

“Carmen The Musical” - Info Pack

WARRAGUL THEATRE COMPANY Inc.

by arrangement with HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD on behalf of JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD LONDON

Present their 2012 PRODUCTION



Music – Georges Bizet adapted & arranged by Bobbie Field
Book and Lyrics by David Badger

THE CREATIVE TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Michelle Carrigy
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: David Williams
CHOREOGRAPHER: Emmalee Meisels

PERFORMANCE SEASON

WEEK 1	Fri 18 May @ 8pm	Sat 19 May @ 2pm	Sat 19 May @ 8pm	Sun 20 May @ 2pm
WEEK 2	Thur 24 May @ 8pm	Fri 25 May @ 8pm	Sat 26 May @ 2pm	Sat 26 May @ 8pm

INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday 18 October 2011 @7.30pm St Pauls AGS Year 9 Centre

AUDITION WORKSHOPS

Monday 24 October 2011 @ 7.30pm West Gippsland Arts Centre Warragul

AUDITIONS

Venue: St Pauls AGS Year 9 Centre

Friday 4 November 2011: 6.00pm-9.00pm

Saturday 5 November 2011: 9.00am-5.00pm

Sunday 6 November 2011: Callbacks: 10.00 – as required

NOTE: Times are approximate and may vary depending on the number of auditionees.

REHEARSALS

WGAC FOUNTAIN ROOM /STAGE or ST PAULS AGS Year 9 Centre

Thursdays: 7.00pm – 10.00pm

Sundays: 12.00pm – 4.00pm (Approx 2 per month)

A Rehearsal schedule will be available at the commencement of rehearsals

VENUES

WGAC Fountain Room / Stage

West Gippsland Arts Centre

Civic Place, Warragul

St Pauls Anglican Grammar School – Year 9 Centre

57-69 Sutton Street, Warragul

(next to Warragul Country Club)

THE DIRECTING TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: MICHELLE CARRIGY

Michelle's love of Musical theatre began watching old movies as a child. She has been involved in Local Theatre for the last 20 years working both on stage and behind the scenes. Michelle has been involved as a committee member for various theatre companies and has represented local theatre on the Local Arts Council at various times over these 20 years.

Beginning as a Cast member in productions such as *Anything Goes*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Les Miserables*, *Singing in the Rain* and *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Michelle developed an interest in the creation of the whole show which consequently led to an involvement in backstage production work.

She has been involved with Costuming *My Fair Lady*, *Singin in the rain*, *Anything Goes* and *Oliver*. Was Stage Manager for *Wind in the Willows*, *Oklahoma*, *Oliver*, *Annie* and *Les Miserables* and Assistant Director for *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oliver*, and *Singing in the Rain* just to name a few.

In 2009, Michelle was Artistic Director for the Latrobe Valley Theatre Company's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Returning to WTC after Directing the very Popular "Guys & Dolls" earlier this year, Michelle is looking forward to the challenge of "Carmen The Musical".

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: DAVID WILLIAMS

David graduated from Melbourne University Institute of Education with a Bachelor of Education in Music Pedagogy and later completed a Master of Arts in Performance on double bass from Monash University. David spent most of his performing career in the area of jazz, more specifically big band jazz, where he performed with some of Australia's finest band leaders including John Hawker Big Band, Kevin Hocking Band, former Count Basie trumpeter and Motown arranger Gil Askey. He played in bands that accompanied Debra Byrne, Rhonda Burchmore, Dame Kiri Te Kanewa and Peter Allan as well as playing with the State Orchestra of Victoria, Glenda Walsh "Makin Whoopee" and Rennie Jones Band. David played with the Cotton Club Orchestra for 10 years and recorded three CDs. He has been sessional bassist for recordings by contemporary Australian composer Felix Werder and for television and radio jingles and the feature film "Romper Stomper". He has extensive experience in touring, having toured Europe on two occasions where he performed with the Australian Heidelberg Orchestra. David also conducted concerts in Italy, Germany and Austria and studied conducting with Peter Clinch and Barry Bignall. David's musical direction musical includes *Oliver!*, *Fiddler on The Roof*, *Wizard of Oz*, *The Mikado*, *My Fair Lady*, *Singing In The Rain*, *Oklahoma!*, *Cats*, *Seussical*, *Les Miserables* and *Guys and Dolls*. He is also involved as musical director with Class Act Productions, a youth theatre company in Latrobe City. He is also musical director and conductor of the Latrobe City Youth Band. David is continuing studies of all aspects of music and performance and has recently studied singing pedagogy using the Jo Estill method. David is employed as Director of Music at Lowanna College in Newborough where he teaches classroom music, bass guitar, singing and violin.

