

Imperial College Musical Theatre Society

The Wedding Singer

Welcome Pack

What's it all about?

Based on the Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore movie, the Wedding Singer is a 2006 Broadway adaptation that augments this nostalgic rom-com with 80s music, style and Broadway pizzazz.

Our story starts with Robbie Hart and his band *Simply Wed* (featuring best friends George (a flamboyantly gay Boy George clone) and Sammy (an idiot)) – the hottest wedding band ever. On top of his game, Robbie is also just about to get married to his high-school sweetheart, Linda. Awesome, right? Hovering around many of the same weddings is Julia, a sweet waitress who is becoming increasingly convinced that her Wall St. boyfriend, Glen, is never going to propose. Less awesome. Julia's slutty cousin, Holly, is also a waitress, but spends most of her time trying to avoid ex-boyfriend Sammy, from Robbie's band.

On the day of Robbie's wedding, however, a note arrives from Linda – explaining that she's no longer in love with the guy he has become and that she can't go through with the wedding. Bad times. But Julia's boyfriend, Glen finally proposes across the other side of town! Good times!

Down in the dumps, Robbie begins to lose heart with the whole wedding singer gig. In fact he starts to really bring a major downer on proceedings, ending up getting fired and thrown into a dumpster by his latest wedding party. Julia talks him out of his funk and convinces him to try something else for a change. Like Bar Mitzvahs. This seems to work better and the two begin a close friendship.

Whilst helping pick out gifts for Julia's wedding and sharing a "practice kiss" it becomes clear that the two are falling in love. However, Holly is keen to take her shot at the wedding singer and convinces the whole gang to come out for a Saturday night in the City. Seeing Holly make her moves on Robbie, Julia decides to get wasted. Whilst Julia is out of it, Glen reveals to Robbie that he has a rather relaxed view to faithfulness in his relationship and fully intends to continue his promiscuity after the wedding to Julia. What. A. Douche.

As Glen takes a paralytic Julia home, Holly kisses Robbie but quickly realises that he has a thing for Julia. Spurned, she explains that Julia is not after a guy like Robbie but a guy with lots of money like Glen. He believes her. Robbie goes to Glen and convinces him to give him a job working on Wall Street with all the other hotshots. When he presents the "new him" to Julia she freaks out at him and storms off.

Drowning his sorrows at a local bar, Robbie's pals try to convince him that he's better off single. But Robbie is not convinced and decides to go to Julia to confess his

love to her. As he sees her trying on her wedding dress, he loses hope but little does he know that Julia is fantasising with her reflection about being Mrs. Robbie Hart! But before any dramatic resolution can occur, along comes Glen, his buddies and some cheap women, enjoying a night on the town. Robbie decides to confront Glen about his promiscuity. Glen decides to confront Robbie's face with his fist. Douche McToolface. And he fires Robbie, too. Yeah, we all hate Glen.

Robbie staggers home to bed, only to discover his ex, Linda, waiting for him. Turns out she has changed her mind and wants him back. Robbie, however, passes out on the bed before she can take advantage of him. The next morning, Julia visits Robbie to confess her love to *him* only to be greeted by Linda, in Robbie's t-shirt, who makes it clear that Robbie is her man now and slams the door in Julia's face. Total mega-bitch. Fortunately when Robbie wakes up he turfs her out on her psycho-slut ass. Go Robbie! Unfortunately by this point, Julia is on a plane to Vegas with Glen for a shotgun wedding. Oh noes.

Whilst singing at his grandmother's wedding anniversary that afternoon, Robbie comes to the realisation that he has to chase after Julia lest he lose her forever. This leaves the party's entertainment in the hands of George and Grandma Hart. They rap. It's hilarious.

In Vegas, Robbie meets a whole gang of impersonators of 80s icons (Tina Turner, Cyndi Lauper, Mr. T, Billy Idol, Ronald Reagan, etc.) and, with their help, they devise a plan to crash Glen and Julia's wedding. Robbie busts in, sings a love song, Julia sings back, Glen angrily confesses his promiscuity, Fake-Mr.-T punches Glen in the face. Yeah! Take that, fool. The show completely unpredictably ends with Robbie and Julia tying the knot and living happily ever after. Woo!

