



SHOW DATES
AUDITION DATES
REHEARSALS

Thurs 19 (TBC), Fri 20 & Sat 21 September 2024
Saturday 29 June 2024
Commence Wed 3 July 2024

Creative Team

Tonia Beckmann
Director

Chantal Kay
Musical Director

Fay Fortescue
Choreographer

George Rogers
Producer

Contact Details

The audition package contains **all** the material that is being made available to prospective auditionees. If you feel that something is **not** included in the pack, a question can be put to the production team. This answer will be made available for everyone.

To pose any extra questions, please contact George Rogers on 0487 664 930.

1. Brief History

MMCP was founded in 1965 and staged its first production *The Boyfriend* that same year. From this humble beginning MMCP have staged numerous musicals over the years such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Les Misérables*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Grease*, *Legally Blonde*, *Mary Poppins*, *Wicked*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mamma Mia* and *The Addams Family* (to name a few). MMCP built its permanent residence on Lamb Street in 1978 and plans to continue its fine tradition of producing quality music theatre for many years to come.

SHOULD I AUDITION FOR CLOSER THAN EVER?

Volunteering with The Mackay Musical Comedy Players as both a performer and assisting with off-stage jobs is a great way to meet people, make friends, and experience all aspects of the theatre.

We are committed to securing performers and participants in the production who will be engaged and always committed and actively demonstrate their dedication to the production. Performers who will succeed in this production will demonstrate only the highest contribution to joining a team who will endeavour to make this experience memorable as a quality production for both the company and the region.

The following IMPORTANT INFORMATION will assist you to determine your ability to commit to the requirements of production **before** auditioning.

2. Attendance Expectations

a. REHEARSALS

- Rehearsal attendance is **compulsory** whenever called.
- A rehearsal schedule will be provided early in the rehearsal process and if you are going to be unavailable for any of those rehearsals due to **one-off commitments** such as weddings etc., then the Producers must be notified **in advance**.
- **Regularly scheduled activities e.g. work, sports practice, dance lessons, school band and music commitments etc** are not considered as one-off commitments and **will be considered as disqualifiers for casting**.



- If you accept a role, you are entering into a commitment and there are no excuses for non-attendance. A commitment is made by every performer to attend all rehearsals, performances, and bump-in/out. This ensures a smooth-running show, and that fun is had by all.
- The directing team have decided that after three (3) absences from rehearsals (FOR ANY REASON), your role may be replaced, and you may be asked to leave the show.
- MMCP’s COVID plan states that if you are suffering flu-like symptoms or have been asked to isolate etc, then you must stay away from rehearsals. If a suitable attendance alternative cannot be accommodated (e.g. via Zoom or Facebook Live session), **these absences will be counted towards your absence total.**
- Rehearsals will commence on Wednesday 3 July 2024, and this will be an all of cast rehearsal. All cast should be prepared to have their program photo taken, organise membership and have a short Biography ready for submission. At this rehearsal, it is hoped that we will have the first outline of attendance requirements for characters.
- All cast will **most likely** be required at every rehearsal.
- Rehearsals are held on EVERY Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon up until Performance dates. NOTE: Longer Sunday rehearsals may be scheduled when needed.
- **Rehearsals will continue over the second week of the June school holidays and the first week of the September school holidays.**
- Video and promotional photo shoots will be part of the dates on the rehearsal schedule and you may be required for these.
- Only cast and crew are to attend rehearsals. The rehearsal venues for MMCP have limited space for people to wait for their friends/partners that are part of the cast. Volunteers attending rehearsals must be pre-approved by the producers.

PLEASE DON’T CONSIDER AUDITIONING IF YOU CAN’T MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.

b. PRODUCTION WEEK

Sunday, 15 September – Saturday, 21 September 2024 will be a crucial period for the show and attendance is compulsory for all rehearsals/performances.

Sun 15 Sept.	Rehearsal (day)	Compulsory
Mon 16 Sept.	Bump-in to Venue (daytime assistance will be required)	
Tues 17 Sept.	Technical Rehearsal (evening)	
Wed 18 Sept.	Dress Rehearsal (evening)	
Thurs 19 Sept.	Optional Performance (TBC)	
Fri 20 Sept.	Performance	
Sat 21 Sept.	Closing Night Performance	
	Bump-out after the final performance.	

3. Financial Expectations

a. MEMBERSHIP

Cast will be required to become financial members of MMCP. Invoices will be distributed after the first rehearsal and payment of **\$60** needs to be made **within the first 3 weeks of rehearsal.**

b. PERSONAL EXPENSES

Details of personal expense requirements will be advised as soon as possible. These may include, but not be limited, to SHOES and UNDERGARMENTS e.g. your own pair of shoes with a heel and/or other specific footwear or specific under garments in flesh/bone or grey colour etc. as well as socks, stockings or tights. Shoes may have to be colour changed.



4. Off-stage Participation Expectations

By accepting a role in this production, you are committing to helping in off-stage activities.

As members, all cast (or a family member/friend as representative) will be expected to **participate actively in the off-stage preparations for this show**. This may include attending working bees at The Shed on Lamb Street on Saturdays to help with set construction, painting, costuming, publicity events, cooking BBQs, etc. There will also be tasks that can be completed at home. A range of skill levels will be required – there will most certainly be jobs that everyone can perform. More detailed information will be available at the auditions and throughout rehearsals. Please fill in the appropriate section in the Audition Form at the end of this pack to indicate your preferred area to assist with.

5. Synopsis

Act One

The lights come up on people standing in front of "Doors." They are modern, timeless, urban, sophisticated, lost and awestruck by the overwhelming choices before them. The closed doors of unrequited love show us one man who bemoans unreturned affections. The lady in question pines after another man, whom it seems years for the first man ("She Loves Me Not"). A man tells a woman that she's a goddess, then proceeds to break up with her and, not surprisingly, the woman responds tersely ("You Want to Be My Friend?"). An obsession with a woman drives a man to do crazy things. He resolves to stop, but then misses his obsessive behaviour when he does stop ("What Am I Doing?"). After one too many bad relationships, a female zoologist resolves to be more like female animals that need the male species to reproduce and nothing more ("The Bear, The Tiger, The Hamster and The Mole").

The rigors of being a father and husband are solved with a simple solution ("I'll Get up Tomorrow Morning"). A seemingly quiet, shy, unnoticed woman has a sexy secret to tell... but she's not saying a thing ("Miss Byrd"). Newly divorced people in their forties rejoin the singles pool ("Dating Again"). The longings for lives that he could have led makes a man realize that, even if those longings are a given, he has happily made his choice ("One of the Good Guys"). An obsession with staying young makes physical exercise a seeming necessity and, even though painful, the result will be worth it ("There's Nothing Like It"). In a bittersweet recounting, a woman surrenders to the life that she's lived without complaining ("Life Story"). Doors opening and closing, good and bad choices, happy and sad times – the ups and downs of life and love make us ever-hopeful for something better ("Next Time"). We continue opening and closing doors on the positive and the negative but, in the long run, wouldn't change a thing ("I Wouldn't Go Back").

Act Two

As we begin Act 2, doors continue opening and closing as three college friends grow up and grow apart but work to remain connected ("Three Friends"). A career-obsessed couple has trouble compromising their work for the sake of their baby ("Fandango"). Another couple comes apart because the man is not "there" for his wife until it's too late. A woman in a midlife dilemma is troubled by feelings of unrest, yet, in the end, takes comfort in her surroundings ("Patterns").

Doors open on an ode to weddings ("There Is Something in a Wedding"). A man and woman each venture into a second marriage (to each other) with a lovely, philosophical outlook ("Another Wedding Song"). With great pride and joy, a man pays tribute to his father, who taught him the love of music and life in general ("If I Sing"), and a woman pays a jazzy, tongue-in-cheek tribute to her bass-playing boyfriend ("Back on Base").



Transitional doors show us that getting older is inevitable. Facing all the changes that happen along the way can be scary and frustrating – yet we move forward ("The March of Time"). The legacy and life cycle between parents and children is sweetly reflected by the men in "Fathers of Fathers." The heartbreak of love, both lasting and fleeting, is shared by the women in "It's Never That Easy / I've Been Here Before". Finally, some doors that have been locked open and shed light on the trials, hopes, joys, and pains that other doors have exposed. Whether opened or closed, these doors "can only make us stronger than ever, clearer than ever... 'Closer Than Ever.'"

