



# Just Pretend

Book & lyrics by Rachel Jarmy  
Music by Steven Geraghty  
Additional lyrics by Freddy Bowen

**Audition pack**

## About the show



Amateur Dramatics groups are expanding, but they're not just full of failed professionals. People come from far and wide to perform, escape, find themselves, or forget. This is the story of the doctors, the teachers, the parents, and the students who pay money to hide on the amateur stage.

We held a workshop in February 2018 for our new musical. Back then it was called Am Dram: the musical, and based on your amazing feedback from that workshop, we've changed more than just the title!

We want to tell the real story behind why people do Am Dram. The real reasons why people spend lots of money and all their time dedicated to pretending to be other people in front of an audience. It's not just to show off. It's not just because they wished they'd been a professional. It's a coping mechanism for the challenges of life – moving to a new place, losing people, or struggling to find who you are.

We also hope this show gives more people the chance to play a real, relatable, and representative part. It's so often the way, especially for women, that roles are stereotyped into 'the funny one', 'the romantic lead' or 'the plain friend'. We've tried to flip some stereotypes on their head a bit, and also create real, identifiable and more diverse characters.

For the chorus, there are also loads of numbers to get involved in, plus scenes where smaller parts can be cast in whatever way the director would like. The show is about people who do shows. So there really is something for anyone who likes to do shows too!

## Synopsis

### Act I

Present day, suburbia. The local Am Dram group are auditioning for their next show. The creatives, ERIC, SERENA & PATRICK are grilling the auditionees. These include newbie DOMINIC, and seasoned performers JULIE, ANDREA, TOM, SUMMER & NOAH, as well as many people auditioning for chorus roles.

Whilst the auditionees await the result, we see aspects of their real lives. Their jobs as doctors, teachers, shop assistants etc. And their relationships – like SUMMER's wife NAOMI, and DOMINIC's fiancée EMMA. DOMINIC & EMMA are planning their wedding, imagining how their lives will be different after their big day. We see how TOM makes friends (or tries to), how ANGELA's friends fail to really see her, and how JULIE is struggling with her separation from her husband CHRIS. We see NOAH care for his ill dad, and ANDREA live with the loss of her baby son.

Eventually, after much phone staring, the cast list is announced on social media. And there is much discussion.

The committee meet to discuss this year's show, who has been cast, and the never-ending topic of what the next show will be. To much disagreement.

We continue to see elements of the cast's real lives weaved within rehearsals, work, and relationships. We see friendships grow, and the cast ask themselves whether these friendships will last beyond the show and despite people's real lives changing too. TOM continues to try to win the affections of the ladies (entirely unsuccessfully), SERENA makes the most of the one dance number in the show, and SUMMER & NAOMI are exhausted by their sexuality being the only thing people see.

The rehearsals tick by, and the show gets closer and closer. People make plans, make friends and rehearse. SUMMER & NAOMI begin to plan their family.

DOMINIC & NOAH grow closer and the questions about sexuality in DOMINIC's mind aren't going away, despite his wedding day growing closer. The cast end Act 1 desperately trying to find what it is that is stopping them from living their authentic lives.

## **Act 2**

It's opening night of show week. The cast leave their everyday lives to begin the exhausting 9 performance week, where real life will also throw some curve balls.

NOAH confides in SUMMER more about his feelings for DOMINIC, but is still convinced it's not reciprocal. ANDREA supports NOAH too, and realises she's become a mother figure to him.

The cast leave opening night on a high, feeling a renewed sense of purpose.

In the pub after the first show, EMMA is starting to wonder what is distracting DOMINIC. After NAOMI accidentally puts her foot in it, NOAH heads outside, and DOMINIC follows him. They kiss, and EMMA sees. She leaves, and DOMINIC fails to convince NOAH that he really meant the kiss.

EMMA, NOAH and DOMINIC find themselves feeling like they're not enough, for themselves or the people they love. SUMMER tries to reconcile the situation by talking to DOMINIC and NOAH. She also goes to visit EMMA.

NOAH confides in his dad, who tells him that he needs to stop worrying about him, and start living his own life.

