



theatre Royal Wakefield

Directed and Choreographed by Louise Denison
Musical Direction by Jim Lunt

Following the great successes of *Guys and Dolls*, *Evita* and *School of Rock* The Musical Wakefield Youth Music Theatre will stage *The Band* at Theatre Royal Wakefield in August 2026.

The Band is a hit modern musical featuring the music of Take That and with a book by Tim Firth. The story follows four women who were best friends as teenagers in the 1990s and who were all big fans of The Band. Twenty-five years later, after losing contact, the four of them reunite to finally fulfil their dream of seeing The Band perform. Taking the audience from Manchester to Prague and with the boys in The Band accompanying them along the way, Rachel, Zoe, Claire and Heather sing through their highs and lows while they try to rekindle the magic of their teenage friendship.

Also known as *Greatest Days*, the musical premiered as *The Band* at the Manchester Opera House in 2017 before touring the rest of the UK and Ireland and premiering in the West End in 2018. The Band in the show was originally cast through the 2017 BBC reality show *Let It Shine* and a film adaptation, titled *Greatest Days*, was released in summer 2023.

With many of Take That's greatest hits such as, 'Pray', 'Relight My Fire', 'Shine' and 'Never Forget', we can't wait to bring this fun, British musical to the stage.

This document outlines everything you will need to know about *The Band* audition, rehearsals and performances. Make sure you fill in our **ONLINE AUDITION REGISTRATION FORM** before the audition so that we have all your details (see page 4 of this document). Once signed up, you will receive the preparation materials as soon as they are available.

The deadline for the audition registration form to be filled in is 10pm on Monday 2 March 2026.
We will not be able to accept any registrations after this date.

So, get preparing - research the show itself, its musical numbers, characters, the 1990s and boybands in general. Keep checking your inbox for further information and preparation material.

Please be aware that the story of *The Band* includes some adult themes and adult language.

OPEN AUDITIONS

We are hoping to audition as many young people as possible from across Yorkshire.

You must be aged 12-23 years old to take part.

This means you must be at least 12 by Wednesday 19 August 2026 and no older than 23 up to and including Saturday 29 August 2026.

Auditions will be held on **Sunday 8 March at Theatre Royal Wakefield.**

Registration is at 9am for a 9.30am start.

There will be points in the day when those who have not been successful this time are able to go home – these timings can vary.

4pm is the aim for the final finish time – some young people will be with us all day.

When are rehearsals?

Main rehearsals will be happening in the first two weeks of August 2026. Please see the schedule below.

Before auditioning, please make sure you are available for ALL rehearsal dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Place</u>
Mon 3 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	Wakefield Girls High School (WGHS)
Tue 4 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	WGHS
Wed 5 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	WGHS
Thu 6 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	WGHS
Fri 7 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	WGHS
Sat 8 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	WGHS
Sun 9 August	DAY OFF	DAY OFF	DAY OFF
Mon 10 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Tue 11 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Wed 12 August	9.30am-5pm	Main rehearsal	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Thu 13 August	11am-5pm	Click track recording day for some participants (tbc)	Jubilee Hall, Lupset, Wakefield
Fri 14 August	1pm-9pm	Tech rehearsal	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Sat 15 August	1pm-9pm	Tech Rehearsal	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Sun 16 August	DAY OFF	DAY OFF Possibility that non-licensed principals may be called for a band call - TBC	DAY OFF
Mon 17 August	1.30pm-4pm 4pm-10.30pm	Band Call - principals with singing roles Tech/Dress Rehearsal	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Tue 18 August	1.30pm-10.30pm	Dress Rehearsal	Theatre Royal Wakefield

****The Technical and Dress Rehearsals are absolutely essential – you MUST be available for these to be able to take part. To comply with the Theatre’s Health & Safety Policy every participant must take part in a Technical Rehearsal before being allowed to perform. Please note the rehearsal schedule may vary slightly once rehearsals begin.**

When is the show on?

Before auditioning, please make sure you are available for ALL performance dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Place</u>
Wed 19 August	1.30pm -10.30pm opening night (start time may change)	Opening night performance 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Thu 20 August	6pm-10.30pm	Performance 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Fri 21 August	6pm-10.30pm	Performance 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Sat 22 August	1pm-10.30pm	Performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Tue 25 August	6pm-10.30pm	Performance at 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Wed 26 August	6pm-10.30pm	Performance at 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Thu 27 August	6pm-10.30pm	Performance at 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Fri 28 August	6pm-10.30pm	Performance at 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield
Sat 29 August	1pm-10.30pm	Performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield

If I'm successful, do I have to pay to take part in the show?

