



BAZ LUHRMANN'S

**STRICTLY**

*Ballroom*

*the musical*

**AUDITION  
INFORMATION BOOK**

## **STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL**

Footlight Productions is thrilled to bring Strictly Ballroom The Musical to Geelong audiences in January 2024. To be staged at The Story House Theatre at Geelong Arts Centre, Strictly Ballroom The Musical promises to be a spectacular extravaganza with utterly gorgeous costumes, loads of laughs and plenty of surprises along the way! Adapted from Baz Luhrmann's beloved award-winning film, the musical combines the heart and comedy of the story with white-hot dance, and many classic chart hits. This will be an unforgettable production that will make your heart soar.

### **WHO ARE FOOTLIGHT PRODUCTIONS?**

Footlight Productions was formed in 2003 by Peter Wills with the aim of giving performers the opportunity to perform on stage in high quality musicals for Geelong audiences. Since its inception Footlight Productions has enjoyed ongoing success with musicals including Cats, Les Misérables, Miss Saigon, Mary Poppins, Wicked, Mamma Mia, Chicago and most recently in 2023, Fiddler On The Roof.

Footlight Productions has a very loyal team of people working on their shows, and cast members have the chance to learn their craft from highly skilled professional people. It is gratifying to note that many performers and production team members travel from Melbourne to work on Footlight shows, an indication of how highly this theatre company is regarded in the wider Victorian theatre community.

### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Producers	Peter and Margaret Wills
Director	Alister Smith
Musical Director	Phil Kearney
Choreographer	Ashley Boyd

### **VENUE**

The Story House  
Geelong Arts Centre

### **PERFORMANCE DATES**

Opening performance – Friday 19 January 2024  
Closing performance – Saturday 3 February 2024

### **PRODUCTION WEEK SCHEDULE**

Monday 15 January – LX plot, set completion  
Tuesday 16 January – Technical rehearsal 1.00pm – 11.00pm  
Wednesday 17 January – Dress rehearsal 5.00pm – 11.00pm  
Thursday 18 January – Dress rehearsal 5.00pm – 11.00pm  
Friday 19 January – OPENING NIGHT

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL CAST MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCTION WEEK REHEARSALS AS LISTED ABOVE**

### **REHEARSALS**

The first rehearsal will be held on Sunday October 1, commencing at 10am.  
All subsequent rehearsals will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 10pm and Sundays from 10am – 5pm. Rehearsal venue will be confirmed at a later date.

### **FEES**

The fee for all cast members is \$120 per person. This fee is due prior to the first rehearsal on October 1 and covers the cost of compulsory performance stage insurance and Cast t-shirt. The fee also covers entry to official Footlight functions.



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## **AUDITIONS**

Strictly Ballroom The Musical requires a versatile cast of competent singers, dancers and actors.

All auditionees must be 15 years of age by the first rehearsal on Sunday October 1.

## **AUDITION AND CALLBACK DATES**

Auditions will be held at The Big Space, St Bernard's Church, 74 Fryers Road, Belmont on Sunday August 20.

Callbacks will be held at the same venue on Sunday August 27, commencing at 10.00am.

Please note that you may be required for a substantial time, at any time, on the callback day.

## **VOCAL AUDITIONS**

If you are auditioning for a Principal role or a singing role in the show you need to book in a vocal audition on Sunday August 20. A group vocal audition will be held at the callbacks on Sunday August 27 for those people who do not want a solo vocal role.

All vocal auditionees are asked to prepare a song which clearly demonstrates your vocal range and fits within the character you're auditioning for and style of the show.

Please provide your own backing for your audition.

Vocal audition bookings open on Friday July 21st.  
Please contact Peter Wills on 0409 969648 to make your booking.

Note: it will not be necessary to sing the whole song at the audition so please choose the section which will best showcase the range and quality of your voice.

## **DANCE AUDITIONS**

Dance auditions will be held on Sunday August 20 at 10.00am, prior to the Vocal auditions in the afternoon on that day. If you are going for a dancing role in the show, you need to be at the dance audition.

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

### **SCOTT - Romantic Male Lead**

Age Range: 18 – 28 (playing 19 – 21)

Description: Scott is good looking and charming, but also rebellious, obsessive and angry.

Skills: Strong trained dancer, ballroom training a plus, acting and singing ability required.

Vocal Range: High Baritone, up to G#

### **FRAN - Romantic Female Lead**

Age Range: 18 – 28 (playing 19 – 21)

Description: Fran blossoms into a beautiful and passionate dancer, very truthful and proud

Skills: Strong actor/singer with dance training, ballroom training a bonus but not essential.

Vocal Range: Pop - Musical Theatre belt to E flat, down to G below middle C

### **SHIRLEY HASTINGS - Principal Role**

Age Range: 40 – 55 years old

Description: Scott's mother is the strong matriarch of the Dance Studio, an Aussie battler.

Skills: Strong acting role.

