

AUDITION PACK



We are unbelievably excited to bring the jukebox musical, "Rock of Ages", to the stage in Spring 2024 and are looking for a Company, all over the age of 16 by the 20th March 2024, who want to perform some anthemic songs, with loads of comedy, a little bit of heartache and, basically, WHO WANT TO ROCK!!

To give you an idea about the production, the characters, the production team and the plans, we thought we would put together this audition pack to give you all the essential information that you need as you decide whether to audition.

The Story

It's the late 1980's, California; an era of big characters, short skirts and screaming guitars where, "if you had a dream, a fifth of Jack and a decent amount of hair, there was nowhere else to be". Sherrie, a small town girl, heads to the bright lights of LA to pursue her dreams of acting stardom. She meets Drew, a bartender at the Bourbon Room, a bar on the Sunset Strip, who also has dreams to be a rock star.

German Developers Hertz and Franz Klineman have also come to LA, with the idea of bulldozing the Strip (including the Bourbon Room) to make way for a new shopping mall, much to the disgust of Dennis (the Bourbon's owner) and Lonny (the resident sound engineer and narrator of the show). The Klinemans encounter the resistance of Regina (the Mayor's former planning officer) who wants the strip to retain its hedonistic lifestyle.

Add Stacey Jaxx, lead singer (and lead misogynist) of the band Arsenal and Justice Charlier, owner of the "Venus" 'gentleman's' club to the mix, along with a collection of rockers, strippers and lovers of LA nightlife and you have the recipe for a love story gone wrong all set to a soundtrack of some of the best known rock songs from the era. Will the Bourbon survive its European invasion? Will Sherrie and Drew get together or will Stacey kill off love's young dream? All this, and more, are answered in the 2 and a bit hours of "Rock of Ages".

Creative Team

We have a six person production team for this show. Paul Wilson is directing/producing with Lucy Worthington as his Co-Director. This is the third show that Paul and Lucy have worked on together following "Murder Ballad" and "Six: Teen Edition". Paul has been directing shows at NK and elsewhere since "Return to the Forbidden Planet" back in 2007. Since that time, Paul has directed a variety of musicals including "Rent", "Avenue Q", "Chess", "Sweeney Todd" and "Bad Girls" as well as occasionally appearing on stage. Lucy has been a member of NK for EVER and has appeared in numerous plays and musicals as well as leading the Access programme at NK. She has been part of the production team for "Six", "My Fair Lady" and "Murder Ballad" in preparation for her first directorial role with "Bad Girls" scheduled for next year.

Providing the music that is so essential to this production, we have Ceri Graves as Musical Director, assisted by Scott Mitchell. Ceri also MD'd on "Murder Ballad" and "Six" with Paul and

Lucy, but is a familiar face at the Forum having also recently MD'd for NK's productions of "Shrek" and "School of Rock" along with numerous productions for other groups in the Manchester area. Scott has played for a whole variety of productions at NK and elsewhere, bringing his music degree skills to theatres and bands across Manchester. Having spent years playing for different shows, Scott decided that 2023 was the year he was going to step outside his comfort zone, initially taking a leading role in "Educating Rita" at the Forum and then stepping up to assist Ceri with all aspects of the music for "Rock of Ages".

Last (but by no means least), Choreography is being handled by Dawn Wrigley, assisted by Rivkah Kneen. Dawn needs no introduction having been involved with NK since she was knee high to a grasshopper! Dawn has choreographed, directed and appeared in plays and musicals throughout her time with NK, recently taking temporary retirement from choreography - however the temptation of "Rock of Ages" was just too great! Rivkah is also a long term member of NK having appeared in productions including "Blood Brothers", "The Rock n' Horror Graveyard Show" and "Rent" alongside performing locally with other societies and groups. Additionally, Rivkah choreographed "Quadrophenia" and "School of Rock", both for NK Theatre Arts. Rivkah has previously run her own street dance company and continues to teach dance on a freelance basis.

The Cast

Drew - Male lead. Playing age between 18 and 30(ish). Vocal Range Bb3-D5. A failed rock star who is currently working as an occasional bar back and toilet cleaner at Dupree's Bourbon Room. Drew is a romantic lead with big songs who needs a very strong rock vocal with a powerful top end and the ability to dance.

