

DUSTY

THE ORIGINAL POP DIVA

Welcome to the Information Session for NLTC's production of "Dusty – The Original Pop Diva", our production for the April 2019 season.

In the 1950's, a star-struck, plain and dumpy London schoolgirl imagines she could become a glamorous movie idol. Her parents tell her that her fantasies will never come true and not to dream the impossible dream. But nothing deters her.

Blessed with an amazing voice and talent, she sets out to become a singer and a star. Soon, plain Mary O'Brien has transformed herself into the blonde pop icon, Dusty Springfield. But while Dusty, the gorgeous blonde star, is the image the world sees, it is an illusion behind which little Mary O'Brien still lives; the alter ego from which Dusty can never escape and who remains with her throughout her life.

In the 1960's, Dusty Springfield takes the entertainment world by storm with a score of hits, a top TV show and a legion of fans. But the success she wanted is hollow and real happiness eludes her.

Driven by her sense of perfection, Dusty takes on the world even as she discovers a desperate need to be loved in a way that could cause her career to crash.

At the pinnacle of international success, with triumphs in Britain and America, Dusty finds the pressure unbearable. Unable to be what other people expect, and finding the spotlight's heat can burn, she retreats from the world into a dark place.

Finding strength in adversity, Dusty returns to soar to the top. With the world applauding again, she has one more battle to fight.

IMPORTANT DATES

Information Session

Sunday 11th November

Auditions

Sunday 18th November

Rehearsals Commence

January 2019

Production Week Rehearsals

Mon 25th to Thu 28th March 7.00pm

Season Dates

Friday 29th March (8pm)

Saturday 30th March (8pm)

Friday 5th April (8pm)

Saturday 6th April (2pm)

Saturday 6th April (8pm)

Friday 12th April (8pm)

Saturday 13th April (2pm)

Saturday 13th April (8pm)

Dry Run Thursday 4th April (7.30pm)

ABOUT NORTHERN LIGHT THEATRE COMPANY

Northern Light Theatre Company is the resident musical theatre company at the Shedley Theatre in Elizabeth.

Since its formation in 1965, NLTC has produced many memorable and award-winning productions, including the Adelaide Critics Circle Coopers Award for Excellence for its productions of Copacabana and Jesus Christ Superstar and the ATG "Best Technical" and "Most Popular Show" awards for Singin' in the Rain.

The committee of NLTC consists of nine positions - five office bearers and four ordinary members. The committee meets about once a month and is responsible for the overall management of NLTC.

The current committee members are Sue Pole (President & Treasurer), Cheryl Ford (Vice President), Tom Howie (Business Manager), Jan Powell (Secretary), Russell Ford (Publicity Officer), Lance Morgan, Del Watts and Kim Abbott (General Members).

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Gordon Combes

Music Director: Danielle Pedler

Choreographer: Sue Pole

Production Manager: Jan Powell

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME TO BE PART OF THIS CAST?

Membership

All cast members are required to become full financial members of NLTC. Full Adult Membership is \$40 for twelve months. Junior Membership (15 years and younger) is \$20.

As a paid member of Northern Light Theatre Company you will receive:

- Two complimentary tickets for the show, to be used on opening weekend only.
- Cast price tickets for family and friends for all performances.
- Full voting and speaking rights at all General and Special General Meetings (adult members).
- After being a member for six months you may stand for election to any office in the company except President. After two years on the Committee you may stand for the position of President.

Show Levy

You will also be required to pay a show levy of \$50 to help cover the costs of rehearsal venues and resources, pianists, costumes, coffee & tea, etc. Your levy also includes a DVD of the show.

T-shirts and Clothing

A range of T-shirts and other clothing items with the Dusty logo will be available for purchase by those directly involved in the production. Items range from approx. \$20 to \$60. ***This is an optional purchase, but is an excellent way to promote the show!***

Costumes

While every endeavour will be made to supply you with your costumes, you will be asked to supply some items, particularly shoes and socks or stockings.

Appearance

Please speak to the Director before having any major changes to your appearance, ie dramatic haircut, body piercings, visible tattoos.

