

# **SHOUT!**

**The Legend of the Wild One**

**by**

**John-Michael Howson David Mitchell Melvyn Morrow**

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## AUTHORS NOTE

**Shout!** is all about beginnings.

The musical charts the beginning of teenage culture in Australia. It charts the beginning of Australian rock. It tells the story of a young man setting out on the journey of his life with dynamism verve and ambition.

Johnny O'Keefe wants to conquer the world. He never actually does, but that's beside the point. His career gives him spectacular highs and tragic lows. He battles drugs, alcohol, mental illness and a shocking car accident. But he never gives up the fight.

It is fitting that his fight begins in a boxing arena: the old Sydney Stadium. The old tin shed was the scene of performances as diverse as Frank Sinatra and The Rolling Stones, The Beatles and Judy Garland, Roy Orbison and Dusty Springfield.

The fight Johnny embarks on in the mid-fifties didn't have its payoff until after his career had long since burnt out. JO'K fought to establish Australian musical performers as forces in world music. In his footsteps came The Bee Gees, INXS, Olivia Newton-John, Peter Allen and AD/DC, The Little River Band and Kylie Minogue.

Johnny's rise, fall and rise again is a great Aussie musical epic. The language in the script brings back an Australia now almost gone: With ten cents being called a "deener" and Cold Duck wine the height of sophistication.

Sure, to the baby boomers, it's nostalgia but, having **Shout!** performed by a new generation of Aussie teens continues the celebration of a great era of beginnings.

Shout it out!

David Mitchell, Melvyn Morrow & John-Michael Howson

## **SHOUT!**

### **The Story of the Wild One**

**by**

**John-Michael Howson David Mitchell Melvyn Morrow**

**The show is set in the 1950s. To this end, it should have the flavour of a 50s biopic with its emphasis on narrative and legend rather than documentary style facts. The staging, however, should be totally contemporary.**

#### **PRE SHOW**

As the audience walk into the theatre, they see a boxing ring structure resembling the Sydney Stadium, the "old tin shed", complete with clock In the background we hear a soundscape of fifties popular music "From Rags to Riches", "Black Hills of Dakota", "Get Out Those Old Records" etc., interspersed with wind rattling corrugated iron, tram sounds, jack-hammers, etc

#### **SCENE ONE**

INT. SYDNEY STADIUM, 1975

The auditorium is in total blackness.

An upstage door is open and moonlight filters through. Outside the door we see the beams of two torches. One before the other.

JO'K and THE NEW GIRL enter through the door and shine their torches around the auditorium.

**THE NEW GIRL**

John, this is spooky. I'm scared.

**JO'K**

Don't worry, darlin'. It's just an old tin shed.

**THE NEW GIRL**

This dump was the Sydney Stadium?

**JO'K**

The stage was there. Over there, behind the wire were the bleachers. (He sniffs) Smell that. What a combination: sweat, Dencorub, and teenage girls. Believe me, there wasn't a dry seat in house.

**THE NEW GIRL**

That was twenty years ago.

**JO'K**

Yeah, and they're pulling it down tomorrow.

**THE NEW GIRL**

What's the good of going back?

**JO'K**

I want you to know who you're marrying.  
If you don't know the Sydney Stadium, you don't know Johnny O'Keefe. This is where the revolution started. This is where the fight began.

JO'K & THE NEW GIRL exit. SFX fight bell sound. Round One has begun.  
Fade to black. A school bell is heard.

**SCENE TWO**

INT. WAVERLEY COLLEGE ASSEMBLY HALL, 1951

**CHOIR**

Faith of our fathers, living still, In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy whenever we hear that glorious Word!

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS, HOLY FAITH,  
WE WILL BE TRUE TO THEE TILL DEATH.  
WE WILL BE TRUE TO THEE TILL DEATH

**BROTHER**

Very nice. Sopranos louder. You St Clare's girls show these Waverley boys what a descant's all about. And the lead trumpet would help if he ever got here on time.

**JO'K**

(rushing in with his trumpet. He is not in school uniform)  
Sorry, Brother, my mum was sick.

**BROTHER**

Yes, and Buddy Rich happened to be on at the stadium.

**JO'K**

I took mum there to make her feel better, and it worked.

**THE BROTHER**

And your uniform?

**JO'K**

After today, Brother, there's no such word as uniform.

**BROTHER**

Very well, O'Keefe, play. In two. One, two...

JO'K plays a couple of bars straight then segues into the opening riff of **In The Mood**. The BAND and OTHERS laugh.

**BROTHER**

O'Keefe, when are you going to learn that enough's enough?  
Eight years you've been here at Waverley  
and you're a rebel to the very last day.  
Mark my words, O'Keefe, one day you're going to lead a revolution.

**JO'K**

Too right!

MUSICAL NUMBER: **Wild One** JO'K

The action moves to the streets of Sydney, a Rushcutters Bay tram, etc.

**JO'K**

WELL, I'M A JUST OUT OF SCHOOL,  
LIKE I'M REAL REAL COOL,  
GOTTA SHAKE, GOTTA JIVE,  
GOT THE MESSAGE THAT I GOTTA BE ALIVE,  
I'M A WILD ONE,  
OH YEAH, I'M A WILD ONE,  
OOO BABY, GONNA BREAK LOOSE,  
I'M GONNA KEEP A MOVIN' WILD,  
I'M GONNA KEEP A-SHAKIN, BABY,

I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.

