AUDITION PACK

ABOUT THE SHOW

*Heathers* is based on the cult classic 1980s movie of the same name starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater.

*Heathers* is the darkly delicious story of Veronica Sawyer, a brainy, beautiful teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High: the Heathers. But before she can get comfortable atop the high school food chain, Veronica falls in love with the dangerously sexy new kid JD. When Heather Chandler, the Almighty, kicks her out of the group, Veronica decides to bite the bullet and kiss Heather’s aerobicized ass... but JD has another plan for that bullet.

*Heathers* premiered at New World Stages in New York City, under the direction of Andy Fickman.

Dramatic Productions is proud to present the Canberra premiere of *Heathers*.

IMPORTANT AUDITION INFORMATION

**Audition Bookings and Contact Details**

To book your audition, or for any enquiries, email heatherscanberra@outlook.com

**Audition Date, Time and Venue**

Auditions will be held on Saturday 19 May and Sunday 20 May 2018 with Monday 21 May and Tuesday 22 May reserved for callbacks and additional auditions as required.

Please book early to secure your preferred time.

The audition venue is Gungahlin College Community Theatre, 23 Gozzard St, Gungahlin.

**Age Limit**

Auditionees must be 16 years or older at the time of the audition.
Please be advised that most of the characters in *Heathers* depict teenagers. However due to the style of the show and its vocal demands we anticipate that people older than teenagers will be cast.

**Audition Panel**

You will be auditioning for the Directors Kelly Roberts and Grant Pegg, Musical Director Matt Webster and Choreographer Nathan Rutups. Richard Block will also be present as the representative from Dramatic Productions. An accompanist may also be present in the room.

Other helpers will also be at the venue to assist with pre-audition registration.

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

NB the ages stated below are ‘stage age’, actors older than these ages may be cast

**VERONICA SAWYER** - 17. She burns to be both cool and kind, but doesn’t know yet how to be both at the same time. Fierce sense of right and wrong, keen sense of ironic humour. Thinks she’s an old soul, but she’s still innocent enough to be blindsided by love/hormones (or shocked by cruelty). Voice: High belting required, up to A. Must have dynamic and stylistic range.

**JD** - 17. He is darkly charismatic, compelling, attractive, charming on the outside yet very damaged on the inside. Keen smarts and strong inventive comedy. Voice: Strong, confident belt to at least an Ab, A preferable; wide emotional range.

**HEATHER CHANDLER** - 17. Richest, hottest, most magnetic, cruelest girl in town. Relishes power and wields it like a scalpel – no fear, no patience, no mercy. Voice: Strong belt to F or higher preferred. Mezzo for chorus. NOTE: In certain choral songs Chandler can switch parts with her other Heathers as needed.

**HEATHER MCNAMARA** - 17. Beautiful, innocent, stupid, can be mean on command if Heather Chandler orders it, but actually quite vulnerable and fearful. Voice: Strong belt to Db, D preferred. Soprano for chorus. NOTE: in certain choral songs Heather Mac and Duke can switch vocal parts as needed.

**HEATHER DUKE** - 17. Whipping-girl of the 3 Heathers. When she finally becomes Queen Bee she wields power like a bulldozer. Alto for chorus. Voice: Strong belt to C, D preferred. Alto for chorus. NOTE: in certain choral songs Heather Duke and Mac can switch vocal parts as needed.
MARTHA DUNNSTOCK - 17. Nicknamed “Martha Dumptruck”, the opposite of hot, confident, or popular. Huge and beautiful soul, optimistic even in the face of rejection. Voice: Strong belt to E or F, wide vocal expression.

RAM SWEENEY - 17, Linebacker. Big, insensitive to the feelings of others, ruled by appetites. Voice: Strong Baritone, belt to G, some Falsetto useful.

KURT KELLY - 17. Quarterback and Captain. Big, chiseled, rude, entitled, cocky. Mean, thinks he’s the brains in the friendship with Ram. Voice: Tenor, strong belt to Ab or A, some Falsetto. NOTE: in certain songs Ram and Kurt can switch choral assignment if, say, Ram sings higher than Kurt.

