

Audition Information

Audition Bookings: To book your audition session
email richard@stagecenta.com
You will be required for approximately 10 minutes for your
singing and acting audition and 20 minutes for the dance
audition (see the Audition Format below).

Audition Times: Saturday 1st April 9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday 2nd April 9:00am-5:00pm
Monday 3rd April 7:00pm-10:00pm (Call backs)

Location: Gungahlin Theatre – 23 Gozzard Street, Gungahlin

Ages: 13+

Director: Richard Block
Musical Director: Leonard Weiss
Choreographer: Caitlin Schilg
Assistant Musical Director: Elizabeth Alford
Assistant Director: Hayden Crowweller

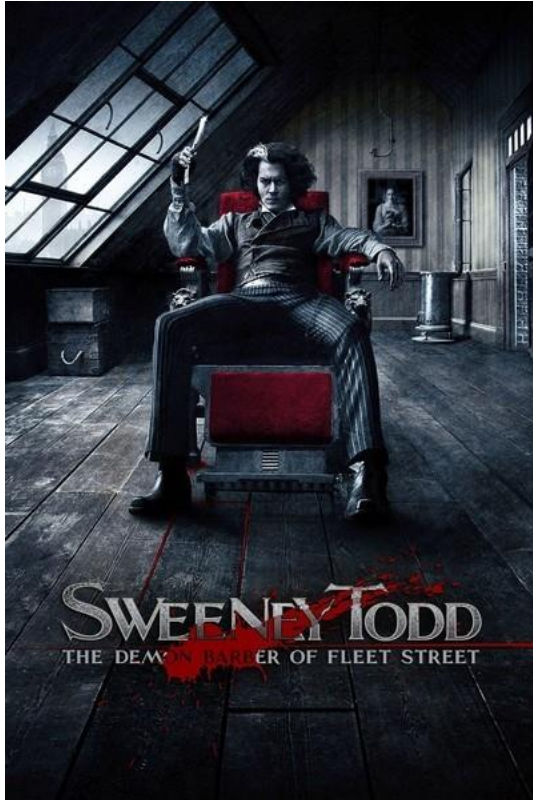
Show Dates & Venue: 6th October – 21th October 2017, Gungahlin College
Community Theatre

Rehearsal Information: Saturday 8th April 10am–12pm (Meet & Greet)
Sunday's 2:00pm-5:00pm **Starting 9th April.**
Monday's 7:00pm-10:00pm,
Wednesday's 7:00pm-10:00pm

Rehearsal Venue: TBA

About the Show

Sweeney Todd is a dark and confronting musical thriller based on the 1973 play written by Christopher Bond and opened on Broadway in 1979. Nominated for 9 Tony Awards it won 8, including Best Musical. Composed by the master of lyrics, Stephen Sondheim, with the book written by Hugh Wheeler, Sweeney Todd has been engrossing audiences for decades on both stage and screen. In 2007 the movie adaptation of the musical was released with Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter playing the central roles of Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett. The last local production was done more than 30 years ago in 1986 and was a collaborative production between Tempo Theatre and Canberra Opera.



Promotional image from the movie starring Johnny Depp

Show Synopsis

Arriving home to London in 1846, Sweeney Todd, a dark and troubled man, has returned after being wrongly convicted of crime and sent to the penal colonies in Australia. He is in the company of a young sailor, Anthony Hope, who helped save his life at sea. Before they part company, Sweeney tells Anthony of his misfortunes and of his wife and daughter he has come back to find.

When Sweeney arrives at his old home he finds it has been taken over by a queer woman named Mrs Lovett who runs a run-down pie shop below his parlour. Mrs Lovett recognises him and breaks the news that his wife is dead and together they collude to kill the man responsible, Judge Turpin, who has taken possession of Sweeney's daughter, Johanna, and adopted her as his ward.

As fate would have it, while wandering through town, Anthony meets Johanna and they fall in love. Not knowing she is Sweeney's daughter he seeks his help to rescue her. Sweeney sees his opportunity to reclaim his daughter and get his revenge on his hated enemy.

About This Production

This show is being performed at the Gungahlin College Community Theatre.

9 roles are being cast with a chorus of 17 people. Understudies to the 9 roles will be selected from the chorus and each will get a scheduled performance (See Rehearsal & Performance Schedule provided with the Audition Application Form).

Characters

Sweeney Todd/Benjamin Barker

Dark, imposing and hardened by years wrongly imprisoned, Sweeney is obsessed with bringing justice to the one responsible for all his pain. Constantly brooding, he does on occasion let his frustrations and temper overcome him and lashes out in rage. Little else matters to him other than revenge and reclaiming his daughter Johanna.

Age: 25+

Vocal Range: F2 – Gb4 (Bass-Baritone or Baritone)

Requirements: Strong acting, singing and good movement.

Mrs Lovett

Quirky, selfish, amoral, yet practical and maternal, Lovett is the one who keeps Sweeney from acting rashly on his bloody desires for vengeance. Having fallen in love with him she dreams of a life shared, just the two of them.

