

# THE IMPORTANCE of being JEWISH



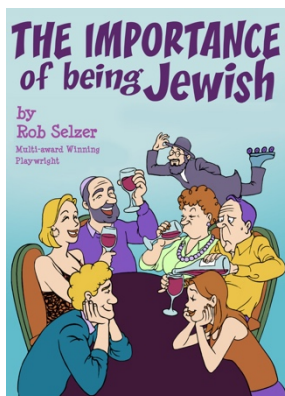
## AUDITION PACK

### INTRODUCTION & BOOKINGS

**Saltpillar Theatre** is looking to assemble a cast of diverse and enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about theatre for our upcoming Australian premiere, **The Importance of being Jewish**. While we are a Jewish organisation, we absolutely encourage anyone from any cultural background to audition. We are an inclusive and equal opportunity organisation, and we aim to create a framework in which people who love the theatre can come together to have fun, learn some new skills and create a piece of theatre that they are truly excited about, regardless of previous theatrical experience".

Once you have read this information pack, fill out an audition form and forward it to us by **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**. Then choose the downloadable script excerpt for the part you would like to audition for, here: <https://www.saltpillar.org.au/tiobj-auditions>

### ABOUT THE SHOW



*Who would have thought keeping the faith could be so hard?*

Ray Cohen couldn't be happier. His daughter, Tara, is be married to Leo, an Israeli studying for his Ph.D. at Melbourne Uni. His wife, Rosh, has finally forgiven him for botching the house renovation and the local rabbi loves Ray's architectural plans for the new synagogue, a big contract. Then in walk his prospective in-laws. Kitty, it turns out, is his ex-girlfriend from 30 years ago, before she converted. Ray's been acting like a good Jewish mensch to his wife and daughter forever, so if the secret gets out, he's ruined. But he has even bigger problems when he discovers the rabbi had a stroke, leaving the congregation in the hands of his rollerblading youngest, BB. And BB doesn't like Ray's plans. The plans that were going to pay for the over-the-top wedding he's arranged. Even worse, Ray has lost his ketubah which means Tara can't prove she is Jewish, which means she can't get married. His dad had started so well...

## IMPORTANT DATES 2021

Auditions:	<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>7.30pm - 10.30pm</b>
	<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>7.30pm - 10.30pm</b>
Call-backs:	<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>10.00am - 2.00pm</b>
Audition Venue:	King David School	517 Orrong Road, Armadale.
Rehearsal Period:	Commencing:	<b>May - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>
		<b>May - Wednesdays 7.30-10.30pm</b>
	<b>June -</b>	<b>Sundays 12.00- 4.00pm</b>
		<b>Tuesdays 7.30-10.30pm</b>
		<b>Thursdays 7.30-10.30pm</b>
	<b>July -</b>	<b>Sundays 12.00- 4.00pm</b>
		<b>Tuesdays 7.30-10.30pm</b>
		<b>Thursdays 7.30-10.30pm</b>
	(Exact dates/times will be confirmed post auditions according to cast availability)	
Production Period:	Bump In:	<b>1<sup>st</sup> August</b>
	Technical Rehearsals:	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> August</b>
	Dress Rehearsals:	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> August</b>
	Preview Matinee:	<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August</b>
11 Performances:	Show Dates:	<b>7<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August (Sat, Sun, Wed &amp; Thurs)</b>
		(Evening Shows + Sunday matinee & evening)
	Bump Out:	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> August (followed by cast party)</b>

**IMPORTANT** ... Please include **any unavailable dates** on your audition form.

**Production Performance period availability is a MUST.**

## AUDITION PROCESS

Once you have filled in the audition form and forwarded it to us by **28<sup>th</sup> April**, we will then contact you to arrange a time. The auditions will be undertaken with the creative team present. Please audition for the character that appeals to you. Brief character direction will be given in the audition if time permits.

Perform the monologue in the style of any character you wish to be considered for and note that the monologue does **NOT** need to be memorised.

After auditioning, the creative team will let you know whether you will be required for a call back on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**.

Successful applicants will be contacted by the **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**.

## ABOUT SALTPILLAR

Saltpillar Theatre was founded in 1986. Five members of the cast and production team of the first AUJS-Victoria (Australasian Union of Jewish Students) Comedy Revue resolved that the time for the establishment of a Jewish based theatre group was long overdue.

The original five, Ernie Schwartz, Steven Curtis, Eugene Berkovic, David Beresh and Ian Rubinstein soon converted ideas into action. In order to establish a true “community” group, they sought to involve a wide variety range of people. By April 1987, a nine-person committee, representing a cross-section of the Melbourne Jewish Community, was already planning its first production. In March 1988, Saltpillar staged its first production, the Australian premiere of *On Edge*, by local playwright, Yvonne Fein.

Since then, Saltpillar has staged many productions, fostered Jewish writing through the Samuel Weisberg Playwriting Award and given many people the opportunity to be part of a Jewish theatre group. Saltpillar has built a strong reputation on the quality of its productions and the high level of professionalism brought to them by all involved.

### Purposes

- Saltpillar Theatre aims to foster Jewish creative talent in all spheres of the performing arts.
- Saltpillar Theatre will stage a variety of theatrical events appealing to all tastes and age groups of interest to the Jewish and broader communities.
- Saltpillar Theatre will maintain the highest standard in the art of theatre and its administration.
- Saltpillar Theatre aims to be the performing arts resource centre for the Jewish community.
- Saltpillar Theatre aims to be a self-funding body, ensuring funds are raised from donations, returns from theatre activities and all other appropriate means.

### Lot's in a Name – why “Saltpillar”?

It took about 12 months before we settled on a name for the company. Minutes of committee meetings were headed “The As Yet Unnamed Theatre Company”. A number were considered and rejected. At one meeting, someone offered “The New Habimah Players” – a reference to one of Melbourne’s earlier Jewish theatre companies. This was also rejected when another person said, “We don’t look back”. “That’s right”, responded another, “we’re like Lot”. (The character in the bible whose wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back as they were fleeing Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot didn’t look back and lived).