

OUR STRAIGHT MATES

With Matthew Myers

Timomatic struts his stuff in *Fame*, which opens in Sydney on October 8.



# Timomatic!

## Tim Omaji is taking the lead in the new stage production of *Fame*. Matt Myers discovers the man behind the name Timomatic.

**DNA: What was the *So You Think You Can Dance* experience like?**

**Tim Omaji:** It was a life-changing experience. It took me from being just an everyday, normal sort of dude doing his own thing to being known Australia-wide overnight. It was an amazing experience because it allowed me to showcase my talents and skill on a wide and highly-viewed stage.

**You've now taken the lead in *Fame*. Do you identify with the character of Tyrone Jackson?**

I guess with certain parts of him. Tyrone is a very confident and straightforward individual, especially when it comes to the ladies. In fact, he's quite full of himself. But his confidence and his genuine love for what he does is what I relate to. He can be an arsehole but he's got such a passion to dance. He's trained naturally in dance and I think that's what I relate to.

**Do you get nervous before performing?**

I used to, but not any more. Now I just stay in the moment and let the show take me.

**Aside from *Fame*, do you have any theatrical dream roles you'd love to play?**

I'd like to take on Seaweed from *Hairspray*. I know it's opening in Melbourne soon but for timing reasons I couldn't pursue that role. But I'd certainly love to do it in the future.

Keep it short. I believe that when you go for over an hour, you tend to become lazy. I believe people do more when they have less time. If you keep the workout short and high-intensity, you'll get better results.

**Who's the most famous person you've met?**

Hmm... I used to dance and perform in Darwin, and I got to meet Russell Crowe there.

**If you were given the opportunity to be a backup dancer and singer for a major superstar, who would it be?**

I'd say Usher. I relate to him a lot. He's a very successful dude that has gone the same way as Michael Jackson, at least in terms of his music and stage performance. And I'm a huge fan of Michael Jackson.

**Yes, it's been just over a year since his death.**

**What are your recollections of the day you heard the news?**

We were actually rehearsing for the *So You Think You Can Dance* tour. We were ready to go on the morning that it happened and I was having breakfast when the news came on TV. I was in disbelief and shock straight away. I kind of thought he wouldn't die. I mean, I grew up with him and was so used to him being around.

**Do you remember when the name Timomatic first came about?**

Yes, I have used it! And it's great, but at the moment I'm using P Diddy's cologne which is called *I Am King*.

**Are you into boxers, jocks or free-balling?**

I'm more of a fitted boxers man.

**What about wearing a dance support, is it ever uncomfortable?**

I first wore one on *So You Think You Can Dance*, but like anything, you get used to it.

*Fame* opens in Sydney on October 4

For further info visit [www.famethemusical.com.au](http://www.famethemusical.com.au)



**“I've been in a couple of situations where I've had gay guys hit on me and it's cool. I'm flattered, but it's not the way I roll.”**

**Do you have any gay mates?**

Yes, I do. I've met them mostly in the industry. A lot of the people on *So You Think You Can Dance* were gay. Being gay is the only real difference between my gay friends and myself. It's all the same deal in that they are my mates.

**How do you feel about the fact that gay blokes find you hot?**

Well, it's a new scene to me, but each to their own. I guess it's a compliment if people find me attractive. I've been in a couple of situations where I've had gay guys hit on me and it's cool. I'm flattered, but it's not the way I roll.

**Who would you turn gay for?**

Justin Timberlake. He's a very attractive dude and talented. And I like his dress sense!

**You look after your body. What kind of fitness regime do you use?**

I go to the gym at least twice a week and each time it's for about thirty minutes. I keep it nice and short and do chest, abs – an upper body workout. The thing is, I do so much cardio in dancing and performing that I don't need to spend too much time on the treadmill.

**What's the best workout tip you can give us?**

Yeah, I was around 16 and it came from my mates watching me dance. They were referring to my dancing style as being very automatic, in the way that I don't really plan anything. Whatever I feel, I just do it and the shortened version of that was Omatic. So I was called that for a while, but people didn't know who I was and when they realised it was me, it became Timomatic. I didn't like it at first, but I got used to it and now I embrace it.

**You've been working on a new CD?**

I'm in the process of it. It's an EP and my music reflects how I dance, move and feel. I believe music works best when it makes people feel a certain way. This CD is the kind of music that will make people want to get up and boogie. It's Michael Jackson fused with Timomatic!

**Do you have a favourite all-time musical?**

*The Wizard of Oz*. It's the perfect musical and movie. The characters are awesome and I'm a big fan of the scarecrow. He just moves so different for those times.

**Have you seen *The Wiz*?**

Yes! Michael Jackson plays the scarecrow.

**Do you use Usher's cologne?**