



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

REIMAGINED, RESTAGED, REBORN

ABOUT UPSTAGE THEATRE COMPANY

Upstage Theatre Company

Upstage Theatre Company is a dynamic and creative theatrical organisation situated in South East Melbourne.

Our Mission

Our goal is to produce engaging and diverse performances that inspire, entertain, and provoke thought among our audiences. At Upstage Theatre Company, we understand the transformative power of storytelling to unite people from all backgrounds. Our productions will showcase a mix of classic, contemporary, and Australian works, with a significant focus on fostering local talent and presenting pieces that embody the unique essence of our community.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Cody Riker
Musical Director	Sean Lambert
Choreographer	Lana Kleesh
Production Manager	Louie Moore
Company Manager	Bronwyn Ireland
Production Designer	Scott Hili
Set Design	Scott J Hili & Louie Moore
Costume Design	Scott J Hili
Lighting Design	Samuel Victoria
Sound	Louie Moore
Props	Simone Lim & Pippi Clarke
Technical Director	Jason Lord
Stage Manager	Tori Moore

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR SYNOPSIS

Told through a contemporary rock score, Jesus Christ Superstar dramatizes the final week of Jesus' life, seen largely through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. As Jesus' influence grows, Judas becomes increasingly troubled. He fears that Jesus' message is being lost amid rising fame and that their movement is attracting dangerous attention from Roman authorities.

Religious leaders, led by Caiaphas and Annas, view Jesus as a political threat who could provoke Roman retaliation. Determined to protect their nation, they conspire to have him arrested. Torn between loyalty and fear, Judas ultimately betrays Jesus to the authorities.

Meanwhile, Mary Magdalene offers compassion and emotional support to Jesus, struggling to understand her feelings for him. After the Last Supper, Jesus is arrested, denied by Peter, and brought before Pontius Pilate and King Herod. Though Pilate finds no clear crime, he bows to public pressure and condemns Jesus to crucifixion.

The musical ends not with resurrection, but with reflection—focusing on the human cost of betrayal, power, doubt, and sacrifice, leaving audiences to grapple with the emotional and political complexities of this iconic story.

AVAILABILITY – IMPORTANT!!!

This production requires steady dedication. Any dates you cannot attend rehearsals or performances must be clearly listed on your audition form. Your availability may influence casting, so please share all existing commitments that limit your time. Aside from illness, and extenuating circumstances, a minimum of ten hours each week is expected. External commitments on rehearsal days may affect your ability to contribute and as such, and excessive and ongoing absence will see Upstage Theatre Company consider your removal or replacement in the production. If this occurs no show fee refund will be issued.

FULL AVAILABILITY IS CRITICAL THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION PERIOD. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS BEFORE CHOOSING TO AUDITION.

CASTING PROCESS

All Auditionees must do a singing audition.

Dance Audition Call backs are by invitation only.

If you are **not** invited to the **dance/movement** callback, you are no longer being considered for the production.

Actors invited to a principal call back will be notified **after the dance/movement audition** and are asked to learn specific music, which is available on our website.

Not all roles will require a callback after the dance audition. If you are invited to the dance call but are not called back for a principal role, you are still being considered for **the ensemble**.

Please read the audition form carefully. If you select "No" to being considered for another role, you will not be called back if the production team feels you are not suitable for the role you have selected to audition for. Selecting "Yes" allows the production team to consider you for other suitable roles and as part of the strong and active ensemble in this production. If you select "No" to ensemble, you will not be considered for the ensemble and will not be invited to the dance callback if the panel believes you are not suitable for the principal role you stated on your audition form.

IMPORTANT DATES

Adult Auditions	Thursday 21st May - 7:00pm - 10:20pm Friday 22nd May - 7:00pm - 10:20pm Saturday 23 rd May - 12:00pm - 6:00pm Sunday 24 th May - 12:00pm - 6:00pm
Movement/Dance Auditions	Monday 25 th May
Adult Group A	7:30pm - 8:30pm - MOVEMENT
Adult Group B	8:45pm - 9:45pm - DANCE
Call Backs	Wednesday 27 th May - 7:30pm - 10:30
Rehearsals Commence	Sunday 7 th June 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Costume Fittings	Sunday 30 th August 1:00pm - 5:00pm
All Day Rehearsals	Sunday 21 st June 10:00am - 5:00pm Sunday 19 th July 10:00am - 5:00pm
Rehearsal Weekend	Saturday 15 th & Sunday 16 th August 9:00am - 5:00 pm Both Days
Public Holidays (no rehearsal)	Monday June 8, September 25,
Photo Shoot	Saturday 29 th August 10:00am - 11:00am - Headsots 12:30pm - 2:30pm - Promotional Shoot. Location TBA
Costume Parade	Saturday 5 th September 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Sitzprobe	Sunday 20 st September 7:00pm - 11:00pm
Bump In	Saturday 19 th September

