

David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers  
+  
Take That  
present



# Audition Pack

  
**FESTIVAL**  
PLAYERS

ADC THEATRE, CAMBRIDGE  
12th-16th January 2027

[www.festivalplayers.org](http://www.festivalplayers.org)

**“We’ve come a long way,  
but we’re not too sure where  
we’ve been”**

Thank you for your interest in our production of ‘The Band’. In this pack you can find out about the show, how to prepare for the audition, and the required commitments from you if cast.

We are very excited to bring this wonderful show to the Cambridge stage for the first time, and very much look forward to seeing you at auditions.

**Jonathan Black** - Co-Director

**Charlotte Dargan** - Co-Director and  
Choreographer

**Emily Huxter** - Co-Musical Director

**Stephen Denman** - Co-Musical Director

# SYNOPSIS

In 1992, five teenage girls - Rachel, Heather, Zoe, Claire, and Debbie - are devoted fans of a hugely popular boy band known simply as "The Boys." Their shared obsession brings them together, and they dream of meeting their idols one day. After attending a concert, however, a tragic event changes their lives forever and fractures their close-knit friendship.

Twenty-five years later, the women have drifted apart and are each dealing with the challenges of adult life. When one of them wins a competition for tickets to see their favourite band perform in Prague, the friends reunite for the first time in years. The trip becomes a journey of rediscovery as they confront old memories, unresolved grief, and the realities of the lives they have built.

As the women reconnect, they come to realize that their teenage fandom was about more than pop stars; it was about friendship, hope, and the dreams they shared. Through a soundtrack of Take That hits such as *Never Forget*, *Back for Good*, *Greatest Day*, and *Rule the World*, the musical celebrates enduring friendship and the power of music to connect different stages of our lives.

The show is ultimately a heartwarming story about growing up, growing older, and finding your way back to the people who once mattered most.

*Content warnings: This show deals with the subjects of death and grieving, and discussions of negative body image.*

# WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

While The Band exists in a world where Take That doesn't, and the Boys are said not to mirror the members of the now global celebrities - this is unapologetically a Take That jukebox musical, which largely remains very loyal to the original songs. We are looking for an energetic, committed and enthusiastic group of performers to bring this production to life. We hope to assemble a cast who are keen to explore how music can bond people together, to establish relatable characters and who are able to work closely as an ensemble.

## **Acting**

We are looking for actors who bring authenticity, emotional truth, and strong storytelling to their performances. The show relies on believable relationships, clear character choices, and the ability to connect with each other as well as the audience. Performers should be committed, responsive, and willing to take direction, as be confident to balance moments of comedy, drama and vulnerability.

## **Music**

We are looking for performers who are able to act through song and bring a real sense of character and humanity to the roles. The style is heavily pop driven with elements of musical theatre, so we are looking for singers with excellent speech quality and belt. Most of the songs will be performed with a live band as well as accompanying click tracks, so a strong sense of rhythm, musical precision and energy will be essential for this tightly bound cast.

## **Movement**

We are looking for performers who are willing to bring enthusiasm, energy, and a positive attitude to movement, regardless of previous dance experience. We are looking for people who are prepared to embrace the choreography, work collaboratively, and bring personality and enjoyment to every number. Inspiration will come from the dances of boy bands through the years, including Take That themselves!

# CHARACTERS

*If you have any questions about any of these roles and their representation in the text, please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

**The Boys** (Male-presenting, playing Age: 16-35, flexible)

*Boy 1, Boy 2, Boy 3, Boy 4, Boy 5*

**Young Women** (Female-presenting, playing Age: 16-18)

*Young Rachel, Debbie, Young Heather, Young Zoe, Young Claire*

**Women** (Female-presenting, playing Age: 35-50)

*Rachel, Heather, Zoe, Claire*

## **Supporting Roles**

*Jeff (Male-presenting, playing age: 35-50);*

*Dave (All genders, playing age: Any)*

**The Boys** (Male-presenting, playing Age: 16-35, flexible)

Five 'boys' make up the show's boy band, concert idols and almost dreamlike figures who guide the women through moments of nostalgia, loss and humour. Performers should be strong singers with excellent musicality and confident movers, ready to unleash their inner 'boy band' personas.

These roles require singers who can blend seamlessly as a group, creating the rich harmonies and unified sound that are so central to the music of Take That. Confidence singing in close harmony, listening and responding musically to one another, and the ability to balance individual character with a cohesive band sound will be essential. Featuring in almost every musical number, each of The Boys will have more sung material than your average leading man in most other musicals - so a high level of commitment is required, as well as the ability to quickly learn and retain harmonies.

We are looking for **tenor** and **baritone** singers for these roles.

