
2020 PRODUCTION HANDBOOK



After the smashing success of SPAMALOT in 2019, Ringwood Secondary College is delighted to perform the totally awesome 80's comedy – **THE WEDDING SINGER**.

This show has never been staged at Ringwood Secondary College and we are beyond excited to introduce students and the entire school community to the totally radical world of the 1980's.

ABOUT THE SHOW

The play takes the original film and turns it up several notches, bringing jazz hands, bedazzled jackets, and rapping grandmothers for a performance that is over-the-top and knows it. Herein lies the great beauty of musical comedy – if you take it too seriously, you miss the point.

The musical revolves around the troubles of Robbie Hart, front man of a wedding band and hopeless romantic. When his fiancée Linda leaves him at the altar, he's left disillusioned and cynical, botching gig after gig until he falls for Julia, who is engaged to the unsavoury Glen. Overdone rom-com clichés follow, accompanied by riotous musical numbers, and yet it works. The overall effect is a romantic parody, where every character is a caricature, but somehow it convinces the audience to play along and root for Robbie and Julia.

Overall, with its toe-tapping original score, its smooth choreography, and delightfully self-deprecating comedy, this is the definition of a feel-good musical. Its cheesiness and tendency for cliché remind us that 'The Wedding Singer' practically invented the tropes of the rom-com. From the love triangle, to the staged kiss, to the balcony serenade, it's as cheesy as they come, and yet it works. This is one musical that must not be missed.

BROADWAY

The stage musical version of *The Wedding Singer* had its world premiere on 8 February 2006 and ran for 284 performances. It was directed by John Rando, with choreography by Rob Ashford, and featured Stephen Lynch as Robbie and Laura Benanti as Julia. The show was nominated for 5 Tony awards including Best Musical!

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The Wedding Singer takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room. Based on the hit Adam Sandler movie, The Wedding Singer's sparkling new score does for the '80s what Hairspray did for the '60s. Just say yes to the most romantic musical in twenty years.

It's 1985, and rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favourite wedding singer. He's the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. As luck would have it, Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark, and, unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever.

THE AUDITION PROCESS

General Audition and Dance Call

The Wedding Singer features a large chorus with many featured roles for actors who sing, and dancers who act.

Auditions for cast are open to any student of Ringwood Secondary College in 2020.

The cast size is capped according to the dimensions of the stage, costuming and administration requirements. Therefore, the audition process is competitive. Auditions are conducted individually and in front of a panel of production team members as appointed by the director. Casting decisions are entirely at the discretion of the production team and are made in accordance with the specific requirements of the show.

Students must select and prepare one song from the list on the next page. For each song, the music and backing track excerpt to be used in the audition can be found on the AUDITIONS page of the production website sometime after **Tuesday January 29, 2019**. (Keep checking back – it might take a while to compile. A Facebook notification will go out when it is ready.)

Students will also be asked to complete a ‘cold read’ of some dialogue from the show. You will be asked to read the dialogue in an appropriate American accent as the show is set in USA. The dialogue will not be made available before the audition date.

In addition, students will be asked to create an **impersonation of a celebrity** for the audition panel! Please make sure it shows off your comedy style and is appropriate for a school context.

You may choose to impersonate:

Tina Turner

Elvis

Cindi Lauper

Billy Idol

Imelda Marcos

Mr. T

Students must sign up for a general audition slot on one of the following afternoons:

- **Tuesday February 11 between 3.30pm and 7pm**
- **Wednesday February 12 between 3.30pm and 7pm**

Signing up is an online process and must be completed through the website:

www.rscproduction.com.au/auditions.html

****In addition to the general audition, there will be a **compulsory** dance call for all students on **Friday February 14 from 3.30pm until 5.30pm**. The Wedding Singer is a heavy dance show and all prospective leads, principal dancers and ensemble members **MUST** attend regardless of previous dance experience or ability.

Please note that anyone who attends the dance call only, without signing up for a main audition (or vice versa), cannot be considered for a position in the cast.

Audition songs for females**	Audition songs for males**
<i>Someday</i>	<i>It's Your Wedding Day</i>
<i>Let Me Come Home</i>	<i>It's All About the Green</i>
<i>Saturday Night in the City</i>	<i>Casualty of Love</i>
<i>In Front of Your Eyes</i>	<i>It's Your Wedding Day Finale</i>
<i>Not that Kind of Thing</i>	<i>George's Prayer</i>

All candidates will be considered for all roles, irrespective of their song choices at auditions. However, it would make sense to choose a song that gives an indication of your desired role or highlight your performance/vocal strength. **You may sing a song written for either gender.

