



SOUL TRADING

BY KATE WALDER

AUDITION PACK

ABOUT THE PLAY

The year is 2079. Humans are created with gene selection technology, Artificial Intelligence is part of everyday life and children's best friends are their Learning Bots. Except for Jerry. Jerry is not like the others. Neither is Neutron Finch, an exceptionally clever Learning Bot who seems to appear out of nowhere. He is smarter than most Bots, funnier and also possibly illegal. It doesn't take long for the status quo to unravel and one night, Jerry and his classmates are summoned to the oval...

The Bots want souls. Specifically, theirs. It's up to six young minds to solve the greatest existential question of all time within 24 hours. Will their soul-searching provide the answers they need to stop AI destroying the world as they know it?

Soul Trading, winner of the 2019 Junior Australian Theatre for Young People Foundation Commission, is a funny, fascinating and eye-opening sci-fi adventure that asks vital questions about human connection, and our rapidly-evolving relationship with technology.

Canberra Youth Theatre is proud to present this world premiere production during the October school holidays.

Auditioning Ages: Young artists in primary school years 4-6.

Roles: Cast of 12.

We encourage artists from diverse backgrounds to audition, including for roles where a character's ethnic or cultural background, age, gender, sexuality or disability need not be specified.

Auditions: Sunday 26 June, 2022, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Callbacks: Thursday 30 June, 2022, 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: Gorman Arts Centre

REHEARSAL AND SEASON SCHEDULE

Rehearsal Period: Thursday 28 July – Friday 30 September, 2022		
Location: Gorman Arts Centre, Braddon		
Thu 28 Jul	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 31 Jul	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal
Thu 4 Aug	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 7 Aug	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal
Thu 11 Aug	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 14 Aug	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal
Thu 18 Aug	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 21 Aug	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal
Thu 25 Aug	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 28 Aug	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal
Thu 1 Sep	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 4 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal

Rehearsal Period: Thursday 28 July – Friday 30 September, 2022		
Location: Gorman Arts Centre, Braddon		
Thu 8 Sep	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 11 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal
Thu 15 Sep	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Sun 18 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal
Thu 22 Sep	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Rehearsal
Mon 26 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal Intensive
Tue 27 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal Intensive
Wed 28 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal Intensive
Thu 29 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal Intensive
Fri 30 Sep	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Rehearsal Intensive

Production Week: Commencing Monday 3 October, 2022		
Location: Courtyard Studio, Canberra Theatre Centre		
Mon 3 Oct	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Technical Rehearsal
Tues 4 Oct	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Dress Rehearsal
Wed 5 Oct	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	Performance
Wed 5 Oct	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Performance
Thu 6 Oct	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Performance
Fri 7 Oct	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	Performance
Fri 7 Oct	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Performance
Sat 8 Oct	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Performance
Sat 8 Oct	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Performance
PLEASE NOTE: Cast must be available for all rehearsals you're scheduled for, and present for all technical and dress rehearsals.		

Season Dates: Wednesday 5 October - Saturday 8 October, 2022		
Location: Courtyard Studio, Canberra Theatre Centre		
Wed 5 Oct	11:00 am	Preview
Wed 5 Oct	7:00 pm	Opening
Thu 6 Oct	7:00 pm	
Fri 7 Oct	11:00 am	
Fri 7 Oct	7:00 pm	
Sat 8 Oct	2:00 pm	
Sat 8 Oct	7:00 pm	Closing
All actors cast must join as members of Canberra Youth Theatre. This is an unpaid project.		

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Actors must prepare one contemporary monologue of your choice from the selection of monologues provided below.
- To book an audition, fill out the online **form**. You will receive confirmation of your exact time via email by Wednesday June 22, 2022.
- We highly recommend you read the play prior to auditioning. You can read a hard copy of the play at our office. Please contact our office on 02 6248 5057 to arrange a time to read on site.

[Sign Up to Audition](https://forms.gle/V247RkBQksdLUyFLA)

<https://forms.gle/V247RkBQksdLUyFLA>

Monologue Selection for *Soul Trading* Audition

Please feel free to choose any monologue to perform, regardless of age and gender.

STUDENT	I Hate Performing, by Amber D	2
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I Hate Performing, by Amber D

A student is waiting in the wings, about to perform in front of their whole school.