We hear a tram bell.

**MATE 1**

Come on, Johnny.  
The next tram goes to the Stadium!

**JO'K**

I MEET ALL THE GUYS, I'M GONNA MEET ALL THE CHICKS,  
SHUFFLE AND SHAKE UNTIL I GET MY KICKS,  
YEAH I'M A WILD ONE,  
OH YEAH, I'M A WILD ONE,  
OOO BABY, GONNA BREAK LOOSE,  
I'M GONNA KEEP A MOVIN' WILD,  
I'M GONNA KEEP A-SHAKIN, BABY,  
I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.

Another MATE brings on a bunch of newspapers. He hands some to JO'K.

**MATE 2**

Hey Johnnie, Here's your lot.

**JO'K**

(calling as paper boy)  
Sun or Mirror! Get you're pay-yer!!

A CUSTOMER buys a paper from JO'K who pockets a coin. He looks at the date and calls to JO'K.

**CUSTOMER**

Hey!! This is yesterday's!

**JO'K**

No sweat! If you want today's, come back tomorrow.

JO'K grabs four GIRLS and they head off for a night at the Big Show.

**JO'K**

GET ME A CHICK THAT'S HOLDIN MY OWN,  
SHAKE IT TILL THE MEAT COMES OUT OF THE BONE,  
YEAH I'M A WILD ONE,  
OH YEAH, I'M A WILD ONE,  
OOO BABY, GONNA BREAK LOOSE,  
I'M GONNA KEEP IT SHAKIN' BABY,  
I'M GONNA KEEP IT WILD BABY  
I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.

LOVE ME, HONEY, I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.  
SQUEEZE ME BABY, I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.  
COME HERE, DARLING, I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.  
COME ON AND GET ME, I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.

YEAH I'M A WILD ONE,  
OOH YEAH, I'M A WILD ONE,  
OOH BABY, GONNA BREAK LOOSE,  
I'M GONNA KEEP IT SHAKIN' BABY,  
I'M A REAL WILD CHILD.  
YEAH BABY I'M A REAL WILD CHILD  
YEAH BABY I'M A REAL WILD CHILD  
I'M A WILD ONE  
OH YEAH I'M A REAL WILD ONE  
I'M A WILD...WILD ONE

**SCENE THREE**

INT. SYDNEY STADIUM, 1952 - 1954

**STADIUM ANNOUNCER v/o**

Lee Gordon presents The All Star, All American Big Show direct from the United States. It's Australia's hottest summer show. The all-American Big Show.



**TEENAGERS**

THEY'RE COMIN' FROM CLEVELAND, KANSAS CITY TOO,  
FROM CUKAMUNGA AND KALAMAZOO,  
THEY'RE HERE FROM ALL OVER - SELMA TO ST LOO,  
THEY'RE PAINTIN' AUSTRALIA RED WHITE AND BLUE

OH BABY COS SUMMER TIME IS TOURIN TIME  
AUSTRALIA WAY  
SO AINT IT GREAT ON TOP OF FORTY EIGHT  
WE'RE GONNA BECOME THEIR LATEST STATE

WE'RE QUITTIN' THE BEACHES, SEA TO SHININ' SEA,  
WE'RE SITTIN' IN BLEACHERS FOR THE JAMBOREE,  
THEY'RE HEARIN' US CHEERIN' BACK IN TENNESSEE,  
STAR SPANGLED SYDNEY FOR YOU AND ME

OH BABY SUMMER TIME IS TOURIN' TIME  
AUSTRALIA WAY  
SO AINT IT GREAT ON TOP OF FORTY EIGHT  
WE'RE GONNA BE THEIR LATEST STATE

TOURIN' TIME, TOURIN' TIME  
SUMMER TIME, TOURIN' TIME  
TOURIN' TIME, TOURIN' TIME  
SUMMER TIME, TOURIN' TIME

**STADIUM ANNOUNCER (V.O.):**

Ladies and Gentlemen, The guy they all adore in nineteen fifty-four.... the fabulous Mr. Johnny Ray!

**SCENE FOUR**

**INT. BONDI PAVILION, 1954**

A sign reads "Talent Quest tonight".

JO'K is impersonating the over-emotional American pop star, Johnnie Ray. He has made special glasses which spurt jets of "tears" when he sings the lyric, "cry".

**Musical Number: CRY JO'K**

**JO'K**

IF YOUR SWEETHEART SENDS A MESSAGE OF GOODBYE  
IT'S NO SECRET YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU CRY  
WHEN WAKING FROM A BAD DREAM  
DON'T YOU SOMETIMES THINK IT'S REAL  
BUT IT'S ONLY FALSE EMOTIONS THAT YOU FEEL

IF YOUR HEARTACHES SEEM TO HANG AROUND TOO LONG  
AND YOUR BLUES KEEP GETTING BLUER WITH EACH SONG,  
WELL NOW REMEMBER SUNSHINE CAN BE FOUND  
BEHIND A CLOUDY SKY  
SO LET YOUR HAIR DOWN  
GO ON BABY AND CRY.