CHOREGRAPHER: EMMALEE MEISELS

Commencing her dance training age three, Emmalee has explored all facets of commercial dance (incl. Modern Jazz, Contemporary, Broadway Jazz, Funk Tap, Lyrical, Broadway Tap, Classical Ballet and Hip-Hop). In her final years of high school, Emmalee managed to graduate, complete a Certificate II in Dance Performance and tour as a dancer to the United Kingdom & United States of America with the original musical "Spirit".

After returning home, Emmalee completed a grueling year of fulltime dance training at Isolation Performing Arts Studio, and was then accepted into the prestigious Australian Dance Institute where she obtained a Certificate IV in Dance Teaching and Management. Following this, Emmalee returned to the United States in 2009 to take on the role of Dance Specialist in Maine, USA.

As an entertainer, Emmalee has choreographed/performed at such events as; The AFL Grand-Final, Melbourne Moomba Waterfest-Parade, Melbourne Grand Prix Opening Gala, 'Candyman' the musical, Maccabbi Athletics Carnival, Monsterball – Lady Gaga tribute show, The Cranbourne National Rodeo, the

ARC production of "Grease" and the BuSTCo production of "13". Emmalee is also one of the resident dancers for 'Platinum Dancers' and is currently choreographing for their nightclub show "Burlesque" and their performance at the State-of-Origin Melbourne International Rodeo at the Hisence Arena.

SYNOPSIS

CARMEN works in a cigarette factory in Seville. Of gypsy blood, she is passionate, wayward, fickle, courageous, reckless, and dazzlingly beautiful. Men find it hard to resist her; but she is as capricious as fair, and none of her many amours has lasted long. The girls, her fellow-workers, love and admire her, and if some are jealous, they must perforce hide their jealousy, since none has a chance when bewitching Carmen is in question.

Her latest affaire is with handsome Don José, of the Spanish army, who, for her sake, has deserted his own intended, mild, patient, loving Micaela. His conscience smites him, for until he came under the gypsy's spell he had dearly loved the girl. Carmen treats his passion lightly, and by her daring coquetries gives him frequent cause for jealousy, he is so deeply enamoured by her wild, uncommon charms, that daily he grows more completely her slave.

Micaela, in a despairing attempt to bring her truant lover back to reason - and to herself - leaves her home and seeks him out in Seville, where he is stationed. To aid her case she brings with her the portrait of his mother whom, in his heart of hearts, he adores, and timidly she gives him the kiss his mother sent him. For a little while Don José hesitates. Micaela's affection is so pure, so strong, that it appeals to his better self, and he resolves to be true to his promise and have no more to do with Carmen and her dangerous eyes.

But fate throws them together almost immediately. There has been trouble in the factory. The gypsy has teased unmercifully one of the girls in the workshop, and they have come to blows. In the end Carmen has stabbed her, though not seriously, and she is taken off by the guard under arrest.

In the guard-house Carmen comes across Don José, and, laughing at her custodians, she loses no time in captivating the young soldier with a dance and a song, with all the arch boldness of her warm-blooded nature. In the end, Don José, risking his military career, contrives that she shall escape. Don Jose is sent to Prison for allowing the escape. Weeks later we find Carmen at Lillas Pastia's inn, amidst a crowd of her gypsy friends, some of them who are smugglers. Don José, released from prison, who is now practically a deserter, makes up his mind to join the band, caring little what befalls him so long as he may be near the charmer, herself a fugitive and an outcast since slipping from the clutches of the authorities.

