



LADIES IN BLACK

Book by Carolyn Burns

Music and Lyrics by Tim Finn

Based on Madeleine St John's novel, "The Women in Black"

By arrangement with David Spicer productions



AUDITION PACK

9 & 10 MARCH 2025

ipswichmusicaltheatrecompany.com.au

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE AUDITION PACK BEFORE BOOKING AN AUDITION



ABOUT LADIES IN BLACK

Ladies in Black is a heartwarming musical set in 1950s Sydney, exploring themes of ambition, friendship, and societal change. The story follows Lisa, a bright young woman who takes a summer job at the prestigious department store, Goodes, between finishing school and pursuing her dream of studying literature at Sydney University.

As Lisa steps into the world of retail, she meets a group of strong, diverse women who challenge the era's expectations of women's roles in society. At a time when marriage and domestic life were often seen as the only paths for women, Ladies in Black highlights the aspirations of those who dared to dream beyond these norms.

The show also touches on Australia's evolving cultural landscape, as Lisa and her colleagues encounter and confront prejudices in a city on the cusp of becoming the vibrant, multicultural hub it is today. With a compelling story, rich characters, and a nostalgic yet relevant message, Ladies in Black offers a touching and inspiring look at a pivotal moment in history.

Perfect for lovers of musicals, history, and stories about resilience and change, Ladies in Black is a charming and insightful production that brings 1950s Australia to life.

ABOUT IPSWICH MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company (IMTC) was co-founded by Brenda Ryan and Ken Mundt in 2001 to stage *Seven Little Australians*, the Musical for the Centenary of Federation. Since then, IMTC has produced boutique shows in the historic Old Courthouse and a major annual production at the Ipswich Civic Centre.

Past productions include *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oliver*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Producers*, and *The Boy from Oz*. In 2014, IMTC staged a sold-out production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, which won the Citywide Event Award at the 2015 Australia Day Awards.

Recent major shows include *Mary Poppins* (2015), *Wicked* (2016), *Les Misérables* (2017), *Strictly Ballroom* (2018), *Mamma Mia!* (2019, first in QLD with an LED screen), *Pirates of Penzance* (2021), *We Will Rock You* (2022), *The Phantom of the Opera* (2023), and *Guys and Dolls* (2024).

From humble beginnings, IMTC has grown into a nationally recognized community theatre company, known for staging large-scale and technically challenging productions.

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CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR - KATIE BROWN



Katie is excited and looks forward to working with a talented cast. This is her first time directing for IMTC. She is keen to bring *Ladies in Black* to life, sharing its heartwarming story and rich characters with audiences. As a previous WAAPA student, Katie has had the privilege of working across multiple performing arts disciplines. She has been fortunate enough to work on shows with artists including Michael Leunig, and Chrissie Parrott, at Hole In The Wall Theatre, Her Majesty's Theatre and The Playhouse Theatre. When she's not directing, she's busy as a teacher and a published author.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR - SARA SALDEZ



Sara is enthusiastic to join the team as Musical Director for this production of *Ladies in Black*. Being musical her whole life, from song writing to open mic nights, and local community performances, and most recently her supporting role in a Logan City Community project – 'Sisters Are Doin it For Themselves', her love and passion for all things community projects has been reignited. Together with Katie and Trish, she hopes we can make this a wonderful exciting experience for all involved and put on a fantastic show for the community. In her day job, Sara continually rediscovers her musical side by inspiring her students in their melodious journey at a local Ipswich Primary School.



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - TRISH HEWITT

ROLES

We are an amateur company.

No roles are paid.

All performers must be 16+ years old by time of performances.

This is not a youth production.

LISA

16 years old. A thin, shy, bookworm, who is described as having neither style nor beauty, yet emerges with both by the end of the story. Highly intelligent, desperate to learn more about literature. Her summer job at Goodes teaches her more about life than she could have imagined.

PATTY/ANNA

32 years old. Unhappily married shop assistant at Goodes. She has failed to have a baby and her husband is chronically uncommunicative, so she has become stitched up and a little malicious as a result. Inside she is vulnerable and unhappy. This role has very minor extra part as Anna.

MRS CARTWRIGHT/JOY

A double for an actress of about 40. Miss Cartwright is the blue-stocking, crisply authoritative manager of the Ladies Department at Goodes. She's tall, definitely stylish, all business, having dedicated her life to it, but is not without compassion or wit. Joy is Patty's older sister. Exhausted by motherhood and housework, she doesn't live up to her name.

FAY

29 year old shop assistant at Goodes. Pretty and cheerful, but has had a series of unfortunate relationships with unsuitable men, so she feels insecure about ever getting married and being considered respectable.

FRANK/MICHAEL

Patty's 35-40 year old husband. Described as gormless. A tile salesman with little ambition or vitality. Humiliated by his potential responsibility for his childless marriage, he hides his low self-esteem in taciturn introspection. This role has very minor extra part as Michael.

