Audition Pack
Produced by
Showbiz Christchurch

Artistic Team
Director / Choreographer: Stephen Robertson
Musical Director: Richard Marrett

A limited season at the Isaac Theatre Royal from 27 Sept - 12 Oct 2019
About Showbiz Christchurch

Showbiz Christchurch is the largest producer of musical theatre in New Zealand. Established in 1938, the not-for-profit incorporated society has produced over 140 major productions to a combined audience of more than 2.5 million Cantabrians and their guests. The organisation is governed by a voluntary Trust and Board, and more than 35,000 volunteers have been directly involved in Showbiz productions as performers or technicians, behind-the-scenes and front-of-house - all helping ‘the show go on’. Participation in Showbiz productions is on a voluntary basis, and it is because of this community structure that large scale, world class musical theatre can be staged here in Christchurch.

About Miss Saigon

*Miss Saigon* was conceived and brought to life by the creators of *Les Misérables*, Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg. Since its inception in 1989, *Miss Saigon* has won over 30 major theatre awards, been performed in 25 countries, and translated into 12 different languages. Awards include: three Tony Awards®, four Drama Desk Awards, and three Outer Critics Circle Awards. In 2009 Showbiz Christchurch staged the New Zealand premiere of this extraordinary musical, and in 2019 we see the return of the epic love story of our time.

Set during the Vietnam War, *Miss Saigon* begins in 1975 when the conflicting cultures and ideologies of the world seemed to meet violently in one city: Saigon. It’s an epic and tragic story of a young couple in love, caught in a world at war. Miss Saigon tells the story of Chris, an American male GI, who falls in love with Kim, a young Vietnamese orphan who works as a bar-girl and prostitute. When the city falls, the lovers are separated and Chris eventually returns to the U.S. Years later, Chris returns to Bangkok with his American wife, Ellen. In Vietnam, when Kim and Chris were together, they conceived a son, Tam, who is “bui-doí” Bui-doí were ‘Amerasian’ children (Vietnamese mother and a U.S. military father) who were often shunned and left behind after the Vietnam War. Kim raised their son on her own and when reunited years later, Kim and Chris must decide what the future holds for all of them.

Audition Information:

*Please read all information carefully & complete all sections of the separate audition application form.*

All roles in *Miss Saigon* (with the exception of Tam) are limited to performers aged 16 and above (must be 16 by 27 September 2019).

We are seeking a multi-cultural cast of diverse ethnicity and ages. The show is set during the Vietnam War and represents a mix of cultures and ethnicities from Asia, the Pacific and the U.S.A. This is a dynamic show, requiring highly committed singers, dancers and actors. As a through sung musical, it will require a core of experienced singers with strong vocal technique. Not all on-stage performers are expected to sing.

The season of *Miss Saigon*, produced by Showbiz Christchurch, will run at the Isaac Theatre Royal from **Friday 27 September – Saturday 12 October 2019**.

Please note there is strong language, adult themes and content dealing with war, prostitution and suicide.
Rehearsal Information:

Rehearsals will be held at Showbiz Christchurch rooms at 369 St Asaph Street.

Music rehearsals commence early June 2019, leading onto production rehearsals from mid-July. All rehearsals prior to final production weeks and the actual season are weekday evenings and Saturday/ Sundays.

The time required for rehearsing and staging a major musical is significant, and requires a full company of 150+ cast, band, production team and crew that are completely committed to the production. Please consider your availability carefully prior to committing to the 2019 season of Miss Saigon and notify of any potential conflicts on your audition forms. Non-notified absence from rehearsals is not acceptable.

Auditions will be held Friday 3 – Saturday 4 May 2019
All auditions will be held at Showbiz Studios - 369 St Asaph Street
Please park on the street as there is limited off street parking.

All ensemble auditionees are expected to complete both a movement and vocal audition.

- We do not expect all ensemble singers to be strong dancers, but we do need to understand how you move, and retain movement instruction.
- We do not expect all ensemble to be skilled singers, and will be able to cast dancer/ movers who are not strong vocally– however, we also need to know where you are at, musically, to be able to place you within a full company, so a vocal audition is required.

Group Movement calls:

The groups called at the times listed below will be broken down to smaller numbers, based on total numbers signed up, for a short movement audition. Please allow up to 45 minutes from the start time listed.

