



## Audition Pack

### ABOUT THE SHOW

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world, *Puffs* gives you a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three new heroes just trying to make it through wizard school.

Rising Arts Productions is proud to present the Wollongong premiere of *Puffs: The Play*.

### SHOW DETAILS

#### Production Team

**Co-Directors:** Jarrod Riesinger and Bradley Ward

**Production Manager:** Monica Kickert

**Stage Manager:** Sharnae Sanderson

#### Production Overview

**Show Dates:** September 2nd-September 5th

**Venue:** Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC), Bruce Gordon Theatre

**Rehearsal Venue:** Theatre 16

**Rehearsal Days:** Sundays



# IMPORTANT AUDITION DETAILS

## Audition Bookings and Contact Information

To book your auditions, visit our audition page at [www.risingartsproductions.com](http://www.risingartsproductions.com). Audition bookings will open at 6PM, Wednesday April 7th.

For any other enquiries, please contact us at [risingartsproductions@gmail.com](mailto:risingartsproductions@gmail.com).

## Audition Date, Time and Venue

Auditions will be held on Saturday April 24th from 12pm-5pm.

The audition venue is our theatre, Theatre 16, located at 16 Bellambi Ln, Bellambi. We are just north of Wollongong and attached to the Buckaroo Leatherworks. We are best accessed off the side driveway on Pioneer Dr with plenty of on-site parking.

Please book early to secure your preferred time, however additional times may be released if demand requires it.

## Age Limit

Due to the nature of the show and venue requirements, we require all auditionees to be 18 years of age by opening night, September 2nd, 2021.

## Audition Panel

The audition panel will consist of co-directors Jarrod Riesinger and Bradley Ward, and available members of the company and production team.

Other members of the company will also be at the venue to assist with pre-audition registration.



## Rehearsals

Rehearsals are planned to commence Sunday the 2nd of May 2021. The rehearsal venue will be Theatre 16, located at 16 Bellambi Ln, Bellambi.

The regular rehearsal times are:

- Sunday 10am-4pm

*Please note the rehearsal schedule is subject to change. Additional rehearsal times may also be added as required closer to production.*

We understand people are busy and value your time, so we will only call you for rehearsals you are required. As our process will be collaborative we anticipate you'll be needed for all rehearsals. Please ensure that you are generally available for these dates prior to auditioning. If you anticipate these days or select dates may be difficult for you to attend during the rehearsal period, please inform us on the audition form.

## Performance Dates

All cast will be required for each rehearsal during the production week and all performances. Production week will run August 30th through September 1st across Theatre 16 and the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) with all shows performed at the IPAC.

### **Performance dates are as follows:**

Thursday, September 2nd 6:30pm

Friday, September 3rd 7:30pm

Saturday, September 4th 1:30pm

Saturday, September 4th 7:30pm

Sunday, September 5th 3pm (On hold pending ticket sales)



Unfortunately, if you are unable to do any of these dates prior to auditioning we will be unable to cast you. Please consider your availability for production week and the subsequent performances prior to auditioning to avoid disappointment and causing issues in the running of the performances.

*Please note that additional show dates may be added if there is a demand, however, cast will be consulted as early as possible before any decisions are made.*

## ROLES

### **WAYNE HOPKINS (Male Presenting)**

One of the main trio. A boy wizard (but not that boy wizard), new to the wizarding world and ready to take on whatever challenges face him while trying to find his place in the world. Well meaning and hard working while still being a bit of a dork and an unsuspecting hero. A geek at heart, he loves video games, comics and pop culture.

### **OLIVER RIVERS (Male Presenting)**

One of the main trio. A stuffy math savant who would rather study algebra than magic. An uptight rule follower, he would best be described as the nerd to Wayne's geek. Generally nervous but kind with a penchant for sarcasm.

### **MEGAN JONES (Female Presenting)**

One of the main trio. A "goth" Puff who wants nothing to do with being a Puff but is sorted into their house anyway. Believes they belong in the Snakes and tries their best to seem aloof, edgy and at times rude, even if they can't fully seem to get away from their Puff-y tendencies bubbling up from underneath.