(Please note Some dates may be subject to change)

PRODUCTION WEEK

PRODUCTION WEEK	Sunday 20 th September
	Monday 21 st September - Spacing/Tech
	Tuesday 22 nd September - Tech Rehearsal
	Wednesday 23 rd September - Dress Rehearsal
	Thursday 24 th September - Dress Rehearsal

SHOW SCHEDULE

SHOWS	Friday September 25 th 8:00pm Saturday September 26 th 8:00pm Sunday September 27 th 2:00pm Thursday October 1st 8:00pm Friday October 2 nd 8:00pm Saturday October 3 rd 2:00pm Saturday October 3 rd 8:00pm Sunday October 4 th 2:00pm
BUMP OUT	Sunday October 4 th - 5:00pm - 9:00pm

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS - Please Read Carefully

Please Note: All auditionees must be 18+ on or after 24/05/2026

General Preparation:

All auditionees must prepare **one contemporary musical theatre song or one contemporary rock song** that demonstrates both vocal range and storytelling ability. This should be no longer than 4 minutes in total.

Please do not choose songs from the show.

Those auditioning for Jesus and Judas must prepare both a Contemporary music theatre and contemporary rock song.

Sheet Music Only:

All performers must bring sheet music in the correct key for our accompanist. No transpositions will be done on the day.

A piano accompanist will be available to all auditionees. Please ensure you bring a clean and legible copy of your sheet music in the correct key in an appropriate display folder (no loose sheets or music taped together)

Backing tracks are **not permitted** – this is to ensure your performance connects musically and emotionally, live in the room.

Your vocal audition and song choice should showcase and demonstrate your ability to sing and characterise/act throughout the song, with a focus on the story of the lyric.

Movement Audition:

By invitation only after vocal audition

You will be notified on the conclusion of the the vocal auditions (Sunday) if you have been successful in securing a dance audition and will be notified as such.

AUDITION AND REHEARSAL VENUE

Upper Pakenham Hall

285 Bourke's Creek Road, Upper Pakenham

Rehearsals are:

Monday Evening	7:30-10:30pm
Wednesday Evening	7:30-10:30pm
Sunday Afternoon	1:00pm- 5:00pm

See other times listed under important dates.

You may be called outside of these times for costumes, makeup and or extra rehearsals as required.

We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible for any adjustments.

MEMBERSHIP & FEES

To participate in the production, all cast members and those directly involved must become Upstage Theatre Company members. This involves completing the membership process and paying the required fees during the first rehearsal. It is essential for legal and insurance purposes, and compliance is mandatory for involvement in rehearsals.

Membership Details:

- Single Show Membership Fee: \$45.00 per show (valid for the specific production no passyemnt plan available)

Show Fee:

- Jesus Christ Superstar show fee: \$220.00

Payment due at the first rehearsal. This is non-refundable once payment has been made.

Contact the production manager Production Manger for payment arrangement requests. Payment plans will be \$73.30 per fortnight for 3 fortnights.

MAKEUP SHOES AND UNDERWEAR

Health regulations require that makeup cannot be shared. You will need to buy your own makeup, shoes, and hosiery as recommended by the Costume Department.

Additionally, you must supply your own underwear, and standard clothing items like pants or shirts tshirt etc. Men should have dance belts/ballet support, while women should have supportive underwear and a sports bra. This is crucial for your well-being and physical support.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect fellow Cast Members and Production Team members.

Be on time. Be prepared. Be quiet during rehearsals.

If you are running late or experience any problems, please call the

UPSTAGE PHONE NUMBER: **0419 237 711**

You must sign the attendance roll when you arrive at the Upper Pakenham Hall. This is important in the event of an evacuation or emergency.