- **Saturday 4 May: 10.30 a.m.** Male group movement call.
- **Saturday 4 May: 11.15 a.m.** Female group movement call.
Vocal Audition times:

- **Friday 3 May:** 6.30 – 9.30 p.m.
- **Saturday 4 May:** 12.30 – 6 p.m.

  - Vocal auditions will be in 4 minute slots
  - Please prepare a short (approximately 2 minutes or less) own choice audition song from a musical in the genre of *Miss Saigon*
  - Please do not sing the songs from *Miss Saigon*, unless specifically requested to by the audition panel
  - Please bring your own sheet music in the key you are performing, and we will provide an audition pianist. If you prefer you may bring a backing track (instrumental only – no vocal line), on a smart device that can plug into our sound system – i.e. ipad/ Smart Phone/ ipod, etc
  - No a cappella (unaccompanied) auditions please
  - There will be recalls for all named Principal roles.
  - In you wish to be considered for a specific principal role, please familiarize yourself with their musical excerpts listed below, and on the Showbiz website audition page.

Audition applications and appointments are required.
Please apply and make a booking online using the link below.

What you need to know/prepare:

- Please read the instructions in the character notes below that give clear instructions as to what music you are expected to prepare for a call back, if required.
- On the day, please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your audition time, allowing time for administration and your individual preparation.
- Please bring with you:
  - Sheet music for your own selection song, in the key and version that you are performing, with cuts clearly marked (no chord charts), or a backing track if you prefer (without vocals). We will provide a pianist and backing track playback facilities for smart devices.
  - For the movement auditions, please wear appropriate clothing for movement. This does not need to be specific dance-wear, but please do not wear multiple bulky layers. No jeans, hoodies or other clothing that will restrict your ability to move freely.

**Call backs:**
Please be prepared for the possibility of a call back. Timing will be dictated by the total number of auditionees.

*Getting a call back does not guarantee a role. Likewise you may be cast even if you are not called back.* Please ensure that you have entered a current contact telephone number on your audition application form where we can easily reach you during the audition dates.

**Audition results notification:**
You will receive notification regarding the outcome of your audition, by email, no later than 5 June (if not before).
**Miss Saigon** Character Details

**PRINCIPAL ROLES:**

*Chris Scott (Stage Age 20-30, Pop Tenor - VOCAL RANGE A2 to B4)* - A young, tormented American GI. He is in love with Kim, but after they are torn apart, finds solace in his new love for Ellen back in the US. After 3 years of trying to get past his Vietnam experience and his shattered love, the news of a son born of Kim shakes his world apart.

*Recall song – Why, God Why*

*Kim (Stage Age 17-20, Mezzo-Soprano / Belter - VOCAL RANGE E3 to E5)* - A 17-year-old Vietnamese girl from the country. She moves to Saigon and falls in love with Chris, an American marine. She is young and naive, yet strong-willed. She would do anything for the good of her son, Tam.

*Recall song – I'd Give My Life For You*

*The Engineer (Stage Age 25-50, High Baritone - VOCAL RANGE A2 to Aflat4)* - The half-French, half-Vietnamese owner of the Dreamland club in Saigon. He is a greasy wheeler-dealer who puts self-preservation above absolutely all else.

*Recall song – American Dream*

*John (Stage Age 20-30, Pop Tenor - VOCAL RANGE Gsharp2 to Bflat4)* - Chris’s close friend and a fellow American marine. In the Dreamland bar, he buys Kim for Chris "as a last souvenir." Three years later, John has become an activist supporting aid to the Bui-Doi (the Amerasian offspring of American soldiers and Vietnamese mothers abandoned at the end of the Vietnam War). In his work, he locates Chris' three-year-old son, Tam, living with Kim in Bangkok.

*Recall song – Bui Doi*

*Thuy (Stage Age 17-25, Pop Tenor - VOCAL RANGE C3 to Bflat4)* - Kim’s cousin, to whom she has been promised since she was 13. He is a stalwart and determined Vietnamese military leader who will stop at nothing to get Kim back for himself.

*Recall song – Thuy’s Death*

*Ellen (Stage Age 20-30, Mezzo-Soprano / Belter - VOCAL RANGE Fsharp3 to G5)* - The sensible, stable American woman that Chris fell in love with and married 2 years after returning from Vietnam. The news that Kim is still alive and bore Chris' son threatens to change her life forever, but she is determined to do what is best for her husband, his son, and her marriage.

