

THE Playhouse THEATRE

"Live theatre at its best."
OPERATED BY THE BUNDABERG PLAYERS INCORPORATED



Information Night Monday 8 March 2021 On stage at the Playhouse Theatre

Laughter guaranteed for 5 Performances May 21, 22, 23 (Matinee), 28 and 29

SHOW SYNOPSIS

'Allo 'Allo! began as a BBC television sitcom, first broadcast from 1982 to 1992, comprising 85 episodes. The story is set in a small-town café in Nouvion, German-occupied France during the Second World War. It is a parody of another BBC programme, the wartime drama *Secret Army*. A French café owner Rene Artois tries to ride out World War II. Caught between the Gestapo and the Resistance and forced into working with both, René has to keep many secrets:- he has concealed a priceless portrait in a knockwurst sausage on behalf of the Nazis (but plans to keep it for himself), he is reluctantly hiding two British Airmen for the French Resistance, and he also struggles to hide evidence of his affairs with the waitresses from his wife Edith, who, though she can't carry a tune, frequently performs as a singer in the café. It is situation comedy at its best with fast-paced, witty dialogue, sight gags and naughty innuendo.....matters comes to a head with the news that the Fuhrer is to visit the town, and the café becomes filled with tricksters intending to impersonate or assassinate Hitler. Rene will need all the wit he can muster to save his café.....and his life!!!!

AUDITION & REHEARSALS

Audition – TUESDAY 23 March 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start

(Whilst not strictly an 18+ cast, please be aware that preference will be given to those over 18)

Rehearsals will commence on SUNDAY 28 March continuing on Sundays (3:00 – 5:30pm approx), Tuesdays & Thursdays (7:00pm – 9:30pm approx..) until Opening Night. The evening rehearsals may run a little longer towards the end of the campaign when rehearsing the full show. Before auditioning, please consider the necessary level of commitment required. It is suggested you refer to the draft Rehearsal Schedule attached and note that **not everyone will be required at every rehearsal**: and if you are aware of the need to be absent during the rehearsal period, notification should be made to the Director prior to rehearsals commencing. All successful auditionees will be required to become a financial member of the Bundaberg Players Incorporated prior to the first rehearsal.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

The characterisations pose an interesting challenge for the actors. As the show is based on a well-loved series, it is important to have actors who can emulate the original roles without too much mimicry. The characters are larger than life, but it is important to find the truth in the character, make the part your own but still retain the original flavour of the show. The characters should be played without any sense of irony in order to get the most out of the comedy. Obviously we are looking forward to hearing your various German, French and Franglais accents! Those auditioning for Edith, Yvette and Mimi – will need to present a little singing (good, bad or otherwise) and some movement / dance....this will form part of your audition. Please see individual role descriptions below for more info.

MALE ROLES

Rene Artois

French

playing age 45-60

Middle-aged French Café Owner. Rene is the central role and is on stage for most of the show and drive's the narrative, breaking the 4th wall and speaking directly to the audience. Rene is a self-confessed coward who tries to remain impartial whilst protecting his own interests. He is a harangued but charismatic everyman and despite a rather ordinary appearance seems to have an irresistible allure, particularly to his two young waitresses and also to Gruber, a friendly German Officer who likes to frequent the café. This is a physical role which will involve lots of sexual innuendo and a number of amorous scenes!

Colonel Kurt Von Strohm	German	playing age 40-60
The Colonel is the corrupt town commandant who likes to line his own pockets with stolen Nazi treasures. He is a frequent visitor to the café where he seeks favours from the waitresses. He also forces René to conceal stolen artefacts for him and in return keeps secret the knowledge that René is hiding the British airmen in his basement. He is greedy, vain and self-serving yet remains quite likeable despite all of this. Ideally, the Colonel should be played by someone who is stocky and balding. The Colonel wears a "wiglet" for a large part of the play. Sing/speaks a line in one of Edith's cabaret songs.		
Herr Otto Flick	German	playing age 20-50
Herr Flick is an agent of the Gestapo – preferably blonde but not essential. He walks with a limp and uses a stick as a walking aid/weapon! He is reportedly Himmler's godson and aspires to be like his Nazi hero. Flick is entirely emotionless and cold, yet still manages to demonstrate a repressed/mildly sadistic passion for his assistant Helga. Flick is nearly always seen in long leather coat, pin stripe suit, leather gloves and glasses. In this show he plays the violin, dances a tango (stiffly) and also disguises himself as a sexy cinema usherette. Let us know when auditioning if you are adept at any of these skills!		
Captain Alberto Bertorelli	Italian	playing age 20-50
Bertorelli is a flamboyant, bombastic Italian captain attached to the German forces. He believes himself to be very charming and has a keen eye for the ladies, but he loves nobody more than he loves himself. Bertorelli is over-the-top in both his speech and physicality. Bertorelli is in league with Colonel Von Strohm and also plans to profit from undeclared stolen Nazi goods. He sings /speaks a line in one of Edith's cabaret songs and has to impersonate Hitler in Act 2.		
Lieutenant Hubert Gruber	German	playing age 20-60
Gruber is a kindly German officer, who doesn't much enjoy his official duties (with the possible exception of time spent in his "little tank"). Gruber does enjoy his visits to the café though, and lives in hope of expanding his relationship with René, with whom he feels he has a special bond! Gruber frequently walks in on René in a variety of compromising or embarrassing positions. The subtext of course is that Gruber is hopelessly in love with René, which should be played with subtlety and not overtly camp.		
General Ludvig Von Schmelling	German	playing age 40-60
General Von Schmelling does not appear in the TV show but is a similar character to General Von Klinkerhoffen. He is a senior officer who takes his military duties very seriously indeed. He is a strict, authoritative figure who takes a very dim view of the Resistance, and corruption within his own ranks. Everyone is terrified of him, with the exception of Herr Flick. Schmelling is supposed to have a wooden leg and he could also wear an eye patch.		
Officer Crabtree	British	playing age 20-50
Disguised as a sombre French "poleceman", Crabtree is a British undercover agent and is a gem of a part. This character has some of the most popular catchphrases from the series, e.g. "Good moaning! I was just pissing by..." etc. His knowledge of French is very weak and he often uses the wrong vowel sounds leading to comical misunderstandings! The actor taking this role would ideally be tall and slender. This is a physical role and will involve some compromising positions!		
Roger LeClerc	French	playing age 60+
An elderly forger and escaped convict he now works for the French Resistance. Leclerc appears in a variety of different disguises (all unconvincing)! In the TV series, Leclerc was also the pianist who accompanies Edith in the café so if there is an actor who can also play piano to a high standard then that could be a big advantage. Otherwise we will hire a piano player as an extra and separate these roles.		