6. Audition Times and Locations

Audition Type	Audition Day	Audition Times	Location
PART 1: INDIVIDUAL VOCAL AUDITIONS	Saturday 29 June	From 09:00am onwards (10-minute slots)	St Patrick's (Senior) College Hall River Street, Mackay
PART 2: GROUP WORKSHOP FOR ALL AUDITIONEES (WILL INCLUDE SINGING, MOVEMENT & CHARACTERISATION WORK)	Saturday 29 June	2:00pm-4:00pm	St Patrick's (Senior) College Hall River Street, Mackay

7. Roles Available

a. MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS

- Auditionees must be a minimum of turning 18 years of age or over by 1 September 2024 (i.e. born in 2006 or prior); with an ability to look older, as all parts are **adult** roles.

b. WHAT ROLES ARE AVAILABLE

Originally written for a cast of 3 Males and 2 Females, this show allows for expandable casting, so MMCP has some flexibility with how the show is presented. This option allows MMCP to tailor the show to best fit our artistic/creative vision and the talents of our cast. This show will be cast with a minimum of 5 performers and a maximum of 10 performers.

- All the roles in *CLOSER THAN EVER* are open, as are all roles in MMCP shows.
- No roles have been pre-cast and we encourage everyone if they are interested in a role to audition.
- All cast members for *CLOSER THAN EVER* will be required to audition.
- *CLOSER THAN EVER* is a singing and acting production, that requires strong singers and good character actors who can move well as the cast will feature in many songs throughout the entire show.
- The cast will be comprised of a mix of males and females, and a mix of voice types and ages.
- American accents will be required for some/all of the characters.
- Brief character descriptions and vocal ranges are listed on the next page.
- Feel free to listen to excerpts of the songs on MTI's website (<https://www.mtishows.com.au/maltby-and-shires-closer-than-ever>) to familiarise yourself with any of the following songs from the show.



CHARACTER ROLES TO BE PLAYED	AUDITION MUSIC
<p>Male Roles:</p> <p>youthful and handsome man man lamenting over a lover who doesn't love him back man struggling to getting fit and healthy man lamenting the commitment of marriage and living life without a love man reflecting on the importance of friendship, second chances, and growing up man approaching middle age and leaving his youth behind man reflecting on the dynamic of friends and lovers man reflecting on the struggle of getting through the day-to-day life of being a family man man trying to balance career and family, and what it means to be a father</p> <p>Female Roles:</p> <p>homely and intelligent woman with a modern flair woman expressing views on friendships with ex-boyfriends woman reflecting on the duality of public and private selves woman balancing career and family woman reflecting on the surprises of middle-aged life and becoming content with isolation an energetic firecracker with comedic ability and touching sincerity woman reflecting about a lover who doesn't love her back woman discusses her belief on life-long relationships woman wanting to give love a second chance woman rejoicing in the revitalization given to her by a new lover</p>	<p>OWN CHOICE (sung individually)</p> <p>Prepare an own choice piece – a music theatre song or another piece that showcases your voice and your ability to characterise a role.</p> <p>Choose music to show the directing panel your ability to handle the music required for the show.</p> <p>Males: Vocal range: F3 to B5</p> <p>Females: Vocal range: F3 to A5</p> <p><i>(These are the extent of the ranges required throughout the show but all singers aren't required to have this individual range.)</i></p>

c. SHOW SONGS

SONG	CAST REQUIRED	SONG	CAST REQUIRED
Doors	Ensemble	Three Friends	Trio
She Loves Me Not	Mixed Trio	Fandango	Duet
You Want To Be My Friend?	Duet	There	Duet
What Am I Doin'	Soloist	Patterns	Soloist
The Bear, The Tiger, The Hamster, And The Mole	Soloist	Another Wedding Song	Duet
Like A Baby	Small Group	If I Sing	Soloist
I'll Get up Tomorrow Morning	Soloist	Back On Base	Soloist
Miss Byrd	Soloist	The March Of Time	Ensemble
The Sound Of Muzak	Ensemble	Father Of Fathers	Male Ensemble
One Of The Good Guys	Soloist	It's Never That Easy/I've Been Here Before	Female Ensemble
There's Nothing Like It	Ensemble	Closer Than Ever	Ensemble
Life Story	Soloist	First Bows And Finale Ultimo	Ensemble
Next Time / I Wouldn't Go Back	Ensemble		



