

**BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY'S 2022 PRODUCTION
AUDITION INFORMATION PACK**

**MAMMA
MIA!**

DATES: 20 to 28 May 2022

PERFORMANCES AT: To Be Determined

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

www.benallatheatrecompany.org.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
About Benalla Theatre Company	3
Leaders for this Production	3
Who to contact	3
Show dates and venue	3
Mamma Mia! synopsis	4
Characters	5-7
Ensemble	7
Children involvement	7
COVID compliance	7
Character audition dialogues	8
Audition music and dance	8
Audition details	8
Info Night and Audition dates and times	9
Rehearsal and Show commitments	9
Last bit of information	9
Audition Form	10-11

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 36 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 Mamma Mia! 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 to be determined

7 shows over 2 weekends

Friday 20 May at 7.30pm – theatre style seating
Saturday 21 May at 2.00pm – theatre style seating
Saturday 21 May at 7.30pm – cabaret style seating
Sunday 22 May at 2.00pm – theatre style seating
Friday 27 May at 7.30pm – theatre style seating
Saturday 28 May at 2.00pm – theatre style seating
Saturday 28 May at 7.30pm – cabaret style seating

SYNOPSIS

Act One

On a small Greek island, we meet Sophie as she sends off three envelopes in the mail. She announces the names of the men they're addressed to - Sam Carmichael, Bill Austin, Harry Bright. Lisa and Ali, Sophie's friends, arrive and reveal that Sophie's wedding is tomorrow. Sophie confesses to them that she's invited her father to the wedding...or at least the three men who could possibly be her father. After going through her mother's diary from the year she got pregnant, Sophie has determined that Sam, Bill, and Harry are the candidates to walk her down the aisle.

Donna, Sophie's mother, greets her lifelong friends Tanya and Rosie, who have just showed up for the wedding. The trio used to perform as the group Donna and The Dynamos. Running the Taverna, an inn on the island, Donna laments constantly working.

Sam, Harry, and Bill arrive at the Taverna. Sophie greets them, shocked to see them all there. Sophie admits to them that she was the one who sent the invitations. Just as Sophie is about to take them to their rooms, Donna comes out and sees them all there. Once she sees Sam, she is overcome with mixed emotions.

At Sophie's "hen night", Donna, Tanya, and Rosie perform in their old costumes as Donna and The Dynamos. Sam, Bill, and Harry show up, and Sophie lets them join the fun. Sophie gets a moment alone with Sam, who asks her why she's invited him to the wedding. Sophie, unable to tell him the truth, dances with Harry and tells him she does not know who her dad is. Bill gets to dance with Sophie, who tells him that his great-aunt Sophia was the one who left Donna the money for the Taverna in her will. Once Bill learns how old Sophie is, he has an epiphany. Bill tells Sophie to come clean to Donna about trying to find her father. Sophie tells him she's tired of secrecy. She asks him to give her away at the wedding and to let it be a surprise for Donna. Bill agrees.

Sky and his stag party return and join Sophie's bachelorette festivities. Sam takes Sophie aside and declares that he will give her away, clearly convinced he's her father. Harry then takes Sophie aside and claims that he will be the one to give her away. Overwhelmed, Sophie breaks away from the dance in a state of shock.

Act Two

The curtain comes up on Sophie having a nightmare about her anxiety over her three prospective fathers and wakes up in distress. Donna thinks Sophie is upset because she secretly wants to call the wedding off. Sophie fires back that she would never want to raise a child without a father figure and storms off. Donna is left alone, feeling hurt and full of regrets. Sophie finds Sky and confesses to him about her plan to bring Sam, Bill, and Harry to the wedding. Sky accuses her of using their wedding as a ploy to find her father and walks off.

Sam explains to Sophie that he left Donna to get married and have kids, only to end up divorced and remorseful for settling down too young. Sophie, convinced that her love for Sky is stronger, leaves him to find Sky. Harry finds Donna and offers her a check to help pay for the wedding. They reminisce about their time together years ago. Sophie enters with her wedding dress and asks Donna to help her get ready. Sophie asks Donna to be the one to give her away.

Donna walks Sophie down the aisle. As the ceremony is about to start, Donna announces that Sophie's father is present but doesn't know which man he is. Sam, Bill, and Harry are bewildered. Harry says he is overjoyed to be one of Sophie's three dads and admits to Donna that he is now in a committed relationship with a man back home. Sophie proposes to Sky that they not get married and instead go see the world. With a priest still present, Sam proposes to Donna, who accepts. There ends up being a wedding after all!

CHARACTERS

Characters

Principals:

Donna Sheridan - The owner of the Taverna on the Greek island of Kalokairi; Sophie's mother. She is the former lead singer of "Donna and the Dynamos. Honest, straight and hard-working, she is the most naturalistic and vulnerable of the characters. Delivers some of the biggest solos in the show. (The Winner Takes it All, Slipping Through My Fingers, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Money Money Money, among others.)

