Love is in the Air

Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre, November 1-10, 2019
“Fabulous, feel-good, funny!”

Albatross Musical Theatre Company invite performers to audition for *Strictly Ballroom the Musical*, on stage in the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre from November 1-10.

Baz Luhrmann’s classic Australian film is transformed for the stage to celebrate the dance and song, power and passion, glitz and glamour of 1980’s suburban Sydney.

Leap with us, tongue-in-cheek, into this iconic tale loaded with foot-stomping Latin dance, uplifting pop songs and outrageous characters. *Strictly Ballroom* is a crowd-pleasing riot of colour and joy.

“The story that inspired the world to dance.” *Strictly Ballroom* is produced by the Albatross Musical Theatre Company and follows 2018’s highly acclaimed seasons of *Les Miserables* and *Mary Poppins* - plus WICKED, on stage in July 2019.
REHEARSALS

Monday and Wednesday (with some additional Sundays) starting July 1.

Rehearsals run from 7:00pm-10:00pm. You may only be required for a part of this time and that will be noted on the Rehearsal Schedule.

A rehearsal schedule will be published one month in advance - please note this is subject to change. Rehearsals will primarily be held at the Nowra School of Arts and “The Shed” in Bomaderry.

It is essential that all cast are available for rehearsals and preparations during “Tech Week” from October 27-30. October 31 is for rest prior to opening night.

SHOWTIMES

Six performances: Evening November 1, 2, 8 & 9, Matinees November 3 & 10
If you are successful in becoming a part of this production, you will be required to become a financial member of Albatross Musical Theatre Company. Payment is due at our first rehearsal.

- Adults $20
- Children/Students $10
- Family $40

Cast and crew t-shirt orders will happen early during rehearsals with a price TBA. Cast T-Shirts are optional.

_According to our child-safe policy, everyone aged 18+ involved in an AMTC production MUST have a current and valid Working With Children Check._
Producer - Ben May
Director - Cat Holloway
Musical Director - Olivia Corish
Choreographer - Kate Brumerskyj
Stage & Set Manager - Greg Lloyd
Production Assistant - Marie De La Torre

Lighting Design & Engineering - Matt Mack
Sound Design & Engineering - Brendan Vitiello
Costume Manager - Nicki Simmons
Hair, Wigs & Make-up - Angela Brookes
Props Manager - Alaska Turner
We will also seek backstage production assistants, set movers, dressers and seamsters.

Angela will work with a team of apprentices on hair, make-up and wigs.

We plan to feature orchestra on-stage in this show.

If you are interested in joining the backstage crew, contact our Producer, Ben May, at strictlyballroom@amtc.org.au
Strictly Ballroom The Musical is the uplifting story of a skilled but rebellious young dancer trying to find and follow his own beat. It’s the story of a shy and bullied girl becoming a confident, expressive woman. And it’s the story of their parents learning to let go and enjoy their children’s self-discovery.

Ultimately Strictly Ballroom is a modern fairytale about love flourishing in the hearts of those who are courageous and true to themselves.

The musical features songs from the film including "Love is in the Air", "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps" and "Time After Time", as well as new songs from internationally acclaimed artists and composers Sia, David Foster and Eddie Perfect.

“A life lived in fear is a life half lived”

Dance is the heart of this show with principal personalities and a high-energy ensemble performing traditional waltz, cheeky cha-cha, sexy tango and the signature Spanish Paso Doble.
"It is a rare treat to be working on a show where our cast aren't portraying beggars on the streets of Paris or farmers in the cornfields of Oklahoma, but are creating something truly Australian. The enormous success of this show with our audiences has been a huge thrill and surprise, and I think the key to that success is in the show's 'Australian-ness'. It resonates with audiences, and allows us to laugh at ourselves and love ourselves in equal measure. For our company and theatre-goers alike, it certainly has been a fun and totally joyous ride."

