the workload by passing the design on to someone else. If you think you can help, contact Pippa on grapevine@sedos.co.uk.

From the committee

• **Hot Mikado:** huge congratulations to the cast, crew and production team of Hot Mikado for their sizzling show (see page five)! We sold 1,165 tickets and the introduction of premium seats was an undoubted success, with only 15 empty seats over the 11 performances. A cast reunion was held for the 1999 Sedos production and it was wonderful to welcome back into the fold — if only for one night — so many familiar faces.

• **2014 winter musical:** talking of musicals, we'll shortly be announcing the final production in the 2014 season — the winter musical (26 November-6 December at the Bridewell Theatre). This has taken a little longer than expected to finalise, but we hope to make an exciting announcement soon.

• **Ambassadors:** over 60 people attended the first Ambassadors' Drinks Reception to launch the 2014 Sedos Season at the London Stock Exchange on 24 February, hosted by the Ambassadors' Group, which saw us re-connect with our roots — we are, after all, the

Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society! — and make some new friends from the City and corporate world. If you have any contacts



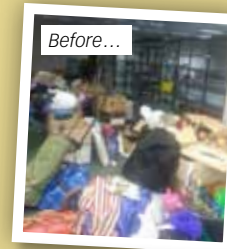
Ambassadors' Drinks Reception

you think would be useful, please email ambassadors@sedos.co.uk.

• **Production Group:** we also recently held our first production crew session for anyone interested in getting involved in all areas of backstage — props, lighting, sound, stage management, operators, design... The evening was a great success with over 15 people attending, the majority of whom were new to Sedos, and it's great to see many of these people getting involved with our forthcoming shows. The Production Group are also building a crew directory to make it easier to recruit teams. If you'd like to get involved email production@sedos.co.uk. We also have a new Production Group facebook page where we do shout outs when we have build days etc — search for Sedos Production Group and request to join or email production@sedos.co.uk and ask to be added.

• **2014 production team get together:** in early January we held an information swapping session at the Bridewell Theatre with representatives from all our 2014 productions. The teams were given copies of our newly updated Producers' Handbook and had the opportunity to have their questions answered by theatre and bar manager Mikey Palmer, as well as committee members and the chairs of our Production, Membership, Marketing and Ambassadors Groups. This is something we now intend to do every year.

• **City Library:** huge thanks to everyone involved in the ongoing reorganisation of City Library — another Production Group project — which now looks very smart. Phases I and II are now compete with a separate rehearsal room (with markings to show the size of the Bridewell stage), new walls and costume and prop areas that have been unpacked and tidied onto umpteen shelves. This has also



Before...



... and after in City Library

left a "build" space which the teams of Heaven Can Wait and Into the Woods are making the most of! Again, big thanks to everyone who's helped, it's looking absolutely amazing! Roll on phase III, which is planned for the Easter weekend.

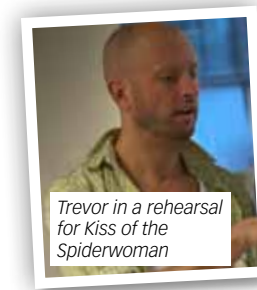
• **Bulk buying:** the Production Group is also starting a bulk buying system for staples such as black and white paint

and tape, to make getting these items more convenient and cheaper for show teams.

• **Marketing Group:** we'd love to have some more active members of our Marketing Group. To give you an idea of the sorts of things you could get involved in, we need help with maintaining and developing our brand guidelines, uploading our shows to listings sites, maintaining a list of photographers and matching photographers with shows, co-ordinating marketing on individual shows and analysing trends in what works when marketing shows. Most of all, we'd love to see a few more people at meetings who can help come up with and talk over ideas for marketing shows and Sedos in general. Interested? Email marketing@sedos.co.uk.

• **Pub chat:** if you want answers to any rumours you may have heard about Sedos then email pubchat@sedos.co.uk. Feel free to send us your questions and we'll pick the most interesting ones and answer them in the Grapevine. So, what do you want to know?

Goodbye Trevor



Trevor in a rehearsal for Kiss of the Spiderwoman

Sedos' Trevor Harvey has moved to Singapore with his partner, Mark. Trevor has a new role with Ogilvy and Mark is being transferred by his company, Platts, and they want to explore living in Asia.

Here's a message for Sedos from Trevor:

"So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye!"

As I head off to Singapore, I wanted to say au revoir to those I've not seen recently. I've been a part of Sedos for almost a decade, since joining for Sweet Charity in 2004 (where I landed not only a lovely part but also a lovable nickname).

