



Mackay Musical Comedy Players

SHOW DATES
AUDITION DATES
REHEARSALS

Friday 8 & Sat 9 November 2024
Friday 30 and Saturday 31 August 2024
Commence Mon 2 September 2024

Creative Team

Isabelle Wright & Molly Gibbins
Co-Directors

Molly Bettridge
Musical Director

Ebony Walker
Choreographer

Tonia Beckmann & Hannah Lewis
Producers

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 Tonia Beckmann on 0455 449 786.

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 DOWNTOWN! The Mod Musical?

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.**



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- The rehearsal period for this show is tight. Absolute commitment to the rehearsals that you are called for is imperative.
- 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 Monday 2 September 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 generally held on EVERY Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon up until Performance dates. NOTE: Longer Sunday rehearsals may be scheduled when needed.
- The rehearsal period for DOWNTOWN! The Mod Musical, will overlap with the rehearsal period for Closer Than Ever. The regular Wednesday and Sunday rehearsals will not apply during this period of overlap (they will be on a Monday evening and a shorter rehearsal on Sunday mid-morning). Once the season for Closer Than Ever is at an end, regular Wednesday and Sunday rehearsals will commence.
- **Rehearsals will continue over 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, 3 November – Saturday, 9 November 2024 will be a crucial period for the show and attendance is compulsory for all rehearsals/performances.

Sun 3 Nov.	Rehearsal (day)	Compulsory
Thurs 7 Nov.	Bump-in to Venue (daytime assistance will be required) Technical and Dress Rehearsal (evening)	
Fri 8 Nov.	Performance	
Sat 9 Nov.	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.**



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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

Lights up on five young women in London, England during the swinging 1960s. They are swept up in the enthusiasm of the city and the era, looking for excitement around every corner ("Shout Opening: England Swings/Round Every Corner/I Know A Place"). The women are all subscribers to the fictional Shout! magazine, which identifies them with colours based on their personalities. Orange is domestic and maternal -- completely content and in denial; Red is an exciting blend of youthful contradictions; Blue has poise and beauty -- and no friends; Green is a bit of a slut; Yellow is driven by her emotions, otherwise known as American. Though they are all very different, they have one thing in common...they're looking for love ("Talk About Love").

Shout!'s advice columnist, Gwendolyn Holmes, answers the women's letters. Orange asks if she should rush into marriage and Gwendolyn tells her it is never a mistake to get married. Orange only has eyes for her new man, Miles, and she wants to make sure everyone knows it ("I Only Want To Be With You/Tell the Boys").

The 1964 edition of Shout! comes out and the women gab about their new fashion choices, which are chic but not quite functional. Red writes to Gwendolyn Holmes explaining that she is not traditionally pretty, and asks if she should be suspect of her new beau's affection. Gwendolyn sends her to a beauty salon. The women wonder how you know if a guy is in to you and strategize how to get their men ("How Can You Tell/Wishin' and Hopin'").

An advertisement for the skin product, Ectocil, which pushes dead skin cells right off your face, transitions us to outside of Paul McCartney's house. Yellow is waiting in the bushes for him to emerge; she's come all the way from Ohio. When he brings out the trash, other women also hiding in the bushes, rush toward his garbage. Yellow, however, manages to wrestle away his comb ("One Two Three/Paul McCartney's Comb/To Sir With Love"). Then, Green enters and explains her many tactics for breaking up with men.

We now see Orange, at home, waiting for her husband to come home for their second wedding anniversary. She remembers their time together fondly, until it becomes clear Miles is stuck at the office again ("Wives and Lovers [My Handsome Prince]"). Blue, meanwhile, performs a song & dance number expressing her malaise for her many suitors ("Don't Sleep In The Subway").



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The Shout! 1965 is released with a new round of advice and gossip tidbits. An ad comes on for the pill, advising the women of this new miracle drug and its long list of unpleasant side effects.

