



Everyman Theatre AUDITION NOTICE

Girlfriends



A musical by Howard Goodall in collaboration with Richard Curtis and John Retallack.

Director: Wayne Vincent
Musical Director: David George Harrington



Girlfriends is set during the second world war. It is 1941. Most people in Britain inwardly believed they are outgunned and outnumbered and that they are heading for a crushing defeat. Girlfriends' follows recruits of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). This powerful show explores the relationships between the women in the WAAF. Women, thrown together at an air-force base in the east of England. All from different backgrounds and all with different temperaments, they become friends in this unusual melting pot.

Performance Dates: Tuesday 15th May to Saturday 19th May 2018

6 performances over 5 days at the Seligman Theatre, Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff.

Performances every evening at 7.30 with a matinee on Saturday 19th May.
Technical, Band Call & Dress Rehearsals: Sunday 13th May and Monday 14th May.

Rehearsals will begin on Sunday February 4th 2018.

Rehearsal days will be Mondays (19.00 till 22.00) and Sundays (13.00 till 16.00) during February and Mondays, Thursdays (19.00 till 22.00) and Sundays (13.00 till 16.00) from March onwards.

Rehearsals will be carefully scheduled and not everyone will be called to every session.

Additional rehearsal days may be called nearer production period.

THE SHOW

'Girlfriends' follows recruits of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) during the second world war. The basic story revolves around a love triangle involving new

recruits Amy, Lou and dashing pilot, Guy. This resolves with Amy and Lou reflecting that “there’s always someone left who cares like girlfriends do”.

More broadly, *Girlfriends* explores the relationships between the women in the WAAF and the pressures, expectations, dilemmas and challenges they faced supporting the war effort.

In Howard Goodall’s own words: “Their moral dilemmas were acute.... I wanted to reflect the multitude of feelings and moral positions that co-existed amongst people fighting for the Allies in that war, to get beyond the - undeniably compelling - moral certainties of the Churchill speeches. What was unique about these women is that 6 weeks before they were ordinary folk who suddenly, with almost no training, preparation or build-up, found themselves at the front line of history’s most frightening...and barbaric confrontation. These were not trained military personnel who had had months of brainwashing, nor were they modern people who could see TV reports, surf the net or read detailed & balanced news journalism before they arrived on an airbase. They were relatively innocent and open-minded, and yet they rose to the challenge of the enormous contradictions and difficulties they faced with stoicism and inner strength. It is essential to understand that for the whole 1941 period of the action of *Girlfriends*, most people in Britain inwardly believed they were outgunned and outnumbered and that they were heading for a crushing defeat. And so it was their mental attitude, alongside their military courage and improvisation that must have pulled them through as much as anything else.”

THE CAST

Minimum of 10 women and 2 men. We may cast up to an extra 4 female Ensemble. All cast will need to undertake a singing audition.

THE CHARACTERS

All Female roles can be sung in the mezzo soprano range. Amy, Lou, Jas and Sally are the largest female roles in the show.

Amy: Age: presents as late teens / early 20s. New member of the WAAF. Well-brought-up curate’s daughter. A good girl. Encouraged to sign up by best friend Lou. Naïve and shy. Catches the eye of pilot, Guy. Falls in love but scared of being hurt. Wants to wait for intimacy with Guy. Falls out with Lou over Guy. Works in the control tower. Grows emotionally stronger during the show.

*I’ve never met girls from the north before
I’ve never heard jokes as vulgar as theirs
Their none of them shy or alone like me
Whatever I do, it seems no one cares*

Lou: Age: presents as late teens / early 20s. New member of the WAAF. Persuades best friend Amy to join up. Confident and less naïve although doesn’t know what an “officer’s groundsheet” is. Optimistic – left a useless job and a boyfriend. “Best escape I had”. Goes through an emotional journey becoming disillusioned – “frozen”, falling for Guy and re-finding herself. Works in the officers’ mess.