In that time, the eight shows I've done with Sedos have seen me through a lot of rather big life changes and I'm grateful for the support and friendships which have been arguably the best part of belonging to a great organisation like Sedos. Of course I'm also incredibly proud of the shows I've been in and the casts, directors (theatrical and musical), choreographers and crews I've worked with. Collectively we're an incredibly talented bunch of people!

Thank you to all the brilliant, wonderful friends I've made through Sedos. You mean the world to me. I shall watch from the wings of Facebook and newsletters as you continue to put on professional-level work, and will look forward to catching shows when I'm in town.

Break a leg!

Love from Trev / Treas / Treasure

'Excited and scared'

Ahead of our spring musical, we find out more about Sedos and Sondheim and go 'Into the Woods' with director Matt Gould

What is it about Stephen Sondheim that Sedos like so much?

Sedos has a strong reputation for performing the works of Stephen Sondheim. In the past nine years we have produced eight critically acclaimed productions of his musicals, making him our most performed author in our 109-year history of full length works (Shakespeare and Alan Ayckbourn are next). What's more, in one year alone we presented three of his shows!

We have, however, a long way to go until we complete the canon — there are still nine stage musicals, two shows he wrote the lyrics for and a play to go! Can you name them all?

Our relationship with Sondheim comes full circle during our latest production of Into the Woods as two of the cast members you see onstage (Jo Webber and Andrew Overin) and one of the production team (Gayle Bryans) were also in our first Sondheim production back in 2005.

Here's to the next nine shows....



2005: Company



2006: Merrily We Roll Along



2007: Sweeney Todd



2010: Putting it Together



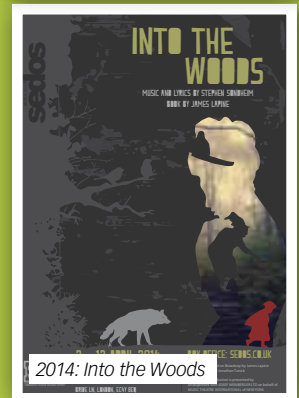
2011: West Side Story



2011: Assassins



2011: A Little Night Music



2014: Into the Woods



Into the Woods
director Matt Gould

Why do you think Sedos has performed so many Stephen Sondheim shows?

Sondheim's shows are musically and dramatically challenging — they really have something for performers to get their teeth into. They tend to have lots of challenging parts and they are all so different, so you have to start from scratch when tackling each one!

How many of the Sedos Sondheim productions have you seen?

I've seen all of the Sedos' Sondheims since Merrily We Roll Along, which was just before I joined the Society as musical director (MD) for Grand Hotel. They've all been great productions — massively varied and inventive.

What's so special about Into the Woods to you?

I've always loved the show! I remember with great fondness the original London production with Julia Mackenzie, Imelda Staunton and Nicholas Parsons — it was a fabulously inventive production and I remember being spellbound by the music. I had the opportunity to MD the show about 10 years ago, which I loved tackling, and I'm now really enjoying having the opportunity to revisit it from a directorial point of view — there's just so much to explore in the material!

Why do you think it's been so popular with audiences?

I think it's because the characters are so familiar to all of us. They are fairy tale characters, but treated in a "realistic" manner, rather than traditional panto. It's also got great music and it's very funny!

Do you have a favourite line from the show?

Jack's Mum telling Jack that he has to take his pet cow (Milky White) to market: "There's no time to sit and dither, while her withers wither with her". "While her withers wither with her" is just genius rhyming and makes me smile.

If you were a Sondheim show, which would be and why?

It used to be Company, because I strongly identified with Bobby, now I guess it's probably Sunday in the Park with George, as I love the process of creating art (!) and more importantly, I love talking about the process of creating art, which is what George tends to do throughout much of Act II.

Sedos has a strong reputation for its Sondheim shows. Are you apprehensive about directing Into the Woods?

Yes! But as Little Red Riding Ridinghood says in the show, I'm "excited and scared".

So which Sondheim is next?!

I'm not sure. I'd love to see Sedos tackle one of the "lesser known" shows — such as Anyone Can Whistle or Saturday Night... I hope that we get a pitch!

Into the Woods is on
2-12 April at the
Bridewell Theatre.
Tickets at sedos.co.uk

It's hot!

