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**AUDITION INFORMATION**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to That Bloody Woman’s Musical audition pack! Thank you for taking the time to read this information and considering being a part of this production. Please read all information carefully, particularly regarding rehearsals, show dates, and character descriptions.

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

The production team are as follows:

**Director:** Darrel Nitschke

**Musical Director/Band Director:** Ashleen Fahy

**Choreographer:** Laura Mansell

**Production Manager:** Mark Fowler

**PERFORMANCE DATES**

22 April 2022 – May 7 2022

**SYNOPSIS**

*Suffragist, activist and cyclist Kate Sheppard transforms from a face on the $10 note into a feminist firebrand raising hell in this red-hot new rock opera.*

*Leading the charge to win women the vote, Kate takes* on the patriarchy, public opinion and even Prime Minister Richard “King Dick” Seddon.

Or the wordy version!

The show opens in 1868 with Kate Sheppard travelling from England to New Zealand and settling in Christchurch, where she meets and marries accountant Walter, and has a son, Douglas. She meets her best friend Jennie and Jennie's husband William Lovell-Smith. Kate realises that social and economic inequities were just as bad in New Zealand as in England, and the women had little power to effect change. Problems of alcohol and domestic violence are described.

The turning point for Kate is attending an event in 1885 where she hears the Women's Christian Temperance Union's Mary Leavett speak. Kate goes on to establish the New Zealand WCTU with Ada Wells and Jennie Lovell-Smith. Despite lots of activities with the WCTU, Kate realises nothing is changing, and nothing will change until women have the right to vote.

The 1891 suffrage petition is begun, and women use bicycles to access large areas to canvas support. However, 10,000 signatures is not enough and the petition fails. Richard "King Dick" Seddon rails against Kate and her followers, and works to discredit them.

A second petition gets more than 20,000 signatures, but Kate's efforts are again stymied by Seddon. Walter takes their son to England and Kate is unable to stop him as children are legally the property of their father. Kate also reveals that she is in love with William Lovell-Smith, her best friend's husband. Kate's female supporters urge her not to give up. In 1893, a third petition gathers 30,000 signatures. The bill passes, New Zealand is the first country in the world to grant women the vote.

**AUDITION DATES**

Audition bookings can be secured online

through <https://go.oncehub.com/thatbloodywomanauditionstmt>.

You must be at least 16 years old to audition. Everyone auditioning must attend the dance call AND book a ten minute slot for a vocal audition.

Auditions will be held as follows:

* Dance call: Saturday 29th January 9:00am - 10:30am. All auditionees MUST attend. This will take place at TMT Westside theatre 17th Avenue Tauranga.
* Individual vocal auditions: Saturday 29th January, between 11 – 4pm
* Call backs (if needed): Saturday 29th January –in the late afternoon/evening.

Vocal auditions will take place at Westside Theatre. Please enter through the green room door.

You will be auditioning before a panel consisting of the Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, and a committee representative from Tauranga Musical Theatre.

Timing will be dictated by the total number of those auditioning. Getting a call back does not guarantee a role. Likewise you may be cast even if you are not called back. Please ensure that you have entered a contact telephone number on your audition application form where we can easily reach you during the audition dates.

All auditions (and rehearsals) will be managed in accordance with the appropriate health guidelines from the Government depending on the applicable alert level.

**PREPARATION FOR AUDITION**

Audition songs can be anything, preferably from the show, that shows off your vocal range. Please be prepared to sing a verse and a chorus. Here is a link to the Spotify playlist that contains all the songs in the show:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/27pikGLOASw0WtUnfxBbCh?si=RtbRcvsUSWiLB4UQh4omVw>

Please come prepared with a backing track on a USB or on your phone. On the day, please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your audition time, already warmed up.

You may be asked to read a piece of the script, against someone from the panel, which you will be given at your audition.

**DANCERS**

Please make your dance experience known and be prepared to show it off as there will be a mix of basic movement and full-on choreography. Please note all dancers will also need to book a vocal audition. Comfy clothes that you can move in are a must-wear for the audition - and dance shoes if you have them!