Yellow takes to the stage to explain how the only man who could ever reach her was Billy Ray, a preacher's son ("Son Of A Preacher Man"). The magazine then has a section addressing the 'devil's weed,' or the truth about marijuana. The women promptly smoke up and go on a titillating trip.

This leads the women into a rumination on the man with the pleasing, but also freezing, touch ("Goldfinger"). Next, the 1966 edition of Shout! comes out with even more news and advice. Orange has become even more frustrated with Miles, who she implores to stay close to her even if he isn't as affectionate as he once was ("You Don't Have To Say You Love Me"). Green writes to Gwendolyn about breaking up with her boyfriend because he was bad in bed, but Gwendolyn advises her that carnal joys are less important for women and tells her to go to Harrod's. However, times are changing and the women are not satisfied with old ideas ("Winds Of Change Medley").

The years begin to fly by. In 1967, Red tries to impress her boyfriend by singing in a talent contest, but she makes a fool of herself and forgets the words; her boyfriend is nevertheless impressed. In 1968, Paul McCartney is getting married and Yellow is devastated ("I Just Don't Know What To Do"). The girls check out their horoscopes ("Fashion Show [Sign of the Times]"). They transition into an empowered decision to kick out an old flame ("These Boots Are Made For Walking").

Blue writes to Gwendolyn Holmes, explaining that she doesn't feel sparks with her new beau. Holmes offers no substantial help. The women all take a test to find out if their man is the right one for them and it turns out that Blue's secret desire is Penelope! Green also makes a shocking discovery about her secret desire: it's just one man! ("I Couldn't Live Without Your Love"). Yellow then writes to Gwendolyn about her recent marriage and how her husband hits her. Gwendolyn advises that she see a marriage counselor rather than leaving. Blue deals with her revelation and is joined by Orange ("You're My World/All I See Is You").

As the 1970s begin, Red enters as a hippie. She is soon joined by the other women all dressed in 70's garb ("Those Were The Days"). Orange writes an empowered note to Gwendolyn telling her that she's been giving her terrible advice and that her way of seeing the world is dead; Gwendolyn implodes and her column is discontinued. The women celebrate their freedom ("Shout!").

In the Epilogue, the women reveal their ultimate fate ("Epilogue: Pictures From The Past/Downtown"). They all have experienced a wide array of life's moments, thus shaping who they became. They are able to appreciate that they're representative of the era. The curtain falls.

6. Audition Times and Locations

Audition Type	Audition Day	Audition Times	Location
PART 1: INDIVIDUAL VOCAL AUDITIONS	Friday 30 August	From 6:00pm 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 31 August	10:00am-12:00pm	St Patrick's (Senior) College Hall River Street, Mackay



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7. Roles Available

a. MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS

- Auditionees must be a minimum of turning 18 years of age or over by 30 August, 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

There are 6 roles available in this show. All roles are female roles. The cast of women is diverse in age, shape and size. There will be no ensemble or dance ensemble cast for this show.

- All the roles in *DOWNTOWN! THE MOD MUSICAL* 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 *DOWNTOWN! THE MOD MUSICAL* will be required to audition.
- *DOWNTOWN! THE MOD MUSICAL* is a 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 females, and a mix of voice types and ages.
- British accents will be required for some/all of the characters.
- Brief character descriptions and vocal ranges are listed below.
- Feel free to listen to excerpts of the songs on MTI's website (<https://www.mtishows.com.au/downtown-the-mod-musical>) to familiarise yourself with any of the following songs from the show.

