

IPSWICH MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

presents

A COMEDY BY
KEN LUDWIG

LEND ME A TENOR



AUDITION PACK



MAY 31 - JUNE 8
OLD IPSWICH COURTHOUSE

IPSWICH MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company is a community-based theatre organisation providing great entertainment to theatre lovers, and performance opportunities in the Ipswich region. We produce plays, concerts and a large scale musical each year.

In 2024, we presented *The Phantom of the Opera* to critical acclaim, as well as the crowd favourite *Mother and Son*. Every November we present *Songs that Won the War*, to commemorate Remembrance Day.

LEND ME A TENOR

Set in 1934 in a hotel suite in Ohio USA, the story revolves around Saunders, the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company and his efforts to save the financially strapped Opera Company. He has engaged world famous tenor Tito Merelli (Il Stupendo) to star for one night in their production of *Pagliacci*.

Tito arrives late and through an hilarious series of mishaps is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. Saunders believes he is dead and convinces his young assistant Max to jump into Tito's costume and sing the role. But Merelli wakes up and dons his spare costume.

Now two opera singers are running around dressed as Clowns and two women in lingerie are each thinking they are with the great Il Stupendo.

Please note, this is the play version of Lend Me a Tenor, NOT the musical version.

DIRECTOR - Carol Dicker

With a lifetime involved in the Sydney Musical theatre and TV scene, most recently Carol was Artistic Director of her own comedy theatre company in NSW, NTT Productions. She has directed and produced more than 30 plays and musicals, with comedy and farce being a particular passion. She also completed a Directors course with NIDA. Her directorial theatre credits include *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Mum's the Word* and *Noises Off*.



KEY DATES

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will take place Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm – 10pm at the historic Old Ipswich Courthouse on the corner of East and Roderick Sts, Ipswich.

Rehearsals commence with our cast meeting and script read through on Monday March 4.

In addition, during April and May there will be several Sunday rehearsals. These Sunday rehearsal dates will be determined during the early stages of the rehearsal process, so we ask the cast to be flexible and make themselves available as needed. We will give as much notice as possible for these dates.

SHOW DATES

Performances are from May 31 – June 8:

- Thursday 30th May @ 7:30pm (preview night)
- Friday 31st May @ 7:30pm
- Saturday 1st June @ 7:30pm
- Sunday 2nd June @ 6pm
- Friday 7th June @ 7:30pm
- Saturday 8th June @ 1:30pm
- Saturday 8th June @ 7:30pm

Tech week will run from Sunday May 26.

To be successful in your audition, we require you to be fully available for all shows and tech week.



AUDITIONS

WHEN: Monday February 26

TIME: 7pm – 10pm By Appointment

WHERE: The historic Old Ipswich Courthouse, cnr East St & Roderick Sts, Ipswich

CALL BACKS: If required, call backs will be held on Thursday Feb 29 from 7pm.

As Lend Me A Tenor is set in 1930's Cleveland, Ohio, most auditionees will be required to audition with a mild American accent, except for the roles of Maria and Tito Merelli, who both have strong, almost comic, Italian accents.

It is not necessary for auditionees to sing or dance at the audition however, should you possess these talents, please let us know as they may be used in the show.

Wear comfortable clothing and sensible footwear. No open toe sandals or thongs. And bring water.

Please complete the Audition Form at the back of this pack IN FULL and provide it to the creative team at the audition. Please staple your relevant performance history and colour 10x15cm headshot to this form.

The age requirement for this production is 18+.

BOOKING YOUR AUDITION

1. Auditions are by appointment only. Book your audition time online.

[Audition booking link](#)

2. Individual audition pieces can be viewed and downloaded online. Please familiarise yourself with these ahead of the audition.

[Audition materials link](#)

3. The audition form is at the back of this pack. Please complete the Audition Form IN FULL and provide it to the creative team at the audition. Please staple your relevant performance history and colour 10x15cm headshot to this form.

LEND ME A TENOR is a true ensemble farce and the pace relies on the energy and interaction between the characters. Therefore, you may be asked to read with other characters/actors.

If you are offered a role, there is a \$35 annual membership fee. Successful auditionees will be contacted by phone and email. Unsuccessful auditionees will be contacted by email. Any questions please contact the Director, Carol Dicker, at c4caz@bigpond.com.

CHARACTERS

TITO MERELLI: Stage Age: 30-50

Stage Gender: *Male*

Stage Accent: *Heavy Italian*

The greatest tenor of his generation, Tito is a notorious ladies-man and a hen-pecked husband. A larger-than-life character.

Needy, charismatic, romantic and totally self-absorbed.

SAUNDERS: Stage Age: 40-60

Stage Gender: *Male*

Stage Accent: *Mild general USA*

Stressed, loud, arrogant, overbearing, bossy, self-centred, ego maniac. Father of Maggie. and the Manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company.

MAX: Stage Age: 20-30

Stage Gender: *Male*

Stage Accent: *Mild general USA +*

Exaggerated Italian when mimicking Tito

Mousy, insecure, overworked, ambitious. He is Saunder's hapless assistant and in love with Maggie.

BELL HOP: Stage Age: *Any*

Stage Gender: *Male (could be female)*

Stage Accent: *Mild general USA*

The Hotel Bell Hop is nose-y, meddling, sarcastic, witty, persistent and very energetic.

MAGGIE: Stage Age: 18-26

Stage Gender: *Female*

Stage Accent: *Mild general USA*

Pretty, giddy, flirty, silly, idealistic and quirky.

Maggie is Saunder's daughter and Max's girlfriend. And she is desperate to have a fling.

MARIA MERELLI: Stage Age: 30-50

Stage Gender: *Female*

Stage Accent: *Heavy Italian*

Fiery, dramatic, loud, maternal, jealous and controlling. Maria is Tito's wife and the epitome of a hot blooded, fiery Italian Mama.

DIANA: Stage Age: 30-50

Stage Gender: *Female*

Stage Accent: *Mild general USA*

The company soprano and a well-known sexy 'man-eater' Diana is a conniving, ambitious, alluring Diva, with a definite agenda.

JULIA: Stage Age: 40+

Stage Gender: *Female (could be male)*

Stage Accent: *Mild general USA*

Chairman of the Opera Guild, Julia is silly, pushy, meddling and a rather grand socialite.



AUDITION FORM - Lend Me A Tenor

Name: _____

Address: _____ P/code: _____

Mobile No: _____ Email: _____

I acknowledge that if I am cast in this show, I will be photographed and filmed as part of the promotional activities of the production, and give consent for my image and voice to be used in any Ipswich Musical Theatre Company marketing items.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Character/s auditioning for:

☐ Tito Merelli

☐ Saunders

☐ Max

☐ Bell Hop

☐ Maria Merelli

☐ Maggie

☐ Diana

☐ Julia

Would you be willing to accept a different role from what you have listed above?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please tick the box/es below if you have singing or dancing ability/experience.

☐ Singing: vocal range _____

☐ Dancing: dance style _____

Please list any rehearsal dates you are unavailable for

Please list relevant performance history and training (use the reverse side of this sheet if you need more space).
