LEAD ROLES Audition Packet

GUYS AND DOLLS JR. 2019

If you do NOT want a big speaking or solo part, you do NOT need to come to auditions. You are automatically in the ensemble if you sign up and follow the directions in the OTHER packet.

Auditions for Lead Roles are on
Monday, December 3rd or Tuesday, December 4th after school
Note: Our chorus concert is Tuesday night, December 4th.
We suggest that members of JGMS chorus classes sign up for a Monday time slot.

Callbacks will be on Thursday, December 6th after school until 5:00PM.

FIRST: Please check your family schedule to see if you can make the commitment to being in this play.

NEXT:
- Sign up for an audition time on the clipboards outside the music room.
- Become familiar with the attached songs and characters by watching and singing along on YouTube.
- Fill in the audition form. Bring it to the audition, along with this whole packet.

How to get ready for the audition:
- Practice reading ALL characters in the attached scenes. You do not HAVE to memorize anything. We are looking for strong, confident speaking voices, with clear diction and interesting tone and facial expressions. Even when holding the script, you should use hand gestures and body movement to match your character’s personality.
- If you are interested in a part with solo singing, choose and become familiar with at least one song. To practice, sing along with an accompaniment on YouTube. We are looking for powerful, confident volume; accurate pitch; and interesting tone and expression. You can hold the music when you sing at the audition, but you should know the song well.

What to Expect at Auditions:
Sign in to the auditorium right after school. Only the directors and the students scheduled to audition will be in the room. Parents and other students are not invited. We will start at 2:20. First wave will be dismissed in time to take the late buses at 3:50. If you are scheduled for the second wave (3:45–4:30), you are welcome to stay the whole time, or you can leave (or go to Homework Club), and then come back.

When you arrive, you will choose a partner, spread out around the auditorium, and practice reading for a few minutes. When your group is called, you will give your audition form to the directors, and go up on stage to read the scenes. You may be asked to read more than once, and with different people. After this, if you are not interested in a solo SINGING role, you are free to go, or stay to support your friends.

Next, we will warm up our singing voices, run through the songs, and then each person who is interested in a singing role will sing alone. Audio accompaniment will be provided, identical to the ones on YouTube.

CALLBACKS will be posted on Wednesday morning. If you are on the callback list, it means that we want to hear you again, and that you might be up for a main role. Callbacks will happen on Thursday, December 6th after school, from 2:20 till 5:00PM. Practice the same songs and scenes for callbacks. It would be best to arrange transportation so that you can stay for the whole afternoon, but if you HAVE TO take the late bus, please tell one of the adults before we get started.

We hope to post the cast list on Friday, December 7th. Even if you aren’t cast in a lead role, you are a part of our ensemble, and we are all looking forward to starting this amazing project. It is inevitable that some people will be disappointed not to be cast as a lead, so be kind and supportive to each other, no matter what. GOOD LUCK!
Lead Role Character Descriptions: GUYS AND DOLLS JR.

NOTE: All the roles in Guys and Dolls are supposed to be played as stereotypical characters from the late 1940's. We will recognize and challenge those outdated mid-century social norms during our production process. The relationships in the story are meant to be ridiculed, and all of the situations will be played strictly for laughs. We're often confronted with this when we revive beloved classic Broadway shows. The amazing work being done in the modern musical theater world shows that people involved in the performing arts are right out in front when it comes to the acceptance, inclusivity and celebration of all.

Lead roles that include LINES and SOLO SINGING

Nathan Detroit
Nathan Detroit is the heart and soul of Guys and Dolls Jr. Nathan needn't be a great singer, but should be a very good actor with excellent comic timing and able to handle a sizable role. His presence must draw the focus in any scene. Nathan's big secret is that he wants to marry Adelaide; he just can't bring himself to admit it.

Miss Adelaide
Miss Adelaide is the stereotypical “intellectually-challenged floozy” (AKA dumb blonde). She is the featured showgirl at the Top Hat Cocktail Lounge. This actor should be a strong dancer with an excellent sense of pitch and timing. Adelaide needs to be funny and able to do a convincingly thick New York City dialect.

