



# PRISCILLA

## QUEEN OF THE DESERT

*the musical*

### **AUDITION MATERIALS**

Introductory Evening – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Auditions – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

# PRISCILLA

QUEEN OF THE DESERT

## Director's notes:

Please try to READ THE SHOW before auditioning. It will help your characterisation hugely. Hopefully, the audition pieces are self-explanatory, notes are given against each character as a guide.

Download: [Priscilla - Libretto & Vocal Book](#)

Auditions and all rehearsals (unless otherwise stated), will be held at Velmead School, Velmead Rd, Fleet, Hants GU52 7LG. Rehearsals run from 8-10pm Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

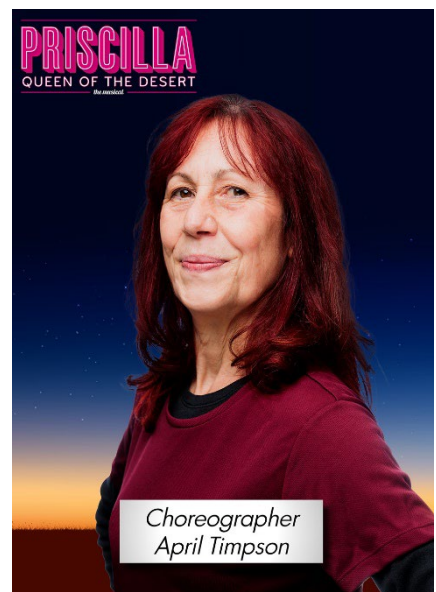
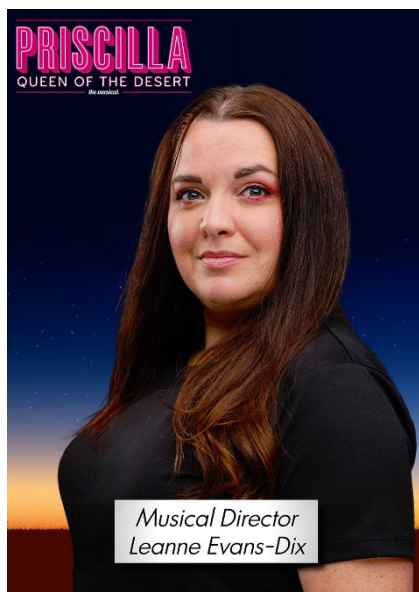
## Open auditions:

Absolutely anyone over school leaving age is invited to come along and audition to be in the show, regardless of whether you are a current member or a potential new one. We are a very inclusive society, welcome people from all walks of life and background and work hard to make everyone feel welcome, respected and involved. If you are new to the society, you will need to complete a new members audition unless you are auditioning for a specific named part in the show (see last page).

## Important Dates:

- 1st get together evening to discuss the show and parts to be auditioned: Tues 2nd April
- Thurs 4th April & Tues 9th April ...an opportunity to learn the audition dance with April (Choreographer), practise audition pieces with Leanne (MD) & discuss characters for audition with Sue (more details to come on the specifics of those evenings)
- Audition date: Sun 14 April from 10.00am. (Thurs 11th eve is also available to audition, only for those who absolutely cannot attend on the proper audition date).
- First full (post audition) rehearsal Tues 16th April
- Show week: Sat 15 Sept (get-in at Princes Hall) to Sat 21st Sept.

If you have any questions please email the production team: [priscilla@codymusical.co.uk](mailto:priscilla@codymusical.co.uk)





## Principal Roles:

### Bernadette

Tony Sheldon, the Australian actor perhaps most associated with this role (having played it almost 2,000 times!) describes Bernadette as 'a middle aged, washed up drag queen who is alone in the world. Having encountered a lot of prejudice and been treated badly over the years, she has discovered that love is the answer and kindness is the way to go'.

**Directors thoughts:** I think that's a great description. A wonderfully deep character to play, Bernadette is a transgender woman with life experience that has given her both resilience and warmth. Playing age 40-60, you must be a strong actor, able to convey a range of emotions, from strength to real vulnerability ... and great comic timing is also essential, (she has some wonderful lines to deliver). We need to care enough for Bernadette as an audience to not only believe in her burgeoning romance with Bob but really wish it to happen.

#### Lib audition:

- Page 35: 'Excuse me, class coming through' to end of page 'sweetheart'
- Page 46: The whole page, from 'Sweetheart, sweetheart' to 'quivering bottom lip'
- Pages 98-99: Bob 'That was amazing' to 'Well, I've certainly got plenty of that!'

#### Music audition:

- True Colours (top of page to bar 35)
- MacArthur Park (bars 32-50)

### Tick/Mitzi

Tick is a wonderfully warm character to play – a drag queen (his onstage name is Mitzi) who is hiding two big secrets from even those closest to him...he is married (to Marion) and has a son (Benji). The story is really Tick's, as it's his decision (as nervous as he is) to go and see his son in Alice Springs that kicks the whole journey off. We need to see a character who is tired of his life in Sydney, loves his friends but is also handling the pressure of not having told them the truth about his family and deciding not to even as they set off to Alice Springs, worrying how they will respond ...ultimately we need to see and feel him literally fall in love with Benji and realise that his life has changed forever. Playing age: 30-45

#### Lib audition:

- Page 81: 'You stupid, pampered little idiot!' to 'We could've stayed in Sydney'
- Pages 100-101: 'Hey Benji' to 'Sure'

#### Music audition:

- I Say a Little Prayer (top of page to bar 32)
- Always on My Mind (top of page to bar 18)



## Adam/Felicia

Adam is the youngest, most volatile of the three leads. 'A body like Baywatch' (according to Tick), he initially rubs Bernadette up the wrong way and they clash. A risk taker, rebellious, catty and seemingly confident on the outside, we need to see his vulnerability and desperate desire for love come through too. Playing age: 25-40

### Lib audition:

- Pages 18-19 'A desert holiday' to 'a dazzling medley of Kylie classics'
- Page 74 'Hard men' to 'Young & Restless .....straight into
- Pages 77-78 'Hello, I'm the new girl in town' to 'I suppose a fuck's out of the question?'

