



LIVERPOOL
PERFORMING ARTS
ENSEMBLE INC.

PO Box 4698
Casula Mall, NSW 2170
+61 415 422 653
liverpoolperformingartsensemble.org
ABN: 67 556 094 388

30TH ANNIVERSARY

Richard Tulloch's play adaption of Robin Klein's

HATING ALISON ASHLEY

Liverpool Performing Arts Ensemble's 10th Anniversary

DIRECTED BY ANASTASIA KYRIAKIDIS

AUDITION DATES, VENUES & TIMES

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th July 2018

10.30am to 4.0pm

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre – 1 Powerhouse Rd. Casula, NSW 2170

AUDITION INFORMATION

- Audition bookings are to made through the Producer' Nerida Noon, on 0411 282 231
- A call will be made a week prior to confirm attendance and answer any questions.
- If you have any trouble booking your audition time please contact us on auditions.lpae@gmail.com
- Please arrive 10-15 mins prior to your confirmed audition time.
- Please prepare from one of the enclosed audition pieces for the audition panel.
- At the audition we will work with you on the piece you have prepared, asking you to perform it a few times with direction. You will then be given a scene to look at outside of the audition room, before having a short workshop of that scene.
- Please bring along your theatrical resume and headshot. Please do not worry if you haven't been in any productions before.

CONCEPT

We're looking at creating a dynamic, amusing and entertaining interpretation of Richard Tulloch's play adaption of Robin Klein's classic 'Hating Alison Ashley'. This production will use adult actors with the ability to play a Year 6 age range in a melodramatic manner to engage school and adult audiences. Some roles will be doubled.

The play will be performed in 100 minutes with no intermission.

We aim to cast inclusively, and so encourage actors of all ages, genders and ethnicities to audition for the production.



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CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Our character breakdown may change based on the quality and calibre of auditions, but currently we are looking for eight actors to play the following roles.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| - Erica Yurken | - Barry Hollis |
| - Valjoy Yurken | - Margeart Collins |
| - Jedda Yurken | - Ms Belmont |
| - Harley Yurken | - Mr Kennard |
| - Liz Yurken - Erika's mum | - Ms Lattimore |
| - Lennie Grubb | - Diane |
| - Alison Ashley | - Oscar |
| - Jennifer Ashley – Allison's mother | - Race caller |
| - Mrs Hollis | |

SYNOPSIS

Erica Yurken knew she was destined for great things. Never in any doubt about her own genius, she felt superior to everyone at notorious Barringa East... that is, until Alison Ashley turned up. A story about the pursuit of happiness and perfection, the pressures of growing up, the power of friendship, school-girl rivalries, constant embarrassment by family, and painful and often brutally funny awkwardness and insecurity. It is a play about many issues common to teenage life: identity, bullying, jealousy and not prejudging others based on assumptions. These issues are explored in a lighthearted manner with a cast of humorous and fun-loving stereotypical characters.

PERFORMANCE DATES, VENUES & TIMES

Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 27th October, 2018

24th October – 11.00am & 7.30pm

25th October – 11.00am

26th October – 11.00am & 7.30pm

27th October – 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre – 1 Powerhouse Rd. Casula, NSW 2170

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th July – 10.30am to 4.30pm – Auditions

Tuesday 10th July – 7.30pm to 10.30pm – Call-backs (if required)

Thursday 12th July – 7.30pm to 10.30pm – Call-backs (if required)

Tuesday 17rd July – 7.30pm to 10.30pm – First Rehearsal (Play Read-Through)

Monday 22nd October – 10.00am to 5.00pm – Bump-In / Tech Plot

Tuesday 23rd October (TBC) – 10.00am to 5.00pm – Full Tech & Dress Rehearsal

Saturday 24th October – 9.30pm to completion – Bump-Out

REHEARSALS

- Tuesday & Thursday evenings (as required) – 7.30pm to 10.30pm
- Additional weekend rehearsals may be scheduled at the discretion of the Director, in consultation with the cast and committee.
- All rehearsals are held at Casula Powerhouse unless advised otherwise.



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SPECIAL NOTES

- This is an unpaid community theatre production.
- The season will be performed in Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.
- Each cast member must be a 2017-18 member of Liverpool Performing Arts Ensemble Inc. Membership is \$20 and is required by the 2nd week of the rehearsal period.
- Each cast member is required to pay a Production Fee. The Production Fee is \$30 and is required by the 4th week of the rehearsal period.
- Cast members will be required to attend any fundraising events that are held during the rehearsal period that are promoting the production.
- The 'Important Dates' shown above are non-negotiable for all cast members. Your inability to attend any of the dates may affect your ability to be cast.