Belinda King, Encore Theatre Company, Launceston
We will hire custom-designed *Strictly Ballroom* costumes from Melbourne’s CLOC theatre for our show. These costumes are so detailed, sumptuous and coordinated that they are almost characters themselves.
The Cast

Triple-threat (sing-dance-act) performers for principal and ensemble roles. Note age guides on character list. Two junior roles 10-13 yrs - one boy, one girl.

Ballroom experience is preferred and general dance training is an advantage, but being expert is not essential. All cast must enthusiastically engage in “Ballroom Bootcamp” during the early weeks of rehearsals. Tara Morice, who played Fran in the film, was an actress, not a dancer. Tara took 6 weeks of intensive Latin and Ballroom training before dancing with Paul Mercurio!

Since rehearsing a dance and song number is not possible while clutching a script, performers will need to memorise their lines by week 5.
Auditions

WHERE: Nowra School of Arts

WHEN: Sat June 15, 10-5pm, Weds June 19, 7-10pm, Sat June 22, 10-5pm
Callbacks - Weds, June 26 if required.

WHAT: All auditionees must book a solo vocal audition spot and participate in one of the scheduled 2-hour dance workshops. Those interested in a principal character will also read dialogue from the script provided 30 minutes prior to your audition time.

WHO: 14yrs+ or 10-13 for junior roles.

HOW: Audition schedule and bookings are open online at amtc.org.au
Vocal Auditions

All auditionees must prepare a pop or contemporary musical theatre song of your choice (not from the show) in your preferred key which demonstrates your vocal range & ability, connection with the lyrics & character.

Bring a backing track on USB to use for your audition. No backing vocals on backing track. Live accompaniment will not be provided and no a cappella auditions.

The show contains three songs from the film – “Love is in the Air” (John Paul Young), “Time After Time” (Cyndi Lauper) and “Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps” (the Doris Day version). New songs by Eddie Perfect, Sia, David Foster and others are in styles including Latin-based disco/pop, rock and contemporary folk ballads – so a song in any of those styles would be fine for audition.

**AUDITION HINTS!**

➢ Choose a song that displays the vocal range required of your character/s
➢ Consider the accent and class of your character (Australian, British, Spanish)
➢ Dance moves are not necessary during the vocal audition
"Strictly Ballroom" - Vocal Ranges

- Barry: C
- Scott: G
- Shirley: F
- Doug: E
- Lee: D
- Liz: C
- Ken: B
- Kit: A
- Kylie: G
- Luke: F
- Frank: E
- Rico: D
- Aruela: C
- Tina: B
**SCOTT HASTINGS:** Male, 16-30. Acting age 19-21. Athletic and charismatic, but arrogant and ambitious. Scott defies the dancing establishment to display his own unique style of dance, alienating family and friends along the way. Formal dance training preferred and open to learn Ballroom and Latin. Confident high baritone singing voice and convincing actor. Australian accent, not broad. Romantic lead experiencing first love.

**FRAN:** Female, 16-30. Acting age 19-21. Eventual love interest of Scott, Fran’s persona dramatically transforms from timid to tenacious. She supports Scott’s independence with devotion and determination. Spanish heritage/look but Australian accent. Strong pop/musical theatre singer and dance training advantageous. Sympathetic heroine.
**Principal Characters**

**SHIRLEY HASTINGS:** Female, Acting age 50ish.
Scott’s long-suffering Mum with a secret backstory and an obsession with her son’s success. Wiry, brittle, ex-champion dancer. A bully and a battler. A crucial, conflicted and challenging acting role with strong vocal and some dance ability required. Who is behind the practiced smile and heavy make-up? Belt low F to D

**DOUG HASTINGS:** Male, Acting age 50ish.
Scott’s brow-beaten, nervous, socially inept Dad. This quirky, instantly sympathetic and ultimately outrageous role requires a brave actor who moves and sings (baritone) with ease. Executes unusual solo dance moves but formal dance technique not required. Good comic timing essential. Tragic clown. Pathetic or heroic?
**BARRY FIFE: Male, Acting age 50ish**
The President of the ‘Federation’, Barry is an autocratic, bombastic manipulator who tries to expel Scott from competition dancing. Sweaty, villainous narcissist with a sleazy edge. Strong vocals and acting but no formal dancing required. Baritone to F.

