



Audition Packet

Blood Brothers

by Willy Russell

Director: **Bex Robinson**

bexroe@hotmail.com

Producer: **Erica Ebanks**

erica@cds.ky

Audition Date/Times

Saturday 21st January, between 10:00am – 4:00pm

Saturday 28th January, between 2:30pm – 6:00pm.

Callback Dates

If required, a callback date and time will be announced.

CDS Cast Briefing, Directors' Concept Briefing and Read Through

Possibly Tuesday 7th February (TBD)

Rehearsals:

February – June 2023

(Every Tuesday and Thursday) Detailed schedule to be provided. (Dress – June 1st)

Production Dates:

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (Possibility of Sunday Matinees – TBD)

June 2,3,8,9,10,15,16,17,18

YOU MUST BE VACCINATED FOR COVID-19 IN ORDER TO AUDITION FOR OR TAKE ANY PART IN THIS PRODUCTION AS EITHER CAST OR CREW.

THIS PLAY CONTAINS ADULT THEMES AND LANGUAGE

THE PLOT

'Did y'hear the story of the Johnstone twins?'

Blood brothers is the heartbreaking and captivating story of twins Edward and Mickey, separated at birth. Their mother, Mrs Johnstone, deserted by her husband, is suddenly left to bring up five children on her own when she finds out she is pregnant with twins. Unable to cope, her employer, Mrs Lyons offers to adopt one of the babies but on the condition that the twins can never find out the truth about each other. Mrs Johnstone reluctantly agrees, knowing that the child will be well brought up in a prosperous household. Over the years, both mothers do their best to keep the twins, Mickey Johnstone and Edward Lyons, well separated. The situation becomes harder for both women when Mickey and Edward meet while playing in the street and they form an immediate bond. They become "blood brothers". The boys stay close as they grow up despite Edward living a privileged life and Mickey descending into a life of crime. They both meet and fall in love with Linda, however the differences in their backgrounds threaten to pull them apart, eventually leading to a shattering conclusion.

"Tell me it's not true. Say it's just a story..."

The London production of Blood Brothers ran for more than 24 years, winning every British 'Best Musical' award along the way.

Willy Russell's smash hit musical Blood Brothers is the hilarious, provocative and heartbreaking show that tells the unforgettable story of the Johnstone twins. Separated at birth when their mother cannot afford to keep them both, Mickey and Edward grow up streets apart, becoming best friends but never knowing the truth of their heritage. The prophecy that twins who are separated at birth will die on the day they find out their heritage brings this stunningly crafted musical to its shocking and inevitable conclusion. (Australian review)

The London production of Blood Brothers ran for more than 24 years, winning every British 'Best Musical' award along the way.

"Blood Brothers, by the author of Educating Rita and Shirley Valentine, is a haunting rag to riches tragedy of our times" (Original Theatre Company)

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COMPLETE AND SEND THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO PRODUCER: erica@cds.ky

Name:	Gender:	Age:
Home:	Cell:	
E-mail:		