If you require any further information please contact the Director on 0415 699 394 .

HATING ALISON ASHLEY CAST ROLLS WITH DOUBLING

ERICA YURKEN
ALISON ASHLEY
HARLEY/BARRY HOLLIS
MUM/DIANE HARPER
JEDDA/MISS LATTIMORE/MARGEART COLLINS
VALJOY/MISS BELMONT
LENNIE/OSCAR/MR KENNARD
ALISON'S MOTHER AND BARRY'S MOTHER (THESE ROLES ARE NOT DOUBLED AND CAN BE SEEN OR UNSEEN)

CHARACTER PROFILES THE YURKEN FAMILY

ERICA: Ten. A tall flower in a field of couch grass. A hypochondriac and a liar, but destined for a brilliant, glittering career on the stage.

MUM: Likes Bingo, plastic flowers, Parents Without Partners, junk food, dancing and window ornaments like pixies sitting on velvet mushrooms.

HARLEY: Seventeen. Unemployed (unless lying in a hammock reading books on astral projection counts as employment).

VALJOY: Fifteen. Likes bikies, metal-welding, nail varnish, rude t-shirts, horror movies. Yells a lot and slams doors.

JEDDA: Seven. Likes horses, books about horses, horse racing, pony clubs, stables, dressing up as a horse, oats. Utterly embarrassing.

LENNIE: Mum's boyfriend. A truckie with a bald patch, a Hawaiian shirt and a great, clanging bumper-bar voice.

STAFF AT BARRINGA EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

MISS BELMONT: Grade six teacher. Ladylike and elegant, but with eyes like a fly, that can see sideways and backwards and into things which haven't happened yet. Also has a fierce voice and hair which sends out sparks.

MISS LATTIMORE: The art and craft teacher. Likes weird clothes made of macramé and hand-crafted leather sandals. Her boyfriend drives a Landrover covered with conservation stickers.

MR KENNARD: A new teacher. Creeps around looking pale and stricken.

GRADE SIX STUDENTS

BARRY HOLLIS: Likes vandalism, violence, petty larceny of craft-room materials and riding in trains without a ticket. His big brother is a member of the Eastside Boys who terrorise Barringa East.

MARGEART COLLINS: So dim it took her a whole year to learn how to roll the library date stamp forward.

DIANE HARPER: Likes make-up, mannequin parades, and bossing people round.

OSCAR: A fat boy, always being picked on by Barry Hollis.

Character Audition Pieces & Information

Erica Yurkin – Erica is a melodramatic compulsive liar and hypochondriac. Erica hates her life and has become a storyteller to try and make it seem like things are better than they are. Erica believes she is the prettiest, smartest most talented student at school and is a natural born leader who does not hesitate to make her opinion known. Erica has a close relationship with her family but she is embarrassed by them and finds herself trying to pull away from their 'embarrassing antics'

(Stage Age 11-12 years / Year 6)

Audition Piece #1

ERICA 14.6! Fancy boasting like that about having a reading age of 14.6!
ALISON I wasn't boasting
ERICA 'I just like reading. My Aunt is a librarian'
ALISON But she is a librarian at my old school
ERICA Those are the bubblers over there if you want a drink
ALISON Oh, I don't usually drink from those. You can catch germs from kids putting their mouths right down the spout
ERICA And theres the tuck shop. They have beaut iced doughnuts
ALISON I'm not allowed to eat junk food

Audition Piece #2

ALISON Hello Yuk!
ERICA Hello Alison, I found your consent form for the camp
ALISON Oh, thank heavens you brought it Yuk! I was wondering what I was going to do. Come in
ERICA I can't stay. My sisters in the Olympic swimming teams and I have to help coach them
ALISON Do you?
ERICA I hold the stopwatch
ALISON Really?
ERICA And write down their names on the clipboard
ALISON Oh? (awkward pause) Wouldn't you like to come in and have a drink? I can make milkshakes.
(Erika hesitates then curiosity gets the better of her)
ERICA All right
(Erika enters, looks around the house)
ALISON What is it?
ERICA Your house is so...tidy
ALISON My mothers a bit fussy. I always have to clean things up straight away
(Alison moves through to the kitchen)
ERICA Where's your dad?
ALISON Ssh! (Erica is puzzled) Mum's having a sleep upstairs
ERICA (Whispers) where's your dad?
ALISON They got divorced last year
ERICA (Starts to ack) Oh! Did your dad go off with...? (then she changes it) that's not as bad as losing your father in a tragic plane crash. You can still go visit him can't you?
ALISON Not when he's gone off to Canada and hardly ever writes or anything. (pause)

Alison Ashley – Alison appears to have her life together. She is beautiful, well-spoken, smart and easily liked by those around her. Alison is using a mask when in public to cover up the fact that things at home aren't what everyone else thinks they are, although her family is well-off Alison does not have a good relationship with her mum. Alison is soft-spoken and quiet, but becomes louder and more confident in a group situation.

