



MRC Production

2025 Information Booklet



1 SHOW INFORMATION

The Production for 2025 is **Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Youth Edition)**

Timeline

Auditions: March 2025 *Exact dates TBC*

Rehearsals begin: May 2025

Show Dates:

Thursday, 14 August, 2025 (school hours)

Friday, 15 August, 2025 (school hours AND evening)

Saturday, 16 August, 2025 (matinee AND evening)

Show Running Time: Approx 65 mins

To express interest for an on-stage or off-stage role, please fill out the online form below by Friday 7 March 2025: <https://forms.gle/A6cyj331FpUxDjXm9>



Rehearsals (brief overview)

1 full cast rehearsal per fortnight at McAuley during school hours. O'Keeffe ensemble rehearsal on alternate week. Other small rehearsals as required (either campus during lunch times). 2 Sunday intensive rehearsals (May and June). Show week rehearsals during school hours. More details later - may be subject to change.

Production Team

Director: Toby McKenzie 0409 617 627 tmckenzie@mercy.vic.edu.au

Toby has directed multiple productions, including award-winning shows, in Camperdown and Warrnambool including the **75th Anniversary Spectacular** (2023), **Spamalot** (2019), **Wicked** (2018) and **Seussical** (2017). He has taken on the roles of director, vocal director, producer, set designer and more for various productions and is the current president of the Camperdown Theatre Company Inc.

Assistant Director / Music Director: Nikki McKenzie

Nikki has musically directed many shows in Warrnambool including **Mamma Mia** (2020), **Wicked** (2018) and **Sweet Charity** (2017). She has also been involved on production teams and the band in Camperdown, most recently as vocal director for **Freaky Friday** (2024) and the **75th Anniversary Spectacular** (2023). Her musical skills have also seen her perform in multiple local events over the years.

Choreographer: Madidi McKenzie

Madidi has been involved in productions in Camperdown and Warrnambool over the years, having most recently played Ellie in **Freaky Friday** (2024) and Elle Woods in **Legally Blonde** (2024). In 2023 Madidi was an assistant choreographer for **The 75th** in Camperdown and performed as Wednesday Addams in MRC's **The Addams Family**. She has many years of dancing and choreography experience with Jammin' Studio and participated in London West End workshops earlier in 2024.

Brief Overview

The Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1957 classic TV adaptation, then Broadway musical has been reimaged for young performers in this 65 minute version. The musical follows the story of Cinderella, who is ridiculed by her stepmother and two stepsisters. When an invitation to the Royal Ball arrives, Cinderella is kept busy by them as to prevent her from attending. When in despair, Cinderella's Fairy Godmother arrives and with a spell gives her a beautiful gown and carriage, which will disappear at midnight. Cinderella attends the ball and has such a wonderful time she forgets that the spell will break. As the clock strikes 12, she hurries away, leaving behind a glass slipper. The prince then searches the land for her, and despite the efforts of the stepmother and stepsisters, Cinderella is finally found to fit the slipper and lives with the prince happily ever after.

CASTING

Principal Cast

CINDERELLA (F)
HER GODMOTHER (F)
HER STEPMOTHER (F)
PORTIA (Stepsister) (F)
JOY (Stepsister) (F)
THE PRINCE (M)
THE HERALD (M or F)
THE QUEEN (F)
THE KING (M)
THE CHEF (M or F)
THE STEWARD (M or F)
WHITE HORSES (4) (M or F)
THE COACHMAN (M or F)
THE FOOTMAN (M or F)

**These principal roles
are open to Years 9 - 12**

Ensemble Cast / Junior Ensemble Cast

FEATURED ENSEMBLE (M or F)
TOWNSPEOPLE (M or F)
PALACE STAFF (M or F)
GUESTS AT THE BALL (M or F)

**These ensemble roles
are open to Years 7 - 12**

- Junior students in Year 7 & 8 may only audition for Junior Ensemble roles (which will consist of the last four categories)
- Casting is the responsibility of the production team and is based on the auditions presented

Open to all Mercy Students

- All students are invited to express interest in the 2025 production and past experience is not required
- There are no extra costs associated (with the exception of the optional show t-shirt below and the potential supply of specific basic shoes/socks/underwear items TBC)

T-shirts

- Students involved in the production are able to order a show t-shirt to keep as a memento if they wish (t-shirts are optional).
- T-shirts will feature the show title on the front, then dates and an on-stage cast list on the back
- Cost will be approximately \$35 per t-shirt. *Exact cost TBC*
- Please indicate interest on the online EOI form
- An order form will be sent to cast and crew once details are finalised

2 ON-STAGE STUDENTS

What to expect

Being involved on-stage in a production is great fun and offers a fantastic opportunity to expand artistic skills. The following is a general guide only and may change slightly depending on the production and the number of students involved.