Sherrie - Female lead. Playing age between 18 and 25(ish). Vocal Range G3-F5. Aspiring actress from a small US town who has moved to the big city to make it big. Sherrie is the other romantic lead who has to have a strong rock vocal and strong dance abilities. Additionally, as Sherrie takes a job at the Venus Club, you must be comfortable appearing on stage in underwear and participating in both 'sexy' and 'strip club' dances.

Lonny - Male lead. Playing age between 25 and 40. Vocal Range D3-D5. Lonny is the sound engineer at the Bourbon Room but also serves as narrator for the production. He needs a strong rock vocal and exceptional comic timing. Lonny breaks the 4th wall repeatedly and addresses/interacts with the audience directly throughout the show.

Dennis - Male supporting. Playing age 45+. Vocal Range D3-G4. Dennis owns the Bourbon Room. He is an ex rocker who is still living his best rock life running the club. Solid vocals and good comic timing are essential. Dennis is a real character role.

Justice - Female supporting. Playing age 40+. Vocal Range G3-Db5. Justice owns the Venus strip club and is 'madam' for a whole club full of strippers. It's likely that Justice was a former

stripper who has left that life behind but now runs the club. Solid, soulful vocals coupled with strong stage presence, as Justice needs to be able to command the stage.

Stacee - Male lead. Playing age 30-40. Vocal Range C3-Eb5. Stacee is a rock star and the lead singer of Arsenal. Think Axel Rose meets David Coverdale. Huge confidence, big rock vocals, massive stage presence - Stacee is cocky, over confident, a womaniser who is entirely self-centred.

Regina - Female supporting. Playing age 20-35. Vocal Range A3-Eb5. Regina is a hippy. Probably vegan, probably supports animal rights, likely to be a Democrat and definitely would have been at Woodstock if she was old enough. She starts the show as the Chief Planning Officer working for the Mayor, but after the Mayor sells out the strip to the Germans, she leads the protest movement against the flattening of the strip. Good comic timing with a good vocal, Regina needs to be a strong dancer who is not afraid to appear on stage in lycra. A real character role.

Hertz - Male supporting. Playing age 45+. Vocal range F3-G#4. Hertz is a German businessman who is all about flattening the strip to push forward the development of a shopping mall. He is conservative, probably Republican (if he was American) who has no time for anything other than money (including his son, Franz). Obviously, needs a German accent with a good vocal.

Franz - Male supporting. Playing age 20-30. Vocal Range Db3-E5. Franz is Hertz' German son who is as camp as Disney at Christmas (but he's not gay, he's just German). A good comic role that needs to bounce well off Regina. Franz also has a big musical/dance number where he will also end up in lycra(!) and, potentially, needs to have an excellent high range vocally.

In addition to the principal roles, the following cameo parts will be cast from within the Company: Mayor, Waitress No. 1, Constance, Ja'Keith, Joey Primo, Father, Mother, DJ, Producers. And, absolutely, we need a Company of waitresses, bar staff, rockers and rock chicks, police, construction workers, strippers...this is a busy show for the Company – there ain't much sitting around!

The Production

Obviously, with all the uncertainty around the Forum reopening, we have discussed whether this production will go ahead or whether there is a risk that it will be put on ice. **We understand that "Rock of Ages" will definitely go ahead either at the Forum or at an alternative venue.** At the moment, we are scheduled to open on March 20th with playing dates of the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd March. However, we are also investigating the availability of other venues locally in the event that we have to move the show elsewhere. As soon as we know more information around this, we will let people know. For now, we are pressing ahead on the basis that it will go ahead on the dates specified at the Forum theatre.

Rehearsals

We are planning to rehearse on Monday, Thursday and Sunday throughout the period from November to March. Not all cast members will be required to attend all rehearsals, although we would hope to be running the show (or at least acts) by mid to late February. As soon as we are cast, we will get everyone together to do a read/sing through of the show where we will also aim to give out rehearsal schedules through to New Year. Wherever possible, we will try to schedule rehearsals well in advance so that people have plenty of notice around when they will be required.

Costume

Rather than charge show fees or rehearsal subs, we will expect that cast members will produce most of their own costumes for the show. Where there is a need for specific costume pieces, we will make arrangements to get hold of those. In most cases, costume will be 1980's rock based, so jeans, leather, boots, denim skirts, fishnets etc. We will distribute costume thoughts early in the rehearsal process so that people know what they are looking for. **It is essential that any band t-shirts or other t-shirts that are identifiable (films for example) are era relevant and do not post-date 1988.** If there are any queries about costume, please speak to the production team before acquiring costume pieces.

