

A CHORUS LINE

AUDITION INFORMATION

Williamstown Musical Theatre Company Inc is proud to announce auditions for their November 2019 production, **A CHORUS LINE**, which will be performed at the Centenary Theatre, Williamstown from Friday 8th to Saturday 16th November 2019.

A CELEBRATION OF THOSE VALIANT, UNSUNG HEROES OF MUSICAL THEATRE, THE CHORUS LINE OF ENSEMBLE DANCERS

In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, final casting for a Broadway musical is underway. For 17 dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It's what they have trained and strived for, putting their lives 'on the line' for the opportunity to do what they constantly dream of doing: performing on a Broadway stage. But more than that, this is what is going to pay the bills. They need this job to eat, and keep a roof over their head.

When we think of *A Chorus Line* we think of a lot of dancing. Although this is true and dance is the common thread, what connects it are the real-life stories as told to Michael Bennett, who in 1974, over a series of workshops, taped interviews of a group of Broadway performers. These were highly-skilled dancers, known as "gypsies," who travelled from musical to musical, chorus to chorus, only to be found in the background behind the stars. The individual biographies were then condensed into the characters that appear on stage.

Each of these stories are told to us and Zach, the Director, who instead of making them read an audition piece, asks each of them to share why they do what they do. Some are shy or reluctant, while others are more than happy to reveal their innermost thoughts. We learn about their lives, their motivation and passion, and how each of them became involved in dance. Some used it as an escape and a place to hide away from reality, where others found a natural affinity with dance.

On May 21, 1975, the opening at Joseph Papp's Public Theatre was greeted with unanimous raves from the critics, and it quickly became obvious that this show about Broadway itself was inevitably headed there. One month later *A Chorus Line* transferred to the Shubert Theatre, and went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Running for over 6,000 performances, it became the longest-running production in Broadway history until being surpassed in 1997.

A Chorus Line calls for triple threat performers and provides them the opportunity with great dancing, singing and acting. With memorable musical numbers that include *I Can Do That*, *At the Ballet*, *Dance: Ten; Looks: Three*, *The Music and the Mirror*, *What I Did for Love*, *One*, and *I Hope I Get It*.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director - Tamara Finch
Musical Director - Stephen McMahon
Choreographer - Tamara Finch
Costume Designer - Chelsea Maron
Lighting Designer - Jason Bovaird
Assistant Director - Abi Richardson
Assistant Choreographer - Ashley Tynan
Production Managers - Jayson Fry
Michael Hawthorn

SINGING/ READING AUDITION

All singing auditions will be held at the **MDX Dance Studios**, Williamstown.
Unit 2 / 1 Akuna Drive Williamstown North (**Melways 55, G6**)

- Sunday 14th July from 1.00pm
- Monday 15th July from 7.30pm

DANCE AUDITION

Please keep this date and time free.

Auditionees **MAY** be required for the following dance audition; you will be informed if you are required to attend the Dance Audition at your Singing/ Reading Audition.

The Dance Audition will be held at **MDX Dance Studios**, Williamstown.
Unit 2 / 1 Akuna Drive Williamstown North (**Melways 55, G6**)

- Wednesday 17th July from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

DANCE & ROLE CALL-BACKS

Please keep this date and time free.

Auditionees **MAY** be required for the following date and time; you will be informed via email if you are required to attend the Dance and/ or Role callback on Thursday 18th July.

- Sunday 21st July from 1.00pm to 5.00pm

AUDITION INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

- **All auditionees are required to make an audition booking by calling 1300 881 545.**
- Auditionees must be 18 years of age or over at the time of your audition.
- Please prepare **TWO** songs **in the style of the show** which demonstrate your vocal range and storytelling ability.
- Audition songs may not be heard in full, so please choose an appropriate starting place or prepare a cut that you feel best represents your skills.
- No songs from the show are permitted.
- If auditioning for a particular character, please take note of the vocal type and character required.
- Only sheet music may be used and all sheet music must be in the correct key, **in a folder** with the cuts clearly marked. No transposition, backing tracks or acapella singing will be accepted.
- Auditionees may be asked to sing some scales and/or some oral exercises depending on the requirements of the role/s they are auditioning for.
- All auditionees auditioning for a role will be required to read dialogue in their audition.
- Auditionees may audition for ensemble or pit-singer only.
- We are looking for a very diverse cast of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Rehearsals will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7.00pm to 10.30pm and Sunday afternoons from 1.00pm to 5.00pm.
- Cast will be required to attend a dance technique class and costume measurements on Thursday 25th July from 7.00pm to 10.30pm.
- The first official rehearsal will be held on Sunday 28th July from 10.00am to 5.00pm
- There may be a requirement to start some Sunday rehearsals from 10.00am.
- There will be 2 rehearsal weekends planned which are **COMPULSORY** in attendance.
Dates for these weekends are as follows:
 - o 31st August/ 1st September
 - o 5th / 6th October
- Cast are required to assist with bump-in on Saturday 2nd November, 2019
- Cast are required to attend all rehearsals during production week - Sunday 3rd November to Thursday 7th November, 2019.
- Performance dates are from Friday 8th November, 2019 to Saturday 16th November, 2019.
- Cast are required to assist with bump-out after the final performance on Saturday 16th November, 2019.
- All auditionees are required to complete the standard audition form (available on our website), please bring your CV (if you have one) and a non-returnable head shot.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

