

Priscilla *Queen of the Desert* *the musical*

AUDITION PACK

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for our production of "Priscilla Queen of the Desert", which will be performed at the Southward Auditorium in August of 2022. The following information explains more about this production, your rehearsal commitments and performance requirements. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be made available when rehearsals commence.

Director: Marcus Wolland

Musical Director: Graham Orchard

Choreographer: Nathan Wright

Otaki Players Society Inc is a not-for-profit community association. It is operated by a Management Committee on behalf of members and is not a production company. It is run according to a constitution voted by the majority of the members at the time of incorporation and auditions are run according to those requirements. All members, Committee and production teams are volunteers. More information is available at www.otakiplayers.nz

Cast Required Up to 32 people will be cast - 17 males/15 females.

Priscilla is a high energy production which will require every cast member to be able to move.

PRE AUDITION MEETING

Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.00pm

*(Come along and find out more on the show
and a dance routine that will be used for auditions)*

AUDITION DATES

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th January 2022

By appointment

Production Dates (2022)

Thursday 11th August 7.30pm

Friday 12th August 7.30pm

Saturday 13th August 7.30pm

Sunday 14th August 2.00pm

Thursday 18th August 7.30pm

Friday 19th August 7.30pm

Saturday 20th August 7.30pm

Sunday 21st August 2.00pm

Wednesday 24th August 7.30pm

Thursday 25th August 7.30pm

Friday 26th August 7.30pm

Saturday 27th August 7.30pm

Successful auditionees will be contacted as soon as possible after the audition process is completed. Planned full cast announcement on the Otaki Players Society website scheduled for March 2022.

We will make our best efforts to contact everyone prior to the public announcement of the cast on our website.

Please note that if we are unable to contact successful auditionees prior to the public announcement, we will still go ahead with the public announcement.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at the Otaki Civic Theatre in Main Street of Otaki, starting at 7.30pm.

Sunday rehearsals will be scheduled as required, depending on the availability of the cast selected.

A draft rehearsal schedule will be available at the beginning of the rehearsal period. If there are events that will stop you being able to attend all required rehearsals, please notify us during the audition process.



Priscilla
Queen of the Desert
the musical

The title is rendered in a highly stylized, cursive font. The word 'Priscilla' is the largest and most prominent, with a thick, pink, glittery outline and a bright white highlight at the top of the 'P'. Below it, 'Queen of the Desert' is written in a smaller, similar cursive font, also with a pink, glittery outline. At the bottom, 'the musical' is written in a smaller, simpler font, with a double underline beneath it. The entire title is set against a black background.

Synopsis

Based on the 1994 popular movie of the same name, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* follows the journey of two drag queens, Tick and Adam, and a transgender woman, Bernadette, as they travel across Australia in their bus, named Priscilla. Tick has been asked to perform at a hotel in Alice Springs by his estranged wife, Marion. Taking Adam and Bernadette along with him, the trio drive from Sydney to the remote resort town in the middle of the desert. Tick tells his companions that the trip is a favour to his wife, from whom he is separated, but does not reveal that he also has an 8-year-old son he does not know, but who now wants to meet his father. As they head west, Tick, Adam, and Bernadette learn to accept and support each other, whilst encountering a number of strange and colourful characters. After experiencing violent homophobic threats, Adam is forced to realize that not everyone is accepting of his flamboyant lifestyle, whilst Bernadette opens up to the possibility of love again following the death of her husband. Upon reaching Alice Springs, Tick finally meets his son, Benjamin, who accepts his father's homosexuality and drag queen persona. The trio perform at the resort and realize that they have forged a bond that will last forever. Full of well-known pop songs including *It's Raining Men*, *I Say A Little Prayer*, *I Will Survive*, *Hot Stuff*, *Finally*, *Go West*, *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*, *I Love The Nightlife* and two Kylie Medleys and supported by three divas flying high above the stage, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* is a flamboyant, funny, disco-fuelled musical that gets the audience up on their feet.

Audition Process

You will be auditioning in front of a panel consisting of the Production Team.