*And now I'm learning something new
Joining in
Growing up
In my new blue
Feeling wanted like the boys do*

Jasmine "Jas": Age: presents as early to mid 20s. Could feasibly be a bit older. New member of the WAAF. Scottish accent. Down to earth, ballsy, naughty. Wants a date. Impulsive. Jas and Sally described as the "terrible twins" by other WAAFs. Jas is torn between the damage being done to women and children in Germany and her duty to her own people. She buckles under the news of her home town being bombed and of her own brother's death at sea and wants out even though Guy tells her: "In war normal rules don't apply". Works as a packer.

*I got away, I ran away
I must be bloody mad
They'll all be searching high and low
Said tata to my papa
"I'm off to get fish and chips"
And that was sixteen days ago*

Sally. Age: presents as early to mid 20s. New member of the WAAF. Working class. Poor background, large family. Northern lass. Dreams of having more money. Down to earth, ballsy, naughty. Jas and Sally described as the "terrible twins" by other WAAFs. She says about swapping fireplace for enemy fire: "I've come a long way – I feel respected." Wants a date and eventually finds a willing partner in Gareth.

*The life me mum led
Which left her half dead
Was not the life for me
Two up two down for
Her and five kids or more*

Jane: Age: more experienced in life than Amy and so could present from mid 20s through to early 40s. Kind, empathetic, mature. Has been hurt. Lost her love on a tour of duty. Works in the control tower. Sings beautiful soaring duet with Amy.

*The chances are he won't return
Though we all pray that he'll make it
The chances are he'll win your heart
The chances are that he'll break it*

Sgt Woods: Age: could present from mid 20s to early 40s. Harsh, domineering, pragmatic, "she is like a battleship"

*Yes you!
Will do what you are told
You'll learn to be controlled
Commanded and cajoled*

That's why you all enrolled

Janet, Pam, Karen, Phyllis: Other new WAAF recruits. Some individual singing, ensemble singing and some dialogue. Age: the majority of WAAF members were between the age of 18 and 40. Initially the **recruiting age** limits for the **WAAF** were 18 - 43. In 1941 these limits were extended to 17½ - 44.

*Although they tire us
These jobs inspire us
The war has changed our lives
We're not just spectators
We're not just airmen's wives*

Age including ensemble parts: the majority of WAAF members were between the age of 18 and 40. Initially the recruiting age limits for the WAAF were 18 - 43. In 1941 these limits were extended to 17½ - 44.

Female ensemble parts: new WAAF recruits. Ensemble singing. Age: as per Janet, Pam, Karen, Phyllis.

Guy: A bomber command pilot. Handsome. "Fair hair blue eyes, a charmer's grin, a slightly pointy chin, a bit like Errol Flynn". Oxford educated, likes cricket. Bomber command aircrew had only a 1 in 5 chance of making it through a first tour of 30 missions. They therefore, lived life for the moment. Self absorbed. Guy fancies Amy. He wants action on the ground to match his missions in the air but Amy wants to wait. The relationship peters out, so he jumps into bed with Lou, a far more willing partner. Stiff upper lip but, eventually acknowledges his inner fear.

*But every flight feels like the first
It's just as cold and dark
I'm just as scared inside*

Gareth: A navigator. Nice man. Voice of reason. Amusing Welsh sidekick to Guy, who tries too hard with the opposite sex and has trouble getting lucky, until sunny Sally finally proves amenable.

*In the messes and clubs
And in a favoured few pubs
There are men like me
We're the jammy sods
With the luck of the gods
On a jambouree*

Age: The majority of RAF Bomber Command aircrew were aged 19 through to their mid-twenties although younger and considerably older airmen have been identified. The average age is stated to have been 21.

THE DIRECTOR

Wayne Vincent has produced and directed shows for over 10 years. His recent productions include Through the Looking Glass, with Newport Operatic Society and the Drowsy Chaperone and Dick Barton Special Agent with Splott Operatic Society. In 2011 he produced and directed Girlfriends.

Wayne is a member of Everyman and most recently appeared as Jim Trott in the Vicar of Dibley at the 2017 summer festival.

