



INFORMATION PACK

WARRNAMBOOL THEATRE COMPANY ETHOS

Warrnambool Theatre Company is proud to present My Brilliant Career. WTC strives to be an inclusive, welcoming, and collaborative organisation that provides opportunities for individuals to experience the thrill of the theatre. Mounting a successful production requires commitment, passion and collaboration from many individuals over several months. WTC believes that a production is above all a team experience; through working in a considerate, supportive and dedicated manner My Brilliant Career will be both a creative and critical success.

The following principles from the WTC Charter:

- All decisions made in the show will be made through the lens of inclusivity.
- Communication between all participants, both on and off the stage, will be respectful, honest, and open.
- An environment that meets the standards of child safety will be developed and enforced.
- Preference will be given to local performers, musicians, and theatre specialists from the southwest region to promote community engagement.
- A safe and non-discriminatory environment will be developed to allow all participants to give their best effort.
- Auditions will be conducted in a transparent process that allows participants to feel secure, valued and understood.

KEY CONTACTS

Director: Lisa Graham	Producer: Penny McLeod
Assistant Director: Flo Roney	Producer: Matt Baker

PERFORMANCE DATES

- Performance #1:** Wed 10 Sept
- Performance #2:** Thurs 11 Sept
- Performance #3:** Fri 12 Sept
- Performance #4:** Sat 13 Sept (matinee)
- Performance #5:** Sat 13 Sept

SYNOPSIS

My Brilliant Career by Miles Franklin
Adapted for the stage by Kendall Feaver

In rural New South Wales, 1899, Sybylla Melvyn is a force of nature—a young woman of spirit, born in the wrong time and place, but filled with dreams. Will she be a writer? An actor? An artist, a musician, a politician? Will she explore the world? Any one of these would be better than the path of wife and mother seemingly predestined for her. Determined to outrun the odds, Sybylla must contend with the expectations of society, the disappointments of family, and the beating of her own heart.

This new adaptation of Miles Franklin's classic *My Brilliant Career* by Kendall Feaver (*The Almighty Sometimes, Wherever She Wanders*) is dark, funny and urgent. More than a century later, Sybylla's voice is one that still demands to be heard—a guttural cry of rage against the inequalities set at birth. A one-two punch of success, a play that breathes fresh life into the original novel, while still feeling as relevant as ever.—Australian Book Review

FEES and MEMBERSHIP

There is a one-off Participation Fee of \$60 to participate as a cast member in *My Brilliant Career* which covers costs such as scripts, costumes, refreshments etc.

Additionally, all cast members must be members of WTC. Annual WTC membership is \$40 full fee or \$30 concession (year ending Dec 2025). Apply for WTC membership [here](#).

Membership to WTC and participation fee can be paid at the same time.

Please let us know if these fees are a barrier to your participation, as we are here to help.

Cast members may require a current Working with Children Check.

REHEARSALS

Cast rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays 6.30-8.30pm and Sundays 10am-1pm.

Upon cast finalisation a comprehensive rehearsal schedule will be provided. Rehearsals will be at TOAD Hall, corner Manifold and Princess Street Warrnambool.

Cast may not be required for all sessions but will be allocated specific times, where attendance is required.

If you have any concerns about your ability to fit in with this schedule, please discuss with the Producers. Any absences that you are already aware of (e.g. a booked holiday) should be listed on your audition form.

Please note, by accepting a role in this production, you are committing to rehearsals as scheduled. Please show your respect for the production team and your fellow cast members by advising the Directorial team of your absence as soon as possible.

****All cast must be available for production week, technical and dress rehearsals****

AUDITIONS

Auditions will comprise a 10-minute individual spoken audition.

More information about audition components below.

Auditions will be held at TOAD Hall on the following dates:

Wednesday 23rd April	6.30pm - 9pm	Read through
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Sunday 27th April	6.30-9pm	Individual auditions (5-10 minutes in length)
Wednesday 30th April	6.30pm – 9pm	Individual auditions (5-10 minutes in length)
Sunday 4th May	10.00am – 12.00pm	Call back auditions

To audition for the cast please complete an audition form. These will be available at the information session or you can download a copy of the audition form [here](#).

Audition booking times will be made available at the information session.

AUDITION STRUCTURE

Auditions will involve performing one or more of the below scenes (director's discretion) that align with the character/s you are most interested in.

Excerpts will be available at the information session or you can purchase a copy of the play through Collins Warrnambool.

