



A Tour de 40s - A musical revue in three acts from InsideOutside for 2019

About us: InsideOutside Theatre is a not-for-profit organisation creating new work and running programs for people living with disability or disadvantage in SE Queensland. For the past five years we have created and performed Murder Mystery shows at venues throughout SE QLD e.g., clubs, restaurants, cafes, retirement villages and on a steam train as well as for fundraising events.

In 2019, we are changing direction and will be launching our 'Decades' series comprising new revue style productions which will be performed at various venues.

Production: A Tour de 40s (1940s)

A sentimental journey of stories and songs from the 40s era. Told by a trio of multi-talented actor/singers, the production will also explore the havoc caused by WW2 on both sides of the Atlantic with a particular focus on the changing roles of women in society.

Main venue: Brisbane, venue tbc. Late May/early June 2019, possibly with an Anzac Day mini-preview on 25 April.

Audience: The music of the 1940s ranges from patriotic war ballads to jazz and swing and remains popular across a wide age range. The show will evoke memories for some and educate others so the audience will stretch across a wide age range.

Other venues: We have interest in several private bookings and the show will also be offered to other membership venues, private clubs, etc. We envisage the shelf life of the production to run from late May through to August 2019, hopefully finishing with a performance at the EKKA.

Insurance: InsideOutside has \$20,000,000 public liability insurance cover and personal injury insurance cover for our performers and volunteers at any venue

Team: As this is a new work, we will be looking for collaborators and artists who can show originality and initiative.

Fee: Whilst we cannot pay for rehearsal time, there will be a fee per performance set at realistic but negotiable rates. This is a big step up for InsideOutside and we will work closely with a business manager to ensure venues and shows will deliver a profit.

Main contact: Producer and Director, Angela Witcher. Musical Director, Lynette Lancini.

Synopsis

Act 1 – In a league of their own

This act will focus on the changing role of women in the workforce both in the UK and US, the opportunity to meet men from different ‘worlds’, drawing on material including:

- Keep the home fires burning – the Women’s Land Army (WLA), the black market, evacuees.
- Rockford Peaches professional baseball team (A League of their Own movie) – women in sport.
- Rosie the Riveter – a cultural icon of American feminism and women’s economic power in WW2.
- Oversexed and over here – American troops in the UK and the impact on women (good and bad).

Act 2 - For the Boys

Women on the frontline as entertainers, nurses and volunteers, drawing on true stories and experiences as shared by women, film, TV and books. Areas covered will include:

- Entertaining the Troops
- Life in the war zone
- The French Resistance movement

Act 3 - Girls on Film (Hollywood’s Golden Era)

1940s glamour in the movies - stories, songs and commentary.

Despite a drop off in international profile during the war years, Hollywood continued to thrive. As people sought escapism amongst the glitter, many female stars shone, dripping with glamour, although many were hiding personal tragedy and heartbreak. Among those who shone so brightly were:

Betty Grable
Rita Hayworth
Ingrid Bergman
Greer Garson
Vivien Leigh
Mae West
Hedy Lamarr
Dorothy Lamour

Characters

There will be a small troupe of three female performers who must be able to act and sing in a variety of styles. Age range is not set in stone and could be anywhere from early 20s to mid 40s. We are looking for performers who complement each other, particularly vocally. Ability to deliver songs and dialogue in English and American accents will be an advantage.

Each Act will have a lead character who will be the main storyteller and two supports. Songs may be solos and/or close harmonies.

Act 1 – Rita, an all American, sports loving, good time girl who likes to work and play hard. Other characters include her female baseball team buddies, co-workers in the factory where she is a supervisor and her cousin in England who is a Land Army girl who falls pregnant to an American pilot.

Act 2 – Genevieve, an English rose with the voice of a nightingale who starts out entertaining the troops at home and overseas and then becomes an ambulance driver in the battlefields of France. Other characters include a resistance fighter, entertainers and nurses on the front.

Act 3 – Jeanette, Hollywood star. Depending on who is cast could either be a rising or a fading star and may be of English, American or European descent. Other characters will include fellow stars of the silver screen and other women involved in the film industry at that time.

