



Kinky Boots debut guaranteed loud and proud

Steve Lillebuen

Get ready, Melbourne: those fabulous, thigh-high *Kinky Boots* are set to sparkle, strut and stride across stage.

The feel-good Broadway musical, set to an original score by pop icon Cyndi Lauper, will make its Australian debut here in October 2016.

Premier Daniel Andrews, who was able to see the musical with his wife in New York, confirmed the announcement on Friday, with the high-heeled hit to be showcased at Her Majesty's Theatre. "It tells a powerful story and speaks to equality, to fairness, to dignity," Mr Andrews said.

Kinky Boots opened in 2013 and went on to win six Tony Awards, including for best musical and best original score. It tells the uplifting story of a shoe factory owner, who turns to a cabaret star and drag queen to save his business from bankruptcy by making outrageous high-heeled boots.

The story began as a 2005 British film before it was turned into a musical with the *True Colors* singer brought on board to write the lyrics and score.

Lauper wasn't available for an interview, but said in a statement that the audience reaction to the musical has been amazing.

"By the end of the show, the audiences are on their feet clapping and dancing and cheering - what more could you possibly ask for?" Lauper said. "It feels like such an honour to be part of something that makes people so happy."

The Melbourne season will be produced by Michael Cassel, who is partnering with the show's original producers to bring the musical *Down Under*.

"I'm looking forward to our auditions commencing later this year as we begin the search for our Australian cast," he said.

Producers Daryl Roth and Hal Luftig said: "We are very proud of the show, and we cannot wait for Australian audiences of all ages to experience the joyful and heart-warming production that has been embraced around the world."

A ticket waitlist for the Melbourne shows opened on Friday.



The LA premiere of the show, with the non-booted Cyndi Lauper. Photo: Getty Images