NMT.

Ride the CYCLONE

THE MUSICAL



AUDITION PACK

WELCOME TO THE CYCLONE

Thank you for expressing your interest in auditioning for Nelson Musical Theatre's 2027 production of Ride the Cyclone!

This wonderfully weird, darkly funny and moving show celebrates individuality, outrageous imagination and the things that make life worth living.

Our creative team is thrilled to bring Ride the Cyclone to the stage and begin this journey with you. Please bring your own interpretation, be open to direction and don't be afraid to make bold choices.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Six teenagers from the St. Cassian Chamber Choir die in a roller coaster accident. In a mysterious afterlife, the mechanical fortune teller Karnak gives them an extraordinary opportunity: one of them may return to life.

Each teenager tells their story through music, humour and unexpected moments of vulnerability. What begins as a competition becomes a moving exploration of identity, dreams, regret and the value of being alive.

AUDITION INFORMATION

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2026 • 10:00AM–4:30PM

Minimum age to audition: 16 years old.

Auditions will be held in individual 10–15 minute sessions. Please prepare the song listed for your preferred character and the relevant dialogue excerpts supplied with the audition materials.

You may audition for more than one character. If so, please also prepare the songs for your additional choices, as we may ask to hear them. We may offer adjustments or ask you to try something different during your session.

AUDITION DETAILS

Audition venue: Red Door Theatre, Nelson.

Audition booking: Attached or via the NMT website.

Please arrive 5–10 minutes before your audition slot.

If you cannot attend on 13 December, please email cyclone@nmt.org.nz to arrange an alternative audition date before the scheduled audition day.

WHAT TO BRING

Your prepared material, water, and anything else you need to feel comfortable. Wear whatever you like — there is no required audition outfit or dress code.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We want to see your interpretation, personality, storytelling and willingness to explore. Come ready to have fun, try different approaches and take direction. We are interested in your potential, not perfection.

CHARACTERS & AUDITION SONGS

OCEAN O'CONNELL ROSENBERG

THE OVERACHIEVER • THE LEADER • THE PERFECTIONIST

Driven, competitive and outspoken, Ocean is the choir's self-appointed leader. Her certainty conceals a capacity to change.

Vocal range: B♭3–A5 **Audition song:** What the World Needs

What we are looking for: Commanding stage presence, comedic precision, confident contemporary singing and emotional range.

MISCHA BACHINSKI

THE ANGRY BOY • THE RAPPER • THE ROMANTIC

A brash Ukrainian adoptee with a tough exterior and a deeply romantic heart.

Vocal range: B♭2–C5 **Audition song:** Talia (also prepare This Song Is Awesome as a backup)

What we are looking for: Rap ability, emotional sincerity and a strong contrast between bravado and vulnerability.

NOEL GRUBER

THE ROMANTIC • THE DREAMER • THE CHANTEUSE

A theatrical dreamer fascinated by French cinema, tragedy and a glamorous life far from his hometown.

Vocal range: F♯2–D5 **Audition song:** Noel's Lament

What we are looking for: Expressive character singing, cabaret flair, wit and compelling storytelling.

CHARACTERS & AUDITION SONGS

RICKY POTTS

THE IMAGINATIVE BOY • THE QUIET ONE

Often overlooked, Ricky has a vivid fantasy world and an extraordinary imagination.

Vocal range: C♭3–B♭4 **Audition song:** Space Age Bachelor Man

What we are looking for: Physical storytelling, expressive vocals and a striking transformation in energy.

JANE DOE

THE MYSTERY GIRL • THE UNKNOWN

An eerie, delicate figure who cannot remember her identity or her past.

Vocal range: C4–E6 **Audition song:** The Ballad of Jane Doe

What we are looking for: Classical or operatic vocal technique, unusual character choices and haunting stillness.

CONSTANCE BLACKWOOD

THE NICEST GIRL • THE HOMETOWN GIRL

Warm and accommodating on the surface, Constance wrestles with frustration and the desire to be truly seen.

Vocal range: F♯3–B4 **Audition song:** Sugar Cloud

What we are looking for: Emotional honesty, warmth, comic instincts and a strong contemporary belt.