CHARACTER	Vocal Range	Character Description
Zach Age: 30– 40 Born: Buffalo, New York	Non-singing, acting role (Dance training is not a priority)	The Director and Choreographer of the show. A stage veteran who settles for nothing less than 'perfection' from not only his cast, but also himself. A charismatic and self-assured character, who is focused, often stern and very direct. Although he always seems strong and self-assured, there are a number of emotional circumstances throughout the show in which he shows empathy and a softening in his personality. He does vocalise dance instructions, so would need to convince an audience that he has dance experience.
Larry Age:25-35 Born: New York City	Tenor (D3-D5)	Having spent many years working with and assisting Zach, Larry demonstrates and teaches the audition routines. He is the buffer to Zach's harshness for the auditionees, he is supportive and kind. A strong dancer and is the standard to which all the auditioning dancers are held.
Alan (Al) DeLuca Age: 25-30 Born: Italian-American/ Bronx	Tenor (E3 - G#4)	Growing up in a working-class family, Al is Macho, street wise and very protective of his new bride, Kristine, who he supports throughout the audition. Needs to have good comic timing and ability with Bronx accent.
Bebe Benzenheimer Age: 20+ Born: Jewish/Boston	Alto (F#3 - C#5)	A newcomer to the Broadway scene and therefore eager to please and work hard. On the surface, Bebe is down-to-earth, quiet, and strong-willed. However, she also lacks self-esteem having grown up with her mother continually telling her that her looks were "different". To escape her insecurities, she found solace in the ballet where everyone could be beautiful.
Bobby Mills III Age: late 20's Born: Upper-middle class. Upstate, New York.	Baritone (D#3 -MiddleC4)	Flamboyant, bitchy and witty, Bobby is an extrovert, with a sharp tongue. He jokes about his conservative upbringing and describes himself as 'strange'. Goes over the top with his stories, which is a cover to hide his unhappy childhood and being picked on at school for being different and gay.

Cassie Ferguson Age: late20's Born: Minnesota	Soprano (A3 - D#5)	A seasoned performer who is committed to dance as it is the only thing she knows and loves. Cassie is auditioning for the chorus after years of being a Broadway 'star' and attempting to pursue a film and TV career in LA. She returns after being out of work for the past 2 years. Having run out of a previous relationship with Zach, she is not only desperate for a job but also vulnerable. A 'triple-threat' performer required for solo dancing, singing and a character actress with great emotion.
Connie Wong/Mackenzie Age: 25-30 Born: Chinatown, Lower East Side, New York.	Alto (C4 - D5)	A petite and experienced dancer (should believable play 4'10"), Connie is quirky and fun, a bit of a mother-hen who is rather coy about her age. Usually portrayed by an Asian woman, but can be played by another race.
Diana Morales Age: 25 – 30 Born: Porta Rican / Bronx	Alto (G3 - F#5)	A Streetwise Latina, who attended the High School of Performing Arts, where her drama teacher told her she would never make it as an actress. Being an eternal optimist, his criticism never stopped her dream to dance on Broadway. She is energetic, humorous and speaks from her heart. A strong actress, good with accents and emotion in her singing.
Don Kerr Age: 25+ Born: Kansas City	Baritone (D3 - F#4)	Into cars, money, and although married, he loves to flirt with women. An All-American guy, self-assured and comes across somewhat cocky. He reveals when he turned 15 he lied about his age to make money working in a nightclub. He goes on to explain his experiences with Lola LaTores, the club's stripper.
Gregory Gardener Stage Age: 25+ Born: Very upper East Side New York	Baritone (D3 - E4)	Sassy, Jewish and very 'camp'. Gregory has a 'been there, done that' arrogant attitude. Describes himself as "very East Side" and is extremely conscious of how he looks and appears to others. A Strong presence, speaks with clarity and polished grammar and is confident singing about his sexuality.