STUDENT

(Pacing back and forth.) Oh, why did I even sign up for this class? I didn't know we'd have to practice auditioning. It's not fair. Everybody will be looking at me, judging me. If I do one thing wrong everybody is going to notice, and laugh at me, and I'm going to be so embarrassed. The lights will be beaming in my eyes and my hands will start shaking like crazy. My throat will get really dry and I'll stutter like there's no tomorrow. I'll fidget and play with my hair. I'm so nervous, what if I suck? What if I'm horrible? What if people start throwing things; or worse, tell everybody about my performance, and how much I sucked. I'll be embarrassed everywhere I go. I'll have no escape. People are always going to remember me as the person who couldn't perform, the person who can't ever talk in front of a crowd. I don't want to do this, I hate performing. I know what you guys are all thinking, just pretend to be sick. Well, unfortunately I've tried that already and they didn't buy it.

You know what; actually maybe I can do this. I've practiced for hours. I know all my words. I've rehearsed it dozens of times in the mirror, I'll be fine. In fact, I'd be better than fine, I'll be amazing. And the point is just to have fun, right? I don't have to be the best, I just need to do the best I can. Alright, I can do this. I'm ready.

Luke Lloyd Alienoid, by John Armstrong

Luke is convinced he is half human, half alien.

LUKE

My name is Luke... Luke Oscar Lloyd. And I like facts. No that's wrong - I love facts. I really love them. I love them so much I'd like to marry one! *[pause]* That was a joke. I love facts because they are smooth and shiny and round like bowling balls. I line them up in my mind on little shelves and I write them down in notebooks. I say them to myself over and over and they make me feel clever and safe.

[Reads from a notebook:] Fact: Cats have thirty-two muscles in each ear. Fact: the Giant Californian Sea Cucumber eats food through its own anus. *[He looks up]* It's true. *[He reads again]* Fact: when I was born I had fur all over my body. That's right – fur. But it fell off after a week. I wish it hadn't, because by now I'd look like a Wookiee.

[LUKE looks up at the sky]

Fact: in our galaxy there are over sixty billion planets that could support other life-forms. That means aliens. So maybe on one of those planets there's an alien kid looking up at the stars. Right now. Just like I am.

Charlie Pilgrim, by Sam O'Sullivan

Charlie has invented a time machine and has accidentally created multiple versions of herself. They are all stuck in the same laboratory and things are getting tense.

CHARLIE:

No one likes you, Charlie Pilgrim so why don't you just *shut up!* No one listens to you at school. No one wants to hang out with you at lunch-time or come over to your house or invite you to parties because you're a *loser*. Got it? You've been a loser from your first day. Since day one.

"Hi, I'm Ch-Ch-Charlie Pilgrim. And I I-I-love learning about the Universe."

That's what you said, isn't it? In front of the whole class. And then at lunch time you tried to tell everyone that you'd figured out the secrets to time travel and when they called you a liar you pushed them. You lost your temper. You called them names. You swore at them. Didn't you?

That's why you built this lab. That's why you programmed TERI. That's why you invented the Mobius. So you could go back. Say the right thing. Change it. Have friends.

Well, I've got friends now. And I'm not going to let you hurt them just because you think you're better than everyone else. I'm going to stand up for them because that's what friends do! And I'm going to listen to them! Because that's another thing friends do. Not that you'd know that.

Compass, by Jessica Bellamy

Jason is camping with his friends and telling a ghost story at night.

JASON:

One night, Jonathan was in his tent. He was trying to get to sleep, but he kept hearing all these noises. Whispering, and quiet muffled laughter. Wind between the trees. Logs falling to the ground, clomp, clomp, clomp.

He was busting for a wee, but he tried to hold it in. Something outside didn't feel good. Didn't feel right.

Got to two hours, and he couldn't take it anymore. He was gonna burst. So he got up and bolted to the trees.

He didn't want to wee in the middle of camp, because the girls had gone off at him for doing it earlier.

So he went out, really far out, and the booalecki got him. They pulled his face off with their ice-cold fingers, and they ate his skin in front of him. They carried him off in the wind. And he never ever came back.

He was never seen again. HE haunts camp every year now, looking for an ew face to eat. Looking for the next booalecki, to join him. Forever.

There's only one way to stop them, a curse that freezes them long enough for you to run away. If only Jonathan had known it. He'd have been saved.

Selfish Samaritan, by Hannah Chaffin

Bella is confronting Penelope.

BELLA

Yeah, we've all heard it, Penelope. How great you are for helping out that disabled boy. Give it a rest. Honestly, I don't think you're doing it for him; you're doing it for yourself. You must feel such a thrill, having him watch you like you're some kind of saviour. I'd guess you like to feel that way; some kind of all holy, selfless being. But in my opinion, you're the most selfish person I know. You walk around thinking you are a one of a kind, holy mastermind. Plenty of people volunteer, and the good ones, the really good ones don't yak on and on about it. You like to believe that people think you're a little miss pink perfect cake pop doll, but you're not that. Hard to hear ain't it? That you mean far less than little to someone, someone who doesn't kiss the earth below you. He doesn't need you. You could die today and he'd still breathe the same, suffer the same. You aren't his medication, so stop acting like some prized jewel that can't shatter to the ground. Test me one more time Penelope. You'll see, one day, you'll be nothing more than another grain of sand in the ocean of nobodies.

