

Audition Call - Their Finest Hour

An evening of storytelling, music and song, poetry and first-hand accounts from the men and women who served with the Royal Air Force in Europe during the Second World War. Their Finest Hour takes us on a journey from the early days of survival during the desperate evacuation at Dunkirk, to the heroic Battle of Britain, the dark days of the Blitz, the escalation of the bomber offensive, the D-Day landings in Normandy and the final victory in Europe. Music from the era captures the emotion of the time; the hopes of those involved, the fight for freedom, and the sacrifice made.

On 18 June 1940, when Britain stood alone, Winston Churchill spoke to the House of Commons of the danger ahead, closing with a final call to the nation and her Allies. 'Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour.' This is the story of those who gave Their Finest Hour.

We are looking for community actors to take part in *Their Finest Hour* which is being directed by Joe Malyan (*Macbeth* 2019, *Private Peaceful* 2018 and *Romeo and Juliet* 2018). This is a play with songs, taking place in the Studio Theatre in June 2019. The performances run from Wednesday 5th June - Saturday 8th June. Production week will start on the 1st June, exact times to be confirmed.

This is a piece of New Writing by Steve Darlow.

Music Direction will be by Tim Cumper and costumes will be designed by Anne Thomson.

This is a Studio Theatre Company production, produced by Auriole Wells and Steve Darlow.

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7pm-10pm, and Saturday evenings from 2pm-8pm potentially changing to 2pm-10pm if required. Not all actors will be called for all rehearsals, and rehearsals schedules will be worked around cast availability where possible.

Character Breakdown:

Actor 1 - Male in his 20's
Jamie Dunlop (Bomber Pilot)

The only part which doesn't role swap, Jamie is the protagonist of the story. Actor must feel comfortable leading the story, and confident in learning lines.

Actor 2 - Female 20's-30's
Multi-role part. Confident solo-singer, and strong reader of poetry.

Actor 3 - Female 20's-30's.
Multi-role part. Requires strong actress, confident in portraying a variety of different roles.

Actor 4 - Male, in his 20s.
Multi-role part. Requires strong actor, confident in portraying a variety of different roles as follows:

John (Grandson of bomber pilot)
Tony Iveson (Fighter and Bomber pilot)

Donald McLeod (Bomber navigator)
Tony Pickering (Fighter pilot)
Russ Jones (Bomber pilot)
Gordon Mellor (Bomber navigator)
Charles Owen (Bomber pilot)
Reg Barker (Bomber pilot)
Henry Wagner (Bomber navigator)
Gordon Brettell (Fighter pilot) POEM
Len Trent (POW)
Arthur Darlow (Bomber pilot)

Actor 5, Male, in his 20s.

Multi-role part. Requires strong actor, confident in portraying a variety of different roles as follows:

John Magee (Fighter pilot)
Erk (RAF groundcrew)
Army Officer
John Ellacombe (Fighter pilot)
Dennis Field (Bomber pilot)
Guy Gibson (Bomber pilot)
Ed Murrow (American broadcaster)
Jo Berry (Fighter pilot)
POW POEM
Ken Rees (Bomber pilot)
Tony Farrell (Bomber pilot)

Actor 6, Male, in his 20s.

Multi-role part. Requires strong actor, good with various accents, confident in portraying a variety of different roles as follows:

Tiny Cooling (Bomber pilot)
Station Commander
Commanding Officer
Calton Younger (Bomber navigator) - Australian
Owen Chave (Bomber pilot) POEM
Noel Coward POEM
pilot) operator)
(WAAF on bomber station)
Geoffrey Whitehead (Bomber groundcrew)

POEM Stan Selfe (Bomber airman)
Hart Finley (Fighter pilot) - Canadian
Jack Love (Bomber observer)
Willie Tait (Bomber pilot) Jamie's Father

Actor 7, Male, 40+ years old

Multi-role part. Requires strong actor, confident in portraying a variety of different roles as follows:

Group Captain (Operations officer)
Neville Chamberlain (British PM)
McKee (Squadron CO)
Winston Churchill (British PM)
Hugh Dowding (Fighter Command Commander-in-Chief)
Flight Commander
Arthur Harris (Bomber Command Commander-in-Chief)
Dwight Eisenhower (American general)
Squadron diarist - Canadian
Interpreter

The auditions:

Auditions are by appointment, each lasting 15 minutes.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your allocated audition time, which will be given to you once you have emailed the contact below. Please specify which role you would like to audition for when emailing.

Please prepare one monologue of your own choosing, suitable for the piece. You will also be sent a script extract to learn.

Anyone auditioning for the singing role, should be prepared to learn and sing a song with Tim Cumper at the audition.

Please email Auriole Wells to book your audition.
wellsauriole@msn.com

Audition Date - Saturday 9th March 10am-2pm OR Sunday 10th March 6pm-10pm. Please specify your preferred audition time when emailing your interest.