

DEVONPORT
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PRESENTS

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PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

ON STAGE
JULY 24, 25, 30, 31 & AUGUST 1

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Devonport Repertory Theatre Society presents
Jane Austen's PRIDE & PREJUDICE for our 2026 season

Show dates:

July 24, 25, 30, 31 & August 1
Leven Theatre, Ulverstone

Production team contact details:

Lilla Fabrik (Director) 0439 475 589
Nathan Karlake (Producer for Devonport Rep) 0472 647 947

Production email address:

prideandprejudice.devrep@gmail.com

Devonport Repertory Theatre Society email address and website:

devreptheatre@gmail.com
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Auditions:

March 5th and 7th at Forth Primary School Hall

Proposed rehearsal schedule:

Script Read May 7
Sundays commencing May 17 - July 19
Thursday evenings commencing June 4 - July 16
Rehearsals will take place in Forth or Ulverstone (exact location TBD)

Please note that it is a requirement that cast and crew become members of the Devonport Repertory Theatre Society for safety and insurance purposes.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife...”

Join us as we stage Jane Austen’s archly funny, enduring story of finding love despite first impressions, family and personal pride.

Setting

Herefordshire, Regency England (approx 1813).

Longbourn is the country home of the Bennet Family near Merryton, Herefordshire. Mr. Bennet has five daughters and no sons in a world where daughters inherit nothing. Mrs. Bennet is anxious to match her daughters with fine gentlemen before Mr. Bennet’s estate is entailed to their cousin, Mr. Collins, leaving the women destitute. When such a gentleman, Mr. Bingley rents the neighbouring Netherfield Hall, the Bennet household is abuzz with the possibility of an excellent match! The proceeding events occur under the watchful eye of Lady Catherine De Bourgh, the patron of Mr. Collins and the Aunt of Mr. Darcy who resides at Rosings Park. Pemberly is the home of Mr. Darcy.

Running Time

The Play is performed in two acts. Act One runs one hour and fifteen minutes and Act Two fifty minutes.

We will have a short interval between Acts.

Cast Size

14, some characters will be played by the same actor.

Lead

Elizabeth Bennet F 21-30 (approx. 320 lines)

Supporting

Mrs. Bennet F 40-60 (approx 110 lines)

Mr. Darcy M 25-40 (approx 110 lines)

Ensemble

30-75 lines each

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

CHARACTERS

THE BENNETS

ELIZABETH (LIZZIE) BENNET LIZZIE IS OUR LEAD, AND THE SECOND DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. BENNET, LIZZIE PREFERS WALKING OUT-OF-DOORS TO THE ACCOMPLISHED PURSUITS OF YOUNG LADIES AT THE TIME. LIZZIE POSSESSES A QUICK WIT AND IS HER FATHER'S FAVOURITE, WHILE BEING SOMETHING OF A BURDEN TO HER MOTHER'S POOR NERVES. SHE IS STRUCK BY THE HAUGHTY DEMEANOUR OF MR. DARCY AT THE MERRYTON BALL AND IS IMMEDIATELY PREJUDICED AGAINST HIM. *F 21-30*

MRS. BENNET THE WIFE OF A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, MRS, BENNET IS ONLY TOO AWARE OF THE PRESSURE TO FIND HUSBANDS FOR HER FIVE DAUGHTERS. MRS. BENNET'S NERVES SUFFER GREATLY, AND SHE FINDS LITTLE COMFORT OUTSIDE THE JOY OF SEEING HER DAUGHTERS FLOURISH. *F 40-60*

MR. BENNET A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN WITH FIVE DAUGHTERS, MR. BENNET PREFERS THE QUIET OF HIS STUDY TO THE BUSYNESS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. *M 40-70*

JANE BENNET JANE IS THE ELDEST OF THE FIVE BENNET SISTERS AND WIDELY CONSIDERED A BEAUTY. HER CHARACTER ONLY ENHANCES HER BEAUTY AND MR. BINGLEY CANNOT RESIST HER SWEET DISPOSITION. JANE MUST ONLY OVERCOME HER SHYNESS TO SECURE THE MATCH... *F 21-30*

LYDIA BENNET THE YOUNGEST OF THE BENNETS, LYDIA IS DELIGHTED THAT THE MILITIA HAVE COME TO MERRYTON. SHE MOVES THROUGH SOCIETY WITH FUN AND FRIVOLITY, HER SISTER KITTY, FOLLOWING CLOSELY BEHIND. *F 16-25*

KITTY BENNET THE SECOND-TO-YOUNGEST BENNET, KITTY FOLLOWS HER SISTER LYDIA IN EVERYTHING. *F 16-25*

MARY BENNET THE MIDDLE CHILD, MARY FINDS HERSELF OVERLOOKED. A SERIOUS GIRL, MARY ESCHEWS DANCING AND FRIVOLITY, PREFERRING MORE SERIOUS PURSUITS. *F 20-30 ALSO PLAYING CHARLOTTE LUCAS*

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

CHARACTERS

THE GENTLEMEN

MR. DARCY DARCY IS A GENTLEMAN WITH GREAT ESTATES, INCLUDING THAT OF PEMBERLY. HE ACCOMPANIES HIS DEAREST FRIEND BINGLEY TO NETHERFIELD HALL AND FINDS HIMSELF RATHER ABOVE THE COUNTRY SOCIETY, THOUGH THE FINE EYES OF MISS ELIZABETH BENNET HAVE CAPTURED HIS ATTENTION... *M 25-40*

MR. BINGLEY THE HANDSOME YOUNG GENTLEMAN WHO HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE AT NETHERFIELD HALL, ONLY SOME MILES FROM THE BENNETS AT LONGBOURN. MR. BINGLEY IS KIND-HEARTED AND READY TO FIND LOVE! HE HAS FOUND HIMSELF DRAWN TO THE ELDEST MISS BENNET, JANE. *M 25-40 ALSO PLAYING COLONEL FITZWILLIAM*

GEORGE WICKHAM THE DASHING YOUNG OFFICER IS STATIONED AT MERRYTON AND CATCHES LIZZIE'S EYE. QUICK-WITTED AND CHARMING, THE BENNETS CANNOT HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED. A MYSTERIOUS CONNECTION WITH DARCY FURTHER INTRIGUES LIZZIE... *M 25-40*

MR. COLLINS THE COUSIN OF THE BENNETS, MR. COLLINS HAS A POSITION AS RECTOR FOR THE PARISH AT ROSINGS PARK. ROSINGS IS THE RESIDENCE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH, THE PATRON OF MR. COLLINS. A MAN OF THE CLOTH, MR. COLLINS IS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE WIFE, ONE THAT HIS PATRON WOULD APPROVE OF! *M 25-50 ALSO PLAYING MR. GARDINER AND SIR WILLIAM LUCAS*

COLONEL FITZWILLIAM THE COUSIN OF MR. DARCY, THE COLONEL IS A FRIENDLY GENTLEMAN WHO MAKES LIZZIE FEEL WELCOME AT ROSINGS PARK. *M 25-40 ALSO PLAYING MR. BINGLEY*

THE FOLK IN MERRYTON

CHARLOTTE LUCAS LIZZIE'S BEST FRIEND AND CONFIDANT. 27 YEARS OLD, WITH NO MONEY AND NO PROSPECTS, CHARLOTTE FEELS A BURDEN TO HER PARENTS. HER ONLY HOPE? A SMART MATCH. *F 25-30 ALSO PLAYING MARY BENNET*

SIR WILLIAM LUCAS A LOCAL KNIGHT, SIR WILLIAM LUCAS IS A JOVIAL MAN WHO ENJOYS HOSTING THE LOCAL BALLS. HE IS THE FATHER OF CHARLOTTE LUCAS. *M 40-70 ALSO PLAYING MR. COLLINS AND MR. GARDINER*

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

CHARACTERS

THE GARDINERS

MR. GARDINER THE BROTHER OF MRS. BENNET, MR. GARDINER IS A WEALTHY TRADESMAN RESIDING IN LONDON. AN AFFABLE CHAP WITH A LOVE OF FISHING, HE SUPPORTS HIS NIECES AND INVITES LIZZIE ON A TOUR OF THE PEAK DISTRICT. *M 25-50 ALSO PLAYING MR. COLLINS AND SIR WILLIAM LUCAS*

MRS. GARDINER LIZZIE'S AUNT AND CONFIDANT, MRS. GARDINER IS A PERCEPTIVE AND COMPASSIONATE WOMAN. SHE TRAVELS WITH LIZZIE ON A TOUR OF THE PEAK DISTRICT WITH HER HUSBAND. *F 25-40 ALSO PLAYING MISS BINGLEY*

THE FINER FOLK

LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH A VERY FINE LADY WITH IMPECCABLE TASTE, LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH IS THE AUNT OF DARCY AND THE PATRON OF MR. COLLINS. AS SHE POSSESSES HIGH RANK, LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH IS VERY USED TO GETTING HER WAY AND GIVES HER OPINION FREELY. SHE RESIDES AT ROSINGS PARK, A GREAT ESTATE. *F 40+ ALSO PLAYING THE HOUSEKEEPER*

MISS BINGLEY THE SISTER OF BINGLEY, SHE BEFRIENDS JANE AT THE MERRYTON BALL. WHILE SHE FINDS COUNTRY SOCIETY LACKING IN FINE MANNERS, MISS BINGLEY FOLLOWS HER BROTHER AND HIS WEALTHY FRIEND DARCY, HOPING TO ENDEAR HERSELF TO HIM AND MAKE A GOOD MARRIAGE. *F 25-40 ALSO PLAYING MRS. GARDINER*

GEORGIANA DARCY (APPEARANCE ONLY) THE TEENAGED SISTER OF FITZWILLIAM DARCY, GEORGIANA IS A BEAUTIFUL AND ACCOMPLISHED YOUNG WOMAN. *F 16-25 ALSO PLAYING LYDIA BENNET*

OTHERS

OFFICERS STATIONED AT MERRYTON, THEY ATTEND THE BALLS AND DANCE WITH YOUNG LADIES. *M 17-30*

PEMBERLY'S HOUSEKEEPER PROUD OF THE ESTATE SHE KEEPS IN ORDER, THE HOUSEKEEPER AT PEMBERLY IS DELIGHTED TO SHOW VISITORS AROUND THE DARCY FAMILY ESTATE. *F 40+ ALSO PLAYING LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH*

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

AUDITIONS

Auditions will take place at Forth Primary School Hall Thursday March 5 and Saturday March 7. Book your audition at devreptheatre.org.

Requirements for auditions

Booking is essential, please message Lilla on 0439 475 589 if you are running late or need to reschedule.

Please prepare one of the following scenes from memory with your best regency English accent. If you are interested in multiple roles, learn one from memory if you can, and read the others on the day.

Feel free to prepare a monologue of your own choice instead of one of the scenes below, however you will be asked to read a number of them in character in your audition.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

DARCY or ELIZABETH

DARCY. Miss Bennet.

ELIZABETH. Mr. Darcy.

DARCY. May I... would it be suitable if I...enquired of your health.

ELIZABETH. My health?

DARCY. As I've not...encountered you these past days I thought...I come to...enquire of your health.

ELIZABETH. My health, Mr. Darcy, meets all the usual standards.

DARCY. Ah.

ELIZABETH. Yes.

DARCY. Ah.

(A silence)

DARCY. In vain I have struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.

(ELIZABETH, startled, looks down.)

DARCY. I see I dismay you. I am slow, even dilatory. I should have declared myself at an earlier date. But there were, of course, the family obstacles which judgment always opposed to inclination. The general sense of your social inferiority, of it being a degradation of the line. I could not forget my responsibility to an estate, a way of life, a pride of place which might given your circumstances disinclude you and thus the very ardency I described took place against my will and reason, or rather in opposition to my character and inclination, but the very strength of my attachment has made it impossible for me to conquer my feelings and I can only express the hope that these feelings will now be rewarded by your acceptance of my hand. There.

(She doesn't speak.)

DARCY. I have spoken ill but mean well, Miss Bennet.

ELIZABETH. In such cases as this, it is, I believe, the established mode to express a sense of obligation for the sentiments avowed however unequally they may be returned. It is natural that obligation should be felt, and if I could feel gratitude I would now thank you. But I cannot - I have never desired your good opinion, and you have certainly bestowed it most unwillingly. The feelings which you tell me have long prevented the acknowledgment of your regard can have little difficulty in overcoming it after this explanation.

DARCY. And this is all the reply which I am to have the honour of expecting! I might, perhaps, wish to be informed why, with so little endeavour at civility, I am thus rejected?

ELIZABETH. I might as well enquire, why, with so evident a design of offending and insulting me you chose to tell me that you liked me against your will, against your reason and even against your character? Was not this some excuse for incivility, if I was uncivil? But I have other provocations. You know I have. Do you think that any consideration would tempt me to accept the man who has been the means of ruining, perhaps forever, the happiness of a beloved sister? You divided Mr. Bingley and Jane from each other, or at the very least yours was the principal means, involving them both in misery of the acutest kind. Can you deny that you have done it?

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

MR. BENNET or MRS. BENNET

MRS. BENNET. (Entering in a fluster:) My dear Mr. Bennet...

MR. BENNET. (To audience:) Mrs. Bennet, to be sure.

(She pays no attention but knows the matter at hand and our story is begun.)

MRS. BENNET. My dear Mr. Bennet, have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?

MR. BENNET. I have not.

MRS. BENNET. But it is, for Mrs. Long has just been there and she told me all about it.

(Mr. Bennet, preoccupied with his paper does not look up)

MRS. BENNET. Indeed Mr. Bennet, do not you want to know who has taken it?

MR. BENNET. (Sighing) You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it.

MRS. BENNET. Mrs. Long says that Netherfield is taken by a young man of large fortune... That he came down on Monday and was so delighted with it that he is to take possession before Michaelmas.

(Mr. Bennet still does not look up)

MRS. BENNET. You must visit him as soon as he comes.

MR. BENNET. (Finally looking up) I see no occasion for that. You and the girls may go, or send them by themselves, which perhaps will be still better, for as you are as handsome as any of them, Mr. Bingley might like you the best of the party!

MRS. BENNET. Well, I certainly have my share of beauty but when a woman has five grown up daughters she ought to give over ideas of her own attractions.

MR. BENNET. In such cases, a woman has not often much beauty to think of.

MRS. BENNET. But consider your daughters, think what an establishment it would be for one of them. You must go, for it will be impossible for us to visit him, if you do not.

MR. BENNET. You are over scrupulous surely. I will send a few lines by you to assure him of my hearty consent to his marrying whichever he chooses.

MRS. BENNET. Mr. Bennet, you take delight in vexing me. You have no compassion on my poor nerves.

MR. BENNET. My dear, I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends.

MRS. BENNET. Ah, you do not know what I suffer.

MR. BENNET. But I hope you will get over it, and live to see many young men of four thousand a year come into the neighbourhood.

MRS. BENNET. It will be of no use to us, if twenty such should come, since you will not visit them.

MR. BENNET. Depend upon it, my dear, when there are twenty, I will visit them all.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

MR. BINGLEY or JANE

BINGLEY. My dear Miss Bennet...I say, might I venture your given name?

JANE. Indeed you might, if I might venture yours.

BINGLEY. Oh, smashing, top-of-the-hill really. My dear Jane, I wish to express how very great is my esteem for you.

JANE. I see.

BINGLEY. By heavens, esteem won't do, I must say affection I really must. Dear Miss Bennet, Jane... (He kneels.)

If you would do me the honour of...

JANE. I will, and with a very full heart... but perhaps, before a fuller expression, you might prefer a word with my father.

BINGLEY. Your father. Well this is top-of-the-hill and no mistaking. I will speak with him, if available, this very moment. Promise me you won't move so much as a ribbon.

JANE. I will endeavour to be very, very still.

(He leaves.)

Oh dear..

(She explodes out of her chair.)

Lizzie!

MISS BINGLEY

MISS BINGLEY. Dear me, your company seems to have fled the grounds in disarray.

(DARCY who was momentarily lost in thought.)

DARCY. Your pardon?

MISS BINGLEY. How very ill Eliza Bennet looked this morning, Mr. Darcy. I never in my life saw anyone so much altered as she is since the winter. She is grown so brown and coarse!

DARCY. It is, perhaps, no miraculous consequence of traveling in the summer.

MISS BINGLEY. (She looks for agreement to DARCY. He remains silent.)

I particularly recollect your saying one night "She a beauty, I should as soon call her mother a wit." But afterwards she seemed to improve on you. I believe you thought her rather pretty at one time?

DARCY. Yes, but that was only when I first knew her, for I now consider her the handsomest woman of my acquaintance.

MISS BINGLEY. Oh.

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LYDIA, KITTY, or MARY

MARY. I am glad you are back Lizzy.

LYDIA. Have you had any flirting? I was in great hopes you would have got a husband before you got back.

MARY. Our sisters have been more than ordinarily silly.

LYDIA. Oh poo. Aunt Phillips says Lizzy had better taken Mr. Collins; but I do not think there would have been any fun in it. Jane will be quite an old maid soon. Lord! How I should like to be married before any of you! And then I should chaperone you about to all the balls. Kitty and I have been to the shops.

KITTY. I do wish you had gone along with us Mary, for we had such fun. We talked and laughed so loud, that anybody might have heard us ten miles off!

MARY. Far be it from me, my dear sister, to depreciate such pleasures. But I confess they would have no charms for me. I should infinitely prefer a book.

LYDIA. Look here, I have bought this bonnet. I do not think it is very pretty; but I thought I might as well buy it as not.

MARY. (To ELIZABETH:) You see?

LYDIA. Oh, but there were two or three much uglier in the shop; and when I have bought some prettier coloured satin to trim it with fresh, I think it will be very tolerable.

(She exits with KITTY trailing.)

MR. COLLINS

COLLINS. Ah, Mrs. Bennet, Mr. Bennet, as a pastor of the Church of England I flatter myself that my present overtures of good will are highly commendable and that the circumstances of my being next in the entail of the Longbourn estate will be kindly overlooked on your part and not lead you to reject my proffered olive branch. (He bows.)

As for your daughters, I have heard much of their beauty, but in the instance, fame has fallen short of the truth and I doubt not seeing them, as I might say, to be well disposed of in marriage.

MRS. BENNET. You are very kind, sir, and I wish with all my heart it may prove so; for else they will be destitute enough.

COLLINS. I am very sensible, madam, of the hardship of my fair cousins, but I can assure the young ladies that I come prepared to admire them. At present I will not say more, but perhaps when we are better acquainted.

COLLINS. Thus, in conclusion I may say that having a good house and good living as a clergyman, - intend to marry, and in reconciliation with your family, I propose to choose one of your daughters. Surely you will agree that this atonement is an excellent one both generous and disinterested on my part.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

LADY CATHERINE

LADY CATHERINE. (To ELIZABETH:) Miss Bennet, there seems to be a prettyish kind of little wilderness on one side of your lawn. I should be glad to take a turn in it, if you will favour me with your company.

You can be at no loss, Miss Bennet, to understand the reason of my journey hither.

ELIZABETH. Indeed you are mistaken, I cannot account for the honour.

LADY CATHERINE. However insincere you may choose to be, you will not find me so. My character has ever been celebrated for its sincerity and frankness. I was told, that not only your sister was on the point of being most advantageously married, but that you would, in all likelihood be united with my own nephew Mr. Darcy. Though I know it to be a scandalous falsehood I have arrived to make my sentiments known to you.

ELIZABETH. If you believed it untrue, I wonder you took the trouble of coming so far.

LADY CATHERINE. To have the report universally contradicted - can you declare there is no foundation to it?

ELIZABETH. Your ladyship may ask questions which I shall not choose to answer.

LADY CATHERINE. This is not to be borne.

ELIZABETH. Your ladyship has declared it impossible.

LADY CATHERINE. But your arts and allurements may, in a moment of infatuation, make him forget what he owes to himself and to all his family. You may have drawn him in.

ELIZABETH. If I have, I shall be the last person to confess it.

LADY CATHERINE. Miss Bennet, I am unaccustomed to such language as this. I am entitled to know all is dearest concerns.

ELIZABETH. But you are not entitled to know mine.

LADY CATHERINE. Mr. Darcy is engaged to my daughter. Now what have you to say?

ELIZABETH. Thus you have no reason to suppose he would make an offer to me.

LADY CATHERINE. From his earliest hours his mother and I planned the union and he is destined for his cousin.

ELIZABETH. But what is that to me? If there is no other objection to my marrying your nephew, I shall certainly not be kept from it by knowing his mother and aunt wished him to marry Miss de Bourgh.

LADY CATHERINE. Honour, decorum, prudence, nay interest, forbid it. Your alliance will be a disgrace; you have neither family, connections nor fortune. Your name will never even be mentioned by any of us.

ELIZABETH. These are heavy misfortunes, but the wife of Mr. Darcy will have no cause to repine.

LADY CATHERINE. Obstinate, headstrong girl! I have not been in the habit of brooking disappointment.

ELIZABETH. That will make your ladyship's situation more pitiable; but it will have no effect on me.

LADY CATHERINE. Tell me, once and for all, are you engaged to him?

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

WICKHAM

WICKHAM. I fear I have considerable knowledge of him. The late Mr. Darcy, his father, was excessively attached to me. I cannot do justice to his kindness. His son and I were born in the same parish, sharing the same amusements. My father was his father's estate manager. The elder Mr. Darcy knew the church ought to be my profession and he promised me the family parish when it came available or, if not, a voluntary promise of providing for me. Both were countermanded by young Darcy after his father's death.

ELIZABETH. On what grounds?

WICKHAM. Had the late Mr. Darcy liked me less, his son might have borne with me better; but his father's uncommon attachment to me irritated him. He had not a temper to bear the sort of competition in which we stood. In short, his behaviour to me has been scandalous. But I do not trust myself on the subject, I can hardly be fair to him now.

ELIZABETH. I had not thought Mr. Darcy as bad as this.

WICKHAM. I do feel that almost all his actions may be traced to his considerable pride.

ELIZABETH. But can such abominable pride as his have ever done him good?

WICKHAM. I must own him to be liberal and generous, display hospitality, assist his tenants and relieve the poor. Family pride and filial pride have done this. His father's preference for me has pricked that pride and made him my enemy.

CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE. It seems that Jane quite admires Mr. Bingley.

ELIZABETH. Noticeably, I would agree.

CHARLOTTE. Bingley likes your sister undoubtedly; but he may never do more than like her, if she does not help him on.

ELIZABETH. But she does help him on, as much as her nature will allow.

CHARLOTTE. Remember, Eliza, that he does not know Jane's disposition as you do. Though they meet tolerably often, it is never for many hours together. Jane should therefore make the most of every moment she can command his attention.

ELIZABETH. Your plan is a good one, where nothing is in question but the determination to get a rich husband. These are not Jane's feelings and she has no such design. She takes time, I think to study his character.

CHARLOTTE. Well, I wish her success with all my heart; and if she married him tomorrow, I should think she had as good a chance of happiness as if she had studied his character for a twelve month. It is better to know as little as possible of the defects of the person with whom you are to pass your life.

ELIZABETH. You make me laugh, Charlotte; but it is not sound and you know, full well, you would never act in such a way yourself.

CHARLOTTE. You are being watched.