All on-stage students involved are expected to:

- Attend all rehearsals they are called for, most within school hours, but including some out of school hours
- Follow all instructions given by the production team and teachers (school rules + theatre rules apply)
- Learn lines, dances and singing, including regular practicing at home
- Work as a team with fellow cast members, production team and teachers
- Act in a safe manner during rehearsals and performances

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held in March 2025 during school hours. *Dates TBC.*

We ask everyone to try their best and not worry - this is a great place to start and we encourage auditions from anyone who wants to give theatre a go.

All auditionees will be allocated an audition time and are asked to do the following:

- Fill out and submit the online EOI form beforehand
- Follow the piano with a simple vocal scale to determine vocal range (Ah or La going up and down).
- Sing a section of a song of choice (up to 90 seconds) that showcases voice, providing an appropriate backing track OR singing acapella (no music). This song should be from the Music Theatre genre and CAN BE from this show (if desired).
- Perform a rehearsed section of script (scripts will be released closer to auditions)
- Respond to a direction (change the style of the performance of the script)

REHEARSALS

- Regular rehearsals will be held at both the McAuley and O’Keeffe campuses from May 2025
- Full cast rehearsals will be held in the Seventh Day Adventist Hall next to McAuley
- Junior Ensemble rehearsals will be held in the Chapel at O’Keeffe
- Some small rehearsals will also run during lunch time at either campus on demand
- During rehearsals, students will work with the production team to learn the choreography, blocking and singing required
- These elements will then be blended to form each scene
- There can be quite a lot of repetition to ensure the best result

Rehearsal Schedule

- The rehearsal schedule can be accessed here (still in progress) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13IFmFdZ0GQgYKAZ4ydMKrzM47re3_net8ZdTzRWKsRs/edit?usp=sharing
- The schedule will detail the time, location, who is required and what we are doing once complete

- Not every student will be required at every rehearsal
- Every effort will be made to ensure that students required at each rehearsal are needed for that session
- It is important to pay attention to who is called to each rehearsal on the schedule
- Students who do not attend a rehearsal they are required for will need to catch up on what is missed
- Repeated absence may mean as student is removed from particular scenes and/or the production team will assess and discuss
- Those students not required to attend a rehearsal are expected to attend their normal classes

Costuming

- Costuming will occur during the rehearsal process
- The costume team will measure and fit costumes as required
- Students may be asked to supply some basic items, such as particular shoes, socks, basic t-shirt etc. depending on their role
- Students will also need to wear appropriate underwear for performances (white or skin tone) with no obvious logos or bright colours.
- Food or drink that may stain if spilled should not be consumed whilst in costume
- Care should be taken to look after costumes and keep them clean and in order

THE THEATRE

- The Theatre Royal is located on the corner of Bath and Manifold Streets in Camperdown
- Main access is from Bath St (southern door) into the main foyer
- Rehearsals in the theatre are only accessible to those involved in the production

Change Rooms

- Change rooms (located sidestage) will be allocated closer to the show dates
- Only students allocated, production team or MRC staff may enter a change room as required
- Theatre courtesy is to knock and wait for a response before entering or waiting at the door if you wish to speak to someone
- Change rooms are quiet spaces during performances
- Students are expected to keep change rooms tidy at all times and reset belongings/costumes after each rehearsal or performance

Makeup / Hair

- All students are required to wear at least some makeup so the stage lights don't wash out facial details
- Makeup items need to be supplied by the student, including: Foundation, Setting Powder, Eyeliner, Mascara, Lipstick
- There will be a team on-hand at the theatre to assist with makeup application

Microphones

- Students who receive a face microphone will be notified by the production team, and depends on role

- Due to technical and resource limitations, not all students will receive a face microphone
- All face microphones are fragile and sensitive to misuse. Care must be taken when wearing them
- Technicians will be on-hand to install and remove face microphones
- Cloth microphone belts will be supplied for students to wear. These fit the microphone transmitters
- Students may put their own cloth microphone belt on
- Students **MUST NOT** install or remove their face microphone
- Once fitted, face microphones should not be touched and hairspray etc should not be used
- Pit microphones may be installed for off-stage choral singing, depending on production requirements