### **NARRATOR (Gender Non-Specific)**

The archetypal Puff and the teller of our story. They are kind, well-spoken but still a little cooky and animated. Best described as your interpretation of Dr Who with some Shakespearean influences.

### **LEANNE AND OTHERS (Female Presenting)**

Not the brightest Puff in the Puff common room but the most endearing. Airheaded but filled with endless love, optimism and the biggest heart. The Puffiest of the Puffs.

Other roles: Ginny, Helga & Frenchy



### **CEDRIC & MR VOLDY (Male Presenting)**

Cedric is the Cedric you know and love. The bravest and most popular of the Puffs, he plays somewhat of a leader and role model (in their own Puff-y way). Also plays the dark lord Mr Voldy, who is poised, overdramatic and generally snake-like.

### **J FINCH FLETCHLEY AND OTHERS (Male Presenting)**

Boyish and fun, J Finch Fletchley is a chipper and life-loving student. Often finds himself in mortal danger that quickly changes that chipperness to wild fear. Strong improvisation skills are a must as the character Zach Smith performs an improvised monologue each night.

Other roles: Uncle Dave, Goyle, A Fat Friar, Clumsy Longbottom, Hermeoone # 3, Viktor, Mr. Bagman & Zach Smith

### **HANNAH AND OTHERS (Female Presenting)**

Dimwitted socially, shy and awkward, Hannah doesn't often realise she is the butt of everyone else's jokes until it is too late. Often played with a dry wit and deadpan delivery. Must be comfortable playing a wide range of characters.

Other roles: First Headmaster, Professor McG, Professor Sproutty, Xavia Jones, Professor Lanny, Runes Teach & Ms. Babble

### **SALLY PERKS AND OTHERS (Female Presenting)**

Sally is the typical nerd: nasally, thick glasses and a bit of a teacher's pet. Enthusiastic, Sally tackles everything head on and is a spark of energy for the Puffs. As she grows through the years and loses her glasses, she also quickly becomes the 'sexy' one despite fully maintaining an endearing awkwardness as she looks for love.

Other roles: Hermeoone, Blondo Malfoy, Rowena, Rita Scooter & Bippy the House Elf

### **SUSIE BONES AND OTHERS (Female Presenting)**

Macabre with an obsession with death after her family was murdered, Susie brings a wide eyed stare and unsettling weirdness to the Puffs - an almost Wednesday Addams or Eeyore type. Definitely has the darkest humour of the Puffs but never loses her innate Puffness and love of her friends.

Other roles: Harry (yes that one), Colin, Hermeoone # 2, Ric Gryff & Myrtle

### **ERNIE MAC AND OTHERS (Male Presenting)**

Proud and loud, he pretty much seems himself as the best. A bit of the class clown if he was a student archetype. Must be comfortable performing a wide range of characters.

Other roles: A Very Tall Man, Seamus, A Certain Potions Teacher, Professor Turban, Ghost History Teacher, Professor Locky, Mr. Nick, Sal, Second Headmaster & Real Mr. Moody



## AUDITION PROCESS

All auditionees will be required to book a 10-minute audition slot.

Please ensure to arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of your scheduled audition to ensure the day runs as smoothly as possible so you and your fellow auditionees get to audition on time.

A photograph will be taken of you prior to your audition and the panel may record your audition. All photographs and recordings will be used strictly in the casting process and will be destroyed thereafter.

Due to time constraints, we will only be able to audition you for one role. However, please let us know in your audition booking form if you are willing to be considered for other roles.

### Part 1- Script Read

All roles will also be asked to perform a short excerpt from the script that'll be no longer than one-two minutes in length. These excerpts will either be monologues or short scenes where the other lines will be read from off-stage. We encourage you to learn these lines prior to audition and perform without a script. Prompts will be available if needed.