Publicity

As a cast member, it is expected that you will be available to take part in any publicity events and stunts we may arrange.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals for Dusty will be held each Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00pm until 10:30pm and Sundays from 10:00am until usually 2:00pm. Some Sundays will run longer depending on requirements but will generally finish no later than 4:00pm. First rehearsal (read through) will be on 6th January 2019.

Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals will be held at the Spruance Road Hall, Spruance Road, Elizabeth East. Rehearsals on Sundays will be held at the TIDC Performing Arts Studio (Unit 4, 183 Phillip Highway, Elizabeth).

Please note that all rehearsals are closed. This means that friends, family and partners cannot attend and observe rehearsals.

Please wear clothing appropriate to move in to every rehearsal. Even if it is basically a singing rehearsal, we will often revise dance numbers that have been set previously.

Rehearsal Schedule

A full schedule will be available at the first rehearsal. On your audition form, please make note of any dates on which you are not available. We are usually able to work around any planned absences as long as we know in advance.

Cast who miss rehearsals other than those indicated on the audition form will upset the rehearsal schedule as we have planned around you being available! We cannot emphasise this enough. We will make every effort to not waste your time and leave you sitting around at rehearsals not being used. In response, we ask that you please be ready to start on time. Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes early. Please also keep rehearsal times free, even if you are not scheduled for rehearsal, as the schedule can sometimes be changed and you will be expected to be available.

Reporting an absence or lateness:

Absence or lateness needs to be reported to the Production Manager (Jan) by texting 0434 202 521, or alternatively by posting on the Facebook group page. It is expected this will only be for emergencies and illness.

Probationary Period

All cast are subject to a six-week probationary period from the commencement of rehearsals. However, any cast member consistently arriving late or missing rehearsals completely may be removed from the production at any time.

Police checks

For the safety and security of under-age cast members, NLTC requires various key production team members and supervising backstage personnel to obtain police check certification.

Bump-in/Bump-out

Cast are not expected to help with bumping into the theatre, although if you want to help, the Stage Manager will be able to find you jobs! Please note, however, that all cast members are expected to help with bump out. You will be allocated tasks based on your abilities.

Audition Information

Dusty auditions will be held at Parks Theatre, 46 Cowan Street, Angle Park 5010 on Sunday 18th November 2017. You will need to bring your completed Audition Form (found at the end of this information pack) the music for "Son of a Preacher Man" (download from our website at northernlight.org.au), a headshot photo and a water bottle.

Please wear comfortable, loose clothing and shoes suitable for dancing/moving in. Tight jeans or heeled shoes (other than chorus shoes) are not acceptable.

There are two parts to the audition process:

1. Group Audition
2. Individual Audition (by invitation only)

Everyone is required to participate in the group audition. Bookings will be taken at the information session or by phone on Monday onwards on 0434 202 521 (Jan). Please learn the music for the Ensemble. Each group will also learn some choreography. Auditions will be done in small groups.

Group Audition

The timetable for the morning is:

- 8:30 Registration in foyer.
- 9:00 Brief explanation of the audition process.
- 9:10 Group splits into two halves. Group 1 music with Dani, Group 2 choreography with Sue.
- 9:30 Swap groups.
- 9:50 All together for Group Audition, working in large and smaller groups.
- 11:00 Finish. If you have not yet been given an individual audition time and you would like one, please wait for the Production Team to advise you of their decision.

Individual Audition

Individual auditions will start at approximately 11:30am and are by invitation only. In your audition you can expect to sing your song(s) and read the dialogue, possibly do more movement with Sue, and have your vocal range tested. Be prepared to sing the section of music specified for the character you are auditioning for PLUS the music learnt for the group audition. Familiarise yourself with the music BEFORE coming to the audition. We want to see your version of the character's song. Do some research!

Note: If you are going for two roles, please be prepared to sing both, although we may cut them a bit short or only need to hear one.

Audition music and dialogue information will be posted on Northern Light Theatre Company's website at northernlight.org.au the morning after Information Night (on Monday 12 November).

Closed Auditions

All auditions are closed.

Notification of Audition Outcome

We will try where possible to notify you by phone. Every attempt will be made to finalise the cast as soon as possible but please be aware it can sometimes take a while.