Auditions

Auditions will take place on EITHER:

Tuesday 22 January between 6 and 9 pm at Spring Hill Studios, Love Street, Spring Hill OR
Wednesday 23 January between 10am and 1pm at The Baby Grand, Russell Street, West End.

Audition slots will be 6pm, 7pm, or 8pm on the Tuesday and 10am, 11am or 12pm on the Wednesday.

Auditionees are asked to please prepare:

1. Excerpts from two 1940s songs (2 minutes max per song) – these can be from attached playlist or of your own choosing but should show your full vocal range and be songs you are comfortable and confident with. You may pick a traditional or modern version of the songs and if you wish to use a particular style or add your own flavour to the song feel free, just ensure that you speak with Lynette beforehand so she is prepared on the day. All songs on the sample playlist are available on Spotify. You will need to source and bring your own piano/vocal sheet music with you. Sources include State Library Queensland songbook and sheet music collections, free websites such as imslp.org and musescore.org, and commercial digital downloads.

2. There is no charge to participate in the auditions but if you wish to practice with our MD, Lynette Lancini beforehand please contact her directly on 0401 401 502 or lynette.lancini@gmail.com to discuss timing and fee. She has a private studio in The Gap.
3. A rehearsed improvisation based on one of the main characters and a storyline of your own choosing. We may ask you to tell your story or carry out an interview with your chosen 'character.'

Recalls

Recalls will be at The Baby Grand on Friday 25 January between 10am and 1pm.

It always pays to be prepared and the recall song will be 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' by the Andrews Sisters. Sheet music available here:

<https://musescore.com/user/173783/scores/1202846>

Performers will be invited to attend in groups of three to work on close harmonies.

Time commitment:

Cast to be in place prior by Monday 28 January. Rehearsals will commence in early February and we will do our best to organise times and venue to suit everyone but people should be prepared to be flexible.

We anticipate 1-2 long rehearsals/creative development sessions in early February, then one rehearsal per week during Feb/March with a more intensive rehearsal period (to be agreed by team) from April (avoiding Easter holidays) enabling us to have a short version of the show available for Anzac Day (25 April) and the full show ready to go by mid May.

Application

To apply please send detailed CV and expression of interest to angela@insideoutsidetheatre.com by 5pm on Sunday 6 January (this is also deadline for supplying your sheet music to Lynette).

Then book your free space at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BAAYR> for 22 January or <https://www.trybooking.com/BAAYT> for 23 January.

Please ensure you can fully commit to the project before applying.

A Tour de 40s playlist – PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A GUIDELINE ONLY NOT SET IN STONE

Act 1

Rosie the Riveter, Four Vagabonds
Now and Forever, Carole King (A league of their own)
Dream a Little Dream, The Beautiful South or Ella Fitzgerald
Over Here, The Good Time Girl, Patty Andrews
Labelled with Love, Squeeze
Do Nothing Till you Hear from Me, Abbey Lincoln or Robbie Williams
A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, Harry Connick Jr
My Funny Valentine, Seal or Ella Fitzgerald
Bewitched, Bothered & Bewildered, Sinead O'Connor or Linda Ronstadt

Act 2 - For the Boys

Six lessons from Madam La Zonga, Jimmy Dorsey & His Orchestra
Dream A Little Dream of Me, Ella Fitzgerald or The Mamas & Pappas
That Old Devil called Love again, Alison Moyet or Billie Holiday
I'm Gonna Sit Right down and Write myself a letter, Madeleine Peyroux
Stuff Like that There, Bette Midler
Fly me to the Moon,
Anything Goes, Riverdale Cast or Ella Fitzgerald

Act 3

A Guy What Takes His Time, Mae West
I'm Just Wild about Harry, Judy Garland
I wish that I could Shimmy like my sister Kate, Betty Grable
The Man I Love, Dorothy Lamour or Julie London
Personality, Dorothy Lamour
I've got a Crush on You, Ella Fitzgerald or Julie London

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN TAKE ON WHATEVER SONGS YOU CHOOSE IF YOU WISH. You will need to provide Lynette with sheet music once your audition time is confirmed so that she can familiarise herself with your choice. Please mark any changes to music or style clearly. Lynette will probably speak with you before the audition.

Angela 0499 002 989 angela@insideoutsidetheatre.com

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