



PRISCILLA
QUEEN OF THE DESERT
— the musical —

INFORMATION PACK

Welcome to the Information Session for Latrobe Theatre Company's 2022 production of "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert". The aim of this session is to provide you with all the information necessary to ensure you have a good understanding of the production as a whole, together with the audition process and requirements in particular.

It is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions you might have in relation to the production at the end of the presentation.

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

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 colorful 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 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.

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

- It's Raining Men - The Divas, Company
- What's Love Got to Do With It? - Miss Understanding
- I say a Little Prayer— Tick
- What's Love Got to Do With It? [reprise] - Tick, Miss Understanding, the Divas
- Don't Leave Me This Way - Bernadette, Tick, Company
- Venus - Adam (Felicia), Company

- Go West - Bernadette, Tick, Adam, Company
- I Say A Little Prayer [reprise] - Tick, the Divas
- I Love the Nightlife - Shirley, Bernadette, Tick (Mitzi), Adam (Felicia), Company
- True Colors - Bernadette, Adam, Tick
- Color My World - Adam, Tick, Bernadette, Company
- I Will Survive - Bernadette, Adam, Tick, Company

ACT TWO

- Thank God I'm a Country Boy - Company
- A Fine Romance - Young Bernadette, Bernadette
- Thank God I'm a Country Boy [reprise] - Company
- Shake Your Groove Thing - Tick, Bernadette, Adam, the Divas
- Pop Muzik - Cynthia, Company
- A Fine Romance [reprise] - Bob
- Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - The Divas, Adam
- Hot Stuff - Adam (Felicia), the Divas
- Go West [reprise] - Bernadette, Adam
- Macarthur Park - Bernadette, Tick, the Divas
- Boogie Wonderland - The Divas, Marion, Company
- The Morning After - Tick, Marion, Company
- Floor Show Medley - Tick, Adam, Bernadette, the Divas
- Always on My Mind - Tick, Benjamin
- Confide in Me - Adam (Felicia)
- We Belong - Adam (Felicia), Adam (Mitzi), Bernadette

Character Breakdown

BERNADETTE: (Male Lead, 40's-60's; baritone/tenor) 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) 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) 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) 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.

BENJI: (Featured, boy or girl age 7-11) 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.

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

MARION: (Woman, 30s-early 40s) 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) 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. Must have a great physique. Will be required to sing and dance in ensemble numbers.

THE DIVAS: (Women, 20s-40s) 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: (Drag Role, 20-30s) 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, 20s-early 40s) 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: (Indigenous man or woman, late 20-30s) Friendly indigenous Australian bloke 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: (Drag Role, 20s-30s) 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: (Character ages 20s-40s) Excellent dancers who sing well, to play a variety of ensemble characters.

Your Commitment

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert will be staged in the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon between Friday 26th August and Saturday 3rd September 2022.

Rehearsals will be held at 'The Wings', Ronald Reserve Hall, Vary Street, Morwell on Mondays and Wednesday nights, with regular Sunday rehearsals and a compulsory camp in July 2022.

Auditions will be held at 'The Wings' as follows:

Saturday, 30th April 2022 10am -12noon —Dance Audition

Saturday 30th April 2022 1.pm—5.30pm —Individual Auditions

Sunday 1st May 2022 10am —5.30pm —Individual auditions

Monday 2nd May 2022, 7.00pm—9pm— Callbacks

Theatre Dates: Friday 19th August through to Sunday 4th September 2022—must be available for all dates (see attached rehearsal calendar)

***** Please commit to being available for the whole audition period**

******Please note that ALL auditees must be 17 years or older as at first rehearsal, 9th May 2022.**

Due to the adult content, signed Parental consent will be required for performers aged 17 if offered a place in the cast.

****** Important: Under current restrictions, all cast, crew and orchestra are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.**

The following are very important points that you will need to understand and agree to:

- All auditionees are to pay a one off \$5.00 Administration/Audition fee on arrival at the audition.
- It is a requirement that all cast members will be financial members of the Latrobe Theatre Company and MUST pay the Membership Fees at or before the FIRST REHEARSAL. Individuals may make a payment plan for the balance of Show Fees and Camp Costs if required.
- All cast members, Production Team, Crew and Orchestra, aged 18 years or older, must have a valid Working With Children Check or VIT registration—there are no exceptions.

Please complete our online audition form and an audition time will be provided for you once the form is submitted. (Principals will be provided with the audition monologue when the audition time is provided.) The form can be found at: <http://www.latrobetheatrecompany.org.au/> or via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LatrobeTheatreCompany/>

The production team is looking for a fit and energetic cast of 25-30 individuals consisting of a variety of ages and ethnicity. Any incidental roles will be covered by the ensemble. High physical and vocal stamina and energy will be needed throughout rehearsals and runs of the show.

If you are unsure whether you meet the criteria, do not be put off. We recommend that you audition and let us be the judge!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

One off Joining Fee (New Members)	\$11.00
Full Membership	\$60.50
Student/Concession	\$44.00
Family Residing at the same address	\$110.00

PRODUCTION FEES

Show Levy	\$120.00 (includes a Production T-Shirt, program and Photo DVD)
Camp Cost	\$160.00

CHILD SAFE POLICY

Latrobe Theatre Company Inc has a zero tolerance to any form of child abuse and is committed to the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of children.

We will create and maintain a child safe organisation where protecting children and preventing and responding to child abuse is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of all members. This Policy applies to all members and volunteers irrespective of their involvement in child related duties.

Any persons who have outstanding Memberships and/or Show Levies will not be able to audition.