Further Questions

If you need any information leading up to auditions, please email the director at gordie_c@hotmail.com or check the website (www.northernlight.org.au). If you need to contact anyone on audition day please call Jan on 0434 202 521.

Synopsis:

In the 1950's, a star-struck, plain and dumpy London schoolgirl imagines she could become a glamorous movie idol. Her parents tell her that her fantasies will never come true and not to dream the impossible dream. But nothing deters her.

Blessed with an amazing voice and talent, she sets out to become a singer and a star. Soon, plain Mary O'Brien has transformed herself into the blonde pop icon, Dusty Springfield. But while Dusty, the gorgeous blonde star, is the image the world sees, it is an illusion behind which little Mary O'Brien still lives; the alter ego from which Dusty can never escape and who remains with her throughout her life.

In the 1960's, Dusty Springfield takes the entertainment world by storm with a score of hits, a top TV show and a legion of fans. But the success she wanted is hollow and real happiness eludes her. Driven by her sense of perfection, Dusty takes on the world even as she discovers a desperate need to be loved in a way that could cause her career to crash. At the pinnacle of international success, with triumphs in Britain and America, Dusty finds the pressure unbearable. Unable to be what other people expect, and finding the spotlight's heat can burn, she retreats from the world into a dark place.

Finding strength in adversity, Dusty returns to soar to the top. With the world applauding again, she has one more battle to fight.

CAST

The following list of characters includes character information, age range, vocal range, dance ability, and vocal and acting audition pieces:

| Character Information | Age range | Vocal range | Dance Ability | Vocal audition | Dialogue Audition |
|---|-----------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <p>DUSTY SPRINGFIELD - An emotional role. The character will develop as the story progresses. Strong acting ability will be required to carry her extremely complex personality.</p> <p>Requires an excellent pop voice that can handle the Dusty Springfield range and style. Very demanding vocally. Sings almost every song in the show. All the songs are in Dusty's original keys. Her range is very deceptive.</p> | 20-40 | G below Middle C to Strong Chest C above Middle C | General movement | "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" | pp 28-29, 45-46 |
| <p>RENO – Reno is the lead singer of a female trio "The Nevadas." The role is written for a black pop/soul singer, however is not paramount to casting the role. She has a closer relationship with Dusty.</p> <p>Strong contemporary soul voice.</p> | 20-40 | A below Middle C to C above Middle C | Typical Motown style movement | "Dancing in the Street" | pp 28-29, 45-46 |
| <p>MARY O'BRIEN - Mary is the young, gawky, bespectacled Dusty and is portrayed in the show as a juvenile school girl who takes the journey through Dusty's formative experiences.</p> <p>This character takes on a narrative role and is continually on stage. Strong acting ability.</p> <p>Strong pop ballad voice.</p> | 18-25 | G below middle C to D above middle C | Good movement | "Mama's Little Girl" – from Bar 52 to end, sing both Mary and Dusty lines | pp 21, 36-37 |

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|--|-------|--------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| <p>RODNEY - Hairdresser, who is one of Dusty's long time confidantes. Theatrically "camp" and extremely loyal to Dusty through her career. Good at harmonies.</p> | 20-40 | High Pop Baritone to D | Good movement | "Little by Little" – just the first page | pp 26-27, 51-52 |
| <p>PEG - Theatrical dresser. Another of Dusty's closest friends. Good pop voice.</p> | 20-40 | A below Middle C to C above Middle C | Good movement | "Heart and Soul" | pp 32-33, 51-52 |
| <p>KAY O'BRIEN (Mother) - Typical Irish working-class parent with a sense of humour. Actor with comedic style. Mature ballad voice. Will double up in other parts.</p> | 30-50 | B below middle C to A above middle C | Good movement (will double up in other parts) | "My Colouring Book" | pp 43-44, 64-65 |
| <p>MR O'BRIEN (Father) - Typical Irish working-class parent with a sense of humour. Actor with comedic style. Basically a non-singing role. Some harmony work. Will double up in other parts.</p> | 30-50 | Baritone C to C | Good movement (will double up in other parts) | | pp 64-65 |
| <p>TOM – Mary/Dusty's Brother. He helps arrange early songs and performs as part of her original backing group. Strong vocals. Will double up in other parts.</p> | 20-35 | Tenor up to G | Good movement (will double up in other parts) | "When That Midnight Choo Choo" | pp 16-17 |

