



The Yeomen of the Guard - shaping up nicely!

The cast and production team for *The Yeomen of the Guard* are all working hard to create what should be a fabulous show. The music and dialogue are both quite complex, but the cast is managing both very well and is sounding wonderful, under the guidance of director **Norma Roach**, musical director **Jennifer Groom** and choreographer **Belinda Hassall**. The orchestra has also started rehearsals, and is sounding great.

This is a rarely performed gem, so you won't want to miss it! Tickets are now available from the Q – go to www.theq.net.au, telephone 6298 0290, or visit the box office. The box office is open Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm, or Saturday 10.00am to 3.00pm. Book now!

Fame - the Musical: audition requirements

Our first show in 2010 will be *Fame – the Musical*, directed by **Stephen Pike**, with musical direction from **Raphael Wong** and choreography by **Jacqui Richards**. Auditions will be on 28 and 29 November, so mark your diary now! Please note **audition bookings are not yet open**. Keep an eye out for audition notices in The Canberra Times and via email.

To help you prepare for auditions, the production team has prepared some information about what they're looking for.

Cast members 16 years and over are preferred.

People auditioning for named roles must sing the listed songs and learn the stated script. You should approach these auditions as if you are actually auditioning for a Performing Arts School. Your attitude in this respect will carry weight in the decision-making.

There are 14 specific roles – 4 adult teachers and 10 students 16+. There are some speaking parts in the chorus roles. There may be a singing chorus and a dancing chorus.

All auditionees who wish to have an acting role (without dancing) will need to attend a vocal audition. Dancers who wish to sing will also need to attend the vocal audition. If you wish to audition for a specific role, you will need to prepare one or more songs from the musical as listed in below. For other roles, prepare a song that you know well that is similar in style to the music in *Fame* (contemporary pop). Set audition pieces from the musical will need to be in their original keys. You will be accompanied on piano at your audition. Please bring music to the audition. Backing CDs will not be accepted. NB In the vocal ranges listed below, C4 = Middle C.

Some of the characters may need to play an instrument on stage – see notes below. **Note that being able to play a particular instrument would be desirable but not compulsory for any role.** At your audition, please indicate (i) what instrument/s you play (if any); and (ii) the level you have attained for each musical instrument. Even if you do not play the right musical instrument, we may be able to teach you.

There will be general auditions for all parts. People auditioning for particular parts will also be required to attend a separate dance audition. If you wish to be in the dancing chorus or one of the main dancing roles (Carmen, Iris or Tyrone) you will need to attend the dance audition. Please wear appropriate clothing ie stretch NOT jeans or dresses and appropriate shoes. If you can tap dance, please bring tap shoes and, if classically trained, ballet shoes (preferably pointe).

There will also be a simple movement sequence as part of the general audition for non-dancing roles.

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Adult Cast

Miss Bell – dance teacher, arty. Needs to act, dance and sing. Vocal range C4 to E5 (alto). Dance background desirable. General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – The Teacher’s Argument; Script – Pg 41-42 & 47-48.

Miss Sherman – English teacher, traditionalist. Needs to act and sing. Vocal range F3 to F5 (alto). General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – These Are My Children; Script – Pg41-42 & 61-62.

Mr Myers – drama teacher, easy going. Needs to act. General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – own choice of (contemporary pop) song; Script – Pg16-17.

Mr Sheinkopf – music teacher, distinguished. Needs to act. General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – own choice of (contemporary pop) song; Script – Pg24-25.

Students

Carmen Diaz – insecure, talented. Needs to act, sing and dance. Vocal range Bb3 to G5 (soprano). General and dance auditions. Should prepare: Vocal – In LA and Fame; Script – Pg29-30 & 51-52.

Grace Lamb – comic. Needs to act and play music. Drums desirable. General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – own choice of (contemporary pop) song; Script – Pg24-25.

Iris Kelly – well-to-do, classical dancer. Needs to act and dance. Classical ballet essential; pointe work desirable. General and dance auditions. Should prepare: Vocal – own choice of (contemporary pop) song; Script – Pg26-28.

Mabel Washington – comic, plump, R&B. Needs to act and sing. Vocal range D4 to G5, Bb5 preferred (soprano). General and dance auditions. Should prepare: Vocal – Mabel’s Prayer; Script – Pg29-30 & 56-57.

Serena Katz – insecure, shy. Needs to act and sing. Vocal range Bb3 to Eb5 (alto). General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – Let’s Play a Love Scene; Script – Pg34-35 & 53-55.