(Stage Age 11-12 years / Year 6)

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ALISON But she is a librarian at my old school
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ALISON Oh, I don't usually drink from those. You can catch germs from kids putting their mouths right down the spout
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ALISON Not when he's gone off to Canada and hardly ever writes or anything. (pause)

Barry Hollis – Barry is a loud, arrogant and annoying young boy who comes across as the school bully. He uses his size and inconsiderate comments and bad humour as a way to mask what is really happening at home. Barry is not given any support from his family, teachers or the other students at school and operates as a lone wolf.

(Stage Age 11-12 years / Year 6)

Audition Piece

BARRY Who are you ringing? Your mum?
ERICA Certainly not! As if I'd be doing anything so immature (into phone) I'll give you another ring tomorrow night, Leo, after all the little kids are asleep. And on Saturday! I'll be free to go parachute jumping with you. Bye...darling. (hangs up)
BARRY Who's Leo?
ERICA Someone I know
BARRY Finished with the phone? Got to ring my girlfriend (barry dials) I often ring her at funny hours, she doesn't mind. Get away! This is a private phone call.
MR HOLLIS Hello?
BARRY (Attempted to be sexy) Hello, it's Barry
MRS HOLLIS Why are you ringing at this ungodly hour Barry? And why didn't you take your parka with you after I sewed the name-tag on specially? And if you're not behaving yourself I'll belt you one when you get home!
ERICA Was that your mum Barry?
BARRY Well, what about you? Some guy called Leo!
ERICA Why did you ring her? Were you scared Barry?
BARRY Scared of what?
ERICA Scared of the basin skins?
BARRY I'm not scared of anyone!

Diane Harper - Diane is one of the more popular students at school. She is considered the 'leader' and is slightly conceited. Diane has a no-nonsense approach and does not get along with Erica Yurkin

(Stage Age 11-12 years / Year 6)

Audition Piece

DIANE Shutup you kids! Can't you even keep quiet for twenty minutes? Practice your lines or something. It's only twenty rotten minutes to Drama Night.

MARGEART (Clutching a pillow bursts into tears) Awwwwwww!

DIANE What's the matter with you?

ALISON What is it Margeart?

MARGEART I don't want to wear that!

DIANE But you have to. You have to be the pregnant lady with the pillow up your dress!

MARGEART I don't want a pillow up my dress!

ALISON You have to have a pillow Margeart otherwise you won't look pregnant

MARGEART I don't want to look pregnant! I don't want to be in the play at all!

BARRY Hey, where's all the meat for the operation scene?

DIANE Yuk's the stage manager. She said she was getting it.

ERICA Oh I...

DIANE You didn't forget, Yuk?

BARRY We will have to leave that bit out

DIANE We can't - that was the best part

BARRY And where's the beer bottle I was going to have? How can I be drunk without a bottle?

DIANE And where's my nurses hat?

BARRY And the tomato sauce for blood!

DIANE And where's Alison's matron hat? And the balloons for the nurses big bosoms? You call yourself a stage manager!

Margeart Collins - Margeart is an air head, she does not think before she speaks. Margeart cannot even pronounce her name correctly and struggles with her school work. She is a follower, and is a member of Dianas crew.

(Stage Age 11-12 years / Year 6)

Audition Piece

MARGEART I am very sick Nurse Jackson. I am very sick Nurse Jackson
(Erica picks up two burnt sticks from the ground)

ERICA Hey, Margeart?

MARGEART Hello, Yuk

ERICA You want to see what I just found?

MARGEART What?

ERICA You promise not to tell anyone?

MARGEART Why?

ERICA Just promise

MARGEART All right (Erica shows her the sticks) Gosh! (then puzzled)
What are they?

ERICA They're genuine Aboriginal firesticks. See the burnt ends?

MARGEART Gosh! Where did you find the Yuk?

ERICA Umm quite close to the BBQ

MARGEART Gosh, can I see them?

ERICA No, you might break them

MARGEART I won't

(pause)

ERICA I'll sell them to you if you like.

