

theatrical. PRESENTS

THE

BOY

FROM

OZ

Audition Brief



July 2024

National Theatre, St Kilda

ABOUT THE BOY FROM OZ

The groundbreaking success of *The Boy from Oz*, marking the first Australian musical to triumph on Broadway, resonated profoundly both Down Under and in the international theater scene. Led by the remarkable Todd McKenney as Peter Allen, the production garnered numerous awards in Australia. Upon its Broadway debut in 2004, *The Boy from Oz* earned five Tony Award nominations, a testament to its excellence, including a triumphant win for Best Actor in a Musical by the charismatic Hugh Jackman.

This captivating musical delves into the extraordinary life of the iconic singer/songwriter Peter Allen, unfolding from his humble birth in 1944 in Tenterfield, NSW, to his formative years in rural Armidale. The narrative traces Allen's meteoric ascent to international stardom, exploring his notable career in both Australia and the United States. The production sheds light on his significant relationships with legendary figures such as Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli, culminating in his untimely death in 1992.

The Boy from Oz seamlessly intertwines Peter Allen's renowned songs with the tapestry of his life story, offering a musical journey through hits like "Not the Boy Next Door," "Quiet Please, There's a Lady on Stage," "Everything Old is New Again," "I Honestly Love You," "Don't Cry Out Loud," "Tenterfield Sadler," "I Still Call Australia Home," and "I Go to Rio." These musical gems serve as a poignant backdrop, enhancing the emotional depth of Allen's captivating life narrative on stage.

ABOUT THEATRICAL

Theatrical is a not-for-profit theatre production company that aims to give artists an opportunity to get involved in a positive community theatre experience. As a member of the Theatrical team, your time, participation, and talent is incredibly valuable to us. Your focus will be to develop your character, learn your lines, lyrics and choreography and, most importantly, have a great time in a supportive, safe, and creative environment.

Theatrical does not have a traditional committee. There are no politics, no slow decisions and no hidden agendas. Simply, Theatrical is all about creating great quality community made theatre with heart. We want you to have a memorable experience as part of the Theatrical team, and together we can make it a great experience for audiences too.

Theatrical is:

- an independent, privately funded, not-for-profit community run theatre company and a registered charity
- committed to providing people with the opportunity to get involved in pretty much all aspects of producing musical theatre
- dedicated to creating a safe, positive and creative experience for all of our volunteers
- encouraging people with talent and commitment to become involved
- devoted to providing genuine training opportunities to people who are interested and committed to developing their skills in any aspect of performing arts

Theatrical is registered as a charity by the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission and a member of the Musical Theatre Guild of Victoria.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive Producer: **Andrew Gyopar**
Director & Choreographer **Rhylee Nowel**
Musical Director: **Alex Byrne**
Musical Supervisor: **Matthew Hadgraft**
Production Coordinator: **Caitlin Greenhill**

CASTING PANEL

Andrew Gyopar, Rhylee Nowel, Alex Byrne, Matthew Hadgraft
Casting Consultant: Melanie Xavier (Conscious Casting)

There will also be an audition pianist and videographer in the audition room.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Saturday 6 July 2024, Preview 1.30pm
Saturday, 6 July 2024, **Opening Night** 7.30pm
Sunday, 7 July 2024, 1.30pm & 6.30pm
Tuesday, 9 July 2024, 7.30pm (*second release)
Wednesday, 10 July 2024, 7.30pm (*second release)
Thursday, 11 July 2024, 7.30pm
Friday, 12 July 2024, 7.30pm
Saturday, 13 July 2024, 1.30pm & 7.30pm
Sunday, 14 July 2024, 1.30pm & 6.30pm
Tuesday, 16 July 2024, 7.30pm (*second release)
Wednesday, 17 July 2024, 7.30pm (*second release)
Thursday, 18 July 2024, 7.30pm
Friday, 19 July 2024, 7.30pm
Saturday, 20 July 2024, 1.30pm & 7.30pm
Sunday, 21 July 2024 1.30pm

** Second Release performances are those for which tickets may not be available for sale at launch but may be released later, depending on ticket sales for the season. Cast must be available for all performances including Second Release performances. Theatrical will confirm Second Release performances with cast as early as possible.*

INCLUSIVE CASTING POLICY

Theatrical values inclusivity and diversity in all aspects of its theatre-making. We commit to casting all roles in a conscious and representative manner. We invite performers from all backgrounds, cultural groups, ethnicity, gender identity, physicality and sexual orientation to audition for the roles in this show. Our audition process is open and accessible; we welcome a diverse range of performers to become involved in this show, so that our work can reflect the diversity of people groups across Australia. Theatrical is committed to ensuring that the auditions, rehearsals, pre-production process, and performances are safe, inclusive, supportive and welcoming for all our talent and crew.

