

PRISCILLA

QUEEN OF THE DESERT

the Musical

Book by Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott

Director: Angus Jacobs
Musical Director: Ryan Macaulay
Choreographer: Eloise Horton
Assistant Director: Laura Graham-Matheson
Producer: Lizzie Drapper

AUDITION NOTICE

Key Dates

Workshop: 2 June
Drag workshops: 16 & 23 June
Auditions: 3, 5, 8 & 9 July
Recalls: 15 July
Rehearsals: starting on 12 August
Tech and Dress rehearsal 20 & 21 December
Performance dates: 7:30pm every evening 22 November – 2 December, except 26 & 27 November,
and 2:30pm matinees on 25 November & 2 December
Performances at the Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, EC4Y 8EQ

Contact: priscilla@sedos.co.uk

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What's the show about?

Based on the smash-hit movie, PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT the Musical is the heartwarming, uplifting adventure of three friends, Tick, Bernadette and Adam, an outrageous Sydney-based performing trio who agree to take their show to the middle of the Australian outback. They hop aboard a battered old bus (nicknamed Priscilla) searching for love and friendship and end up finding more than they ever could have ever dreamed of.

A full plot synopsis can be found here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priscilla,_Queen_of_the_Desert_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priscilla,_Queen_of_the_Desert_(musical))

Our aim is to create an atmosphere that represents the journey the trio of drag queens are on as they make their way across Australia. With an innovative set and originally designed costumes, our production will intentionally have a very different look to that of the film and original West End and touring production, but at it's core will still have the same feel good, heart warming story and of course the fantastic pop songs for the audience to enjoy and sing a long to.

What is the music like?

The Priscilla score is filled with disco classics, and when we say 'filled with' we really mean it – there's A LOT of music! There are some wonderful new arrangements of songs you'll recognise, giving great opportunities for both strong female and male singers. The score is filled with harmony meaning everyone involved will be utilised to the max. Songs include: I Will Survive, Go West, It's Raining Men, Boogie Wonderland and there's even a Kylie medley. It's not all just high camp though, there are some beautifully tender moments; a trio version of True Colours and a mash-up duet of Say a Little Prayer/ You Were Always on My Mind are just two examples. There's also an aria from La Traviata!

We're looking for all types of voices – high, low and anything in between.

And the dancing?

Priscilla has opportunities for several spectacular dance numbers for both the girls and boys. We would love to find dancers who want to bring something really special to the production in technique and most importantly performance. This show needs you to bring the characters to life and we will be looking for this in all the dancers too. However, even if you don't consider yourself a "dancer" there are still roles in this show that we would really like to see you for, where little movement is needed.

This is a flashy show so if you have any special talents (tumbling, tricks, insane turns, or great kicks) don't hold back. We would love to see what you can offer to add to the show.

What are we looking for?

This is a big and bold show, which requires a cast with stage presence and energy. However, we are interested in performers who remain connected with and true to the characters. We don't want a carbon copy of the characters that you are familiar with in the film and show. Make them your own.

Character Breakdown

We've set out below a quick description of the characters but are very keen to see what you can bring to each role.

Anthony "Tick" Belrose (Mitzi Mitosis)

DANCE LEVEL: Must be able to move confidently

Gay father and husband, sensitive and emotional played by Hugo Weaving in the movie – Tick is the lynch pin of the show who brings everyone together, and has an emotional scene with his estranged son in act 2 so we'll be looking for a strong actor to draw out the emotional heart in the script.

Ability to lip sync essential. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG: I Say A Little Prayer

Bernadette Bassenger

DANCE LEVEL: Must be able to move confidently

Transgender character played by Terrence Stamp in the movie – Tough, Sarcastic and doesn't suffer fools gladly though deep down is kind and loyal. This character has some great lines and we'll be looking for a strong actor who could convincingly portray a post operative trans-sexual, ability to lip sync essential. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG: MacArthur Park

Adam Whitely (Felicia Jollygoodfellow)

DANCE LEVEL: Strong dancer would be an advantage

Camp, annoying, extrovert and antagonistic played by Guy Pearce in the movie. There are references in script to Adam's physique so ideally we will be looking for someone with a good body (not necessarily muscular) who doesn't mind being topless on stage. Ability to lip sync essential. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG: Hot Stuff

Bob

DANCE LEVEL: Not essential – but a good mover would be an advantage

Unhappily married mechanic with mail-order bride (Cynthia), Vietnam war veteran. Warm and cheery, strikes up a 'relationship' with Bernadette. Looking for a strong actor who can sing. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG: A Fine Romance (Reprise)

