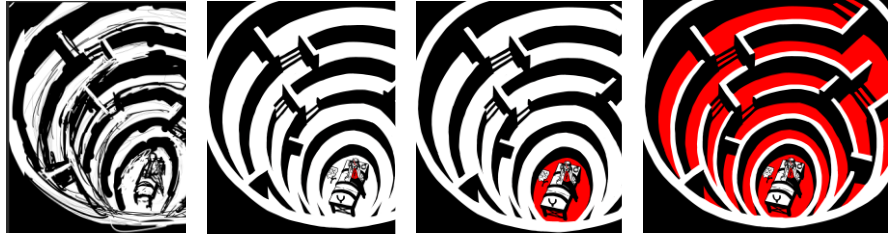


Labrats Auditions



Who: Actors/singers, preferably aged 17 years + *

Where: PGC Hall, 88 Hereford Street, Cannons Creek, Porirua

When: Saturday 30 May or Sunday 31 May

Call backs: Some people auditioning may be invited to attend a call-back day: *Monday 1 June* but roles may be cast before call-back day.

The Show

Labrats is a dark comedy musical swept along by a dynamic jazz-classical score. It has vivid characters, sharp humour, and a pacy plot.

The Setting

The story is set in 'The Pharm', a sequestered tower of pharmaceutical sweatshops and labs in a post-apocalyptic world. Ruled by the tyrant 'Mother' The Pharm is characterised by its hierarchies, drug abuse, slavery, human lab rats and harvested organs but it's not without humour and hope.

The Plot

Audiences will engage quickly with the story's protagonist, Marion, who struggles to break away from a violent relationship of co-dependence to protect those she loves. Other key characters include Chrissy, Marion's foster-daughter (a clone bred for her organs) and Sam, a privileged young activist with revolutionary ideas. These two find love but must overcome prejudice and opposition in their quest to survive.

The Characters

The larger-than-life villains are a disturbing mix of the comic and sociopathic. In stark contrast, the idealistic young activists and the resilient lab rats strive to find hope and beauty in the darkest of places. The latter must overcome prejudice and fears before they can join forces to build something better.

The Cast

For eight of the twelve roles, ideally we are seeking young adults who are aged 17 years or over, some of whom will play multiple characters. Other members of the cast will play older characters, three of these being major roles. All but a handful of the cast will need to be strong singers. Performers will be supported through the rehearsal process by a vocal coach. Of the musical's many characters, eight are gender neutral.

** Rangatahi aged 16 years will not be excluded, providing they comply with Gumption Productions' guidelines regarding parent support and emotional well-being.*

Writing Team

The music, composed by Andrea Robinson, is a fusion of jazz and classical styles and includes songs for soloists, and many chorus numbers with challenging cross-melodies and harmonies. The libretto and book were written by Richard Smith, who will co-produce this production of *Labrats*.

Non-profit Venture

The creative team, Gumption Productions, is staging this inaugural production of *Labrats* as a non-profit venture. With the exception of stipends for our director of music and vocal coach, our crew, cast, orchestra and technical team will be voluntary. We want the show to be affordable for all members of our community so ticket prices will not exceed \$25, with concessions available for students and job seekers.

Rehearsing

With the exception of the two weeks immediately prior to opening night, we anticipate most cast rehearsals will take place at PGC Hall in Cannons Creek, Porirua on Sunday afternoons.

Vocal coaching and choral rehearsals may occur in Porirua or Wellington. Scheduling and locations for these will be flexible and arranged with participants after casting. In the final two weeks prior to opening night, singers will rehearse with the orchestra and some weeknight rehearsals will occur.

Trigger Warning

Some of the show's content includes violence, bullying and implicit cruelty. This is one of the reasons for our preference for actors/singers aged 17 years or more. The musical depicts a verbally abusive co-dependent relationship (without physical violence) involving mature characters. There is also implied murder of people categorised as political threats, ostensibly in the name of eugenics. There will be no stage blood involved, however there is bullying, chemical control (non-sexual), threats of violence and violence (stabbing). Because of this, we would require parents/guardians of actors aged 16 years to be informed of this content. Parental/guardian consent would also be required before allocation of roles could be confirmed. In addition to this, designated support people (male and female) will be appointed should cast members require emotional support, even though younger performers are unlikely to be involved in scenes depicting violence.