



***Players Theatre Company***

***INFO PACK***

***Thursday 19th - Sunday 22nd***

***September 2019***

## **WHAT IS THE JUNIOR THEATRE CELEBRATION?**

The Junior Theatre Celebration Australia is the largest celebration of musical theatre for young people in Australia and is produced by OzTheatrics in partnership with iTheatrics (NY) and MTI Australasia. This is the third year it has been held in Australia.

## **WHAT'S INVOLVED?**

Auditions will be held to find a group of 20 performers aged 8 – 18 who will rehearse and perform a 10 minute presentation of Madagascar JR at the JTC in Newcastle on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September. They will also have the opportunity to attend workshops with theatre professionals from Australia and Broadway.

### **Production Team:**

Director: Victoria Rendall  
Vocal Director: Omar Moustafa  
Choreographer: Melia Bell

Rehearsals will be held every Sunday 10am - 1pm starting from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July  
There will be two mid-week rehearsals held in the two weeks prior to Newcastle.  
Cast members are required to attend ALL scheduled rehearsals.  
Auditions will be held at Fleigner Hall, 31 Highland Ave, Oakleigh East on:  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 6pm – 9pm  
Auditions can be booked by going to <https://www.trybooking.com/BAYCS>  
If you have any questions, please email [playerstheatre@hotmail.com](mailto:playerstheatre@hotmail.com)

## **JTC RULES AND GUIDELINES INCLUDE**

- No costumes, make-up, set pieces or props are allowed. The only exception is small hand props that are ESSENTIAL to the choreography.
- Groups should wear either their own production t-shirts, drama blacks or pod colour t-shirts for their presentation.
- Everyone in the Adjudication Room must be registered for the festival with a group. Parents and/or guests of performers will not be admitted to any performance if they are not registered with a group.

## **WHAT THE ADJUDICATORS ARE LOOKING FOR**

The adjudicators believe that engaging storytelling is the key to a good performance. Standout student performers are connected to the words, know why their characters are singing or dancing and are appropriately expressive in their presentation. These attributes are more important than being able to do a perfect triple pirouette with no connection to the story.

## **WATCHING THE OTHER PERFORMANCES**

Students will have the opportunity to watch a number of other groups perform. This is their chance to discover other shows and support their peers. Your group's individual schedule will clearly detail which performances your group will be watching. Failure to attend these performances and be a supportive audience will affect your group's adjudication score.

## **PILOT WORKSHOP PROGRAM**

As an extension of the Junior Theatre Celebration Day, the Pilot program includes a week-long workshop for selected students. Students in the program will work with New York directors and choreographers to workshop a new Broadway Jr musical. Dialogue, music and choreography will be workshopped and tested on these young performers to ensure the musical works are suitable to be performed by young musical theatre performers. The workshops will culminate in a staged presentation of the script and music. Groups who have registered for the Junior Theatre Celebration Australia will be invited to nominate four students for the program. The 2019 Pilot program will take place at the Civic Theatre Newcastle, September 16 to 20. The cost of the week-long Pilot program in 2018 was \$550 per student. Successful Pilot Program participants will also have additional costs for accommodation.

## **AUSSIE ALL STARS AUDITIONS**

JTC holds auditions for an elite ensemble of 40 Aussie students to travel, as a group, during the 2021 January School Holidays with Music Theatre International Australasia and OzTheatrics to New York, where they will be exposed to auditions, Broadway performers, Broadway shows and a week-long rehearsal intensive where they will learn the choreography and music to a Broadway JR title which will then be presented in Atlanta at the Junior Theatre Festival where there will be more than 6000 musical theatre lovers from all over the world waving more than 12,000 jazz hands! Then on the way home, our Aussie All Stars will stop off in Hollywood for a special guest performance at Universal Studios. Then to top it all off we visit the happiest place on earth...Disneyland!

The program is designed to not only offer unprecedented performance and growth opportunities for young Aussie musical theatre stars, but also for them to build lifelong friendships with other like-minded performers from all over the country.

Players Theatre Company are proud to be represented by 5 of our 2018 cast members in the Aussie All Stars in January 2020.

For students to be offered a spot in the Aussie All Stars:

- They must be registered with a group attending JTCOz 2019.
- They have been nominated by the Players creative team
- They attend the Aussie All Stars auditions on the Friday night at JTCOz 2019.
- They hold a valid passport or are willing to organise one asap should they be offered a place

Please be aware that this information is subject to change.

## **ITINERARY**

### **THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

#### **GETTING THERE**

You will depart from Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September and fly in to Port Stephens Airport, where you will be then transferred into Newcastle to you will be stay at the Quest Apartments.

### **FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

#### **PILOT PERFORMANCE**

The Civic Theatre will be open on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 6pm for a warm welcome and the pilot viewing. Cast, parents, chaperones and directors will attend this event.