Goodman King – jazz musician. Needs to act and play music. Trumpet desirable. General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – own choice of (contemporary pop) song; Script – Pg12.

Joe Vegas – high energy, charming. Needs to act and sing. Vocal range C3 to G4 (baritone or tenor). General and dance auditions. Should

prepare: Vocal – Can’t Keep it Down; Script – Pg 13 & 66-67.

Nick Piazza – handsome, serious. Needs to act and sing. Vocal range D3 to G4, B4 preferred (tenor). General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – I Want to Make Magic; Script – Pg34-35 & 48 & 53-55.

Schlomo Metzenbaum – affable, sensitive. Needs to act, sing and play music. Vocal range C3 to G4 (tenor). Violin and/or piano desirable. General audition only. Should prepare: Vocal – Bring on Tomorrow; Script – Pg37-38 & 51-52.

Tyrone Jackson – headstrong, a functional illiterate. Needs to act, sing and dance. Vocal range E3 to G4 (baritone). Rap dancing desirable. General and dance auditions. Should prepare: Vocal – Dancing on the Sidewalk/ Tyrone’s Rap; Script – Pg26-28 & 61-62.

Ensemble

Need to act (some parts), sing and dance. All vocal ranges. General and dance auditions (see notes above). Should prepare: Vocal – own choice of (contemporary pop) song.

Future Shows

As previously announced, QP’s second show in 2010 will be *The Gondoliers*. A production team will be announced soon.

We are also pleased to announce that our first show in 2011 will be *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Stay tuned for more details.

Busy worker bees at the shed

A small but enthusiastic group of Players headed to the Queanbeyan Players shed on Sunday, 23 August for a working bee to clear out some of the excess pieces of set accumulated over the years. Many thanks to those who were involved: **Leanne Cramond, Alan Johnson, Helen McIntyre, Peter McIntyre, Jackie McLoughlin, Patrick McLoughlin, Norma Roach and Trevor Roach**. Special mention must go to **Larissa Hewitt**, a new Queanbeyan resident who came along to help out.

QP on facebook

Queanbeyan Players is now on the social networking site facebook. Everyone is welcome to be our friend! We’re using facebook as another way to share information with our members. You can find us at facebook.com/queanbeyan.players.

Member News

Congratulations to **Sam Yialeloglou** (QP performer and grandson of life member and tea-lady extraordinaire **Gail Giuliano**), who made front page headlines in Yass, winning the inaugural Yass High Talent Quest with his rendition of "Popular" from the hit musical *Wicked*. He took home a cool \$500.

Rebekah Kordas (niece of QP make-up guru **Janette Humphrey**) took third place with a dance performance. The event was made possible by local bus driver **Merv Blinman** and his wife **Narelle** who donated \$1000 to the school in order to encourage local talent. You can read a full report – and view a very fetching picture of **Sam** in a blonde wig - in The Yass Tribune at www.yasstribune.com.au/news/local/news/gener-al/talent-shines-through-bus-drivers-dream-comes-true/1599203.aspx?storypage=0.

Several QP members will be competing in the vocal section of the Australian National Eisteddfod between 21 and 26 September. Why not come along and cheer for your fellow Players? (Not to mention the chance to hear some great singing). You can find a program at www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au/.

And finally, a new QP baby has arrived. The following missive was received recently, and is well worth including in full!

Anthony Hosking here- To quote **Troy McClure**: *'You may remember me from such musicals as Yeomen of the Guard 2 - What's the Point? , Gondoliers, Iolanthe, any G&S bar the big 3 etc. or most recently as Adam from Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.*

*Anyways, having gone method acting on the last rule I have disappeared off into the hills with my fine filly of a wife **Sharyn** and we've had our first baby after 10 years of marriage. (We didn't want any rumours of a shotgun marriage.) It being fairly late in life we've skipped Adam, Benjamin and Caleb and started off with **Daniel**.*

***Daniel Hereward Hosking** was born 7th July or was 'from his mother's womb untimely ripped' for you theatre buffs familiar with the Scottish play.*

Just as well though perhaps as he weighed 9lbs 14oz; or for those who actually hold a meaning to baby size with metric weighing that's 4.485kg. 53 cm long (long apparently) and never stands still during costume fitting. In other words just like his dad. Still a tenor at the moment but hopefully he'll mature unlike those

other poor man child wretches you often see at rehearsals.