THE AMAZING KARNAK

THE FORTUNE TELLER • THE NARRATOR

A mechanical fortune teller who oversees the teenagers and their stories with dry wit and mysterious authority.

Vocal range: Spoken role **Audition:** No singing required — acting/dialogue material only

What we are looking for: Clear diction, precise timing, dry humour, vocal presence and strong storytelling.

REHEARSALS & COMMITMENT

Rehearsals are proposed to begin in late January or early February 2027, most likely on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, approximately 6:30pm–9:00pm. The schedule is not yet final. Please disclose any known conflicts or scheduling difficulties on your audition form.

PERFORMANCE DATES

15–18 APRIL & 22–24 APRIL 2027

Red Door Theatre, Nelson. Performers should be available for the season and the technical and dress rehearsals leading up to opening night.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER

Please arrive 5–10 minutes before your audition slot, prepare your chosen song and dialogue, and come ready to explore the character. You can wear whatever you like. We value creativity, kindness, openness to direction and collaboration.

THE CYCLONE IS CALLING

Thank you for taking the time to audition and sharing your creativity with us. We cannot wait to see what you bring to the stage.

OCEAN SIDE · 1 OF 2

KARNAK

Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg, born December 22nd, Capricorn, the ambitious nature. Favorite ride: the Bumper Cars. Ocean was born into a family of far left of center humanists who moved to Northern Saskatchewan to live a carbon-free lifestyle. The hemp needle-point sign above the household's toilet read: "If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown… scoop it out with your hand and put it in the compost". Yet in between all the drum circles, Marxist parables, and cheese sandwiches made of human breast milk… Ocean could never shake the feeling she was the white sheep of her family. It was only at the age of eight, when she found amongst her parents' record collection an album called "Up with People"… the cloying positivity of this pro capitalist gaggle of teen crooners brought tears to her eyes. Perhaps the peppiest thing Halliburton has ever produced. High school president, straight A student, Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg… the most successful girl in town.

OCEAN

Judges, student body, colleagues, friends, ominous novelty machine… I had a speech prepared for this very occasion, but I simply cannot read it.

(She rips a piece of paper.)

MISCHA

How could she have speech for *this*?

OCEAN

I am just going to speak from my heart. I've known most of these folks since Pre-K… I love them all…Constance Blackwood, my best friend forever, my BFF—

(CONSTANCE is sitting next to JANE who has locked eyes with her.)

CONSTANCE

Ocean, she's -

OCEAN

Don't interrupt, sweetie. Constance is the salt of the earth… Our 'Mary Main-Street' looking for her 'Joe Six-Pack'. Sure, she has some serious self-esteem issues, why wouldn't she? That's why I formed an improv duo, as a confidence building exercise—sound off!

CONSTANCE & OCEAN

Unlock the Power of the Positive! U-POP!

OCEAN SIDE · 2 OF 2

CONSTANCE
We get pretty crazy sometimes...

OCEAN
Constance Eleanor Blackwood. You know I find the word 'crazy' offensive.

CONSTANCE
(Gritting teeth)
That's why Ocean scripts all our improvs in advance.

OCEAN
My time, Constance, my time...

(She sits her back next to JANE.)

Look, I've seen enough reality TV to get what you want us to do here… Who's the best? I mean sure, grades, humanitarian efforts, extracurricular activities, prestigious university, spiritual mastery of both Judaism and Catholicism-Nailed my Confirmation and Bat Mitzvah, in the same week. And I'm not even bragging about that because it's against my Buddhist beliefs…I am the best here, by any metric of society I get that…. (trembling voice) …but if that's how worth is measured, I want no part of it! Look… some of us are left wing, some of us are right wing… but the last time I checked it takes two wings to fly!! We are community! We are Family! We are the World!

(CONSTANCE claps enthusiastically, kids grudgingly clap – almost a Pavlovian response to OCEAN many speeches in their high school.)

SFX: SAD BASSOON #2 OCEAN CONCEDES

KARNAK
Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg heroically concedes.

OCEAN
(Ice)
She does what?!

