

CentreStage
ROLLESTON

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST



BY
**DALE
WASSERMAN**

DIRECTED BY
SHONA COTTRELL

10-18 JULY 2026

ROLLESTON COLLEGE

CENTRESTAGEROLLESTON.ORG.NZ

A Community Theatre production of One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and The Play Bureau

Audition Pack

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for CentreStage Rolleston's production of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. This is going to be an exciting and fun experience for us all!

This audition pack will provide you with all the information you will need going into your audition.

We are seeking talented, animated and enthusiastic performers to join us on stage. Please take your time to read all the information carefully.

Performance Dates

Friday 10 July (Matariki)	7:30pm
Saturday 11 July	2:00pm (matinee)
Saturday 11 July	7:30pm
Sunday 12 July	4:00pm (matinee)
Wednesday 15 July	7:30pm
Thursday 16 July	7:30pm
Friday 17 July	7:30pm
Saturday 18 July	7:30pm

Performance location: **Rolleston College, Rolleston**

The Production Team

Director – Shona Cottrell

Production Managers – Claire Clark and Teresa Hancock

If you have any questions at all regarding the audition process, please contact:

Claire Clark

Ph: 02102373855

Email: claire.clark@centrestagerolleston.org.nz

Synopsis

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest is a story of the devil-may-care rogue named McMurphy who, after being convicted of a petty crime, contrives to serve his short sentence in an airy mental institution rather than in a prison. This, he soon learns, was a mistake. He immediately clashes with the authoritarian head nurse, a fierce martinet named Nurse Ratched. Despite Ratched's strict reign, McMurphy quickly takes over the yard, leading others out of introversion, staging a revolt so that they can see the World Series on television, and arranging a rollicking midnight party with liquor and women. But McMurphy's brash insubordination has its consequences; Ratched ultimately triumphs by subjecting McMurphy to a frontal lobotomy.

Note on the content of this play:

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest explores themes relating to mental health, institutionalisation, power and control within a psychiatric facility. Some scenes and dialogue reference mental illness, medical treatment, and coercive authority, which some people may find confronting or triggering.

We encourage you to be mindful of these themes and to reach out to the production managers if you would like more information about the material before auditioning.

List of Characters

RANDLE P. MCMURPHY – (M, Patient - 20's to 40's) A gambler, a con man, and a backroom brawler. Has a devilish grin and has a wide open extroverted air which is in harsh contrast to the environment of the ward. Will have kissing scenes and a choreographed fight scene. Wears just a towel in another scene. Uses foul language.

NURSE RATCHED – (F, Staff - 30's to 50's) The head of the hospital ward. She masks her humanity and femininity behind a stiff, patronizing façade. She weakens her patients through a psychologically manipulative program designed to destroy their self-esteem. Ratched's emasculating, mechanical ways slowly drain all traces of humanity from her patients. Will have a choreographed fight scene.

CHIEF BROMDEN – (M, Patient - 20's to 50's) The huge, bull-muscled, half-breed son of an Indian Chief. He has been in the hospital for more than ten years, longer than any other patient in the ward. Bromden sees modern society as a huge,

oppressive conglomeration that he calls the Combine, and the hospital as a place meant to fix people who do not conform.

AIDE WARREN and AIDE WILLIAMS – (M, Staff - 20's to 40's) The Day Time Aides. Cruel and demeaning, they are Nurse Ratched's stooges. (Fight scenes, both use foul language)

NURSE FLINN – (F, Staff - 20's To 60's) A vapid woman with apprehensive eyes. She wears a gold cross at her throat, a sign of her strict Catholic upbringing. She is fearful of the patients' sexuality. She is fearful in general.

DALE HARDING – (M, Patient - 40 plus) College-educated with a sharp mind and tongue. He is President of the Patients' Council. Although he is married, he is effeminate and questions his own masculinity .

BILLY BIBBIT – (M, Patient - 20's to 30's) Shy and has a bad stutter. He seems younger than his age. Dominated by his mother, one of Nurse Ratched's close friends. Billy is voluntarily in the hospital.