8. Audition Preparation for ALL Roles

- There will be two auditions for this show: Part 1 – Individual Vocal Auditions and Part 2 – Group Workshop for all auditionees.
- Auditionees must be a minimum of turning 18 years of age or over by 1 September 2024 (i.e. born in 2006 or prior); with an ability to look older, as all parts are **adult** roles.
- Each auditionee will be required to book a **10-minute individual vocal audition** timeslot using our online booking system **Eventbrite** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/closer-than-ever-solo-auditions-tickets-924229835317> for their individual vocal audition and then attend the Group Workshop <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/closer-than-ever-group-auditions-tickets-924257658537>
- Prepare your own choice song (for which you can provide a backing track) to be individually performed during Individual Vocal Auditions.
- During the Group Workshop, ALL auditionees will be asked to participate in some basic choreography and/or stage movement which will be taught during the workshop. At this workshop you may be required to read dialogue and/or sing individually and in groups. Any material required will be provided on the day. There is no need to prepare anything for the Group Workshop.

9. Audition Day/s Procedures

a. WHAT TO BRING

Application Form	(Page 8 & 9 of this pack) or www.mackaymusicalcomedyplayers.com
Photo Release Form	(Page 9 of this pack) You will be photographed and may be videoed at the audition, and during the process of the show. We require a consent form before we can audition you.
Plenty of water	Ensure you are fully hydrated before, during and after an audition

b. WHAT TO WEAR

- Please wear covered in shoes or dance shoes – NO bare feet, thongs or sandals
- Please wear appropriate clothes for movement; pants – not skirts and no loose tops.

c. AUDITION DAY PROCESS

- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your audition time. This allows time to calm your nerves, familiarise yourself with the surroundings and for us to ensure that you have arrived and are ready for your slot.
- Please allow at least another 15 minutes after your slot in case we require more time with you.
- You will be assigned an auditionee number and be asked to wait in the holding area.
- A panel of the creative team will conduct the auditions. Please be aware that other individuals including assistants may be present at different stages but will not be part of the casting deliberations.
- We aim to provide a supportive environment during the process, with several MMCP committee members, who are not part of the Directing Team, on hand to help with questions or difficulties.

d. INDIVIDUAL VOCAL AUDITIONS



- These individual auditions will be closed. Visitors (Parents/Partners/Teachers/Friends) will have to wait outside while the audition is in process as we wish to give you, or your child, the best opportunity to perform without distraction.
- Auditionees will be asked to individually perform their prepared own choice song that suits the style of the show.
- Auditionees may also be asked to sing scales to check vocal range, or in rare circumstances, part of a song from the show.

e. GROUP WORKSHOP

- You **must** be available to attend the Group Workshop on Saturday, 29 June from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.
- **If you are not available for the Group Workshop, you must understand that it may not be possible to consider you for a role in the show.**
- These are open auditions in that all auditionees will be seen at the same time; however, visitors are still required to wait outside while the audition is in process.
- During the Group Workshop, ALL auditionees will be asked to participate in some basic choreography and/or stage movement which will be taught during the Group Workshop.
- At this Workshop you may be required to read dialogue and/or sing individually and in groups.
- There is no need to prepare anything for this Group Workshop.
- This session will allow the directing team to see how you take direction, work with others and learn new material, under a supportive environment free from the stress of nerves.
- Any additional dialogue or songs required will be provided on the day.
- Please come prepared to have fun and support your fellow auditionees!

10. Callbacks

- There will be no callbacks for these auditions.