Vocal range: Belt, low F (below middle C) to D

### **DOUG HASTINGS - Principal Role**

Age Range: 50 – 60 years old

Description: Scott's father. Great actor who appears intensely nervous, and socially inept.

Skills: Strong acting role. A good mover a bonus. Must sing.

Vocal range: Baritone, to F

### **LES KENDALL - Principal Role**

Age Range: 50 – 60 years

Description: Scott's coach who is dignified, sincere with a fruity voice and flowery delivery.

Skills: Good character actor. Good mover/dancer. Must sing.

Vocal range: Baritone, to F.

### **BARRY FIFE - Principal Role**

Age Range: 45 – 60

Description: President of the Dance Federation. A sweaty man, a buffoon and manipulator.

Skills: Role for a comic-with-a-bite actor. Must sing.

Vocal range: Baritone, to F

### **RICO - Principal Role**

Age Range: 40s – 50s

Description: Fran's father. Intense, fiery, excitable.

Skills: Flamenco Dancer who inspires Scott with the Real Spanish rhythm.

Vocal range: Baritone, not a vocal role (no solo singing)

### **ABUELA - Principal Role**

Age range: 50s – 60s

Description: Fran's kind and supportive grandmother, has an excellent sense of rhythm.

Skills: Strong actor. Must sing.

Vocal range: Mezzo belt, to A

### **J.J. SILVERS - Principal Role**

Age Range: 35 – 50 years old

Description: Master of Ceremonies at Festivals. Federation Man.

Skills: Good comic skills, must be able to interact with the audience, ad lib, and sing.

Vocal range: Baritone, low B flat to F

### **TINA SPARKLE - Principal Role**

Age Range: 25 – early 30s

Description: Stunningly tall gazelle-like dancer with a beautiful body, not very bright.

Skills: Very good ballroom dancer, strong actor, must sing.

Vocal range: Pop-belt, to D

## **PERFORMERS PLAYING SUPPORTING ROLES WILL ALSO BE IN THE ENSEMBLE**

### **LIZ HOLT - Supporting Role**

Age: 18-25 years

Description: Scott's partner of fifteen years, immaculately over groomed, ruthlessly ambitious

Skills: Good Ballroom dancer. Good actor. Must sing.

Vocal range: Pop-belt, to D

### **VANESSA CRONIN - Supporting Role**

Age Range: 18 – 25 years

Description: Liz's best friend and Wayne's partner. Warm, very attractive but not very bright.

Skills: Very good ballroom dancer, Strong actor, must sing.

### **KEN RAILINGS - Supporting Role**

Age range: 30s - 40s

Description: A waning ballroom star. Desperate to make a come-back.

Skills: Strong dancer, actor, singer.

Vocal range: Baritone, to F

### **WAYNE BURNS - Supporting Role**

Age Range: 19 – 25 years old

Description: Scott's best mate. Vanessa's dancing partner and fiancé. Aggressively ambitious

Skills: Strong actor & dancer

## **ENSEMBLE ROLES**

### **CLARRY WRENCH**

Age Range: 30 – 40 years old

Description: Beginner dancer. Tall, gangly and quirky with deadpan delivery.

Skills: Strong comic actor. Good mover. Must sing.

### **MERV**

Age Range: 35 – 50 years old

Description: A middle-aged Federation official.

Skills: Good acting skills, good mover/dancer, must be able to sing.

### **NATALIE**

Age range: 18 – early 20's

Description: Fran's best friend and dance partner.

Skills: Strong ballroom dancer. Good acting and singing skills required.

### **PAM SHORT**

Age Range: 20 – 30 years

Description: Ken's partner on the dance floor in blocking sequence.

Skills: Strong ballroom dancer. Good acting and singing skills required.

### **NATHAN STARKEY**

Age Range: 25 – 35 years old

Description: Golden boy good looks and physique who is about to retire as Tina Sparkle's partner and Pan Pacific Champion to concentrate on his Landscape Gardening business.

Skills: Very strong Ballroom Dancer. Acting and singing skills required.



## **MALE ENSEMBLE DANCERS**

Including: Jonathon Drench, Tommy Arbunt, Liam Lamb and Rory West

Age range: 18- 30s

Skills: Must be highly skilled dancers. Extremely proficient in ballroom dancing, all styles. Singing and acting skills a bonus.

## **FEMALE ENSEMBLE DANCERS**

Including: Emily Waters, Muriel Shunt, Stephanie Shanks and Kaylene West

Age range: 18 – 30s.

Skills: Must be highly skilled dancers. Extremely proficient in ballroom dancing, all styles. Singing and acting skills a bonus.

## **CHILDREN'S ROLES**

### **KYLIE - Minor supporting role**

Age Range: 10 – 12 years old

Description: Scott's Sister.

Skills: Must be a strong dancer. Acting skills required and must be able to sing.

### **LUKE - Minor supporting role**

Age range: 10 – 12 years old

Description: Kylie's ballroom dance partner.

Skills: Must be a strong dancer, acting skills required and must be able to sing.

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