



## **JEEVES & WOOSTER IN 'PERFECT NONSENSE'**

Written by the Goodale Brothers (based on the works of PG Wodehouse)

*An inventive, fast-paced comedy featuring PG Wodehouse's iconic double act.*

*Winner of the 2014 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy.*

### **Auditions**

Monday 13 May from 7.30 pm at the Richmond School of Arts.

### **Rehearsal and Performance Venue**

Richmond School of Arts, West Market Street, Richmond

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals begin on Monday 20 May and are conducted every Monday and Wednesday night from 7.15 pm to 10.00 pm.

### **Performance Dates**

Saturday 10 August, 2 pm and 7.30 pm

Saturday 17 August, 2 pm and 7.30 pm

Saturday 24 August, 2 pm and 7.30 pm

See attached schedule for more details, including bump in and tech/dress rehearsal.

### **Membership & Script**

All cast and crew of Jeeves & Wooster must be members of Richmond Players. The membership fee goes towards insurance and production costs. The fee is \$50 for adults and \$25 for juniors (under the age of 18). Membership includes free or discounted tickets to Richmond Players' shows during 2019.

In addition, cast members must purchase their own copy of the script for \$25. This amount is payable to the director, Kylie, who has purchased the scripts.

## Code of Conduct

All cast and crew are expected to commit themselves fully to this show. Involvement in shows by other theatre companies must not interfere with your dedication and commitment to Jeeves & Wooster.

You are expected to attend every rehearsal; however, in the case of an unavoidable absence due to serious illness, you must advise the director *before noon* on the day of the rehearsal.

## Before the Audition

- Read through this information pack and the relevant audition passages to help you prepare for your audition. English accents must be used in the audition.
- Check the attached rehearsal and performance schedule to ensure you will be available for *all* rehearsals and performances. Because there are only three actors playing multiple roles, if one person is absent, the rehearsal will likely be cancelled. This will result in an extra rehearsal on another night or weekend.
- Complete the audition form on the last page and email it to the director, Kylie Lowe ([mystique51@yahoo.com](mailto:mystique51@yahoo.com)), or bring it to the audition. Additional copies will be available on the night.

If you have any questions about the characters, the play or the audition process, please contact Kylie at the above email address.

## Production Team

Director	Kylie Lowe ( <a href="mailto:mystique51@yahoo.com">mystique51@yahoo.com</a> , 0405 500 529)
Production Manager	Suzannah Mangan
Costumes	Rhonda Jones
Props Manager	Chris Bevington
Set Construction	Andrew McMaster
Stage Manager	Mchayela King
Lighting & Sound	Maxwelle-Jane Dwyer & Carl Blomquist
Publicity	Samantha O'Hare
Makeup	Reece Green and Antonia Newton-King
Choreography	Bec Blackwell (the curtain call includes a short, comedic Charleston dance)

## Plot

Bertie Wooster has hired a theatre for his one-man show, but he hasn't considered the challenges involved in presenting his story on stage. Fortunately, Jeeves saves the day by constructing the set and enlisting the butler, Seppings, to help him portray the numerous characters in Bertie's story. What follows is a delightfully silly evening of theatrical invention, farce and some of the finest comic writing in the English language!

Bertie's story: When a country house weekend takes a turn for the worse, Bertie is unwittingly called on to reconcile the affections of his host's drippy daughter Madeline Bassett with his new-fancying acquaintance Gussie Fink-Nottle. If Bertie, ably assisted by the ever-dependable Jeeves, can't pull off the wedding of the season, he'll be forced to abandon his cherished bachelor status and marry the ghastly girl himself!

*Jeeves & Wooster* is a two-act play, with an interval after Act I. It is around 2 hours in length.

A brief trailer of the original production can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPoz7M10iDE&list=PLHXkewjRYFtLrzvsrTixA4bJjC-E1WSgH&index=5>.

## Characters

All actors *must* speak with an English accent and be adept at physical comedy. This play is British humour at its finest, so a great sense of humour and the ability to be silly are essential!

The roles may involve crawling, climbing and moving set pieces, and strobe lighting may be used, so please take these factors into consideration when considering whether to audition. Please advise us if these requirements may affect you in any way.

Cast members will be required to perform a short dance (Charleston-type dance) during the curtain call. A choreographer will teach the dance, which will be kept relatively simple. It's not meant to be perfect, so don't worry about your dancing ability. You won't be asked to dance at the audition.

Given the number of different characters played by Jeeves and Seppings, we're looking for actors with a versatile vocal range. If you're reading for Jeeves, you'll also be asked to read passages for Watkyn Bassett, Madeline Bassett, Gussie Fink-Nottle and Stiffy Byng. Similarly, if you're reading for Seppings, you'll be asked to read for four of the five other characters he plays. Please come prepared with your characters!

Detailed information for each character is presented on the next two pages.

### **BERTIE WOOSTER** (early 20s to mid 30s)

Bertie is charismatic, affable, energetic and silly. He is known as one of the 'idle rich'. He spends much of his time trying to help his family and friends, only to become embroiled in awkward situations that are seemingly inescapable...until Jeeves comes along. Bertie plays one role: himself. Bertie is onstage for the entire duration of the play (with one very brief exit), so this role requires stamina and the ability to learn many lines.

