



## AUDITION INFORMATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Tauranga Musical Theatre's audition pack for Hands on a Hardbody.

Please read all information carefully, particularly regarding rehearsals, show dates, and character descriptions.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

The production team are as follows:

**Director:** Daniel Pepperell

**Musical Director:** Emily Collier

**Choreographer:** Lianne Pepperell

**Production Managers:** Jeremy Sparrow and Charlene Kitching

## PERFORMANCE DATES

22 November 2024 to 7 December 2024

## SYNOPSIS

For ten Texans who are down on their luck, the chance at a new life is only fifty-some hours and a hardbody truck away. Based on the real-life "Hands on a Hardbody Contest," chronicled in the 1997 documentary Hands on a Hardbody, this all-American musical tells the story of a small-town Texas endurance contest, where the contestant who keeps their hands on a truck the longest, gets to keep the truck. With tuneful country-rock melodies and soulful lyrics by Phish's Amanda Green and Trey Anastasio, Hands on a Hardbody explores a diverse cross-section of a small-town Texas community and the trials they'll endure for a chance to win a Nissan hardbody truck. From Jesus-loving Norma Valverde and injured and out-of-work J.D. to boastful former winner Benny and hopeful dreamer Kelli, each character has their own vision for the realisation of their American Dream -- and they'll keep their hands on it as long as they can.

## WHAT IS A HARDBODY?

A compact pickup truck obsession took over the United States by the 1970s, and Nissan led the charge.

In 1987, they released one of their best-selling trucks, the **Hardbody**. The 6th generation model from the original Datsun 1000, the **Hardbody** is named after its double-wall bed and aggressive front end.

One of Nissan's most popular models to date, **Hardbody** trucks are still on the road today and are known for their reliability and endurance.

## INFORMATION EVENING

We will be holding an information evening in Westside Theatre (141 Seventeenth Avenue, Tauranga) at 6:30pm on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

## AUDITION DATES

Audition bookings will be opened on the information evening, and can be made online through the following link: <https://go.oncehub.com/TMTHandsOnAHardbodyAuditions>

Auditionees must be at least 16 years old to audition.

Auditions will be held as follows:

- Dance call: Saturday 17 August 2024 between 10:00am to 12:00pm (midday). All auditionees must attend. This will take place at Westside Theatre, Tauranga.
- Individual vocal auditions: Wednesday 14 August 2024 (6:30pm to 8:30pm) and Saturday 17 August 2024 (1:00pm – 3:00pm).
- Call backs (if needed): Saturday 17 August 2024 – from 3:00pm.

Vocal auditions will take place at Westside Theatre. Please enter through the green room door.

You will be auditioning before a panel consisting of the director, musical director, choreographer, and a committee representative from Tauranga Musical Theatre.

Please be prepared for the possibility of a call back (on the afternoon of Saturday 17 August 2024). Timing will be dictated by the total number of those auditioning. Getting a call back does not guarantee a role. Likewise you may be cast even if you are not called back. Please ensure that you have entered a contact telephone number on your audition application form where we can easily reach you during the audition dates.

### **PREPARATION FOR AUDITION**

Please prepare a song from the character you are auditioning for (see character song list and character description on next pages). If you are auditioning for multiple roles please learn a song for each one, however you may only be required to sing one of the songs. Backing tracks are provided with the character song list on the next page and these tracks will be provided at all auditions. If you would like to bring your own backing track please come prepared with it on a USB or on your phone. On the day, arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your audition time, already warmed up.

You will also be asked to do a reading for your character.

### **DANCE CALL**

All auditionees need to attend the dance call. Please wear appropriate fitted clothes and shoes to be able to dance in. You do not have to be a trained dancer. We are looking for how you move, take instruction, and if you can move to a beat.

Due to the competition portrayed in the show, a lot of dances are done while you keep one hand in contact with the Hardbody!

### **REHEARSAL DATES**

Rehearsals are likely to begin on Sunday 8 September 2024. This may depend on who is cast, and whether some that are cast are also in another production.

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday and Thursday nights and Sundays (afternoons).

The show runs from 22 November 2024 to 7 December 2024. You must be available for all evenings and weekends during this time, including pack out on 8 December 2024.

### **HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS**

We are currently looking for expressions of interest for Heads of Departments (and their teams).

### **PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS**

Your participation in this production requires your undivided commitment in order to ensure a production of the highest possible quality. You should not audition if you are unable to commit to the rehearsal and production schedule (subject to any involvement you may have in *Les Misérables*). If you have any other commitments (personal or work) that may impact on your ability to attend rehearsals, you must provide full

relevant details in your audition application. Not all performers will be required at all rehearsals, and rehearsals will be scheduled as carefully as possible to make the best use of your time.

