



Redcliffe Musical Theatre is proud to announce AUDITIONS for CATCH-22

Audition Pack

Date: Saturday, February 29

Time: 3-6pm

Address: Theatre 102 at 102 Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe (next door to the Redcliffe Hospital)

Casting Requirements – 9 males and 3 females ranging in age from 20 to 60.

With the exception of Yossarian who is on the stage for the entire play, all other actors will have multiple roles. The quick change from one character to another can be frantic but adds to the pacy nature of the play, a hat change may be all that is needed to identify who you are playing.

The men will all have to portray a person in the US Army and a US accent is our goal. Accents can be from all regions.

The director is originally from the USA and does accent coaching for theatre projects in the region.

Rehearsal Schedule – TBA. We are looking at a Tuesday and Thursday evening rehearsal for 2 hours each night with a variable call out on

Sunday over an 8 hour period. (For the first three weekends it will be on a Saturday)

The director will endeavour to only require you at rehearsal when you are needed.

Upon receipt of an acceptance for a role you will be asked to advise any and all periods of unavailability to assist in scheduling what scenes will be rehearsed.

Performance dates- The first two weekends of May. Two performances on the Saturday. Total of eight performances.

Friday May 15 & 22 – 7.30pm

Saturday May 16 & 23 – 2pm and 7.30pm

Sunday May 17 & 24 – 6pm

Contact: Doug Harper 0416256707 (the director)

The Play

Damned if you do and damned if you don't is the frustratingly hilarious message inside of the bureaucratic idiocy that is Joseph Heller's sublimely absurd comedy Catch 22.

The paradox drives our hero John Yossarian half mad by his will to live. Each time he reaches the quota of missions required the number is raised.

Located on a fictional island off the west coast of Italy during WWII, Captain Yossarian learns that the only way he can get out of flying further missions is if he is insane. If he says he doesn't want to fly any more missions it is deemed that he is sane because only an insane person would actually want to.

Yossarian is actually suffering from a type of PTSD from an incident that you only learn about at the end of the play which Joseph Heller adapted from the novel himself.

Cast members

1. Male – 25 – 35

Captain John Yossarian. A bombardier with the US Army Air Corps stationed at an airfield off the coast of Italy. His attempts to employ logic in a world that is unsympathetic to that concept is slowly sending him over the edge. He becomes obsessed with his own survival as the number of missions he must fly before he can go home is raised while his companions are dying one by one. This creates his own private catch 22.

Life isn't worth living without a moral concern for others but taking care of the welfare of others can endanger his own life.

His motto: 'Live forever or die in the attempt.'

2. Male - 30 – 50

Major Major Major: His name is his father's idea of a joke after first contemplating Drum Major, Minor Major, Sergeant Major, or C Sharp Major. His promotion to Major happened on the first day of boot camp to avoid confusion.

He is painfully awkward and will not see anyone while in his office. He wears a disguise when not in his office. (Eventually no one recognises him unless he is wearing his disguise.) Think Bob Newhart, who played him in the movie.

He is inept as he tries to follow the rules so nobody likes or trusts him.

Colonel Cathcart The ambitious, unintelligent officer in charge of Yossarian's squadron. Colonel Cathcart wants to be a general, and he tries to impress his superiors by bravely volunteering his men for dangerous combat duty whenever he gets the chance. As he tries to scheme his way ahead, he considers successful actions "feathers in his cap" and unsuccessful ones "black eyes."

He repeatedly raises the number of missions the men have to fly to complete a tour of duty beyond that normally required by other

outfits. Ironically, this provokes no reaction from the generals, who are apathetic to the war efforts, but becomes the bane of Yossarian's life.

3. Male - 30 – 50

Wintergreen,

The mail clerk at the Twenty-seventh Air Force Headquarters, Wintergreen is able to intercept and forge documents and thus wields enormous power in the Air Corps. He continually goes AWOL (Absent Without Leave) and is continually punished with loss of rank.

Wintergreen has been demoted so many times that he entertains hopes of becoming an ex-general. Due to his position in charge of mail distribution, by forging documents and destroying mail, he becomes more powerful than the generals.

Nately's Father, A wealthy American businessman

Old Man A 107-year-old man who lives in the brothel frequented by Nately. He sides with whomever is in power and mocks Nately's idealism. He reminds Nately uncomfortably of his own father for the reason that the old man is absolutely nothing like his father.

First Investigating Officer

The first CID man is sent to investigate the excessive censoring being done by a soldier named "Washington Irving", the alias Yossarian made up to supplement his own boredom with mild amusement. He enters the hospital, posing as a patient initially, then ironically comes down with pneumonia and is required to actually stay in the hospital. The second CID man is sent to investigate the continued use of "Washington Irving"'s name, however this time it was at the hands of Major Major. He goes undercover as a pilot but blows his cover by telling everyone who he is. The two investigators end up pursuing each other instead of making any actual headway in their own cases.

