



76 King Street, New Plymouth  
P O Box 485, New Plymouth  
Phone: 758 4958  
Fax: 758 4926  
Email: [npos@xtra.co.nz](mailto:npos@xtra.co.nz)  
Website: [www.npos.co.nz](http://www.npos.co.nz)

## Press Release

Wednesday 27 May 2009:

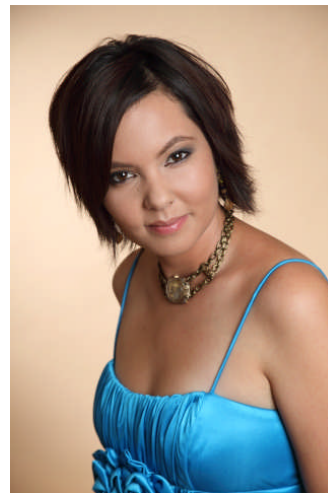
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### Nordhaus cast as Kim in Miss Saigon

Auckland-based Melissa Nordhaus will play the roll of Kim in New Plymouth Operatic's October production of **Miss Saigon**. Ms Nordhaus, of Thai decent, will join the remainder of the New Plymouth cast in rehearsals for the production in August.

"It has been an exhaustive process to find a suitable Kim" says Miss Saigon director Warren Bates. "We have searched long and hard for someone within Taranaki who could play the role for the past 12 months, but the right person just didn't seem to be here". However, Bates has been blessed with a plethora of choice for the role; from actresses around the world. "We've had contact from girls from Japan, America and Australia, all interested in coming to New Plymouth for our season" Warren adds.

"Melissa is a very experienced performer in Musical Theatre, and come to us from Auckland with extremely high recommendations". Nordhaus is currently in rehearsal for a season of *Les Miserables*, which opens in Auckland in early July, where she will play the role of Eponine, after which she will move to New Plymouth until the conclusion of *Miss Saigon* in October.



*Miss Saigon* is a musical written by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil, the same duo responsible for writing *Les Miserables*. Set in Saigon amidst the turmoil of the last days of the Vietnam War, an American GI and a Vietnamese girl (Kim) fall in love, only to be separated during the dramatic fall of Saigon. Their struggle to find each other over the ensuing years ends in tragedy for her and a fighting chance for the child he never knew he had. "The role of Kim is a hugely demanding one" says Bates "Kim sings in the majority of the songs within the show, and is onstage for essentially the entire 2 and a half hours of the production".

Tickets for the production are on sale now at Ticketek, and New Plymouth Operatic President Kevin Landrigan says ticket sales to date have been pleasing. "Whilst there is a long way to go, we are getting some positive signs from the ticket-buying public" says Mr Landrigan. "Ticket demand has been especially strong for the two Saturday evening performances, and we have also had a number of bookings from groups outside Taranaki who want to come through and see our show". The show premiere's at the TSB Showplace on October 8.

Ends.

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Contact: Patrick Landrigan  
Ph 027 22 99 972