

AUDITION

BEAUTIFUL THING

By Jonathan Harvey
directed by Barry Park (award winning director)
By arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc
Old Mill Theatre
Mends Street, South Perth, WA 6151
A COVID-19 Safe venue.

ROLES TO BE CAST:

SANDRA 35 (casting 35-45) - Jamie's mother, SE London accent (intimate scenes)
JAMIE 16 (casting 18-25ish) SE London accent (intimate scenes)
STE 16 (casting 18-25ish) the boy next door, SE London accent (intimate scenes)
LEAH 16 (casting 18-25ish) a devil-may care party girl, obsessed with Mama Cass, SE London accent (must sing)
TONY 27 (casting 27-38ish) Sandra's younger boyfriend, middle-class accent (intimate scenes)

Actors should be available for all rehearsals and performances. This is a non-paid community theatre production.

REHEARSALS

Commence on Sat 8th January, rehearsals will be two week-day evenings and afternoon rehearsals on Saturdays, with extra evening rehearsals during production week.

PERFORMANCES

Preview: Wednesday 9th March 7:30pm
Opening Night: Fri 11 March 7:30pm
Wed – Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2.00pm
Final performance: Sat 26 Mar 7.30pm

AUDITION DATES AND VENUE

Auditions by appointment: at The Old Mill Theatre on Tuesday 14th December (evening) and Saturday 18th December (day)

Please acquaint yourself with the play, then sign up here, indicating which role you are interested in, and TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF THE DATE AND TIME OF YOUR AUDITION:

Tuesday 14th December: <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18266947>

Or Saturday 18th December: <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18266946>

QUERIES: Tel: (08) 9367 8719 email: enquiries@oldmilltheatre.com.au

<http://oldmilltheatre.com.au/contact-us/>

WHAT TO PREPARE

Please prepare a short monologue (about two-minutes), preferably in a south London accent, and/or read the character of your choice from some of the sides which can be accessed at:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lhx53vbg1uj1kpi/AACEwRSkOt3ORm6OjUDkwMuqa?dl=0>

PLAY SYNOPSIS

A tender love story set during a hot summer on a South-East London housing estate. Jamie, a relatively unpopular lad who bunks off school to avoid football, lives next door to Ste, a more popular athletic lad who is frequently beaten up by his father and older brother. Such an episode of offstage violence brings Jamie and Ste together: Sandra (Jamie's mum) offers refuge to Ste, who has to 'top-and-tail' with Jamie. Their growing attraction for one another, from initial lingering glances to their irrefutable love, is magnificently illustrated. The play deals with the tribulations of coming to terms with their sexuality and of others finding out, Sandra's unwavering loyalty and defence of Jamie, and the fear of repercussion should Ste's family find out. Harvey unfolds their tentative, awkward relationship with delicacy and with joy. The plot is set against sub-texts of Sandra's desire to manage her own pub, and thus escape the estate, and of her new relationship with her younger boyfriend Tony; and of Leah, the brassy girl next door who has been expelled from school and spends her time listening to Mama Cass records and tripping on a variety of drugs.

THE PLAY

An endearing comedy about falling in love.

Ste and Jamie are next-door neighbours living in a rough South London housing estate. Jamie's being bullied at school and Ste's being bullied at home. One evening Ste seeks refuge at Jamie's. Something exciting and beautiful begins.

This urban fairy-tale is a funny, bittersweet story about the sexual awakening of two boys growing up as next-door neighbours in run down London Council flats. Deftly combining comedy with ardent drama, *Beautiful Thing* has a script that sings - with characters that abound with attitude, energy, frankness and humour. At turns tough and tender, the play combines fantasy and reality to truly capture what it is to be sixteen, in the first flush of love and full of optimism. Set during a heat wave, the mood is buoyed by the music of Mama Cass. Upliftingly optimistic, Harvey's play offers a story bright with sensitivity, pathos and wit.

