

ASPECT INC's 2023 production

STAGE DOOR

Key Information

Stage Door

by Edna Ferber, George S. Kaufman.

By arrangement with Music Theatre International Australasia Pty Ltd,
on behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director – Candice Mitrousis
Artistic & Assistant Director – Dean Mitrousis

Welcome to New York 1936! The scene is the boarding house of Mrs. Orcutt, where the hopes and ambitions of wanna-be actresses who have come there to pursue careers are hilariously revealed.

Performance dates 21st – 29th July 2023

At Shirley Burke Theatre
64 Parkers Rd, Parkdale

Auditioning for all roles

Auditions - Sunday 26th March from 2:30pm

To be held at:

ASPENDALE GARDENS COMMUNITY CENTRE
103-105 KEARNEY DRIVE
ASPENDALE GARDENS

To book an audition contact:

Candice Mitrousis
production@aspecttheatre.org.au

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About ASPECT Inc.

ASPECT's History

ASPECT Inc is a community theatre company providing opportunities for people of all ages to experience the thrill and enjoyment of amateur theatre. It was formed in 1998, with its beginnings originating in St Louis de Montfort Parish, Aspendale. A group of enthusiastic performers decided to put on a musical together and our initial production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' was born. Since then, the company has performed:

1999	'St Louis in Cabaret'
2000	'The Mikado'
2001	'Guys & Dolls'
2002	'Pirates of Penzance'
2003	'Godspell'
2004	'Sherwoodstock'
2005	'Bye Bye Birdie'
2006	'Sweet Charity'
2007	'South Pacific' – Our 10 th Anniversary Show
2008	'The Pyjama Game'
2009	'Oklahoma'
2010	'Cabaret'
2011	'Man of La Mancha'
2012	'Best Little Whorehouse in Texas'
2013	'Hairspray'
2014	'Blood Brothers'
2015	'The Wedding Singer'
2016	'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'
2017	'Into the Woods'
2018	'Beauty and the Beast'
2019	'Oliver'

Stage Door will be the first stage play produced by the company, and we are excited to present a new theatre experience.

Production Fee:

If successful in gaining a place in this production, you will be required to pay \$150 in Production Fees (payment plans, reduced fees & sponsorships are available). This fee covers items like, insurance, rehearsal materials, costumes, and refreshments. We know that it can feel expensive or excessive, and for some it will be, but we believe the value you will receive is much greater than \$10 per week.

About the Show

The scene is the New York City boarding house of Mrs. Orcutt which occupies an entire brownstone house in the West 50's in NYC. Here the hopes and ambitions of sixteen wanna-be actresses who have come there to pursue careers are hilariously revealed.

The play features the lives of young actresses as they try to make it on the stage in the world of Broadway in the 1930's. They all live together in The Footlights Club, a house exclusively for female performers, trying to negotiate the business of theatre. The hopes and ambitions of these sixteen young women are revealed in scenes of entertaining comedy. Contrasted with this are the cases of the girl without talent and the elderly actress whose days are over. The central plot has to do with courageous Terry Randall, who fights against discouragement to a position in the theatre. One of her fellow aspirants gives up in despair, one gets married, and one goes into pictures, but Terry, with the help of idealistic producer, David Kingsley, sticks to her guns. Other characters include Mattie, the maid; Frank her husband; a few young men callers; a movie magnate; and young Keith Burgess, the playwright who "goes Hollywood."

The show explores success, failure, love, comradeship, and perseverance. Emerging amid The Great Depression, this show serves as a love letter to the American Dream and the persistence of all starving artists.

Originally published in 1936. The 1938 movie based on the play starring Katherine Hepburn, Lucille Ball, Eve Arden, Ann Miller and Ginger Rogers, is similar, but there are many plot differences. A good study for style, tone, set, costumes, and characterization.

Show Break Down

ACT I

Scene 1- The Footlights Club (Main Room). Somewhere in the West 50's, New York.

Scene 2- One of the Bedrooms. A month later

ACT II

Scene 1- Main Room. (Same as Act I, Scene 1). A year later

Scene 2- Main Room, Two months later

ACT III

Scene 1- Main Room. A Sunday morning. The following season.

Scene 2- Main Room. Midnight. About two weeks later

Character Breakdown and Roles

Female Roles (21)

Terry Randall

Buoyant, vivid personality, not conventionally beautiful, but she gives the effect of beauty through her confidence and brains, a real actress determined to make it on “legitimate” stage and avoid Hollywood. (Katherine Hepburn in film.)

Judith Canfield

Hardened, wise-cracking, sarcastic, deadpan, smart. (Eve Arden in film.)

Jean Maitland

A beautiful girl in her 20's, charming, vivacious, a better actress off than on the stage, opportunist, goes “Hollywood”, good natured, charm and appeal for men. (Ginger Rogers in film.)

Kaye Hamilton

A fragile, wispy girl, new to the house, running away from abusive husband, broke, desperate, tragic, rooms with Terry and Jean.