The fee to take part in this production is £195.

If you are successful a non-refundable deposit of £97.50 or the full fee should be paid by Friday 30 April 2026, with the outstanding balance of £97.50 being due by Tuesday 30 June 2026. Further details will be available in the cast information pack.

As ever, **financial support** is available for those who may have a genuine difficulty in paying the fees, but these places are limited. Please contact Janine Johnson (01924 330 065) or email janine.johnson@theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk to find out more about financial support.

Tickets

We encourage you to tell family and friends about the show. Tickets for *The Band* will be available from **Thursday 5 February** for the theatre's Circle Members and on general sale from Thursday 19 February. Tickets will be available via Theatre Royal Wakefield's Box Office on 01924 211 311 or at <https://www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk/events/the-band-2026>

AUDITION DETAILS

When is the audition?

The audition will be happening on **Sunday 8 March 2026** at **Theatre Royal Wakefield**.

Registration is at 9am for a 9.30am start.

There will be points in the day when those who have not been successful are able to go home – these timings can vary.

4pm is the aim for the final finish time – some young people will be with us all day.

A more detailed schedule for the day will be sent out nearer the time to anyone who has already registered.

Timings may change if audition numbers are higher than expected. We may let participants go in phases, so parents/carers of those aged 13 and under (and also those aged 14-17 without permission to go home alone) must be contactable in case their child needs to leave earlier.

We will endeavour to let people know casting choices as soon as we can after the audition but some decisions may be unavoidably delayed. Please be aware that for past productions we have sometimes needed recall auditions.

We may not make final casting decisions until after any recall date but will be as clear as possible about this process.

Where is the audition?

**Theatre Royal Wakefield,
Drury Lane,
Wakefield
WF1 2TE**



What are the age restrictions?

You must be aged 12-23 years old to take part.

This means you must be at least 12 by Wednesday 19 August 2026 and no older than 23 up to and including Saturday 29 August 2026.

What do I need to do to attend the audition?

If you would like to attend the audition, then please fill in the web form linked below **by 10pm on Monday 2 March** or let Janine know if you need the form sent as a Word document in good time for you to be able to return it by Monday 2 March.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE AUDITION REGISTRATION FORM.](#)

You can contact Janine by email if you have any questions at janine.johnson@theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk
We will let you know of any changes to timings etc. and can pass on any further information you may need (including preparation materials) nearer the time.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for young people with **dedication, stage presence** and **personality**.

A **complete commitment** to the rehearsals and performances is essential.

This is a large-scale production and its success depends on everyone dedicating themselves to its delivery. Ideally, we are looking for performers who can act, sing and dance but there are roles to suit everyone so please do sign up and come along even if unsure which role to go for.

We will be looking for our cast to represent the Global Majority.

What do I need to prepare in advance?

Please fill in the **ONLINE AUDITION REGISTRATION FORM** linked on page 4.

We usually send out song lyrics and tracks to practice with before the audition, as well as some character information. When this material becomes available it will be sent out to everyone already registered.

What might I need to bring?

Please bring plenty of water and food, as the audition may be quite physical and you may be with us for a long time on the audition day.

Please wear clothing that will be suitable for dancing in (i.e nothing that will restrict movement) and layer up as it can be cold in the auditorium.

Bring dance shoes if you have them. If not, please wear shoes comfortable for movement.

Please also have a notebook and pen/pencil to hand.

What if I am under 18 years old?

If you are under 18 years then we will need your **parent/carers** to fill in the permission section of the **ONLINE AUDITION REGISTRATION FORM** for you to be able to take part.

You must be signed out when you leave by a parent/carers if you are aged 12 or 13. Children aged between 14 and 17 can leave on their own as long as a parent/carers has made this clear on the ONLINE AUDITION REGISTRATION FORM.

Please make sure you research the show and characters and speak to an adult about anything you're not sure about.

What if I am a parent?

Please ensure that you and/or your child have filled in the **ONLINE AUDITION REGISTRATION FORM** including any necessary permissions **BEFORE 10pm on Monday 2 March**.

We ask all parents and/or emergency contacts to be contactable during the audition day and that they are available to pick up their children when required.

Any child aged 12 or 13 must be signed out by a parent/carers before they can leave. Children aged between 14 and 17 can leave on their own as long as a parent/carers has made this clear on the AUDITION FORM. Timings can vary.

What if my question hasn't been answered here?

If you require any more information then please contact Janine Johnson by phone: 01924 330065 or by email: janine.johnson@theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk

You can visit our website here for directions

<https://www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk/visiting/getting-here>

You can also find out more about access to our building by clicking this link:

<https://www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk/visiting/accessibility-information>