KARNAK
I respect you taking the moral high ground. Next.

#7 WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

MISCHA SIDE

KARNAK

Favorite ride: the Beer Garden. Mischa was conceived in a little town outside Odessa in the Ukraine by a factory worker named Tamara. His mother, after being part of the clean up crew in Chernobyl, was dying of prolonged exposure to Uranium. Wanting her son to be safe, she decided to put him up for adoption—forging his birth certificate, she claimed he was two years old, and was recently potty trained. When Mischa came to Canada, his adoptive parents were surprised to see their toddler had five o'clock shadow, and a slight trace of alcohol on his breath. They put him in the basement and his adoptive mother would prepare food and leave it for him on the top of the stairs. On the rare occasion he would run into his new parents—the mother would weep, and the father would shoo him away like a horsefly. So began an inexhaustible rage. He turned to the last bastion of pure strength and masculinity in society: self-aggrandizing commercialized hiphop. This is how Mischa became, the angriest boy in town.

MISCHA

Yo! I want to talk about feeling. Ukrainian men have two emotion: Rage! And Passion. People always be hating on me and my mad skillz, 'cause I am best rapper in all of North Eastern Saskatchewan. Grab yo dicks if you in the 306! Brah! You might know me as 'Bad Egg' on the YouTube. I'm well known there.

That's where I met my shorty, Talia. She's from Kiev, from my country, and she gave me mostly positive feedback on my YouTube comment wall…and then we became mad passionate all-night lovers on Facebook, Twitter...we made love with each other in my native language on all of the social media networks. She is now my fiancé…..we were engaged. I was saving up to move back to Ukraine and we were going to…

(he gets emotional)

Too much passion...now Rage!

I have no respect for this country! Fact: you want to know what Canada is leading supplier of, to whole world? Two things: mustard seeds...and Uranium. That's great for hotdogs, yes... but not so good for Ukraine. So thank you for killing my mother. And for indirectly killing me. I feel the rage, and when I rage, I rap about money in auto-tune. Auto-tune will never die. Hit the beat.

#13 THIS SONG IS AWESOME

(This song is a tutting hiphop auto-tune tune…think T-PAIN.)

NOEL SIDE

(NOEL and JANE DOE put on bowlers.)

NOEL

(as Didi, French accent)

There is no room at this Inn, for it is Christmas… Shall we hang ourselves?

JANE

(as Gogo, French accent)

I hear it gives you an erection.

NOEL

(as Didi, French accent)

Then we must hang ourselves … *immediately*.

CONSTANCE

(as Mary)

Or we could just go to the manger, Joseph.

KARNAK

Aspiring Iconoclast, enfant terrible…Noel Gruber, the most romantic boy in town.

NOEL

I've seen the movie the Blue Angel about a billion and one times…. If there is something better on this earth than Marlene Dietrich playing Lola Lola (The heartless booze hound harlot) I don't even want to hear about it…. I tried to go as her every year for Halloween—I always chickened out… And I'd go as something like C3P-O…but in my heart, I was Lola Lola, dressed up as C3P-O… that was always my Halloween costume's subtext. Mom tells me I've got to try to blend in, so I tried really hard to dial it back… I had to…we live in a town where every year on July 11th when Seven Eleven gives out free Slurpees it's like seriously the major cultural event of the year…. I'm not even making a joke right now. It's like, a Slurpee Woodstock.

I was born in the wrong town, the wrong country, the wrong era! I wanted to feel, goddamn it. I wanted bad love. I wanted a man that would drive me to drink. I craved dissipation. I wanted to wake up in an alleyway in my own vomit, missing teeth. I wanted to drink myself to death on the cup of life...

"Anyone who hasn't experienced the ecstasy of betrayal knows nothing about ecstasy at all." Jean Genet. I was a sexual provocateur and a novelist, who never wrote a novel...or had sex....

RICKY SIDE

RICKY
Or I could tell you about the time I was a super hero sex god on a cat planet.

CONSTANCE
Definitely the second one.