MARGEART How much?

ERICA Thirty cents

MARGEART Gosh!

Jedda - Jedda is 7 years old and obsessed with horses. Jedda enjoys watching and commentating the horse races on TV and likes to pretend she is a horse.

(stage age 7)

Audition Piece

MUM Go on let her do it

JEDDA (Chanting) And Take Your Pick leads them into the home turn, with Anti-Plaque looking for a split in the middle, Beldale Beauty boxed in on the rails and it's still Home and Hosed a neck in front, the rider goes for the whip on Masochistic two hundred out and it's Masochistic pulling away from Home and Hosed by half a length, Anti-Plaque is third and the favourite Any Money trailing the field.

MUM Isn't she cute?

LENNIE Fantastic!

JEDDA (Draws a big breath) And with a hundred left to run it's Any Money coming from the back with a blistering run gathering in Beldale Beauty with Anti-Plaque...

MUM That's enough dear

JEDDA But I haven't finished yet.

Harley - Harley is 17 years old, unemployed and incredibly lazy, he sits around all day doing nothing.

Oscar - Oscar is a shy student, he is constantly being picked on by Barry Hollis

Oscar casting – please note due to being such a small role we will be casting the same actor for Oscar and Harley Yurkin

Audition Piece

OSCAR Get out! That's my spot!

ALISON Can you help me hold mine?

DIANE The winds too strong Miss

OSCAR Get out, Barry!

DIANE Who's got the masking tape

OSCAR Miss, make him stop that!

JEDDA Dad used to go to lots of interesting places too

HARLEY Yeah, he's wanted in Queensland for selling shares in a non-existent tin mine

MUM We don't mention Dad in this house!

JEDDA Why not?

MUM We just don't Jedda. Especially not tonight

VALJOY Especially not in front of the new boyfriend

MUM I told you Valjoy he's not...

HARLEY Is your new boyfriend a truckie?

MUM How do you know that Harley?

HARLEY Because a semis just squashed our rubbish bin

Valjoy - Valjoy is an out of control teenager on the wrong path. She likes bikes, metal wielding, horror movies and boys. She is bored of her life and constantly putting herself in dangerous situations.

(Stage age 15)

Audition Piece

VALJOY I'm going at five-thirty

MUM Over my dead body, Valjoy

VALJOY But Blonk and Spike are going around to Macca's to see his new Suzuki

MUM You can go out with that no-hoper bikie gang any old time, tonight I have a special friend coming round and I want you all here to meet him.

HARLEY Who is he? Prince Charles

JEDDA Is it a new boyfriend mum?

MUM No, not a 'boyfriend' Jedda, Just a friend. I've only known him a week

VALJOY She picked him up at the parents without partners

MUM Whats wrong with that?

VALJOY You've got a nerve Mum, going to parents without partners. You've already had two husbands and I don't know how many boyfriends

MUM Lennies different

VALJOY That's what you always say

Mrs Yurkin – Mrs Yurkin is a very family oriented woman, she loves being with her children and her new boyfriend Lennie. She is a bogan who is happy with her life and doesn't ask for more than she needs. Erica's mum is loud and can be bossy at times.

(Stage age 40-45)

Audition Piece

MUM You like Lennie, don't you Erk? He's such a scream isn't he?
Well let's see what we can rustle up for dinner

ERICA There's only junk food in the fridge

MUM Lennie likes junk food

ERICA He would.

MUM What's the matter with you Erk?

ERICA And STOP calling me Erk! I get it all day at school – Erk or
Yuk, or Gherkin, What a name – Erica Yurken! Sounds like
someone being sick in a bucket (Erica retches) Erica Yur-ken!
Why did you give me a name like that anyway? It's so common.

MUM Oh pardon me for breathing madam. Aren't we good enough for
you? Perhaps you'd be happier if we lived in a mansion in
Hedge End Road.

ERICA Wouldn't be much chance of that, is there?

MUM What's that supposed to mean?

ERICA Atleast there's a bit of elegance about Hedge End Road. Maybe
if you'd stayed married a bit longer we'd have had enough
money to move.

MUM Erk, if my nails weren't wet from this protein-reinforced
base coat that cost \$7.95 I'd get up and tan you!

ERICA It would be better than living in Barringa East

MUM Don't knock Barringa East Erk. Theres lots of advantages
about living here

ERICA Name just one

MUM Barringa East Primary School for a start

Lennie: Lennie is Erika's mums new boyfriend, he is a bit of a bogan and overexcited. He loves Erikas mum and wants to be a big part of the kids lives.

