

A person with long blonde hair, wearing a dark blue quilted jacket and bright yellow pants, stands with their back to the camera on a highly reflective surface. The person's reflection is clearly visible below them. The background is a vast, colorful sky with soft, blended hues of blue, purple, and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and artistic.

# THE LOVELY BONES

**AUDITION  
PACK**

**REDCLIFFE**  
MUSICAL THEATRE

**BOOK by ALICE SEBOLD**

**Adapted for the stage by BRYONY LAVERY**

**Licensed by ORIGIN THEATRICAL**

**REDCLIFFE MUSICAL THEATRE is thrilled to bring The Lovely Bones to THEATRE 102 for a season of 8 performance in SEPTEMBER. This play is a very recent adaptation – first performance was in 2018 in the UK - of the 2009 movie of the same name.**

**This is a stage adaptation of Alice Sebold's 2002 novel of the same name. The story revolves around Susie Salmon, a 14-year-old girl who, after being murdered, watches from her own personal heaven as her family and friends cope with her death and as her killer attempts to cover his tracks. The play captures the emotional and psychological depths of the characters as they navigate their grief and search for justice.**

The story begins with Susie Salmon narrating her experience from heaven. She recalls the events leading up to her murder by her neighbour, George Harvey. Susie is lured into an underground hideout by Harvey, where he kills her. After her death, Susie finds herself in a personalized version of heaven. From here, she can observe the world she left behind and the people she loves. Her heaven is a reflection of her desires and dreams, providing solace and a sense of peace.

Susie's family is shattered by her death. Her parents, Jack and Abigail, struggle to cope with the loss. Jack becomes obsessed with finding Susie's killer, while Abigail distances herself emotionally and eventually has an affair with the investigating detective, Len Fenerman. Jack becomes suspicious of George Harvey but lacks concrete evidence. He conducts his own investigation, which leads to a series of tense encounters with Harvey.

From her vantage point in heaven, Susie tries to communicate with her family and friends. She guides them subtly and occasionally makes her presence felt, providing them with comfort and hope.

George Harvey continues to live his life, seemingly unnoticed. However, Susie observes his actions and his intent to harm others. The tension builds as Susie's sister, Lindsey, discovers evidence linking Harvey to the crime.

Over time, the Salmon family begins to heal. They start to find ways to cope with their grief and rebuild their lives. Susie's presence continues to be felt, offering a sense of closure and peace. Harvey's past crimes and his true nature are eventually revealed, although he evades legal justice. His fate is left ambiguous, but there is a sense of karmic justice as he meets an uncertain end. Susie finds some measure of peace knowing that her family is moving forward.

In the final moments, Susie reflects on her journey and the impact of her death on those she loved. She accepts her fate and finds closure, allowing herself to move on from her earthly attachments.

The stage adaptation typically aims to capture the novel's poignant emotional landscape and the fantastical elements of Susie's heaven, often utilizing creative staging, lighting, and multimedia effects to convey the story's unique blend of realism and the supernatural.

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Producer – Madeleine Johns  
Director – Sandra Harman  
Staging Manager – Jonathan Johns  
Technical Manager – Jonathan Moss

## **AUDITIONS at THEATRE 102**

Information session – Wednesday 17 July 7pm

### **Auditions - SUNDAY 21 July 9am-1pm**

We ask that you prepare a short monologue in the style of the play – no more than 1 minute. You will be asked to perform this monologue first for the audition panel and then we will ask you to do cold reads from the script with the other auditionees. We may need to go to call-backs to ensure we have the right balance for the characters – especially as many of the performers will have multiple roles in the play.

## **REHEARSALS at THEATRE 102**

Monday and Wednesday nights 7.15pm to 9.30pm and Sunday TBA – starting from Monday 22 July.

## **PERFORMANCES at THEATRE 102**

Friday 6th September	7.30pm
Saturday 7th September	2pm and 7.30pm
Sunday 8th September	6pm
Friday 13th September	7.30pm
Saturday 14th September	2pm and 7.-30pm
Sunday 15th September	6pm

## **CHARACTERS –**

Note we will be looking for actors who can play multiple roles for many of the characters.

