

The background is a rich, warm-toned abstract composition of orange, yellow, and red, with swirling patterns and circular motifs. On the left and right sides, there are stylized trees with dark, gnarled trunks and dense, teal-green foliage. In the center, a black silhouette of a woman is shown from behind, her arms slightly out to the sides. She is wearing a long, flowing dress with a complex, colorful pattern of dots and lines in shades of purple, blue, and red. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional African art or modern African print.

# ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

a musical

**AUDITION BRIEF**



# SHOW

From the Tony Award-winning songwriting duo of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (Seussical, Ragtime) comes the Olivier Award-winning Once on This Island. This vibrant adaptation infuses its Caribbean roots with Australia's own rich cultural tapestry, injecting new life into the Hans Christian Anderson tale, The Little Mermaid.

Ti Moune, a humble peasant girl, courageously saves the life of Daniel, a wealthy boy from the far side of the island, and soon finds herself captivated by love. Little does she know, the island's proud Gods wager on a timeless question: which is stronger, love or death? The unwitting pawn in their bet, Ti Moune's life hangs in the balance as she follows her heart.

This energetic and radiant score is carried by a poignant tale of love, sacrifice, and the transformative power of storytelling.

# DATES

Rehearsals will commence in Sydney on or about Monday 7 July 2025. Performances will take place at the Hayes Theatre from Saturday 2 August until Sunday 31 August 2025.

# TEAM

Producer **CURVEBALL CREATIVE**

Book & Lyrics **LYNN AHRENS**

Music **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

Director **BRITTANIE SHIPWAY**

Musical Director **LUKE BYRNE**

Choreographer **LEAH HOWARD**

# AGREEMENT

This production of Once On This Island will operate under a profit-share agreement. All cast members will be contracted to receive a percentage of any profits generated from the show with a minimum guaranteed payment to ensure that participants are compensated for their time and talent.

# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

This production is set in Australia, celebrating the rich cultural and linguistic diversity on THIS island, especially First Nations voices. The Once On This Island company fosters an inclusive environment that embraces diversity across race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, neurodiversity, and disability. **Actors are encouraged to use their own accents.**

---

## **Mama Euralie**

Ti Moune's adoptive mother. She is fearful of change and greatly protective of her family.

Character Gender: female

Age: 45 to 55

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: Gb3

## **Tonton Julian**

Ti Moune's adoptive father. Filled with courage that is fueled by the love for his wife and daughter.

Character Gender: male

Age: 45 to 55

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: A2

## **Ti Moune**

Our story's protagonist. A peasant girl who has been adopted, she is a dark skinned island girl with much curiosity and energy. Earnest and romantic about all things. Falls tragically in love with Daniel. Also plays Young Ti Moune.

Character Gender: female

Age: 15 to 20

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: G3

## **Daniel**

A pale-skinned youthful man from the wealthy part of the island. He presents as a romanticised Prince, but ultimately falls victim to the expectations of his higher social class upbringing.

Character Gender: male

Age: 18 to 25

Vocal range top: F#4

Vocal range bottom: C#3

**Armand**

A hot-headed man who came to the island from France. Obstinate and proud, he curses his own family line out of spite.

Character Gender: male

Vocal range: Baritone

**Andrea**

Daniel Beauxhomme's wealthy fiancée. She is polite and refined, but has a disdain for the peasants of the island.

Character Gender: female

Vocal Range: Mezzo

**Papa Ge**

The Demon of Death. Proud and cunning, Papa Ge is a powerful God in control of life and death. Papa Ge fears losing above all else.

Character Gender: any

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: C3

**Asaka**

The Mother of Earth. Effervescent and boisterous, she is the life of the party. She is every bit caring and nurturing as she is tough. Real 'Aunty' energy.

Character Gender: female

Age: 40 to 60

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: A3

**Agwe**

The God of Water. He is strong, clever, compassionate, yet easily distracted. His mood changes as swiftly as the tide.

Character Gender: male

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: B2

**Erzulie**

The Goddess of Love, ethereal and elegant with a strong belief in the power of love. She has a sympathetic heart, but stands steadfast in her convictions.

Character Gender: female

Vocal range top: C#5

Vocal range bottom: A3

**All cast will be playing multiple ensemble roles, including Gossipers; Peasants; Storytellers**

---

We will also be auditioning for swings and understudies, and are looking for a dance captain and assistant director to come out of the cast. Please indicate on your application form if you are interested in any of these roles.

# AUDITIONS

Actors will be notified if their application has been successful and be assigned an audition time by **Friday 20th December, 2024**. First round auditions will take place between **Friday 3rd January** and **Sunday 5th January, 2025**. Callbacks will take place on **Sunday 12th January, 2025**.

## First Round Auditions

- Actors will be asked to prepare material from the show based on the character(s) they are auditioning for.
- There is no movement call for First Round auditions.
- Please bring your repertoire book in case the panel would like to see any other songs that shows off your voice (there is no need to prepare anything especially for this audition, please use existing repertoire that you know well).
- A link to download the audition material will be included with your audition time.

## Callbacks

- Actors may be asked to prepare additional material from the show for callbacks.
- There will be a movement call, so please wear clothes you can move in.

## Please note:

- All auditions are by invitation only. Not all applicants will receive an audition.
- For applicants that are successful in receiving an audition, an email will be sent with all relevant information.
- Not all roles/artists will be required to attend first round auditions.
- Auditions will be held in Sydney. Self-tape auditions will be available to all artists unable to attend an in-person audition. Please indicate on your application form.
- A pianist will be provided at auditions and callbacks.
- Auditions will be recorded and photographed for casting purposes. Please indicate on your application form if you would not like to be filmed.
- Auditionees are welcome to hold the script or sheet music in hand.

# SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are now open for all roles listed on this brief

- Submissions will be accepted via [this](#) form only.
- Submissions should include:
  - Headshot (JPEG or PNG file, clearly labelled with performers name)
  - Current CV (in PDF format, including both age and height)
- Not all submissions will be given an audition.
- Submissions close 11:59PM AEDT, **Friday December 13th, 2024.**
- Please note, actors will need to be Sydney-based for the duration of the rehearsal and performance period.
- Please indicate on your submission form if you are unable to be in Sydney for in-person auditions and will need to submit a tape.

Notes on Diversity and Casting: This production of Once On This Island honours the original Haitian roots of the story while acknowledging that we are telling it on First Peoples' soil. Our cast will celebrate **all** CALD artists, highlighting the rich tapestry of our island's diversity, particularly First Nations artists.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FRIDAY 13th DEC 2024**

# CONTACT

For any enquiries please email [curveballcreativeau@gmail.com](mailto:curveballcreativeau@gmail.com)