RICKY
I guess you could say I'm pretty sexy on another planet! Lo, I'm a rival prophet from the Zolarian Starcluster, supreme leader of those that evolved from cats. There are seven suns on the planet Zolar, so the gravitational pull makes everything harder, longer, wider…

(Whispered to Ocean)

wetter.

(OCEAN grasps her tunic, by the power of the SABM's Voice.)

OCEAN
Who are you right now?!

RICKY
I'm telling you, Monkey Love Drop

#14A RICKY STING

RICKY (CON'T)
I'M JUST A SWINGING, SPACE AGE, BACHELOR MAN!

#14B RICKY'S BUMPER

KARNAK
Ricky Potts, born June 5th. Gemini: the dual nature.

(RICKY pulls the lever...photomontage, however his pictures are soon replaced with classic origin scenes from comics, Superman lifting the car as a kids. Spidey in the lab getting bit, Bruce Wayne standing over his dead parents, the Silver Surfer, etc.).

RICKY SIDE | ZOLARIA FINALE

RICKY

And they listened. And they heard my message. For I was singing notes that only cats or cat people could hear. A G#, 5 octaves above middle C.

(Music stops, Ricky sucks in the helium from the balloon…releasing a high note. Pause, cats react. One cat sprays itself with a bottle of hairspray.)

Incredible. Peace was restored. I guess that's what happens when you're a…

JANE DOE SIDE | INTRODUCTION

(Lights restore, the kids stare at her slack jawed. JANE stares fixed at CONSTANCE.)

CONSTANCE
Did anybody just pee themselves a little?

(pause)

Me neither.

JANE
(to CONSTANCE)
Do you want to brush my dolly's hair?

CONSTANCE
(to OCEAN)
I'm really freaked out right now!

JANE
Do you want to know what really freaks me out?

CONSTANCE
Mmmm...not really ever at all, really sorry.

KARNAK
Meet Jane Doe. Catchphrase:

(Lights suddenly down only on JANE.)

#5A JANE'S CATCHPHRASE

(Her mic suddenly has tons of reverb on it.)

JANE
When a lioness has children, she stops making love to the lion. The lion gets jealous, sometimes so jealous he eats the children. You'd think this would upset the lioness. Far from it, they make love again, like the children never existed. I find that idea terrifying.

CONSTANCE
I'm going to stand a little farther away from you, okay?

#5B SNARE ROLL

JANE DOE 2 / RICKY 2 SIDE

(JANE stares at her then takes the cupcake and walks away. Cross-fade to RICKY and JANE playing with a glockenspiel.)

JANE
How do we know it's my birthday?

RICKY
…How do we know it's *not* your birthday?

JANE
People have names on pretend birthdays, too.

RICKY
You could call yourself Savannah...

JANE
What's a Savannah?

RICKY
Savannah is a special name I was saving up, but you can have it. 'Cause everything I've been saving has to go. It's a fire sale in my brain, and everything must go, by

(echo in his voice)

m-m-m-midnight.

JANE
I like Savannah.

RICKY
You can have her.

JANE
Can Savannah have the greenest eyes?

RICKY
Yes.

JANE
…Savannah... with the greenest eyes.

CONSTANCE SIDE · 1 OF 2

KARNAK

Those pages in Constance's yearbook were carefully removed with an exacto knife. And burnt. Constance Blackwood, the nicest girl in town.

CONSTANCE

So I lost my virginity to a carnie in a port-o-potty before I died. Like three hours before. It was kind of porno. He was like ancient, like thirty-two. And he had this tattoo on his forearm … it was of two skeletons having sex, and it said, "Born to Bone" on the bottom of it.

(LIGHT up on MISCHA wearing the Iron Maiden shirt.)

MISCHA

(As CARNIE)

Isn't my tattoo the stupidest thing you've ever seen?

(CONSTANCE laughs.)

CONSTANCE

I fake laughed when he said that because you should always laugh at guys' jokes, or they'll think you're a cow. My mom and dad own the Blackwood Café in town. It's been in our family since, like forever. The Blackwoods have been in Uranium since they opened the mines… my family had pride when it came to that. 'Til I went to high school and having pride about our town was only like the lamest thing you could ever think to believe. After a while I started feeling kind of crummy about stuff, like ashamed. At the café, I would catch myself looking at my mom thinking, "what a loser, a stupid dead-end loser, in a stupid dead-end town." My parents were good people and all I could do was think horrible things about them. I really wish I never thought those things…But I got so angry that I was born in the only family in Uranium that raised their kid to think it was okay to do your working, living and dying there. And it just got all kinds of poison after that.

