

COME FROM AWAY

CASTING BRIEF

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

Supported by:



GeelongTravel
Your journey begins with us

Welcome to CentreStage!

**"You are here, at the start of a moment. On the edge of the world,
where the river meets the sea."**

I am thrilled to announce that CentreStage will be holding auditions for the highly anticipated production of *Come From Away*. As Managing Director of CentreStage, I am excited to invite performers from all backgrounds to take part in this exciting opportunity.

At Centrestage, we are committed to celebrating inclusion and promoting diversity within our community theatre. As a multi-award-winning organisation, including the Geelong Business Excellence Awards, we are proud to be recognised for our efforts in creating a space where everyone is welcomed and encouraged to shine.

We are searching for talented individuals who are passionate about the arts and eager to be a part of this vibrant production. Whether you have extensive experience or are just starting out, we invite you to come and showcase your talents in a welcoming and supportive environment.

We believe that the power of theatre lies in its ability to bring people together, and we are committed to creating a production that is reflective of our diverse community. We encourage performers from all walks of life to join us for this exciting opportunity.

Thank you for your interest in CentreStage and *Come From Away*. We look forward to seeing you at the auditions!



David Greenwood OAM
Managing Director

**"On the northeast tip of North America,
on an island called Newfoundland,
there's an airport. It used to be one of
the biggest airports in the world, and
next to it is a town called Gander."**



We, CentreStage Pty Ltd, acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present. We thank the Traditional Owners for custodianship of the land and celebrate the continuing culture of the Wadawurrung people acknowledging the memory of honourable ancestors.

We also welcome all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people auditioning for CentreStage or watching the virtual information session/reading this booklet



Synopsis

"Come From Away" is a musical based on the true story of the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, and the extraordinary events that unfolded there in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The show portrays the town's reaction when 38 planes were unexpectedly ordered to land at their airport, bringing nearly 7,000 stranded passengers and crew members from around the world into their community.

The musical begins with the people of Gander starting their day, unaware of the impending global crisis. As news of the attacks spreads, airspace is closed, and flights are diverted to Gander International Airport. The local residents, known as "Newfoundlanders," quickly mobilize to accommodate and care for the unexpected guests, providing food, shelter, and comfort.

Throughout the narrative, the characters' stories unfold, highlighting their initial shock and confusion, the cultural clashes and language barriers they face, and the bonds they form despite their differences. Key characters include Claude Elliott, the mayor of Gander; Beverley Bass, an American Airlines pilot; Nick and Diane, a British man and a Texan woman who find love amidst the chaos; and Kevin T. and Kevin J., a gay couple from Los Angeles.

The show captures both the heartwarming acts of kindness and the emotional struggles experienced by the passengers and locals. It depicts the resilience and compassion that emerge in times of crisis, as well as the lasting impact these events have on everyone involved.

As the planes are finally cleared to leave and the passengers prepare to return to their normal lives, they and the residents of Gander reflect on the unique and transformative experience they shared. The musical concludes with a reunion of the passengers and townsfolk ten years later, celebrating the enduring friendships and the extraordinary hospitality that turned a tragic event into a testament to human kindness.

"Come From Away" is a poignant, uplifting, and inspiring story that reminds audiences of the power of community and the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity.



Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions



Matthew Henderson
Director



Phil Kearney
Musical Director



Natalya Munro
Choreographer



David Greenwood (He/They)
Producer



Brett Greenwood He/Him
Producer

Welcome to the 'The Rock' Geelong

Performances

Staged in the Playhouse Theatre - Geelong Arts Centre

- Fri, 07 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Sat, 08 Mar 2025 at 2:00pm
- Sat, 08 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Thu, 13 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Fri, 14 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Sat, 15 Mar 2025 at 2:00pm
- Sat, 15 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Sun, 16 Mar 2025 at 5:00pm
- Wed, 19 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Thu, 20 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Fri, 21 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm
- Sat, 22 Mar 2025 at 2:00pm
- Sat, 22 Mar 2025 at 7:30pm

Rehearsals

Please note, a rehearsal schedule will be distributed prior to first rehearsal for cast based on availabilities.

Rehearsals located at both 26 Rodney Road, North Geelong and 22 Princes Highway Norlane

Mondays: 7pm - 10pm

Wednesdays: 7pm - 10pm

Sunday: 12-5pm (TBC)

Rehearsal Season

Part 1: October 28th – Dec 18th

Part 2: Jan 20th – Feb 24th

Please note rehearsals will not occur over the Christmas period
Dec 19th – Jan 19th (Christmas Break)

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

Adult Audition Information

Auditions are open to people aged 18+ by first rehearsal

Auditions are by appointment only and will be approximately 10 minutes in duration. Auditions will be located at 22 Princes Highway, Norlane and can be booked at www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

Although not the preferred method of auditioning, self tape auditions will be accepted. You are still required to book online and submit your self tape at the time of booking. A selftape audition including SLATE, Script and song can be submitted prior to your confirmed time at www.centrestage.org.au/auditions. You may be required to attend the in person casting workshop as part of the process.