- All members of Latrobe Theatre Company Inc as well as Production Team, crew and orchestra members are required to have a valid Working With Children Check (or VIT equivalent) and are required to list LTC on their WWCC registration.
- Under current restrictions, all cast, crew and band members are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Members of the cast will be required to reach a satisfactory standard within six weeks of commencement of rehearsals, otherwise they may be replaced.
- If you are offered a position in the cast of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, please remember that you are making a commitment to complete the rehearsal period and theatre season. We view this commitment to the company and your fellow performers very seriously.
- It is expected that all cast members will attend all rehearsals they are scheduled for. Punctuality and regular attendance is essential for the smooth running in rehearsals.
- All cast members must be available for all performance dates, including theatre rehearsals.
- Sunday rehearsals are vital rehearsal times for the production and cast members must be available for these scheduled dates.
- The Camp Weekend scheduled for 30th & 31st July 2022 is compulsory.
- All cast will be provided with major items of costuming however, there is an expectation that cast members will provide some of their own costuming (e.g. shoes, dance shoes, hosiery, appropriate jewellery etc.) Assistance and advice will be given in this area.
- It is an expectation that cast members will practice music, dance and dialogue outside normal rehearsal sessions. There is insufficient time at rehearsals to allow for ongoing practice of pieces. The standard we achieve will be directly related to the amount of practice done in your own time.
- The decisions made by the audition panel are final and no approach may be made to the panel regarding those decisions. Should you have any query relating to the audition process you must inform the Committee of the Latrobe Theatre Company in writing.
- It is expected that any cast under the age of 18 will be signed in and out of rehearsals by a parent or guardian. However, rehearsals themselves will be closed to anyone except cast members.
- The Production Team expects commitment from you to the production that will ensure best possible performance. In return the Production Team give you the commitment that they will utilise your time as effectively as possible and structure the production so that you gain maximum enjoyment and reward from it. A committed team working together equals a successful show.
- You are encouraged at all times to ask questions and discuss any concerns or queries you might have.

AUDITION DETAILS

The audition panel will consist of:

Luke Cassidy	Artistic Director
Hayden May	Musical Director
Renaye Duncan & Brie Comber	Co-Choreographers
Kara Smith, Ashlea Vanyai & Christine Ross	Directing Team Mentors

An LTC committee member or life member will also be present during auditions but will take no part in decisions on casting.

Production Manager Kate Dougan will be handling registrations in the foyer but will take no part in decisions on casting. Kate, a Life Member, may however, sit in on auditions if required as an LTC representative.

The audition process is designed to identify the most suitable candidates for both principal and ensemble roles. The panel will be looking for character interpretation, musical ability and dance capability. The emphasis on each of these will vary according to the role. The panel will endeavour as much as possible to assist every auditionee to relax and give their best performance.

Results of auditions should be emailed to you by Thursday 4th May 2022. If you have not received your email by this date please contact the Production Manager Kate Dougan. All auditionees will be notified whether they are successful or not. Individual feedback for auditionees is not available.

All queries regarding the audition process should be forwarded in writing to the Committee of the Latrobe Theatre Company.

Please do not try to contact individual production team members personally.

All auditions will be videoed.

*****Please note that ALL auditionees must be 17 years or older as at 9th May 2022*****

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS: Anyone auditioning to be part of the ensemble is asked to:

- Attend the required Movement workshop audition on Saturday 30th April commencing at 10am.
- Prepare one (1) song from the following selection: "It's Raining Men" - "I Say A Little Prayer" - "True Colours" or "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" (*Please provide own backing track or accompanist. Song can also be performed A Cappella*). Please be aware you may be asked to sing another song from the show on the day.

PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS: Anyone intending on auditioning for an Principal Role is asked to:

- Attend the required Movement workshop audition on Saturday 30th April commencing at 10am.
- Prepare one (1) song from the following selection: "It's Raining Men" - "I Say A Little Prayer" - "True Colours" or "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" (*Please provide own backing track or accompanist. Song can also be performed A Cappella*). Please be aware you may be asked to sing another song from the show on the day.
- Prepare the required monologue (will be emailed to you with audition time)

MOVEMENT AUDITION: The movement component of the Audition morning will consist of a short warm up and then everyone will learn the same piece of movement.

- You will need to wear comfortable clothing and shoes you can move in - NO THONGS, SLIP ON SHOES OR BARE FEET!
- Dependant on numbers it may be necessary to run more than one or two groups to learn the piece; once learned, auditionees will be placed in groups of 6-8 for the actual movement audition.

REHEARSALS

A fortnightly rehearsal schedule will be available at the first rehearsal. The following is a proposal only and may change as we progress through the rehearsal period: See attached Calendar.

- The First Rehearsal is scheduled for Monday 9th May 2022.
- These will be held at the Wings on Mondays and Wednesday nights **6.45pm for 7pm - 10pm**
- Sunday rehearsals will occur on a regular basis and will be **10.45am for 11am—4.30pm**
- There will be a compulsory camp for all cast on **Saturday 30th to Sunday 31st July, 2022 at Rawson Village Camp, Rawson.**

HELP REQUIRED

In order to make this show a successful one it is expected that each cast member/family provide help in one of the following areas of the production:

COSTUMES

SET PAINTING

FRONT OF HOUSE (Ushers, Program Sellers)

Please confirm with Kate which area you will be helping with or if you have any special skills that may be utilised by the Production Team.

If you have any problems and for some reason cannot attend your allocated audition time please contact

Kate at:

secretary@latrobetheatrecompany.org.au

PLEASE NOTE: If you need to contact anyone regarding the audition dates please call the production manager:
Kate Dougan on 0407 544 939

We believe that theatre can provide us with a lot of personal satisfaction so our emphasis will be on learning, socialising and enjoyment. We also aim to stage a production of the highest possible standard. LTC prides itself on this and we hope that you will join us in this endeavour.

If you have any questions about this show please do not hesitate to ask.