Reading Audition

If auditioning for a principal or featured role, script excerpts will be provided. An independent reader will read other parts. You may be asked to participate in an on-the-spot workshopping during your audition by the Production Team.

This would be done to encourage the best result from your audition.

Singing Audition

Please sing with an Australian accent a song of your choosing relevant to the style of music from the show. Please bring sheet music for our accompanist and ensure that your music is in a suitable format for the accompanist and not in single separate sheets. Alternatively, a large Bluetooth speaker with “Aux-In” will be available if you choose to use backing tracks. You may be interrupted to try your song in a different manner or if the panel has heard enough.

You may also be asked to sing a scale to ascertain your singing range.

Dance Audition

Everyone will be required to undertake a dance audition.

An extra section of choreography will be taught for those wanting to be a featured dancer.

The Audition style will be a Jazz/Broadway inspired piece.

Depending on your audition timeslot, you will be required to arrive early for your audition or remain after your audition to participate in the dance audition.

Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

Please note that is the policy of the Otaki Players Society not to give feedback from Auditions. Note: All Otaki Players casting is run according to a set of guidelines that promote fairness and consideration of Otaki Players Members while balancing the best result for the production. Not all auditionees will be cast. Also note: With the exception of auditioning for the role of Benji

all auditionees must be 16 years of age at the time of audition.

Your Commitment as a Cast Member

Before auditioning, please read and sign the Otaki Players Society Code of Conduct document at the end of these information pages. The expectation is that you understand and will adhere to the Code at all time associated with this production. All rehearsals up to Performance Week will be held at the Otaki Civic Theatre, located on Main Street, Otaki.

A closed cast Facebook page will be created once the cast is announced. A rehearsal schedule will be available from the first rehearsal with the entire cast present. Please note, that this schedule may vary depending cast availability and other unforeseen circumstances.

Please assume that you may be called to rehearse at short notice for a rehearsal.

Variations to the rehearsal schedule will be posted on the cast Facebook page. We will try to give as much notice as possible if changes are required. All weekday rehearsals will start at 7:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays and follow a short warm up. We will have a break in the middle for ten minutes. Sunday rehearsals may have varying start times but will have the same overall structure as weekday rehearsals. If (due to illness or an unplanned work commitment) you are unable to attend a rehearsal or will be late arriving, please contact a member of the Production Team as early as possible. Notifying other cast members is not sufficient. Contact details will be given to the cast at the first rehearsal. ALL cast MUST be available for rehearsals once we start to run complete Acts and/or the complete show as well as all rehearsals and performances at the performance venue. The cast is also expected to become involved in social and marketing activities and in promoting the show as well as assisting with working bees, the Pack in and Pack out. Please wear shoes appropriate for your role during rehearsals. Cast programme photos will be taken on one or two nights during the rehearsal period, if you do not attend any of these sessions you will need to arrange (and pay) for a private session with our photographer for your photo to be included in the programme. Publicity photos will be scheduled as soon as possible after the start of rehearsals to ensure we have enough time to provide quality publicity for the production. You are expected to attend these where scheduled. Otaki Players Society reserves the right to replace any performer who misses three rehearsals without a valid and acceptable reason. Otaki Players Society also reserves the right to replace any performer who accepts a role in another production or activity which adversely affects their ability to attend rehearsals or their performance.

CHARACTERS

Lead Roles

Bernadette Bassenger

A quietly dignified transsexual who must be convincing as an older woman who was once the star performer of 'Les Girls'. The mother of the group, Bernadette is glamorous, oozing Old Hollywood charm with rapier wit and sensitivity. Must be able to be convincing and touching in her attraction and growing relationship with Bob.

Male. Playing age late 40's to mid-late 50's.

Outstanding straight acting, dance, singing and lip-synching ability essential.

Mitzi / Tick

An unremarkable and essentially straight exterior, Tick is a discontented drag queen, the best in the business. Estranged husband of Marion and absent father to 8 year old Benjamin, his journey from disillusionment to fulfilment through being reunited with his son is the central core of the story.