Mary Harper (Big Mary who is ironically SHORT)

Petite, tiny, quick, funny, one half of a comic duo: best friends with Little Mary, bubbly, sense of humour

Mary McCune (Little Mary)

Tallest, almost a foot taller than “Big” Mary, funny, quick, one half of a comic duo – the two always together

Bernice Niemier

Tall, sultry, character actress, not the ingenue type, writes letters, an opportunist, wishes she were having more success, constantly asks questions, bit of a character.

Madeleine Vauclaine

A “languid beauty”, from Seattle, rather snooty looks through mail all the time, snappy, has dinner with boys from back home. (Lucille Ball in film, even though IMDB calls her Judith.)

Ann Braddock

Self-important, working in the theatre, an intellectual.

Linda Shaw

Sophisticated, beautiful, having an affair with a wealthy married man, spites her mother, demanding, occasionally cruel.

Bobby Melrose

A southern belle, bubbly, fun.

Louise Mitchell

Leaving the house to get married and moving home to Wisconsin, tries too hard to rise above it all, loves NYC.

Susan Paige

A young woman at the New York School of Acting, acting student by day; understudy by night, sweet, good natured.

Pat Devine

Well dressed, a nightclub dancer, nightclub dancer-does little dance steps throughout play, ambitious (Ann Miller in film.)

Kendall Adams

From prominent, wealthy, Boston family-as in John Adams (2nd President and Founding Father), well-bred, very blue blood, mid-Atlantic accent would be good here.

Olga Brant

Russian, concert pianist, intense, dark, bitter about having to play the Wintergarden, (would be helpful if actress could actually play).

Mattie

A maid, 30, matter of fact, accustomed, tolerant, snappy, hardworking

Mrs. Orcutt

The House Matron, 46, overdone, the past is alive for her, rounds up situations, serious when she needs to be, but also kind.

Mrs. Shaw

Linda's mother

Tony Gillette

Young actress who comes in last act

Ellen Fenwick

Young actress who comes in last act

Male roles (11)

David Kingsley

Older, handsome, charming, distinguished, a romantic, movie executive and theatre producer, dating Jean Maitland at first, but in love with Terry. Has values and intellect.

Keith Burgess

Brooding, self-centred, playwright who gives up his "art" for the \$\$ in Hollywood, a sell-out, unshaven, turtleneck, rebellious, Terry's long-time boyfriend, serious, passionate.

Dr Randall

Terry's father-small town doctor-kind and loving

Frank

Mattie's husband, kind, hardworking, respectful, kind to the actresses and all who enter the Footlights Club.

Sam Hastings

A young man dating Bobby Melrose, nervous at first, a young actor from Houston, 2 years in New York, Texan.

Jimmy Devereaux

A young man dating Susan Paige, a student at the New York School of Acting.

Fred Powell

An over hearty businessman, in town for a night, dating Madeline Vauclaine.

Lou Milhauser

An over hearty businessman, in town for a night, 2nd person on double date with Judith Canfield.

Larry Wescott

New York publicity man who follows Jean back to the club

Adolph Gretzl

Middle aged, President of a motion picture company, intense, demanding, a bit of a tyrant.

Billy

Photographer for Jean's publicity

Audition Information

A 10 min Audition will be booked on one of the sessions available.

Auditionees are asked to prepare a 1-minute monologue.
The monologue can be from film, television, theatre, or even a novel.

The monologue should be memorised, and you may be asked to perform the prepared monologue with varying emotions and accents.

Additionally, you will be asked to cold-read from a scene of the selected role/s you are auditioning for.

To book an audition contact:

Candice Mitrousis
production@aspecttheatre.org.au

Please bring the attached [audition form](#) with you on the day. Spare forms will be available at the venue.

There will be a read-through of the show in early March. If you are interested in auditioning and would also like to attend the read-through, please contact Candice via the details above.

Expectations

Commitment

It is expected that cast will be in attendance to all rehearsals as set in the schedule. All absences are to be known to the Production Manager and all prior known unavailability disclosed at auditions. It is the preference of ASPECT Inc. that cast only commit to one show per season to avoid rehearsal absences.

Rehearsals:

Will commence Wednesday 19th April 2023

There will be no rehearsals on Mother's Day – Sunday 14th May.

General Rehearsals

Wednesday Evenings, 7:30pm – 10pm - TBC (Likely in Chelsea)

Friday Evenings, 7:30pm – 10pm – TBC (Likely in Chelsea)

Sunday Afternoons 2:30pm – 5pm - Aspendale Gardens Community Centre

Rehearsal Weekend- Queens Birthday Weekend

Saturday 10th June, 10am to 4pm

Sunday 11th June, 10am to 4pm

A rehearsal schedule will be released at minimum two weeks in advance. There is a possibility that some cast may not be required at some rehearsals, but please plan to attend and be available for ALL rehearsals.

Company Information

All participants must agree to abide by the Aspect Inc policies and procedures.