Wayne is passionate about equality. As head of strategy for the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales, Wayne is thrilled to be involved in this powerful show with the experience of women in the WAAF at the heart of it.

THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

David George Harrington is a professional freelance composer, arranger/transcriber/orchestrator, conductor and pianist, working as an accompanist, répétiteur and musical director to a variety of music ensembles, most notably the "ALL THAT MALARKEY" Classical Cabaret ensemble. He is pianist and conductor to a number of choirs across the UK, as well as MD to a host of theatre productions and entertainment shows from Music Conservatoire events to external music and theatre companies.

David has taken on commissions of new works in the last two years from both established and amateur ensembles/soloists (professional commissions include WNO, Cory Brass Band, Eminence Brass Quartet to name a few), working with musicians from across much of the UK from conservatoire students to members of the LSO and the Orchestra of WNO. Arrangement commissions from Decca, including work for Only Men Aloud, Katherine Jenkins and Connie Fisher.

THE AUDITIONS

Before auditioning, please take a moment to consider the necessary level of commitment. Take careful note of the rehearsal period and be honest about your availability within it.

Although the rehearsal process takes place over a number of weeks, consistent and punctual attendance is essential, as we will be operating within a very tight schedule.

A high level of unavailability, persistent lateness and/or no-show will regrettably result in your being asked to leave the production.

- Auditions will be held in the club room at **Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, CF5 1QE** on:
 - Friday 12th January (19.00-22.00)
 - Saturday 13th January (13.00 to 16.00)
 - Monday 15th January (19.00 to 22.00)
- If you would like to audition but cannot attend on any of these days, please let us know as soon as possible
- Please arrive 15mins before your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form. **NB. Please attach a photograph.** Spare audition forms will be available on the day
- When booking an audition slot, please refer to the character breakdown
- At audition you will be asked to read a scene (or scenes) from *Girlfriends*. The scripts will be available from Amanda Smith beforehand and will be provided at audition. Guide tracks will also be available from Amanda Smith.
- You will also be asked to:
 - sing a prepared song of your choice. Please bring the piano score of your chosen song with you. (This relates to all female and male roles)
 - sing a short piece relating to the character(s) you are auditioning for. This relates to named female roles only. There will be 5 guide tracks to select from – Amy, Lou, Jas, Sally, and one track for all other named WAAFs.
- Audition songs may be filmed to enable the Director and Musical Director to review each audition. Any footage will only be used for audition purposes and will be deleted once the audition process is completed.
- If you are recalled, you may also be asked to read scenes and sing in pairs or in groups

- Not being recalled does not necessarily mean you are not being considered for a role
- Call backs will be on Friday 19th, (19.00-22.00), Saturday 20th (13.00 to 16.00) and Monday 22nd January (19.00-22.00).
- We wish to take account of your talents and abilities when making casting decisions, so it is important that any special skills [eg musical instrument, dance, circus, combat etc.] are listed on the audition forms

**To reserve your place at the audition, please contact AMANDA SMITH on:
07540434046 or nearly50@outlook.com**

We look forward to seeing you!

Everyman Theatre Cardiff Ltd.

Audition Form for

Girlfriends [2018]

To book your audition time please contact AMANDA SMITH on:

07540434046 or nearly50@outlook.com

Please attach a
[current] photo
of yourself here!

Please write clearly and don't forget to bring this form with photograph to your audition!

Name.....
.....

Date of audition..... Time.....

Address.....
.....

Postcode..... email address.....

Tel.no [home]..... [work/mobile].....

Date of birth if **under 16** on 13th May 2018.....

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS – eg, dancing, singing, juggling, combat, *etc.*.....
.....

Please state **any and all commitments** [family/work/holidays/other shows *etc*] that **may** conflict with the rehearsal period.
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PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE [continue overleaf if necessary]
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If not cast in a principal role, would you be prepared to join the cast in an ensemble / non-speaking role – yes / no

Are you already a member of Everyman Theatre? yes / no

PLEASE NOTE – everyone cast must become an Everyman member.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTES:

Not cast/recalled/cast as..... written

acceptance rec'd **yes/no**