



# Audition Notice

## Summer Wonderland

*By Matthew Ryan*

<b>Director:</b>	Alexia Suttor, Leisa Bye
<b>Venue:</b>	Windsor School of Arts, 381 Lutwyche Rd, Windsor
<b>Performance dates:</b>	February 8, 9, 15, 16, 17 (matinee), 22, 23
<b>Rehearsals:</b>	Mondays & Thursday 6:30-9:30pm Sundays 1:00 - 4:30pm

### Audition Details

<b>Date:</b>	Sunday 11 November, 2:00 - 5:00pm Call back: Monday 12 November, 6:30 to 9:30pm <i>as required</i>
<b>Parking:</b>	There is a small car park beside the Hall. Alternatively, street parking is available on Maygar Street and the streets that run off Maygar Street.

#### How to audition:

- **Check the dates.** If you cannot make any of the performance dates or critical rehearsals, do not audition. We do understand that during end of year/Christmas means holidays for many people, and have tried to factor this into our rehearsal schedule.
- **Complete the Audition Registration Form** to register your interest with your name, phone number and role/s you're auditioning for. If you have a headshot and acting resume, please email this to [production@growltheatre.org.au](mailto:production@growltheatre.org.au). Experience is not necessary.
- **Practice and prepare one of the audition pieces (see below)**
- Email Leisa and Alexia at [production@growltheatre.org.au](mailto:production@growltheatre.org.au) for more information or questions.

#### Membership fees:

If you are cast for a role, you will need to become a financial member of Growl Theatre which is **\$30 per calendar year**. You will need to contribute financially to the purchase of your costume, particularly with regards to shoes.

[www.growltheatre.org.au](http://www.growltheatre.org.au)

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Mailing Address: 21 Yarraman St, Lutwyche, Qld, 4030

**About Growl Theatre:**

This is a group of people who are interested in getting together and putting on some plays, having some fun and providing some entertainment. The aims of the group are:

- To put on productions that are of the best quality possible; 'amateur' should not be a synonym for 'rubbish'!
- To provide opportunities for people to hone existing skills, or to build new ones.
- To provide a group which helps to foster a greater sense of community.
- To provide an opportunity to meet new people.

We are a group in which you are required to 'pitch in' and we would very much like to give you an experience that might make you interested in becoming part of our group in the long haul. We are not concerned by lack/absence of experience.

Agreeable, modest, trustworthy people, who are wanting to develop their skills and capabilities are always welcome.

## Synopsis - Summer Wonderland

**Summer Wonderland by Matthew Ryan**

Welcome to Dickens Court, where a Christmas lights competition has the neighbourhood at war! Old-fashioned battler Bob has just lost his job, his neighbour Eugene is in serious debt after the arrival of his mail-order bride, and the snobs across the road are desperate to buy a beachfront apartment. When they discover the grand prize in the Christmas Lights competition could solve their money problems, it means war!

A hilarious Christmas comedy about fake snow, fairy lights, and the great Australian Dream.

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## Characters (description & ages)

*All characters are Australian except Ludwig, Gustav, Svetlana.*

*Russian and Bavarian accents do not need to be entirely accurate but we are not looking for exaggerated "comedy" accents.*

*The characters of Bob & Ludwig will be the same actor due to dramatic purposes.*

*Ages of characters are not set in stone, if you would love to audition for a role but you're a bit outside the recommended ranges, feel free to contact us.*

### **Foster (Male 18-20 years. Actor 18-30 years)**

Quiet, sensitive, has big dreams but is stifled by his father and his upbringing. Wants to escape his small cul-de-sac life but feels obliged to work in a job he doesn't enjoy to support his unemployed father.

### **Bob/Ludwig (Male 40s/50s. Actor 30-55 years)**

*(must be the same person for dramatic purposes)*

**Bob** is a loud, obnoxious, bogan. Not working, and relying on his son Foster to pay the bills. Doesn't understand his quiet, sensitive son and doesn't appreciate Foster's dreams (to the point of taking the money Foster has saved for an overseas trip to use for Bob's own purposes). Antagonistic towards Marti, who he believes is above her station.

**Ludwig** is Foster's imaginary manifestation of King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Friendly, proud, must have a Bavarian accent.

### **Marti (Female 40s/50s. Actor 30-55 years)**

Self-obsessed one-upper/soccer mum/stage mum, thinks she and her daughter are better than others and likes to let others know this. Recognises that Demoiselle is not overly talented but has always told her that she is, and has bought her trophies and ribbons and opportunities (such as university placements) to "prove" it.

### **Demoiselle (Female 18-20 years old. Actor 18-30 years)**

Pretty, friendly, sweet. Marti has told her all her life that she is special and talented and she is starting to realise all of Marti's lies. She is working out who she really is. Friendly with Foster.

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**Eugene (Male in his 50s/60s. Actor 40-65 years)**

Quiet and downtrodden. Wants more from his life but has no idea how to get it. Has bought a Russian mail-order bride (Svetlana).

**Gustav (Male 30s/40s. Actor 20-50 years)**

Russian mob type chasing the money that Eugene 'owes' for buying Svetlana as a wife, quite devious. Must have a Russian accent.

**Svetlana (Female in her 20s/30s. Actor 20-40 years)**

Eugene's Russian mail-order bride. Sexually aggressive towards any male she is attracted to, a list that doesn't include Eugene, who she finds boring, but does include Foster. Must have a Russian accent.

**Mrs Slade (Female in her 60s/70s. Actor 50-70 years)**

Elderly lady, hard of hearing, very Christian, believes Christmas decorations are sacrilegious, antagonistic towards Bob. - small role.



## Rehearsal Schedule

This is our intended rehearsal schedule. A clear understanding of your availability allows us to make the best decisions to make good use of our schedule.

### NOV

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
11 AUDITION	12	13	14	15 Read through	16	17
18 GR	19 GR	20	21	22 GR	23	24
25 GR	26 GR	27	28	29 GR	30	1

### DEC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
2 GR	3 GR	4	5	6 GR	7	8
9 GR	10 GR	11	12	13 GR	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### JAN

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 GR	4	5
6 GR	7 GR	8	9	10 GR	11	12
13 GR	14 GR	15	16	17 GR	18	19
20 GR	21 GR	22	23	24 GR	25	26
27 CR	28 CR	29	30	31 CR		



**FEB**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 CR	4 CR	5	6	7 CR	8 P	9 P
10	11	12	13	14	15 P	16 P
17 P	18	19	20	21	22 P	23 P
24 BUMP OUT	25	26	27	28		

**Initial Schedule:**

**P** = Performances (5:00 pm to late)

**GR** = General rehearsals (6:30 to 9:30 pm weeknights, 1:00 to 4:30 pm Sundays)

**CR** = Critical events (dress/tech etc) (roughly as above. Negotiated with cast)

Please understand the pressure that it creates when people either [a] commit to a role then pull out, or [b] commit to the times then become unavailable. Whilst we recognise that illness and unforeseen circumstance can occur, please ensure that you have considered birthdays, engagements, weddings, pre-existing commitments etc. Also ensure that work commitments will not clash.



## Audition Pieces

### **Foster**

#### **Option 1**

"Dear King Ludwig. It's 7 o'clock in the morning. Which means, of course, there's a man packing up at the markets in Buenos Aires. There's a woman stepping onto the first train of the day in Shanghai, a man finishing his lunch in San Francisco and another going home in New York City. It's summer here. So hot you can cook an egg on the road. Maybe I'll cook. Is it snowing where you are? I've never seen snow. I think I'll like snow. Be there soon, Ludwig. Regards, Foster Jones".

#### **Option 2**

"I was going to travel the world. Saved money since I was ten. Since the Foster joke started. Had it all planned. I own two hundred trail guides and know the whole world by heart. Dad lost his job at the garage. Couldn't keep up with the new cars. So I had to take one up. Only have enough left for Barvaria. Two thousand dollars in my little box beside my bed. The Neuschwanstein Castle. Built by King Ludwig the Second. Eighteen Hundreds. They called him the Dream King. He built the Neuschwanstein so he could live in a fairytale. A real fairytale castle. One day, I'm going to see it.

### **Bob**

"What do you think I'm doing? Imagine her face when I turn up at the door a winner. I got the whole works. Everything I could find. I'm calling it 'An All-Aussie Christmas'. Feast your eyes on this. It's a boomer. (pause) Bloody hell Foster. Get with the times. I paint them white and stick light bulbs up their bums to make them glow. I put Santa in an Anzac hat and give Rudolph a wine cask to go with his nose. I put the seven dwarfs in board shorts... I've got a few things to make up for. We'll do it together. Father and Son. Here, you start on this lot. I'll glue thongs on the wise men".

