

## AUDITION NOTICE

### The Messenger

adapted by Ross Mueller from the book by Markus Zusak

Meet Ed Kennedy - underage cabdriver, pathetic cardplayer, and useless at romance. He lives in a shack with his coffee-addicted dog, the Doorman, and he's hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey. Surrounded by his band of misfit friends, his life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence, until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first Ace arrives. That's when Ed becomes the Messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary), until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?

With a cast of 33 characters to be played in ensemble style, this adaptation of Zusak's novel is strongly metaphysical in nature. The piece experiments with form and genre, at times black comedy, at times a confronting and deeply moving exploration of human connection and the notion of personal agency.

### What to prepare

Auditionees are asked to prepare 1-2 extracts from the piece (to be supplied upon booking an audition time) and then will be asked to cold read another piece.

#### Key Dates:

**Audition: Saturday 4 Dec from 10am**

**Rehearsals: 31 Jan 2022 – 28 Feb 2022**

**Season: 1 Mar – 19 Mar 2022**

Contact: [ap@brownsmart.com.au](mailto:ap@brownsmart.com.au) to book an audition spot.

### Character Notes

#### **Markus (age unknown)/The Doorman, 17 (in dog years)**

Markus is a writer, and is assumed to be the creator of the story and all things that happen in it. He appears both outside the action, as Markus, and inside the action in the character of Ed's dog, The Doorman.

#### **Ed Kennedy, late teens/early twenties**

Ed is the chosen one. He's not sure why. He has a troubled relationship with both his mother and himself. He is in love with Audrey and is an underage taxi driver.

#### **Audrey, late teens/early twenties**

Taxi driver. Close friend of Ed. Logical, tough, kind.

#### **Ritchie, late teens/early twenties**

One of Ed's friends. Lazy, lonely, outwardly unambitious, but inwardly yearning.

#### **Sophie, late teens-early 20s.**

An aspiring athlete whom Ed tries to help.

#### **Marv, late teens/early twenties**

One of Ed's friends. Somewhat obsessive. Tight-arsed. Argumentative.

#### **Ma, late 30s -early 50s**

Ed's mother. Terminally dissatisfied, disillusioned and somewhat damaged by her past.

#### **Ensemble**

Aside from Ed, his friends and family, the play is populated by a large number of characters who appear as Ed journeys forth on the quest he has unwittingly found has been thrust upon him. These include librarians, police officers, waiters, balaclava-wearing thugs, footballers, waiters and a family caught in the throes of abuse and dysfunction.