Sedos' final show of 2013 was Hot Mikado. The creative team was led by Angus Jacobs (creative director and co-choreographer) and also included Ed Curry (musical director) supported by Pedro Hume-Rodriguez (assistant musical director), Angharad Davies (executive producer), Laura Graham-Matheson (producer), Vaughan Watts (co-choreographer) and Dawn Harrison-Wallace (committee liaison and director support). Reviews said:

- "Sedos certainly takes the spirit of the piece and entertained the audience with a sizzling production and a great night out. From the opening number when the scantily clad ladies of Japan burst onto the stage to the grand finale the company combined set, costume, staging and lighting with some brilliant performances to provide an excellent night out..." Sardines
- "In a time of talentless reality TV shows, spending a Saturday evening watching some genuine talent is a breath of fresh air. Observing such an obviously hard-working cast put together such an effervescent show is exciting and thrilling, making this the light-hearted fun that musical theatre often misses the mark with. You'll have 'Three Little Maids' stuck in your head all week..." So So Gay
- "This production of Hot Mikado by the Sedos theatre company is a little jewel that you should not miss and that hopefully will find a bigger showcase and a re-run (a longer run!) at the Bridewell Theatre or, why not?, a bigger location! (anyone reading there???)... The run (for now) is short and you should not miss it but I am pretty sure someone will notice this show and hopefully we'll get new dates. It really is worth it — get your tickets..." Remote Goat
- "The cast remain totally focussed throughout the show. Their tight harmonies and excellent diction combine with strong and varied dance routines to give us a thoroughly enjoyable and beautifully costumed performance. Sedos know exactly how to capture an audience, hold it firmly in the palms of their hands, and then send it on its way, humming those compulsive ear worms — the catchy tunes you just can't get out of your head..." InfoBarrel



A glass of wine with... Andrew Overin

When did you join Sedos and what was your first show?

I joined in 2005 at the start of the centenary year and I played Peter in Company, I think someone had dropped out.

Are you involved in a Sedos show at the moment?

I certainly am. I'm playing the Baker in Into the Woods, very exciting!

What do you do in real life?

Ah ha, real life. I'm head of fundraising at BAFTA. They don't just give out awards. As a charity they run hundreds of events and projects each year to support the moving image and inspire young people.

What's the worst thing that's happened to you on stage?

During the musical Jekyll & Hyde, also with Sedos, I had to sing a couple of very demanding songs in front of a big piece of set on wheels which represented my lab. On one particular night none of the brakes seemed to work and the stage was on a rake, so I spent a terrifying 10 minutes singing while trying to prevent the whole thing crashing into the front row!

If you had 24 hours before the world combusted, what would you do?

I would host a big party at my house with all my friends and family.

It's our round, what are you having?

Large dry white wine or perhaps a glass of Pinot Noir.



What is one food you couldn't live without?

I'm going to say eggs, which may be unexpected!

Name the first and last shows you saw and were they any good?

The first I truly remember is Evita on Broadway starring Patti Lupone. I was a well travelled child, and yes, I loved it. Now it's all about the fringe. Last week I saw three things, the last being The World Goes Round at The Union, which worked really well and has the best songs.

Have you ever won anything in a competition?

Not really. A bottle of sherry in a raffle once — does that count? Clearly I'm due a big win on the lottery.

A great production starts with...

A buzz of excitement.

And ends with...

A sea of smiling face.

Name that show

In each Grapevine issue we bring you a small part of a poster, prop, piece of scenery or costume from an old Sedos show. Your task? To name the show. Answer at the bottom of the page.



In the wings with... Tracie Laurinaitis

"Life is not a dress rehearsal" ...said Rose Tremain. How right she was. It seems to me that I constantly live in that first

week or second week of rehearsal where you are holding a clunky script, blocking your next move, and waiting for it to all come together. And waiting... and waiting... hello? Is anyone there?

In theatre, we get the chance to practise, improve, polish. We even get to warm up before we start to practise. Get rid of the day, shake it off, and zip zap boing your neighbour. A place where you can make mistakes, wear a cowboy hat, and blowing raspberries is the norm. Sometimes the best mistakes change the show completely. You come out of rehearsal and most likely you've forgotten your grouchy day, and you're excited about your character's progression or the pint in reach.

Then you wake up the next day for that fateful tube ride and you forget to reset the alarm

and you're late, and you run into John and Lucy whom you sometimes see if you make that late train, and you hate John because if you ask "How are you?" he gives you a BBC documentary and not the MTV version. How lucky that you've had plenty of practice cramming into the back of the train and balancing your book on the back of the person in front of you as someone steps on your toe and you miss your stop as you were so into your book. Mistakes no longer welcome. Mind the gap.

Oh the rehearsing, the practice we get every day in life with our wrinkled wardrobes, you'd think we'd make less mistakes or they would be appreciated a little more. I think the lesson here is that life is not a dress rehearsal so you might as well play zip zap boing at work or on that last carriage in the tube. Insert raspberry.

In real life, Tracie Laurinaitis works in the graduate recruitment team at JP Morgan. She plays Miss Jordan in next week's production of Heaven Can Wait.

Name that show answer: Sink the Belgrano!
17-21 July 2012. Read more about the show
at sedos.co.uk/2012/doublebill.htm.