Male. Playing age mid 30's to early 40's

Outstanding straight acting, dance, singing (baritone – tenor) and lip-synching ability essential.

Telecia / Adam

A flashy, young drag queen and born performer with a more than occasional bitchy streak. Provocative and outspoken he has a tendency to get himself into trouble with both friends and complete strangers.

Male. Playing age early to late 20's.

Very well maintained physical features with outstanding character acting, dance, singing (tenor) and lip-synching ability essential.

The Divas

Sassy and strong, these women lead us through some of the greatest hits of the last decades. All shapes and sizes welcome but brilliant vocalists in the disco-belt style a must.

Will also be part of the female ensemble

CHARACTERS

Bob

A mechanic. Typical laconic attitude, soft hearted Aussie bloke who spent years wandering around the world only to find he was better off where he started. Has a fascination with Bernadette whom he saw perform in 'Les Girls' in Sydney more than twenty years ago

Male. Playing age 50's – early 60's.
Strong acting ability with one song

Shirley

Hardened outback bar tender/waitress. Good ironic comedy.

Female. Playing age late 40's to mid-late 50's
Character acting, dance and strong singing ability – solo and ensemble pieces.

Marion

A hotel Entertainment Manager in Darwin, mother of 8 year Benjamin and estranged wife of Tick (Mitzi). A strong, direct and forthright woman who takes charge, but is incredibly accepting of her role as a single mother. There is a deep unconventional affection between her and Tick.

Female. Playing age mid 30's to early 40's.
Strong singing and acting. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

Miss Understanding

A fabulous drag queen with great comic hosting ability. Sets up the tone of the show for us – must be able to work a crowd well, and look brilliant in drag. Ability to deliver Tina Turner numbers convincingly a must.

Male.
*Character acting, dance and singing ability,
mostly all ensemble pieces with one key scene*

CHARACTERS

Frank

Tough miner bloke with violent tendencies. A hardened resident of mining town Cooberpedy. Tall, strapping and very outback Australian.

Jimmy

Friendly indigenous Australian bloke that the queens run into in the desert. Innocent charm and great movement skills – any traditional dance a huge plus.

Cynthia

Asian female playing Bob's wife. Used to be a show girl in her own country and desires to get back on the stage to 'show off'

Farrah / Young Bernadette

The epitome of grace and glamour – gender illusion rather than drag
– Les Girls at its most alluring.
Must be a brilliant mover and look stunning and believable as a woman.

Benji

Tick's 8 year old son with whom he has never met.

Ensemble / Covers

A number of performers are required to play a variety of ensemble characters in the production.

Male/ Female – Playing ages 18 – 40 with excellent acting, singing and dance ability.

All ethnicities,

Males *-(any drag experience a plus!!!)*

Females – spectacular vocal ability a must.

How to apply for an audition timeslot

To register for an audition please either:

- send an email to graham@otakiplayers.nz
- Register online on the Otaki Players Website

•When booking an audition via the email address above it is necessary to advise the character or characters you are auditioning for or if you are auditioning for ensemble. Audition forms will be available at Orientation and at auditions or can be emailed on request. Please do NOT email your completed audition form, but rather please bring it with you to your audition. All bookings for audition timeslots are handled by a volunteer at the request of the Otaki Players Society Committee.

While all care is taken to provide you with a timeslot suitable to your needs, sometimes demand outstrips the number of slots available. At busy times, we may run a wait list for timeslots but cannot guarantee you will have an opportunity to audition. Also, we ask that if you need to cancel your audition, you inform us via email at graham@otakiplayers.nz so that your timeslot may be made available to others.



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Code of Conduct

The Otaki Players Society Code of Conduct is an important aspect of participating in an Otaki Players production.

It is an agreement that you participate in an Otaki Players show according to agreed standards of behaviour.