For any who haven't skipped on by now to the more important stuff (or in childish tenor indignation) and are still wondering if 'Hereward' is a typo - it is not. It's a family name coming from 'Hereward the Wake'. A saxon warrior chieftain in the time of the Norman conquest famous for dying of old age. Google it - educate yourselves - why not write a musical about him?... Unfortunately Daniel has misinterpreted it as 'Hereward the Awake'. Thanks for your time and good luck to you all with the coming musical: Yeomen of the Guard 3 - Point taken.

Please send any member news for inclusion in Prologue to editor@qp.org.au.

Are you a collector?

Queanbeyan City Council would love to hear from local collectors for an exhibition planned for November 2009 in 'The Q' Exhibition Space. They will display a selection of objects from as many collectors as they can squeeze in! They are also planning a Collectors Fair in 'The Q' foyer and require stall holders who sell items that may be of interest to collectors. If you are interested, contact **Georgina Perri** for more information on 6298 0170 or culturalservices@qcc.nsw.gov.au.

What's On?

Once you've booked your tickets for *The Yeomen of the Guard*, you might also like to see some of the other amateur shows that are on now or coming up soon. For current information, visit www.CanberraLocalTheatre.info.

- **Les Liaisons Dangereuses**, presented by Canberra Repertory at Theatre 3, 11 September – 3 October. A deal is struck, but who can really trust whom?
- **Yerma**, presented by Moonlight at the ANU Arts Centre Drama Lab, 24 September – 3 October. A tragic examination of Catholic doctrine and social morality.
- **Puss in Boots**, presented by Pied Piper Productions at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, 1 – 10 October. A holiday fun family musical.
- **West End to Broadway**, presented by the ACT Singers at the Austrian Australian Club, Mawson, 18 & 25 October. Tickets available at the door. Featuring songs from musicals old and new.

- ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***, presented by Free Rain at the Courtyard Studio, 30 October – 14 November. Classic drama directed by Jordan Best.
- ***Take their Life***, presented by Canberra Dramatics at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, 5 – 14 November. Re-imagining Romeo and Juliet, but will marriage be happily ever after?
- ***It Runs in the Family***, presented by Canberra Repertory at Theatre 3, 20 November – 12 December. A classic farce – chaotic, infectious, hilarious!
- ***Kindly Leave the Stage***, presented by Tempo Theatre at the Belconnen Theatre, 20 – 28 November. Dinner goes downhill when the hosts announce their divorce.

To finish...

With *The Yeomen of the Guard* opening soon, it seems timely to share a bit more information about Yeomen Warders. The following information is from the Tower of London's website: www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon/, and from Wikipedia: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yeomen_Warders.

'Yeomen of the Guard' is actually not the correct name for the ceremonial guardians of the Tower of London, which are properly called Yeomen Warders. The Yeomen of the Guard is a distinct corps of the Royal Bodyguard, from which Yeomen Warders are drawn. Gilbert and Sullivan contributed to this confusion by naming their operetta *The Yeomen of the Guard* when it actually concerns Yeomen Warders. (Ed. – But *The Yeomen of the Guard* is a better title!)

The 'Beefeaters', as they are nicknamed, have long been symbols of London and Britain. It is

thought their nickname is derived from their position in the Royal Bodyguard, which permitted them to eat as much beef as they wanted from the king's table.

The origins of Yeomen Warders stretch back as far as the reign of Edward IV (1461-83).

Yeomen Warders are required to have served in the armed forces with an honourable record for at least 22 years. (Ed. – some of our 'Yeomen' weren't even alive 22 years ago – but that's the joy of theatre!) Today there are 35 Yeomen Warders – including one woman, who is the first female Yeoman Warder – and one chief warder.

The current contingent of warders have experienced serving in Northern Ireland, the Falklands War, Bosnia, the first and second Gulf conflicts and in Afghanistan.

Today's well-behaved and salaried yeomen warders would no doubt be shocked by the complaint of Sir John Peyton, the Lieutenant of the Tower in 1598, when he declared that some were 'given to drunkenness, disorders and quarrels'. (Ed. – of course, this doesn't apply to our Yeomen – not if they want to stay in Stage Manager **Leanne Cramond**'s good books!)

Your Prologue Editor is always very happy to receive contributions to finish off Prologue – send them through to editor@qp.org.au.



*Queanbeyan Players:
worth going interstate for!*