Character	Description	Age and Vocal Range
Red Girl	The 'baby' of the group. She is an exciting blend of youthful contradictions. Quirky, enthusiastic and naive. A hopeless romantic who is insecure about her looks.	18 to 25 F3-G5 Low B to High C Soprano with belt British Accent
Orange Girl	The domestic, maternal, the wise, soulful and mature 'mother' of the group. When she discovers married life isn't all it's cracked up to be, she slowly asserts her new-found independence throughout the show.	30 to 45 F3-B5 Low B to High B Soprano with belt British Accent
Yellow Girl	A loud, uninhibited American girl driven by her emotions. A ray of sunshine with surprising vulnerability. She is Beetle-Mania personified, with a particular penchant for Paul McCartney.	25 to 35 F3-E3 F Below mid-C to Belted E Flat Alto with big 'rock diva' belt American Accent
Green Girl	A good-time girl, middle class, zany. A bit of a slut. She is a bit frayed at the edges and she is hopelessly single. The comedic character of the group.	30 to 40 F3-F5 No range in book Mezzo with Shirley Bassey – like belt British Accent
Blue Girl	A blue-blooded Fashion Model. She is sophisticated, poised and cool. She is vain and not particularly friendly. She wonders why she has been unlucky in love before realising that Josephine is a better option than Joe.	20 to 30 F3-F5 Low B natural to high C A high soprano belt Must be confident to interact with the audience British Accent



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Narrator / Gwendolyn Holmes	Gwendolyn is a magazine advice columnist for the Shout! that provides all the above women with advice. This person will also play the narrator and various voice over roles. A confident character actor, will jump between distinguishable characters and voices throughout the show.	35 to 50 British Accent
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c. SHOW SONGS

SONG	CAST REQUIRED	SONG	CAST REQUIRED
England Swings/ Round Every Corner/ I Know a Place	All	My Most Embarrassing Moment	Red
Talk About Love	All	I Just Don't Know What to Do With Myself	Yellow
I Only Want to Be With You / Tell the Boys	All	Fashion Show (Sign of the Times)	All
How Can you Tell / Wishin' and Hopin'	All	These Boots are Made for Walking	All
One Two Three / Paul McCartney's Comb / To Sir with Love	Green, Blue, Orange, Red	The Man Test	All
Wives and Lovers (My Handsome Prince)	Red, Yellow, Orange	I Couldn't Live without Your Love	All
Don't Sleep in the Subway	All	You're My World / All I See is You	Blue, Orange
Son of a Preacher Man	All	Those Were the Days	All
Coldfinger	All	Shout!	All
You Don't Have to Say You Love Me	Orange, Green, Red, Yellow	Epilogue: Pictures from the Past / Downtown	All
Winds of Change Medley	All	Curtain Calls (Megamix: Shout / Those Were the Days)	All

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 30 August, 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/997396037397?> for their individual vocal audition and then attend the Group Workshop <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/997403018277?>
- Those auditionees auditioning for more than 2 characters should book multiple slots.
- Prepare your own choice song (for which you can provide a backing track) to be individually performed during Individual Vocal Auditions. This song should suit the style of the show and your character.
- Auditionees will also be asked to read the relevant scenes for their chosen characters during their Individual Vocal Auditions.
- During the Group Workshop, ALL auditionees will be asked to participate in some choreography which will be taught during the workshop. During this Workshop auditionees will also be taught harmony lines for bars 111 – 143 of the opening number (this music will be supplied to you). You will be required to sing the vocal lines taught and perform the choreography in groups.



9. Audition Day/s Procedures

a. WHAT TO BRING

Application Form	(Page 9 & 10 of this pack) or www.mackaymusicalcomedyplayers.com
Photo Release Form	(Page 10 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 and their character.
- 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, 31 August from 10:00am – 12:00pm.
- **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 choreography which will be taught during the workshop. During this Workshop auditionees will also be taught harmony lines for bars 111 – 143 of the opening number (this music will be supplied to you). You will be required to sing the vocal lines taught and perform the choreography in groups.



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- 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, Sunday 2 September. If for some unknown reason you have not been contacted by this time, please feel free to contact our Producer Tonia Beckmann on **0455 449 786**. 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.

DOWNTOWN! The Mod Musical Audition Application		Audition No. <input type="text"/> (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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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>DOWNTOWN</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: _____	_____
_____	_____