The curtain is almost ready to go up on the next show, and NOAH and DOMINIC are nowhere to be seen. Eventually they both arrive, but do not speak. ANDREA encourages NOAH to talk to DOMINIC, and through her maternal role with him comes to face the loss of her own baby and her own identity.

JULIE and ANDREA's friendship strengthens, as they support each other through the challenges in life, only exacerbated by the intensity of show week.

TOM continues to put on a facade, and the cast look forward to getting their lives back after the show, only to remember the horrors of post-show blues. They all start to think about what show they might do next.

NOAH and DOMINIC talk. They agree to take the next steps slowly.

DOMINIC gets closure with EMMA, but he doesn't forgive himself for the way it ended.

Real life goes on, as does show week, and suddenly the cast find themselves at the last night of the show. They think about what has changed, who has come and gone out of their lives, what they can change, and what they can't. They finish the final show as a cast, looking towards to the next challenge.

## Our creative team



The wonderful Damian Sandys will be directing, very ably assisted by our super associate director Jamie Miller-Hughes. The fabulous Harriet Oughton who we all know well from *West Side Story* and *Pravda* as MD. And our very own Emily Bowers who did an incredible job choreographing *West Side Story* completes the circle of this formidable team!

We are thrilled to welcome back Hannah Umlandt who was assistant producer for *West Side Story* and is taking up the reins as producer for our show. And, of course, Rachel Jarmy (book and lyrics) and Steve Geraghty (music) will also be involved throughout the process as well.

## Reasons to get involved

We know that people often want to do shows that they know and love. Obviously, that makes it harder when it's a new show! So, here's some reasons to get involved:

1. It's about you all! Not in a creepy way. But it's about people who like doing Am Dram and the real reasons behind that. How we use it to face life's many challenges and joys. How it impacts our lives. And how it shapes our relationships.
2. There are more diverse casting opportunities than just the quiet leading lady with the sweet voice waiting for her prince, or the comedy camp character, or the jolly best friend, or the cranky older person (usually and depressingly described as anything over 40). If you've ever looked at a cast list and felt like you don't see yourself, I really hope we've improved that a bit with our show.
3. The chorus can be as big as the stage can allow, and has to be just as wonderfully diverse as you all are. Plus, the chorus get to do a lot. There are lots of small speaking parts which are intentionally unnamed and neutral, and can be cast in many different ways.
4. You'll get to be part of the original cast of a new show.

5. It'll be an amazing way to start your 2019.
6. We'll have so much fun and be show-friends forever, dahliiiiing.

## Key dates and details

### First Meet and Auditions:

| Date                          | Venue     | Time        | Scene      |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | Ackroydon | 7.30-10pm   | First Meet |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov   | Ackroydon | 7 – 9pm     | Auditions  |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov   | Ackroydon | 7.30 – 10pm | Auditions  |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Ackroydon | 7.30 – 10pm | Recalls    |

If you can't make any of the audition dates, please get in touch! We'll find a way to still audition you.

### Rehearsal Schedule

**Thursdays and Sundays:** Ackroydon Hall, Southfields, SW19 6QL

Transport includes bus 39 stopping very close, or tube to Southfields and a 10 min walk up the hill

**Mondays:** Putney Methodist Church, Gwendolen Avenue, Putney, SW15 6SN

Transport includes various busses and Putney station a 7 min walk away

### Performance venue

Burntwood School, Burntwood Lane, London, SW17 0AQ

| January  | Venue     | Time    | Scene | Called | Unavailable |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Mon 14   | Church    | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Thurs 17 | Ackroydon | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Mon 21   | Church    | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Thurs 24 | Ackroydon | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Sun 27   | Ackroydon | 6 - 10  |       |        |             |
| Mon 28   | Church    | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Thurs 31 | Ackroydon | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |

| February | Venue     | Time    | Scene | Called | Unavailable |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Sun 3    | Ackroydon | 6-10    |       |        |             |
| Mon 4    | Church    | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Thurs 7  | Ackroydon | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Sun 9    | Ackroydon | 6-10    |       |        |             |
| Mon 11   | Church    | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Thurs 14 | Ackroydon | 7.30-10 |       |        |             |
| Sun 17   | Ackroydon | 6-10    |       |        |             |