Suggested characters in multiple roles are –

Len Fenerman / Samuel  
Ruana Singh / Franny  
Grandma Lynn / Mrs Flanagan  
Ruth Connors / Buckley Salmon  
Ray Singh / Principal Caden

**Susie Salmon:** The protagonist and narrator of the story. A 14-year-old girl who is murdered and watches over her family from her personal heaven. In the play, Susie's journey is one of transformation. She starts as a vibrant, innocent teenager whose life is violently interrupted. As she navigates her afterlife, she grapples with her desire for justice and the need to see her family heal. By the end of the story, Susie reaches a place of peace and understanding, symbolizing the idea that even in death, love and connection persist. Susie's portrayal in the play is both poignant and powerful, capturing the essence of her character as described in Alice Sebold's novel while bringing a dynamic and theatrical element to her journey. Looking for a 16-18yr old performer who can portray a 14-yr-old.

**George Harvey:** The antagonist, a neighbour and Susie's murderer. Harvey's portrayal is chilling, with his calm and methodical demeanor contrasting sharply with the brutality of his actions. He is not a one-dimensional villain; his interactions and the subtle cues of paranoia and guilt add layers to his portrayal, making him a more complex and disturbing figure. Harvey's character serves as a symbol of hidden danger and the unseen threats that can infiltrate everyday life, emphasizing the themes of vulnerability and the quest for justice in the face of incomprehensible evil. Through George Harvey, the play delves into the darkness that can exist beneath the surface of ordinary life and the enduring impact of unchecked evil on those left behind. Looking for a strong actor over 40yrs.

**Jack Salmon:** Susie's father, who becomes obsessed with finding her killer. Jack's journey through the play is one of intense emotional struggle and gradual acceptance. Initially driven by a need to uncover the truth and avenge Susie's death, he undergoes a profound transformation as he grapples with his obsession and the resulting consequences on his family and himself. His relentless quest for justice and his deep, unwavering love for his daughter make him a compelling and tragic figure. Ultimately, Jack's journey underscores the enduring impact of loss and the challenging path toward healing and resolution. Jack's portrayal in the play emphasizes his complexity as a character—a father torn between his love for his family and the consuming drive to seek justice for his daughter. His narrative provides a powerful exploration of grief, obsession, and the struggle to find peace after an unimaginable loss. Looking for an actor 35-45yrs.

**Abigail Salmon:** Susie's mother, who struggles with grief and eventually distances herself from the family. Abigail's portrayal in the play highlights her struggle with finding her place in a world shattered by loss and her search for a path to healing and reconciliation. Her character captures the intricate dance between running from pain and facing it head-on, ultimately showing that even the most fractured relationships can begin to mend with time and understanding. Looking for an actress over 35yrs.

**Lindsey Salmon:** Susie's younger sister, who becomes a source of strength and hope for the family. She begins as a young teenager thrust into the turmoil of her sister's death and grows into a steadfast and courageous young woman. Her journey is marked by her efforts to balance her own grief with the need to support her family, seek justice for Susie, and continue with her own life. Lindsey's portrayal in the play underscores the multifaceted nature of grief and the different ways individuals, especially siblings, cope with loss. Her character captures the essence of strength in the face of adversity and the ability to find light and hope even in the darkest of times. Lindsey is 13 at the time of Susie's death and she grows up during the course of the play. Looking for a 16-18yr old actor to play this role.

**Buckley Salmon:** Susie's younger brother, who is too young to fully understand the tragedy but is deeply affected by it. Initially, he is a young child trying to make sense of the loss of his sister and the ensuing changes in his family. As the story progresses, he becomes more attuned to the

complexities of his family's grief and begins to find his own way of coping and understanding. Through Buckley, the play explores the impact of loss on a child and the ways in which children perceive and process grief differently from adults. His journey from innocence to a more nuanced understanding of his sister's death and its effects on his family underscores the theme of resilience and the enduring strength of familial bonds. Buckley is only 4 yrs old at the time of Susie's death – we are looking for a young actor 14-16yrs who can play a much younger character.