**DANCE CALL**

For the dance call, please wear appropriate clothes and flat shoes to be able to dance in. No jandals or jeans!

**REHEARSAL DATES**

Rehearsals begin on Monday 7th February 2022 with a full cast read through. Rehearsals will usually take place on Tuesday and Thursday nights and Sundays.

**SHOW DATES**

The show runs from 22nd April- 7th May. There will be no matinees. You must be available for all evenings during this time (including tech week the week prior), and pack out on 8th May 2022.

**PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS**

Your participation in this production requires your undivided commitment in order to ensure a production of the highest possible quality. If cast, you cannot commit to any other production during the rehearsal period production season. You should not audition if you are unable to commit to the rehearsal and production schedule.

If you have any other commitments (personal or work) that may impact on your ability to attend rehearsals, you must provide full relevant details in your audition application. Not all cast will be required at all rehearsals, and rehearsals will be scheduled as carefully as possible to make the best use of your time, however, if you are unable to attend a rehearsal due to illness or something unexpected, you must let the Production Manager know at your earliest convenience.

**CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Performers will be notified by email or phone of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible following casting. Feedback will not be given. A full cast announcement will be subsequently made on the Tauranga Musical Theatre media channels.

All cast and crew are considered to be goodwill ambassadors for Tauranga Musical Theatre and for the show and we expect all cast and crew to meet that responsibility both in person and online. There will be a closed group Facebook page which cast and crew are encouraged to join and actively participate in.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

All involved in this production will need to become a financial member of Tauranga Musical Theatre, and are required to agree and adhere to a code of conduct that covers health and safety, personal well being, and responsibilities to fellow cast and crew members. You will also be required to obtain a sponsor for $75. Sponsor benefits include 2 x tickets to the Sponsors night on Thursday 21 April 2022, advertising in our programme and a social media post announcing your sponsored cast member.

**Covid 19**

Vaccine passes will be in full effect. All auditionees are required to show their pass to gain entry to the theatre, this includes for all auditions.

Please direct any queries that you may have to Mark Fower ( [mfowler@tmt.org.nz](mailto:mfowler@tmt.org.nz) ).

**Tauranga Musical Theatre**

Westside Theatre  **|** Seventeenth Ave, Tauranga 3112

**E:** [info@tmt.org.nz](mailto:info@tmt.org.nz)  **| W:**[www.tmt.org.nz](http://www.tmt.org.nz) [](https://www.facebook.com/TaurangaMusicalTheatre/)

**Character Breakdown**

***Kate Sheppard***

Lead Suffragist. A rock star. A leader. Outrageous rock/musical theatre voice and strong belt required. F3 - E5.

***Richard “King Dick” Seddon***

Prime Minister and Kate's nemesis. Incredible rock/soul bari-tenor, who can groove and rap. Physically imposing.

C2 (can get away with Eb2) - E3 or C3 - E4

*All of the other roles are likely to be doubled:*

***Kate’s Uncle -*** Non-singing. Scottish accent. Part of ensemble.

***Kate’s Father -*** Non-singing. Part of ensemble.

***Walter Sheppard -*** Kate's husband. Strong rock voice and falsetto. Part of ensemble.

A2 - B3; Falsetto up to G#4

***Willam Lovell-Smith -*** Kate's unrequited love. Strong rock voice and falsetto. Part of ensemble. A2 - F4; Falsetto up to G#4

***Jennie Lovell-Smith -*** Kate's best friend and wife of William. Strong rock/indie/musical theatre voice.  A3 - B4

***Ada Wells -*** Suffragette from a violent marriage. Strong rock/indie/musical theatre voice. C4 - B4

***Vicar -*** Comedy chops, strong and flexible musical theatre voice.

Approx. C#3 - B3 or C#4 - B4

***Mary Leavitt -*** Leading American suffragette. Fantastic rock/gospel/musical theatre voice.

Approx. G3 - Eb5

***Sir John Hall and Sir John Ballance*** (the two Johns) - Strong all round musical theatre voices.