AUDITION SCHEDULE & RUNDOWN

We request all auditionees to complete the audition registration form online (theatrical.com.au/auditions). Please upload a copy of your current headshot and a performance CV. You do not need to bring a hard copy of your application form, headshot or resume to the audition.

VOCAL AND ACTING AUDITIONS

Venue: Theatrical HQ, 14 Friendship Square Cheltenham

Date: 25 & 27 March, 6 & 7 April, 2024

Each audition is an 8 minute time slot. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your booked audition time. If you are running late, please sms us on 0448 122 777. Whilst we will make every effort to adhere to the schedule, the auditions may inevitably run over time so please aim to be onsite for at least 30-45 minutes.

Vocal Audition

Please prepare two contrasting songs (16-bar cuts), an up tempo song and a ballad, in the style of the show. Please do not sing a song from the show. You may not be required to present your selected songs in their entirety, however, be prepared to perform both cuts during the audition. We request that you prepare sheet music (in a clear display folder, in the correct key, with tempo and cut markings) for the audition pianist. You will have an opportunity to talk through your songs with the pianist before your audition. You may bring your own piano accompanist if you prefer. We ask for all song cuts to be performed with live accompaniment, no backing tracks.

**If you are auditioning for the Dance Troupe only (a non-singing role)
you do not need to book a vocal or acting audition.**

Acting Auditions

We may ask you to perform the audition monologue that is included in this document. You are welcome to bring a hard copy of the monologue into the audition room.

DANCE AUDITION (by invitation)

Date: Sunday 7 April, 2.30pm @ Theatrical HQ

You may be required to attend a dance audition. All performers, who wish to be considered for roles in this production, must make themselves available for the dance call upon request.

CALL-BACK AUDITIONS

Date: Monday 8 April from 7pm @ Theatrical HQ

We will notify you if you are required to attend a call-back. We may call-back some roles, however, if you do not receive a call-back, you may still be in consideration. We will notify all auditionees of the outcome of their audition.

We will send you additional material when we notify you of a call-back request. During call backs you will be asked to perform song cuts & dialogue from the show. You may be grouped with other auditionees to test chemistry. We are looking for authentic performers who make bold offers, are collaborative, and support each other throughout the audition, rehearsal, and performance phases.

If you receive a call-back and cannot attend at the scheduled time, please let us know by contacting us via email (prod@theatrical.com.au).

Note that call backs for Peter Allen cover and Young Peter Allen will also be required to play the piano.

Please direct all enquiries regarding auditions to prod@theatrical.com.au

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals will commence on Monday 22 April 2024. Rehearsals will usually be scheduled on Monday and Wednesday from 7.00-10.30 PM, and some Saturdays from 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM at Theatrical HQ (14 Friendship Square Cheltenham).

All cast are expected to be available for every rehearsal (unless otherwise advised).

Promotional Photoshoot

We ask all successful candidates to make themselves available for a photoshoot on Sunday 26 May.

Sitzprobe is scheduled for Saturday 29 June 2024 from 1.30 PM at Theatrical HQ.

Production Week (National Theatre)

Please note the following important dates during production week:

Monday, 1 July:

6.00 PM call (Tech Rehearsal, Act 1)

Tuesday, 2 July:

6.00 PM (Tech Rehearsal, Act 2)

Wednesday, 3 July:

6.00 PM (Dress rehearsal)

Thursday, 4 July:

6.00 PM (Dress rehearsal)

Friday, 5 July:

6.00 PM (Dress rehearsal for performing covers)

Please note, you may be required from 4.00 PM on Thursday 4 July or Friday 5 July for a pre-show media/publicity call. It is critical that all cast are available for this call.

Working With Children Check (WWCC)

Everyone over the age of 18 who is involved in this production will be required to have a current WWCC (or VIT registration). Please register Theatrical as a nominated organisation and provide us with a copy of your WWCC Statemnt/VIT card.

Please note: You will be required for all rehearsals. If you have any unavailability during the rehearsal & performance period, please advise us of these dates & times in your audition form. We also ask that you notify us of any other prior commitments which may impact your attendance at rehearsals/performances. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be provided to you at the induction night.