Sky Masterson
Sky Masterson is the quintessential, “smooth-as-velvet” Broadway gambler; he's slick and charming. All the other gamblers wish they were him. Sky should have a strong voice capable of owning the stage when delivering “Luck Be a Lady.” He has a soft spot for Sarah Brown. Sky is the role for a confident, mature actor who can sing, dance and drive his scenes.

Sarah Brown
Sarah Brown is the “girl next door” with an adventurous side that's waiting to escape. She is gently authoritative, the mirror opposite of Sky. Sarah is about substance as much as Sky is about style. She should be an excellent actress as well as singer, and must be able to show two distinct sides of herself. Select an actress who is a triple threat, who pairs off well and can hold her own opposite Sky Masterson.

Nicely - Nicely Johnson
Nicely - Nicely Johnson is walking, talking, Broadway comedy. Select a performer who has fantastic comic timing and is naturally funny. Cast an excellent musician and someone who isn't afraid to take positive risks. He should have the chops to really deliver the showstopper, “Sit Down You're Rockin’ the Boat.”

Benny Southstreet and Rusty Charlie
Benny Southstreet and Rusty Charlie are the small-time gambler sidekicks of Nicely- Nicely Johnson. These are perfect roles for good actors who are naturally funny. They should be confident singers (they open the show with “Fugue for Tin Horns”) and have a handle on comic timing. Don't be afraid to cast a girl who has the skills for one of these roles. It is comical to cast contrasting-sized kids for these parts! Benny has speaking lines throughout.

Arvide Abernathy
Arvide Abernathy is Sarah Brown's grandfather (or grandmother) and the leader of the Mission Band. The actor in this role has a small solo song, and quite a few lines. They should be able to portray a fiercely protective older parent who wants Sarah to be safe and happy.
Smaller featured acting roles with NO solo singing

Note: if you are interested in one of these parts, you should come to the auditions to read lines for us, but you do NOT need to sing a solo.

Harry the Horse and Big Jule
Harry the Horse and Big Jule are colorful additions to the crap shooters crew. They should be strong and humorous characters. They are in all the ensemble numbers but don't need to be strong singers. Their lines are sidesplitting so cast characters that can deliver them.

Lt. Brannigan
Lt. Brannigan and his police force are constantly trying to track down the elusive gamblers and shut down their operation. Nathan and his crew are always one step ahead, and Brannigan is frustrated. He would give a lot to catch them red-handed. This is a character part with no solo singing.

General Cartwright
General Cartwright is the formidable leader of the Save-a-Soul Mission organization. The mission has a band, and General Cartwright can be a singing or a musician. This character has several lines.

Master of Ceremonies
The Master of Ceremonies is the host at the Top Hat Lounge. He has one memorable line, so this is a great role for someone new to the stage.

Ensemble Players
If you would like to be an ensemble player, you do NOT need to come to the auditions at all. Just sign up on the clipboards outside the music room. At the first rehearsals we will split you up into groups according to your preference and your dance experience and ability. Return the audition materials, and just pick up a cast participation packet. Read it and follow the directions.

Everyone else in the cast will be assigned as a gambler, a Top Hat Lounge dancer, or a mission band member. They will sing, dance and act together, but may not have any spoken lines. The ensemble could also include NYC policemen, newsies, shoppers, street vendors, cabbies, Top Hat Lounge diners and Mindy’s Diner’s lunch crowd. The ensemble members should be willing to sing and move comfortably on stage.

Gamblers
The Gamblers are the well-dressed “comic glue” of the show. They sing together and have some major dance numbers. Angie the Ox is a gambler with one solo speaking line. Named gamblers also include Liver Lips Louie, Society Max, and the Lookout.

Top Hat Lounge Girls
The Top Hat Lounge Girls work in the club where Miss Adelaide is the headliner. The girls sing together, and can be jazz or tap dancers. The girls are Adelaide’s friends, and are sympathetic to her ridiculously long engagement. On their breaks they hang out in the dressing room, have lunch at Mindy’s Deli, or go shopping.

Mission Band
The Mission Band is a Salvation Army-style group of singers and musicians who promote clean and sober living. They do not approve of drinking alcohol or gambling. They go out on the street and encourage folks to come to the mission to be “saved.” Their music is more about persistence than precision. Mission band members do a lot of enthusiastic singing and marching around, but they don’t have to be high-level dancers. Several of them are named characters with a few lines.