Miss Understanding

DANCE LEVEL: Not essential – but strong movement would be an advantage

Extrovert, and over the top drag queen hostess of the Cockatoo Club. Camp and humorous – an ability to ad lib could be an advantage. We'll be looking for someone who can command the stage and do an exaggerated 'Tina Turner' impression. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG: What's Love Got To Do With It

Jimmy

DANCE LEVEL: Not essential – but strong movement would be an advantage

Indigenous tourist guide they meet in the middle of the desert having broken down – we are completely open with regards to this character, but good comic timing would be an advantage. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG FOR ENSEMBLE: Color My World OR We Belong

Frank

DANCE LEVEL: Not essential – but strong movement would be an advantage

Tough homophobic miner – strong, violent and angry. We'll be looking for a strong actor who can convince the audience that he would carry out his threats. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG FOR ENSEMBLE: Color My World OR We Belong

The Divas (three parts)

DANCE LEVEL: Not essential – However, strong stylized movement would be ideal (in the form of The Supremes etc)

Think the Supremes, The Three Degrees, or any female groups who move and sound as one. We are completely open on age, colour, physicality and accents etc. What we will be looking for are incredibly strong pop vocalists who have great presence and command the stage. Consistency will be essential as the drag queens will need to lip sync to the Diva's vocals. There is no requirement for Divas to read any script pieces at audition.

AUDITION SONG: It's Raining Men

Marion

DANCE LEVEL: Not essential – but strong movement would be an advantage

Estranged wife (Tick) and mother (Benji), hotel owner, honest, caring and loyal. Looking for a strong actress Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG FOR ENSEMBLE: Color My World OR We Belong

Cynthia

DANCE LEVEL: Strong movement would be an advantage

Bored, Asian mail order bride frustrated at being stuck in the middle of no-where. Former 'adult entertainer' with a specialty act with 'petit boula'. Outrageous and provocative. Ideally, we are looking for a strong actress who could realistically portray this character.

AUDITION SONG: Pop Muzik

Shirley

DANCE LEVEL: Not essential – but strong movement would be an advantage

This character is often portrayed as a tough, masculine, cynical woman. However, we would like to do something different with this character and have a completely open mind regarding age, physicality eg. she could be a drunk older 'has been' waitress, a young lesbian mechanic, so please come to audition with a strong character in mind. Australian accent required.

AUDITION SONG: I Love The Nightlife

Ensemble characters

There is A LOT of ensemble work as well as a variety of speaking roles and the opportunity for solo singing. Ensemble characters include:

- Farah – Drag queen, Lip synch essential
- Young Bernadette – 'Les Girl' Drag queen, lip synch essential
- Male band vocalist – sings 'Thank god I'm a country boy'
- Lars, Lars & Lars – three Swedish guys
- Pastor – conducts the funeral scene and has some solo lines
- Barman – a few solo lines flirting with Adam dressed as Felicia
- Errol – Drunk sex pest who thinks they've got a chance with Shirley
- Jules – Member of the female Hotel entertainment staff
- Various Tourists – both male & female

AUDITION SONG FOR ENSEMBLE: Color My World OR We Belong

Workshop

Date: Friday 2 June 2017

Time: 7-9pm

Location: 1 Brewers Hall Garden, off Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5BX

Format:

This will be the perfect opportunity to come along, meet the team and hear all about the exciting vision for the show. If you've got any questions then this will be the perfect time to get them answered. It's your chance to audition us to see if you want to be involved!

We intend to teach the audition dance at the workshop. We will also create a film of Eloise doing the dance for revision purposes. As for singing, we'll certainly be singing through a musical number (or two) to give you a general feel of how great the score is. Then it'll be off to the pub for a well-earned drink and an opportunity to get to know everyone.

Drag Workshops

Date: Friday 16 and 23 June 2017

Time: 7-9pm

Location: 1 Brewers Hall Garden, off Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5BX

Come along for a bit of fun – this is purely an opportunity to understand a bit more about what it means to be a drag queen (in the context of Priscilla Queen of the Desert), and what we are looking for from the three main characters and ensemble dancers: a chance to put on a pair of heels (and understand the pain women go through sometimes!), and lip sync for your life with exaggerated and over the top gestures!

It will be integral to the show that any 'drag queens' can walk and move comfortably in heels – hence the reason why we are auditioning early. **Note:** *If you can find a pair of heels in your size, please bring them as we cannot guarantee that we will be able to supply heels for all those who have signed up, but we will do our best.*

If you are planning on attending either of the drag workshops, please email Lizzie on priscilla@sedos.co.uk so we have an idea of numbers.

