

## Casting

### *Named Roles and “Double Casting”*

In "Community Theatre," we believe in creating an inclusive and collaborative environment where everyone has the opportunity to shine on stage. To achieve this, we will use a **double-casting system** for specific roles in the production.

For example, in the case of “Mary Poppins,” we will cast two actors in the role. Each actor will perform the role of Mary Poppins in two of the four shows, alternating nights with their fellow actor. On the nights they are not playing Mary Poppins, they can contribute to the production in other ways, such as performing in the ensemble or working backstage as part of the crew.

This casting system allows for a more diverse range of actors to have the opportunity to play a lead role and also provides a backup in case of any unforeseen circumstances that may prevent one of the actors from performing.

Overall, we believe this casting approach reinforces the sense of community and collaboration that "Community Theatre" stands for while allowing everyone to showcase their talents and be part of a beautiful theatrical experience. If you are a **double cast role**, you will perform this as your main role for **2 performances**, and **1 Invited Dress Rehearsal**.

- Note from the Director: There is no pre-casting. Most roles will be double-cast. All cast members will have the opportunity to perform in all performances, regardless of role.

### *Can you be more specific about what roles are available and to whom?*

- Most roles are open to all ages, so you don't have to worry about being too old or young for a specific part.
- Children's roles of Jane and Michael Banks are available only for **Actors in Middle school and younger**.
- **Adult actors and High School Teens only can** audition for the roles of George and Winifred Banks.

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- Ensemble roles are available for those interested in singing and dancing.
- It is possible that one young person and one adult will share the lead roles of Mary Poppins and Bert.

Overall, there are plenty of opportunities for people of all ages and experience levels to get involved in this community theater project. Whether you're interested in lead roles, ensemble roles, or something in between, there's a role that's right for you.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: Who can participate in Community Theatre?

A: Everyone is welcome to participate in Community Theatre! We aim to be an inclusive program that allows folks of any age, gender, or experience level to perform on stage.

Q: Do I need any experience to participate?

A: No prior experience is necessary! Our program is designed for people of all experience levels, from beginners to experienced performers.

Q: How are roles assigned?

A: Every person who auditions will be cast in the show, whether in a named role or the ensemble. We will cast two actors for specific roles and they will alternate performances.

Q: What is the rehearsal schedule like?

A: Rehearsals will take place three times a week, with two rehearsals for the whole cast and one rehearsal for the leads. The schedule is designed to accommodate busy schedules and is flexible.

Q: When are the performances?

A: Performances will take place on one weekend, with four official performances and two preview/invited dress performances.

Q: Can I participate in the backstage crew instead of performing?

A: We welcome volunteers for backstage crew and other production roles. Just let us know during auditions.

Q: How much does it cost to participate?

A: We strive to keep our program affordable and accessible to everyone. A \$300 participation fee would cover the program's participation cost and help support the community theatre program. This amount would cover the costs of materials, costumes, props, and sets. It would also help to pay for the salaries of the production team, such as the director, choreographer, and music director, who are all professionals in their fields. Additionally, the donation would help support the venue and the community programs they offer.

It is important to note that we welcome and appreciate any amount a participant can contribute. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Q: Can I bring my family to see the show?

A: Absolutely! We encourage all participants to invite their family and friends to see the show and share in the experience.

Q: What can I expect from this program?

A: You can expect a supportive and inclusive environment where you can learn new skills, make friends, and be part of a fun and exciting production. We are committed to creating a positive experience for all participants on and off stage.

## List of Roles

### Roles Reserved for Teenagers/Adults

GEORGE BANKS – Head of the Banks household, a bank manager who tries to be a good provider, but often forgets how to be a good husband and father. Baritone

WINIFRED BANKS – A former actress who is very busy trying to live up to her husband's expectations. She is a loving but distracted mother to Jane and Michael. Mezzo-soprano

### Roles Reserved for Young People

MICHAEL BANKS – Cute and cheeky, excitable and sometimes naughty. He adores his father and tries to be like him.

JANE BANKS – Exuberant, but willful and occasionally inclined to snobbishness.

### Roles Open to Any Age

MARY POPPINS – Jane and Michael's new nanny who is a force to be reckoned with possessing a dazzling personality. Full of hope even when things look dire, she professes "anything can happen if you let it." Practically perfect in every way. Mezzo-soprano with a strong top - must move very well.

BERT – A one man band, sidewalk artist, chimney sweep and kite salesman and friend to Mary Poppins. Charming and Charismatic – baritone to G – mid 30's – an excellent dancer -Cockney accent.

MRS. BRILL – The Banks' family cook who rules the kitchen and Robertson Ay with an iron hand. Alto

ROBERTSON AY – Clumsy but good-hearted footman of the Banks household, he has problems following directions and is a knock-about comic character. Tenor

MISS ANDREW – George Banks' old nanny called in to take Mary Poppins' place. She is cruel and demanding to the entire Banks family. Things must be done her way-or else! Soprano with Alto belt –

MRS. CORRY – Mysterious and very old, she runs the "Talking Shop" where people buy conversations and gingerbread. She knew George Banks when he was a boy.

Sopran

NELEUS – A statue in the park who has lost his father. Tenor

THE BIRD WOMAN – Sits in front of St. Paul’s cathedral every day selling bags of crumbs for her beloved pigeons. Alto, Sings “Feed the Birds.”

THE PARK KEEPER – A stickler for rules and regulations, he watches over the park.  
Tenor

ADMIRAL BOOM – The Banks’ family friendly neighbor on Cherry Tree Lane –  
baritone

Miss LARK – Another of the Banks’ neighbors. A bit snobby and treats her dog, Willoughby, as a child. Mezzo-Soprano

KATIE NANNA – The last of a long line of nannies for the Banks’ children who leaves #17 Cherry Tree Lane being fed up with Jane and Michael’s pranks

ENSEMBLE – A large group of people who love performing! Participates in numbers like Step in Time, Jolly Holiday, and more!

### ***Show Cuts***

Please note: The musical number with the toys at the end of Act 1 has been cut. Some other cuts of songs will take place for length of time of the show.

### ***Does everyone get to be in the play?***

At "Community Theatre," we believe that every person who auditions deserves a chance to be part of the production, regardless of their experience or skill level. That's why we guarantee that every person who auditions will be cast in the show, whether in a named role or the ensemble.

We believe that ensemble is a fundamental part of any theatre production, and our goal is to feature every member of our cast for "their moment" on stage. Every actor has unique talents and strengths, and we strive to highlight those talents through thoughtful and creative staging and choreography.

So whether you are cast in a named role or the ensemble, we guarantee you will have the opportunity to shine and be part of an exceptional theatrical experience. We can't wait to see what you bring to the stage!