

**THE BOYS IN THE BAND – AUDITIONS**  
**SUNDAY 23 MARCH 10am**

**Synopsis**

The Boys in the Band is a groundbreaking play by Mart Crowley that premiered in 1968. Set in an apartment in New York City, the plot revolves around a group of gay friends who gather to celebrate the birthday of their friend, Harold. As the evening unfolds, tensions arise, and the characters confront their own identities and insecurities amidst the backdrop of pre-Stonewall America.

The ensemble cast includes Michael, the host struggling with self-acceptance; Donald, Michael's on-again, off-again partner who is in therapy; Emory, the flamboyant interior decorator; Bernard, the quiet librarian; Larry and Hank, a couple with differing views on monogamy; Cowboy, a good-looking but dim-witted hustler hired as Harold's birthday gift; and Alan, Michael's possibly closeted college friend who unexpectedly shows up. The play is notable for its candid and, at times, brutal depiction of the lives of gay men, exploring themes of self-worth, internalized homophobia, and the search for acceptance.

The characters in the play are not location specific, please use a **General American accent** for the audition.

Here are two short videos on YouTube to help you with a General American accent:

- <https://youtu.be/FMWnR5ublb4?si=aD4XewsfzrsXmfJK>
- <https://youtu.be/KY2ImXBQPOk?si=Mvfe1KWDIip5sNQpt>

**CHARACTERS**

*\*\* all characters may kiss each other on the cheek as a greeting*

	<b>Playing Age</b>	<b>Notes</b>
MICHAEL	30s	As a person he struggles with self-acceptance. Seeks approval/support from others. Recently tea-total but slides back when he loses control. He becomes mean and caustic when drinking. He wants people to admit to their shortcomings. ** Michael is non-sexually kissed on the lips
DONALD	30s	Faithful friend, supportive and caring. Long suffering friend of Michael making him feel needed. Honest and keeps a secret.
EMORY	30s <b>Hispanic</b>	Overtly gay. Well aware of who he is and what he wants. He doesn't compromise who he is and is unapologetic. He is the comic of the group but also feels deeply.
HANK	Early 40s	The 'golden retriever' of the group. Formerly married, now in a relationship with Larry. Brings conservative energy to the group. Centred, practical, caring.

LARRY	30s	Thinks he is the life of the party. He is a commitment-phobe but believes he knows what he wants. Hedonistic and desirable. Values his freedom.
BERNARD	30s <b>African American</b>	He is the observer of the group, reads nuance well, and tries to keep relationships on an even keel. Intellectual, quiet, empathetic. He understands his place in the world.
ALAN	30s	Michael's straight college roommate. He is a threat to the 'safespace' of the party as he represents the society they have to hide from. Polite and cordial but uncomfortable in the situation.
COWBOY	Early 20s	A street hustler. Not worldly, naïve, and has a child-like innocence. Speaks honestly and feels the group's sarcasm but is too polite to comment or show his disappointment. He is like a loyal dim dog. ** Cowboy kisses Michael and Harold non-sexually on the lips
HAROLD	30s	Knows who he is, warts and all, and accepts it. Smokes a lot of weed to be in the outside world. Sarcastic, opinionated, bit of a smartarse. His conversations are playful banter that can turn ugly. ** Harold is kissed non-sexually on the lips ** Harold smokes

- There are script pages that we will be using for the auditions. The pages are set with the main characters that we will be looking at in those scenes eg. Michael Harold.pdf will mainly focus on those two characters. Other characters in those pages will be read by auditionees on the day.
- You **do not** need to play the scenes off script, but **you should prepare well** for the audition and be prepared enough not to bury your face in the page. Review the pages for emotional states your character moves through in the text and practice before the audition. See the notes below for more detail.
- **Please complete the audition register form on the website. You must register to be considered for a role.**

\*\* If the registration fails you will see a failure message onscreen. If you do not see this message the registration has been successful.

### NOTES ON THE AUDITION PAGES

We are looking to present the play as a group of longtime friends with two interlopers. As such, the emotional shifts should be natural – sometimes subtle, sometimes quick and abrasive. All roles need to be played as very real human beings rather than caricatures

Each set of pages are highlighted where the reading will start and finish at the audition.

MICHAEL/DONALD – opening scene establishing the space and the relationship between the two characters. Friendly banter of longtime friends who were once lovers.

ALAN/MICHAEL 1 – an erstwhile conversation between the two where Michael tries to gently apprise Alan of the situation he has walked in to.

ALAN/MICHAEL 2 – Michael tries to goad Alan into admitting his closet homosexuality, tensions rise throughout the passage culminating in an explosive order.

HANK/LARRY/ALAN – the characters playing the Truth game and admitting truths about who they are. Some hostility and frustration of the situation between Hank and Larry. Alan is agog at what they “do”

BERNARD – reminiscing about his first love and the awkward phone call that is part of the game. His final shame at what he has done.

COWBOY – introduces his character and displays his innocence within the well-healed group of friends. He is mocked but doesn't let it upset him.

EMORY/BERNARD – Emory's story of his first love and finishes with Bernard explaining to the group why he and Emory's friendship is as it is. Bernard is cross at Michael after he makes a racist comment.

MICHAEL/HAROLD – the first of the acerbic, catty barbs they throw at each other to display they are old friends who know everything and should stay in their place. Michael believes his

If you have any questions please contact the director, Chris, via email at **chrsoleary67@hotmail.com**

Looking forward to seeing you at the audition.