|          |           |         |  |  |  |
|----------|-----------|---------|--|--|--|
| Mon 18   | Church    | 7.30-10 |  |  |  |
| Thurs 21 | Ackroydon | 7.30-10 |  |  |  |
| Sun 24   | Ackroydon | 6-10    |  |  |  |
| Mon 25   | Church    | 7.30-10 |  |  |  |
| Thurs 28 | Ackroydon | 7.30-10 |  |  |  |

| March    | Venue            | Time         | Scene                       | Called | Unavailable |
|----------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Sun 3    | Ackroydon        | 6-10         |                             |        |             |
| Mon 4    | Church           | 7.30-10      |                             |        |             |
| Thurs 7  | Ackroydon        | 7.30-10      |                             |        |             |
| Sun 10   | Ackroydon        | 6-10         |                             |        |             |
| Mon 11   | Church           | 7.30-10      |                             |        |             |
| Thurs 14 | Ackroydon        | 7.30-10      |                             |        |             |
| Sun 17   | Ackroydon        | 6-10         |                             |        |             |
| Mon 18   | Church           | 7.30-10      |                             |        |             |
| Thurs 21 | Ackroydon        | 7.30-10      |                             |        |             |
| Sat 23   | Burntwood School |              | Final Run Through/Band Call |        |             |
| Sun 24   | Burntwood School | 8-10         | Get In                      |        |             |
| Mon 25   | Burntwood School | 9 - 10       | Tech                        |        |             |
| Tues 26  | Burntwood School | 6.30 – 10.30 | Dress                       |        |             |
| Wed 27   | Burntwood School | 6.30 – 10.30 | Opening Night               |        |             |
| Thurs 28 | Burntwood School | 6.30 – 10.30 | Performance 3               |        |             |
| Fri 29   | Burntwood School | 6.30 – 10.30 | Performance 4               |        |             |
| Sat 30   | Burntwood School | ?            | Performance 5 (and 6?)      |        |             |

## Audition & Membership fees

Audition fee: £10 for non-members

Show fee: £95

## Cast list

DOMINIC (Baritone/Tenor) – 20s/30s, male. Talented new performer, but unsure and desperate to please. Conflicted and in a constant inner battle with himself. Engaged to EMMA.

SUMMER (Mezzo) – 20s/30s, female. Talented, busy, dedicated, and loyal. Often the leading female role. At a turning point in her life. Wife of NAOMI.

NOAH (High Baritone) - 20s/30s, male. A strong dancer, and a regular performer. A big personality with a softer, family-oriented side. Single.

ANDREA (High Mezzo)– 40s +, female. Also a seasoned performer and a previous professional. Single. Motherly, dependable, compassionate, but struggling with her own loss.

JULIE (Mezzo) - 40s +, female. Modest but with hidden potential. Unsure of her own identity. Seasoned performer. Married to CHRIS, but struggling with their relationship.

TOM (Tenor) – 20s, male. Seasoned performer with the society. Trained in musical theatre. Often a leading man. Confident, but not as successful with the ladies as he thinks he is. Very raa.

EMMA (Alto) – 20s/30s, female. Strong, witty, sure of herself. Not in the Am Dram society. Engaged to DOMINIC.

NAOMI (Mezzo) - 20s/30s, female. Kind, driven, supportive. Not in the Am Dram society. Wife of SUMMER.

ERIC – the director, male, any age. Enthusiastic, passionate, well-meaning but often oblivious.

SERENA (Alto) – the choreographer, female, any age. Confident, direct, sometimes blunt.

PATRICK – the musical director, male, any age. Smart, sarcastic, seemingly unemotional.

EDWINA – 50s+, female. Previous performer of the society and now chairwoman of the Committee. Old-school, dedicated, passionate about the society, not so familiar with ‘modern life’.

DEREK – Male, any age. Finance officer of the Committee and performer. Well-meaning but not confident in the role. An unconfident dancer.

