

**BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF
MA BAKER'S TONIC
AUDITION INFORMATION PACK**



DATES: 21 to 29 May 2021

PERFORMANCES AT: Benalla Town Hall, Nunn Street

**Links to audition materials, including character
dialogue are available through the Benalla Theatre
Company website**

www.benallatheatrecompany.org.au

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ABOUT BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY

Benalla Theatre Company is a non-professional theatre company based in Benalla, Victoria. In 1985 the Benalla Drama Club and the Benalla Light Opera Company amalgamated creating our vibrant company.

In those 35 years **BTC** has produced musicals and plays for people from not only our area, but across the state. The group has also presented theatre restaurants, street performances, concerts and revues.

Over the years our Company has been and is fortunate to have many talented people amongst its members, not only in the acting, singing and dancing areas, but in those of set building, costume construction and props making. We value and are enriched by their contributions.

The future for **BTC** is to continue to entertain our audiences with quality theatre productions and community performances as well as allowing members to grow in self-confidence and theatre skills.

We look forward to being a part of the Benalla and district community for many years to come.

OUR LEADERS FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Director Molly Craig

Musical Director Elaine Heywood

Both women are experienced in their craft, with Molly having directed 14 shows for the company and Elaine waving the baton for over 30! Both providing excellent leadership and guidance as well as teaching the music, choreography and acting for productions. Both are looking forward to this year's production of Ma Baker's Tonic and to working with the cast.

WHO TO CONTACT

Production and Audition Enquiries

Emily Watt – 0400639536

BTC General Enquiries

benallatheatrecompany@gmail.com

BTC Website

www.benallatheatreco.org.au

We also have Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages – so please like and follow us!

SHOW DATES AND VENUE

All performances at Benalla Town Hall, Nunn Street, Benalla

7 shows over 2 weekends

Friday 21 May at 7.30pm – cabaret style seating
Saturday 22 May at 2.00pm – theatre style seating
Saturday 22 May at 7.30pm – cabaret style seating
Sunday 23 May at 2.00pm – theatre style seating
Friday 28 May at 7.30pm – cabaret style seating
Saturday 29 May at 2.00pm – theatre style seating
Saturday 29 May at 7.30pm – cabaret style seating

SYNOPSIS

This very funny, theatre restaurant style show is set in the roaring twenties in Chicago. Ma Baker's Tonic begins with the arrival of the infamous Raffia Gang, led by Ace and followed by Fingers, Crusher, Poile and Moitle, a bumbling and ineffective bunch of gangsters who want a piece of the action.

The action moves to Ritzy's a night club, where the cleaners and waiters are preparing for opening time. Nora's the owner of Ritzy's is followed by Officer O'Riley who arrests her for killing her husband. With Nora taken off to prison, the running of the night club is left to Nick, Nora's right hand man and Lily, Nora's daughter.

The Raffia Gang turn up at Ritzy's to raid the club and the people of their money. With Prohibition in place, Ritzy's sells illegal alcohol to its patrons. We meet Fred, the club's resident "dancer" and Irma an innocent young woman, who comes to audition to sing at Ritzy's.

Ma Baker, who supplies the moonshine, appears at Ritzy's with her daughters Blossom and Pearl with their latest batch. The Purity League Ladies follow soon after. They are prim and proper, led by Miss Fit, who are totally against liquor, gambling, short skirts and shimmying. They have a noser, Tiddly who sniffs out the alcohol and when O'Riley arrives they insist he close Ritzy's Nightclub down.

Act Two sees O'Riley arriving at the home of Ma Baker, where they try to stop him from closing down their still, telling him its their livelihood. O'Riley explains that if they hide the still, then he won't be able to find it to shut it down. The Raffia Gang turn up and steal the still from Ma Baker, but when they see O'Riley he and Ma use some persuasion to get them to hide it instead.

Back at Ritzy's, Lily and Irma wait for Nick, who has been taken away for tax evasion. The Purity League Ladies arrive with an order signed by the Governor to close Ritzy's down. When Nick returns, he, Fred and the ladies reenact the story of how he was set free.

Ma Baker decides to put her moonshine into medicine bottles and label it 'CyMa Baker's Tonic' and gives the ladies a taste with funny consequences. All is wrapped up with true love happening for three couples and the Purity Leagues Ladies no longer as opposed to liquor as they once were!