### Music audition:

- Venus (bars 39-58)
- Hot Stuff (bars 41-64)

## Miss Understanding

A cameo but very important character, Miss Understanding is the drag queen who starts our show and sets the scene as the compere of the drag show in Sydney where Adam works as Mitzi. This character needs great stage presence, the ability to interact with the audience and grab and keep their attention, and good impersonation skills, mimicking Tina Turner in 'What's Love Got To Do With It'.

### Lib audition:

- Page 3 'Hello possums and welcome to The Cockatoo Club' to 'it won't be long now'
- Page 7 'Alright, piss off you lot' to 'Welcome to the Cockatoo Club'

### Music audition:

- What's Love Got To Do With It (from top of page to bar 27)

## Divas

We seek three powerful voices, capable of standing out as solo vocalists, but also of blending in a trio, as this is the majority of your role in the show. Ability to turn your hand to an americanised gospel sound without retreating into a nasal vocal quality and a genuine willingness to proactively rehearse together and be a solid team player. We're looking for stage presence and an edge to your voice to portray supreme confidence, sass, energy and the ability to take centre stage with ease, even when not singing. Any age group.

### Lib audition:

- Page 5 'Hi' to 'alright' (miminal lib as part of 'It's Raining Men', an opportunity for you to project confidence when not singing)

### Music audition:

- I will Survive (bars 7-24)
- It's Raining Men (bars 72-81)



## Bob

A lovely character to play, our three leads meet Bob (a mechanic) when they break down in the outback and call for help. Initially a seemingly straightforward 'what you get is what you see' character, Bob reveals himself to be far more interesting - a real fan of 'Les Girls' and drag queen shows and married to a crazy Filipino girl he met on his travels (he was in the Vietnamese War) Despite living in a very traditional environment where a 'men are real men' philosophy prevails, he is immediately very supporting and caring of our three leads, decides to head to Alice Springs with them ....and ultimately becomes involved romantically with Bernadette. Good acting skills required. Playing age: 40-60

### Lib audition:

- pages 82-84: Tick 'We've got 24 hrs till we're onstage' to Bob 'Well I guess I just haven't found my heart yet'

### Music audition:

- A Fine Romance Reprise

## Marion

Not a big part but an important one, Marion is Tick's wife and his son Benji's mum. It's her call to Tick that starts his journey to Alice Springs. She appears in Scene 1A Act One, and Sc 10 Act Two (i.e. at the beginning and 30 mins from the end of the show) so it is feasible for her otherwise to be a chorus member. She is a fun character, a great mum and has no problems that Tick is now living away from her (they met in the business so she understands what he does). She is keen that Benji gets to know his dad. Playing age 30 - 45

### Lib audition:

- Pages 86-87: 'A bus full of drag queens' to 'You think so?'

### Music audition:

- Boogie Wonderland (bars 52-59)

## Cynthia

A wonderful crazy, funny, energetic character to play, Cynthia is Bob's wife. The character is south Asian \*\*, she springs ping pong balls from interesting places, was a stage performer back home and is absolutely desperate to get back on stage again. (Bob says she's banned from the bar as 'when she gets on the sauce, she makes a complete spectacle of herself'). This part requires confidence, humour and great comic timing. A cameo part really, but Cynthia has the ability to steal the show! She ultimately does that and steals the show from the guys with her rendition of Pop Musik. Age: Quite open really. Can be younger than Bob.

*\*\* We welcome anyone who would like to go for this part to feel comfortable to do so, no matter your ethnicity. An actress of southeast Asian heritage would be very welcome, and potentially have a head start in believability in the role. Outstanding acting skills are our priority here though so convince us, no matter who you are and from where you come that this part should be yours!\*\**



#### Lib audition:

- Pages 57 'Refreshments! Hello ebyone. Here, I make lemonade!' to 'I do very special thing with little putti boula jump to
- Page 59 Bernadette 'Aren't you sour?' to Bob 'Don't try and sweet talk me Cynthia'

#### Music audition:

- Pop Musik (bars 5-22)

### Shirley

A cameo role, but one of my favourite characters in the whole show, Shirley appears in just one scene (and therefore could be part of the chorus elsewhere). Shirley lives in Broken Hill in the outback ...a real local, rough as they come, and the total antithesis to a bunch of drag queens from Sydney, she holds no punches in her damning assessment of them. This is a wonderful comedy role, as small as it is ...honestly, go for it!!

#### Lib audition:

- Pages 34-35, from Errol: 'Hey Shirl, how about a shag' to Bernadette 'because it's the only bang you're ever going to get, sweetheart'

#### Music audition:

- I Love the Nightlife (top of the page to bar 33)

### Pastor

A chorus member who will sing the opening lines of 'Don't Leave Me This Way', we invite anyone interested to audition those lines (far fairer than just choosing a someone).

No lib audition.

#### Music audition:

- Don't Leave Me This Way (bars 22-27)

### Benji (Tick's son)

Benji's audition will be a little later in the rehearsal season than our main audition. As soon as we have run the adult audition, we will be sending out more detail on Benji's audition. Benji is a lovely character for a little boy to play. His playing age is ideally 7, but can be up to 9 (so a small 10 – 12 year old could play the part). He will need to be able to sing and hold a tune, and be a good little actor who can act with an Australian accent. He is in three to four scenes (potentially at the beginning, & definitely in the final 30 mins of this two-hour show). More news to come