The audition panel reserve the right to film some auditions as a resource to recall - please let them know if you would prefer not to be recorded.

For the auditions you will need to prepare:

- 2 script excerpts
- 1 song
- + If auditioning for Beverly - 'Me and the Sky'

Script:

You will need to prepare two of the mini-logues from the show downloadable at www.centrestage.org.au/auditions. ONE mini-logue from LOCALS and ONE mini-logue from COME FROM AWAYS.

Time may be limited, so you may only be asked to share one of your selections at your audition. Your choices will not limit you to being considered only for that role.

LOCALS will have a Newfoundland accent. Examples can be found at www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

COME FROM AWAYS will have an accent that suits their country or region of origin. A neutral American accent for the COME FROM AWAYS is suitable if you are not confident in representing the accent of the heritage depicted.

If auditioning for Beverley - You will need to prepare 'Me and the Sky' - sheet music is downloadable at www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

Please prepare one (1) audition song of up to two minutes duration that isn't from the show. Your song choice may be musical theatre or non-musical theatre related. Please consider the following genres when selecting a song for your audition.

Auditions

- Sunday 15th September from 10.00am
- Monday 16th September from 6.00pm
- Casting Workshop - Wednesday 18th September from 7.00pm - TBC

Auditions are to be performed to a backing track. Auditionees are required to bring their backing track on a device with a 3.5mm head phone jack output or bluetooth. No sheet music is required. Please choose a song that best demonstrates your vocal range and your performance ability. A separate vocal range test may also be requested.

There will be a space to warm up prior. Auditionees may not enter as a duo and must complete the audition as a solo. Please note, we may be running behind by 10 mins on some evenings.

Vocal Audition Tips

For an audition for *Come From Away*, you'll want to choose a song that reflects the spirit and emotional range of the show. Here are some tips to help you pick the right piece:

- 1. Showcase Storytelling:** *Come From Away* is all about storytelling and character-driven songs. Pick a song that tells a story and allows you to connect emotionally with the lyrics. Look for songs that have a narrative arc or show a clear progression.
- 2. Emphasise Character and Emotion:** The characters in *Come From Away* are diverse and full of depth. Choose a song that allows you to demonstrate your ability to portray different emotions and bring a character to life.
- 3. Pick a Contemporary Musical Theatre Song:** Opt for a song from a contemporary musical that has a similar style to *Come From Away*. Songs from shows like *Waitress*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, or *The Last Five Years* might fit well, as they often have a blend of folk, rock, and heartfelt ballads similar to the style of *Come From Away*.
- 4. Show Off Your Vocal Range and Style:** If you can, select a song that showcases your vocal strengths and stylistic versatility. *Come From Away* has a varied musical style, so demonstrating your ability to handle different kinds of music can be beneficial.
- 5. Stay Authentic:** Choose a song that feels natural for you. Authenticity is key in an audition, so pick something that you feel confident and comfortable performing.

For example, a song like "She Used to Be Mine" from *Waitress* could work well because of its emotional depth and storytelling. Alternatively, "On My Way" from *Kinky Boots* or "You Matter to Me" from *Waitress* are great choices if you want to convey warmth and personal connection.

Good luck with your audition!

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

Casting Workshop

Wednesday 18th September at 26 Rodney Rd, North Geelong from 7.30pm by invitation

Following auditions, you may be asked to attend a Casting Workshop which will form part of our callback procedure. You will be notified by email and text message if you are required and any required material will be sent to you via email. Not all roles will be called back, and if you are not required for a callback it does not mean you aren't being considered for a role.

Rehearsal Information

- Sundays 4.00pm - 6.00pm & 7.00pm - 10.00pm
- Mondays 7.00pm-10.00pm
- Wednesdays 7.00pm - 10.00pm

CentreStage also has the opportunity to provide 1:1 private vocal lessons for cast members to work on solo's or harmonies within our education program. Those opportunities will be discussed directly with the relevant individuals.

Rehearsals will take place at 26 Rodney Rd, North Geelong and 22 Princes Highway, Norlane during peak rehearsals. Rehearsals will commence from 14th October

Our strongest advice is to block out the Monday, Wednesday and Sunday rehearsal times throughout the rehearsal period as best you can and assume you will be required most rehearsals. A full rehearsal schedule will be provided at time of casting for the entire run.

Accommodations will be made to those who record known absences on their audition forms. In fairness to everyone, it is expected that you will be available for scheduled rehearsals. Melbourne-based performers are invited to audition and consideration will be made to the travel commitments you may experience in scheduling.

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

The Characters

[BEVERLY & OTHERS] Female, 30s-50s, any ethnicity. An American Airlines pilot, Beverly has always loved flying, but her world is changed when she hears about coworkers who were killed in the attacks, and when she is confronted by passengers who refuse to fly again. Also plays ANNETTE, a local teacher at the Gander Academy and mother to a lot of children. Excellent singer with a high mix/belt and soprano voice.

