

AUDITION PACK



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

New Plymouth Operatic will be the first and only community theatre group in the North Island to perform Priscilla – Queen of the Desert the musical.

Priscilla will run at the TSB Showplace from Thursday 20 June to Saturday 6 July 2019, with a possible extension through until Saturday 13th July. The season cannot be extended past the 13th.

We are seeking cast members of diverse ethnicity.

All adult roles available in Priscilla are limited to age 16 and above (Must be turning 16 by opening night – 20 June 2019).

All auditions for cast will be on an UNPAID/volunteer basis.

We are looking for performers who can sing, act and/or dance. All roles except Bob & Benji, are required to dance and/or move.

Not all ensemble roles are required to sing (to a solo level).

While talent is the primary consideration when casting, a high level of commitment is essential. Our final choices for all roles will be made with this firmly in mind.

AUDITION DATES & VENUE

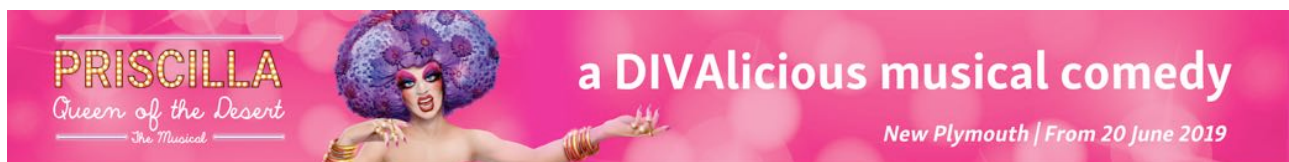
Auditions will be held at the New Plymouth Operatic Rooms, 76 King Street
Friday 30 November – Sunday 2 December 2018.

GENERAL AUDITION INFORMATION

All performers wishing to audition must book an audition appointment (even if auditioning as part of the group auditions) and complete the application form.

Auditions may be videoed for reference during the casting process. After the auditions these will be deleted.

You will be auditioning in front of a panel consisting of the Director/Choreographer, Musical Director, and representatives of New Plymouth Operatic.



AUDITIONS

AUDITION APPOINTMENTS: PLEASE ENSURE YOU BOOK A TIME!

Audition appointments can be made by emailing: npos@xtra.co.nz.



Please advise what role(s) you are auditioning for.

On the day of your audition, please arrive at least 20 mins prior to your audition, allowing time for administration and adequate preparation.

Dance Workshop

All auditionees for onstage roles, except those auditioning for the roles of Bob and Benji, will be required to attend a group dance audition on Saturday 1 December from 3pm to 5pm.

For dance auditions please wear fitting clothes so the director/choreographer can see body shape and line.

You may wear dance shoes or sneakers. Sandals or bare feet are NOT to be worn under any circumstances. No preparation is needed as you will be taught the movement on the day.

Vocal Auditions

All those auditioning for a principal, featured, or onstage ensemble role must also book in for an individual 5-10 minute vocal audition in addition to attendance at the dance workshop.

The individual vocal auditions will be approximately 5 to 10 minutes long, and are scheduled for Friday evening 30 November and Saturday 1 December only at this stage. Individual audition times will be allocated when you book in your audition appointment.

The vocal audition is optional for anyone auditioning for one of the 4 onstage male dancer roles.

Auditionees for all adult onstage roles are welcome to choose a song of their choice for their audition.

This can be one of the songs from Priscilla if you choose.

The song should be up-tempo pop music or a club classic from the 60s to 80s eg. Petula Clark, Village People, Donna Summer, Tina Turner, Pet Shop Boys, Kylie Minogue, Cyndi Lauper etc.

Please ensure that the song suits your style, and your vocal range. Focus on a performance that showcases your energy and charisma, as well as vocal technique. It is possible you may be asked to sing only part of a song.

Please provide a backing track for the song you plan to sing for your vocal audition on the day on your phone or via USB stick. Phones can be plugged directly into the NPOS sound system to play the backing tracks.

You cannot sing unaccompanied.

Children's auditions

A group audition in workshop format for those interested in auditioning for the role of Benji will be held on Sunday 2 December from 10am – 11am.

All Benji auditionees should prepare to sing the song 'Happy Birthday' as a solo performance. Auditionees should know the words to "Happy Birthday" so as they can perform it off by heart.



Backing Vocalists

We are looking for a STRONG group of approximately 12 males to be vocal support for the on-stage ensemble. No females are required for the backing vocals for Priscilla. Backing vocalists do not appear onstage.

A group singing audition in workshop format for those interested in being backing vocalists will be conducted on Sunday 2 December from 11am – midday.