Properties (Props)

- Props will be located on tables either side of stage
- Props should be returned to the tables once used and reset before each performance
- Props should only be touched by those who use them in the performance to avoid anything going missing
- Care should be taken to look after props as many items may be fragile

Notes about safety

- All crew are expected to act in a safe manner during rehearsals and performances
- Stages can be dangerous places, with risks such as heavy moving objects, low light, loud sounds, platforms and electrical equipment
- Performing in the way directed throughout the rehearsal process is important to maximise safety
- Inappropriate/silly behaviour is not tolerated backstage
- The theatre balcony area, ladder, lofts and under-stage area are out-of-bounds unless direct permission is given
- Stairs into hall must be used (do not jump off the front of the stage)
- It is everyone's responsibility to act safely and let the production team know about anything unsafe

3 OFF-STAGE STUDENTS

What is on offer?

Productions offer many unique opportunities. If you would like to be involved but don't want to be on-stage, there are many tasks behind the scenes to suit a wide range of interests.

If you are interested in any of the following, please fill out the Off-stage EOI form and tick relevant interest. Whilst we hope to offer roles in each category, it may depend on interest shown.

Some off-stage departments may be required at some rehearsals - these will be indicated on schedule.

Set Building

- Involves the construction of sets/scenery based on the schematic designs
- It is a hands-on task, working with materials such as wood, canvas, metal and plastics

- Sets generally need to mimic actual buildings etc whilst maintaining the lightest possible weight
- Suits anyone who enjoys building and construction. Occurs during the rehearsal process.

Set Painting / Dressing

- Involves adding the theming elements to the constructed set, with paint or other materials
- Can be anything from ocean waves and sky, to bricks and mouldings
- Suits anyone with an artistic flair and an eye for detail. Occurs in the later stages of the rehearsal process and into the theatre

Backstage Crew

- Involves assisting in the movement of set pieces, and other management of staging on and off stage during a performance
- Suits anyone who is diligent, willing to listen and learn, and is interested in the way stage shows run. Occurs in the late rehearsal process and throughout the theatre process

Hair / Makeup Crew

- Involves applying makeup and styling hair of performers
- Suits anyone with an artistic flair, eye for detail and an interest in hair/beauty. Occurs during the mid-late rehearsal process for planning as well as the late rehearsal process and theatre process for application
- Suits anyone who is diligent, willing to listen and learn, and is interested in the way stage shows run. Occurs in the late rehearsal process and throughout the theatre process

Lighting Design

- Involves the design and programming of lighting fixtures to create scenes
- A unique opportunity to learn from experienced technicians about different fixtures, including moving-head lights, lighting software and DMX systems
- Suits anyone with an interest in lighting, colour theory, RGB LED technology and the practical application of light. Occurs during the late rehearsal process and theatre process

Lighting Operation

- Involves the on-demand cueing of lighting during the performance
- Can include the operation of the follow-spot
- Suits anyone with an interest in lighting, who is willing to listen and learn. Occurs during the late rehearsal process and theatre process

Sound Operation

- Involves assisting the sound technician before, during and after performances
- Can include microphone fitting, sound checks and communicating with backstage
- Suits anyone with an interest in sound technology, who is willing to listen and learn. Occurs during the late rehearsal process and theatre process

Ushering

- Involves checking tickets, assisting audience in finding their seats, helping manage the crowd and providing other directions as necessary before and during the performances
- Suits anyone who is a people person with a friendly nature who is willing to help others. Occurs during the theatre process

Canteen Supply/Sales

- Involves making/sourcing and selling items at the canteen before and after the performance (and during interval if there is one)
- Suits anyone who is a people person with a friendly nature and an interest in retail/business management. Occurs during the theatre process

Marketing

- Involves assisting the marketing department in advertising the show ahead of the season
- Can include tasks such as artwork and content creation, and helping spread the word
- Suits anyone with an interest in marketing, design, social media and print. Occurs during the rehearsal and theatre process.