*Character descriptions continue >>*

## **Young Women (Female-presenting, playing Age: 16-18)**

A group of teenage best friends, brought together by their love of ‘the boys’. Their love of music becomes an escape and a source of identity. Performers should be ready to work as an ensemble, exploring the role of friendship in shaping identities. The young women are full of energy, humour, insecurity and ambition.

We are seeking distinctive performers with strong individual vocal character and storytelling ability, while still being confident ensemble singers. These roles fall into the **Alto/Mezzo Soprano** range; they sing mostly in unison, with some moments of harmony. We are looking for people with a good speech quality tone, who are able to dip in and out of speaking and singing without losing a sense of groundedness.

**YOUNG RACHEL:** Quietly intelligent, imaginative, and emotionally mature beyond her years. Rachel retreats into music and fantasy to cope with a difficult home life and feelings she struggles to express openly. She is thoughtful and observant, often absorbing the emotions of those around her while hiding her own pain.

**DEBBIE:** Bold, loud, and endlessly excitable. Debbie is the life and soul of the group. This role requires a particularly strong singer, leading *Relight My Fire*, with a powerful belt and strong falsetto/head voice, who also loves to move.

**YOUNG HEATHER:** Sharp, stylish and rebellious, Heather desires for a career in fashion. She is bold, refusing to let others see her vulnerabilities, whilst dreaming of escape and reinvention.

**YOUNG ZOE:** Academic, sensitive, and somewhat socially awkward. Zoe often feels an outsider, even within her friendship group, and worries about fitting in. She is particularly close with Rachel, and brings emotional intelligence to the group yet struggles with self-confidence.

**YOUNG CLAIRE:** Sporty, practical and direct. Claire is dependable, and seeks to mediate within her friendship group. A diver with Olympic dreams, she is outwardly confident and competitive but inwardly uncertain of herself.

*Character descriptions continue >>*

## **Women (Female-presenting, playing Age: 35-50)**

Having drifted apart over time, the once innocent teenage girls reunite years later carrying the complicated realities of adulthood alongside the memories of who they once were. Each woman has been affected by life in different ways, but their shared nostalgia for their youth and - most importantly - 'the boys' brings them together once again.

We are seeking distinctive performers with strong individual vocal character and storytelling ability, while still being confident ensemble singers. These roles fall into the **Alto/Mezzo Soprano** range; they sing mostly in unison, with some moments of harmony. We are looking for people with a good speech quality tone, who are able to dip in and out of speaking and singing without losing a sense of groundedness.

**RACHEL:** The emotional centre of the musical. Rachel is guarded, resilient, and deeply affected by unresolved grief and disappointment. Though she appears composed, she struggles to let go of the past and often feels disconnected from her present life. Her journey is one of rediscovery, healing, and allowing herself joy again.

**HEATHER:** Confident, glamorous, and fiercely independent, Heather has spent her life refusing to be defined by anyone else's expectations. Once rebellious and outspoken, as an adult she has achieved much of the freedom she always craved. She lives unapologetically as a lesbian - something that comes as a surprise to many of her old friends.

**ZOE:** Once shy, anxious, and desperate to fit in, Zoe has grown into a confident, self-assured woman who is comfortable in her own skin. She is admired by her friends for being warm, open and emotionally intelligent, and knows to embrace who she is without needing external validation.

**CLAIRE:** Practical, dependable and refreshingly honest, Claire is the friend everyone turns to. Remaining local when all her friends flew the nest, she appears the most settled of the group. Reconnecting with her friends allows her to reflect on the choices and compromises that have shaped her life. This role is written for a plus-sized performer, with this characteristic referenced within the script, and self-deprecating humour is used as a coping mechanism by the character.

*Character descriptions continue >>*

## **Supporting Roles**

These two supporting roles are integral to shaping the narrative of the show, bringing humour and sincerity to the piece. There will be limited choreography for both roles. While Dave and Jeff sing in the Bows, they are mostly non-singing roles; however we are looking for people willing to give it a go and with a sense of musicality. Dave occasionally chimes in with an in-character line or two, but he doesn't necessarily need to sound traditionally 'good'. He just needs a sense of rhythm - and humour!

**JEFF (Male-presenting, playing age: 35-50):** Rachel's partner. Genuine, caring and patient, Jeff loves Rachel deeply but struggles to understand the emotional hold the past has on her. He represents stability and normality, often acting as a grounded contrast to the emotional nostalgia surrounding the reunion journey.

**DAVE (All genders, playing age: Any):** One actor plays multiple comic roles throughout the show, including drivers, airport staff, police officers, caretakers, and authority figures. Dave provides much of the show's humour and theatrical pace. Requires a performer with excellent comic timing, strong physical comedy, quick character transitions, and versatility.

# BOOKING AN AUDITION

You'll be able to book your audition via the [audition form on the Festival Players website](#), available after the Information Evening on 22nd June 2026.

