

# LIZZIE

By **Steven Cheslik-deMeyer, Tim Maner, and Alan Steven Hewitt**

Audition Information and casting brief  
**WITCH Music Theatre** © 2023

## About

Hot off the heels of a smash-hit season at the 2022 Sydney Arts Festival and a thrilling 2023 UK Tour currently playing in London, *Lizzie* now swings into Wellington at Circa Theatre with a sharp, sapphic, and stylish production.

Revenge, betrayal, sex, murder! What really happened in the house of Borden? On a sweltering summer in 1892, a wealthy businessman and his wife were found murdered in their own home. Their daughter, Lizzie Borden, was the prime suspect. *Lizzie* is the punk-rock musical reimagining of the gripping true-crime case of Lizzie Borden, exploring the heady and heated events leading up to the infamous trial that became a media sensation. Brought to life by a powerhouse cast of four performers and a searing live band, *Lizzie* is a suspenseful, queer, and rebellious new musical laced with political depth and a mischievous sense of humour that'll keep you on the edge of your seat.

*Lizzie* is brought to the stage by creative team: **Ben Emerson** (director), **Greta Casey-Solly** (co-director, choreographer), **Hayden Taylor** (music director), and **Joshua Tucker** (production designer).

*Lizzie* is produced by **WITCH Music Theatre** and is presented by **Circa Theatre**. Visit our [website here](#) for more information.

★★★★★

"A 'tour de force' of musical theatre"  
- North West End UK (2023)

★★★★★

"Sensational - it'll be a crime to miss it"  
- Manchester Theatres (2023)

★★★★½

"Must-see show [...] an absolute banger."  
- Sydney Morning Herald (2022)

★★★★★

"One of the best rock scores this side of Jesus Christ Superstar" - The Stage UK (2023)

Please find previous production footage of *Lizzie* including trailers, soundtracks and music videos [here](#).

## Notes

- All roles in this production are paid and will receive a co-op share of box office profit made.
- Casting is 18+ recommended.
- All performers must be able to work in Wellington for the entire duration of rehearsals and the season dates. Details found below.
- Rehearsals will operate between the hours of 9am - 5pm on Monday through Saturday with approximately 40 hours allocated per week.
- Technical rehearsal hours will shift into afternoon and evening based times closer to the first preview performance, 9 August.
- Rehearsals will be held at Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington.
- Publicity dates, photoshoots, media calls, and costume sizing will likely be required in advance of these dates (to be advised).
- Cast must attend all rehearsals, including photoshoots/media calls, as needed. Any scheduling conflicts must be declared and agreed to in advance.

## Casting breakdown

- All character breakdowns below are subject to your interpretation.
- All roles are open to any ethnicity and can be played by Female/Non-Binary/Gender Diverse actors who can sing in the vocal ranges of the characters listed below.
- All actors should be strong dancers and must be comfortable dancing in commercial dance heel boots.
- All roles require excellent vocal and acting ability with confidence in interacting with an audience in 'concert style' during the show.
- Previous experience gigging with a band/musicians is a plus.
- All performers must be capable of learning and performing music that crosses genres and must have the ability to affect their voice for atmospheric vocalisations throughout the score.
- The ability to read music and/or play instrument(s) is a bonus.
- We are interested in exploring a localised dialect for this production—this means you are welcome to audition with your own accent; otherwise, a standard American accent is preferred. Those auditioning for 'Bridget' should be prepared to play with an Irish accent.
- We are interested in making parts of the score more acoustic/soft-rock, so please take this into consideration when listening through previous recordings of the show.

### Lizzie Borden

Script gender: Female. Age range: 20s to Late-30s.

Vocal range: Mezzo Soprano (F#3 -F#5 with a high mix-belt/screlt to A5)

*Charismatic, passionate, sardonic, impulsive, conniving, charming, fragile, fractured, sinister, magnetic, terrifying.*

We are looking for an actor with a powerful contemporary pop/rock belt voice who can portray an enigmatic young woman on the brink of total collapse. We meet Lizzie just moments away from disaster; she is both an irresistible rock star and a wounded social outcast.

Features in songs such as: '[This is not Love](#)', '[Thirteen Days in Taunton](#)' and more.

Content: Must be comfortable with simulated physical intimacy as well as navigating mature themes with references to sexual assault and suicidal ideology.