RAM’S DAD / BIG BUD DEAN / COACH RIPPER - 40 to 45. Ram’s Dad: Former football player turned suburban Dad, has never outgrown his glory days in high school. Hates weakness, but capable of soul-searching when tragedy strikes. Also plays Big Bud Dean: JD’s single Dad. Big jolly personality that barely conceals the enormous rage bubbling just below the surface. Quite possibly a serial bomber. Also plays Coach Ripper: Stalwart, man’s man; quick to defend his players. Voice: Baritone/Tenor – power Country/Gospel belt to Ab, higher welcome. NOTE: Depending on the auditions, it is possible these characters may be played by a combination of actors cast in other roles.

MS. FLEMING / VERONICA’S MOM - 45 to 50. Ms. Fleming: Aging hippie teacher, still yearning for the day the Age of Aquarius reaches Ohio. Hungry for the spotlight, resentful of entitled youth. Also plays Veronica’s Mom: easygoing, distant, yet capable of laying down the law. Voice: Great belt up to C, higher always welcome. NOTE: Depending on the auditions, it is possible these characters may be played by a combination of actors cast in other roles.

KURT’S DAD / VERONICA’S DAD / PRINCIPAL GOWAN - 30 to 45. Kurt’s Dad: Straight-laced, very conservative, also former football player. A simple guy, not book smart, you’d be happy to share a beer with him. Also plays Veronica’s Dad: Easygoing and distant. Voice: Strong Baritone/Tenor -- power Country/Gospel belt to G, even higher better. Also plays Principal Gowan: Rumpled, burned out, hates conflict. NOTE: Depending on the auditions, it is possible these characters may be played by a combination of actors cast in other roles.

BOY 1 - Bitter Geek 16-18. A put-upon, bitter geek. Voice: Bari (up to F#) or Tenor (up to A).

BOY 2 - Blowdried Preppy 16-18. A blowdried 80’s preppy. Voice: Bass (up to E) or Bari (up to G#).

BOY 3 - Hipster Dork 16-18. Thinks he’s Ducky from ‘Pretty In Pink.’ Voice: Bari (up to F#) or Tenor (up to A).
GIRL 1 - Goth Girl 16-18. A sullen goth girl. Voice: Belt to at least C# (a Soprano up to high A/B is also a plus).

GIRL 2 - Stoner Chick 16-18. A fuzzyheaded stoner chick. Voice: Belt to at least C# (a Soprano up to high A/B is also a plus).

GIRL 3 - Young Republicanette 16-18. A tennis-playing, uptight Student Council type. Voice: Belt to at least C# (Soprano up to high A/B is also a plus).

ADDITIONAL PARTS - The audition panel may decide to cast additional chorus/ensemble parts and understudies. Pit singers may also be required. Please indicate your willingness to be considered for a pit singer role on your audition form.

AUDITION FORMAT

You will be allocated a 10 minute individual audition slot and a 20 min group dance slot (see below for more details).

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of your scheduled audition to ensure you have completed your relevant paperwork.

A photograph will be taken of you and the panel may record your audition. All photographs and recordings will only be used in considering the casting of the show and will be destroyed thereafter.

1. Vocal Performance

   • Contemporary song (own choice - not from the show)

You are required to sing a contemporary song that demonstrates your vocal range and ability. This should be a song that you know well and can perform off by heart. A song in the style of the show (e.g. pop/musical theatre) is preferred. If you would like to self-accompany your song with an instrument (e.g. piano/guitar) you are welcome to do so.

Otherwise please bring a backing track or your own accompanist. If using a backing track there should be no vocals on the track. An audition accompanist will also be available. If using our accompanist, keep in mind that there will be no opportunity to rehearse with them beforehand so please choose your song carefully and ensure your music is presented appropriately (e.g in a folder, no added cuts or repeats). Please do not sing unaccompanied.

Please be aware that each audition is time limited and therefore we may ask you to stop before finishing your entire song – this has nothing to do with the quality of your audition.
• **Song excerpt from the show**

If you are auditioning for Veronica or JD you should be familiar with the *Heathers* song excerpt sent to you when you book your audition.

We have chosen these excerpts to help you demonstrate the required vocal range and offer opportunities for you to show us characterisation. Unlike your own choice selection, you are welcome to hold the music. We recommend that you practice this excerpt but we do not expect performance standard for this component at your individual audition.