All cast will be provided with a rehearsal schedule detailing the scenes that will be worked on at each rehearsal. There is an expectation that the cast will have familiarised themselves with the scheduled scenes in the days before the rehearsal. Rehearsals are for workshopping, refining, and perfecting, not learning lines.

Rehearsals are restricted to persons directly involved in the production. Cast are welcome to attend and watch every rehearsal, even if they are not scheduled.

Tea, coffee, etc., are available in the Kitchen.

All participants are asked to commit to a minimum of one set building or costume sewing bee to help get the show on the stage. No matter what your skill level, we can find an appropriate job. Many hands make light work.

A script will be allocated to you at the first rehearsal. These are hired from licencing companies and must be returned after the performance season. These can only be marked with a light HB pencil, which must be erased before returning. Please do not use a pen or highlighter, or a script replacement fee of \$50 will be incurred.

DIVERSE CASTING

There are no specific contracted casting requirements for this show. However, our production team prioritises representation and diversity on stage, aiming for equal opportunity in casting as a core value based on talent rather than appearance. We embrace diversity in all its aspects, believing it fosters a safer and richer environment, elevates the artistic quality of the show, mirrors Australian society more authentically, and enhances the final product's overall quality. By advocating for inclusive and equitable casting practices, we aspire to contribute to normalising these standards in Victorian amateur theatre.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

UPSTAGE THEATRE COMPANY continues to have a STRICT policy to protect children from potential harm or abuse.

All CAST/CREW/PRODUCTION STAFF/COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS 18 years and above will work directly with children under 18. Unless an exemption applies, you must submit a Working with Children check (WWC check). Or if you are a Registered Teacher in Victoria, you must present a valid VIT card. This will be required on your audition form.

WWC checks are carried out by the Department of Justice and Community Safety (the department). Further, all Committee and Production Team volunteers from 1/1/2023 must submit for a Criminal/Police Check. We reserve the right to refuse an audition or disengage you from the Production if a valid WWCC/VIT card is not submitted with your audition form.

If you DO NOT have a valid VIT or WWCC you will not be able to participate in the production.

VOLUNTER AGREEMENT

All Auditionees/Contractors and Volunteers MUST SIGN a volunteer agreement. This agreement will be part of the Audition application Process.

SCAN AND SIGN HERE



SHOW MERCH

We will be ordering Show hoodies or T-shirts.

The cost is \$75 per Hoddie

The cost is \$45 per T-shirt

Bundle if you buy both \$110

CHARACTER TRACKS

Jesus Christ

(Rock Tenor, Age: 20-35 All Identities): The central figure (celebrity), requiring immense vocal range and acting ability to portray leadership, divine burden, confusion, and extreme physical vulnerability. Leader of the twelve Apostles, a man, called the "Son of God" and the "King of the Jews".

Judas Iscariot

(Rock Tenor, Age: 20-35 All Identities): The narrator and antagonist. Needs to be a commanding, physical actor and a strong rock singer, conveying frustration, love, and panic.

Mary Magdalene

(Alto/Mezzo-Soprano, Age: 18-30 All Identities): Requires a soulful, melodic voice with the ability to belt. Portrays grace, compassion, and conflict with her feelings for Jesus.

Pontius Pilate

(Rock Baritone, Age: 30-45 All Identities): A strong dramatic actor who conveys authority, fear, and guilt.

King Herod

THE ROLE OF KING HEROD HAS BEEN CAST. THIS ROLE IS NOT AVAILBLE FOR CONSIDERATION

Caiaphas

(Bass, Age: 30+, All Identities): The high priest, requiring a very deep, powerful bass voice.

Annas

(Countertenor/Rock Baritone, Age: 20+, All Identities): Caiaphas's right-hand, requires a higher, piercing vocal range.

Simon Zealotes

(Tenor, Any Age, All Identities): High-energy, passionate, and rebellious. Leads the apostles in a high-intensity song.

Peter

(Baritone/Tenor, Age: 18-30, All Identities): An apostle, requires acting ability to show devotion and guilt.

Ensemble and Supporting Roles (All Identities) 21 required.

- Soul Girls (Alto/Soprano): Often 3 singers/dancers who support Judas and provide backing vocals, sometimes doubling as Apostles or other roles.
- Priests/Mob/Apostles (All ranges): Requires strong singers and intense actors for heavy choral work and high-energy scenes. Strong physical movement is essential, some strong dancers required.