SYBYLLA MELVYN (please familiarise with monologue at Appendix 1)

- Act One Scene One: An Introduction (pg 1)
- Act One Scene Four: A Living (pg 7)
- Act One Scene Fourteen:He (pg 32)
- Act Two Scene Fourteen: A Visitor (pg 88)
- Act Two Scene Fifteen:Somehow (Direct Address only) (pg 94) **See Appendix 1**

LUCY MELVYN

- Act One Scene Four: A Living (pg 7)
- Act Two Scene Ten: Back to Possum Gully (pg 80)
- Act Two Scene Fifteen:Somehow (Dialogue only) (pg 95)

RICHARD MELVYN

- Act One Scene Two: I Remember, I Remember (pg 3)
- Act One Scene Three: Possum Gully (until exit) (pg 5)
- Act Two Scene Twelve: Life-Continued (pg 86)

HAROLD 'HARRY' BEECHAM

- Act One Scene Twenty: The Question (pg 48)
- Act Two Scene Fourteen: A Visitor (pg 88)

HORACE MELVYN

- Act One Scene Five: Once A Year, Every Year (pg 10)
- Act Two Scene Eleven: Little Brother (pg 84)

GRANDMA 'GRANNIE' BOSSIER

- Act One Scene Thirteen: A Greater Purpose Yet (pg 30)

AUNT HELEN BELL

- Act One Scene Sixteen: Aunt Helen's Story (pg 36)

UNCLE JULIUS 'JAY JAY' BOSSIER

- Act One Scene Ten: A New Possibility (pg 20)
- Act One Scene Fifteen: Old Friends (pg 33)

FRANK HAWDEN

- Act One Scene Twelve: Unwanted Advances (pg 27)

AUNT AUGUSTA 'GUSSIE' BEECHAM

- Act One Scene Eighteen: Aunt Gussie (pg 41)

MR MCSWAT

- Act Two Scene Three: Barney's Gap (pg 63)
- Act Two Scene Nine: A Bust Up (pg 79)

MRS MCSWAT

- Act Two Scene Three: Barney's Gap (pg 63)
- Act Two Scene Nine: A Bust Up (pg 79)

PETER MCSWAT JNR

- Act Two Scene Six: A Conversation (pg 71)

MARY O'FARRELL

- Act One Scene Eleven: A Letter to Gertie (pg 25)

MIDWIFE

- Act One Scene One: An Introduction (pg 1)

GERTIE MELVYN

- Act One Scene Six: Escape (pg 13)

LIZER MCSWAT

- Act Two Scene Five: Ed-Ju-Kay-Shun (pg 69)

CHILDREN

- Act Two Scene Four: Principally Letter (pg 65)

CALL BACK AUDITIONS

Those who receive a call back will be asked to perform alternate scenes for a particular character, which will be given on the day. Call backs may not occur for every role.

CASTING

My Brilliant Career includes 22 characters. There are a variety of roles for performers all requiring strong acting skills.

All shows must be performed, so we will be seeking two actors to play Sybylla (one being an alternate who will perform in at least one show and more if required due to illness or injury). There will be understudies made up of existing cast members for other characters who would only perform if required.

The playwright has asked that casting for all future productions continues to reflect the diversity of modern day Australia. Character ages are flexible and all actors of any age, ability and cultural background are encouraged to audition.

My Brilliant Career cast is comprised of the following characters:

Character	Role	Info
Sybylla Melvyn	Lead	Age 10, 15 but mostly 19. Sybylla is the lead character and protagonist. She is deeply ambitious, angry and strident but playful and provocative. An imperfect heroine. A wonderful opportunity for a strong actor who can show determination and vulnerability.