But having achieved her conquest, Carmen, as is her wont, soon begins to tire of Don José's devotion. As her frank friends remark, with a laugh, in six weeks she has usually had enough of any man, and is ready to find another victim. Nor is she long in marking him down. He is the bullfighter, Escamillo, of Granada, whom she might have had on her list long ago, had she cared. Soon the two men meet and the inevitable quarrel ensues. They fight with knives, and, as they are evenly matched, the result hangs in the balance until Escamillo's weapon breaks. So great is Don José's fury that he would undoubtedly have slain the bullfighter had not Carmen stayed his hand. The rivals part on terms of deadly enmity, promising to meet again and fight out their quarrel to the death.

Meanwhile, Don José torn between love and duty, breaks away, from Carmen and the gypsy smugglers, to go, at Micaela's entreaties, to see his old mother, who is dying and asks incessantly for her soldier son.

The last words tauntingly uttered by Escamillo as he departs are to invite all who care to see him at the coming bullfight, where he will play the chief part as Espada.

Outside the arena on the great day we find Carmen, who, disdainingly the warning uttered by a fellow gypsy, Frasquita, is resolved to see the fight. Reckless as ever, she has no fear of Don José, though he has threatened her. Besides, has she not read her fate in the cards, the verdict being death!

As she lingers at the entrance Don José arrives. He has come to make a last appeal to Carmen to give up the bullfighter in his favour. The love-tortured soldier will do anything she asks - renounce his family, join the gypsy band, go with her to the ends of the earth, if only she will love him as before.

Carmen will have none of him. At present she is Escamillo's, body and soul, and she will give Don José no sort of hope. From the ring inside come shouts of triumph. The torero has vanquished his bull, and the people are frantic with delight. Carmen, all eager to see her new hero in his hour of triumph, tears herself away from her old love, who by now is on his knees beside her, imploring her to stay. Fiercely she throws at his feet the ring he once gave her, and rushes to the arena door.

Mad with rage and disappointment, Don José springs to his feet, overtakes Carmen as she hammers at the woodwork, and, taking a dagger from his belt, stabs her to the heart, with a bitter curse.

The arena doors are thrown open. Escamillo, escorted by a jubilant crowd, comes out, to find Carmen lying dead before him.

CHARACTER LIST

<i>Role</i>	<i>Voice</i>
Carmen	Mezzo Soprano
Don José	Tenor
Micaela	Soprano
Escamillo	Bass Baritone
Mercedes	Mezzo Soprano
Frasquita	Soprano
Morales	Baritone
Zuniga	Bass
Dancairo	Baritone
Remandado	Tenor

Chorus of Townspeople, Urchins, Soldiers, Cigarette Girls, Gypsies and Smugglers

THE AUDITION PROCESS

NOTES:

1. Provide a 200-word bio and an ID photo with your registration form.
2. If you cannot commit to the rehearsals and performance schedule **do not audition**.
3. It is expected that you will be available for as many rehearsals as possible - regular non-attendance may result in a request to leave the cast.
4. Production Fees are payable at the first rehearsal. **No Fees – No Show**.
5. A high standard of Professionalism is required in all people involved with this Production: **No bullying** will be tolerated. Noisy and attention seeking people will not be tolerated. In Theatre there will be a code of **“Silence”** in the wings during performances.

These codes will be strictly enforced!

PHASE 1: AUDITION WORKSHOP - MONDAY 24 OCTOBER – ART CENTRE WARRAGUL

- Participation in the workshops is encouraged if you intend to audition.
- Check in 15 minutes before the workshops
- All songs are taught at the workshops.
- Materials for auditions will be available at the info night and the workshops

Singing audition requirements

1. Sing the set song or excerpt from the set songs (preferred) or
2. Sing a song of your own choice. You will need to provide your own backing for this song, please don't rely on Patto or Deanna to play for you.
3. Make sure the song is suitable and demonstrates a range of musical elements, you may not get to sing the whole song at the audition. Go to the section of the song that provides the best demonstration of your ability.
4. You can use sheet music in the audition, although learning from memory will allow you to present more convincingly.

