

## Audition pack

### Rondo Theatre Company presents *Till the Stars Come Down* by Beth Steel

#### Welcome

Thank you for your interest in our autumn production of *Till the Stars Come Down* by Beth Steel. We are one of the first community companies to be awarded the rights to this brilliant play and it promises to be a great show, with parts for people of a range of ages. I hope this pack gives you the information you need about the play, our production and the audition process. If you have any questions, please get in touch on [fletcher.andy57@gmail.com](mailto:fletcher.andy57@gmail.com). Finally, **please note that this is a community production, not a paid opportunity**. I look forward to seeing you in May.

*Andy Fletcher, Director.*

#### Audition dates

**Tuesday 5 May and Wednesday 6 May** (please note you only need to attend one audition)

**7pm start**

**Rondo Theatre, Larkhall**

PLEASE NOTE if you are unable to attend these dates and want to audition please let Andy know and we will organise something separate.

#### Show Week

- Get in – Sunday 22 November 2026
- Tech and dress rehearsals – Monday 23 November and Tuesday 24 November
- Performance dates – Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 November 2026

#### About the play

*Till the Stars Come Down* is a sharp, powerful and funny drama which follows a tight knit family gathering over one scorching summer day to celebrate the marriage of Sylvia to Marek, a Polish immigrant.

Set in a former East Midlands mining town, the play follows Sylvia's working class family as passions ignite and long-held secrets surface, testing loyalties and forcing characters to confront a future full of uncertainty. Described as 'Chekhov on Heineken', the play blends humour and tragedy, exploring complex family dynamics, love, loss and the scars left by decades of social and economic history. It is fast paced, profound, moving and very funny.

A critical smash, it premiered in a sell out run at the National Theatre in 2024 before transferring to the West End. We are delighted to be one of the first community theatre groups to have been given the performing rights to this brilliant play.

Note this play contains adult themes, strong language and scenes involving simulated sex.

Critical praise for *Till the Stars Come Down*

*"This state-of-the-nation play will leave you breathless with laughter and tears".*  
Radio Times

*"Beth Steel's new drama is dazzlingly performed and full of pain, joy and laughter"*  
The Guardian

*"In Beth Steel's uproariously enthralling new play, a wedding unlocks family tensions and wider historic and social schisms in a former Nottinghamshire mining community".* Evening Standard

*"Heady, hilarious and emotional"*  
Time Out

### **The setting**

The play is set in and around Mansfield in the East Midlands. We will have some support with the accent through rehearsal. But if you are looking for inspiration, you can't go wrong with watching the series *Sherwood*, which is set in a former mining community in the same area. [Sherwood - BBC iPlayer](#). All the characters are born and raised in the area, except for Marek who is Polish.

### **The characters and approximate playing ages**

There is a range of excellent characters for different ages. Characters and some brief background outlined below. Note the playing ages are very approximate and in some cases broad as they will depend on the combinations of actors. If you are uncertain of whether you would be appropriate age wise, please do come and audition!

- **Sylvia** (playing age late 20s/30s) – the youngest of the three sisters, Sylvia's wedding to Marek is the focus of the play.
- **Maggie** (playing age 30s/early 40s) – the middle sister, Maggie has moved away from home and returned for the wedding
- **Hazel** (playing age late 30s/40s) – the eldest of the three sisters, Hazel is married to John and mother to Leanne and Sarah.
- **Leanne** (playing age 15 BUT PLEASE NOTE she must be played by an adult 18+) – Hazel and John's elder teenage daughter
- **Auntie Carol** (playing age late 50s/60s/70s) – Larger than life Auntie Carol is married to the sisters' uncle Pete and best friends with their late mother
- **Tony** (playing age 60s/70s) – Father to the three sisters, estranged from his younger brother Pete and grieving his late wife
- **Pete** (late 50s/60s/70s) – Tony's younger brother, married to Carol and the playful uncle to the three sisters

- **John** (40s) – Married to Hazel, father to Leanne and Sarah. He is currently out of work.
- **Marek** (30s/40s) – Marek is Polish, having lived in the area for some time and established a successful business. He is marrying Sylvia.

### **Audition details**

We are holding auditions on two nights, although please note you only need to attend one.

Auditions will be in two parts.

First, everyone will perform **one short monologue**. There are several short monologues from different characters below. Please pick one from any character to perform. You can prepare these although they will be available on the night if you want them.

Once everyone has done their monologue we will do **some other scenes with multiple characters to see how different actors interact**. These will be shared during the auditions.