*Recall song – Now That I’ve Seen Her*

*Gigi (Stage Age 17-25, Mezzo-Soprano / Belter - VOCAL RANGE Aflat3 to Eflat5)* - A Vietnamese bar girl who wins the contest and the title of “Miss Saigon.” While on the surface, she is a hardened stripper, her true dream is to be taken away by an American marine to start a new life in America.

*Recall song – The Movie In My Mind*

*Mimi, Yvette & Yvonne (Stage Age 17-25, Any vocal range)* - Vietnamese strippers / bar girls at the Dreamland club.

*Recall song – The Movie In My Mind*
Tam (Stage Age 3, Non-singing) - The 3-year-old Amerasian son of Chris and Kim. (Can be played by a girl).

ENSEMBLE ROLES:
A large singing and dancing ensemble is a critical part of the show, and will be featured in many different ways throughout. There will be a mix of dancers, strong singers, and some character ensemble parts. Due to the adult themes of war and conflict, and scenes including Saigon strip clubs, an ability to work with mature dramatic material is required. Much of the story is told through the atmosphere and locations set by the ensemble’s movement, so the ability to be a risk-taking, creative, receptive and flexible group member is critical.

The ensemble will include the following roles/groups:
- Assistant Commissar, Captain Schultz, Club Owner, Officer, American G.I’s and marines, Bar Girls, Embassy Workers, Conference Delegates (Men), Soldiers, Vietnamese Men, Vietnamese Women, Hustlers, Vendors, Tourists.
- Vocal Range for ensemble men: A2 to D5
- Vocal Range for ensemble women: Aflat3 to C6

There is the possibility of additional backing vocalists being required, however this will not be confirmed until the auditions are completed and the vocal balance of the full on stage ensemble is established. To be considered for this possibility, please complete a standard audition as per above.

Musical Numbers of the show Miss Saigon

Act I
- "Overture" / "Backstage Dreamland" – Gigi, Kim, The Engineer and Bar Girls
- "The Heat is On in Saigon" – Soldiers, Bar Girls, The Engineer, Kim, John, Chris and Gigi
- "The Movie in My Mind" – Gigi, Kim and Bar Girls
- "The Transaction" – The Engineer, John, Soldiers, Chris, and Kim
- "The Dance" – Kim, Chris and The Engineer
- "Why, God, Why?" – Chris
- "This Money's Yours" – Chris and Kim
- "Sun and Moon" – Chris and Kim
- "The Telephone Song" / "Asking For Leave" – Chris and John
- "The Deal" – The Engineer and Chris
- "The Wedding Ceremony" – Gigi, Kim, Bar Girls and Chris
- "Thuy's Arrival" / "Thuy's Intervention" – Thuy, Chris, and Kim
- "Last Night of the World" – Chris and Kim
- "The Morning of the Dragon" – Soldiers, The Engineer, Two Guards and Thuy
- "I Still Believe" – Kim and Ellen
- "Back in Town" / "Coo-Coo Princess" – The Engineer, Kim, Thuy and Soldiers
- "Thuy's Death" / "You Will Not Touch Him" – Thuy and Kim
- "This is the Hour" – Chorus
- "If You Want to Die in Bed" – The Engineer
- "Let Me See His Western Nose" / "Kim & Engineer"– Kim and The Engineer
- "I'd Give My Life for You" – Kim
- "Exodus" – Chorus
Act II

- "Entr’acte"
- "Bui Doi" – John and Chorus
- "The Revelation" – Chris and John
- "What a Waste" – The Engineer, Hustlers, Tourists, John and Kim
- "Please" – John and Kim
- "Chris is Here" – The Engineer, Kim, Club Owner and John
- "Kim’s Nightmare" – Thuy
- "Fall of Saigon" – Soldiers, Chris, Kim, John and Citizens
- "Sun and Moon" (Reprise) – Kim
- "Room 317" – Kim and Ellen
- "Now That I've Seen Her" - Ellen
- "The Confrontation" – Chris, Ellen, John and Kim
- "Paper Dragons" – The Engineer and Kim
- "The American Dream" – The Engineer
- "This is the Hour" / "Little God of My Heart" (Reprise) – Kim
- "Finale" – Chris and Kim