## **First Round (15 min slot)**

Wednesday 8th July, 7-10pm (Christ the Redeemer)

Sunday 12th July, all day (Larkum Studio, ADC Theatre)

Tuesday 14th July, 7-10pm (Christ the Redeemer)

(detailed location info on the last page of this pack)

If you cannot make the dates for the first round of auditions, we will accept **self-tapes**. Details of how, what and when to submit are given in the section 'Self-tapes' .

## **Recalls**

Sunday 19th July, all day (venue tbc)

We would ideally see auditionees invited to recall in person, with those recalled only being required for part of the day. If recalled, this will include a dance workshop, and further extracts from the script and score. Further details will be provided if invited to recalls. If you have any unavailability on this day, please specify this on your audition form, and we will work to find a suitable alternative.

## **Cancellations**

If you have to cancel, please do so as early as possible via [auditions@festivalplayers.org](mailto:auditions@festivalplayers.org) to free up the slot for someone else.

# AT THE AUDITION

First round auditions will last for 15 minutes and include the following

- If auditioning for the following roles: Young Women, Women or Supporting Roles, you will be required to present *one* acting extract **AND** *one* vocal audition (see details below).
- If auditioning 'The Boys', you will be required to present *one* vocal audition **ONLY**.
- All auditionees will be required to complete a range and harmony test.

## **Vocal audition (required by all auditionees)**

Please present a vocal performance of any pop or contemporary musical theatre (1980s onwards) song of your choice. Max length 1 minute 30 seconds. All in-person auditions must be to live piano accompaniment so please bring sheet music for your chosen piece, with any cuts clearly marked for our accompanist. A short guide on how to prepare sheet music for an audition can be found [here](#). Some suggested songs by character group can be found [here](#). Be prepared to respond to redirection of your performance.

You will also be asked to complete a range and harmony test. Learning tracks and sheet music for this can be found [here](#).

## **Acting audition (required by those auditioning for Young Women, Women or Supporting Roles)**

Please select the relevant text extract for the character group you are auditioning for, all extracts can be found [here](#).

Please come to the audition familiar with the text. There is no expectation to have the extract off book. A member of the audition panel will read in any other lines. The show is set in North West England. We are keen to hear your attempts at a Mancunian accent during auditions, but the accent requirements will be fully determined during rehearsals. Be prepared to be given redirection in the audition.

# **SELF-TAPES**

If you cannot attend an in-person first round audition, we are happy to accept self-tape video submissions.

Your self tape should contain:

1. A vocal audition
2. An acting audition (**not required** if auditioning for ‘The Boys’)
3. A harmony test

The auditions coordinator will be in touch with how to submit your self-tape video.

**Self-tapes must be submitted by  
6pm on Monday 13th July.**

# REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will take place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, plus six Sundays:

- Sunday 11th October
- Sunday 25th October
- Sunday 8th November
- Sunday 22nd November
- Sunday 6th December
- Sunday 3rd January

Rehearsals commence w.c. 15th September. There will be a break in rehearsals over Christmas w.c. 21st December and w.c. 28th December. Rehearsals will resume on Sunday 3rd January.

Weeknight rehearsals will be at Christ the Redeemer on Newmarket Road, with the weekend rehearsal venue TBA. You may be asked to attend some additional 1-on-1 rehearsals outside of the published schedule (by arrangement).

If you have any known diary conflicts you should list these on your audition form and we will do our best to accommodate them. During the rehearsal period you must prioritise attendance, and make any conflicts that arise known to the production team as soon as you are able. Weekday rehearsals will begin at 7:30pm sharp, with the company arriving in advance, ready to work.

# GET-IN AND PERFORMANCE DATES

Saturday 9th January	Sitzprobe
Sunday 10th January	Tech
Monday 11th January	Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 12th January	Performance 1
Wednesday 13th January	Performance 2
Thursday 14th January	Performance 3
Friday 15th January	Performance 4
Saturday 16th January	Performances 5 & 6

# OTHER INFORMATION

## To join the company of 'The Band':

You must be at least 16 years old on 31st August 2026.

You will need to pay the 2026-27 annual society membership fee of £15.

You will need to pay the show fee of £40 .

If you have any concerns about meeting these costs, please email [secretary@festivalplayers.org](mailto:secretary@festivalplayers.org) or speak to a member of the committee who will be happy to discuss your options.

## Audition / Rehearsal Venue Locations

Christ the Redeemer Church Hall  
Newmarket Road  
Cambridge CB5 8RS  
(plenty of free parking at the venue)

Larkum Studio, ADC Theatre  
Park Street,  
Cambridge CB5 8AS  
(nearest car park is Park Street)

After the Intro Evening on 22nd June, please direct any general enquiries you may have about the audition process to [auditions@festivalplayers.org](mailto:auditions@festivalplayers.org)

**“Today this could  
be the greatest  
day of our lives”**

  
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