The audition song for the backing vocals is "Its Raining Men". A backing track and sheet music is available upon email request to npos@xtra.co.nz.

Please book in/register for the group singing workshop ahead of the audition weekend.

Those auditioning for onstage roles who wish to be considered for the backing singers as well as onstage are not required to book in for the group singing workshop in addition to their individual audition time, but are welcome to attend if they wish.

PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS

Your participation in this production requires your commitment in order to ensure a production of the highest possible quality.

The prior commitments section of the audition registration form must be completed and signed by every auditionee prior to auditioning. Please list any commitments (personal and work) that may impact on your availability to attend scheduled rehearsals.

If cast, it will not be possible for you to commit to any other production during the rehearsal period and production season (this includes rehearsing during Priscilla or any other production that may be onstage after Priscilla closes).

You should NOT audition if you are unable to commit to the rehearsal and production schedule

REHEARSALS

The first cast get together will be held on a Sunday afternoon to be confirmed in February 2019, with rehearsals commencing after that.

Rehearsals will be held at the New Plymouth Operatic Society Rooms, 76 King Street, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7.00-10pm and on Sundays 3pm – 7.30pm.

As we get closer to opening night, and once director's rehearsals commence, rehearsals may be held on additional nights, including Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals from 7.00-10pm. Additional principal rehearsals may also be held at times as arranged.

It must be understood that, at times the rehearsal schedule will be subject to change.

During rehearsals we expect that our performers will be prepared.

This means:

- arriving in advance and ready to work at the scheduled time
- learning and reviewing your lines and movement for the scheduled scene(s)
- warming up both vocally and physically
- paying attention and being respectful to the creative team, your fellow cast members and all those NPOS volunteers involved in the production.



SEASON DATES & VENUE

The production will be staged in the TSB Theatre, TSB Showplace, New Plymouth.

The season will run from 20 June – 6 July 2019, with a possible extension week to Saturday 13 July.

All auditionees should be available through until 13 July, and should be prepared and accepting of the possibility that there may be evening and matinee shows on some Saturday's during the season.

The maximum number of performances for the season is listed below. Note, this is a maximum, not a goal, target or a budget. It is likely that the final season make up will not include all of the below performance options.

Thursday	20	June	7.30pm
Friday	21	June	7.30pm
Saturday	22	June	7.30pm
Sunday	23	June	3pm
Monday	24	June	No Show
Tuesday	25	June	No Show
Wednesday	26	June	7.30pm
Thursday	27	June	7.30pm
Friday	28	June	7.30pm
Saturday	29	June	2pm
Saturday	29	June	7.30pm
Sunday	30	June	3pm
Monday	1	July	No Show
Tuesday	2	July	7.30pm
Wednesday	3	July	7.30pm
Thursday	4	July	7.30pm
Friday	5	July	7.30pm
Saturday	6	July	2pm
Saturday	6	July	7.30pm
Sunday	7	July	3pm
Monday	8	July	No Show
Tuesday	9	July	7.30pm
Wednesday	10	July	7.30pm
Thursday	11	July	7.30pm
Friday	12	July	7.30pm
Saturday	13	July	7.30pm

HAIR & COSTUME INFORMATION

This production utilises a large number of wigs and head gear. However, performers should not cut their hair until discussed with the director.



Costumes and shoes will be provided. For hygiene reasons all cast members will be expected to provide their own nude-coloured undergarments.

All male auditionees for onstage roles (excluding Bob and Benji) need to be prepared that their onstage role may involve costuming in drag, and movement wearing high heel shoes. In addition some male ensemble members will be required to appear onstage shirtless in the production.

CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

Performers will be notified by email of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible following casting. A full cast announcement will be subsequently made on the New Plymouth Operatic website and via our media channels.

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIAL MEDIA

All cast members are required to be financial members of New Plymouth Operatic for 2019. Current 2018 membership start at an annual subscription fee of \$15.

All cast are required to agree and adhere to a social media policy. The marketing team will be monitoring social media throughout the production process – so please don't be offended if you are requested to remove something posted on a personal page.

All cast members are required to complete a health and safety and medical questionnaire for your safety and the safety of those around you. This information will be treated in strictest confidence and will be destroyed following the production.

AUDITION FAQ'S

Can I audition at some other time, as I can't make it to audition that weekend?

Unfortunately, all auditionees must audition over the weekend of 30 November / 2 December. We have audition slots right through the weekend (from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening) to ensure each we can have a time to suit most auditionees.

Can send in a video audition?

Unfortunately this is not permissible for Priscilla. All auditionees must audition over the weekend of 30 November / 2 December.

Can I watch my child / family member / friend audition?

All auditions are closed, and therefore you are not permitted to watch your child / family member / friend audition.