If you are auditioning for characters other than Veronica or JD our musical director Matt may teach you a small section of a song from the show or test your vocal range if needed but you don’t have to pre-prepare for this.

2. **Script reading**

You may be asked to read a script excerpt from the show in a “cold read”. We understand that you have not seen the script before so please do not worry.

If you are asked to “cold read” you will read with our directors Kelly and Grant who will work with you to give you the best chance to demonstrate your acting range and ability. You might be asked to re-perform the scene in a different way. Please use a standard American accent unless we ask you otherwise.

3. **Dance workshop**

The dance workshop will consist of a short routine which will be taught to you by our choreographer Nathan. The workshop will be conducted in small groups with other auditionees. It may be that you will need to arrive before or wait after your individual audition for your allocated dance workshop time. You will be notified of the time when you book your audition.

No special dance shoes are required but please dress appropriately.

Please also warm-up before you arrive.

*Heathers* has quite a lot of dance and movement and therefore all auditionees will be required to complete this component.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

What are we looking for?

*Heathers* is an exciting, fun and high energy show and it needs a cast to match. We are looking for:

- Variety in look with all shapes and sizes
- Versatility in acting range, with the ability to play more than one character, including characters of contrasting ages
- Strong solo singers who can also blend in an ensemble
- Strong singers who can dance
- Strong dancers who can sing
- Triple threats
- Friendly people who work hard
- Commitment to the show and rehearsal process
- A good attitude

What are Call Backs?

After everyone has auditioned, the panel will discuss casting. If we are undecided we may wish to see some auditionees again. This can help us decide between a number of potential options and see how different people look and work together.

All auditionees should keep the call back dates available just in case. You will be contacted if you are required for call backs and emailed further music/readings to prepare if required. We suggest familiarising yourself with the songs from the show before the call backs.

When a casting decision is clear from auditions we will not conduct call backs for that role. Therefore, if you aren’t called back it does not necessarily mean your audition has been unsuccessful.

It is important to note that depending on the outcome of the auditions, we reserve the right to conduct an additional audition period.

When and how will you find out if you are successful?

We will notify you as soon as possible of the outcome of your audition whether you are successful or unsuccessful. Please ensure that the contact details you provide on your audition form are correct.
Successful auditionees will be contacted by telephone. Unsuccessful auditionees may be notified of the outcome by email or by telephone. Please let us know on your audition form how you’d like to be notified if you are unsuccessful.

**Can I get feedback about my audition?**

If you would like written feedback about your audition you can request this by email. We will endeavour to provide this as soon as possible at the conclusion of the selection process. From first hand experience we appreciate the time, effort and courage it takes to audition. Please be assured that we are committed to providing you with a fair chance to show us your best in the audition room in a welcoming and fun environment.

**Mental Health Notice and Content Warning**

*Heathers* is a dark comedy which deals frankly and sometimes comically with subjects such as sexuality, mental health, murder and suicide. We consider these are aspects of real life which should be represented in art however we acknowledge these subjects may be triggering for some people.

Please seriously, and honestly, consider your ability and comfort dealing with these issues before committing to your involvement in *Heathers*.

In particular, you should note the following:

- Veronica and JD are required to kiss and there may be a simulated sex scene
- Kurt, Ram, JD and Veronica are required to appear on stage in their underwear
- Martha, Heather McNamara and JD attempt suicide in the show
- Veronica fakes her own suicide
- Veronica, Kurt and Ram are involved in a scene where sexual assault is implied
- Heather Chandler, Kurt and Ram are murdered in the show
- Many characters sing about topics of a sexual nature
- Some scenes depict the use of alcohol and drugs
- Some scenes and songs include coarse language and adult themes

We have included this information not to put you off from auditioning but rather to be honest about what the show includes. To avoid difficulties later, we encourage all auditionees to read a full synopsis of the show and consider watching the movie prior to auditioning. You might also wish to discuss this with your family, friends or healthcare professional prior to making the decision to audition.

Please be assured that *Heathers* will be created in a safe and controlled manner and we will treat the material with sensitivity.

However, if you are auditioning for/offered one of these roles and have concerns about the above please discuss it with the production team before committing to the show.
REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Rehearsals

Some of the leads will be required to perform at a charity performance in June and so arrangements will be made for those people to attend rehearsals in late May. This may coincide with a Meet and Greet to be confirmed.