### **CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Performers will be notified by email or phone of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible following casting. Feedback will not be given. A full cast announcement will be subsequently made on the Tauranga Musical Theatre media channels.

All cast and crew are considered to be goodwill ambassadors for Tauranga Musical Theatre and for the show and we expect all cast and crew to meet that responsibility both in person and online. There will be a closed group Facebook page which cast and crew are encouraged to join and actively participate in.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

All involved in this production will need to become a financial member of Tauranga Musical Theatre, and are required to agree and adhere to a code of conduct that covers health and safety, personal wellbeing, and responsibilities to fellow cast and crew members.

Please direct any queries that you may have to Jeremy Sparrow ([jsparrow@tmt.org.nz](mailto:jsparrow@tmt.org.nz)).

Tauranga Musical Theatre  
July 2024

## CAST LIST / CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

(Ages are portrayed stage ages)

**JD DREW: Male, 60 (Range: Baritone, G2-D4)**

A "good old boy" with pomaded grey hair and a high wattage grin.

**KELLI MANGRUM: Female, 22 (Range: Mezzo-Soprano, A3-E5)**

A pretty brunette with steel ambition.

**BENNY PERKINS: Male, Mid 40's (Range: Tenor, C#3-G#4)**

Lanky frame, weatherbeaten face, ingratiating grin and lots of homespun philosophy.

**GREG WILHOTE: Male, Early 20's (Range: Tenor, D3-B4)**

A freckled white kid in a baseball cap.

**JESUS PENA: Male, 20's (Range: Tenor, E3-B4)**

A driven Mexican kid.

**CHRIS ALVARO: Male, 20's (Range: Tenor, Ab2-Ab4)**

Well-built under his hoodie, a pair of aviator glasses conceal his eyes.

**RONALD MCCOWAN: Male, 35 (Range: Tenor, F3-B4)**

A good-natured African-American with a slight Louisiana accent.

**HEATHER STOVALL: Female, 29 (Range: Mezzo-Soprano, A3-D#5)**

A flirtatious blonde restaurant hostess.

**VIRGINIA DREW: Female, Mid 50's (Range: Mezzo-Soprano, G3-C5)**

A one-time beauty settling into middle-age.

**MIKE FERRIS: Male, late 30's (Range: Tenor, Eb3-Bb4)**

Boyishly handsome, wears a cheap tie with a Nascar clip.

**CINDY BARNES: Female, 34-50 (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible)**

Former Miss Gregg County, still fond of pageant hair and pastels.

**NORMA VALVERDE: Female, 35-45 (Range: Low Mezzo, D3-G5)**

A stout Latina woman in tennis shoes and a floral applique t-shirt.

**JANIS CURTIS: Female, Mid 60's (Range: Low Mezzo, D3-Bb4)**

A tough old bird with sun-burnished skin and missing teeth.

**DON CURTIS: Male, Mid 60's (Range: Baritone, A2-Bb3)**

Janis's Husband, wears a cardboard sign on his head that proclaims "I LOVE YOU JANIS, GO BABY GO!"

**FRANK NUGENT: Male, Mid 50's (Range: Bari-Tenor, Eb3-Gb4)**

Disc Jockey, a diehard good ole boy dressed in a Stetson.

**DOCTOR STOKES: Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible)**

A professor from LeTourneau University.

NOTE: Despite their colourful eccentricities and regional turns of phrase, the characters in our story are inspired by very real people. They should not be played broadly, or with an implied "wink." Rather, they should be acted with integrity, with full regard for their ardent hopes, heart-breaking foibles and core decency.

## CHARACTER SONG LIST

J.D Drew: "Used to Be"

Kelli Magnum: "I'm Gone" (Female part only)

Benny Perkins: "God answered my prayers"

Greg Wilhote: "Stronger"

Jesus Pena: "Born in Laredo"

Chris Alvaro: "Stronger"

Ronald McCowan: "My problem right there"

Heather Stovall: "It's a fix (Reprise)"

Virgina Drew: "Alone with me"

Mike Ferris: "Hands on a Hardbody"

Cindy Barnes: "I'm Gone" (Female part only)

Norma Valverde: "Joy of the Lord" - (Please sing acapella, Musical Director can play beginning notes)

Janis Curtis: "It's a fix"

Don Curtis: "If she don't sleep"

Frank Nugent: "Hands on a Hardbody"

Doctor Stokes: "Hands on a Hardbody"

All backing tracks can be played and downloaded [here](#)