CHARACTER BREAKDOWN



Principal Roles	Character Description	Stage Age *
Bernadette	Outstanding acting, dance, singing (range adaptable) and lip-synching ability essential. A quietly dignified transsexual who must be convincing as an older woman who was once the star performer of 'Les Girls'. The mother of the group, Bernadette is glamorous, oozing Old Hollywood charm with rapier wit and sensitivity. Must be able to be convincing and touching in her attraction and growing relationship with Bob.	40's-50's
Mitzi/Tick	Outstanding acting, dance, singing (baritone – tenor) and lip-synching ability essential. With an unremarkable and essentially straight exterior, Tick is a discontented drag queen, the best in the business. Estranged husband of Marion and absent father to 8 year old Benjamin, his journey from disillusionment to fulfilment through being reunited with his son is the central core of the story.	30's-40's
Felicia/Adam	Very well maintained physical features with outstanding character acting, dance, singing (tenor) and lip-synching ability essential. A flashy, young drag queen and born performer with a more than occasional bitchy streak. Provocative and outspoken he has a tendency to get himself into trouble with both friends and complete strangers.	20's-30's
The Diva's	Sassy and strong, these women lead us through some of the greatest hits of the last decades. Brilliant vocalists in the disco-belt style a must. May also be part of the female ensemble.	16 - 50's
Featured Roles	Character Description	Stage Age*
Bob	Strong acting ability with one song. A mechanic. Typical laconic attitude, soft hearted Aussie bloke who spent years wandering around the world only to find he was better off where he started. Has a fascination with Bernadette whom he saw perform in 'Les Girls' in Sydney more than twenty years ago.	40's-70's
Shirley	Hardened outback bar tender/waitress. Good ironic comedy. Character acting, dance and strong singing ability. Could be cast as either a character / cameo role or as part of the ensemble	30's-50's
Marion	A hotel Entertainment Manager in Darwin, mother of 8 year Benjamin and estranged wife of Tick (Mitzi). A 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. May be required to also sing and dance in ensemble numbers.	30's-40's
Cynthia	Bob's feisty Filipino wife. A frustrated performer of obscure 'stage tricks' which make her very popular at the local pub. She spends her days as a housewife looking after Bob and his home. Character acting, dance and singing ability essential. Please note: Anyone auditioning for this role should look at the scene in the film involving Cynthia's performance in the bar involving ping pong balls, where the role and costuming will be at its most raunchy. May be required to also sing and dance in ensemble numbers.	18 - 40s female Asian/Eurasian look

Miss Understanding	A 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, dance and singing ability. Will be required to also sing and dance in ensemble numbers.	Any age 18+
Benji	Tick's son. Excited to meet his father and accepts him immediately for who he is. Open, warm and embracing. This role will likely be shared between two performers. Unbroken voice required.	9 - 12
Ensemble & Chorus	Character Description	Stage Age*
4 x Male Dancers	Excellent dance ability. No previous singing or acting experience required. May be required to be shirtless onstage. <u>No/minimal singing required.</u>	18 – 30's
8 x Male Ensemble	Good movement ability. Ability to sing a melody line in tune preferred but not essential. May be required to be shirtless onstage.	18 – 40's
2 x Female Dancers	Excellent dance ability. Ability to sing a melody line in tune preferred but not essential.	16 – 30's
2 x Female Character/Ensemble	Excellent singing and character acting ability. Ability to join in basic movement. Available for people of all ages and sizes	All ages 16+
2 x Male Character/ Ensemble	Excellent singing and character acting ability. Ability to join in basic movement. Available for people of all ages and sizes	All ages 16+
Backing Vocalists	We are looking for a vocally strong group of up to 12 men to be the offstage chorus and vocally support the on stage cast, Ability to hold a strong part essential.	All ages 16+

*Ages and age ranges listed are for guidance only.



PRISCILLA – ACT 1

The drag queen Mitzi Mitosis – whose real name is Anthony "Tick" Belrose – is performing at a club "**It's Raining Men**" when his wife Marion, whom he has been separated from for several years because of his homosexuality, calls in for a favour.



While Tick is offstage, fellow drag queen Miss Understanding performs her own number "**What's Love Got to Do With It?**" From the phone in Tick's dressing room, Marion reveals that she needs an act for a few weeks at her business in distant Alice Springs, Australia. Tick is at first reluctant, but Marion informs him that part of the reason she's asking is because their now eight-year-old son Benji wants to meet his father "**I Say A Little Prayer**". Tick confides in another fellow drag queen Farrah, before deciding he will leave for Alice Springs.

