



'DEBBIE' & 'BALLET GIRLS' CHILD CAST AUDITION INFORMATION & CASTING BRIEF

as of 31 October 2018

Universal Theatrical Group, Working Title Films, Greene Light Stage, Michael Coppel Entertainments and Louise Withers Presents are delighted to announce that *Billy Elliot the Musical* will return to Australia in 2019 for its 10th Anniversary tour. The hugely successful West End musical premiered in Australia in 2007 as the first international production outside of the UK and prior to its Broadway premiere. With the first Australian tour concluding in Melbourne in 2009, this new 10th Anniversary tour kicks off in 2019, ten years after the curtain came down in Australia.

Billy Elliot the Musical was brought to the stage by the multiple award-winning creative team including **Elton John** (music), **Lee Hall** (book and lyrics), **Stephen Daldry** (director) and **Peter Darling** (choreographer). The production features scenic design by **Ian MacNeil**, costume design by **Nicky Gillibrand**, lighting design by **Rick Fisher** and sound design by **Paul Arditti**. Musical supervision and orchestrations by **Martin Koch**.

The Australian production associate creative team is **Simon Pollard** associate director, **Tom Hodgson** associate choreographer and **Stephen Amos** associate music supervisor.

Producers:

Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Jon Finn, Sally Greene, Louise Withers, Michael Coppel & Linda Bewick

Executive Producers: Angela Morrison & David Furnish

Executive Producer Australia: Philippa Gowen

Casting Director: Lynne Ruthven

PRODUCTION DATES

"Debbie" & "Ballet Girls" cast rehearsals commence in Sydney on or about Monday 29th July 2019

The Premiere Season commences in Sydney at the Lyric Theatre in October 2019 to then be followed by seasons in other capital cities including Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane & Adelaide.

Publicity dates and costume fittings will be required in advance of these dates (dates to be advised)

Contracts will be "Run of Play" **Australia**.

All children will be required to tour accompanied by a parent or legal guardian for the full Australian tour concluding on or about November 2020.



AUDITIONS DATES

Sydney Auditions:

Round 1: Monday 25 February to Wednesday 27 February 2019 (*subject to change*)

Recalls and Finals: Thursday 28 February & Friday 29 February 2019 (*subject to change*)

All auditionees will need to be available for the above audition period to be considered for this production. Auditions for these roles will be held in Sydney only.

SUBMISSION PROCESS – “DEBBIE” & “BALLET GIRLS” CHILD CAST ROLES

Please complete the Debbie and Ballet Girl submission form available to print from the *Billy Elliot the Musical* website (www.billyelliottthemusical.com.au) and post together with photo and biography to:

Billy Elliot the Musical – Children’s Casting
LRC, PO Box 123, Montmorency VIC 3094

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS – CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FRIDAY 21 DECEMBER 2018

- Not all submissions will be guaranteed an audition.
- Please refer to character descriptions below for role requirements. You are welcome to submit for a particular character however the audition team may request you to audition for another character.



BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL “DEBBIE” & “BALLET GIRLS” CHILD CAST

CASTING GUIDELINES & CHARACTER NOTES

- All characters in *Billy Elliot the Musical* will have regional accents from County Durham, Northern England.
- The production script includes swearing by both adults and children. The film BILLY ELLIOT is a good guide if you are not familiar with the story and its context.

DEBBIE

Mrs Wilkinson’s daughter. A good actor. Will be required to sing and do some ballet. Tap skill’s are a benefit but not essential. All shapes & sizes should apply.

Age: 9 - 11 years (born between 29 July 2008 & 10 February 2010)
Height: Maximum height 145 cm

BALLET GIRLS (CHILDREN’S ENSEMBLE)

The Ballet Girls form part of the ensemble of the company and are in Mrs Wilkinson’s dance class. Varying shapes and sizes. Must have ballet and tap skills and be able to sing.