### **SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER**

#### **ADJUDICATION**

Each group is given 20 minutes to warm up in a separate room prior to their performance. After the presentation, adjudicators talk directly to the cast, highlighting specific impressive areas of the presentation and by offering constructive feedback to encourage further growth. Following the adjudication and feedback session, the cast and creative team will be escorted to another room for a moderated discussion about what they experienced and how they interpreted the adjudicator comments. This discussion time is a great chance for cast to reflect and celebrate their accomplishments.

If the group is not warming up, performing or in a follow up discussion, they will be watching the other performances, offering support and showing respect.

Parents are not required to stay at the adjudications after the Players' group has performed.

#### **STUDENT WORKSHOPS**

After lunch, students will participate in student workshops lead by theatre professionals. Parents will not be able to attend these workshops – enjoy your afternoon off!

#### **SHOWCASE AWARDS CEREMONY**

This ceremony will feature a variety of performances of upcoming Broadway JR shows for release and guest performances.

### **SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER**

#### **BACK HOME!**

We will be transferred to Port Stephens Airport, where we will fly to Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne.

## **PARENT REQUIREMENTS**

- Chaperones will in charge of the group all day Saturday
- Parents are welcome to watch the adjudications and are not required to stay the entire morning
- If you are unable to accompany your child on the trip, we can assist you in arranging for another parent to supervise your child.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

You will be staying at Quest Apartments, Newcastle in 2 and 3 bedroom apartments. The Apartments are 10-15 minutes walk from the Civic Centre.

We will be asking for rooming preferences ASAP if successful.

## **COSTS INVOLVED**

Total Package: \$780

This includes the registration fee, airfares, accommodation and transfers.

Meals will be decided once we have final numbers.

Payments will need to be made in 4 instalments, including the deposit.

- \$200 deposit due: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- \$200 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment due: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April
- \$200 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment due: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May
- \$180 final instalment due: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

## **POLO TOP**

All cast will be required to perform in a plain black Players polo top.

Polos will be available to order at the first rehearsal.

## **VARIETY PERFORMANCE**

All JTC cast members will be required to perform in a variety performance on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September. The rehearsal schedule will be flexible and there is the opportunity for solo, duo and group performances. Tickets will be available for family, friends and the general public to purchase closer to the date.

## **WHAT TO DO?**

Sign up for an audition by emailing [playerstheatre@hotmail.com](mailto:playerstheatre@hotmail.com)

Fill out the paperwork at the audition stating you agree to everything.

If successful, you will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person

## **AUDITIONS**

We are looking for storytellers both in singing and acting.

Singing audition – sing something that showcases your voice! Songs are to go no longer than 90 secs – so choose the part that shows us your talents! (Nothing from Madagascar Jr!) You will need to supply a backing track on CD, USB or phone.

Acting audition – excerpts from Madagascar Jr. You can choose your favourite to read for us, but please be prepared to read for all of the characters. You do not have to memorise the script! (Please bring a copy in with you!)

Unsuccessful auditionees will be notified via email by 6<sup>th</sup> March

\*\*\*Please understand that we are casting 20 performers and that priority will go to those who have worked with Players in previous shows. \*\*\*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [playerstheatre@hotmail.com](mailto:playerstheatre@hotmail.com)

**ALEX**

Great, let's find out who's in charge around here. I got this.  
Hi! Hey, how ya doin'? Listen, we just got in from New York. Are there any zoo officials anywhere?  
I'm Alex. You know, Alex the Lion? Perhaps you've heard of me? King of New York City?

*(Alex does his final pose)*

Roar!!!

*(Everyone runs away)*

What happened?

**MARTY**

Yep, show's over folks. Thanks for coming. I'll be here all week!  
In fact, I'll be here my whole life, three hundred sixty-five days a year, including  
Christmas, Chanukkah, Halloween and Kwanzaa...

*(Marty sighs)*

I know there's got to be more than just this zoo.

**GLORIA**

Wait a minute. You guys were driving the boat? Where are the people?  
What do you mean Marty went back for Alex? Melman, we have to go after them and save them from  
the Foosa!

**MELMAN**

Oh, no. No, no, I can't be transferred. I have a dermatology appointment with Dr. Goldberg at two,  
acupuncture with Dr. Wu at three, and ear, nose and throat with Dr. Patel from four on!  
Uhhh, these waves are making me nauseous... I'm allergic to seasick pills.  
Oh brother. There's nothing worse than travelling in a crate. Ow! Splinter!

**KING JULIAN**

Don't trouble your humongous heads about it. Tonight you will sleep here with us!  
Take Mr. Alex to the comfiest patch of dirt we own! You're going to like this!  
There! Luxurious dirt, isn't it! And to make you comfy-cozy, here's a little ditty my mommy used to  
lullaby to me –

*(sings)*

Go to sleepy sleep, sleepy baby.

Don't you cry, don't you whine.

Or a Foosa might hear you

And tear out your spine.

**SKIPPER**

Penguin Travel Diary, day one.  
I've just come ashore on a strange and intoxicatingly exotic island.  
In the spirit of Shackleton, Scott, Attenborough... and Sting,  
I will make extensive notes on the native flora and fauna.  
Private! What's your 10-20? Where are you?