



AUDITION PACK

The Shoe-Horn Sonata



Audition Sessions

Saturday 27th June 2026
from 10:30am – 11:30am

The Hut - Jean Howie Drive, Balmoral Park, Morningside

About the Play

A wonderful Australian play, set in 1995, when **two women** who had been Japanese prisoners of war in camps are reunited in a Melbourne hotel room.

A television documentary forces them to relive the past, contact the present and question the future. Woven into their fifty years of separation are a shoe-horn and the threads of loyalty and love which form their uncommon bond.

The Interviewer is male but does not appear on stage – questions are posed from off-stage.

A heart-warming story of bravery and friendship, based on true accounts of Australian nurses in World War II

About Villanova Players

Villanova Players are a community theatre group in Morningside. Established in 1948, we perform four Main House shows a year, two shows from our youth ensemble “Start Ups” and one Intermezzo production. We produce plays of all varieties from classics to contemporary and musicals. We rehearse at “the Hut” on Jean Howie Drive, Morningside and perform at the Ron Hurley Theatre at Seven Hills.

About the Director

Jane Binstead has been involved in theatre for more than 20 years and loving every minute of it. Last year, she played Penny Poulter in *The Great Divide* and Gwen in VP’s *Away* (2024); Sheree in *Sweet Delilah Swim Club* (2023) Lindy Chamberlain in *Letters to Lindy* (2022). Other highlights with VPs include going solo in comedy, *Her Big Chance* by Alan Bennett (2020); *The Memory of Water* and *Edith Stein* (both 2009) and *Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet* (2007). Jane has also directed a previous production, VP’s *The Bear* by Anton Chekhov (2021).

About the Auditions

Auditions will be held on Saturday 27th June at
The Hut - Jean Howie Drive, Balmoral Park, Morningside
One Session
10:30am – 11:30am

Please go to [Book your audition time](#) to book for a session.

and fill out an expression of interest form:- [Expression of Interest Form](#)

At the audition, you will be asked to do a cold read

You can still fill out our EOI Form even if you are unable to attend our audition times.

If you’re unable to make it to in-person auditions, please submit a video audition to info@villanovaplayers.com by June 27 and please email with any questions.

About the Performances

4 Performances: September 18 7.30pm
 September 19 2.00pm
 September 19 7.30pm
 September 20 2.00pm

About the Rehearsals

Rehearsals commence: Sunday, July 26 11:00am – 1:30pm
Rehearsal days: Monday evenings 7:00pm - 9.30pm
 Wednesday evenings 7:00pm - 9.30pm
 Sundays 11:00am - 4:30pm

About the Roles

Ages are the suggested playing ages, and genders are the playing genders.

Role	Description	Gender	Playing ages
Bridie	Australian - was a nurse in Malaya in 1942 - A funny, tough Australian woman, and one of the subjects of a television documentary about Japanese prison camps during World War II. It has now been over five decades since Bridie first set off for the war as a military nurse, leaving her family in order to serve n Malaya.	Female	65+
Interviewer	Not seen	Male Voice	Any age

Note the role of **Sheila** (A prim and proper British woman – estranged from Bridie for many years) has already been cast.

Reading 1

BRIDIE

I guess I ... wanted to be like my Dad.

He'd been a soldier. Fought in Egypt.

He didn't want me to enlist

but I could tell that he was proud.

The day I left for overseas, he gave me a present –

[Pulling a face.] – a shoe-horn of all things!

He cleared his throat, looked downwards and said –

[BRIDIE puts her hands behind her back, and looks at the ground.]

‘There are three things every young soldier should know.

Always use a shoe-horn *[Holds up an imaginary shoe-horn.]*
– it'll make your boots last longer.

Don't sit on a toilet till you've lined the seat with paper.

[Awkwardly and rapidly.] And never kiss a Pommie on the lips.’

[Fondly.] Mum said he cried when my ship sailed off ...

I'd never been out of Australia before.

I'd never been further than Woy Woy.

But I didn't have time to be homesick.

As soon as we arrived we set up an army hospital –

just north of Singapore. Johore Bahru –

it wasn't like Sydney – that's for sure.

There were chooks on the footpath –

monkeys in the trees –

and the smell of fish-oil everywhere.

Sometimes we'd go dancing – all us nurses.
It was hard to believe we were on the brink of war.

Reading 2

BRIDIE :

Probably more.

The British had refused to evacuate civilians.

They just couldn't believe that the Far East would fall.

So they waited till the last –

till the Japs had landed in Singapore.

Then they threw their wives and children

onto anything that would float ...

Just after we'd sailed the coastguard sent a telegram –
warning the Navy to bring us all back.

By the time someone decoded it,

it was much too late for that.

We were out in the middle of the South China Sea

– thirteen thousand women and children –

singing songs to pass the time.

Well we mightn't have sung so loudly

if we'd known about that telegram.

What it said was very simple:

some Japanese destroyers had been sighted in the area.

[*Calmly.*] And our forty-four ships were heading straight
for them.

[*Very calmly.*] It was the thirteenth of February.

Friday the thirteenth.