Harold 'Harry' Beecham	Secondary	Sybylla's 'love interest'. Owner of Five-Bob Downs. An admirable figure in squatter society, wealthy and accustomed to the congenial ways of country life. A layered character; stoic and controlled, yet tender and considerate.
Lucy Melvyn	Secondary	Sybylla's mother. A multifaceted character embodying the struggles of a woman who holds on to the vestiges of her aristocratic background while facing the harsh realities of life in poverty. The anguish and frustration of her circumstances are palpable.
Grannie Bossier	Secondary	Sybylla's grandmother. Lucy's mother. Grannie Bossier holds a position of influence and respectability at the Caddagat estate, maintaining a strict adherence to propriety and advocating for marriage as the primary and most fitting aspiration for young women.
Aunt Helen	Secondary	Sybylla's aunt. Lucy's sister. A figure of nobility, compassion, and domestic talent. Helen's personality reflects a response to her past heartbreak. However, Aunt Helen's experience of love and loss does not stifle her capacity for affection, particularly toward Sybylla.
Uncle Julius John 'Jay Jay' Bossier	Secondary	Sybylla's uncle. Lucy's brother. A large, jovial bachelor of forty well-regarded across a wide region in Australia. His character is one of good humor and generosity, encapsulating the archetype of the affable and unattached gentleman
Frank Hawden	Secondary	Employed as Overseer at Caddagat. A rather fickle and persistent character who vacillates in his opinion of Sybylla and eventually becomes infatuated with her. Frank serves as a representation of a social construct that Sybylla challenges.
Aunt Augusta 'Gussie' Beecham	Secondary	Harry's Aunt. She invites Sybylla to visit Five-Bob, thinking her a good match for Harry.
Mr McSwat	Secondary	Patriarch of a rural and unpolished family who comes into Sybylla's life due to a financial arrangement with her father. A simple, utilitarian man concerned primarily with immediate farm and rural life.
Mrs McSwat	Secondary	A contrast to the other female characters, defined by her lack of refinement and a life steeped in mundane rural responsibilities.
Richard Melvyn	Tertiary	Sybylla's father. Characterised by his descent from admired family patriarch and aspiring entrepreneur to a defeated alcoholic. His decline impacts his family's fortunes and ultimately shapes Sybylla's circumstances.
Horace Melvyn	Tertiary	Sybylla's younger brother.
Mary O'Farrell	Tertiary	The Bossier's Irish housemaid at Caddagat.
Peter McSwat Jr	Tertiary	The eldest McSwat child Peter is in his late teens to early twenties. His parents have high hopes for his prospects of marrying a local girl, Suzie, and continuing the family business. He is intrigued by Sybylla and shows her kindness.

Lizer McSwat	Tertiary	One of the McSwat children.
Gertie Melvyn	Minor	Sybylla's younger sister. She is an embodiment of the idealised young femininity of the time. Contrasting with Sybylla's fiery, independent nature, Gertie is depicted as pretty, girlish, and full of innocent charm. She appeals to society's standards with her more conventional and demure demeanor.
Midwife	Minor	Lucy's midwife.
Blanche Derrick	Minor	A beautiful woman who visits Harry at Five-Bob with a view to marry him.
Jimmy, Tommy, Rose Jane and Katie McSwat	Minor	The McSwat children range in age and could be played by adults. They are cheeky, obstinate, and refuse to do anything that Sybylla tells them to.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact the Producers for any questions you may have:

Penny McLeod
M: 0400 194 023
E: Warrnambool.theatre.co@gmail.com

Matt Baker
M: 0438 622 537
E: matt@thebakers.com.au

Appendix 1

SYBYLLA - MONOLOGUE TO LEARN.

As SYBYLLA talks, her mud-soaked clothing is removed and replaced.

SYBYLLA: My father, days before harvest, decides to run for local parliament.

On a podium, he excels. In fact, almost wins. But the expenses are so heavy, we beg him not to run again.

Horace makes it to America.

No more is heard.

Gertie, at Grannie's pressing, accepts a proposal. From one Mr Frank Bawden. She has time to send three deliriously happy letters. After a difficult birth ... the letters stop. Grannie writes instead ...

... 'It was God's will,' she says.

Harold abstains from marriage longer than I thought he would.

He hands management of Five Bob back to his aunt. He travels the world. He deems destiny responsible when he meets his future wife and begins to mend his heart around his growing brood.

The cow ... by some strange miracle ... lives long enough to sell.

It sees us through to Christmas, and then Christmas, distinguished only by plum pudding and a few bottles of homemade beer, has been once again.

And somehow ... it is 1899 ... and we stand on the edge of a new century.

Still ...

... here I am.

Sharing a bed with my siblings.

Listening to my parents bicker through the cracks in the walls.

...

In truth ... there are a million things I want to do.

But I have taken stock of my possibilities ...

... as they genuinely exist ...

...and found one ... where the implements of trade and wellspring of inspiration, are, already, in my possession.

SYBYLLA takes out a pen and the notebook gifted to her by the McSwats.

Dear Sirs,

This story is all about myself.

For this ... I make no apologies.