



Audition Information

Toowoomba Choral Society

2021 Musical Theatre Production

To audition for our 2021 production of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, please read the following information and complete the online cast application form. If you are unable to complete the form online, please contact us ASAP for a PDF version to complete and return by email. ALL forms **must** be completed & submitted to the Toowoomba Choral Society Production Committee by C.O.B Fri 7th May 2021.

Auditions will be held on 22nd & 23rd of May at Choral Hall from 9am & call backs (if required) will be held on the 29th May (times to be advised). Auditionees will be contacted via email with their confirmed audition time. Please indicate on your application form YOUR AVAILABLE TIMES.

Auditions are open to applicants 16 years of age or older by start of rehearsals on 6th June 2021. Auditionees for the role of Benji (boy age 7-11) will be invited from our affiliated youth choir. If you are interested in this role please contact us by email at production@toowoombachoralsociety.com.au.

All rehearsals will be held at Choral Hall on the cnr of Bridge & Raff streets unless advised otherwise.

PLEASE NOTE: As this show contains adult themes and coarse language it has been rated M.

The audition panel will consist of several members of the production team including (but not limited to) the Director, Musical Director, Vocal Coach and Choreographer.

DATES AT A GLANCE

AUDITIONS: 22 – 23 May 2021

CALLBACKS: 29 May - Auditionees will be notified if needed for call backs at earliest opportunity.

MEET & GREET: 6 June 2021, Time TBA

VOCAL REHEARSALS: 6 -25 June 2021

FULL REHEARSALS START: 11 July 2021

SITZPROBE: 4 Sept 2021

TECH WEEK STARTS: 5 Sept 2021

BUMP OUT: 12 Sept 2021

PERFORMANCES @ EMPIRE THEATRE

Opening Night - Thurs 9 Sept

Evening - Fri 10 Sept

Matinee & Evening - Sat 11 Sept

Audition Requirements

PRINCIPAL OR FEATURE ROLE

- 2 song excerpts up to 1 min each
- dialogue audition
- movement audition

ENSEMBLE ONLY

- 1 song excerpt up to 1 min each
- movement audition

BACKSTAGE SINGING

- 1 song excerpt up to 1 min each
- **PLEASE READ IMPORTANT EXTRA NOTE BELOW**

THE DETAILS:

OWN CHOICE SONG/S: Please prepare songs in a style similar to those of the show but not from the show. These must show your vocal ability. All own choice songs **MUST** be accompanied by piano or professional backing track. You will need to provide your own accompanist. Please ensure you advise their name on your application form & remember to contact them prior to your audition, to arrange any rehearsals & discuss and fees payable. If you do not know an accompanist, please contact us ASAP for a list of available accompanists.

DIALOGUE AUDITION: Please choose at least 2 pieces of the provided dialogue. You are not required to know them off by heart but should be familiar with them.

HARMONY SINGING: The show involves harmony singing for all leads and the ensemble. If you are successful in your singing audition (leads & chorus), you will be required to attend a part singing audition on the 29th May, as part of the call-back process.

MOVEMENT AUDITIONS: All auditionees **MUST** attend a movement audition. These will be held in large groups on Saturday after 12:30pm and all day Sunday. Please indicate on your application form your availability for these. For your movement audition, please ensure that you wear comfortable clothing for dancing. You may choose to wear heels, dance shoes (eg chorus or jazz) or other closed in shoes/sneakers. (no boots). Please note, all auditionees wishing to be considered for a drag queen role will need to dance in heels at the callback auditions.

BACKSTAGE SINGING: At this stage it has not yet been determined if backstage singers will be required for this show. If you are interested in backstage singing, please indicate this on your application form and prepare a CHORUS AUDITION (see above for requirements). However, please be advised that the role/s of backstage singer in this production is not guaranteed.

REHEARSALS: Rehearsals are PRIMARILY held at Choral Hall Toowoomba and are mainly held on: Monday evenings 6:30-9:30 (Leads/ cast as called), Thursday evenings 6:30-9:30 (Lead vocals/ chorus dance rehearsals) Saturday (10am-12 small scene work & 1-5pm all cast) and Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm (All cast as called). Rehearsals will begin 6th June and will break over the June/ July school. It is expected that cast absences be kept to a minimum & it is expected that all cast will attend at least 95% of rehearsals.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Chair	Rebecca Cherry
Deputy Chair	Marty Zarb
Secretary	Sonia Deakin-Schelberg
Treasurer	Matt Cherry
Director	Mary Quade
Musical Director	Nick Williams
Choreographer	Lucy Panitz
Set & Costume Design	Madeleine Barlow
Assistant Director	Kyle Dever
Vocal Coach	Janelle Fletcher
Repetiteur	Wendy Evans
Stage Manager	Elise Baker

SETS: Are an important part of every show - as we are a community show, we like our cast members (family & partners) to assist at working bees when possible. Working bees are also run for wardrobe/ costumes

CREW AND VOLUNTEERS: please email if you are interested or know someone interested in assisting with set construction, painting, costumes, props or crew.

ORCHESTRA: Interested in playing in our orchestra? Please send your details & CV to the production secretary:
production@toowoombachoralsociety.com.au

ABOUT THE SHOW

Based on the Oscar-winning film, Priscilla Queen of the Desert is the hilarious adventure of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus bound for Alice Springs to put on the show of a lifetime. Their epic journey is a heart-warming story of self-discovery, sassiness and acceptance. This iconic hit musical has more glitter than ever, featuring a dazzling array of costumes, headdresses and a nonstop parade of dance-floor classics including It's Raining Men, I Will Survive, I Love The Nightlife, Hot Stuff, Boogie Wonderland, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Finally and many more. This wildly fresh and funny musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS!

CAST REQUIREMENTS

Please remember there are some other smaller featured roles not mentioned below that will be allocated from the final cast & not auditioned separately. The listed age is the stage age & not necessarily the age of the actor.

BERNADETTE: (Male Lead, 40's-60's; baritone/tenor –A2 to E4) dance, singing and lip-synching ability essential; quietly dignified transsexual who must be convincing as an older woman who was once the star performer of 'Les Girls'; mother of the group; glamorous, oozes Old Hollywood charm with rapier wit and sensitivity.

MITZI/TICK: (Male Lead, 30's-early 40's; baritone/tenor – A2 to E4) dance, singing and lip-synching ability essential; with an unremarkable and essentially straight exterior, Tick is a discontented drag queen, the best in the business; his journey from disillusionment to fulfillment through being reunited with his son is the central core of the story.

FELICIA/ADAM: (Male Lead, 20's; tenor – C3 to A#/Bb4) outstanding dance, singing and lip-synching ability essential; well built, flashy, young drag queen and born performer with a more than occasional bitchy streak.

BOB: (Male Lead- 40's-50's; baritone – B2 to A3) strong acting ability with one song; a mechanic; manly, soft hearted Aussie bloke; has a fascination with Bernadette whom he saw perform in 'Les Girls' in Sydney more than twenty years ago.

SHIRLEY: (Woman, 30s-50s, Alto/Belt – G3 to G4) Hardened outback bartender/waitress. Good ironic comedy. Character acting, singing (solo and ensemble pieces) and dancing ability.

MARION: (Woman, 30s-early 40s – Any range) A hotel entertainment manager-Mother of 8-year-old Benjamin and estranged wife of Tick. 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. Strong singing and acting. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

CYNTHIA: (Asian/Eurasian woman, late 20s-30s – Any range) Bob’s feisty wife. A frustrated performer of obscure “stage tricks”, which make her very popular at the local pub. Character acting, singing and dancing ability essential. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

THE DIVAS: (Women, 20s-40s – Alto, Mezzo, Soprano – F3 – C5) Three women who carry the musical weight of the show. Sassy, strong and sexy, 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 with flexible range and strong movers a must. Will also be part of the female ensemble.

MISS UNDERSTANDING: (Male, 30s – Any range) 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. Character acting, singing and dancing ability a must. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

FRANK: (Man, late 20s-early 40s – Any range) Tough miner bloke with violent tendencies. A hardened resident of mining town Coober Pedy. Tall, strapping and very outback Australian. Character acting, singing and dancing ability. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

JIMMY/ JENNY: (An Indigenous Australian man/ woman, late 20-30s – Any range) Friendly indigenous Australian bloke/woman whom the queens run into in the desert. Innocent charm and great movement skills—any traditional dance a huge plus. Character acting, singing and dancing ability. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

YOUNG BERNADETTE/FARRAH: (Male, 20s-30s – Any range) Young Bernadette: The epitome of grace and glamour -- gender illusion rather than drag -- “Les Girls” at its most alluring. Farrah: Young, beautiful and sassy drag queen; must be a brilliant mover and look stunning and believable as a woman; character acting, singing and dancing ability. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

ENSEMBLE: All vocal ranges, varying gender & ages

BENJI: (Featured, boy age 7-11 – Any range) son of Tick and his estranged wife, Marion; Marion has raised Benji to be a sweet and open-minded young boy who is supportive of his Father’s lifestyle; requires a good actor who sings.

MEMBERSHIP

As we are a society run by volunteers, it is imperative that all cast members of the annual musical become financial members of the Toowoomba Choral Society for the duration of rehearsals and performances. This ensures that you are covered by our public liability insurance. You must also pay a small production levy to help offset the large costs involved in producing a major show. The levy also includes a TCS Priscilla T-Shirt. Rehearsal materials will not be handed out until fees are paid. These fees will be due and payable PRIOR to the Meet & Greet on the 6th June. Any cast member who fails to pay their membership by this date will not be allowed to attend rehearsals and as a result, will forfeit their position in the cast. Invoices will be sent out with other paperwork once the cast is finalised.

ANNUAL MUSICAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Adult:	\$100	(\$60 membership + \$40 Production Levy*)
Full Time Student:	\$80	(\$40 membership + \$40 Production Levy*)

CURRENT 2021 FINANCIAL TOOWOOMBA CHORALS SOCIETY MEMBERS

All Ages:	\$40	(Production Levy Only)*
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Please note: current TCS members will need to ensure they have paid their FULL Year membership to be covered for the musical

****2021 Production Levy includes a TCS Priscilla T-Shirt***

If you have ANY questions or require clarification about anything supplied in the audition pack, please contact the production secretary, Sonia Deakin-Schelberg
by email at: production@toowoombachoralsociety.com.au