4. Male - 30 -50

Chaplain A friend of Yossarian. Timid and thoughtful, Tappman is a naïve Anabaptist minister from Kenosha, Wisconsin. As he is extremely timid and terrified of authority, the chaplain is tormented throughout the novel by his rude, manipulative, atheist assistant, Corporal Whitcomb. Easily intimidated by the cruelty of others, the Chaplain is a kind, gentle, and sensitive man who worries constantly about his wife and children at home.

Psychiatrist

A neurotic psychiatrist who is convinced that Yossarian is mentally unstable because he acts rationally.

5. Male - 30 – 50

Doc Daneeka- The medical officer. Doc Daneeka feels very sorry for himself because the war has interrupted his lucrative private practice in the United States, and he refuses to listen to other people's problems. Doc Daneeka is the first person to explain Catch-22 to Yossarian.

Dr. Dan Daneeka is the squadron flight surgeon and a friend of the novel's protagonist, Yossarian. Doc Daneeka's main motivation is for his own welfare, whether that be making money or protecting his own life. He generally forgets his moral duty as a physician except in the most extreme of circumstances. Doc Daneeka feels the military is responsible for him being drafted into the war effort and putting him in harm's way, because they were distrustful of him when he lied on his drafting papers about his health. He is constantly scared of upsetting his superiors who may see fit to then ship him off to the far more dangerous South Pacific. Already he sees it as military cruelty to have been assigned to the Air Corps even though he is scared of flying. His catchphrase could be seen as "You think you have it bad? Well what about me?" since his self-centeredness ensures his thoughts are constantly centered on himself.

Lt Col Korn

A lieutenant colonel who is Cathcart's assistant, he is the more clever and is Colonel Cathcart's intellectual assistant and right-hand man. Korn appears along Cathcart throughout the novel and it becomes clear to the reader that Korn does most of the thinking and most of the work for Cathcart, who only takes the credit. Korn is portrayed as much more relaxed and less ostentatious than his superior, but much more sadistic and cynical. Much like Cathcart he has ambitions for higher military ranks but chooses to be below Cathcart and remain outside the limelight so that, if something goes wrong, Cathcart will take the fall instead of him..

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CID man

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6. Male - 25 – 50

Texan

A patriotic soldier who keeps the men from staying in the medical ward to hide out from the war by being overly friendly. He is in the ward when Dunbar and Yossarian enter, attempting to escape their duties in their respective squadrons, but they are eventually chased out by his pleasant demeanour.

English Intern An out of place Englishman in the base hospital.

Captain Black

The squadron's bitter intelligence officer, Captain Black wants nothing more than to be squadron commander. He exults in the men's

discomfort and does everything he can to increase it; when Nately falls in love with a whore in Rome, Captain Black begins to buy her services regularly just to taunt him.

Another of the novel's more despicable characters, he is a narrow-minded, sadistic intelligence officer who frustrates Nately by repeatedly procuring Nately's whore for himself. He initiates the Glorious Loyalty Oath Crusade.

7. Male - 20 – 35

Milo

A fantastically powerful mess officer, Milo controls an international black-market syndicate and is revered in obscure corners all over the world. He ruthlessly chases after profit and bombs his own men as part of a contract with Germany. Milo insists that everyone in the squadron will benefit from being part of the syndicate and that “everyone has a share.” He also takes his job as mess officer very, very seriously; as a result, the troops in Yossarian’s division eat better than any others.

Representing an extreme version of capitalist free enterprise that has spiraled out of control, Milo seems simultaneously brilliant and insane. What starts out as a business in black-market eggs turns into a worldwide enterprise in which, he claims, “everyone has a share.” At first, Milo’s syndicate seems like a bit of harmless profiteering; we cheer for Milo because he is at least making money at the expense of the ridiculous bureaucracy that perpetuates the war. Like Yossarian, he bends the rules toward his own benefit; his quest for profit seems logical compared to the way Colonel Cathcart sends his men to their deaths just so he can get a promotion. All the men seem to like Milo, and they are perfectly willing to fly him to places like Malta and Egypt so that he can buy and sell his goods.

In many ways, Milo’s character shows how capitalism transcends political ideology. We are never given any idea of what the war is being fought over, and the men have no sense of defending the ideals

of their home country. Milo's ability to make money off of both friend and enemy, and his willingness to support whichever is more profitable, take advantage of the complete lack of ideology in Catch-22. Furthermore, his willingness to allow his own camp to be bombed shows his complete disregard for the sides drawn by the war, and the men's acceptance of payment for being bombed shows that Milo is not alone in placing a high value on making money.

Patient's Father Comes to the hospital to visit his dying son.

Aarfy

Yossarian's navigator, even though he gets lost wherever he goes. Aarfy infuriates Yossarian by pretending that he cannot hear Yossarian's orders during bombing runs.

Yossarian's incompetent navigator pretends that he can't hear when anyone yells for help. Ultimately, he is exposed as cruel, sadistic, and criminal.

