



Growl Theatre

Audition Pack

for

Secret Bridesmaids' Business

November 2013

Directors:	Liz Ellison and Rosanna Brennan
Rehearsal and performance venue:	Windsor School of Arts Hall
Performance dates:	Thursday 14 th November 2013 Friday 15 th November 2013 Saturday 16 th November 2013 Thursday 21 st November 2013 Friday 22 nd November 2013 Saturday 23 rd November 2013
Rehearsals:	Mondays 6:30-9:30pm Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm (potentially some weekend days closer to the performance)

Audition Information

- Date: Monday 16th September @ 6:30pm
- Venue: Windsor School of Arts Hall
381 Lutwyche Road (intersection of Maygar Street)
Windsor QLD 4030
- Parking: There is a small car park beside the Hall. The entrance is only accessible when coming south along Lutwyche Road.
- Alternatively, there is street parking available on Maygar Street and the streets that run off Maygar Street.
- How to audition:
1. Check the performance and rehearsal dates. Performance dates are inflexible - if you cannot attend any of dates, unfortunately you will not be considered for a role.
 2. Email Rosanna Brennan at growltheatreco@gmail.com (preferably) or call 0403 908 880 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 include this in your email.
 3. Prepare the Audition Piece/s for the role/s you are interested in auditioning for. We'd prefer it if you can memorise your monologue or most of it, but script in hand is definitely acceptable! We want to see you bring the character to life.
 4. Be prepared to do a cold dialogue read. The scripts for these will be supplied at the audition.
- Membership fees: If you are cast for a role, you will need to become a financial member of Growl Theatre which is \$30 per year.
- 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 an opportunity for people to hone existing skills and talents, 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.

Roles:

Female roles Meg Bacon: 25 – 40, Bride - warm, fragile and fun
 Colleen Bacon: 45 – 60, Mother of the bride - frantic and very bossy
 Angela Dixon: 25 – 40, Matron of Honour, happily married, very loyal
 Lucy Dean: 25 – 40, Bridesmaid, impetuous and direct
 Naomi Bartlett: 20 – 35, Meg’s friend, sexy and self-absorbed

Male roles James Davis: 25 – 40, Groom, successful, confident

Meg is the bride to be. She is a character that requires many emotional states throughout the play, from excited and silly to heartbroken and desperate. She has an inner strength that is only glimpsed briefly throughout the play. She has been hurt in the past and emphatically wants to get married. Please note this role involves a stage kiss.

Colleen is the mother of the bride. She is a woman working at full speed to ensure Meg’s wedding is everything she wants it to be. Her own wedding was taken over by her mother, but she doesn’t realise how her behaviour is the same. She thrives on drama and has a thirst for control.

Angela is the matron of honour. She is married with two children, considered a ‘boring married’ and ultimately quite straight laced. She is a bit snarky and suffers from an internal struggle throughout the play. In the past, she had an affair and she recommends *not* telling Meg about their suspicions. Please note: Angela is a non-drinker who does have ‘champagne’ throughout the play – this role involves the ability to play drunk.

Lucy is the other bridesmaid. She is an ‘earthy’ character, funky and alternative. She has a direct manner of speaking, a frank approach to sexuality, and a commitment to honesty and openness. She recommends definitely telling Meg about their suspicions. This character will need comedic timing and an ability to speak quickly.

Naomi/Housemaid Naomi is another friend of Meg’s, noticeably younger than Meg and quite attractive. She is considered sexy, and self-absorbed. She had an affair with James and is heartbroken that he broke it off to get married. Naomi is emotional and awkward, often to comedic effect. Please note: Naomi spends some time in the play in her underwear. This actor will need to be comfortable on stage like this. This is a dual role also playing the housemaid.

James is the groom. He is successful, confident, attractive and knows it. His role is characterised by his affair with Naomi and his decision not to tell Meg until she confronts him. His role is small but challenging, requiring shifting emotions. He is not a particularly sympathetic character. Please note this role involves a stage kiss and some coarse language.

Synopsis:

It’s the night before Meg’s wedding. While the bride prepares for the biggest day of her life and her mum Colleen fusses over ribbons and shoe fabrics, Meg’s bridesmaids, Lucy and Angela, stumble upon some information that has the potential to shatter Meg’s dream. Should they tell or not tell?

In the hilarious yet painful push and pull that follows, Lucy and Angela discover that sometimes there is no right answer when it comes to doing what’s best for your friend.

Elizabeth Coleman’s delightful characters bring this seriously funny play to life. Never far from reality, “*Secret Bridesmaids’ Business*” exposes the insanity that can be created as the wedding juggernaut threatens to swerve out of control. Marriage may be a wonderful thing, but after a night like this, well, could it really be worth it?

Audition Pieces:

AUDITION PIECE #1: MEG

(monologue: please memorise as much as possible, script in hand is acceptable)

I learned denial from Mum. She's a fantastic teacher. She gave me detailed, intricate lessons without one spoken word passing between us – which was, of course, the entire point. Oh, I'm not stupid. I've had a kind of niggling feeling about James... But I pushed it down from brain through my chest – carefully avoiding the heart area – and I kept pushing it down through my stomach and even further down still, until it was in the soles of my feet and every step I took squashed it. And when you've put in that kind of effort, you don't want to be told it's in vain.

This wasn't part of the fairytale, you know. Prince Charming never did this to Cinderella. But then, this is the real world, isn't it. Well, you know what I think? I think the real world sucks. Sometimes I hate it.

I don't want to know about this. It hurts too much. Things aren't what I thought. James isn't who I thought. There are bits of him I didn't know about, bits that break my heart in half. And I don't want to marry those bits—only the bits I knew about before... But you can't marry part of a person. Or can you?

AUDITION PIECE #2: COLLEEN

(monologue: please memorise as much as possible, script in hand is acceptable)

You know, I opened a wedding account for Meg two weeks after she was born. It's added up to quite a nice amount now, much more than I'd ever thought, but then, we weren't expecting to wait 33 years. But anyway, it's all worked out for the best now, because Meg's got James; and he's a lawyer and he owns a house, and a flat – not that that matters, of course, but I have to say he's a lot more successful than any of Joyce Grainger's sons-in-law.

So anyway, I've spent months planning every detail for tomorrow – because every girl deserves a beautiful wedding. She should be able to show off those photos forever and say, "That was the happiest day of my life and everything was perfect". Goodness knows, you don't want people saying, "Is that a coffin in the corner?", like they say when look at my wedding photos. Nothing was the way I wanted it – and I'm not just talking about the funeral – I didn't have any say in anything – But anyway, that was a long time ago, and it's Meg's turn now. And her wedding's going to be perfect – because my mother—God rest her soul, is gone—so she can't hijack Meg's wedding like she did mine!

AUDITION PIECE #3: ANGELA

(monologue: please memorise as much as possible, script in hand is acceptable)

I like Lucy, I really do, but she makes me feel like I'm the kind of person who buys all their clothes at Katies. I've bought maybe two skirts and one top there in 20 years. And so what if I bought everything there? What would it matter? And why am I talking about Katies, anyway...? Oh, I don't know... How can I explain a lifelong commitment to someone who doesn't want to understand? What could I say to her? That I look at John and I see my home? It sounds too cutesie for words, but it's true. I've always felt like that. Ever since we met. I was only 17, and he was my first-ever boyfriend - well except for Barry O'Brien, but that doesn't really count because he only touched my breasts twice and I cried afterwards. Anyway, the point is, Meg's ecstatic. And Lucy expects me to just turn around and destroy that for her, without knowing any of the facts? I won't do it.

AUDITION PIECE #4: LUCY

(monologue: please memorise as much as possible, script in hand is acceptable)

Go on, look at me like that if you want, but I'm just trying to be a good friend here. It's not like I'm *enjoying* this – it's not like I'm rubbing my hands together with glee, going, "Great, a chance to chuck Meg's heart in a blender!" Hardly... I can think of more fun ways to spend a day, believe me – but real friends *tell the truth*. End of story. If you ask me – and I know you didn't – weddings suck. And I'll tell you why. Because they force decent people to lie. I mean, who can *honestly* say to another person, "Yes, I know for certain that I'll forsake all others for the rest of my life"? Jesus, if I saw James right now... Why ask Meg to marry him if he can't even keep his dick in his pants while they're *engaged*...? Men have done terrible things to me, but I've done awful stuff to them too. I've been unfaithful to boyfriends on [*thinks*] three... no, technically four occasions, and I'm proud of that. But you know what else? I have *never* been unfaithful to a *friend*. Because friendship's too important to stuff around with. I've never kept a friend in the dark – and wedding or no wedding, I'm not about to start.

AUDITION PIECE #5: NAOMI

(monologue: please memorise as much as possible, script in hand is acceptable)

I had to walk down to reception in my undies, because I was too scared to go back in there and ask for my clothes... and you know what? Even though I felt so guilty and so ashamed, I still found myself thinking, "Thank god I didn't wear that old blue bra and the baggy Cottontails". Does that make me a bad person? Oh, I don't know. Maybe I already was. When I was a teenager I never thought I'd have an affair with anyone's boyfriend... let alone a friend's boyfriend... let alone a friend's fiancé... But things seem really simple when you're young – everything's so black and white. But as soon as life gets interesting it starts to turn grey. I didn't know he was Meg's fiancé when I met him. I was drunk, and he was cute and what happened happened. And I kind of convinced myself – and him – that it was cool, that I could handle it, I just wanted some fun with no strings attached... and then, well, then I got Meg's wedding invitation – and that's how I found out it was him.

AUDITION PIECE #6: JAMES

(monologue: please memorise as much as possible, script in hand is acceptable)

Why can't women keep a secret?! I mean, why is it absolutely fucking necessary to tell each other absolutely fucking *everything*?! What was Naomi thinking?! She said she just wanted a bit of fun, and then on my fucking *wedding day*, this! If I'd known that she felt like that I would've broken it off with her months ago – well, probably. Oh shit, probably not. But I just – I just [*he tries to calm himself*] Look – sex and love are separate things. Well, they *can be*, that's all I'm saying. This thing with Naomi – ok granted it wasn't an ideal situation – but it didn't have to impact on what I had with Meg. That was the deal. It was a *separate* arrangement. [*beat*] I just wish women would say what they mean. You know – plainly, clearly state what they want instead of expecting you to be fucking psychic. Meg's got this t-shirt from the Warner Bros store in New York, and it's got a picture of Superman on it. He's wearing this perplexed expression and he's saying, "You want me to leap tall buildings *and* be sensitive and supportive?!" That's how it is with women. Anyway I know I'm trying to change the subject. The fact is, I've been acting like a prick. I've hurt Meg. And I hate that.