### **Ludwig**

*If auditioning for Bob, you can either memorise this passage too, or just prepare and read on the day. We want to hear a Bavarian accent.*

"Oh, excuse me. Everyone knows that. [beat] It looks tiny from the bottom of the hill, fragile. But on that road, walking up, you feel like you are entering a fairylane. It's damp and musty. There are conifers everywhere. And snow. It's enchanted, that road. You climb and climb and the Lake District that surrounds the castle opens up before you and there you are on a bridge over a waterfall, looking directly at my castle. It is so white. Whiter than you think it will be. Behind it is Swan Lake and behind that, the Alps. It's heaven, Foster. I built heaven. [beat] I will go home now".



### **Eugene**

"I have to decorate my house. I have to win the money. Then I can pay him the rest of the money and Svetlana will see how successful i am and like me. I've got a great idea for a display. It's a big family with lots of kids and they're all putting up Christmas lights together."

### **Gustav**

"Do I look stupid to you? You owe ten thousand dollars. Gustav money collector. Gustav professional. Gustav travel world collecting money. And men? They always pay. I am sick of games. I am going to start punching you at once (pause) All right. Maybe you are not Eugene. Maybe you just dog bird his wife. But you stay away from Svetlana from now on. Or it is you who pay her bill, yes? Now. Where do I find big stadium where people make 'It's a Knockout'?"

### **Svetlana**

"Hello, Fooster. It is so dark, no yes? You are very funny, Fooster. I have been watching you. You are strong but gentle. Hard but soft. Like warm sheep on cold Russian night. No one would see us. Rustling in the bushes together. Sex. In bushes. Eugene, Eugene is wet towel on floor. Fooster is big man. Strong man. Man who looks after his family. Fooster is champion of responsibility. Man of house. Svetlana has finished seducing you now".

### **Demoiselle**

"Mess is bad. Messy Christmasses are bad. They're emotional and bad things happen that should never be talked about ever again. I don't want to talk about them... How about a Christmas in Wales? Did you know they put a horse skull on a stick? One year, I wanted a Christmas like you have. Mystery presents. Big lunch. And I wanted to make a... a gingerbread house. I worked on it for days. Then on Christmas Eve the heat got to it and it collapsed. And then everything else fell apart. The presents were horrible. Lunch was awful. Mum was furious and deemed the whole thing a failure that were were never allowed to do ever again".





## **Marti**

### **Option 1**

"You're champagne, Marti. Champagne filled with gorgeous golden bubbles. They're going to call you. You're getting that promotion. You're taking the starter and you're putting down a deposit on... do the noise, Princess... On my beachfront apartment at "Vista Views'. Oh, it's so beautiful. It's so beautiful and so very far away from Bob. The son's a weirdo too. Saw him lying on the road earlier. Mind you, if I were related to Bob I'd throw myself in front of traffic as well."

"You are an Indigo Child. A genius. They wrote a book about you. You excel at anything you want to. The sky's the limit. But people talk, Demoiselle. People create an image of you. you can't stop them doing it, but you can contribute to it. Is that how you want the world to see you? Well, now I'm upset. Some people have no idea how ridiculous they look"

### **Option 2**

"Been talking you all about it has she? My little Demoiselle was accepted into three universities. Going to follow in her mother's footsteps, aren't you darling? End up bigger than all of us. And how are you, Foster, how's the mechanics' job? And your Dad, still out of work? And this old car not working? Got you on the bus, has he" I'll be buying Demoiselle a new car when she starts studying. You can do the tune ups if you need a few dollars. (pause) Wouldn't that be a sight? Little Demoiselle, all covered in oil. Woo, imagine the smell. What do mechanics smell like, Foster? Ah, see? no, we should try and keep that smell off you, Demoiselle. We'll leave that one to the Joneses"

### **Option 3**

"You don't really think that has a chance, do you? Drunk Rudolph? The Virgin Mary on a surfboard? Allan Border's head on your baby Jesus? I'm going to win, Bob! You can't beat me if I win! I'm going to win! We can't both win! And what does the Mrs think? I saw her leave, you know. Bags all packed. I did the same to my husband. And you know what? I'm a lot happier now".

## **Mrs Slade**

### **Option 1**

"Having a party are we, Robert? A Christmas Party? You know where Christmas parties come from, don't you? Roman orgies. Naked, throbbing orgies. you know what they do at orgies, don't you, Robert? They make baby Jesus cry".

### **Option 2**

"Are those Christmas decorations, Robert? They look like Christmas decorations, Robert. Ezekial 6:13, Robert. 'When slain men lie under green trees where they offered sweet savour to their idols, then you will know my name is the Lord'. Christmas trees, Robert. Decorations are Satan's earrings".