Auditions

Dates: Monday 3 July, Wednesday 5 July, Saturday 8 July and Sunday 9 July

Times: We would like you to each sign up for a 10min slot. This slot will be for the singing and acting part of the audition. The dancing part of the audition will take place as a group as described below.

On Monday 3 July and Wednesday 5 July, the evenings will look like this:

6:30 – auditionee #1

6:40 – auditionee #2

6:50 – auditionee #3

7:00 – auditionee #4

7:10 – auditionee #5

7:20-7:40 – 20 min for group dance audition for auditionees #1 – #10

7:40 – auditionee #6

7:50 – auditionee #7

8:00 – auditionee #8

8:10 – auditionee #9

8:20 – auditionee #10

8:30-8:40 – 10 min for group dance audition for auditionees #11 – #15

8:40 – auditionee #11

8:50 – auditionee #12

9:00 – auditionee #13

9:10 – auditionee #14

9:20 – auditionee #15

On Saturday and Sunday, we will run auditions in sets of two hours (10 people) starting at the following times: 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm, 5:30pm. For example:

10:00 – auditionee #1

10:10 – auditionee #2

10:20 – auditionee #3

10:30 – auditionee #4

10:40 – auditionee #5

10:50-11:10 – 20 min for group dance audition for auditionees #1 – #10

11:10 – auditionee #6

11:20 – auditionee #7

11:30 – auditionee #8

11:40 – auditionee #9

11:50 – auditionee #10

Location: 1 Brewers Hall Garden, EC2V 5BX

Preparation:

All audition materials will be made available to you once you've signed up to an audition slot. Please prepare the song assigned to the character you feel you'd most like to audition for. We will provide sheet music as well as rehearsal tracks for you to use for practise. A pianist will accompany you at the audition.

We will also provide excerpts from the script for each part. If you are auditioning for a Diva or ensemble part, there is no need to prepare a script extract.

A video showing the dance audition (taught at the workshop) will be made available as well.

Recalls

Dates: 15 July

Time: 10am-5pm

Location: 1 Brewers Hall Garden, EC2V 5BX

The content for recalls will be sent out individually after all the auditions have finished. We won't necessarily call every part to recall – we will only do for those we think are necessary and it will be more about character work and seeing how the whole cast fits together. It is not a test of how much you can remember between the auditions and recalls.

Booking an audition

To book an audition, please go to <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/> and sign up for one of the slots. This will only open after the workshop finishes on 2 June. You will then be sent an email confirming this booking. If you can no longer make that time, please use the cancellation link in the email. If you have any problems, please email Lizzie on priscilla@sedos.co.uk

Audition, Participation and Membership Fees

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies with the aim of producing quality amateur theatre to the best artistic quality possible. In the nature of amateur theatre performers are not paid – not even expenses. To perform in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert the musical* you must

be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £35 per year, £30 if paid by Direct Debit) and pay a participation fee of £40. There is a non-refundable £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members.

Backstage Help

If you are not interested in auditioning, but are interested in helping out backstage in any capacity (from crewing to building scenery, sewing costumes and front of house) please contact the Production Group at production@sedos.co.uk or Lizzie on priscilla@sedos.co.uk.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will generally be held at the usual Sedos rehearsal location (1 Brewers Hall Garden) during the week but may be held at another central London location to be confirmed.

Because of the scale of the show, we will be looking at 14-week rehearsal period, due to start on Saturday 12 August. Rehearsals will generally be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with some Sundays (instead of or in addition to a Saturday) to be announced in due course, depending on need and availabilities. We would like weekday rehearsals to be 6:30-9pm and weekend rehearsals to run 12-5:30pm (we expect people to have had lunch before but will have a short half time break). We will not rehearse on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Please indicate on your audition form any days you know you will not be available, or if any of the times are difficult, and we ask that you keep us up to date on any changes to this.

Casting restrictions

Because of overlapping rehearsal periods, it will not be possible to be in Priscilla Queen of the Desert and any of these Sedos shows: *The Rivals*, *The Nether*, *Ordinary Days* and *Frankenstein*. We are aware that we are auditioning at the same time as *Ordinary Days* and *The Nether* and you are welcome to audition for all shows, although you can only be cast in one — the production teams will discuss casting if they both want to shortlist/cast the same person. Auditionee preferences will be taken into account.

Questions

We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at workshop and/or auditions. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at priscilla@sedos.co.uk.