

And he is thrilled to work alongside Octavia Barron Martin, who plays Mrs Gloop.

“She is such an experienced performer and a wonderful singer and actor – for someone like me, doing my first professional role, it has been great and a real gift.”

Fehily also praises the experienced cast and crew in the musical.

“Tony Sheldon, Lucy Maunder and Paul Slade Smith are all such professional performers, and also very approachable and helpful. It can be intimidating to meet them at first, but they are all down-to-earth and charismatic people that become your friends.”

There was a big American contingent from the original Broadway team working on the Australian production including Tony Award-winning director Jack O’Brien and choreographer Joshua Bergasse.

**“It emphasises that kids like Charlie Bucket are grateful, caring, honest and kind – that’s what’s important in life rather than excess and getting everything you want.”**

**Jake Fehily, actor**

“They were open to us to bring our own slant to this production and not do it exactly as it was done on Broadway or the US tour and that has been very exciting,” said Fehily.

Songs from the original film include *Pure Imagination*, *The Candy Man* and *I’ve Got a Golden Ticket*, alongside a new score from Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, the songwriters behind the hit musical *Hairspray*.

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* will be staged in Melbourne until March next year before starting its Brisbane season.

“It’s exciting that we have lots more shows to perform in,” said Fehily.

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*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* premieres at Her Majesty’s Theatre on August 15. Bookings: [charliethemusical.com.au](http://charliethemusical.com.au)