[BEULAH & OTHERS] Female, 30s – 60s, any ethnicity. Head of the Gander Legion, with a firefighter son, she befriends Hannah and walks to church and prays with her. Quick-witted and open hearted, Beulah loves to share a joke. Excellent singer with an alto/belt with mix voice.

[BONNIE & OTHERS] Female, 30s–50s, any ethnicity; A no-nonsense mother of 3, Bonnie is the head of the Gander area SPCA. When she discovers animals are trapped on the planes, she stops at nothing to ensure their safety – but in frustration, she often lashes out at her husband, Doug. Excellent singer with a strong alto/2nd soprano voice.

[DIANE & OTHERS] Female, 40s-60s, any ethnicity. Diane is a traditional divorcee from Texas, who is terrified that her son may have been flying at the time of the attacks. When she finds out he is safe, she's given a new lease on life and discovers a wilder more carefree side of herself. Alto belt and mix/soprano voice

[HANNAH & OTHERS] – Female, 30s–50s, African–American, Latina, Asian, or any ethnicity; the mother of a firefighter in Manhattan, Hannah waits for news about her son and is comforted by Beulah. Soulful belt and mix/soprano voice.

[JANICE & OTHERS] 20s, any ethnicity. An eager new local TV reporter, Janice is thrown into the deep end on her first day. Initially naïve about the world, Janice must face the pain and confusion around her. Comedy skills a plus. Excellent characterful belt voice comfortable with mix/soprano.

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

The Characters

[BOB & OTHERS] Male, late 20s – 30s, African-American. A hardened New Yorker, Bob is suspicious of where he's landed, fearing that it's World War 3, that someone is going to shoot him and steal his wallet – but instead he ends up losing his New York jadedness. Baritone.

[CLAUDE & OTHERS] – Male, 40s–60s, any ethnicity; The gregarious and well liked Mayor of Gander, Newfoundland, Claude loves his work, the townspeople, and his daily traditions, but he's never before had to deal with a crisis of this magnitude. Also plays DERM, mayor of the nearby town of Appleton. Rich, characterful baritone voice.

[KEVIN T & OTHERS] Male, 30s–40s, any ethnicity. The head of an environmental energy company in Los Angeles, Kevin was on vacation with his boyfriend (and secretary, also named Kevin), when they are stranded in Gander. Inspired by the town's generosity, Colin creates the 'Pay It Forward Foundation.' Also plays the role of GARTH, head of the local union representing the bus drivers. Excellent tenor voice.

[KEVIN J & OTHERS] Male, 30s–40s, Middle Eastern, Asian, Latino, African-American, or any ethnicity. Kevin T's boyfriend and secretary. Sarcastic and unhappy, he wants to leave and get back to the U.S. as soon as possible. Also plays ALI, an Iranian passenger. Excellent rich baritenor/tenor 2 voice.

[NICK & OTHERS] Male, 50s–60s, any ethnicity; An English oil engineer who is focused on his work, Nick's life is turned upside down when he falls for another passenger, Diane. Characterful baritenor or tenor voice.

[OZ & OTHERS] – Male, 30s–50s, any ethnicity; The quirky constable in the two-person Gander police force. When the town's population suddenly doubles, Oz helps out in unexpected ways. Also plays the role of JOEY, a rambunctious passenger on one of the planes who enjoys a good drink. Excellent pop tenor voice.

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions

Cast Fees

To ensure the success of our shows and provide you with a fantastic experience, we have outlined our membership fees and volunteer commitments below:

Membership Fee:

- Upon successfully securing a role in our production, each cast member will be required to pay a membership fee of \$125 per person. This fee includes several benefits:
 - Insurance Coverage: You will be covered by our insurance during rehearsals and performances.
 - Cast T-Shirt: You will receive a commemorative cast T-shirt to proudly represent CentreStage.
 - Afterparty Supplies: We will organise a post-show celebration, and your membership fee contributes to the supplies and festivities.

Volunteer Commitment:

- As part of our commitment to building a strong community, each cast member is expected to nominate a person aged 18 or older to support various activities, including Bump In, Bump Out, and other volunteer tasks. This commitment entails dedicating 10 hours of volunteer work throughout the production process.

Option 1 - Waive Volunteer Commitment:

- If you wish to be exempt from the 10-hour volunteer commitment, you may choose to pay an additional fee \$100. By doing so, you remove this obligation and solely focus on your performance.

Option 2 - Waive All Fees and pay nothing

- Alternatively, we offer a second option to waive all membership fees listed above. However, there is a catch. To qualify for this option, you must be willing to contribute 15 additional hours of volunteer work to CentreStage. Once you complete these hours, you will not be required to pay any membership fees.

We believe that both options offer flexibility to our cast members, allowing you to tailor your involvement to your preferences and schedule. We highly encourage active participation in our vibrant community, but we understand that personal circumstances may vary.

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/auditions