Gender: Female

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: A5

Vocal range bottom: E3

Sophie Sheridan - Donna's headstrong daughter, Sophie is determined to have what her mother never had: a traditional family and a father to walk her down the aisle. Young, bright and energetic, she has lived all her life on the island and is ready to leave. (I Have a Dream, Honey Honey, The Name of the Game, Lay All Your Love on Me, Under Attack, among others)

Gender: Female

Age: 20 to 25

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: F#3

Tanya Cresham-Leigh - One of Donna's oldest and best friends. Wild, fun-loving and a big character, she flirts mercilessly with young men, happy to play, but not to stick around. (Chiquitita, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Does Your Mother Know, among others)

Gender: Female

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: E3

Rosie Mulligan - Donna's friend a former member of the Dynamos; unmarried, free-spirited and a renowned author of cookbooks. A character who has developed a confident, funny and self-deprecating exterior which masks her inner vulnerability. Mostly comic, yet one of the most poignant moments in the show in the heart of Act 2. Dances like nobody's watching. (Chiquitita, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Take a Chance on Me, among others)

Gender: Female

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: E3

Sam Carmichael - One of Sophie's potential fathers and a wealthy architect. Sam has regretted leaving Donna all his life and now finds himself divorced and back in her presence. He is straight-laced, confident and composed. At times he is perhaps a little over-bearing, but he is determined not to mess up the second chance he has been given... a very true and honest character within the chaos. (S.O.S., Thank You for the Music, Knowing Me Knowing You, among others)

Gender: Male

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: Ab4

Vocal range bottom: D3

Bill Austin - Another of Sophie's potential fathers, a well-known travel writer, Bill has visited the far reaches of the earth, but never found what he's really looking for. A real character, Bill has generally avoided the complexities of a relationship and now wonders if it's too late. Lots of comedy and a golden heart within. (Thank You for the Music, The Name of the Game, Take a Chance on Me, among others)

Gender: Male

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: F#4

Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Harry Bright - Another of Sophie's potential fathers and a respected London banker. Once a head-banging, partying musician who went down the straight road - at least with his career. He is quirky, in the closet and something of a romantic nostalgist. A nice guy, determined to make up for some past regrets and full of singing. (Thank You for the Music, Our Last Summer, among others.)

Gender: Male

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: F#4

Vocal range bottom: C#3

Featured:

Sky - Sophie's fiancé; a former stockbroker who moved to the island in a young version of a mid-life crisis. He is older than Sophie, but smitten by her exotic charm. Perhaps he is too eager to please and has not quite found all the answers he had hoped for on the island. (Lay All Your Love on Me, among others)

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 30

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: Eb3

Lisa - Sophie's friend who has travelled to the island for the wedding. A bubbly, bridesmaid a double-act with Ali, full of excitement (Honey Honey, among others)

Gender: Female

Age: 20 to 25

Vocal range top: Db5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Ali - Sophie's friend who has travelled to the island for the wedding. A bubbly, bridesmaid, a double-act with Lisa, full of excitement (Honey Honey, among others)

Gender: Female

Age: 20 to 25

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Pepper - A flirty waiter at the Taverna featured through his brief relationship with Tanya. Energetic and fun-loving, makes a great double-act with Eddie. Opportunity for a good mover. (Take a Chance on Me, among others)

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 25

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: A4

Eddie - A waiter, boatman and handyman at the Taverna. Other half of double-act with Pepper. Fairly non specific. Opportunity for a young character actor to create something interesting. (Full Company numbers)

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 30

Fr Alexandrios – The minister who officiates Sophie’s wedding. Often a Greek Orthodox priest, this is a potentially delightful little role for a character actor of non-specified gender with some imagination. A nice little turn in Act 2 for someone who doesn’t want too much to sing. (Finale Numbers)

Gender: Male/Female

Age: older

Ensemble

There is a lot for the ensemble/chorus to do as people who work on the island and are wedding guests – they are involved in most of the big numbers in the show and in the various scenes in both acts of the show – lots of fun!

Children involvement

The company is happy to have persons from the age of 12 and up audition for the show. Know that the show is set around a weekend before a wedding and includes scenes as Bachelor and Hen Parties. Thus, it will be up to the Director’s discretion as to whether children will be involved in some scenes due to the nature of the dialogue and songs. Though younger children may not be involved in every chorus number, there is still plenty for them to be a part of.

COVID Compliance

BTC are compliant with the Victoria’s Roadmap: Delivering the National Plan.

We want to let you know that you will need to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to be involved in the production, either onstage, backstage or in the orchestra. This allows us to have as many members as possible in the cast and we would like and for us to have maximum numbers in the audience for each performance.

Please note that restrictions can change at a moment’s notice, and we must comply with those changes.

Masks must be worn to rehearsals, plus social distancing and COVID cleaning at the end of each rehearsal.

Know that all this is done to keep your fellow BTCers safe and the audiences as well.

Audition Dialogue

If you wish to audition for a role, please go to the website link on the front page of this pack, which will take you to the pages on our website. Please be prepared for us to ask you to read for roles you may not have listed. You do not need to memorise the dialogue, this just gives you the opportunity to be the best prepared you can be.

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 **Thursday 27 January 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 30 January

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 31 January

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 2 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 venue) on Saturday 15 May and Bump Out (moving out of the venue) 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 feel free to call our Secretary Emily Watt on 0400639536 if you have any questions before the Information Night and auditions. We look forward to having you join in the fun of Mamma Mia!

BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY
AUDITION SHEET Mamma Mia! 2022

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 **MAMMA MIA!** 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 **MAMMA MIA!** and I acknowledge and accept the above conditions.

I consent to my child performing in the **MAMMA MIA!** 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:
