



## Audition Notice

### THE BOOK OF WILL

*By Lauren Gunderson*

**Directed by Julie Bray, Produced by Jason Sharland**

<b>Venue:</b>	Windsor School of Arts, 381 Lutwyche Rd, Windsor
<b>Performance dates:</b>	19, 25, 26 Oct, 1, 2, 8, 9 Nov - Evening show 7:30pm, call time 6pm 20, 27 Oct, 3, 9 Nov - Matinee show 2:00pm, call time 12:30pm
<b>Rehearsals:</b>	Starting Monday 29 July Mondays & Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30 pm Sundays 1:30 - 4:30 pm

## Audition Details

<b>Date:</b>	Sunday 9 June, 2024
<b>Times:</b>	1.00pm
<b>Callbacks:</b>	Thursday 13 June, 6.00pm

- **Check the dates.** If you cannot make any of the performance dates or critical rehearsals, please **do not audition**. Unavailability at certain points during the production may not be critical, but we can avoid awkwardness and additional work if people provide info at this early stage.
- **Complete the Audition Registration Form** to register your interest with your name, phone number and role/s you're auditioning for. Email [production@growltheatre.org.au](mailto:production@growltheatre.org.au) with a recent headshot and an acting resume/outline.
- **2 prepared** pieces are required for the audition - both of 1-2 minutes. One comedy piece and one excerpt from Shakespeare. There may also be cold reading i.e. to read sections of the play without preparation.
- If you are unable to attend the audition, but are keen to be involved, please complete the form and email us. We will see if we can accommodate you. Obviously, being present in person is preferable.

**Membership fees:** If you are cast for a role, you will need to become a financial member of Growl Theatre for the remainder of 2024, which is \$30 per calendar year.

**Other Costs:** Growl Theatre will provide the vast majority of your costume. Depending on the role, the cast may be expected to purchase smaller items such as socks, stockings, gloves etc. Cast will be required to bring their own makeup basics (including foundation, eyeliner etc)

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

Performance Address: Windsor School of Arts, 381 Lutwyche Rd, Windsor, Qld, 4030

# SYNOPSIS

First produced in 2018, *The Book of Will* tells the story of the compilation of most of Shakespeare's plays in a single volume, *The First Folio*. This was an inspired project undertaken by Shakespeare's friends in the years following the playwright's death in 1616.

An historical comedic drama, the play portrays the families of John Hemings and Henry Condell, the two actors who led the work, and their relationships with the renowned actor Richard Burbage, Shakespeare's rival Ben Jonson, and the publishers William and Isaac Jaggard. The play opens a window on a remarkable historical chapter when Shakespeare's work was saved for future generations. Amidst the noise and colour of Elizabethan London, finds an unforgettable true story of love, loss, and laughter, and sheds new light on a man you may think you know.

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## CHARACTERS

### IMPORTANT NOTES

- *Apart from those playing John Heminges and Henry Condell, several actors will be required to take on other secondary/minor roles.*
- *Ages are guidelines for the playing age, not the actor's age. There may be some accommodation for the actors cast with overlapping roles.*
- *A neutral accent will be required for all characters.*
- *While remaining 'true' to the era and settings, cast diversity is encouraged and supported.*
- *It will be an advantage to be familiar with the story of the publication of the First Folio.*
- *We are looking to have understudies if possible for key roles and these will be allocated by invitation after the play is fully cast. These understudies will most likely be drawn from the main cast but may also be undertaken by those who play a role in the transitions of this play and/or double as Stage Crew.*

### PRIMARY ROLES

- **Henry Condell:** 40; Feisty and hopeful, charismatic and confident, Shakespeare's friend, and actor in the King's Men.
- **John Heminges:** 50; *THIS ROLE HAS BEEN PRECAST*  
Reasonable and serious, Shakespeare's friend, and financial manager of the King's Men. He is a good man, a gentleman, and owner of the Globe Tap House.
- **Richard Burbage:** 50s; A seasoned lion of the stage, loud and proud, and famous across England.
- **Elizabeth Condell:** 30s; Savvy and fun, intelligent friend, wife to Henry.
- **Alice Heminges:** 32; John's daughter and alewife, knows everyone, and hangs with the boys.
- **Rebecca Heminges:** 50; John's wife, Rebecca is strong, busy with their grocery business, and a woman who has weathered much but loves her husband, her sons, and God. She is a good wife.

- **Ben Jonson:** 47, Poet laureate of England and friend/rival of Shakespeare, Ben is an amazing drunk, comically pompous and playfully arrogant, surprisingly weepy.
- **Ed Knight:** 30s, "Stage manager" for the King's Men, Ed is self-serious and particular.
- **Ralph Crane:** 30, Humble scrivener of the King's Men, quiet and introverted, but also quick and sure with a surprising confidence.
- **William Jaggard:** 51, Successful if shady publisher of books, plays, and playbills, William is confident in his ability to get what he wants. He is very experienced, very connected, willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done, but an ass.
- **Isaac Jaggard:** 24, William's son, Isaac will inherit the business. He is sensitive, an artist at heart.

## SECONDARY/MINOR ROLES

- **Marcus:** 20; Printer's apprentice at the Jaggard print shop, Marcus is nosy but honest.
- **Compositor:** 20, Works for Jaggard, young, arranges the type for printing.
- **Emilia Bassano Lanier:** 50; A fiery Italian feminist and poet, an independent woman, and a lover of life (and of Shakespeare).
- **Sir Edward Dering:** 60; A book and theatre lover.
- **Anne Hathaway Shakespeare:** 60; Shakespeare's now ailing wife, Anne is strong-willed, a classy lady, a survivor.
- **Susannah Shakespeare:** 30; A good girl, serious, well-behaved and daughter of Shakespeare.
- **Boy Hamlet:** A young actor.
- **Two Barmen:** Drunk ruffians.
- **Crier:** A newsboy.
- **Fruit Seller:** in the streets/marketplace
- **Bernardo, Francisco, Horatio, Marcellus**

# Rehearsal Schedule

## Pre-rehearsal meetings

- **Monday 17 June, 6pm - 10:00pm - First meeting of cast and crew.** First read through and costume measurements.
- **From 18 June - Costume fittings.** Individual actors (or groups) may be called in for fittings at mutually agreeable times for both actors and costume team
- **Sunday 14 July, 1:30-4:30pm - Workshop.** Read through and character discussion plus costume fittings as required

JULY						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
29	30	31				
AUGUST						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
SEPTEMBER						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
OCTOBER						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 - Evening	20 - Matinee
21	22	23	24	25 - Evening	26 - Evening	27 - Matinee
28	29	30	31			
NOVEMBER						
				1 - Evening	2 - Evening	3 - Matinee
4	5	6	7	8 - Evening	9 - 2 shows	BUMP OUT
	No rehearsal	Rehearsal	Critical Rehearsal		Performance	

***Please note:** While every step will be taken to ensure a happy and safe production on these dates, the ongoing presence of COVID in the community may mean the production could be delayed or postponed.*