RUDI

Mid to late 30's. A Hungarian refugee on the lookout for a wife. He is charming, well-read, irrepressible, a beautiful dancer, and a genuine lover of women.

MYRA/DAWN/CUSTOMER

A double for a woman in her mid to late 20's. Myra is Fay's best friend - buxom, cheerful and out for a good time. Dawn is Patty's sister - forthright, cynical and rough around the edges. This role has very minor extra part as a customer.

MAGDA

An exotic Hungarian of about 40. In charge of Model Gownes at Goodes, she is the embodiment of European style, glamorous, educated and beautifully presented. While undoubtedly somewhat forbidding, she has warmth, wit and great insight.

MRS MILES/BARMAID/CUSTOMER

Lisa's mother. In her late 30's-early 40's. She dotes on her daughter, is proud of her and wants the best for her, but is nervous of rocking the boat and upsetting her conservative husband. A product of her era, she is neither educated nor sophisticated, but her love for her daughter ultimately gives her courage. This role has very minor extra parts as barmaid and customer.

MISS JACOBS/MRS CROWN

A potential double for an actress in her sixties. Miss Jacobs has worked in Goodes her whole life. Nervous and intense, she lives alone and has a sense of tragedy about her. Mrs Crown is Patty's mother. Now widowed, she is a rough diamond who has bought up three daughters and doesn't beat around the bush.

MR MILES

Man in 40's. Mr Miles is stiff, conservative and authoritarian. He loves his daughter but firmly believes a woman's place is in the home and is baffled by her intellect and ambition.

STEFAN

Man is in his 40's. He is an ebullient Hungarian, intellectual and bon vivant. He is a passionate enthusiast for all things literary.

LLOYD/FRED/VRONSKI

Mid to late 30's. Two Australian men on the lookout for a good time. This role has very minor extra part as Vronski

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AUDITION INFORMATION

✨ **Audition Dates:** 9th & 10th March 2025

📍 **Location:** The Old Courthouse,
Corner of Roderick & Ginn St,
Ipswich

🚩 **Look for signage upon arrival.**

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD	
Sunday 9th March 2025	9am - 6pm
Monday 10th March 2025	7pm-9:30pm

CALL BACKS & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- All auditionees must be available for call backs (if required) on the evening of Monday 10th or Thursday 13th March.
- Cast will be announced publicly on Monday 17th March 2025.

Roles are open to people aged from 16 years and up.
Auditionees must have turned 16 by 1st January 2025.
There are no children/youth roles in this production.

WHAT TO PREPARE



Vocal & Acting Audition

- 5 to 10-minute PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL AUDITIONS will be required to show vocal and performance skills at which you will present your song/s and maybe be asked to do a short cold read.
- Please prepare TWO CONTRASTING SONGS (approximately 32 bars of each).
- Songs are NOT to be from Ladies in Black.
- Songs will be performed to your Backing tracks. You can provide your backing track file by email prior to your audition.
- NO ACCOMPANIST PROVIDED. If you bring your own accompanist, please ensure you provide their name in your booking.
- Please provide a CV with headshot. The headshot is for identification purposes only and will not be returned.

Bookings are by appointment only.

 **Register here: [Audition Application Form](#)**

To secure your audition spot, please complete the online registration form by:

5:00pm on Monday, 3rd March 2025

- Audition bookings online only. Complete all details in full and list your previous performance history. Please make sure that ALL unavailable dates are listed.
- Applicants will be emailed with their confirmed time to attend their audition.

If you are offered a role, there is a \$35 annual membership fee. Successful auditionees will be contacted by phone and email.

Unsuccessful auditionees will be contacted by email.

COMMITMENT TO REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES



All people auditioning should be prepared to commit to attending rehearsals and performances on the dates listed below.

MEET AND GREET

Our meet & greet will take place at The Old Courthouse at a time to be advised. This is when the cast and crew get together for the first time. Here you will get your scripts, read through the show, and meet the team.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

A schedule detailing required times you need to attend will be distributed at the start of rehearsals. We must have full commitment to attend these rehearsals in order for you to be involved.

SPLIT CALLS

You may not be required for all rehearsal times but need to be available. As per usual the intensity of calls will grow as we move closer to the season.

From 23 March 2025 rehearsals will be held

Monday	7 - 9:30pm
Thursday	7 - 9:30pm
Sunday	1 - 5pm

PHOTO SHOOT

There will also be a Saturday call (date TBA) for a promotional photoshoot.

DRESS REHEARSALS

Dress rehearsals will be scheduled from Saturday 24th to Friday 30th May 2025. These scheduled rehearsals must be attended by all members of the Company.

PERFORMANCES

Performance 1	Saturday 31 May 2025	7:30pm
Performance 2	Sunday 1 June 2025	2:00pm
Performance 3	Saturday 7 June 2025	7:30pm
Performance 4	Sunday 8 June 2025	2:00pm

Additional performance may go on sale to meet demands.