Audition songs for:

Kids Chorus - Relieving Guard - Bar 30 – 59

Soprano – Memories - Bar 1 – 20 / 29 – 45

Mezzo Soprano – Habanera - Bar 1 – Letter C

Contralto - Gypsy Air - Letter A – Letter C

Tenor – Memories - Bar 20 – 44

Toreador - Bar 1 – Letter D (To be sung at written Pitch)

Baritone – Toreador - Bar 1 – Letter D (To be sung an octave lower than written)

These pieces may change – a final selection will be available at the Information Night

Characterisation and Dance

A excerpt from the show will be provided for the audition. However, if an auditionee knows a monologue they would like to present and will show they understand the feel of the show and its characters they may use this for the audition.

A dance piece will be taught at the workshop. Each auditionee will be asked to dance this at the individual auditions (No group dance auditions)

Workshop Schedule

40 Minute blocks (Includes a 5 minute change over)

Time	MICHELLE	EMMALEE	DAVID
7.30 – 8.10	Females	Kids Chorus	Males(Memories/ Toreador)

8.10 – 8.50	Males	Females	Kids (Relieving Guard)
8.50 – 9.30		Males	Females (Memories/Gypsy Air, Habanera)

Kids Chorus will be dismissed at 9pm

PHASE 2: AUDITIONS

Friday 4 November: 6.00 pm-9 pm

Individual Auditions

Saturday 5 November: 9am – 5 pm

Individual Auditions

Sunday 6 November: 10am – as required

Call Backs if required

- Check in 10 minutes before audition**
- Audition times will be allocated at registration, if not already signed up.
- Be available on Sunday in case of call backs.
- Call backs will be advised as soon as possible after auditions or by phone on Saturday evening

REHEARSALS

SCHEDULE:

- Thursday rehearsals** 7.00pm-10.00pm
- Sunday rehearsals** 12.00pm - 4.00pm (Times may Vary)
- Principals vocal rehearsals** will also be scheduled in addition to the above at times to be arranged with the Musical Director
- A detailed rehearsal schedule will be available at the first rehearsal on **Thursday 10th November**. Not all cast will be required to attend every rehearsal.

Attendance at rehearsals and every performance is an obligation of auditioning. You are advised to reconsider auditioning if you are unsure about being able to make this commitment.

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS: Compulsory non-residential workshops will be held during the rehearsal period. These will be confirmed shortly after rehearsals begin

BUMP IN, DRESS & TECH REHEARSALS: May 12,13,14,15.16 – all Cast required

NOTIFICATION OF AUDITION RESULTS: Audition results will be e-mailed w/c 7 November. It is essential that you check your e-mail and print out the attachments and bring these to the first rehearsal if you are cast in the production. Please ensure that you print your e-mail address clearly on the registration form. The full cast list will be posted on the WTC website after the first rehearsal when all offers have been accepted and Fees paid.

FEES: The staging of a large-scale musical theatre production involves a great deal of expense, some of which is covered by charging a fee to all those who accept a place in the cast. The WTC committee has established the following charges for the 2012 season:

AUDITION FEE: \$2.00 To be paid when registration forms are lodged

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$20.00

SHOW FEE: \$55

**ALL Fees must be paid at the start of the first rehearsal
No Fee/No Show – No Excuses!**

WARRAGUL THEATRE COMMITTEE 2011-2012

President: Vacant

Vice President: **Steve Howe**

Secretary: **Callum Mackay**

Asst. Secretary: **Stephanie Watson**

Treasurer: **John Kennon**

Asst. Treasurers: **Caroline Allen & Warwick Loveless**

Members: **Carole Harvey, Jenni Kirkbright, Paul Tyson,
Alan Wright**



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Application for Membership of Warragul Theatre Company Incorporated

I (print full name of applicant and occupation).....

of (address).....

desire to become a member of Warragul Theatre Company Incorporated. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Signature of Applicant: **Date:**.....

Print name:

Ibeing a member of the Association nominate

the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

Signature of Proposer: **Date:**

Print name:

Ibeing a member of the Association second the application of the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

Signature of Seconder: **Date:**

Print name:

DATE APPROVED: