HATS

HORWICH AMATEUR
THEATRE SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Flashdance
THE MUSICAL



APRIL 2027

MEET THE TEAM

Craig Booth - Director



Craig has been immersed in all things performance since primary school, with a passion that evolved from naturalistic acting into the magical world of musical theatre. As both an accomplished performer and director, the stage is the beating heart of his life—shaping everything from his daily routines to his hobbies and social circle.

He firmly believes that every single person plays a vital role. His directing style is built on inclusion, energy, and collaboration, creating an environment where cast and crew members alike are empowered to shine. For him, theatre is about nurturing confidence, sparking creativity, and proving that when a team pours their heart into a show, the result is pure magic.

Now, he is absolutely thrilled to take the helm for Flashdance—an iconic, high-octane musical that tells a deeply moving story about chasing your dreams, a philosophy that fuels his own life. Driven by an electric 80s soundtrack, explosive choreography, and genuine heart, this production offers the ultimate canvas for bold visual storytelling. Get ready to watch this phenomenal team take care of business and light up the stage!

Gemma Cookson-Marr - Choreographer



Say hello to our choreographer Gemma Marr — a powerhouse of patience, precision, and pure passion for performance. With a strong background as a teacher, Gemma has a real talent for bringing out the best in everyone, from the total beginner to the seasoned stage star. She's living proof that with the right encouragement (and a few well-placed jazz hands), anyone can dance. Her meticulous eye for detail and tireless dedication have shaped countless productions, and her work on our annual Showcase always raises the bar. With Gemma in the rehearsal room, you're in expert — and wonderfully encouraging — hands.

Lorraine Brown - Choreographer



Introducing our choreographer, Lorraine Brown — a vibrant force of nature with a flair for fabulous footwork and unforgettable routines. With a professional dance background and a reputation for crafting showstopping sequences, Lorraine brings both sparkle and precision to every production she touches. Her fun and infectious approach to choreography makes rehearsals a joy, while her incredible attention to detail ensures the highest standards on stage. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or stepping into the spotlight for the first time, Lorraine has a unique gift for making everyone feel like they belong — and for getting the very best out of every performer. It's no wonder people jump at the chance to work with her time and time again.

ALL THINGS FLASHDANCE

Based on the iconic movie that defined an era, Flashdance The Musical is an explosive tribute to passion, grit, and the relentless determination to succeed. Set in the blue-collar heart of 1980s Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the story follows Alex Owens—a fiercely independent 18-year-old steel mill welder by day and dynamic club dancer by night, who dares to reach for a life far beyond the foundry floor.

At its core, this inspiring production is a celebration of perseverance, deep sisterhood, and the courage it takes to conquer self-doubt. Surrounded by a fierce network of women who lift each other up through every trial, Alex must navigate love, adversity, and high-stakes pressure to fight for her place at the prestigious Shipley Dance Academy and make her dreams a reality.

Packed with electric, high-powered choreography and a legendary 80s pop soundtrack, this theatrical powerhouse will have you cheering in your seats to smash hits including Maniac, Manhunt, I Love Rock 'n' Roll, Gloria, and the ultimate anthem of triumph, Flashdance... What a Feeling.



ABOUT HATS

Welcome to Horwich Amateur Theatre Society (HATS)! We're absolutely thrilled to have you join our vibrant community of theatre lovers. Since 1953, HATS has been a home for people of all ages and abilities who share a passion for musical theatre and live performance. Whether you're stepping onto the stage for the first time, lending your talents behind the scenes, or helping with any of the many vital roles that make a production come alive, you're now part of a creative family that values enthusiasm, collaboration, and fun. Our society is built on the spirit of inclusion—everyone has something special to contribute, and together we create memorable shows that entertain and inspire both cast and audiences alike. As a member, you'll have opportunities to take part in our mainstage musicals, annual showcases, workshops, social events, and more. We encourage you to get involved in whatever way suits you best and to explore new skills along the way. Being part of HATS means embracing a tradition of excellence, supported by our affiliations with NODA and BATS, but above all it means sharing the joy of theatre with like-minded people who quickly become friends. We understand that life can be busy, so we welcome your commitment at whatever level you're able to offer. Our dedicated team is here to support you, whether you want to perform, work backstage, or simply enjoy the camaraderie. So get ready for an exciting journey full of creativity, laughter, and unforgettable experiences. Welcome to HATS—you've joined something truly special, and we can't wait to see all that you'll bring to our stage and society!







DIRECTOR'S VISION

Flashdance is going to be high-octane, fiercely passionate, and emotionally charged. From the very first synth line to the final blackout, we won't be stopping for breath. This production will move with raw, industrial momentum—bold, slick, and unstoppable—mirroring the relentless pulse of Pittsburgh and the fire of someone fighting for their dream.

Set against the gritty backdrop of a 1980s steel mill town, this show is far more than an iconic soundtrack and electric choreography; it is an incredible story of grit, identity, and ambition. At its heart, my vision is anchored in three vital truths: the relentless determination to succeed against all odds, the courage to rise above self-doubt, and the fiercely supportive power of sisterhood.

Crucially, this isn't just Alex Owens' story—it belongs equally to the women who surround her. We are bringing the journeys of Gloria, Kiki, and Tess into the spotlight, giving their personal struggles, humor, and heart the depth they deserve. By diving into their unique battles and showing how they lift each other up when the pressure threatens to break them, we elevate this into a deeply relatable, engaging, enthralling, and moving musical.

Every single role in this cast and every moment on stage will have a clear, distinct purpose in delivering this story. Nothing will be generic, and no action will be filler. Every beat, line, and piece of movement is there to drive the narrative forward and heighten the emotional stakes.

Visually, this will be a striking, cinematic spectacle. The design will blend the harsh, rusted textures of the steel foundry with the neon energy of the club life. The staging will be sleek and dynamic, creating seamless transitions that keep the audience locked into the momentum of the story without losing a single drop of tension or heart.

This isn't a carbon-copy retro nostalgia trip. I'm not looking for caricatures or surface-level stereotypes. These characters are real—gritty, hungry, fiercely loyal, and utterly human. I want performers to bring their authentic selves to these roles, building stage relationships that feel vulnerable, honest, and deeply earned.

And let's be clear: the ensemble is everything. Flashdance relies on a collective engine. The ensemble doesn't just back up the narrative—they are the pulse of the town, the physical energy of the choreography, and the vocal power that lifts the roof off the theatre. Every single person on that stage is vital to bringing this world to life.

Ultimately, I want the audience to feel that they have been truly taken on a thrilling journey—walking out of the theatre completely exhilarated, deeply moved, and inspired by a story of grit, sisterhood, and the unyielding drive to achieve what feels impossible. They'll be singing, cheering, and talking about an unforgettable, empowering experience.

Let's turn up the heat, bring the energy, and prove what happens when you hold onto your dream. What a feeling it's going to be!





IMPORTANT DATES

Auditions Call backs	Sun 4th October 2026 @ Peace Community Theatre Weds 7th October	
Cast get together and read-through - Weds 14th October @ Bolton Arena		
Rehearsals	WB Mon 2nd November- every Monday and Wednesday unless told otherwise (there will be a 2 week notice of rehearsals) Additional Sunday rehearsals will be added in March 2026 for full show runs	
Tech/Final Rehearsals*	Sun 28th March Mon 29th March Tues 30th March	Full Run - At Peace Tech Dress
Performances*	Weds 31st March 2027 Thur 1st April 2027 Fri 2nd April 2027 Sat 3rd April 2027	Performance 1 Performance 2 Performance 3 Performance 4

*These dates are compulsory attendance.

The Creative Team will work diligently to create a schedule that finds a balance between learning and rehearsing the content of the show within the timeline and working with your personal commitments outside of the show's demands.

In light of this, please review the complete list of dates relevant to the entire rehearsal period and performances)and provide a list of all potential and confirmed conflicts. This includes any potential or confirmed involvement in other productions overlapping with the rehearsal period of this production.

We understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise during the rehearsal period, however the earlier we are aware of conflicts, the easier it is for our team to attempt to accommodate them.







CHARACTER PROFILES





ENSEMBLE

ENSEMBLE

In this production of Flashdance, the ensemble is the unstoppable motor of the entire show. There are no passive background figures in our Pittsburgh—you are the grit, the sweat, the ambition, and the beating pulse of the city. From the fiery floor of the steel mill to the neon spotlight of the club and the high-stakes pressure of the dance academy, the ensemble builds the world that our lead characters fight within.



Director's Vision: I am looking for a brave, cohesive, and deeply committed team of performers. Every single person on stage matters, and every scene you are in must serve a distinct narrative purpose—we are not doing generic filler, and no movement will be wasted. You are responsible for creating the lived-in, human atmosphere of this story: the camaraderie, the tension, the shared struggles, and the collective push to reach for something greater. You need to be sharp movers, powerful vocalists, and versatile actors who can transition seamlessly between distinct worlds, driving both the dramatic narrative and the musical transitions without ever breaking the show's momentum.



As an ensemble member, you will be on your feet and heavily featured throughout the show, taking on high-energy vocal tracks, intense choreography, and layered scene work. Major ensemble numbers include:

- "Steeltown Sky" – Establishing the raw, industrial rhythm and work ethic of the mill.
- "Maniac" – Driving the intense physical energy and determination of the story.
- "Put It On" & "Chameleon Girls" – Creating the vibrant, complex, and electric atmosphere of the club scene.
- "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" & "Gloria" – Fueling the emotional stakes, vocal power, and momentum of the show's climax.
- "Flashdance... What a Feeling" – Delivering the ultimate, explosive anthem of triumph.



Commitment Note: Ensemble cast members should be available consistently throughout the rehearsal process due to their integral role in shaping each scene and supporting the musical and visual structure of the production.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Alexander "Alex" Owens

Gender: Female | **Age Range:** Late teens to early 20s | **Vocal Range:** Mezzo-Soprano with a strong, high pop/rock belt G3-F5

Director's Vision: Alex is raw, hungry, and unrefined—not a polished pop star. Her dancing is her language when words fail her. The performance must balance her fierce, defensive independence with the terrifying vulnerability of risking failure at the Shipley Academy. She carries the industrial grit of the steel mill in her spine and her movement.

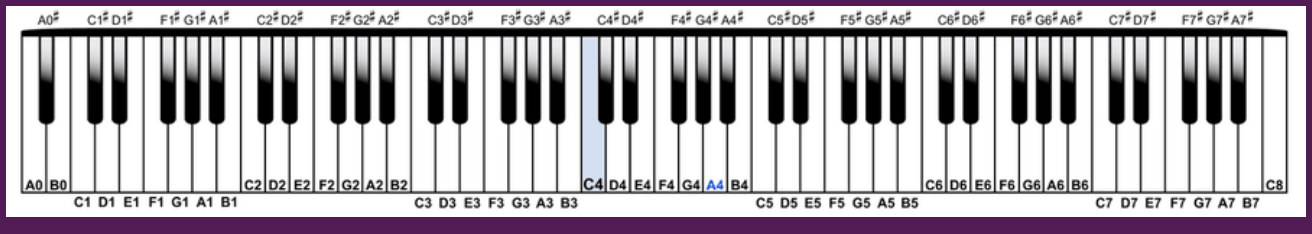
Dance Requirment: Extremely demanding; requires high-level versatility in contemporary, jazz, pop-locking, and hip-hop/street style.

Nick Hurley

Gender: Male | **Age Range:** Mid to late 20's **Vocal Range:** Tenor B2-A4

Director's Vision: Avoid playing him as a privileged snob or a straightforward white knight. Nick is caught between two worlds—struggling under the weight of family legacy and corporate politics while genuinely admiring the work ethic and passion of the mill workers. His connection with Alex needs to feel earned through mutual respect, not corporate patronage.

Dance Requirement: Basic to intermeiate movement; strong lead acting and vocal presence.



GLORIA

Gender: Female | **Age Range:** Early 20s | **Vocal Range:** Soprano / Mezzo-Soprano with a high pop belt A3-E5.

Director's Vision: Gloria is the tragic heart of the show's warning about quick fixes and hollow ambition. Play her not as foolish, but as desperately optimistic and naive. Her descent into C.C.'s world must feel like a slow, harrowing loss of identity that heightens the stakes for the sisterhood around her.

Dance Requirement: Strong dancer (jazz/commercial style).

JIMMY

Gender: Male | **Age Range:** Early to Mid 20s | **Vocal Range:** Tenor C3-G4

Director's Vision: Jimmy's humor is his armor against fear and failure. Underneath the bad jokes is a working-class kid terrified of staying trapped. His arc mirrors Alex's search for validation, but his path shows what happens when you try to run before you can walk. The actor must anchor his comedy in true heart and loyalty to Gloria.

Dance Requirement: Character movemenr; requires stong comedic timing

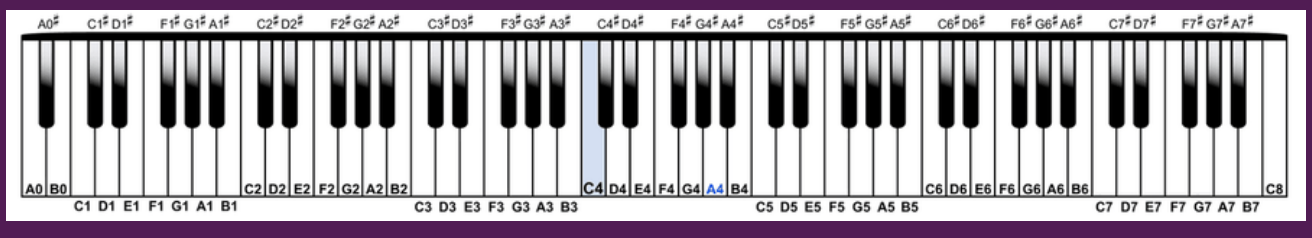
KIKI*

Gender: female **| Age Range:** Early to mid 20s **| Vocal Range:** Mezzo-Soprano with a powerful, soulful belt G3 - E5

Director's Vision: Kiki is the unapologetic spine of the club dancers—bold, direct, and fiercely protective of her crew. She provides high-octane energy and sharp wit, but her strength comes from a deep place of sisterhood. She refuses to take nonsense from anyone, acting as a crucial grounding force when others start to wobble.

Dance Requirement: Very strong, energetic commercial/jazz dancer.

***Please note. The role of Kiki will be required to be played ideally by a BIPOC actor (specifically Black or African-American). This is a requirement of the rights holders. This could be another character depending on casting.**



TESS

Gender: Female **| Age Range:** late 20's - 30s **Vocal Range:** Mezzo-Soprano/Belt G3-D5

Director's Vision: Tess represents the reality of time in a dancer's career. She is cynical, razor-sharp, and street-smart, but beneath the tough exterior lies a deeply caring older sister figure. Her performance of "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" should feel like a reclamation of her own power in a world that constantly tries to replace women as they age.

Dance Requirement: Very strong with a rock/jazz edge.

Hannah Campanelli

Gender: Female **| Age Range:** 50's - 60's **| Vocal Range:** Alto F3 - C5

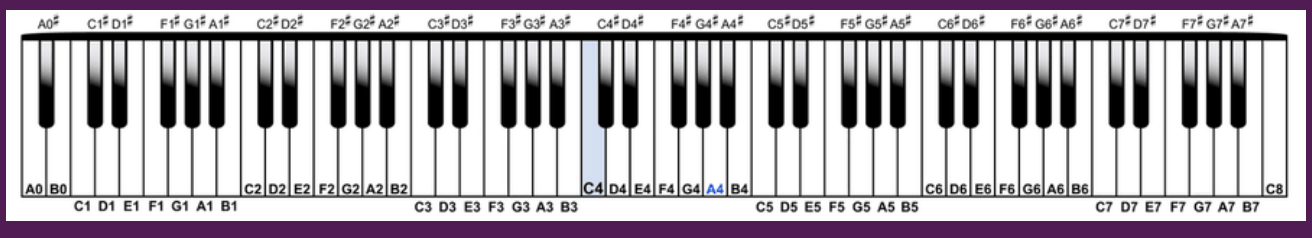
Director's Vision: Hannah is the link to classical artistic discipline. She isn't just a sweet grandmother figure; she is a tough-love mentor who sees Alex's raw potential and refuses to let her waste it. Her declining health creates urgency, serving as the catalyst that forces Alex to stop running from her ambition.
Dance Requirement: Minimal physical dancing, but requires the refined posture, poise, and grace of a classical ballerina.

HARRY

Gender: Male **| Age Range:** 30's - 40's **Vocal Range:** A2 - E4

Director's Vision: Harry is the weary, warm-hearted patriarch of this surrogate family. His club isn't a sleazy joint; it's a sanctuary for artists and misfits. The actor needs to project a quiet, steady warmth, showing a man fighting to keep a safe space open for these young people in a brutal economic climate.

Dance Requirement: Non-dancer/basic movement



C.C.

Gender: Female/male **| Age Range:** 30's **Vocal Range:** Baritone/Tenor B2 - G4

Director's Vision: Avoid cartoonish villainy. C.C. is dangerous precisely because they are slick, charming, and offer real-looking shortcuts to desperate people. They represent the predatory, exploitative side of the entertainment business. The performance should feel magnetic yet deeply unsettling.

Dance Requirement: Charactematic mover/character dance.

Dance ensemble

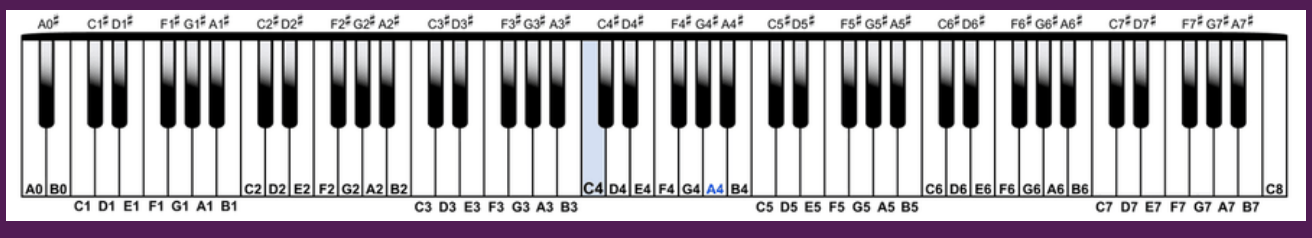
The ensemble embodies two distinct physical worlds: the heavy, rhythmic grit of the Hurley Steel mill and the sharp, explosive athleticism of the late-1980s street and club dance scene.

- **Industrial Precision & Athletic Power:** The choreography must feel dangerous, relentless, and physically demanding. These dancers represent the raw energy of the city. Movement should feel grounded, sharp, and intensely athletic rather than overly light or purely classical.
- **Individual Identity:** Avoid a completely uniform, robotic corps de ballet look. Every dancer in this group needs distinct personality, attitude, and edge. They represent the diverse community of hard-working, passionate people in Pittsburgh fighting for a better life.
- **Storytelling Through Movement:** Whether performing as featured dancers at Harry's Bar, street performers, or backing dancers in dream/audition sequences, their energy must drive the emotional peak of every musical number.

Technical & Skill Requirements

- **Commercial & Street/Hip-Hop:** High-level performance in commercial jazz, pop-locking, breaking, floorwork, and street styles. Dancers must have exceptional musicality, sharp execution, and strong body isolations.
- **Technical Jazz & Contemporary:** Strong foundation in classic technique—turns, leaps, flexibility, extension, and high-impact control. High physical endurance is mandatory.
- **Partnering & Tricks:** Competency in dynamic lifts, weight-sharing, assisted jumps, and acro/tumbling skills (e.g., aerials, handstands, back handsprings) is a major asset for featured moments.
- **Vocal Ability:** Ensemble vocal support (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) for big company numbers (Maniac, What a Feeling, Chameleon, Gloria) while executing strenuous choreography. There is also a song that is for the dance ensemble alone.

In addition to the main cast their are a number of roles who sing who will be selected from the ensemble cast



AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

AUDITION MATERIALS



Click here for Cast Script

Click here for the audition information



🎭 Get Ready to Shine, Superstars! 🎶
Grab your cast script and get familiar with your section—it's your time to sparkle at auditions! 🌟
We've also got an amazing tool to make learning your harmonies a total breeze. 🎧 Every cast member will get access to this magical little app that turns rehearsal into a walk in the park (or maybe a power ballad in the shower?).
📱 Take a sec to download it to your device and have a little explore—don't worry, we'll walk you through all the ins and outs at our first rehearsals.
The code will be sent securely via our whatsapp cast channel. Please only use the code on one device
👇 Click below to download and get a head start on the harmony hype! 💥
🎵

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Once auditions are done and dusted, the WhatsApp group will magically transform into our production team's megaphone — your go-to place for all cast updates, news, and the occasional sprinkle of drama.



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