Callback Auditions

Following the general auditions, some students will be invited to a subsequent callback audition at lunchtime on **Tuesday February 18** and on **Tuesday February 18** from 5.30pm – 9.30pm. There will be two sessions. **Session 1** will run at lunchtime. **Session 2** will run from **5.30pm until 9.30pm**. As always, no inference about casting decisions should be drawn from whether or not students are invited to this audition. Also not all roles will be called back. Some roles will be double cast if the audition panels see fit. Please do not assume all roles will be double cast.

Additionally, there will be an 'Advance Dance Callback' on **Monday February 17** at Lunchtime. This will be organized by request only.

Cast Announcement

The cast for 2020's production of **THE WEDDING SINGER** will be published on the website at 5pm on **Wednesday February 26th**. Those who auditioned unsuccessfully will be afforded priority in joining other areas of the show. We may choose to double cast some principal roles, but this should not be taken as a given.

CASTING REQUIREMENTS – THE WEDDING SINGER

The Wedding Singer musical is a show with a stunning array of lead roles, cameos, acting roles, dance parts and terrific ensemble participation. Prospective auditionees are expected to do some research into the show, its characters and potential interpretations. There will be a pre-audition info session on **Thursday February 6th** at lunchtime where new and returning students can have all their questions answered.

The Production Team encourages everyone to relax and do their absolute best in the audition. However, they are also on the lookout for candidates who can demonstrate that they have considered possible interpretations of character and song.

THE WEDDING SINGER CHARACTER LIST (in order of appearance)

Robbie Hart: The lead singer of a band. He is a charismatic character, not at all arrogant. A truly 'nice' guy that has the classic lead singer aura and personality. Also, a bit of a dreamer. In love with love until Linda leaves him at the altar and breaks his heart.

Sammy: The bass player in the wedding band and one of Robbie's best friends. A total guy's guy, but beneath his pretending to love being a bachelor he is actually in love with Holly.

George: The wedding band's keyboardist and one of Robbie's best friends. Sensitive and somewhat flamboyant. The foil to Sammy's super guy attitude.

Julia Sullivan: Waitress. The pretty "girl next door" in looks and personality. Engaged to Glen but falls in love with Robbie and is conflicted as to who to choose. Empathetic, caring, and brave.

Holly: Julia's cousin, very uninhibited and forward with comedic timing. Sexually promiscuous and always up for a good time, but wants to be loved and is looking for romantic fulfillment in all the wrong places. She is in love with Sammy. Based on Madonna of the 80's.

Glen Guglia: Julia's fiancé. A Wall Street broker. He is rich, shallow, and materialistic. Constantly tries to buy Julia's love with money. He is a bit of a womanizer. A very slimy guy.

Rosie: Robbie's grandmother who raised him. Motherly but adventurous and always trying to remain "hip" despite her age. Comedic Timing. Can Rap.

Linda: Robbie's fiancé who leaves him at the altar. Keeps Robbie around as a back-up plan. Is more in love with the idea of Robbie being a rock star than she actually is with Robbie. Trashy, oversexed. Pat Benatar type.

Harold and Debbie Fonda - the first bride and groom in the show.

David Fonda - drunk brother of the groom at the first wedding; gives the worst speech ever.

Priest - Priest at Robbie and Linda's wedding

Angie - Julia's mom. Divorced and still bitter about it. Good singer required.

Crystal and Mookie - a stereotypical Jersey guy and girl. Mookie is very macho and Crystal loud and pushy. Crystal should be a good singer

Tiffany and Donnie - another couple who gets engaged at the restaurant. Tiffany should sound like Janice from "Friends".

1st and 2nd Waiters - Waiters at restaurant where Glenn proposes to Julia.

Donatella and Shane McDonough - bride and groom at the second (disastrous) wedding. Donatella speaks in an obnoxious baby-talk voice.

Donatella's Mother - A very assertive woman.

Bad Haircut Guy, Sideburns Lady, Loser Guy, "Large Lady" - solo lines in the song Casualty of Love

Sales Clerk - works at the mall. Good singer.

Glen's Secretary, Junior Secretary, Second Suit - work at Glen's Wall Street office. Obsessed with making money.

Ricky - the bartender. Good singer.

Bum - hangs out at the bar. Good singer.

Agent - works at the airline counter

Impersonators

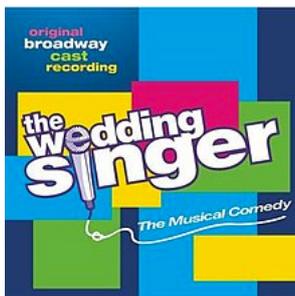
• Billy Idol • Cyndi Lauper...good singer • Mr. T • Elvis • Tina Turner....good singer • Imelda Marcos

If you can perform any of the Impersonator roles, be prepared to do it at auditions.

Wedding Singer Dance Troup

Ensemble - plays wedding guests, suits, shoppers at the mall, dancers at the club, etc.