Costume fittings will be scheduled to coincide with rehearsal times where possible. We will negotiate times with you if additional costume fittings are required.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Monday, 22 April 2024	Cast induction
Wednesday, 24 April 2024	Cast rehearsal 7-10.30pm
Monday, 29 April 2024	Cast rehearsal
Wednesday, 1 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Saturday, 4 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Monday, 6 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Wednesday, 8 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Saturday, 11 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Monday, 13 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Wednesday, 15 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Saturday, 18 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Monday, 20 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Wednesday, 22 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Saturday, 25 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Monday, 27 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Wednesday, 29 May 2024	Cast rehearsal
Saturday, 1 June 2024	Cast rehearsal
Monday, 3 June 2024	Cast rehearsal
Wednesday, 5 June 2024	Cast rehearsal
Saturday, 8 June 2024	Cast rehearsal FULL RUN 1
Monday, 10 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Wednesday, 12 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Saturday, 15 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Monday, 17 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Wednesday, 19 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Saturday, 22 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Monday, 24 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Wednesday, 26 June 2024	Cast rehearsal (full run)
Saturday, 29 June 2024	Orchestra 10am-1pm & 1.30 Sitzprobe & pack for bump in

CHARACTERS DESCRIPTIONS

PETER ALLEN (COVER)

Male presenting, Contemporary vocal (top G)

Actor/Singer/Dancer, Oozing charisma and energy. The ultimate 'Showman', very ambitious.

Stage Age: Due to the Show time transitions the character ages from mid 20's onwards; age to look on stage is late 20's to 40 years old.

Vocal Range: Middle C - A (above staff), (Bb Falsetto)

Dance: Strong

***NB:** The role of Peter Allen has been cast for this production. Please refer to the FAQs for more information about character covers.*

THE TRIO: KAREN, SHEENA AND LINELLE.

Back Up Girls for Peter Allen

Female presenting, Contemporary back up vocalist with belt

These girls are solo artists in their own right. Vocally there will be lots of harmonies; very strong vocal quality and range are required..

Singers/Dancers/Movers:

Stage Age: Open

Vocal Ranges: Three parts sit within a low Eb (below the staff) to a Bb (above the staff). They are Sop 1, Sop 2, Alto arrangements; each part has a large range to allow for solos and scatting.

Dance: Good movers

JUDY GARLAND

Female presenting, Contemporary vocal (low E below middle C)

Memorable, charismatic Movie Star and Stage Diva.. A sensitive and very vulnerable character, but also strong willed

Stage Age: mid 40's. Strong singer/actress.

Vocal Range: Eb (below the staff) - A (on the staff)

Dance: Strong

LIZA MINNELLI

Female presenting, Contemporary vocal (low F below middle C to D)

A rising star (Judy Garland's daughter) marries Peter Allen. Theatre & Cabaret Artist. Dancer, singer, actress.

Stage Age: around early to mid 20's through to 30's 40's

Vocal Range: F (below the staff) - C# (on the staff)

Dancing: Strong

YOUNG PETER ALLEN

Male presenting

Peter Allen as an Australian youngster. Singer with good dancing and tapping ability. Clean cut kid with a lot of bravado

Stage Age: approx 9 to 13 years.

Vocal Range: Middle C# - D (on the staff)

Dancing: Strong (including tap)

CHARACTERS DESCRIPTIONS continued

MARION WOOLNOUGH

Female presenting, Contemporary vocal (top D)

Peter Allen's Australian mother, down to earth mother type. Strong actress, singer. Character shows a good sense of humour.

Stage Age: 30 to 70

Voice: Contemporary vocal (top D)

Dance: Confident mover

GREG CONNELL

Male presenting, Contemporary vocal (top D)

Peter Allen's long term companion. Greg was from Texas and was a fashion model. He designed Peter Allen's shows' sound and lighting after they met. Warm lovable character, quiet with a very dependable personality.

Stage Age: 30 to 40 years old.

Vocal Range: Middle C -D(on the staff)

Dance: Confident mover

The following are speaking roles - but will be required to sing in some group numbers and may also be in the ensemble.

DEE ANTHONY (ARTIST MANAGER)

DICK WOOLNOUGH (PETER'S FATHER)

Male presenting, Stage Age: 40 to 70

VALERIE ANTHONY (DEE'S WIFE)

JOSIE MANN (ARMIDALE PUB OWNER)

Female presenting, Stage Age: 30 to 60

DANCE TROUPE

A group of trained and experienced Dancers (to perform as the Rockettes, feature dancers and part of the ensemble). Dance Troupe members should be aged 16 years and over.

ENSEMBLE

The ensemble will include:

- Josie Mann (Armidale pub owner)
- Wally Bell (Producer)
- Chris Bell (Entertainer, other Half of the Allen Brothers)
- Bonnie (Broadway director's assistant)
- Choreographer 1 & 2 (Broadway choreographer)
- Peters Flat Mate
- Reporters Auditionees Pianist
- Make-up girls
- Legs Diamond performers: Gangsters/dancers, choreographer, costumier, actress, technical staff, Charleston dancers.

AUDITION MONOLOGUE

All auditionee's are expected to learn the following monologue. We may ask you to perform it as part of your audition.