Character	Role (Ages are approximate)
MRS. JOHNSTONE (MOTHER):	Female, Age flexible - Mrs. Johnstone is from a lower-class neighborhood. She is a deeply superstitious woman who is forever scrambling to get by. She has a good heart and a strong sense of right and wrong despite the struggles she has supporting her eight children alone. After being left by her husband, she believes that she has no choice but to give up one of her twin boys—Edward—to her wealthy employer, Mrs Lyons who takes advantage of Mrs Johnstone lack of education and belief in superstitions. As the play goes forward, Mrs Johnstone becomes tortured by guilt and regret, though she remains kind and loving despite her grief. She is the moral center of the play.
NARRATOR:	Male, Age flexible – The Narrator takes the audience through the important sections of the story. Truthful, yet menacing at times. Sometimes he plays various parts (such as Milkman), while at other times he watches the action and comments upon it. As the narrative goes forward, the Narrator constantly reminds the audience of the terrible choice that began this chain of events and warns us of the terrible acts that are to come. The Narrator doesn’t directly interact with the characters on stage, although he sometimes speaks to them, they do not respond.
MRS. LYONS:	Female, Age flexible - Mrs. Johnstone's employer. Mrs Lyons is an infertile, snobbish, lonely housewife. She is a self-centered character who uses others for her own gain. She adopts Edward out of desperation towards her own insecurities. A compulsive liar who gets in over her head. Mrs Lyons makes up a superstition to keep Mrs Johnstone away from Edward. She is an overprotective mother who is always anxious about Edward. Eventually, Mrs Lyon’s hatred, paranoia and madness becomes so pronounced that she reveals Linda and Edwards affair to Micky contributing to the tragic finale.
MR. LYONS:	Male, Age flexible – A wealthy businessman. He is tricked into thinking his wife has had a child while he was on an extended business trip. He is always busy and leaves the homely responsibilities up to his wife. Mr. Lyons feels affection for his wife Mrs Lyons and his son Edward but is too oblivious and self-important to realize that Edward is in fact not his biological child. As Mrs. Lyons’ mental health deteriorates, however, Mr. Lyons becomes increasingly alarmed.
MICKY:	Male, Age flexible, plays 7-20s Mickey is Edwards twin brother - Blood Brother- He is the twin that the lower-class Mrs. Johnstone keeps. He has a rough childhood, but he is honest, sincere and a good-hearted individual much like his twin Edward. Mickey has a hard life, from getting Linda pregnant to getting laid off from his industrial job and being arrested. The audience watches as Mickey falls apart from being this confident boy to a cynical young man hardened by his time in prison and addicted to antidepressants. His anger at Linda and Edward for having an affair and his mother keeping him drives the play’s tragic finale.

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EDWARD:	Male, Age flexible, plays 7-20s Edward is Mickey's twin brother - Blood brother- He is kind, honest and a good-natured boy. He grows up with a privileged life due to his adoptive parents -- from his opportunities with education to women. He feels restricted and revels in Mickey's liveliness, bad language and risky games. His sheltered upbringing has made him more innocent and trusting than his lower-class twin. Edward gets every opportunity in life and eventually uses his position as a city councilman to help the depressed, resentful, penniless Mickey and begins an affair with Mickey's wife Linda, whom Edward has been in love with for years. This fatal mistake leads to the play's tragic finale.
SAMMY:	Male, Age flexible, Plays 7-20s - Mickey's older Brother. A bully and a bad influence on Mickey. A troublemaker. Sammy is Mickey's older brother and someone Mickey looks up to. Sammy was dropped on his head when he was a baby by his sister and becomes a juvenile delinquent turning to a life of crime. As an adult he persuades Mickey to help him in a robbery, which leads to a murder and both Sammy and Mickey ending up in jail.
LINDA:	Female, Age flexible, Plays 7-20s A lovely, kind, confident girl from the neighborhood. She finds the attention of both Mickey and Edward. Linda is a tomboyish young girl who is open about her love for Mickey, even before their first kiss. She becomes imprisoned in her role as a working-class housewife and eventually turns to Edward for comfort and support, and the two begin an affair. Although she is unfaithful, Linda is a sympathetic character who loves both twins.
CHORUS:	Speaking parts/ ensemble -Catalogue Man, Finance Man, Children, Policemen, Neighbors, Wedding Guests, Doleites, Councilors, Nurses, Judge, teacher

Are you currently a member of the Cayman Drama Society? Yes/No:

Have you read the script of or seen this production? Yes/No:

Would you be able and willing to attend evening rehearsals?
(from approximately 7 to 9) Yes/No:

If not cast, are you interested in working in other areas? Yes/No:

If Yes, please check all positions of interest:

Props: Publicity: Costumes: Stage Crew: Make-Up: Bar/Front of House:

Please list all previous theatre experience (on and offstage). Feel free to attach a resumé if you have one:

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Please list all time conflicts between February and end of June 2023 (i.e. work travel, vacations, etc. and especially, any off-island travel).

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

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