NOAH’S DAD – 50s+, male. Terminally ill, reliant, loving.

CHRIS – 40s+, male. Husband of JULIE. Apologetic, flawed.

AMANDA – Ordinary member of the Committee. Silent.

CHORUS – Expandable group of performers, dancers, singers, musicians, members of the committee, production team, back stage team. All play various intentionally neutral and unnamed roles in the society’s show, and also in the voices off used in the ‘real life’ sections. All ages, genders, ethnicities, and level of performance confidence.

## **Audition pieces**

**For dialogue sections, vocal & piano scores and guide tracks, please have a look through the Dropbox folder.**

### **DOMINIC**

Dialogue:

- Page 48, from Dominic’s line ‘You said one drink...’ to Noah’s line ‘Night Mate.’
- Page 84, from Noah’s line ‘Dom!’ to page 85, Dominic’s line ‘It was the moment I’ve been waiting for my whole life.’

Music:

- Brick Wall (first verse and chorus)

## **SUMMER**

Dialogue:

- Page 15, Naomi's line 'Tough night' to page 17, Noah's line 'Yeah, yeah, go get your headshot ready.'
- Page 44, from Summer's line 'Ooooh!' to page 45, Noah's line 'Right, of course.'

Music:

- What Am I Doing (B58-64)+ (b85-92)
- The Girl Who Likes Girls (First verse & chorus + end)

## **NOAH**

Dialogue:

- Page 69, Noah's line 'It's ok, come here... ' to Dominic's line 'Noah, I didn't...'
- Page 73, Noah's line 'Dad, are you awake?' to page 74, Noah's Dad's line 'No, son. Enough now...'

Music:

- Am I Not Enough? Verse 1 and chorus (harmony and solo lines)

## **ANDREA**

Dialogue:

- Page 45, Julie's line 'Will you go for it?' to page 47, Andrea's line 'Go on then'
- Page 63, Andrea's line 'I know that look' to Noah's line 'Oh god I should be on!'

Music:

- Just One More (start-end of first chorus)

## **JULIE**

Dialogue:

- Page 77, from Julie's line 'It's just so hard to stop loving someone...' to Andrea's line 'There's nothing I wouldn't put up with...'

Music:

- When The Curtain Falls (verse 3 and chorus)

## **TOM**

Dialogue:

- Page 40, from Tom's line 'So I said to Mackintosh...' to page 41, Tom's line 'Oh. Hard to get...'

Music:

- Showlad (end and last chorus)

## **EMMA**

Dialogue:

- Page 11, from Emma's line 'So how did it go?' to page 12 Emma's line 'Why am I marrying you again?'

Music:

- Am I Not Enough? Verse 1 and chorus (harmony and solo lines)

## **NAOMI**

Dialogue:

- Page 15, Naomi's line 'Tough night' to page 16, Naomi's line 'Go ahead, say hi from me!'

Music:

- The Girl Who Likes Girls (First verse & chorus + end)

## **ERIC**

Dialogue:

- Page 4, from Eric's line 'Eric, the director...' to Eric's line, 'Right, singing or acting first?'

Music:

- This Is Why (first verse and chorus)

## **SERENA**

Dialogue:

- Page 30, from Serena's line 'Right you horrible lot!' to Serena's line 'Well you're a dancer now, babes.'

Music:

- You're a Dancer Now (from b99-end)

## **PATRICK**

Dialogue:

- Page 22, from Patrick's line 'Don't say it Derek...' to Page 23, Patrick's line 'Newsflash Derek...'

Music:

- This Is Why (first verse and chorus)

## **CHORUS + EDWINA, DEREK, NOAH'S DAD, CHRIS, AMANDA**

Dialogue:

CHOOSE EITHER:

- Chorus member 1, Page 33, Chorus Member 1's line, 'Holy shit, I didn't realise...' to Chorus member 1's line 'No way?! That's like, so feminist.' OR
- Both Chorus members 1&2 (as if same person), Page 81, from Chorus member 1's line 'We've only got 1 show left...' to page 82 Chorus member 2's line 'Uh huh.'

Music:

- This Is Why (first verse and chorus)