Age: 9 - 12 years (born between 29 July 2007 & 10 February 2010)
Height: 121cm to 148cm
Notes: Some Ballet Girls MAY be required to do some pointe work but it is absolutely not essential for all Ballet Girls to have this skill



IMPORTANT INFORMATION & FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- All Sydney children auditioning must meet **ALL** the following 3 requirements:
 1. Must ordinarily reside within 90 minutes travel to the theatre (Lyric Theatre, Pyrmont)
 2. Must ordinarily reside within 90 minutes travel to the rehearsal venue (ABC Studios, Ultimo)
 3. Must ordinarily reside within 110kms between their principal place of residence and Sydney's CBD
(guide for checking time & distance please use Google maps).
- We are looking for "Debbies" and "Ballet Girls" based in Sydney only, as per the travel and kilometre requirements above.
- During the audition process, your child may be required to be assessed by a physiotherapist and speech pathologist appointed by the production.
- Please refer to character descriptions for height requirements. The maximum height for Debbie will be **145cm** and the Ballet Girls maximum height will be **148cm**. Children will be measured on the day of their audition, the height submitted on the application needs to be accurate.
- Please note that the children's roles in *Billy Elliot the Musical* have very particular physical requirements including, but not limited to height and vocal requirements. Should a child cast in the show mature beyond the physical parameters of the role, they may no longer be able to remain in the production.
- Due to production requirements, the child cast will be onstage with performers using tobacco-free smoking cigarette props throughout the show.
- This production includes tobacco-free smoking, strong language, strobe lighting, pyrotechnics, theatrical smoke and loud music.
- The production asks that if you are approached by the media to undertake publicity about your child's participation in the audition, or any publicity relating to *Billy Elliot the Musical*, please do not engage with the media without prior consent from the production.
- We are aware that some individuals / organisations may offer workshops to prepare auditionees for *Billy Elliot the Musical* auditions. Please be aware that these workshops are not officially associated with the production, therefore we cannot guarantee auditions will be granted to all workshop participants. Each applicant will be assessed independently.
- Please note that auditionees may be photographed and recorded as part of their participation in the audition process for casting purposes.

— 10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR —



BILLY ELLIOT
THE MUSICAL

- Auditionees may be asked to be recorded, either inside or outside the audition room, with such recording to possibly be used for promotional content of the production process including, but not limited to; news stories, programing for broadcast and social media. Such recording will be voluntary without compensation.
- Children cast in the production will need to be available to go on tour to perform in the proposed Australian capital cities (outside their home city). Children cast in the production will need to have a parent / legal guardian accompanying them for the entire duration of the tour. The parent / legal guardian will be responsible for each drop off and pick up from work calls and schooling, along with supervision at all times when the child is not at work.
- All children will be required to take a period of absence from their current school for the duration of the child's engagement on the production. All schooling and tutoring will be provided by The McDonald College Sydney located in North Strathfield. The appointed teacher / tutor will liaise with each child's individual school regarding educational requirements and report back at the conclusion of the tour. The appointed teacher / tutor will tour with the production.
Enrolment, school fees and uniform costs will be covered by the production, but parents will be responsible for transport to and from school / tutoring sessions, personal electronic device requirements and stationary / book supplies.
- If offered a role, a child may not be able to be in the show if their education authority does not approve the child to be absent from school for periods as required. This approval will need to be sought by the parent with the support of the production prior to the child being contracted for the show. A proposed outline of rehearsal and performance requirements will be provided, so schools understand the time requirements of the child. However, please note production schedules will vary and flexibility is mandatory.
- When children are required to travel away from their home base; travel allowances, accommodation and wage provisions will be provided per the terms of the Billy Elliot Performer's Collective Agreement.
- We trust that you will support and accommodate your child if cast in the production of *Billy Elliot the Musical*. We believe working on a world-class production such as *Billy Elliot the Musical* is an excellent opportunity to provide a positive educational and life experience for a child. Should your child be chosen to move through the audition process, the production will provide ongoing information to keep agents (if applicable), parent/s or guardian and or and the child informed about next steps of the audition process and the requirements of the production. As involvement in the production will require school co-operation, family co-operation and a considerable time commitment from the parents and the child, it is imperative that a child only remains in the process with the full support and commitment of their family, school and agent (if applicable).



- Billy Australia 2019 – 2020 Pty Limited is a committed equal opportunities employer with responsible child safeguarding practices in place.
- Parents will be asked to read and understand a *Billy Elliot the Musical* workplace code of conduct and other various workplace policies.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

- *Billy Elliot the Musical* works in partnership with the relevant child authorities in each state who monitor child employment to ensure that statutory code of practices are followed, along with promotion of best practice.
- All employees on the production acknowledge that they will be working with children in the production of *Billy Elliot the Musical*. The production has developed a Working with Children Policy and it is a requirement of *Billy Elliot the Musical* that all production personnel undertake a police check annually and or a Working with Children Check as part of the production's due diligence in working with children.
- Compliance with the Working with Children Policy will be mandatory at all times.