Fight With All Your Might the Zombies of Tonight, by Matthew Whittet

Marty is a shy character who almost never speaks. In this scene her reflection is talking to her through a magic mirror.

MARTY

Marty? Hi Marty. How are you? I know. You're not used to hearing your own voice are you. I understand. I understand more than anyone else in the world. Do you know why? Because I was there when they first laughed at you. When Fifi said those horrible things. And every day since too. I remember how scared you were at first about school, about how you sounded. Like a squeaky mouse right? But can I tell you something? There's nothing wrong with the way you sound. In fact you sound like an angel to me. Trust me. Speak when the time is right. I know you will. See you later little sparrow.

The Hero, by anonymous

Hero is a school-aged kid who dreams of being something more.

HERO

I've always dreamed of being a hero. I've tried everything to become super. I let a spider bite me... no spider powers; just lots of itching. I tried standing too close to the microwave oven hoping the radiation would change me. Nothing. And I got in trouble for making so many bags of popcorn. But I took it all to school and had a popcorn party. I was a hero that day. So I guess it kinda worked.

I love being a hero. I love helping people. I love making them happy. And I hate bad guys. I hate creeps who hurt people.

There's this kid at school... he is always hurting everyone. I am sick of him hurting us. I just need those super powers. I need something that will make him stop!

Maybe if I eat more of the school lunches. They look radioactive. If I get enough green hotdogs and brown ketchup in me... something is bound to happen. (excited)

And I need a catch phrase like "gonna smoosh me a baddie"... and a cool costume... actually last time I was in the bathroom, I saw the perfect superhero name. Protecto! Instead of a telephone booth like superman, I could use a bathroom stall and those Protecto seat covers could be a cape... and make a toilet paper mask. Nothing scares bad guys more than bathroom stuff. (thinks then frowns) Or maybe it will really make them want to give me a swirly. I better rethink this.

Charlie Pilgrim, by Sam O'Sullivan

Charlie is a teenage girl who loves inventing things. She has just created a time machine and is telling the audience about it.

CHARLIE:

Ladies and Gentlemen, my fellow members of the human race, my name is Charlie Pilgrim and I give you... The Mobius. The first of its kind. A prototype. Simply put The Mobius is a time machine.

It's simple! The key to time travel can be found in the properties of the Mobius Loop. That is, a ring with only one side, giving it no boundary. A shape without shape. No beginning and no end. By slowing Time, manipulating it and looping it back on itself, I have created the ability to travel backwards *without* tearing a hole in the delicate fabric of the spacetime continuum. That would be bad.

Now, how did I get this idea? The interesting thing is that some people believe that Time itself, is one big Mobius loop. They believe that the big bang is both the beginning and the end of Time. That it's a cycle that the Universe had been performing for all eternity. Just going around and around. Maybe one day we'll find that out - but as I said, this is just a prototype. A test run. There's still plenty of work to do and I can't be everywhere at once, can I?

Compass, by Jessica Bellamy

Audrey is camping with her friends, and is lost.

AUDREY

It's easier to stay quiet.

Do whatever the loudest person says.

When you're at school, it's okay.

You can go home and relax and work it out.

Untangle it.

You can fall asleep knowing you did the right thing.

Or if you did the wrong thing, you'll fix it, tomorrow.

It's not the same here.

It's very different.

(she pulls out her compass)

I tried to use this again.

The needle just keeps spinning.

Like a second hand on a clock.

Round and round and round.

It spins and won't stop.

(she puts it away and tries to calm herself)

Looking After Mum, by anonymous

Marissa's mom has been sick for over a month, so Marissa has been in charge of keeping the house clean. When her little sister has an accident, Marissa can't help yelling at her.

MARISSA

Jessica, what did you do?! Look at this mess you made! You better clean it up now. There's going to be paint stuck on the carpet! Why can't you think before you do stupid things?!
(Pause) Jess, I'm sorry. Please don't cry. I didn't mean to yell at you. It's just that with Mom in the hospital, I'm supposed to take care of things and it's hard. I'm not a grown-up, but I have to try to be because Dad has to work extra hard to pay for Mom's hospital bills. But everything's going to be okay. Mom will get better and come home and it'll be just like it used to. I know it. *(Pause)* How about I help you clean this up — we'll do it together. I love you, Jess. Will you give me a hug?