SCANLON – (M, Patient - 20's to 60) Involuntarily committed to the hospital. He has fantasies of blowing things up. Uses foul language.

CHESWICK – (M, Patient - 30 - 60) Eager and quick to argue or fight. Aggressively defiant yet cringing. All talk, no action.

MARTINI – (M, Patient - 25 to 60) A little Italian man who lives in a world of delusional hallucinations.

RUCKLY – (M, Patient - 25 to 50) A Chronic patient. Was once curable, but was transformed into a Chronic due to a botched lobotomy. Uses foul language.

DR. SPIVEY – (M, Staff - 40 to 70) The administrator and psychiatrist of the mental institution. He doubts that anything is wrong with McMurphy's mind, but he defers to the opinion of Nurse Ratched.

AIDE TURKLE – (M, Staff - 50s to 70's) The nighttime orderly for Nurse Ratched's ward. He is an elderly night watchman who smokes marijuana. McMurphy bribes him to help arrange the final party.

CANDY STARR – (F, Other - 21 to 40) A prostitute from Portland with a "heart of gold." She is physically attractive and passive, and relieves Billy Bibbit of his virginity. Will have kissing scenes.

SANDY GILFILLIAM - (F, Other - 30 - 45) Candy's older and less-physically attractive friend; comes with her to the party on the ward.

(F, Other) A prostitute who comes with Candy to the late-night party. Will have kissing scene.

Audition Information

Auditions will be held on **Saturday 2 May** from 2pm-7pm at Rolleston College in the Auditorium, with a call back slot pencilled in for **Monday 4 May** from 7pm-9pm if required.

Each audition will be about 10 minutes long. We will take a photograph of you to assist with casting which will NOT be shared.

If you are not able to make these times, please contact Claire Clark (details above) to discuss alternative arrangements.

For your audition, we will ask you to perform a script excerpt. This will be provided with the email confirmation. Paper copies will be available on arrival at the audition venue.

To book your audition please go to our website: www.centrestagerolleston.org.nz

Please fill in the online audition form ensuring that you fill in all of the required fields. Choose your preferred audition time then click 'BOOK MY AUDITION'

Notification of casting

Applicants will be notified by phone after the selection process is complete. You should expect to hear back from someone early the following week following your auditions.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held on:

- Mondays 7 – 9 pm,
- Wednesdays 7 – 9 pm
- And from June, Sundays 7pm-9pm

The first rehearsal is on **Wednesday 6 May**, 7pm-9pm at Rolleston College. This will be a chance to meet the whole team, as well as your fellow cast members. On this evening we will:

- Take your headshot photograph (please come in a black t-shirt, a CSR one if you have it)
- Get you to pay your show levy
- Collect your bio
- Take show t-shirt orders (once you've paid your levy)
- Record your sizings for costumes
- Have a read through.

In the week or so leading up to opening night, please be aware that we will be adding in extra rehearsals to ensure that we are ready for an audience. Please ensure that your schedule is free to accommodate for this.

We also ask if you could make yourselves available to help with Pack-in (Saturday 4 July) and Pack-out (Sunday 19 July). We have very limited time to get this done so we need to be all hands on deck.

Performing fees

Every person who performs on stage in any CentreStage Rolleston production must pay a show levy which allows you to be fully involved with the show. The show levy for this production is \$50 which includes a CentreStage Rolleston show t-shirt.

Cast expectations

Being involved in this production is a definite commitment. Each cast member must be present for rehearsals when required. If for any reason you are unable to attend a rehearsal, you are required to contact the Production Manager as soon as possible.

Achieving a production of the highest possible quality requires a huge commitment of both time and professionalism from everyone. Therefore, please do not audition if you are not able to fully commit to the rehearsal schedule.

The rehearsal schedule will be carefully managed to make the most effective use of each performer's time. You will only be called when you are required and while we make every attempt to minimise waiting times during rehearsals, performers are required to be mindful of and show courtesy to performers who are rehearsing and taking direction.

Scripts for the show will be provided following the completion of a successful audition and must be returned after the show has closed.

All on-stage roles are on an unpaid basis.