### **JEEVES** (mid 30s to late 40s)

Jeeves is Wooster's efficient and loyal valet. He appears solemn and stony-faced, but has a dry sense of humour. When Wooster becomes entangled in tricky situations, Jeeves always appears to save the day. He has a calm and quiet way of manipulating situations (and Wooster). Jeeves plays four other roles:

#### ***Sir Watkyn Bassett***

A fuddy-duddy judge with old-fashioned ideas. Easily outraged and offended. Very likely to convict someone on the way they look or what he thinks they might do rather than on the evidence before him. Officious and pedantic.

#### ***Madeline Bassett***

Lives in a fairy tale world of romance. She is described by Bertie as 'A droopy, soupy, sentimental exhibit, with melting eyes and a cooing voice'. She cannot pronounce her 'r's, which adds to her drappiness.

#### ***Gussie Fink-Nottle***

Naive in the ways of the world, Gussie is essentially a little boy in a man's body. He speaks with a lisp and has very poor eyesight. He is fascinated by newts and fails to understand everyone else's lack of enthusiasm.

#### ***Stephanie (Stiffy) Byng***

Selfish, confident and calculating, and only out for number one. She is about as subtle and empathetic as a cat is with a mouse. She makes no secret of her machinations and frequently advises her victims of her evil intent just to increase their discomfort and ensure she gets her own way.

### **SEPPINGS (late 30s to early 50s)**

Described as ‘doleful as a whipped dog, his gait is one of teetering exhaustion’, Seppings is Aunt Dahlia’s long-suffering butler. Jeeves recruits him because of his talent for impersonation, of which Seppings is secretly proud. Seppings plays five other roles:

#### ***Aunt Dahlia***

One of the many aunts who are the bane of Bertie’s life. She bullies and manipulates him and always expects to get her own way, no matter how outrageous the demands. Bertie says, ‘She spoke as usual as if she was shouting across ploughed fields in a high wind’.

#### ***Roderick Spode***

This character is based on the infamous Oswald Mosley, a British fascist from the early 20th century. Spode is a dictator-in-waiting: a bully and a fierce, monocled thug with a robust voice that is used to addressing large political rallies—even when he’s taking tea in a drawing room.

#### ***Butterfield***

Butterfield is another butler who shares with all the other butlers a smug sense of self-importance and a barely hidden disdain for the people he serves. He deliberately riles Bertie by being excruciatingly obsequious and unctuous.

#### ***Constable Oates***

Constable Oates is not a very bright policeman; in fact, he is of the stupid, pedantic type. He demands respect but doesn’t get it. He is fawning to the upper classes and a bully to the lower classes.

#### ***Antique Shop Proprietor***

You will not be asked to read for this role because the character only has a couple of lines.

**Rehearsal and Performance Schedule for  
Richmond Players' Production of *Jeeves & Wooster* in 'Perfect Nonsense'**

Wk	Date	Time	Notes
	Monday 13 May	7.30 pm	Auditions
1	Monday 20 May	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 22 May	3030 pm	Rehearsal
2	Monday 27 May	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 29 May	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
3	Monday 3 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 5 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
4	Monday 10 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal (Note: Public Holiday)
	Wednesday 12 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
5	Monday 17 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 19 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
6	Monday 24 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 26 June	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
7	Monday 1 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 3 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Sunday 7 July	10.00 am	<b>BUMP IN</b> + Extra rehearsal if needed
8	Monday 8 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 10 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
9	Monday 15 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 17 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
10	Monday 22 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 24 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Saturday 27 July	10.00 am	<b>TECH AND DRESS REHEARSAL</b>
11	Monday 29 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 31 July	7.15 pm	Rehearsal

<b>12</b>	Monday 5 August	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Wednesday 7 August	7.15 pm	Rehearsal
	Saturday 10 August	2.00 pm	<b>PERFORMANCE #1</b>
		7.30 pm	<b>PERFORMANCE #2</b>
<b>13</b>	Wednesday 14 August	7.30 pm	Rehearsal
	Saturday 17 August	2.00 pm	<b>PERFORMANCE #3</b>
		7.30 pm	<b>PERFORMANCE #4</b>
<b>14</b>	Wednesday 21 August	7.30 pm	Rehearsal
	Saturday 24 August	2.00 pm	<b>PERFORMANCE #5</b>
		7.30 pm	<b>PERFORMANCE #6 AND BUMP OUT</b>

## *Jeeves & Wooster Audition Form*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to be contacted to find out the result of your audition (e.g., email, text, phone call)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Role/s you are interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous theatre experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please read the attached rehearsal schedule. Are you prepared to commit to all rehearsals and shows? Please include details of any commitments that might affect your participation:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This show requires physical activity such as crawling, dancing and moving set pieces around. It may also use strobe lighting. Are any of these factors likely to affect your ability to undertake a role in this play?

\_\_\_\_\_