---

### Emma Borden

Script gender: Female. Age range: 30s to 40s

Vocal range: Alto/Mezzo Belt (F#3-D5 with the ability to growl and rasp)

*Fierce, pragmatic, protective, loyal, jaded, staunch, grounded, neglected, courageous.*

We are looking for an actor with a fire-breathing belt quality who can portray a fiercely outspoken and protective older sister and maternal figure. Emma is resentful of her father, his new wife, and her less-than-ideal circumstances. She is wise to the world that has broken most of her spirit, that is until the unspeakable happens

Features in songs such as: '[Sweet Little Sister](#)', '[Burn the Old Thing Up](#)' and more.

---

*Continued on the next page.*

## Alice Russell

Script gender: Female. Age range: 20s to Late-30s

Vocal range: Soprano (G3-A5 with F#3 pick-up/ghost notes in one number)

*Kind, empathetic, romantic, optimistic, strong-willed, idealistic, sensuous, caring.*

We are looking for an actor with a sweet and lyrical pop/rock soprano with a strong mix belt. Alice is Lizzie's next-door neighbour and lover. Deep in her affection for Lizzie, Alice is seductive and tender until Lizzie's innocence comes into question

Features in songs such as: '[If You Knew](#)', '[Will You Stay?](#)' and more.

Content: Must be comfortable with simulated physical intimacy.

---

## Bridget Sullivan

Script gender: Female. Age range: 30s to 50s

Vocal range: Contralto/Alto (F3 - E5 with E3 pick-up/ghost notes in one number.)

*Playful, sarcastic, all-seeing, honest, obedient, bitter, saucy, curious, vivacious, quick-witted.*

We are looking for an actor with a lively, commanding and banshee-like voice who can portray a sarcastic and peculiar Irish housemaid. Bridget 'Maggie' Sullivan acts as one of the show's primary narrators; they are put upon, resourceful and wickedly humorous.

Features in songs such as: '[The House of Borden](#)', '[Mercury Rising](#)' and more.

---

## Swing Performers

We are also looking to cast two swing performers to cover two tracks each in this production. Both roles are paid.

## Audition submissions

Self-tape audition video submissions for all roles in this production of *Lizzie* are now open. The deadline for submissions is Sunday 7 January, 11:59pm.

All auditees must submit via an audition [form linked here](#), forms must include the requested information and accessible links to the audition material requested below.

Agent/manager submissions and correspondence are welcomed.

## Callbacks

In-person callbacks will follow auditions upon request during: **Late January** (*Weekend dates to be determined*). Excerpts from the score and sides will be sent to those we'd like to call back.

Callbacks will take place in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington. An accompanist will be provided at callbacks. You are not required to bring sheet music to your callback unless requested in advance.

Please let us know in your audition form should you not be available for an in-person callback during the date range indicated. Further self-tape submissions with new material from the score/script will be requested instead.

## Audition materials

Please prepare:

- A 90-second cut of an uptempo rock, pop-rock, or rock-musical theatre song in the style and vocal range of the show and character of your choice.
- A 90-second cut of a contrasting musical theatre song of your choice in the indie, folk, alternative or soft rock genre.

Both songs should adequately showcase your vocal range, tone, and acting ability through song.

You are welcome to audition with material from the show.

Please perform your audition using high-quality instrumental backing tracks. If you are auditioning for more than one character, you are welcome to prepare multiple song cuts. We recommend auditioning for two characters maximum.

If you play any instrument(s), please include in your submission a video of yourself playing. This video is welcome to be from a previous performance or tape. If you are not able to provide a video, please list your instrument(s) and level of experience, including the number of years you have played and your performance experience (e.g. bands, orchestras, busking, etc.) in the [Audition Submission Form](#).

## Self-tape submissions

Please record yourself performing the audition materials detailed below and upload to Google Drive, YouTube, etc. Once you are ready to submit, please complete the [Audition Submission form](#) and include a viewable link in the [form](#) where prompted.

All self-tape auditions must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on Sunday, 7 January.

Videos should be filmed horizontally and in a well-lit space (not backlit). Self-tapes can be filmed using your mobile phone or through a self-tape service.

## Actor-musicians

We are interested in casting some actor-musicians in addition to the live band. It is not a requirement that you know how to play an instrument to audition for this production.

Please note that actor-musicians will need to provide their own instruments for rehearsals and performances.

---

### Production dates and rehearsal period

Rehearsals to commence July 8, 2024.  
Tech rehearsals commence August 4, 2024.  
First preview performance is August 9, 2024.  
Season dates are August 10 – September 7, 2024.

### Show schedule

Tuesday - Thursday 6:30pm  
Friday - Saturday 8pm  
Sunday 4pm  
\*Saturday 2pm Matinees could be added due to demand, but aren't currently scheduled.

For more information please view our [website here](#), or contact [info@witchmusictheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@witchmusictheatre.co.nz)