So who are the characters?

The Wedding Singer is a truly "ensemble" show, with the main principals supported by a wide array of bit parts including lots with solo singing lines and speeches to make. The main parts, however, that we will be auditioning for are:

Robbie Hart – Male lead – Tenor B3-Bb5

Robbie is the charismatic leader of the wedding band *Simply Wed*. He's sweet and good natured but needs to contrast that with the resentment he feels at being dumped by Linda in Act 1. Charm and comic timing are important for this role. Anyone who can play a guitar will also be a plus.

Julia Sullivan – Female Lead – Soprano G3-D5

Julia is the "girl-next-door" waitress at many of the weddings that Robbie plays at, and Robbie's key love interest after Linda dumps him. Julia is sweet and innocent and oblivious to the fact that her Wall Street boyfriend, Glen, is cheating on her. Julia fantasises about weddings and loves being in love. Comic timing and charm also very important for this role.

Sammy – Male Supporting (large)– Baritone D4-Gb5

Sammy is the bass player in Robbie's band and Robbie's best friend. He is also a moron. That said he is a loveable guy who is always there for his buddies and he still burns a

candle for the love of his life, Holly (Julia's cousin). A bit of a dumb jock, Sammy needs to have good comic ability and an endearing quality to the audience.

Holly – Female Supporting (large) – Mezzo/belt A3-E5

Where Julia is the innocent girl-next-door, Holly is the far-from-innocent party girl. Fiercely protective of her cousin, though, Holly is best described in her own words as Julia's "guardian angel... only slutty". Holly is also in denial over her feelings for Sammy who, despite giving him a hard time, she still loves very much. Some big vocal numbers including the Act 1 finale make this a part for a singer with buckets of confidence and sex appeal.

Glen Guglia – Male Supporting (large) – Bari/Tenor D4-Bb5

Glen is Julia's Wall Street boyfriend who embodies everything about the 80s big money, greed-is-good culture. With his power ties and gadgets (portable telephone? Hello!) Glen is arrogant and full-of-himself. Despite his plans to marry Julia, Glen still enjoys the bachelor life of fast cars and fast women, particularly the latter. Glen should be a charismatic foil to Robbie's character, exemplifying the worst things about a life that's all about money. Glen needs to be a strong dancer and singer as he starts the Act 2 opener, All About the Green.

Grandma Rosie Hart – Female (or Male in drag) Supporting (medium) – C4-C5

Robbie's caring grandmother who has looked after Robbie ever since his parents passed away. Grandma Hart is a feisty old lady who is not afraid to talk about sex (much to Robbie's embarrassment) and get down with the kids. Rosie has a rap duet with George in Act 2 and, as such, this is a strong role for a comic actor. Both men and women will be considered for this part.

George – Male Supporting (medium) – Tenor C4-G5

The flamboyantly camp keyboard player of the band, George is a blatant parody of Boy George. Best friends with Robbie and Sammy, George is always there to help the two out of trouble. The most unusual part, vocally, George sings one song in falsetto Hebrew and the other a rap duet with Grandma Hart. Another part for a strong comic actor and a confident singer.

Linda – Female Supporting (small) – Mezzo/(rock) belt A3-D5

Linda is only on stage for a short time but, with her two solos, leaves a big impression. Robbie's psycho ex-girlfriend, she leaves him at the altar with a note that she comes on to perform, switching fluidly between sweet singing and heavy rock belting. A real rock chick with a hint of nymphomania, Linda is a real vamp of a character as well as a complete psycho. A real scene stealer of a role.

Angie – Female Supporting (small) – Mainly acting with some singing

Julia's pushy mother. Angie wants the best for her daughter, but Angie's view of the best is wealth. With some interesting views on how to make relationships work, Angie is an excellent part for a strong actor who can confidently play the overbearing mother role.

The following parts we will not be directly auditioning for but will be casting following auditions for the main parts:

Vegas impersonators – Dialogue and solo lines in Finale

Impersonators that help Robbie save the day at the end of the show. These include Mr. T, Ronald Reagan, Tina Turner, Cyndi Lauper, Imelda Marcos and Billy Idol, although there is flexibility on the number of these as well as the identities of the "celebrities".