Captain Aardvaark (called Aarfy) is the navigator in Yossarian's B-25 bomber (but only when Yossarian is flying in the lead ship – hence Aarfy's sporadic appearances in the air in the novel). He is oblivious to incoming flak, repeatedly gets lost on missions, and always smokes a pipe. Yossarian comments that Aarfy is just not intelligent enough to be afraid of the war. He befriends Nately in the hope of working for Nately's wealthy father after the war. Aarfy sees himself as moral and protects well-connected women from the sexual advances of other officers, but he ends up raping and murdering the innocent maid Michaela. When asked by Yossarian why he didn't simply hire a prostitute, he repeats his common admonition that "Old Aarfy has never paid for it." He shows no remorse for these crimes until he begins to worry that he might be brought to justice for them.

8. Male - 20 – 25

Clevinger

An intellectual but foolish friend of Yossarian, his trial before the Action Board (Chapter 8) is one of the best known sections of the novel; he dies on the Parma mission.

An idealistic member of Yossarian's squadron, Clevinger firmly believes in such concepts as country, loyalty, and duty, and argues about them with Yossarian.

Patient Enters Hospital, Sees double and dies.

Nately - A good-natured nineteen-year-old boy in Yossarian's squadron. Nately, who comes from a wealthy home, falls in love with a whore in Rome and generally tries to keep Yossarian from getting into trouble. A nineteen-year-old friend of Yossarian, from a privileged background, he falls in love with a prostitute whom he plans to marry. His argument with a diabolical old man at a brothel in Rome is one of the novel's entertaining debates on values.

McWatt - A cheerful, polite pilot who often flies Yossarian's planes. McWatt likes to joke around with Yossarian and sometimes buzzes the squadron.

Snowden - A gunner on the Avignon mission, his wounds prove to be more severe than Yossarian initially can detect. The young gunner whose death over Avignon shattered Yossarian's courage and caused him to experience the shock of war. Snowden died in Yossarian's arms with his entrails splattered all over Yossarian's uniform, a trauma that is gradually revealed over the course of the novel. In the play Snowden's death is the catalyst for the PTSD that drives Yossarian's despair, however the portrayal of his demise is not revealed to the audience until the end of the play.

Snowden's death embodies Yossarian's desire to evade death; by seeing Snowden's entrails spilling over the plane, he feels that "Man was matter, that was Snowden's secret. Drop him out a window and he'll fall. Set fire to him and he'll burn. Bury him and he'll rot, like other kinds of garbage. That was Snowden's secret. Ripeness was all".

Second Doctor An unnamed doctor in the hospital

Corporal Whitcomb, The chaplain's antagonistic, atheistic, sadistic assistant, he initiates the form letters of condolence and is partly responsible for the C.I.D. investigation of the chaplain.

Gus An Orderly in the hospital

M.P. An MP

10. Male - 20 – 35

Sgt Towser– Major Major's assistant; he prevents anyone from seeing the Major while he is in his office, and only allows them in when the Major is gone. Due to Major Major's unwillingness to see anyone, Towser is the de facto head of the 256th squadron and also holds no desire for a promotion or any interest in the war.

First Doctor An unnamed doctor who gets into diagnost arguments with second doctor.

Patient's brother Comes to the hospital to see dying patient.

Wes An orderly at the hospital.

Second Investigating Officer The second CID man is sent to investigate the continued use of "Washington Irving"'s name, however this time it was at the hands of Major Major. He goes undercover as a pilot but blows his cover by telling everyone who he is. The two investigators end up pursuing each other instead of making any actual headway in their own cases.

M.P. An M.P.

1. Female - 20 – 40

Nately's Whore

Never named, she is one of the most enigmatic characters in the novel. She is a reluctant lover for Nately, suggesting that if he really loved her he would sleep with one of the other girls and leave her alone. When Yossarian tells her of Nately's death she becomes an

ardent would be murderer. Somehow blaming Yossarian for Nately's death she spends the rest of the play trying to kill him.

2. Female 40+

Luciana

A somewhat romanticized young woman with an "invisible scar," she has a brief fling with Yossarian while he is in Rome on leave. A beautiful girl Yossarian meets, sleeps with, and falls in love with during a brief period in Rome.

Patient's Mother Comes to hospital to see dying patient

Nately's Mother Wealthy matriarch

Old QWoman Resident at the Bordello

Daneeka's Mother in Law Dr. Daneeka's Wife's mother.

3. Female - 20 – 40

Nurse Duckett

A nurse in the Pianosa hospital who becomes Yossarian's lover. Despite Yossarian's boorish assault on her in the hospital, she later becomes his lover until she decides to marry a doctor, any doctor, because doctors make lots of money. Critics point to Duckett as an example of Heller's difficulty in creating credible female characters.

Mrs. Daneeka

Officially informed of her husband's death, she is confused by written pleas for help from Doc Daneeka. She comes into a fortune through insurance policies and burial money. Her mother urges her to take the money in spite of letters from her husband begging her to believe him. He is not actually dead.