

## Showbiz veteran cleans up for Dirty act Jamie First

After nearly 40 years in show business, Barry Mitchell is having the time of his life.

The 57-year-old has been cast as the cheeky thief Mr Schumacher in the stage production of *Dirty Dancing*, and couldn't be happier.

"I was very excited because I really wanted to be in it," Mitchell said.

"It's an iconic show and one of those ... that keeps going on and on through generations.

"I saw it in the 80s, my kids got into it in the 90s and now people these days are seeing it, so it's cool across the times."

The North Balwyn resident said snaring the role in the 26-strong cast was among his career highlights.

"I started off doing children's theatre, then singing in bands, then I got into radio and I also worked in a cabaret group.

"I then spent three years studying opera, so I've been through just about every genre of entertainment.

"*Dirty Dancing* is right up there ... it's got a moral side to it, it's got modern-day issues, all the things that you want and expect."

Mitchell said he had always had a passion for performing, which came naturally to him.

"I used to get drafted into all the senior school shows when I was at junior school. I just liked singing.

"All of a sudden, I got a few jobs and started working with some really good people and I thought: 'wow, this is for me', so I got sucked in very early."

The musical, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in Australia, is playing at the Princess Theatre from March 4.

For tickets, go to [ticketmaster.com.au/dirtydancing](http://ticketmaster.com.au/dirtydancing).

Prices start at \$60, plus booking fee.