FEMALE ROLES		
Edith Artois	French	playing age 40-60
Demanding but faithful wife of René. Despite being a terrible singer, Edith believes that she is a musical star and regularly performs a cabaret at the café which is usually badly received by the patrons. Edith has 2 musical numbers in the show, which need to be comically off-key! Edith is very gullible, passionate and long-suffering. For the audition, as well as script work we will ask you to perform a short burst of a song of your choice, preferably with some movement as well. The song can be anything, perhaps something like "Falling In Love Again" or "Happy Birthday". Your challenge is to try to make us laugh - singing out of tune won't be an issue but a bonus!		
Yvette Carte-Blanche	French	playing age 18-40
Yvette is a tall, attractive (ideally brunette) waitress who is having a passionate affair with René. She hopes to elope with him one day. As a side-line Yvette & Mimi "entertain" soldiers in one of the upstairs rooms of the café. Yvette also takes part in the grand cabaret so she needs to be able to sing and dance. As part of the audition for this role, we will ask you to perform a short burst of a song of your choice, something like Happy Birthday, in a comedic sexy style with some movement as well.		

Mimi LaBonq	French	playing age 18-40
Mimi is a short, cute, feisty (ideally blonde) waitress and secret assassin working for the French Resistance. Mimi is also having a passionate affair with René unbeknownst to Edith or Yvette. She is tempestuous and fiery and often has to be held back from attacking German visitors in the café. As a sideline Yvette & Mimi “entertain” soldiers in one of the upstairs rooms of the café. Mimi also takes part in the grand cabaret, so she needs to be able to sing and dance. As part of the audition for this role, we will ask you to perform a short burst of a song of your choice, something like Happy Birthday, in a comedic feisty style – please add some movement as well.		
Michelle Dubois	French	playing age 20-40
As a local leader of the Resistance Movement, Michelle (preferably darkhaired) uses the catchphrase: “Listen very carefully, I will say this only once”. Michelle has persuaded a reluctant René to help hide 2 British Airmen in the cellar. She frequently appears in disguise and is highly passionate about her cause. She speaks with a French accent except when talking to the British Airmen when she adopts an exaggerated upper-class English accent.		
Private Helga Geerhart	German	playing age 20-40
Helga, (preferably blonde) is an attractive, Aryan looking secretary to General Von Strohm. Helga is in a strange sadomasochistic relationship with Herr Flick. Helga has to strip down to her sexy lingerie in one scene. She also will be performing a very uptight tango in another scene. Helga is clipped and severe but a sexy seductress lurks underneath her harsh exterior.		

RAF AIRMEN: FLIGHT LIEUTENANTS FAIRFAX AND CARSTAIRS 2 x Male Roles, British. Fairfax and Carstairs are the British Airmen hiding in René’s café, awaiting repatriation with the help of The French Resistance, and they pop out of various hidden locations on the set. Whilst these roles are very memorable from the series, there are relatively few lines for these parts in the stage show and these cast members will require little rehearsal time and will more than likely be in the stage crew.

AUDITION PIECES

RENE & MIMI	Pages 8 - 9
FLICK & HELGA	Page 14 - 15
SCHMELLING & GRUBER	Page 55 - 56
COLONEL, ALBERTO & GRUBER	Page 60 - 61
RENE, EDITH, LECLERC & MICHELLE	Pages 64 - 67
CRABTREE, RENE & YVETTE	Pages 80 – 81

NOTES

- Rene is married to Edith but having affairs with MiMi and Michelle
- Helga and Flick need to kiss
- Helga strips off her skirt revealing stockings and suspenders.....
- Flick can supposedly play the violin
- Flick has to dress in fishnet stockings, suspenders and short skirt
- Gruber dresses as a Theatre Usherette
- Crabtree removes his trousers revealing old-fashioned boxer shorts...
- Small ENSEMBLE to play customers in the café – it is anticipated that these people will also be the stage crew.....