Casualties of Love – Dialogue and solo lines

Freaks and misfits at Robbie's swansong, car-crash wedding gig. Need strong singers, dancers and comics.

Other roles with solo dialogue and lines

Including, but not limited to, wedding guests, brides, grooms, best men (including one with a great awkward speech), bridesmaids, couples getting engaged, gay waiters getting engaged, shop assistants, couples shopping, Jewish bar mitzvah guests, office workers, a barman and a bum.

We will likely also be selecting a small group of dancers to take on some of the more challenging routines during the show.

What about auditions?

Auditions will be held on Saturday and Sunday 10th/11th December with the following schedule:

SATURDAY

12:00 – 13:30 – Initial Meeting – find out more about the show (optional)

13:30 – 14:00 – MTSoc EGM – electing a new committee member

14:00 – 15:30 – Audition workshop – run through the pieces with the MD (optional)

15:30 – 17:00 – Dance auditions (compulsory)

The dance auditions will involve the choreographer teaching you a routine from the show, as a group, and running through it several times with you to judge your dance ability, both in terms of how quickly you pick things up to your technique. Please wear sensible clothes and footwear.

We will also be running a very limited number of individual auditions on Saturday evening for those who absolutely can not make the Sunday auditions.

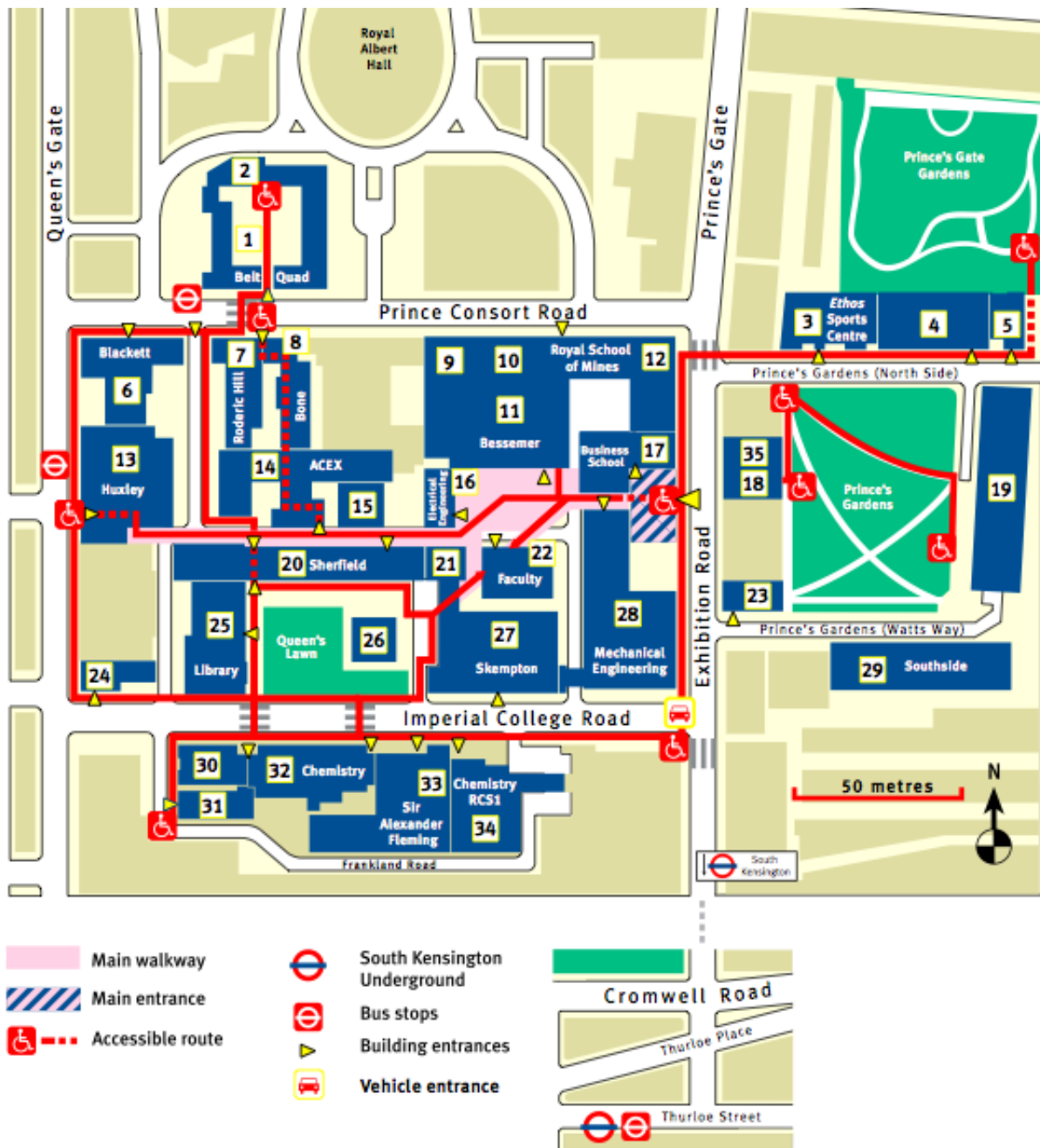
SUNDAY

11:00 – 19:00 – Individual, closed auditions, 15 minutes each. These can be booked on the Saturday or by emailing Sebastian.junemann@gmail.com

For the individual auditions, we ask that you prepare as many pieces as parts you want to be considered for. If you want to be considered for all the parts, we will likely ask for a selection from the full range. Expect to get a chance to do three songs and four/five bits of dialogue.

Assuming we get a chance to see everyone on Sunday we will aim to have the show cast that evening and details sent out to the cast by Monday, following approval from the committee.

Location for the auditions on both days will be Huxley 344. The Huxley building can be found on the attached map, Building 13.



What are the rehearsal commitments?

Rehearsals take place every **Monday, Tuesday (both 19:30 – 22:00)** and **Sunday (12:00 – 18:00)** from Sunday 8th January until show week. Rehearsals will take place either in the Imperial College union or in a suitable room on campus. Sundays will likely be dominated by dance rehearsals.