BEAUTIFUL THING has established itself as a modern classic, charming and delighting audiences across the world. It premiered at the Bush Theatre, London in 1993 and sold out its five-week run. A West End season at the Donmar Warehouse, and the Duke of York's Theatre, and many UK and international productions followed. It was the winner of the John Whiting Award in 1994 and it won an Olivier Award nomination. It was made into a much-loved, ground-breaking cult film in 1996. A critically acclaimed independent production premiered in Sydney in 1998. The play was last revived in the UK for its West End 25th anniversary in 2018. **BEAUTIFUL THING** has featured in the careers of many actors including Jonny Lee Miller, Hugh Bonneville, Philip Glennister, Andrew Garfield, and Rhys Ifans.

THE DIRECTOR

Barry's most recent productions are *Hay Fever* (Old Mill Theatre), *Arcadia* (Harbour Theatre) and *The Boys in the Band* (Dolphin Theatre and State Theatre Centre of WA for GRADS). For Playlovers, his production of *August: Osage County* won several Finley Awards including the Finley's Director Award and the Robert Finley Best Play Award, and *Other Desert Cities*, nominated for six Finley Awards, won the Technical Achievement Award. For Old Mill Theatre, *Present Laughter*, ranked in the Top Ten Plays at the Finley Awards, was nominated for several awards, winning the Best Costumes Award, and several Old Mill Theatre awards including Best Production and Best Set awards, and *Design for Living* won the Finley Best Set in a Play Award. For GRADS, *M. Butterfly* won several Finley awards including the Finley Director Award and Best Play Award; *A View from the Bridge*, nominated for four Finley Awards, was Runner-up Best Play; and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* won several Finley awards. *The Real Thing*, *Broken Glass* and *All My Sons* were also nominated for several Finley awards. He has also directed several productions overseas. As an actor, Barry has performed at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe and in Perth, London, South Africa and Zimbabwe, in plays, musicals, films, and radio and television productions and commercials. He most recently played Aegon in *The Comedy of Errors*.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Jonathan Harvey comes from Liverpool and is the multi award winning writer of the play and film *'Beautiful Thing'*, the Bafta nominated sitcom *'Gimme Gimme Gimme'* and *'Beautiful People'* (Best Comedy: Banff TV Festival). He has written 20 stage plays including *'Corrie!'*, *'Canary'*, *'Hushabye Mountain'*, *'Babies'*, *'Boom Bang A Bang'* and *'Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club'*. He also wrote the 2001 stage musical *'Closer to Heaven'* with the Pet Shop Boys. His theatre work has won him an Evening Standard Award, two Manchester Evening News Awards, the George Devine Award and the John Whiting Award. He is currently a core writer on *'Coronation Street'* while writing new original TV series and under commission for several new plays.

REVIEWS

'BEAUTIFUL THING'S crisply authentic dialogue darts between aching, soul-searching emotion and sharp winning comedy, perfectly capturing the thrill of a first love. '

'A gloriously nostalgic trip back to the early nineties with a summery soundtrack of Mama Cass songs. '

'A razor-sharp depiction of life and love on a post-war council estate.'

'*Coronation Street* writer Jonathan Harvey is at his insightful and hilarious best in this iconic story, which shows how community can lift you out of isolation and suffering.'

"Only a theatregoer with an ice cube where his heart should be would remain indifferent to the plight of Jamie and Ste, the teen-age heroes of BEAUTIFUL THING, Jonathan Harvey's endearing, lopsided smile of a comedy about a boy who falls for the boy next door... warm and rewarding" — NY Times.

"...a sharp, tart English comedy of manners..." — NY Post.

"Deliciously upbeat... seldom has there been a play which so exquisitely and joyously depicts what it's like to be sixteen, in the first flush of love and full of optimism. Truly a most unusual and beautiful thing." — Guardian (London).

"An unfakably truthful portrait of adolescent self-discovery, showing sensitivity and fun, pushing up like wild flowers through the concrete crevices of a Thamesmead estate. This is the most heartening working-class comedy since *A Taste of Honey*." — Sunday Independent (London).