

The Knack Theatre
and
Five by Five Theatre present

OHIO!

by Monica Byrne

AUDITION PACK



The Knack is a theatre company that acts as a bridge between emerging artists and the performing arts industry.

Showcasing work that is both innovative and distinctive, The Knack is a space for artists to learn, grow in their craft, and see their work come to life.

We are proud to be working with the emerging Five by Five Theatre and director Emily Farrell to bring you this important work by acclaimed author, [Monica Byrne](#).

Play Summary

In a near-future fascist United States, an all-woman punk sketch group called The Uterii reunites to crash a popular Broadway show called OHIO!. They're arrested, interrogated, and sent to a prison camp – to perform OHIO! In perpetuity.

The Vision

OHIO! Is a punk story of six strong, intelligent, feisty women who are navigating a terrifying, near-future, fascist United States in which they take risks, subvert expectations and challenge our audience to consider the very real issues that are at stake in our world today. We are wanting to find brave, passionate performers who are excited to take on a dystopian, political, feminist world premiere. We are very excited to assemble a strong ensemble of artists to share this important story.

Content Warning

- Sexual References
- Coarse Language
- References to violence, death, firearms

If you require further clarification, please send an email to theknacktheatre@gmail.com.

OHIO! Audition: Open Casting

We are committed to inclusive casting where all applicants are valued for their own identity. We prioritise building a safe audition environment and strive to cast a team that accurately reflects the society and community we live in today. As such, we seek performers from all backgrounds, races, and ethnicities. We strongly encourage submissions from Indigenous, Bla(c)k, People of Colour (BIPOC), Neurodivergent, LGBTQIA+, Disabled performers, and Gender Diverse Performers.

We are happy to answer any questions or provide further details regarding the gender identities and sexual orientation of the characters as written. Actors are welcome to apply for any role they feel comfortable playing regardless of their personal gender identity and sexual orientation. Please note, all of the characters are female-identifying.

We have no specific costume requirements or aesthetic visions that call for actors of a specific body type, and we encourage artists of all sizes to apply. We are committed to ensuring you are physically and emotionally comfortable and we will actively interrogate bias.

We also endeavor to remain honest and transparent about casting requirements and pre-production choices. The characters also have age ranges specific and relevant to the story and themes of the play. As such, we are aiming to cast actors within the playing ages noted for each character.

If you have any specific questions regarding our capacity to support you as a performer, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Part of our commitment to building a safe environment within a small company involves being transparent about the resources we have available.

We want our production to be a warm, welcoming and enjoyable experience that our performers look back on positively. We want to do everything possible to reduce the risk of harm, and we believe honest communication is key. If applicants have specific accessibility requirements or require resources that we are unable to provide, we will be clear and honest with them and we encourage applicants to communicate their needs if they feel comfortable doing so.

The Characters

This is an ensemble piece, with all of the characters' objectives and storylines intertwined within a collective narrative. We are looking for a group/family/unit of cooperative artists to bring this story to life.

Please note that the first round of auditions will be a general audition, NOT be for a specific character.

You need not be, but all characters are:

- Female presenting,
- Any ethnicity,
- 25-35 years old.

The characters below make up the punk-sketch group called the Uteri. They met and formed the group in college.

Gabby: Calm, authoritative, magnetic, Leo.

Kimmie: Prickly, aggressive, sarcastic, Aries.

Lettie: Cheerful, eccentric, sincere, Pisces.

Molly: Elegant, aloof, taciturn, Libra

Sunny: Fervent, anxious, pedantic, Virgo

The interrogator is the cop who arrests and interrogates the women after they crash the Broadway musical, OHIO! They also play a silent role in Act 2, the Red Cross Witness. (Interrogator and Red Cross Witness are played by the same actor.)

Interrogator: Direct, warm, patient, Gemini.

Red Cross Witness: Silent, sober, compassionate, Cancer.

The Audition Process

First Round: Self-tape.

We ask you to:

- Prepare a slate with your name, pronouns, age and a fun fact about yourself.

Prepare **both**:

- A contemporary (TV, film, theatre) monologue. Max. 2 minutes
- A contemporary (TV, film, theatre) scene. Max. 2 minutes

Please include a General American accent for both pieces.

You may pick whatever pieces you like, but we strongly encourage things in the style of the show; punk, rebel, feminist, bold. (e.g., The Handmaid's Tale, V for Vendetta, George Orwell, Franz Kafka.)

Please submit your CV, Headshot, and audition by **6pm Saturday 8 July** to theknacktheatre@gmail.com with the subject header 'OHIO! Audition'.

Second Round: Workshop

Some actors will then be invited to an in-person audition workshop. This will involve brief scene work, cold reading, and a quick chat.

This will take place on **16 July, between 12:30-4:45** at The Last Jar (616 Elizabeth St, Melbourne).

Final Round: Chemistry

Some actors may then be invited to come to another in-person chemistry audition. This will involve further cold reading from script excerpts and group work.

This will take place on **23 July, between 12:30-4:45** at The Last Jar (616 Elizabeth St, Melbourne).

The Audition Panel

Director: Emily Farrell (She/her)

Producer: Lourdes Zamanillo (She/her)

Producer/Stage Manager: Vincent Pidal (He/him)

Producer: Steven T Boltz (He/him)

External audition panel member: TBC

Key Information

Payment: Profit Share

Venue: The MC Showroom

Bump in and Tech Rehearsal: Sunday 17 September, 12pm - 6pm

Full Dress Rehearsal: Monday 18 September, 4pm - 10pm

Performances:

- Tuesday 19 September (Preview)
- Wednesday 20 September (Opening)
- Thursday 21 September
- Friday 22 September
- Saturday 23 September, matinee and evening

Promotional Photoshoot/Cast Meet Up: Thursday 3 August, 6pm - 10pm.

Rehearsal Period

Sunday the 6th of August - Saturday the 16th of September, 2023 between The East Melbourne Library and Kathleen Syme Library.

Rehearsals recur weekly on the following times:

Week 1

- Sunday 6 August, 4pm - 9pm
- Monday 7 August, 2pm - 7pm
- Thursday 10 August, 6pm - 10pm

Week 2

- Sunday 13 August, 4pm - 9pm
- Monday 14 August, 2pm - 7pm
- Thursday 17 August, 6pm - 10pm

Week 3

- Saturday 19 August, 3pm - 8pm
- Monday 21 August, 2pm - 7pm
- Thursday 24 August, 6pm - 10pm

Week 4

- Sunday 27 August, 4pm - 9pm
- Monday 28 August, 2pm - 7pm
- Thursday 31 August, 6pm - 10pm

Week 5

- Sunday 3 September, 4pm - 9pm
- Monday 4 September, NO REHEARSAL
- Thursday 7 September, 6pm - 10pm

Week 6

- Sunday 10 September, 4pm - 9pm
- Monday 11 September, 2pm - 7pm
- Thursday 14 September, 6pm - 10pm
- Saturday 16 September, 1pm - 6pm

All dates are fixed. Let us know if there are minor clashes.

Team Summary

The production team includes:

- Emily Farrell (she/her): Director + Executive Producer
- Vincent Pidal (he/him): Producer + Stage Manager
- Lourdes Zamanillo (she/her): Producer
- Steven T Boltz (he/him): Producer

If there is anything we can do to assist in making the audition process more accessible for you, please email us at theknacktheatre@gmail.com.

If you wish to discuss this further, or have any individual or specific questions regarding accessibility of the audition, rehearsal and/or production period please don't hesitate to reach out.



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