Good natured ladies come and sit, smiling up at me

And backward boys from abroad linger till after 3

And I can see what's never seen; the greatest show that's ever been:

The audience was playing for me

A group of strangers turned to friends acting naturally
They're laughing, crying, "take me just where I want to be!"

When I think of times I'd flown the highest, they where times I'd known

The audience was playing for me

I don't want to be famous; don't want to work in big halls

I might even be hiding when fame and fortune calls

But if I can't see just who I'm singing to

How will you know I'm singing them all for you?



What can I expect at the audition?

The casting panel comprises the Executive Producer, Director, Musical Director, Musical Supervisor & Casting Consultant. A pianist will be in the room to accompany your singing audition. Our Casting Consultant will be present at the venue to help everyone feel welcome and culturally safe during the casting process.

We know that auditions are challenging. The audition panel commits to conducting auditions in a respectful and supportive manner. We want you to be comfortable during your audition. Please let us know if you have any questions about the auditions.

Casting a show is a complex process which involves placing performers in the roles which suit them best. If you are unsuccessful, we acknowledge this is a disappointing outcome. We can offer feedback on your audition if you would like it. Please reach out to prod@theatrical.com.au with any pre/post audition enquiries.

What can I expect at rehearsals?

As a part of our commitment to creating a safe and collaborative environment, the production team will support you every step of the way. We understand that some of the subject matter of the show may be sensitive, confronting, and/or challenging - we commit to approaching this content with the utmost respect and care. We aim to create an atmosphere that encourages creativity and mutual respect, whilst maintaining professionalism at all times. We believe that open communication is key to the success of our productions.

What are character covers?

To cover for illness etc we may cast a cover/understudy for some of the principal roles. Given the significant commitment involved with learning a principal track we may offer a cover some guaranteed performances in the role that they are understudying.

I'm unavailable for some of the rehearsals. Can I still be involved?

All Cast members are expected to attend every rehearsal unless they are otherwise advised. During the audition process, you will be asked to indicate your unavailability in the audition form. We understand that there may be unforeseen circumstances which may arise and we ask you to maintain an open line of communication with us. Rest assured that our team will provide adequate notice of any updates to schedules throughout the casting and rehearsal process.

My age is different to the Stage Age listed in the Character Descriptions. Can I still be considered for that role?

Stage age is a guide, provided to us from the writes of the show. Whenever possible we try to find performers who can play a character within the recommended stage age range. If you feel that you can play a character within the recommended stage age we would be very happy to see you audition for that role, regardless of your actual age.

FAQ (continued)

If I am cast in this show, can I audition for other shows?

There are a lot of people on and off stage who invest a lot of time and energy into making a Theatrical production. So, we ask everyone involved to make a 100% commitment to the show. If you would like to audition for something else during your time on the show, all we ask is that you discuss it with the production team first, so we can make sure that it doesn't conflict with your commitment to this show.

How much are the show fees?

We won't ask you to pay a show fee.

What is a libretto deposit?

Theatrical has to pay for any damaged or missing libretto/script. So we ask our cast to pay a \$70 deposit, but once you return your hard copy libretto after the show closes we will refund that to you in full by EFT, so long as it is clean and undamaged.

Will I have to sell tickets and fundraise for the show?

We have a great team of fundraisers, marketers, publicists and social media creators who focus on letting people know about our shows. Our cast will never be required to participate in fundraising activities, and there is no pressure to sell tickets (but we hope that you are as proud and excited about the show as we are so tell your family and friends to come and support this work).

Am I expected to help with bump-in and bump-out?

At our final rehearsal at Theatrical HQ you will be expected to help pack everything for transport. And after our closing show we request your help with the bump-out. We use professional removalists for the actual bump-in and bump-out.

What else does Theatrical expect from cast members?

At Theatrical we want our cast focused on developing and presenting a great show. But if you have other skills that you would like to offer, we are always looking for volunteers to help with set building, costumes, scenic artistry and all the other stuff that goes into making great theatrical experiences.

A sense of community is important at Theatrical. You will be invited to social events throughout the season, which we encourage you to attend. It's a great way to get to know the whole Theatrical team.

When will I find out the outcome of my audition?

SMS and phone call offers are made by the production team within 48 hours after call-backs. We ask that you confirm your acceptance within 24 hours after the offer is made. We will notify all candidates of an audition outcome within 3-4 days after call-backs.

Sometimes, auditions and call backs can run longer than expected. If the process takes longer than planned, we apologise in advance for any delays in notifications.

I have other questions, who can I chat with?

If you have questions about the casting process, rehearsals, or the production plans please email prod@theatrical.com.au.

On the day of your audition, please feel free to call Caitlin on 0448 122 777 if you need to contact the production team for any reason.