All script excerpts for roles will be released under the auditions section of [www.risingartsproductions.com](http://www.risingartsproductions.com) prior to auditions. The audition panel will be looking at your confidence, stagecraft, characterisation and ability to create a unique interpretation of the character. This is an audition, so we do not expect performance quality, and you will be able to hold your excerpt if required. However, knowing your piece off by heart is encouraged.

Please be aware that each audition is time limited and therefore we may ask you to stop before completing your entire excerpt – this has nothing to do with the quality of your audition and is simply the audition panel being time conscious.



## Part 2- Bit Character Performance

All roles will also be asked to perform several short one line performances. These are to see your ability at playing multiple characters as this is often required for all our performers. Even if you intend on auditioning for a lead with only one role, we ask you to prepare these in case we'd like to see you perform a role that requires playing multiple characters.

Similar to the script portion, these line excerpts will be distributed on our website before the auditions. The audition panel will again be looking for characterisation and how each of your characters differ in voice, body and movement, skilful use of theatre techniques and the ability to satirise popular characters.

Please note, that due to this show being heavily influenced by a certain boy wizard culture that British accents will be expected of our actors for this show outside of the main trio. Ability to demonstrate this skill in the audition, while not necessary, is encouraged. Your ability to do this accent currently will not impact your audition- workshops will be held during the rehearsal process for those cast in need of accent work.

## Part 3- Improvised Scene

In this portion of the audition, we will ask you to perform a short improvised scene using one of the characters you are auditioning for alongside one of the members of our panel. This will run no longer than a minute or two and is used to gauge how comfortable you are in improvising more so than your actual improv ability.

A large element of *Puffs* is its improvised nature and as such we want to see everyone's ability to think on the spot. Don't let this discourage you if you are not a trained improviser, actors will usually surprise themselves at their ability to improvise, especially in character. Improv is surprisingly fun with friends and you'll have us on the panel fully supporting you along the way.



## MATURE CONTENT WARNING

While *Puffs* is a light-hearted comedy at its heart, it does contain some aspects of performance that may be confronting for a performer. We at Rising Arts strongly feel actors should be supported and comfortable in theatre and performance and wish to quickly highlight the sensitive nature of these topics that may have adverse effects on potential auditionees. We highly recommend putting some honest consideration into your ability and comfort in dealing with these issues before committing to your involvement in *Puffs*.

In particular, please note the following:

- Many of the cast will either kiss or be intimate in one another's personal space throughout the show.
- Several characters are murdered or die in the show.
- Depictions of alcohol use will happen throughout the show.
- Some scenes include coarse language.

Please don't let this put you off from auditioning. We have merely mentioned it to be as transparent as possible with you about the kind of show you will be performing in if cast. We aim to treat this material and our performers with sensitivity and will ensure that our rehearsals will be a safe and tolerant place for creation. If you are auditioning for/offered one of these roles and have concerns about any of the aforementioned themes/acts please discuss it with the production team before committing to the show.





## FINAL NOTES

- Please dress comfortably for the auditions. We want to see you be able to move freely in all facets of the audition process so sensible shoes and non-restrictive clothing is a must.
- Make sure to stay hydrated, well-rested and well-fed before and during auditions. It's easy enough to get caught up in the stress of auditions and forget to look after yourself. A healthy performer is a good performer, so make sure to bring water and snacks to keep you energised before, during and after the audition. (We'll likely have things out for those who forget.)
- *Puffs* is designed to have a relatively small cast. Consequently, there will likely be many unsuccessful auditionees. If you are unsuccessful, please do not let this discourage you, auditions are great learning experiences even when unsuccessful.
- Don't start too late. We're trying to give everyone enough time to learn a very limited amount of material. Make the most of your time and seek advice from family, friends, former cast mates, acting teachers or your pet cat. Being well rehearsed goes a long way in an audition room.
- Support everyone. All your fellow auditionees will be just as nervous as you are. We're bringing *Puffs* to Wollongong to bring everyone together for a fun show loved by so many so let's support one another - it's the Puff thing to do!

We look forward to seeing you at auditions!

- **THE PUFFS TEAM**