11. Casting Notifications

No casting decisions will be made or announced during or directly after the auditions. Auditionees will be notified by phone or text message on the contact details you have provided by 5:00pm, Tuesday, 2 July. If for some unknown reason you have not been contacted by this time, please feel free to contact our Producer **George Rogers on 0487 664 930**. The cast will be announced on Facebook following the conclusion of Auditions and after we have finalised our casting decisions.

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE OTHER AUDITIONEES AND REFRAIN FROM POSTING/PUBLICISING YOUR POSITION IN THE SHOW UNTIL THE OFFICIAL POST ON THE MMCP FACEBOOK PAGE.

<u>Clouser Than Ever Audition Application</u>		Audition No. (MMCP to Assign)
Please complete this form IN FULL and present it to the Producer/s when you arrive at the audition location. Please staple your performance history and colour headshot to this form.		
PERSONAL INFORMATION: (this will not be passed to any Third Parties – it is for our use only)		
Name:		D.O.B. (if U/18):
Address:		Postcode:
Email Address:		Mobile:
IF UNDER 18 ONLY, PLEASE COMPLETE:		
Parent/ Guardian 1:	Name:	Mobile No:
Parent/ Guardian 2:	Name:	Mobile No:
Email Address:		
IN CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY PLEASE CONTACT:		
Emergency Contact 1:	Name:	Mobile No:
Emergency Contact 2:	Name:	Mobile No:
Whilst we respect your personal privacy, please advise if you/your child has any medical condition, illness or injury likely to impact on you/your child’s participation in an MMCP production. If you/your child is likely to carry medication (e.g. asthma reliever, Epi-pen, insulin injections etc) or has any known allergies or major health conditions, please advise below: (IF NONE, PLEASE WRITE N/A)		
AUDITIONING FOR:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Soloist <input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Singer <input type="checkbox"/> Both	List any songs you’re specifically interested in:	If you do not receive an onstage offer, would you like to be included behind the scenes? <div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </div>
OFFSTAGE ASSISTANCE:		
By accepting a role in this production, you (or a family member/friend as representative) are committing to helping in off-stage preparations for this show. PLEASE INDICATE WHICH OFF-STAGE JOBS YOU WILL ASSIST WITH:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Set & Prop Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Ironing costumes (pre-show) <input type="checkbox"/> Stage crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Set Painting <input type="checkbox"/> Make-up <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer delivery for Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing (machine) <input type="checkbox"/> Hair <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sewing <input type="checkbox"/> Set Transport
ABSENCES:		
Mackay Musical Comedy Players understands that unexpected commitments may arise during the production and will make every effort to accommodate them, but the company expects a high level of commitment from all cast members. (IF NONE, PLEASE WRITE N/A)		

PERFORMANCE HISTORY: (beginning with most recent please)		
Production	Role	Theatre Company / Year

RELEVANT TRAINING:	
Voice:	
Type:	Soprano <input type="checkbox"/> Mezzo <input type="checkbox"/> Alto <input type="checkbox"/> Tenor <input type="checkbox"/> Baritone <input type="checkbox"/> Bass <input type="checkbox"/>
Details:	
Dance:	
Type	Ballet <input type="checkbox"/> Tap <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz <input type="checkbox"/> Ballroom <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Details:	
Other: (include skills you may have – juggling, mime, acrobatics, accents, instrumental experience etc.)	
Details:	

PHOTO/VIDEO/IMAGE RELEASE:
I hereby consent to photographs/images and/or video footage of me/my child being taken during auditions, rehearsals, or performances throughout the period of <i>CLOSER THAN EVER</i> by authorised photographer(s) / operator(s), appointed by the Publicity Officer or Management Committee of the Mackay Musical Comedy Players.
I consent to such photographs/images and/or video footage being reproduced for the following purposes:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to publicise MMCP on all media platforms 2. to be included in programmes for the production, 3. to be retained for archival records of MMCP (including display on the club’s website), 4. to enable copies to be made available to other members of MMCP as mementos of the production.

Signature:		Signature:	
	(AUDITIONEE)		(PARENT/GUARDIAN IF UNDER 18)

Mackay Musical Comedy Players Use Only	
Casting Offer: _____	Communicated via: <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email
Notes: _____	