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|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <p>BACKING VOCALISTS: NEVADAS – Two girl singers. Typical 60's style backing vocalists. Good contemporary singers. Must be excellent at harmonies and blending.</p> | | B below Middle C to C above Middle C | Dancer/strong movement | "Little by Little #1" | p 24 |
| <p>BACKING VOCALISTS: LANA SISTERS – Two girl singers. Typical 60's style backing vocalists. Good contemporary singers. Must be excellent at harmonies and blending.</p> | | A below Middle C to D above Middle C | Good movement | "Little by Little #1" | p 24 |
| <p>BACKING VOCALISTS: SPRINGFIELDS – Two boy singers. Typical 60's style backing vocalists. Good contemporary singers. Must be excellent at harmonies and blending.</p> | | Pop Baritone up to D | Good movement | "Springfields Medley" | p 52-53 |
| <p>BACKING VOCALISTS: DRAG QUEENS – Typical 60's style backing vocalists. Good contemporary singers. Must be excellent at harmonies and blending.</p> | | | Strong movement | "Son of a Preacher Man" – Bars 52 to 80 | p 52-53 |
| <p>ENSEMBLE – School girls, Young Tom, Al Saxon, TV Announcer, Radio Announcer, Go-Go Dancers, Starlets, etc. Must be able to carry the vocal demands of the show. All must be excellent at harmonies and blending. The ensemble will also play a variety of small speaking/vocal roles and take on some key backing vocal parts. Some boys will need to wear drag for the Drag Queen & Company scene.</p> | | | Strong movement required. Lots of choreography in the 60's style. | "Son of a Preacher Man" – Bars 52 to 80 | Females p 24 Males p 52-53 |

Northern Light Theatre Company

Audition Form/Membership Application

Audition No: _____



PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____ Date of Birth (if under 16): _____

Address: _____ Height: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____ Phone (H): _____

Email Address: _____ Mobile: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT DETAILS (FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS ONLY)

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Title of Show: _____

Preferred Role(s): _____

If you are not selected for your preferred role, would you be interested in any of the following? (please circle):

Another role

Ensemble

Booth singer

Understudy

If only prepared to play/understudy certain roles, please indicate them here: _____

If you are not selected as a member of the cast, would you be interested in any of the following? (please circle):

Set construction

Backstage crew

Front of house

Publicity

Costume construction

Other: _____

How late in the evening can we call you with regard to your audition? _____

Please list below any dates/times that you are unavailable to attend rehearsal due to prearranged events/holidays. Cast who miss rehearsals other than those indicated on this audition form will upset the rehearsal schedule as we plan around you being available.

EXPERIENCE/TRAINING

Vocal Range (please circle one): Soprano Mezzo Alto Tenor Baritone Bass Unknown

Can you read music? (please circle one): Well A Little Not at All

Do you play an instrument? If yes, what, and for how many years? _____

VOCAL/DANCE/ACTING TUITION

| Type of Tuition | Teacher | How Long |
|-----------------|---------|----------|
| | | |
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| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

PREVIOUS STAGE EXPERIENCE

| Show | Company | Role | Year |
|------|---------|------|------|
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AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURE

- I understand that if I am cast in the show I will be required to become a financial member of Northern Light Theatre Company, and pay a show levy. Membership Fee: Adult \$40, Junior (under 16) \$20. Show levy \$50. These amounts are due and payable at the first rehearsal.
- I understand that if I am cast in the show I should not change my appearance (eg hairstyle) without first discussing it with the Director.

Please indicate if you would like to be added to the Northern Light Theatre Company Mailing List: Yes / No

Signed: _____ Date: _____
 (Parent or Guardian if under 16)

Office use only:

Date Paid: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____ MOP: _____

M/ship #: _____ Database: M/ship card: