



Character Descriptions

ANNIE

Female; appears to be 11 years old. She is a tough streetwise kid who is vulnerable when she thinks she might lose what has become most important to her: a newfound “family” who loves her. Throughout the show she exhibits independent, needy, maternal, and hopeful qualities. Although she is at times aggressive or crafty, there is no doubt that she is a friendly and caring child. The part requires an actress who can act motherly, independent, overwhelmed and hopeful. She should be strong vocally and musically and be able to light up the stage in *Tomorrow*. Vocally, she needs to be a “belter” with a solo-quality voice and a vocal range of alto to mezzo soprano. Annie has about 140 lines and sings in 11 numbers. It is the intent of the production team to honor the spirit of the show as originally envisioned by presenting *Annie* as a redhead – the young person selected to portray the character may be required to color her hair to conform with the vision of the production team which may also include a perm or hair treatments and/or use of a wig. Any expenses required to modify the young person’s hair will be reimbursed.

Audition Songs: *Maybe and/or Tomorrow*

OLIVER WARBUCKS

Male; appears to be 40+ years old. He is a powerful, self-assured billionaire who always has his mind on business. While sometimes gruff and abrupt he has a kind heart. At first, he is awkwardly affectionate toward Annie, but he soon finds himself completely charmed by her. Vocally, he needs to be a strong baritone or second tenor with a solo-quality voice. Warbucks has over 100 lines and sings in 7 numbers. Oliver Warbucks is bald and clean shaven – for authenticity, the person chosen to portray the character will be required to shave his head and no facial hair will be allowed.

Audition Song: *Something Was Missing*

MISS HANNIGAN

Female; appears to be in her 40s (or older) with some mileage. She is the orphanage matron. Her distaste for her job and the children is obvious in every move she makes and every line she delivers. She is predictable and funny, in her ridiculous, cruel ways. Looking for an actress who can act with her whole body and a very good sense of comedic timing. Vocally, she is a strong alto with a solo-quality voice. Hannigan has over 100 lines and sings in 4 numbers.

Audition Song: *Little Girls*

GRACE FARRELL

Female; appears to be in her 30s. She is the loyal private secretary to Oliver Warbucks. Grace is mature, calm, and classy. She is businesslike when dealing with Miss Hannigan, yet maternal toward Annie. Vocally, she is an alto to mezzo soprano with a solo-quality voice. Grace has over 100 lines and sings in 5 numbers.

Audition Song: *I Think I’m Gonna Like it Here*

ROOSTER HANNIGAN

Male; appears to be mid-30s (younger than Hannigan). Miss Hannigan's despicable brother. Rooster is flashy and self-assured. His “moves” are as smooth as a gambler’s: sly, and deceiving. The actor playing this role should bring a sense of fun to the character and have a good sense of comic timing. Vocally, he needs to be a strong baritone or second tenor with a solo-quality voice. Rooster has just over 50 lines and sings in *Easy Street*.

Audition Song: *Easy Street*

LILY ST. REGIS

Female; appears to be similar in age to Rooster (or younger). Lily is Rooster’s airhead girlfriend. She is always distracted, although she manages to pick up on any conversation involving money. Like Rooster, the actress playing this role should bring a sense of fun to the character and have a good sense of comic timing. Vocally, she is a soprano. Lily has just over 30 lines and sings in *Easy Street*.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Male; Appears to be early 50s and can be made to resemble the US President. This person will be performing in a wheelchair. Vocally, he is a baritone or bass. FDR has over 50 lines and sings in *Cabinet Tomorrow* and *New Deal for Christmas*.

THE ORPHANS

These girls are gritty, neglected, vulnerable, yet basically honest, and potentially lovable. They have mischievous fun with each other and also have “sibling-style” fights.

- **Molly**—The littlest orphan; appears to be 6 or 7 years old.
- **Pepper**—The toughest girl in the orphanage; appears to be 12 years old.
- **Duffy**—The oldest girl in the orphanage; appears to be 13 years old.
- **Kate**—The next to littlest orphan; appears to be 6 or 7 years old but slightly older than Molly.
- **Tessie**—The crybaby in the orphanage; appears to be 10 years old.
- **July**—The quietest orphan; appears to be 13 years old.
- **Orphan Ensemble**—Up to 6 more orphans to round out the group.

They will sing and dance in all the orphan numbers and sing in support from the wings for group numbers.

Audition Song: *Hard Knock Life*

ENSEMBLE—Adults and older children who are not orphans

The remaining actors in the company play a number of different roles and will be assigned to either the Servant Chorus or in the New York City Chorus. There are several opportunities to be assigned a line or a solo in various numbers and some ensemble members will have the opportunity to be in other scenes. All will assist in singing in the group numbers either on stage or in the wings. All must sing and move well. Specialty dancers will be included in this group.

SERVANT CHORUS

Oliver Warbucks' domestic staff. Their presence, posture, and speech is proper and refined. Their heads are always held high, with pleasant, yet guarded emotions. They are on stage for *I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here*, *You Won't Be An Orphan for Long*, *I Don't Need Anything But You*, *New Deal For Christmas* and *Tomorrow Bows*.

- **Drake** - The English butler.
- **Cecille** - A French maid.
- **Annette** - A French maid.
- **Mrs. Greer** - The head housekeeper.
- **Mrs. Pugh** - The chef.
- **Servant Ensemble** - Servants in Oliver Warbucks' mansion (5 or 6 of various ages).

NEW YORK CITY CHORUS

This chorus consists of several scenes that take place throughout New York City. Many of these chorus members will have various cameo roles as well, in other scenes. They are on stage for *Hooverville, NYC*, *A New Deal for Christmas*, and *Tomorrow Bows*.

All the following characters have at least one line or a solo singing line:

- **Bundles McCloskey**—The laundryman who serves the orphanage. He has an innocent, flirtatious relationship with Miss Hannigan.
- **Lt. Ward**—A policeman who returns Annie to Miss Hannigan after she escapes from the orphanage.
- **Policeman**—Lt. Ward's police partner.
- **Dog Catcher**—A person who captures stray dogs on the streets of New York.
- **Usherette**—One line during NYC
- **Bert Healy**—The ultimate radio personality. He helps Annie by broadcasting about the search for her birth parents. Solo-quality second tenor or baritone that can sing in a Vaudeville style voice.
- **Boylan Sisters (Connie, Ronnie, Bonnie)**—Assistants to Bert Healy. They sing in harmony.
- **Star-To-Be** —A young, aspiring Broadway actress. (Mezzo Belt) BIG Solo in NYC – think Ethel Merman (*a real shining moment in NYC*).
- **Jimmy Johnson**—A personality on the Bert Healy Show.
- **Sound FX man** - A staffer on the Bert Healy Show.
- **Fred McCracken and Wacky**—Personalities on the Bert Healy show; ventriloquist and dummy.
- **Judge Brandeis**—Judge who Warbucks hires to hold the adoption of Annie.
- **Roosevelt's Cabinet Members**—Ickes, Perkins, Hull, Morgenthau, Howe, and a Marine in uniform.
- **Hooverville Folks**—Apple seller, Eddie, Sophie and several others referred to in the script as Man 1-4 and Woman 1-4. These are all homeless and jobless people who live in shanty towns.

NOTE FOR ALL CAST MEMBERS: It is the intent of the production team to use a real dog for the part of **Sandy**. This cast member will be in regular attendance at rehearsals to get used to being around the group, however, interaction with this cast member will be limited to only the handler/trainer and those individuals that will actually be on stage with **Sandy** – this will keep the dog safe and secure and ensure success for those scenes that **Sandy** is a part of and will help the group to get used to having the cast member around. Those with potential allergies related to dogs and/or pet dander need to be aware of this and take proper steps to maintain their health and wellbeing.