**LES KENDALL: Male, Acting age 50ish**
Dignified, patient owner of Kendall’s Studio and mentor/teacher to young Scott. Song and dance man with camp, theatrical quality and immaculate appearance. Toes the Federation line. Les and Shirley were dance partners in the past, still close friends. Acting ability essential with dancing and baritone vocal also required.

**JJ SILVERS: Male, Acting age 30+**
Competition Master of Ceremonies. Prominent throughout show with much dialogue and song, some cheeky interacting with audience, possibly some ad-libbing. Showman quality. Warm and funny, talk-show host demeanour. Baritone to F.
Principal Characters

**RICO: Male, Acting age 40s**
Fran’s Spanish father. Tyrannical and fiery but protective of his daughter. Powerful, raw presence (not necessarily size) and Latin dance sensibilities. Brooding, unkempt and strong. Inspires Scott to dance the true ‘Paso Doble’. Spanish accent and language required. Some vocals, not solo.

**ABUELA: Female, Acting age 60+**
Fran’s Grandmother. Show-stealing character role for a singer/dancer. Need to speak some Spanish with authentic, traditional Flamenco demeanor. For Abuela, the dance comes from the heart before the feet. She and Fran mourn for Fran’s mother and clearly have a deep, loving bond. Abuela’s call for courage is the story’s key theme. Mezzo belt, to A.
Principal Characters

TINA SPARKLE: Female, Act 30ish

LIZ HOLT: Female, Act 20s
Scott’s Ballroom/Latin partner. High-maintenance, Queen Bee with a penchant for tantrums and screeching demands. Must dance, sing and act. Ruthless, volatile and ambitious with some great lines! Also ensemble.

VANESSA CRONIN: Female, Act 20s
Liz’s “best friend” and handmaiden. Sweet, attractive but not too sharp. Strong dancer and actor. Must sing. Also ensemble.
Principal Characters

KEN RAILINGS: Male, Acting 30ish
An ageing, over-rated show-off dancer. Desperate to hold his title, despite being perpetually drunk, Ken beats Scott by sticking to the ‘rules’. Singing, dancing and strong acting essential. Also ensemble.

WAYNE BURNS: Male, Acting 20s
Scott’s mate and fellow competitor. Athletic dance skills and vocal ability. Frustrated at always being second to Scott, Wayne seeks the trophy not the art. Follows instructions not intuition. Aussie-bloke, car mechanic who maybe should have chosen AFL instead of ballroom. Also ensemble.
**KYLIE HASTINGS: Female 10-13yrs**
Scott’s sister. Must sing and be a strong dancer, ballroom training a bonus.

**LUKE: Male, 10-13yrs**
Kylie’s ballroom dance partner. Must sing and dance well, ballroom training a bonus.

**FEATURED CHARACTERS (from ensemble)**
Pam Short: Ill-fated Ballroom dancer
Natalie: Fran’s dance partner
Clarry: Beginner dancer at Kendall’s Studio
Charm: Federation District Co-ordinator. Barry’s steely, well-groomed, loyal partner
Nathan Starkey: Retiring “Golden Boy” of ballroom, wannabe Landscape Gardener
Terry: Tina Sparkle’s coach
Merv: Federation official.
Strictly Ballroom is a joyful story with a big heart. We seek an ensemble of 8-10 dancer/singers plus 16 principal performers who embody that warm energy and can connect with a wide variety of styles of music and movement. The most important qualities we are looking for at auditions is courage, individuality and enthusiasm.

“A life lived in fear is a life half-lived.”