

Canberra Rep proudly announces

## AUDITIONS

### THE ART OF COARSE ACTING

by Michael Green, Rupert Bean and Jane Dewey

Director: Chris Baldock

AUDITION DATES: Sunday March 17 at 10am and 2pm and 6pm and Wednesday March 20 at 7.00pm. Venue: The Ryan Room, Theatre 3, Acton

SEASON DATES: July 25 to August 10, 2019

*The Art of Coarse Acting* plays stem from the hilarious international best-selling 1964 book on amateur theatre by British journalist Michael Green.

Green describes a coarse actor as “one who can remember his lines, but not the order in which they come. An amateur. One who performs in Church Halls. Often the scenery will fall down. Sometimes the Church Hall may fall down. Invariably his tights will fall down. He will usually be playing three parts – Messenger, 2nd Clown, an Attendant Lord. His aim is to upstage the rest of the cast. His hope is to be dead by Act II so that he can spend the rest of his time in the bar. His problems? Everyone else connected with the production.”

Recognised as a classic in both professional and amateur theatre, these gut-busting plays are aimed at those thespians whose enthusiasm exceeds their talent. They are outrageous spoofs which ridicules pretentiousness, pokes fun at disaster and incompetence, and generally lays bare life backstage.

*The Art of Coarse Acting* inspired the outrageous hit plays *Noises Off* and *The Play that Goes Wrong*. Guaranteed laughter and mayhem!

Originating at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and London, the following Coarse Acting plays will be performed:

#### Act One:

***Streuth:*** This is a crime story that not even Agatha Christie would have dared to write and it gets itself into such confusion that it is doomed, apparently, to perpetual motion.

***A Collier's Tuesday Tea:*** combines the kitchen sink drama with the coal mine with an irreverent glance at D.H. Lawrence, featuring the dining table from hell!

***Present Slaughter:*** This play collapses because the leading man cuts his wrist on a glass. There is blood. A lot of blood. Noel Coward would be turning in his grave.

#### Act Two:

***Stalag 69:*** This seminal investigation into the relationship between men and war unfolds on an inverted set that collapses completely during the second run through.

***Pride at Southanger Park:*** supposedly an adaptation of a long-lost Jane Austen novel, presenting an utterly hilarious set of acting disasters. As the performance crumbles into low farce, the cast plough on, determined to prove themselves the equal of any BBC adaptation.

***Trapped:*** In a send-up of a traditional English thriller, the cast find themselves not trapped when the over-energetic lead actor knocks down doors that were meant to be locked. Adding to the fun is a corpse that walks because it cannot fall through the jammed door and the Stage Manager who has to read in a part.

### **AUDITION DETAILS:**

- Location: Ryan Room, Theatre 3, 3 repertory Lane, Acton.
- Auditions are by appointment. To book and appointment, contact [auditions@canberrarep.org.au](mailto:auditions@canberrarep.org.au)
- When requesting audition please include a) audition day and session time you wish to attend and b) the play/s you are interested in.
- Prior to auditions you need to have read the plays. Scripts can be obtained at Theatre 3 during business hours. A refundable deposit of \$5 is required.
- Actors needed: EXPERIENCED actors with strong comedic timing and skills and physical abilities.
- Accents needed: A variety of English accents required for all roles (luckily they don't have to be good!)
- Audition format: Group auditions. Please be prepared to stay for 2-3 hours duration if necessary. You will be matched up with participants and given scenes from the plays to work on and present. **These scenes will not be given to you until the audition.**
- To bring to the audition: a non-returnable photograph (please write your name on the back of the photo in case it gets separated from the form).
- Audition forms will be available to complete on the audition day.
- Unless necessary, there will not be callbacks.

If you have an issue on the day, please contact the director **VIA SMS ONLY** on 0422293152.

### **PRODUCTION SUMMARY:**

With six different plays, there are a huge variety of roles available from ages 16-80. Depending on the amount of suitable people auditioning, the idea is to cast different actors in each play with the onstage actors in Act One playing the accident-prone backstage crew in Act Two and vice versa. The entire evening will be tied together under the guise of a fundraising night and we will be looking for an experienced actor with expert improvisation skills to inhabit a character to present this. But please note that you may be cast in more than one play so please advise on the day which plays you are interested in.

**IMPORTANT:** Please do not audition specifically for a role but simply the play/s you are keen to be considered for as a preference. I am looking for a large company of experienced actors to create an ensemble where we create the evening as a group. I may cast 10 people to cover the six plays. I may cast 40. It will depend on the number and quality of the auditionees.

### **OTHER INFO**

- Rehearsal days: Monday and Wednesday evenings – 7 pm-10 pm and Sundays 10 am-6 pm. Not all cast will be required for all rehearsals until closer to opening. Rehearsals commence beginning of May with a cast read-thru/introduction. There will be rehearsals on other evenings in the week leading up to the production as well as costume calls to be determined.
- This is a true ensemble piece and a large, demanding production. Please do not audition if you have major commitments between May and August and cannot make this commitment.