Notes about safety *Same expectations as on-stage students apply*

- All crew are expected to act in a safe manner during rehearsals and performances
- Stages can be dangerous places, with risks such as heavy moving objects, low light, loud sounds, platforms and electrical equipment
- Performing in the way directed throughout the rehearsal process is important to maximise safety
- Inappropriate/silly behaviour is not tolerated backstage
- The theatre balcony area, ladder, lofts and under-stage area are out-of-bounds unless direct permission is given
- Stairs into the hall must be used at all times (do not jump off the front of the stage)
- It is everyone's responsibility to act safely and let the production team know about anything unsafe

4 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

- Expressions of interest will be accepted from now until Friday 7 March 2025
- Certain off-stage departments may or may not run depending on the EOIs received
- There is a section of the EOI form for parents/guardians to offer assistance, which will be greatly appreciated (Working with Children's Check required)
- If you would like to express interest in any aspect of the production, please see below:

To express interest for an on-stage or off-stage role, please fill out the online form below by Friday 7 March 2025:
<https://forms.gle/A6cyj331FpUxDjXm9>

5 THEATRE & MUSIC TERMS

Students may come across the following terms during the production:

- **Acapella:** Music sung without instrumental accompaniment
- **Apron:** The very front of stage in front of the Proscenium
- **Backstage:** The area of stage that is out of view of the audience
- **Bar/Batten:** A suspended frame on which lighting or other equipment is rigged
- **“Beginners”:** Performers who are in the first scene of a play
- **Blackout:** The act of turning off all stage lighting (often to end a scene)
- **Blocking:** The movements around the stage that form an acted scene
- **Blue light:** The low level light used in the backstage area during performances
- **Box Office:** Where audience can purchase tickets
- **“Break a Leg”:** A widely used theatrical alternative to “Good luck”
- **Bump In / Out:** The process of installing and removing a show from the theatre
- **Centre Stage:** The very middle section of stage, between downstage and upstage
- **“Chookas”:** Another widely used theatrical alternative to “Good luck”
- **Choreography:** The dance movements constructed by the Choreographer to form a routine
- **Company:** The cast, crew and others associated with a show
- **Cue:** The signal that an action should follow Eg: your cue to enter stage is the lights turning on
- **Cyclorama (“Cyc”):** The large white cloth at the back of stage
- **Dialogue:** The spoken word of a play
- **Downstage:** The section of stage closest to the audience
- **Dress Rehearsal:** A full rehearsal that includes the technical and creative elements
- **Flat:** A lightweight piece of scenery, mostly made of timber
- **Foyer:** The front room of a theatre where audience enters
- **Front of House (FOH):** The area accessible by the audience
- **“Heads up”:** A safety warning used to warn others if something is falling / in danger of falling
- **House Curtain (“House Rag”):** The main red curtain in the theatre
- **“House Live”:** The doors are open and audience can access the auditorium (cast to remain backstage)
- **Legato:** Musical term for smooth and connected
- **Legs:** The black curtains at the edge of stage that block the wings
- **Lines:** Scripted words to be spoken by actors
- **Matinee:** A daytime performance
- **Mid-black:** The black curtain that divides the stage in two
- **Movers:** Moving head light fixtures, often with coloured pattern (gobo) effects
- **Off-prompt / Opposite prompt (“OP”):** The side of stage to the actor’s right

- **PAR/SlimPAR:** LED light fixtures that flood the stage with colour
- **Pit:** The area (usually under or in front of the stage) for orchestra and off-stage singers
- **Playwright:** The author of a play
- **Pre-show:** The period just before a performance begins. Can sometimes include light entertainment.
- **Prompt:** The side of stage to the actor's left. Generally where the stage manager or prompt stands.
- **Properties ("Props"):** Portable objects used during a performance eg. cup, flowers
- **Proscenium Arch ("Pro Arch"):** The decorative arch that forms the front of the stage
- **Rack:** A switchboard for technical equipment, usually consisting of lighting switches or sound plugs
- **Riser:** A stage platform raised above the normal stage
- **Set/Scenery:** The decorative elements that form locations in the play
- **Score:** A book of music, known also as sheet music
- **Script:** A book outlining the lines, scenes and stage directions of a play
- **Season:** A term used to describe the period when a play is running
- **Sitzprobe:** When the band and cast of a production rehearse for the first time
- **Staccato:** Musical term for short and separated
- **Stalls:** The audience seating on the floor of the auditorium
- **Tech:** The lighting, sound and other machinery/equipment needed for a show
- **"The top":** From the beginning
- **Trap:** A concealed opening in the stage floor
- **Upstage:** The section of stage at the back, furthest from the audience
- **Wings:** The areas to the left and right of the stage
- **"Worker":** The bright white lights used when working on the stage