Important Dates

Show Dates:

Friday 21st July, 7:30pm OPENING NIGHT

Saturday 22nd July, 2pm Matinee & 7:30pm Evening Performance

Sunday 23rd July, 4pm late matinee

Thursday 27th July, 7:30pm

Friday 28th July, 7:30pm

Saturday 29th July, 2pm Matinee & 7:30pm Evening Performance CLOSING NIGHT

Production/Tech Week

Sunday 16th July, Walk Through at theatre

Monday 17th July, Tech run (cast required TBC)

Tuesday 18th July – night off for all cast

Wednesday 19th July – Full Dress Rehearsal, 7:30pm. Call time 6:00pm

Thursday 20th July – Full Dress Rehearsal, 7:30pm. Call time 6:00pm

REHEARSAL CLUB, FOR LONELY GIRLS

Little-known Institution in Theatrical District Where They
Can Get Lunch, Tea, and Pleasant Surroundings.

AMONG the countless activities of our city, many progress quietly and unseen by most people. One of the latest additions to the list of praiseworthy projects that has as yet attracted little attention outside of the small circle of those interested is the Rehearsal Club at 218 and 220 West Forty-sixth Street, which on July 1 will open its doors to lonely girls in New York, in whatever walk of life they may be found.

It is difficult for a disinterested person to realize the vast number of business and professional girls who spend their time when not at work in a small furnished room, and alone. You will perhaps find on the wall a cherished picture of the old home, a little book on the crowded table given her months before by her mother, or a tiny locket carefully tucked in its place on the bureau, reminders of earlier girlish days before leaving home, that has brought her so many new viewpoints and produced an environment so different from her fancy. Only she could understand the meaning of each treasured article, and to her this small hall-room, such as it is, is home.

But its very solitude naturally brings a longing for companionship—for friends. The desire rises in her heart again and again to invite some one—any one—to join her in her humble surroundings, and she has but to look through her window to see the lights of Broadway reflected from some tall building and to hear the hum of its activities below and beyond, inviting her to join its gay and busy throngs. But she is unable to choose the very friends she craves because of pride and the inability to appear to the outside world as she had pictured herself in earlier girlish dreams.

Especially is this so in the theatrical district, the great White Way, about Forty-second Street, where one who resides in that vicinity is looked upon askance and oftentimes shunned. The new club is in the centre of this district.

It is to be a haven for these lonely girls. Those interested in the work hope that the standard of the whole neighborhood will be raised. The very houses which are to be the future home of the club were at one time considered among the most notorious in the city, and only a few months ago were raided by the District Attorney.

The club is not to be under the direction of a novice, but will be in charge of Miss Jane Hall, a deaconess of the Episcopal Church, who has had wide experience in this field. About ten years ago

Miss Hall founded the Three Arts Club for students of music, drama, and art in a small apartment on Lexington Avenue. She gave her entire attention to it, interesting many influential people, until now that club is in a most flourishing condition, has a splendid clubhouse at 340 West Eighty-fifth Street, with a capacity resident membership and many outside members.

Miss Hall will conduct the new club on quite a different basis from that of the older organization. Only a light luncheon will be provided there. There are to be no house guests, except in cases of extreme need, when girls will be cared for until they are again self-reliant. The buildings, which are four-story structures, are being entirely remodelled and improved. The first floor will be devoted to the offices. On this floor also will be the lunchroom, where any girl can get a good luncheon for a small price between the hours of 11 and 3.

The second floor will be devoted to the clubrooms, attractively fitted up with a library, music room, and lounge. Tea will be served here each afternoon from 4 to 7, and from time to time small social affairs will be given. Only the club members will have access to these rooms. New members are to be voted in by the girls, and small monthly dues will be charged. On the upper floors will be the few rooms reserved for the use of girls in immediate need.

Of course, the club does not hope to be self-supporting and will of necessity be maintained by subscription. Many prominent persons are interested in it, because of the great need for such an association, and every effort will be made to establish this worthy cause on a firm basis.

Among the Directors are Bishop Greer, the Rev. Ernest Stires, Mrs. R. Burnside Potter, Mrs. William Stoane, Mrs. Breck P. Trowbridge, Mrs. J. M. Varnum, Mrs. Thomas S. McLane and the Misses Susan D. Bliss, Jean Geer and Edith M. Kohlsaat. Thomas S. McLane is to act as Treasurer.

Audition Form
ASPECT inc.



OFFICE USE ONLY AUDITION NO

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____ **D.O.B.:** _____ **Height:** _____cm **Hair Colour:** _____

Character/s Auditioning For: _____

Will you accept another role? Yes No (please circle one)

Experience (please attach your resume and headshot)

Theatrical Experiences (most recent listed first)		
Company	Show	Performance

Please advise any dates you are unavailable for during the rehearsal and show season:

Are you currently rehearsing or planning to rehearse with any other production?

Yes/No, Where? _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____