Apart from the final couple of weeks, you will not be called for every rehearsal. I will aim to produce a rehearsal schedule every week for the week immediately following, so you will always have a week's notice minimum of a call. I am happy to be flexible with trying to ensure that rehearsals fit around revision and other important commitments. Before producing a rehearsal schedule I will ask you for the N/A's you have and I will try to

plan around them. The sooner you can let me know of any times when you are not going to be able to make rehearsals, the better.

Once you are called for a rehearsal, though, you need to be there. If you miss three rehearsals that you have been called for, where you haven't notified me of an N/A, I will unfortunately have to give your part to someone else. This may seem harsh, but an unplanned absence can make a rehearsal really difficult and have a negative impact on the show and the other cast members.

If you know now of any difficulties you may have with the rehearsal schedule or of any prolonged absences that might occur during the rehearsal period, come and have a chat with me before the audition. Provided we can plan around it, you can definitely still do the show.

When is the show?

The show will be performed for five performances from **Wednesday 29th February – Saturday 3rd March 2012** with three evening performances at 7:30pm (Weds, Thurs, Sat) and two performances on the Friday (6:30pm and 10:00pm). The late-night performance follows from last year's highly successful performance of Return to the Forbidden Planet and, in a similar vein, will involve no chairs, lots of dancing and more fun for the audience and the cast.

All performances will be in the Union Concert Hall, Imperial College Union.

And finally...

At any point if you want to have a chat about the show, auditions or anything else related to The Wedding Singer please feel free to contact me by email on sebastian.juneman@gmail.com or call me on 07809 541 452. Please save this number on your phones in case you are ever running late for rehearsal as I would greatly appreciate the courtesy of a call/text to let me know if you're running a bit late. If you want to ask about any things related to the admin-side of the show or to talk to a member of the committee, email musicaltheatre@ic.ac.uk

If you want to register for an audition and have not done so at the initial meeting, please email me and you will be given a choice of times that are left available. Alternatively visit the MTSoc forum at www.mtsoc.co.uk/forum where I will post an up-to-date audition schedule (and where I will, in future, post rehearsal schedules and important show information).

Thanks and looking forward to working with you!

Seb Junemann, Director
Phil Jackson, Musical Director
James Perry, Choreographer