### **Monologues**

We would like everyone to perform **one short monologue**. Please choose one from those below. There isn't one for every character but just choose any, as there will be lots of opportunities in the second part of the evening to read for multiple characters.

***SYLVIA – this scene takes place early in the play as they prepare for the wedding. Sylvia is talking to Hazel who is fixing her wedding dress***

You remember that TV show I used to watch about a teenage girl who could stop time? She finds out on her thirteenth birthday she has these secret powers – her dad's an alien and stopping time is one of them. She'd bring her fingers together like this – *(draws her index fingers together)* – and everything would freeze. *She looks at Hazel, but Hazel isn't listening*

I think about that show sometimes when I'm with Marek, when I'm so happy I wish I could just stop everything. Stay like it....forever.

***HAZEL – this scene takes at the end of the play. Hazel is talking to her husband John as their marriage disintegrates.***

You're not the only one who's felt *shut down*. You're just a man so you think you are. Well, let me tell you, the unhappiness you've felt, I've felt it too.

How about we see what's in front of you if you walk out that door. To begin with you'll be sofa surfing while you sort out some work because as a single man you

aren't anyone's priority; you will get fuck all *and* be paying me maintenance. You might get a job doing deliveries or somert up at warehouse but you won't have enough to run a house, never mind *rent* one. You can't keep stopping on sofas so you move into digs above a pub. One of them poxy bedsits down street with a little kettle in to make Pot Noodles. It'll be bleak.

***MAGGIE – in this scene Maggie is talking to her brother in law John and the pair have shared their secret feelings for one another***

I should've left two year ago, after that holiday in Cyprus when Hazel got sunstroke and stopped in the room and me and you sat around the pool at night talking. Like we'd never done before; like I'd never done with anyone.

I didn't know you felt it too, I swear I didn't, but then last Christmas – the night Hazel insisted you walk me home and I fell into that hedge and you pulled me up and, and, in a second I knew. You looked at me and I was afraid. After that you wouldn't stop looking at me. Finding a way to sit next to me. I left because of you. You gave me no choice. It's like you wanted her to know.

***TONY – this is Tony's wedding speech for his daughter, which culminates in him forgetting her new husband's name***

I want to thank everyone for coming. Sylvia, when I look at you I can still feel the weight of the two bags of sugar that you weighed when you were born. I can feel in my hands the weight of your hair that I struggled to plait but your mam did so easy. Your mam who I see so much of in you. And who I know is looking down today from heaven at the beautiful woman I'm proud to call our daughter. You've always been a wonderful daughter. A wonderful sister. And I've no doubt you'll be a wonderful wife to, to...

To Marek. Today I have...given away a daughter but my hands are not empty. They are more full. Because I have gained a son. To a lifetime of happiness....to Sylvia and Marek.

***AUNTIE CAROL – this is Carol's first appearance, early in the play as the sisters are getting ready for the big day***

Oh, hi Maggie love, I didn't see you there. You've lost weight. Don't look at me, I'm as *fat* as a bacon pig. I've gained four pound, it's all gone on my knockers and can I shift it? Can I heck. I've had to *completely* rethink my outfit, I'd got a beautiful dress from Peacocks – lemon, maxi, scoop neck – and I put it on and felt Top-Heavy-Tommy. When did you arrive love? What it was...

*(Tiny expectation beat)*

I was at home and thought (*Aghast voice*) 'What am I doing sat here?' I thought if your mam was here – and I know she is looking down on us today – you'd be getting ready together. And I didn't want you feeling you'd missed out.

***JOHN – this scene takes place at the end of the play, as John implores his sister in law Maggie to run away with him***

Maggie. This is it Maggie. This *life* is all we have. And I want to live in it. I want to *live*.

When I'm with you I feel alive. We can have a life together, people do it all the time; they walk out of their old lives and make new ones. Yes, we can. We do it right here, right now. I'm not waiting for tomorrow. My whole life I've done what I thought I should; done what's *right*. Since being a kid I've settled for what I was told was enough for me. Well, it's not enough. I want more Maggie, I want you.

***MAREK – this is Marek's wedding speech and culminates in him singing for Sylvia***

Thank you, Tony. My wife and I – my wife... wow – want to thank you – everybody for being here today. You all look great. Most of all I want to thank Sylvia for marrying me. I don't know what I did to deserve you. I've never done speech before. I never imagined I would. Not here.

But from the moment I met Sylvia she changed everything for me. First time we met I'm on my way to a new job when my van breaks down, smoke everywhere, my phone dead too, of course, when this beautiful woman appears and asks if I need help. I could not believe my luck. I still can't. Sylvia, you are too good to be true and this is for you...