Please also be aware that it was absolutely normal for girls in the 1980's rock scene to wear short/skimpy/minimalistic clothing - and that is firmly rooted in this show. If you are uncomfortable with minimal clothing, this might not be the show for you! Dawn and Rivkah will also be picking a team of strippers from the company who will be expected to wear underwear in all scenes set in the Venus club. If you are not comfortable with this, please make this clear on the Expression of Interest Form.

Auditions

In order to audition for Rock of Ages (whether as a principal or a member of the Company) we would ask that you complete the expression of interest form by following the link below **by no later than 12pm on Sunday 12th November 2023:**

[Rock of Ages Expression of Interest](#)

We are holding a group session on **Thursday, 16th November in Studio 2 from 7pm to 10pm.** At this session you will be taught a section of the harmonies from "Here I Go Again" (Whitesnake) along with choreography from the same number which we will then ask you to perform for the production team. We have attached the lyrics for this number at the end of this Audition Pack and split it between male and female voices. To assist you, the soundtrack is available on both Spotify and YouTube (please look for the Original Broadway Cast Recording

and NOT the movie version). The section we are doing runs from approximately 1:35 into the number through to the end.

We will then have separate principal auditions for the roles identified above on **Sunday 19th November in Studio 2 from 4:00pm onwards**. At the principal auditions we will ask you to perform a section of one or two songs relevant to the character being auditioned for and a section of lib with either a member of the production team or with another auditionee. Dawn and Rivkah also want to audition their 'Strippers' using a section of "Pour Some Sugar On Me" (Def Leppard) on **Monday 20th November in Studio 2 from 8:30pm onwards**.

To help you prepare for the principal auditions, the songs we will be asking you to perform are:

Drew - "I Wanna Rock" and "Waiting For A Girl"
Sherrie - "I Hate Myself For Lovin' You" and "Harden My Heart"
Lonny - "Cum On Feel The Noise"
Dennis - "I Can't Fight This Feeling Any Longer"
Franz - "Hit Me With Your Best Shot"
Hertz - "We Built This City"
Regina - "We're Not Gonna Take It"
Stacee - "Wanted Dead or Alive"
Justice - "Every Rose Has It's Thorn" and "Pour Some Sugar On Me"

We ask that EVERYONE (whether principal auditionee or company auditionee) is in attendance on the 16th. Once you have completed the expression of interest form, we will email you back with relevant lyrics/lib and, in the case of principal and stripper auditions, a time for Sunday 19th.

Any questions, please contact a member of the production team:

Paul - Paul@nktheatrearts.org.uk

Dawn - Dawn@nktheatrearts.org.uk

Ceri - Ceri@nktheatrearts.org.uk

Lyrics for the Group Audition on the 16th November
Here I Go Again - Whitesnake

MEN (UNISON)

JUST ANOTHER HEART IN NEED OF RESCUE
WAITIN' ON LOVE'S SWEET CHARITY

WOMEN (UNISON)

AND I'M GONNA HOLD ON
FOR THE REST OF MY DAYS

MEN (UNISON)

'CAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS
TO WALK ALONG THE LONELY STREET OF DREAMS

ALL (UNISON)

HERE I GO AGAIN ON MY OWN
GOIN' DOWN THE ONLY ROAD I'VE EVER KNOWN
LIKE A DRIFTER I WAS BORN TO WALK ALONE

WOMEN (UNISON)

AND I'VE MADE UP MY MIND, OH YEAH
I AIN'T WASTIN' NO MORE TIME

MEN (UNISON)

AND HERE I GO AGAIN

WOMEN (UNISON)

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA
HERE I GO AGAIN

MEN (UNISON)

HERE I GO, HERE I GO, HERE I GO AGAIN
OH YEAH, YEAH, HERE I GO

ALL (HARMONY)

HERE I GO AGAIN ON MY OWN
GOIN' DOWN THE ONLY ROAD I'VE EVER KNOWN
LIKE A DRIFTER I WAS BORN TO WALK ALONE

WOMEN (UNISON)

AND I'VE MADE UP MY MIND

MEN (UNISON)

I AIN'T WASTIN' NO MORE TIME

ALL (HARMONY)

HERE I GO AGAIN ON MY OWN
GOIN' DOWN THE ONLY ROAD I'VE EVER KNOWN
LIKE A DRIFTER I WAS BORN TO WALK ALONE
'CAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS
TO WALK ALONG THE LONELY STREET OF DREAMS
HERE I GO AGAIN.