General rehearsals are planned to commence Sunday 17 June 2018. The rehearsal venue will be confirmed closer to the start of rehearsals. Please note the rehearsal schedule is subject to change.

The regular rehearsal times are:

- Tuesday 7-10pm
- Thursday 7-10pm
- Sunday 10am-5pm (sometimes this will only be 2-5pm)

We value your time, so we will only call you for the rehearsals that you are needed. However, you should ensure that you are generally available for these times during the rehearsal period prior to auditioning.

If you anticipate absences during the rehearsal period please be honest about this on the audition form.

Production weeks and performance dates

Cast will be required for each rehearsal during the production weeks and all performances. This is not negotiable.

Please consider your availability for rehearsals and the performance season prior to auditioning to avoid disappointment.

The production schedule is as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production Week 1</th>
<th>Production Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 29th September 9am</td>
<td>Sunday 7th October 12pm Call. 2pm Start</td>
<td>Sunday 14th October 12pm Call. 2pm Start</td>
<td>Sunday 21st October 12pm Call. 2pm Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Bump in</td>
<td>Full Run</td>
<td>Show #3</td>
<td>Show #9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 30th September 2pm-10pm</td>
<td>Monday 8th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini-Tech Run no costumes or makeup</td>
<td>Full Run</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1st October</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighting Bump In (cast not required)</td>
<td>Full Run</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2nd October</td>
<td>Wednesday 10th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>Wednesday 17th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>Wednesday 24th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighting plotting (select cast required)</td>
<td>Final Dress Rehearsal</td>
<td>Show #4</td>
<td>Show #10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3rd October 7pm–11pm</td>
<td>Thursday 11th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>Thursday 18th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>Thursday 25th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full run in theatre. Costumes and Props. No Makeup.</td>
<td>Preview Night</td>
<td>Show #5</td>
<td>Show #11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th October 7pm–11pm</td>
<td>Friday 12th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>Friday 19th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>Friday 26th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full run in theatre. Costumes and Props. No Makeup.</td>
<td>OPENING NIGHT (Black Tie)</td>
<td>Show #6</td>
<td>Show #12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 6th October 9am–5pm Sitzprobe and Tech Run</td>
<td>Saturday 13th October 6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>Saturday 20th October 12pm Call. 2pm Start</td>
<td>Saturday 27th October 12pm Call. 2pm Start</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Show #2</td>
<td>Show #7</td>
<td>Show #13</td>
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<td>6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
<td>6pm Call. 8pm Start</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Show #8</td>
<td>CLOSING NIGHT</td>
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<td>Sunday 28th October BUMPOUT (All cast/crew required at bumpout from 10am)</td>
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Final Notes from the Panel

• Please wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear for movement. You are not required to dress in character

• Bring a bottle of water and snacks especially if you are required to wait between your audition and the dance workshop

• Please be mindful that we anticipate that Heathers will have a relatively small cast. As such, there will likely be a number of unsuccessful auditionees. If you are unsuccessful, please do not let this discourage you

• There are a number of considerations when casting a show, many of which have nothing to do with talent. Please understand that we are juggling a number of factors when making decisions and not being cast is not a commentary of your ability. Preparing for and participating in an audition is great experience even if you are unsuccessful

• We will provide you with the opportunity to give your best at the audition whatever the circumstances however please avoid giving excuses if you are unwell. We are confident we will see your potential even if you are sick

• Inappropriate song choice is a common pitfall at auditions remembering it is your chance to make a first impression. Make sure you choose something that gives you the best opportunity to demonstrate your vocal and acting ability. We recommend that you choose a song you know well and that accentuates your strengths rather than something you've simply learnt for the auditions

• Allow yourself enough preparation time to practice your song at home and seek feedback from friends, family or your vocal/acting coach

• It's ok to be nervous! Believe it or not we get nervous at auditions too. The audition room is a safe space to make mistakes and we will make sure you feel supported throughout the process

• Lastly, don’t forget to encourage and support your fellow auditionees during the process

We look forward to seeing you at the auditions for Heathers!

Grant, Kelly, Matt and Nathan