RECOMMENDED RECORDINGS



There is only ONE official cast recording of The Wedding Singer, the 2006 Original Broadway Cast (available on Spotify). **PLEASE NOTE:** There are several songs that include language on this recording that will not be performed on the Ringwood stage.

The recording (available on iTunes and Spotify) is good to listen to, however, remember that it won't necessarily match up exactly with what we are going to ask you to perform. Nonetheless, it is essential listening for anyone intending to join the cast and familiarize themselves with the show. There are also several clips on YouTube that you could gain inspiration from.

NATURE OF THE COMMITMENT

Before choosing to audition, it is important to understand the nature of the commitment required. Accepting a position in the cast implies a commitment to the time and cost involved.

TIME

Review the 2020 Production Calendar at the beginning of this document. There is an expectation that everyone is available for the call times as published on this schedule. We are always flexible when appropriate notification of absence is communicated well in advance. Any potential conflicts must be addressed and resolved immediately.

It is a student's responsibility to organize work, sport, dance and other commitments around our schedule, particularly in Term 2 and 3. Failure to honor these commitments or notify of absence in advance is disrespectful to the company as a whole.

There is a further expectation that all cast members will prepare fully for each rehearsal and practice their songs, lines and routines on a regular basis.

Regular rehearsals will happen on Tuesday afternoons from **3.30pm until 6.30pm**. **Please note that leads will be required to remain behind till 7.30pm for some additional rehearsal after this. Decisions about this will be finalised early in Term 2.** Weekly schedules will be published in advance, and it may be possible that some cast will finish slightly earlier on some weeks. However, we need everyone to be available up until **6.30pm**.

Additionally, there will be lunch time rehearsals for lead roles and specialist dancers (**on Mondays and some Tuesdays**). These will be run to give the attention and focus that a lead role requires.

COST

Cast members are responsible for the following costs:

- Production Levy (Cast) – this raises money to offset costs associated with costuming, props, the Production T-Shirt, one copy of the **souvenir DVD** (either Friday or Saturday night), copying of rehearsal material and afternoon tea at regular rehearsals.
 - \$90 per cast member
 - \$75 per cast member if more than one from the same family (includes a second DVD per family)
- Production Camp – compulsory for all cast and orchestra (July 15-17)
 - \$240-\$265 per student – cost to be confirmed in Term 1.
- Other expenses may include some basic cast supply personal costume requirements.
- For The Wedding Singer cast members will be asked to supply one costume for a specific scene that will be cheaply sourced from home, an op-shop or similar.

PRODUCTION LAUNCH AND PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

In 2020 we will be holding a compulsory PRODUCTION LAUNCH and Parent Information Evening on **March 10 6.30pm – 7.30pm**. Rehearsals will have run a week prior with introductions and music being learned. This will be the official launch of the company for THE WEDDING SINGER and is designed to kick start the production. There will be a performance by the cast and scripts will be given out. In addition to dealing with the basic information and questions we will ensure that all administrative matters are completed. Opportunities for parent involvement will also be outlined.

EXTRA pARTS

Extra pArts aims to support the Performing Arts program of Ringwood Secondary College by providing practical assistance where possible. It encourages parents with an interest in the Performing Arts and the RSC program to contribute their time and skills in an informal, supportive and social environment.

All parents are welcome to assist, the only requirement will be attending an OHS Training session, which is a DET regulation and also supplying to the College a copy of a Working with Children's Card.

The major operation for this group is in the costume room and there is always demand for anyone who has some time to volunteer. Sewers are particularly encouraged to lend a hand, but all help is valuable and any skills are welcome. We also provide backstage and front of house assistance during the season.

Parent representatives will speak at the Information Evening about how much fun it is to be involved. Certainly, we cannot succeed as we do without this valuable support.

MARKETING AND TICKET SALES

Tickets for THE WEDDING SINGER will go on sale to members of the company and their families on **Tuesday May 12**. General sales will commence on **Tuesday May 19**. All sales will once again be funneled through the production website.

Marketing the show is the responsibility of every single cast member. To this end, each student in cast takes on the responsibility to generate **at least 20 ticket sales**. If this occurs, we can enjoy another successful season in sales and play to full houses every show. Promotional material is provided to support ticket sales and of course social media will help generate buzz around the show.

We will be running a competition for the most ticket sales by a student this year with the winner receiving a theatrical prize!

Thank you for your interest. We know it's going to be another radical year and this will be a totally tubular production. See you all soon.

Please visit www.rscproduction.com.au for more information.

Karl McNamara

Producer
Director

Jessikah Jemmeson

Choreographer/
Assistant Director

Gaynor Borlase

Choreographer/
Assistant Director

Michael Phillips

Producer
Chief Patron

Anmarie Stelfox

Production Manager

Vicki Quinn

Vocal Director

Dane Sorensen

Musical Director

January 2020