1. I will give my best at all times - offering energy and enthusiasm at auditions, rehearsals, pack in/out, working bees, promotional events and throughout performances.
2. I am medically fit to attend and participate in the high energy activity that is musical theatre, including events such as rehearsals and performances.
3. I will pay my Membership of \$20 on the first night of rehearsal,
4. I will be fully committed to each Otaki Players Society production I am involved in, by being on time and attending ALL rehearsals and performances - unless experiencing serious illness, or if I have permission for absence either prior to auditions or with advance notice to the Production Team so my absence does not unfairly disrupt the rehearsal schedule.
5. I will communicate effectively and support my fellow cast members, crew, Production Team and Committee members - keeping my interactions/comments towards others positive and constructive.
6. I will accept and follow all instructions and advice given to me by the Production Team and will express concerns/issues as soon as they arise to these individuals only, in a respectful and appropriate manner.
7. I will participate in all required rehearsals, while demonstrating flexibility, patience and understanding on necessary schedule changes.
8. I will be prepared as a cast member - learning all lines and music efficiently, being prompt on cues, as well as bringing all items required eg. script, props, costumes etc.
9. I will demonstrate care to the environment which surrounds me - the rehearsal space, theatre, dressing rooms, scenery, props and costumes.
10. I will represent and promote Otaki Players Society in a positive way at all times, both in and outside of rehearsals/performances - in the way I speak, act and throughout interactions on social media.
11. I will support the decision of the casting committee and be supportive of the choices made in the best interests of the Otaki Players Society
12. All cast members must conduct themselves respectfully whilst participating in an Otaki Players Society show. I hereby sign this agreed Code of Conduct and express my pledge to play my part in making the overall production an enjoyable experience for all involved. I understand that severe consequences, including removal from the show, can be imposed for a breach of the code.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

AUDITION FORM

Name: _____

Male / Female

Address:

Mobile: _____

Email:

Date of Birth: _____ (Day / Month/ Year)

Do you have medical training: Yes No

Would you consider being the Medical Officer for this production: Yes No

Are you a: Current Member New Member Former Member

Are you auditioning for: Ensemble Role(s)

Will you accept another role: Yes No

Will you accept ensemble: Yes No

SINGING: Voice Type: Soprano Mezzo Alto Tenor Baritone Bass

Skill Level: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Voice Training: None Trained How many years: _____

Vocal Coach: _____

DANCE: Dance style: Classical Tap Jazz Modern Contemporary Ballroom Other:

Skill Level: Beginner Intermediate Advanced Training None

Trained How many years: _____

Studio/Teacher: _____

During the rehearsal period, are you, or do you, intend to be involved in any other theatrical productions: Yes No

If yes, please provide details of show dates & rehearsal obligations:

During the rehearsal period, are you or do you intend to be absent due to holidays, family commitments, school excursions, exams or business trips etc? Yes No

If yes, please provide dates of absence(s):

The Otaki Players Society Terms of Membership (please read carefully and sign below):

I understand that, if successful in my audition, I must become a member of The Otaki Players Society Inc. and that the applicable membership MUST BE PAID AT THE FIRST PRODUCTION REHEARSAL. I will abide by the Otaki Players Society Code of Ethics, and will make myself available for all rehearsals and production dates and understand that my absence from these, unless previously approved by both the Production Team and Management Committee, may result in my replacement in the production. I understand that I may be required to assist with set construction/painting as well as pack in/ pack out. Note: Membership fee (payable annually) is \$20.00. Any information collected by the Otaki Players Society Inc. may be used for promotion and advertising of its productions. By signing this Audition Form you are agreeing to the Otaki Players Society Terms of Membership and give permission for the Otaki Players Society to provide any details to our Publicist.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Note: Parent/Guardian to sign if Auditionee is under 18 Years of age Privacy Policy: All information collected by Otaki Players Society Inc. is for use only within the Society and Otaki Players Society will only distribute this information with your consent.

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3. I will pay my Membership on the first night of rehearsal, as well any other required payments throughout the rehearsal period promptly and by the requested deadline.
4. I will be fully committed to each Otaki Players production I am involved in, by being on time and attending ALL rehearsals and performances - unless experiencing serious illness, or if I have permission for absence either prior to auditions or with advance notice to the Production Team so my absence does not unfairly disrupt the rehearsal schedule.
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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____