Anyway, my virginity… I just wanted to get it out of the way. I just wanted to do it, so I didn't have to think about doing it anymore. No, actually… I just wanted to lose it in the most horrible possible way. "Constance the lifer, lost it to a carnie, in a crap box, in a crappy town! Why, of course she did…"

And then I rode the Cyclone with the other kids in the choir… and that's when the accident happened.

#17B GUITAR SUGARCLOUDS UNDERSCORE

CONSTANCE SIDE · 2 OF 2

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)

We were at the top of the loop, when the roller coaster made this kind of screaming metal sound. Sparks were shooting all over the place. And then the screaming and the sparks just stopped…. and there was like this weightlessness…. My heart jumped like a gazillion beats a second, but I didn't scream like the other kids…. No, I was just soaking it all in, 'cause on a certain level it was so rad…. sailing through the air upside down, you could see all the other rides. And it was like something unlocked in me; my heart just welled up with all this love for everything.

Images and all this feeling flooded into me. Like climbing back into my bed in the morning and feeling the heat left over from my body, hanging upside down from the monkey bars until my head starts to tingle, smelling jiffy markers, listening to music and dancing around my room before going out to a party and pretending I'm going to have the perfect time, finishing an essay, un-doing a knot, pizza night, Halloween, watching my baby brother dance naked to ABBA, being in the choir at the height of the Hallelujah chorus and feeling all the voices rattle my bones. I started laughing like a crazy person, giddy with endorphins, all dancing leprechauns and rainbows and unicorns, streams of chocolate, whirling rides, flashing lights.

There's no shame in loving my small town. The only good things that happened to me happened in Uranium. It took a horrible accident for me to realize how goddamn wonderful everything is.

#18 JAWBREAKER/SUGARCLOUD

CONSTANCE

I USED TO THINK THAT LIFE WAS JUST A JAWBREAKER
YEAH, YOU SUCK AND YOU SUCK
AND YOU SUCK AND YOU SUCK
AND YOU SUCK SOME MORE
YEAH, YOU SUCK SOME MORE

KARNAK SIDE

RIDE THE CYCLONE

(We barely see a figure with its back to the audience in a Saint Cassian girl's tunic, as if she is lit by the faintest beam of moonlight.)

#1 DREAM OF LIFE OPENING

JANE (TRACKED)
I KNOW THIS DREAM OF LIFE IS NEVER ENDING
IT GOES AROUND AND 'ROUND AND 'ROUND AGAIN
YOU KNOW THE SUN IS RISING WHILE DESCENDING
IT GOES ON AND ON AND NEVER ENDS

(At the end JANE DOE magically disappears. In darkness…)

#1A AMAZING KARNAK ORGAN

(A mechanical fortune-telling machine is revealed, circa 1920's penny arcade. The fortuneteller is an imposing figure with a majestic beard and glowing eyes.)

KARNAK
Hello. I am the Amazing Karnak. This is not a boast but rather what it says on my legal patent as a precognition machine. I was designed to predict the exact cause, time, and place of someone's death. A rather morbid function, I grant you; which is precisely why I was set on "family fun novelty mode" when sold to the Wonder Ville traveling fairground… Turns out… being told the place and time of your death in front of your family, with a mouthful of corndog at a fairground, is the very opposite of fun. I can even predict my own demise. I always could – tonight in this warehouse, in a little over an hour.

#1B VIRGIL BASS SOLO

(We see VIRGIL.)

Meet my executioner, a rat I've named Virgil. For the last two years Virgil has been steadily chewing on my power cable. In a little over an hour, Virgil shall chew his way through the rubber, biting down on two hundred volts of electricity… instantly killing us both. As there is nothing more base than death… I've decided for tonight's concert, Virgil shall play the bass.