**Ray Singh:** Susie's schoolmate and first crush, who also has to cope with her loss. His character contributes to the emotional depth and thematic exploration of the story. His portrayal underscores the impact of Susie's death on those closest to her and the broader community, highlighting themes of resilience, love, and the enduring search for understanding and closure. Looking for an actor at least 16yrs of age.

**Ruth Connors:** A schoolmate of Susie who has a supernatural connection to her and is sensitive to Susie's presence. Her role as Susie's spiritual companion and confidante enriches the narrative by providing insights into the complexities of existence and the transformative power of friendship beyond the constraints of life and death. Ruth is 14yrs old at the time of Susie's death. We are looking for an actor at least 16yrs of age.

**Len Fenerman:** The detective assigned to Susie's case who becomes emotionally involved with Abigail. (her Mum). Len's character contributes to the narrative's exploration of justice, grief, and the aftermath of violent crime. His dual roles as investigator and supportive figure for the Salmon family provide a nuanced perspective on the complexities of seeking truth and finding closure in the wake of tragedy. Fenerman's character underscores the themes of accountability and the pursuit of justice, highlighting the profound impact of Susie's death on those left behind. Looking for a mature actor over 30yrs.

**Principal Caden.:** While Principal Caden is a minor character, his presence in the play adaptation emphasizes the broader community's involvement in dealing with the aftermath of Susie's murder. His character symbolizes the school's and, by extension, the community's official response to the tragedy of Susie's disappearance and subsequent discovery of her murder. Looking for a mature actor over 30yrs.

**Grandma Lynn:** Susie's paternal grandmother, who provides support and stability for the family after Susie's death. Her character in the play enriches the narrative by providing a portrayal of familial love, resilience, and the transformative power of support during times of crisis. Her role as a matriarch and emotional anchor for the Salmon family underscores the themes of unity, healing, and the enduring strength of familial ties in the face of tragedy. Looking for a mature actress over 50yrs.

**Franny:** Susie's guide in her afterlife, helping her navigate her new existence. Franny's character enriches the narrative by providing a spiritual perspective on the afterlife and the journey of the soul. Her role as Susie's mentor and guide underscores the themes of spiritual growth, acceptance, and the enduring nature of love and connection beyond physical life. Through Franny, the play explores profound questions about existence and the transformative power of understanding and embracing the mysteries of life and death. Looking for an actress over 18yrs.

**Mr. Singh:** Ray's father, who supports his son through the ordeal. Mr. Singh's character enriches the narrative by providing a perspective on family, community, and cultural diversity. Through Mr. Singh, the play explores themes of parental influence, friendship, cultural integration, and the broader impact of personal connections in the face of tragedy. Looking for an actor over 35yrs.

**Holiday:** The Salmon family dog who senses Susie's presence. His presence in the play underscores the themes of resilience, connection, and the comforting power of beloved pets in times of grief. Through Holiday, the play illustrates how even in the face of profound loss, the simple joys and steadfast companionship of a pet can provide a sense of continuity and hope for the future. This role will be played by a young actor 16yrs or older.

**Ruana Singh:** Ray's mother, who is sympathetic and understanding. Should be over 35yrs.

**Samuel Heckler:** Lindsey's boyfriend, who becomes close to the Salmon family. His relationship with Lindsey Salmon offers a counterbalance to the grief and loss experienced by the Salmon family, highlighting the capacity for growth and new beginnings even in the aftermath of tragedy. Samuel's steadfast support and caring nature make him a crucial figure in Lindsey's journey towards healing and moving forward with her life. Through Samuel, the play underscores the importance of love, hope, and the enduring strength of human connections in overcoming life's challenges. Looking for an actor over 18yrs.

**Mrs Flanagan:** Mrs. Flanagan is depicted as a neighbour in Susie Salmon's community. She embodies the typical "nosey neighbour" trope, showing a keen interest in the Salmon family's ordeal and the unfolding investigation. Looking for a mature actress over 40yrs.

GIRL, COPS, DOGS in Heaven and The VANISHED GIRLS – Flora, Leah and Wendy