Age 25+

Vocal range: G3 – E5 (Mezzo-soprano or Contralto)

Requirements: Strong acting and singing.



Image of the actual razors being used in this production (Note: no sharpened blades will be used on stage).

Anthony Hope

Naïve, earnest and foolish, Anthony is ruled by his heart which easily leads him into trouble and being taken advantage of. He is not a violent man and doesn't like confrontation but will persist with dogged determination when seeking to win Johanna's freedom.

Age: 18+

Vocal Range: Bb2 – F4 (Baritone/Tenor)

Requirements: Strong acting and singing.

Johanna Barker

A spirited, innocent and naïve girl, who has lived a sheltered life, couped up in Judge Turpin's home. She has little understanding of the outside world and yearns for freedom.

Age: 18+

Vocal Range: Bb3 – A5 (Soprano)

Requirements: Strong acting, singing and good movement.

Judge Turpin

A lecherous, powerful public figure who wields his authority with no remorse or compassion. Besides power his only other lust is for his ward Johanna as she blossoms into womanhood.

Age: 30+

Vocal Range: E2 – Gb4 (Bass or Bass-Baritone)

Requirements: Strong acting and singing.

Tobias Ragg

A simple young man, who's not too bright. He is under the power of his employer Pirelli and knows little about life except that not doing what he's told earns him a beating and that it's better to serve a rotten master than starve on the streets.

Age: 18-25

Vocal Range: Bb2 – Ab4 (Tenor)

Requirements: Strong acting, singing and good movement.



Inspiration for the grinder being created for this production

Beadle Bamford

Judge Turpin's right-hand man, who wields Turpin's power by extension and enjoys all the benefits that come with his station. He is pompous and condescending.

Age: 25+

Vocal Range: D3 – D5 (Tenor/Countertenor)

Requirements: Strong acting and strong singing.

Beggar Woman/Lucy Barker

Sweeney's wife who's mind has cracked from a failed overdose attempt and seeing her husband dragged away from her. She lives roughly on the streets begging for coin, searching trash cans for food or prostituting herself. Deranged and schizophrenic, she is wild and unpredictable.

Age: 25+

Vocal Range: Ab3 – F5 (Mezzo-soprano)

Requirements: Strong acting and strong singing.

Adolfo Pirelli/Daniel O'Higgins

A conman posing as a flamboyant Italian street barber. Cruel and cunning he recognises Sweeney and tries to blackmail him but becomes the first victim of Sweeney's razor.

Age: 20+

Vocal Range: B2 – C5 (Dramatic Tenor)

Requirements: Strong acting and Strong singing.

Ensemble

Age: 13+

Requirements: Focus will be on strong singing and acting. Good movement is also highly desirable.

2 children will be cast in this production (1 boy and 1 girl)

Roles: Jonas Fogg, Birdseller, Sweeney's Victims, Asylum Inmates, Lovett's Customers, Beach Goers, Greek Chorus, Londoners, Policemen.

Audition Format

Each auditionee will have a 10 minute session where they will be required to sing a song of their choice and perform some lines.

The song should be one that you are most comfortable with and you think best showcases your ability. **No accompanist is provided** so you should either bring your own accompanist or bring a backing track (CD, MP3 etc).

The vocal assessor will be asking what your vocal range is and will pay particular attention to your accents and your ability to sustain them. Think about what accent you want to portray with your character. All accents must be English (Excluding Pirelli who must have both Irish and a fake Italian accent) however the type of English accent can vary with the character being played.

Readings will be provided to you when you book your audition and will be based on the character(s) you are auditioning for.

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of your scheduled audition to ensure you have all your paperwork in order and have a photo taken (Photos are deleted after the audition process). The time you are required and the location will be clearly specified in the audition pack you receive by email.

Other points

- * Try and complete all the necessary forms before arriving at the audition
- * Call backs will be held Monday night (3rd April 7:00pm).
- * During your audition the production team may stop you midway through a song. This may be due to time constraints, the desire to work with you further on the number or they may have seen enough to gauge your ability.
- * Bring a water bottle and towel and wear appropriate dance clothes for the dance audition.

What are call backs?

After everyone has had a chance to audition it may be necessary to ask some people to return to sing a number of songs from the show. This is usually done when trying to decide between two people who are equally suitable for a role or to see how well people work together.

You will be contacted no later than Sunday night 2nd April if you are being called back and will be asked to look at a number of songs from the show. If you do not get a call back it does not mean you haven't been cast in the show.

Tips from the director

- * Practice before your audition - it's a good idea to have a singing teacher to help rehearse the songs you will be singing before you attend. Also try to establish the character you want to depict. Guidance can be found in the character descriptions above.
- * There is no need to tell us if you are sick. Believe it or not our vocal assessor can tell if you are.
- * Relax and have fun - The audition panel want you to do your best and you always perform at your best when you are relaxed and enjoying the experience.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you in the audition room!