

MY FAIR LADY

AUDITION DATE: Saturday 9 March 2019

at Bankstown Arts Centre, Cnr Olympic & Dale Parades, Bankstown

To Book an Audition: Please email edward@bankstowntheatrecompany.com

CALLBACKS: Please be available, if required, on Monday 11 March 2019 – evening.

SYNOPSIS:

This much loved musical is based on George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion*, with book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe. The story concerns Eliza Doolittle, a Cockney flower girl who takes speech lessons from professor Henry Higgins, a phoneticist, so that she may pass as a lady. Amid a collection of some of the stages best loved songs is woven a complex exploration of social class, women's rights and finding your own individual strength.

The musical's 1956 Broadway production was a notable critical and popular success. It set a record for the longest run of any show on Broadway up to that time beating even the classic *Oklahoma and South Pacific*. It was followed by a hit London production, and a multi Academy award winning film. *My Fair Lady* has been called "the perfect musical", and recently had its 60th anniversary restaging on Broadway. Our production will capture all the style and beauty for which this show is renowned, but explore the story's continuing relevance to a modern society.

AUDITION PREPARATION:

Much of the success of this musical is that it deviates so little from the original play of *Pygmalion*, and as such there are big dialogue scenes that are as crucial to the show's success, as the songs. This show demands actors who are capable of not only singing up a storm but telling a complex emotional story. Be ready for high passion, truth and honesty.

If you are interested in Eliza, be prepared to show us multiple sides of her character in the auditions. She is ultimately the smartest person in the story – passionate but intelligent, calculating yet heartfelt, and her journey from cockney flower girl to lady must be believable.

For any potential Higgins, your acting is most important, the songs are usually mostly spoken. But he is not all bluster. This is an intelligent insightful man who has actually rejected the trappings of the class he was born into, to pursue his own passions. Interestingly he is not so different from Eliza in that.

Best of all, the supporting characters are some of the best written of any show. The beautifully drawn characters of Pickering, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Pearce, Freddie are key to the audience engaging with this story – and of course there is a reason that the role of Alfred won an academy award for Stanley Holloway.

Its great to watch the movie for the story, but if you want an idea of character there are wonderful versions of *Pygmalion* on YouTube that are worth your time. Many of the actors considered but not used as Higgins for the musical, turned in stellar versions of the character in the play. Notably Peter O'Toole.

CAST:

Character range as stipulated in description below.

For all auditionees - please bring sheet music our first preference for accompaniment.

If you are desperate to use a backing track, ensure you have your own WORKING technology to play it. It's a busy day and its unlikely we will have time to wait for technical issues.

<i>Character</i>	<i>Vocal Requirements</i>	<i>Audition Song</i>	<i>Dialogue Audition -you will be asked to read at least one</i>
Eliza Doolittle Stage age: : 20-30 years A flower girl who works outside Covent Garden. Strong willed and Cockney. She transforms throughout the show into a lady with graciousness and high style.	Vocal Range: Top:G5 Bottom: A3	Prepare own musical character song. Also be prepared to sing a verse of "I Could Have Danced All Night"	#1 Page 34-36 #2 Page 38-39 # 9 Page 116 -118 #10 page 120-121
Henry Higgins Stage age: 35-60 A world renowned phonetist of the upper class British Society. Brusque and often short tempered he is regarded as quirky and unpredictable by his family.	Vocal Range: Top: E4 Bottom: B2	Prepare own musical character song. Also be prepared to sing a verse of "I've Grown Accustomed to her Face"	#1 Page 34-36 #2 Page 38-39 # 9 Page 116 -118 #10 Page 120 -121
Colonel Pickering Stage age: 50-70 A former British officer and fellow phonetics enthusiast. He is a true gentleman, wise and kind.	Vocal Range: Top: D4 Bottom: C3	Prepare own musical character song.	#1 Page 34-36 #2 Page 38-39 #6 page 82-84
Freddy Eynsford-Hill Stage age: 20-30 A naive upper class young man who falls in love with Eliza's unique passionate personality as much as her beauty.	Vocal Range: Top: F4 Bottom: C3	Prepare own musical character song. Also be prepared to sing a verse of "On the Street Where You Live"	#5 page 80-81

Alfred P. Doolittle Stage age: 50-70 Eliza's boisterous and charismatic father. Streetwise and clever.	Vocal Range: Top: E4 Bottom: G3	Prepare own musical character song	#3 Page 45-46 #4 page 51-52
Harry Stage age: 30-70 A friend of Alfred P Doolittle	Must be able to sing harmony	A verse of any song	#8 Page 104-105
Jamie Stage age: 30-70 A friend of Alfred P Doolittle	Must be able sing harmony	A verse of any song	#8 Page 104-105
Mrs Pearce Stage age: 40-60 Higgins' housekeeper. She is strong and experienced at managing Higgins wild excesses.	Vocal Range: Top: G4 Bottom: E4	Prepare own musical character song.	#2 page 38-39 #5 page 80-81
Mrs Eynsford-Hill Stage age: 40-70 Freddy's mother and a society friend of Mrs Higgins			
Mrs Higgins Stage age: 50-70 Henry's mother. Classy, wise, observant and fully aware of her son's strengths and weaknesses.			# 9 Page 116 -118
George Stage age: 30-60 A bartender at the Tottenham Court Road Pub			#3 Page 45-46
Mrs Hopkins Stage age: 30-60 A cockney woman			#3 Page 45-46
Professor Zoltan Karpathy Stage age: 20-40 A Hungarian phonetist and former student of Henry Higgins			#7 Page 87-88
Ensemble Ages: Various Cockney men and women, townspeople, servants, stewards, lords, ladies.			

BTC PRODUCTION INFORMATION

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Director/Set Design: Dennis Clements
Musical Director: Ian Buchanan
Choreographer: TBC

PRODUCTION FEES:

There will be a one-off production fee of \$100.00 that covers BTC Membership for the 2019 calendar year, insurance and cast photo USB. The fee applies to ALL auditionees who accept a role in the show. Character costumes will be provided for the cast with the exception of basic underwear, hosiery and shoes that you will be required to provide yourself.

PERFORMANCES:

The show will be staged at the Bryan Brown Theatre, Cnr Chapel Road & Rickard Road, Bankstown

Friday 26 July at 8pm

Saturday 27 July at 2pm

Saturday 27 July at 8pm

Sunday 28 July at 2pm

Friday 2 August at 8pm

Saturday 3 August at 2pm

Saturday 3 August at 8pm

Sunday 4 August at 2pm

REHEARSALS:

Rehearsals will commence on Tuesday 2 April 2019 and will be held at the Bankstown Arts Centre, Cnr Olympic & Dale Parades, Bankstown.

Rehearsals will be on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** nights at 7.30pm.

Additional **Sunday** rehearsals will be scheduled as required closer to the performance.

You should be available for all Rehearsals, Bump in, and Working days unless notified.

A rehearsal schedule will be supplied once production commences - but is subject to change depending on requirements.

Bump In: Saturday 20 July from 9am

Orchestra Call/Sitzprobe: Sunday 21 July

Dress Rehearsals : Monday 22 July

Tuesday 23 July

Wednesday 24 July

CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN YOUR PERFORMANCE TO THE PRODUCTION:

The process of building and painting scenery is a team effort at BTC and cast members are expected to contribute to the task as much as possible. Friends or relations with building and painting skills are also very welcome! These working days are usually a great social time and assist in creating a production you are proud to invite your family and friends to see. It is also expected that all cast members will assist with bumping in, and also bumping out of the performance space after the final performance.