

# Sideshow Alley musical rolls up

**T**WO weeks from the gala world premiere at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's Playhouse Theatre on Saturday, February 3, Sideshow Alley's writer-director Gary Young is fired with all the "roll up, roll up" enthusiasm of a sideshow spruiker.

While sun, surf and sand lured most of the country's holidaymakers over the Christmas break, the Sideshow Alley team started rehearsals on December 10 in Melbourne's Gasworks Theatre. "It has been truly one of the most inspiring rehearsal periods I have ever experienced," Young said.

This production has taken "five years from the page to the stage", as both Young and composer/musical director Paul Keelan like to say.

Young, readying for the team's Brisbane arrival, added: "To see it finally come together, as we wrote it, as we imagined it; we've



**LEADING LADY:** Silvie Paladino plays the Italian gypsy fortuneteller lead of Rita in *Sideshow Alley – the Musical*.

been crying with exhilaration."

Young and Keelan's Side-

show Alley is set in a time when, for one and six, you could buy yourself a look at



## THE FACTS

**WHAT:** Sideshow Alley – the Musical

**WHERE:** Queensland Performing Arts Complex (QPAC) – Playhouse Theatre

**WHEN:** Previews start from January 20

**OPENING NIGHT:** World premiere opening night – Saturday, February 3

**FROM:** [www.qtix.com.au](http://www.qtix.com.au) or 13 6246

the two-headed mermaid, the eastern snake girl, Sampson the Strong Man or, if you could raise your shilling to two bob, Vanessa the Undresser!

Young describes the production as an Australian musical, in an Australian setting, telling an Australian story, in an Australian accent, with the vernacular of old.