After he decides to do the job, Tick calls a friend, a transsexual named Bernadette – whose birth name is Ralph – to join him but sadly, Bernadette's husband has just died. The pair meet at the funeral "**Don't Leave Me This Way**" where Bernadette agrees to join him. Tick also asks a friend Felicia – whose real name is Adam Whitely – to come with them "**Venus**"/"**Material Girl**", with Bernadette taking an immediate dislike to his show-off performance style. Nonetheless, the newly formed trio buy a budget "Barbie" campervan they nickname "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" "**Go West**".

Tick informs them that the trip is a favour to his wife, but does not tell them it is also to meet his son who wants to see him "**I Say A Little Prayer (Reprise)**".

As the journey to Alice Springs begins, Adam angers Bernadette after cracking jokes about her old life before being a transsexual. Later the group goes into a bar, in full drag, and start a bar dance party "**I Love the Nightlife**", but when they return to the bus learn that the townspeople wrote hateful statements on the bus in spray paint. Tick is very upset, but Adam and Bernadette comfort him "**Both Sides, Now**"/"**True Colors**".

While on the road, Adam practices his lip-syncing as Felicia sitting in the giant high heel on the roof of the van "**Follie! Delirio vano è questo! Sempre libera (from La traviata)**".

The next morning, Priscilla breaks down and Adam buys lavender paint to erase the vandalism "**Colour My World**". They manage to get the locals of another town on their side and meet Bob, a mechanic from a small town nearby who agrees to help fix Priscilla.

The group celebrates that they've found people that accept them "**I Will Survive**".

PRISCILLA – ACT 2

The second act opens with a group of bogans singing "**Thank God I'm A Country Boy**".

Bernadette talks with Bob and learns that when he was in Paris, he saw her when she was a young "Les Girl" "**A Fine Romance**". The two begin to grow feelings for each other.

Later in a bar "**Thank God I'm A Country Boy Reprise**", the trio is about to perform "**Shake Your Groove Thing**" when Cynthia, Bob's wife, interrupts their act by "popping" ping-pong balls "**Pop Muzik**". After

this, the trio leaves, leaving Bob to wonder about his feelings for Bernadette "**A Fine Romance (Reprise)**". All of a sudden, Bernadette asks if he wants a free ride back to his real home, in which he agrees "**Girls Just Wanna Have Fun**".

Later when they arrive, Adam dresses up like a woman to try to meet men "**Hot Stuff**", but ends up getting chased and nearly becomes the victim of a hate crime until Bernadette rescues him by kicking one of his attackers.

Later as they arrive in Alice Springs, Tick reflects on the trip after someone literally leaves the cake out in the rain "**MacArthur Park**".

As another act performs first "**Boogie Wonderland**", the trio gets ready to perform a variety of songs that they sang or lip-synced on their journey "**The Floor Show**".

Afterwards, Tick finally meets his son, who accepts his father's sexuality and lifestyle "**Always on My Mind/I Say a Little Prayer**" and Adam gets to perform his own solo Madonna hit, "**Like A Prayer**", "**Confide in Me/Kylie Medley**", his favourite singer.

Afterwards the gang talks about their plans after Alice Springs, and realize they can't leave each other "**We Belong**".

They go off stage together and the company performs a medley of songs to close the show "**Finally**".



ANNOUNCING Stephen Robertson Director/ Choreographer

New Plymouth Operatic are delighted to announce that Stephen Robertson will direct and choreograph our 2019 season of Priscilla - Queen of the Desert The Musical.



Stephen is New Zealand's leading professional director of musical theatre, having been a professional freelance Director for more than 25 years.

Stephen has amassed an impressive resume of hundreds of directing credits for musicals throughout New Zealand over his career. In 1993 Stephen directed the NZ Premiere of *Les Misérables* (Wellington). He has since directed the national premieres of *42nd Street*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, *Mary Poppins*, *Priscilla* and *Wicked*, all of which he also served as consulting director on those titles for the NZ Musical Theatre Consortium.

For the Court Theatre (Christchurch) he has Directed their recent sell-out seasons of *Grease*, *Mary Poppins*, *Legally Blonde* and *Chicago*, Choreographed and Designed *The Mikado* and Directed and Designed *Blood Brothers*. Born and raised in the Palmerston North, Priscilla will be Stephen's first director credit for New Plymouth Operatic.

Stephen is currently directing *Les Miserables* for Showbiz Christchurch, which runs from 14 September - 6 October this year at the Isaac Theatre Royal in Christchurch. Later this year Stephen will also direct *Jesus Christ Superstar* for the Court Theatre in Christchurch, which runs from 24 November 2018 to 13 January 2019. In April 2019 he will also direct the soon to be announced latest premiere NZ Musical Theatre Consortium musical, also for Showbiz Christchurch.