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER 15

Please note from the synopsis above that Ma Baker's Tonic is set for the vast majority of the show in a night club. This means that there are no roles specifically for children. There would be the opportunity for children to be involved in one or two scenes and songs, but not across the whole show.

Each person under 15 who auditions will be looked at as to how they could fit into the show. Please discuss this with your child and don't hesitate to contact our Secretary Emily Watt on 0400639536.

CHARACTERS

Characters

At Ritzy's Night Club

Nora – hearty, hard-bitten owner of the Ritzy Nightclub

Officer O'Riley – soft-hearted, likeable Irish cop

Nick – worldly, attractive rogue. Nora's right-hand man

Lily – sophisticated, ladylike, cool. Nora's daughter

Irma – well bred, wide-eyed innocent who becomes more sophisticated.

Fred – a wimp in wolf's clothing. Outwardly suave but afraid of women.

The Raffia Gang

Ace – gang boss, cocky, cool!

Crusher – likeable, not-too-bright gang member. Slow, deep laugh.

Fingers – Italian member of gang, snazzy dresser, uses stiletto as nailfile.

Poile – dumb, dead=pan. High-pitched voice, one of the gang.

Moitle – another gang member. One degree brighter than Poile.

Hillbilly Family

Ma Baker – a rootin' tootin' hillbilly, brash, energetic, friendly.

Blosson – Ma Baker's unsophisticated girl unspoilt by city ways.

Petal – Ma Baker's other unsophisticated daughter unspoilt by city ways.

Purity League Ladies

Prim and proper ladies, all well-starched and well-padded. Exaggerated characters.

Miss Fit

Maude

Rita

Enid

Tiddly

Aggie

Minor Characters

Irma's Father – city gent

Young Woman

Young Woman 1

Young Woman 2

Ensemble

Men and Women Chorus Members

Patrons of Ritzy's, police, cleaners, waiters

Audition Dialogue

If you wish to audition for a particular role, please go to the website link on the first page. If you are auditioning for a role not listed below, we will have you read one of the below as well. Please be prepared for us to ask you to read for roles you may not have listed. You do not need to know the dialogue of by heart, this just gives you the opportunity to be the best prepared you can be.

Ma Baker

Nick

Lily

Miss Fit

Ace

O'Riley

Audition Music

Everyone will need to sing with the piano. Please choose a piece of music that you know well and best shows your singing voice. Please understand that the pianist will not know every song written and that if you have a copy of the sheet music for them, then that will make it easier and better for you as well.

We will also have you sing with the piano to see how high and low you sing. This helps with casting of roles.

Audition Dance

The other part of the audition is to learn a small section of choreography. You will be taught the dance and then do the dance to music. This gives the director the opportunity to see how well you move and how quickly you can pick up the steps.

AUDITION DETAILS

Venue

Hut 64, Hangar Lane, BARC Hut Complex. This is in the area out behind BPACC. The Hut has our logo next to the door.

Audition Notes

- ❖ Please arrive for your audition at least 10 minutes before your time. Please make your way to the side entrance waiting room
- ❖ Bring your completed and signed audition form
- ❖ Links to the dialogue and this audition pack are available on the BTC website
- ❖ Auditions will be of 15 minutes duration
- ❖ Bring water to keep hydrated
- ❖ We know you'll be nervous, all those involved in the process will try and make it as painless and as we can. We want you to do the best that you can and we will give you every opportunity to do so.
- ❖ Before you book in for an audition make sure you have checked the performance dates and times to make sure you are available for all of them.
- ❖ There is a lot of information to take in – please take the time to read everything carefully so you can be as prepared as best you can be and therefore do the best audition you can.

DATES FOR INFORMATION NIGHT AND AUDITIONS

Information Night

There will be an **Information Night** on **Wednesday 3 February at 7.00pm at Hut 64**, Hangar Lane, BARC Hut Complex. This will give you some more information about the show itself, other jobs available for those not wanting to be on stage and go through a mock audition, so you will know exactly what you be doing and hopefully take away some of the nerves. This is a great opportunity to find out about the process and ask any questions you might have.

Dates and Times for Auditions

Individual auditions will go for 15 mins.