(Stage age 40-45)

Audition Piece

LENNIE How yer going, movie star
ERICA Oh hello Lennie
LENNIE Its been a quiet old week without you. Your mums gone ahead to grab some seats down the front, but she sent me over to give you this. (he opens a box and hands her a matrons hat) She sat up half the night making it. Hope it fits you all right, otherwise I might have to come up and play the matron myself (he tries on the hat) What do you reckon? (Erica bursts into tears) Hey, steady on Erk. What's the matter?
ERICA Everything! You know how I told Mum I was going to be the star of drama night? Well I'm not.
LENNIE Of course you will be!
ERICA I won't I'm hopeless at acting I'm not even going to be in the play, I'm too scared.
LENNIE (Doesn't know how to handle this) Well don't worry. Not everyone can be a great actor. I'd be petrified
ERICA And when I wrote the play it seemed pretty good...
LENNIE You wrote the play?
ERICA Yes but its so dumb and nobody wants to be in it and the audience will get up and leave in the first 5 minutes
LENNIE No they won't
ERICA And I said I'd be stage manager, but I was so busy being director that I forgot all the props we need, so there's no sausages for the operation scene and no balloons for the nurses bosoms...
LENNIE Hey, don't cry Erk. She'll be apples love. A few missing props is nothing to worry about. Let's see what's fallen off the back of my truck.

Miss Belmont - Miss Belmont is the grade 6 teacher, she is very lady like and elegant and holds herself in high esteem. She has the ability to see things going on behind her and know what is going to happen before it does. She has a strong and fierce voice capable of scaring even the naughtiest students

(stage age – 35+)

Audition Piece

MISS BELMONT Listening in a moment please...HEY! (Miss Belmont waits for absolute silence) When you're quite ready...as you know, next week Grade 6 will be going on the annual camp. This is an extremely important part of our year, the high-light of the school year, an event which is not only good fun but also which fosters character building and team work. At the camp, you will be supervised by Mrs Wentworth from the infants school (sniggers for the kids) Mr Kennard from Grade 5 (groans from the kids) and myself! (dead silence) You will each take a blue consent form home, get your parents to sign it and bring it back on Monday. At the camp you will be sharing a bunk room with other students from your grade. I would therefore like everyone to take one of these yellow forms and write down the names of two people with whom they would like to most share a room at the end of camp.

Miss Lattimore - Miss Lattimore is the arts and crafts teacher, she is very in tune with nature and has a more open approach to teaching. She enjoys being outside and is not very disciplinary with the children.

age age 30+)

Admission Piece

SS LATTIMORE Get up Erica. There's no need to be so melodramatic.
(calls off stage) Over here grade 6! Today in art and
craft we're going to do something a bit different. We're
going to do some painting out here in the
playground...Barry Hollis don't put that in your mouth.
It's so unhygienic. Now I want each of you to take a
large piece of paper and stick it up somewhere. When
we're standing quietly in our places...(wait for silence)
Right, come and get your paper...now.

CAR Get out! That's my spot!

ISON Can you help me hold mine?

ANE The winds too strong Miss

CAR Get out, Barry!

ANE Who's got the masking tape

CAR Miss, make him stop that!

SS LATTIMORE Settle down the lot of you or we'll go straight back
inside and finish that dictation about Tom Roberts.
What's the matter Oscar?

CAR I can't think of anything to do

SS LATTIMORE Well just look around you, there are all sorts of things
to paint in the world. The artists eyes are his first
tool, you know. Shut up Barry Hollis. Would you like me
to do you a squiggle to get you started?

Mr Kennard - Mr Kennard is a new teacher, freshly out of university looking to make a good impression with the other teachers and students. He is a bit of a nerd and is over excited. He sticks to the rules and is afraid to take charge

(stage age 25)

Audition Piece

MR KENNARD Listening in please campers. There are just ten minutes left until lights out, so after you have cleaned your teeth and put your pyjamas on, I want all huts to settle down...
 (Miss Belmont indicates to Mr Kennard out of the shadows)

MISS BELMONT Coming to eat Mr Kennard?

MR KENNARD But we've just had dinner?

MISS BELMONT Frankfurters, frozen peas and mashed potatoe is not my idea of food. Andrew, can I borrow your swiss army knife? (he finds it) Well done.

MR KENNARD I thought I had better come prepared (he watches uneasily as Miss Belmont uses the knife and continues his announcement) Remember it is strictly against the camp rules to eat food in the dormitory huts, Anyone caught with any junk food of any description will be severely punished.