Judy Turner Stage Age: 20+ Born: El Paso, Texas	Mezzo-Soprano (G#3-E5)	Funny, warm and hopeful. Nervous and awkward at times, except when she dances. Judy has a sense of humour that sometimes only she gets.
Kristine Ulrich (DeLuca) Stage Age: 18+ Born: St.Louis, Missouri	Mezzo-Soprano (B3 - D#5)	Wide-eyed and naïve, an excellent dancer who unfortunately can't sing, in fact she's tone-deaf. Quite nervous and flustered and happily married, her loving husband, Al, helps ground her, often finishes her sentences and assists her with singing.
Maggie Winslow Age: 20+ Born: San Mateo, California	Soprano (A3 - A5)	A sweet 'girl-next-door' character who hides behind a brave face having had a difficult home life when growing up. Fantasising and using dance as a way of escape, she can think of nothing else she'd rather do besides dancing.
Mark Anthony Age: 18 - 25 Born: Arizona	Tenor (E3 - G#4)	Hopeful and fresh at his first audition, Mark is optimistic, naive and very charming. A great dancer, bit of a class clown and All-American kid, really really wanting to get into this show. Needs to be confident with confronting sexual dialogue, good storyteller.
Mike Costa Age: 20+ Born: Italian / New Jersey	Tenor (F3 - G#4)	Spent his childhood watching his sister at dance class, decided 'he can do that' and eventually joined in. Athletic and masculine, Mike is determined and self-assured, a little cheeky and very likeable. With a twinkle in his eye, he loves to flirt with the girls. Needs a big stage presence, but can pull back so as not to upstage other

		performers.
Paul San Marco Age: 25+ Born: Puerto Rican / Spanish Harlem, New York	Baritone (C#4 - F#4)	Shy and sensitive. Left school at a young age after being bullied for being effeminate. He secretly began to work in a seedy drag show, which he hid from his family. Strong, emotional character actor required to deliver a raw and vulnerable monologue about coming out to his parents.
Richie Walters Age: 20+ Born: Missouri (usually portrayed by African-American)	Big Tenor (D3 - A4)	After winning a basketball scholarship to college, he almost became a kindergarten teacher, but instead put all his energy into dance. Charismatic, enthusiastic, and very cool, 'nothing is gonna shake his boat'.
Sheila Bryant Age: 30+ Born: Colorado Springs	Alto (E3 - A#4)	The sexy, "vamp". Sheila is a seasoned performer who is opinionated, assertive, (and a little weary). Her sharp, biting sense of humour and tough, passive-aggressive attitude covers her insecurity of being the oldest dancer on the line and close to the end of her dancing career.
Val Clark Age: 22-30 Born: Arlington, Vermont.	Mezzo-Soprano (G#3 - C#5)	Val may look sweet and innocent, but is far from it. She knows what she wants and she'll go out to get it. Sexy, sassy, and self-assured. An excellent dancer whose dreams of being a Rockette were dashed when she learned that her looks were holding her back. Not one to settle, she went to a doctor and bought herself a new look and new physique, of which she loves to show off. A confident performer who is comfortable drawing attention to their body (as outlined in the song).

<u>Ensemble</u> Cameo /Cut Dancers Age: Various	Vocal: Varied	These named parts are referred to in dialogue. Seeking strong singers to support the cast throughout the entire show, but also with movement ability in order to appear in the iconic opening number. Will have a limited rehearsal schedule
BUTCH		Has a bit of an attitude, and unable to correct his mistakes.
FRANK		"Headband boy" spends his time looking at his feet when he dances.
LOIS		A ballerina who is able to get through the ballet combination but not the jazz combo.
TOM		Not a great deal of training behind him and can't dance without mouthing the counts.
TRICIA		Experienced dancer, likes to push her way to the front and dances everything over the top. Has a brief vocal solo.
ROY		Has only had 1 year of ballet training. Can't get his arms to co-ordinate at the right time.
VICKI		A sexy California-blond type, with no ballet training. Can only get through the jazz combo by watching other.
<u>Support Singers</u>		Will have a limited rehearsal schedule. Note: this is an offstage role. Will be required to work as vocal support in the orchestra pit.

**We are looking for a very diverse cast of all ages, genders,
sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds.**

**To secure your spot in auditioning for this 'Sensational' musical
please call [1300 881 545](tel:1300881545).**



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