Sunday 7 February

2.30pm to 5.30pm – Time Slots: 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 5.00, 5.15.

7.00pm to 10pm – Time Slots: 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45.

Monday 8 February

7.00pm to 10.00pm – Time Slots: 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45.

REHEARSAL AND SHOW COMMITMENT

If your audition is successful and you become a part of the show, the production team and BTC Committee expect that everyone involved will be available for all scheduled rehearsals and performances from the date of their casting through until the final show. This is only fair to all other cast members. However, we understand that people will be sick from time to time or have special commitments, so please let the director, musical director know of any absences as soon as possible, don't leave things till the last minute. If you are going to be absent for a period of time (e.g. school holidays) please let the director know at the time of your audition, as this may affect casting decisions or may mean a change in the rehearsal schedule.

Rehearsals will be on Sunday and Wednesday nights beginning at 7.30pm and going through till around 10.00pm. They will begin on Wednesday 10 February where we will begin to learn the music for a few weeks before moving onto blocking (acting) and dancing. You will receive a full rehearsal schedule at our first rehearsal.

All cast members are required to help with Bump In (moving into the Town Hall) on Saturday 15 May and Bump Out (moving out of the Town Hall) on Sunday 30 May. Many hands make light work!

People will have to become paid members of the company to be involved in the show. The cost is set each year at the Company's Annual General Meeting which is held in early March.

THIS IS A LOT OF INFORMATION!

Please don't be overwhelmed by the amount of information here. The production needs to be organised well so that things can run smoothly. We look forward to having you come and audition to be on stage, or come and be a part of the many production roles (see on the audition form below). It genuinely is a lot of fun to be a part of a show and to all work together towards the performances, where our audiences definitely appreciate all the hard work we put in.

Please don't hesitate to call our Secretary Emily Watt on 0400639536 if you have any further questions before the Information Night and auditions. We look forward to having you join in the fun of Ma Baker's Tonic!

BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY
AUDITION SHEET "Ma Baker's Tonic" 2021

Personal Information:

NAME: _____

(If under 18) NAME OF PARENT / GUARDIAN: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **PCode:** _____

TELEPHONE: (home) _____ (mobile) _____

EMAIL: _____

GENDER (*circle*): M F **AGE** (optional): _____ **HEIGHT:** _____

Role/s Auditioning For:

LEAD: (Please Specify) –

FEATURED (Please Specify) -

CHORUS

Performance Experience:

VOICE TYPE (*circle*) if known: Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Have you been involved in any choir/choral work (*circle*)? Yes No

Do you read music (*circle*)?: Yes No A bit

Do you sing harmony (*circle*)?: Yes No A bit

PREVIOUS THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COMPANY / SCHOOL</u>	<u>SHOW</u>	<u>PART</u>

PREVIOUS DANCE EXPERIENCE:

Other Areas of Interest:

Please circle if you are interested in helping with any of the following areas (include parent / guardian if applicable):

Production Management

Stage Management

Front of House / Ushering

Advertising / Promotion

Set Building / Painting

Costume Sewing

Sponsorship

Program

Ticket Selling

Other - please provide details: _____

Conditions and Acknowledgements:

I AGREE to accept the decisions of the Audition Panel which decisions are final and binding. I acknowledge that the decision of the Panel will not be given at my audition, I shall be informed by email, no correspondence will be entered regarding the decision-making process. I acknowledge that if selected it is a condition of participation in **MA BAKER'S TONIC** that I will become a member of Benalla Theatre Company and that I will comply with the Benalla Theatre Company Child Safe Policy.

*I agree to become a member of **Benalla Theatre Company**, if I am successful in my audition and **WILL PAY** my membership fees. I will attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Further, I attest that the information that I have provided is true and correct.*

Signature of Auditionee

Date:

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S CONSENT FOR AUDITIONEES UNDER 18

I give permission for my child to audition for **MA BAKER'S TONIC** and I acknowledge and accept the above conditions.

I consent to my child performing in the **MA BAKER'S TONIC** if selected.

I acknowledge it is my responsibility to ensure my child attends rehearsals and performances as required for this production.

I acknowledge that I have accessed on the BTC website, read and understood the Benalla Theatre Company Child Safe Policy and that I will comply with its terms.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date: