



Character Descriptions

*Grand Rapids Civic Theatre is seeking 28-40 volunteer actors, ages 8-98 for their Centennial Season production of **Annie**. We are looking for a company of performers who are strong storytellers, thoughtful collaborators, joyful artists, and dependable community builders. This production features a cast of strong singers/actors who are good movers with opportunities for trained dancers.*

A Note on Character Descriptions

The ages and gender identities below are the ages and gender identities of the *characters*. Actors who fall outside of these age ranges, and actors whose gender identities are different from the gender identities of the characters will be considered, based on the stated preferences of the auditioning actors and with consideration for the essence and intent of the original story. As a standard practice, GRCT does not cast children under the age of 8 in mainstage productions. Children must be 8 years old by the FIRST REHEARSAL to be eligible for this audition.

Actors of all ethnicities will be considered for all roles.

A NOTE ON ALTERNATES AND DOUBLE CASTING

*ALTERNATES: The Production Team is *considering* casting Alternates for the roles of: Warbucks, Hannigan, Grace, Lily, and Rooster. Alternates will learn their assigned role, be guaranteed 8 public performances (barring their own illness, injury, or shows cancelled by GRCT for unforeseen circumstances) on Thursday nights and Saturday matinees. Alternates must also be available for any performances in which the primary actor is not available due to illness or other extreme circumstance. (Primary Actors must ALSO be available for any performances in which the Alternate Actor is not available due to illness or other extreme circumstances.)

**DOUBLE CASTING: The Production Team is *considering* double casting for ALL orphan roles, including Annie. See below for the tentative double cast performance schedule. Actors who are double cast should make sure they are still available for ALL performances, in the event that their counterpart is not available due to illness or other extreme circumstances.

More information on Alternates, Double Casting, and the rehearsal process will be available at auditions and callbacks.

As of this announcement, there are no planned moments of Stage Intimacy or Stage Violence for this production.

YOUTH ROLES (Includes Annie and Orphans)

Please note: As a standard practice, GRCT does not cast children under the age of 8 in mainstage productions. Children need to be 8 years old by the FIRST REHEARSAL to be eligible for this audition. Regardless of age, please be sure to look carefully at the rehearsal and performance schedule to ensure that your child and your family are fully prepared to take on this rigorous schedule! Not every young actor will thrive with regular late nights and the high expectations of this production.

ANNIE | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 10 - 12

A tough, streetwise urchin who is nevertheless vulnerable when she thinks she might lose what has become most important to her: a newfound "family" who loves her. Although she is at times aggressive or crafty, the audience should never doubt Annie is a friendly and caring child; she will go to any extent to gain the love of a family to which she can belong. A truly confident charming actress with strong vocals who can move well. Tap/jazz training is a plus. *Vocal Range: A3 - G5 (Mezzo - Soprano)*

ORPHANS | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 8-15 TO PLAY AGES 6 - 13

These girls are gritty, neglected, and vulnerable, yet honest and lovable. The actresses portraying these roles must be able to have mischievous fun with each other as well as "sibling-style" fights. Confident actresses who are visually expressive, vocally strong, and good movers will be considered for these roles. Tap/jazz training is a plus. There are 6 named orphans (plus Annie), and we are considering casting a small orphan ensemble, with a final decision coming after callbacks.

Named orphans, from youngest to oldest:

MOLLY - Youngest orphan. Best friends with Annie.

KATE - Shyest orphan who is friends with everyone.

TESSIE - Most emotional – cries or laughs easily.

PEPPER - Tough and bossy. Clashes with Annie.

JULY - Quietest orphan who goes along with the crowd.

DUFFY - Tallest and most mature of the orphans.

ADULT ROLES

OLIVER WARBUCKS | Male | Any Ethnicity | Age: 35 - 55

A billionaire businessman, self-assured and confident. He is a stereotypical "rich man" who is used to the deference of others, issuing orders and expecting them to be fulfilled with the drop of a hat. He is powerful and decisive, as befits his status, yet beneath his gruff exterior lies an unexpected capacity for warmth. It takes the irrepressible optimism of one small orphan girl to remind this self-made titan that the most important things in life are the ones his fortune cannot buy. Strong singer/actor who can move well. *Vocal Range: B3 - Gb5 (Baritone)*

GRACE FARRELL | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 22 - 35

Grace is a loyal, private secretary to Olive Warbucks - mature, calm, cool and "together." She is classy and businesslike when dealing with Miss Hannigan and Warbucks, yet maternal toward Annie. Grace should seem ready with an answer for just about anything. Each dramatic situation should seem to come "under control" the moment she glides into a scene. A warm, confident actress with strong vocals. Ballet training is preferred but not required. *Vocal Range: Bb3 - G5 (Soprano)*

MISS AGATHA HANNIGAN | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 30 - 45

The orphanage matron is definitely a "has-been." Her distaste for her job and the children that are part of it should be obvious in every line she speaks, every song she sings, and every move she makes. She utterly hates children, but is fond of liquor. Very disillusioned, bitter, and cold but quick-witted. Excellent comedic timing and strong vocals are integral to the role. *Vocal Range: A3 - F5 (Alto)*

DANIEL FRANCIS "ROOSTER" HANNIGAN | Male | Any Ethnicity | Age: 25 - 35

Miss Hannigan's no-good brother — flashy, slick, and always angling for a quick buck. He carries himself with the easy confidence of a born con man, and every move he makes should feel like a gambler laying down a winning hand. He and Lily are two of a kind, a double act who feed off each other's energy at every turn. The role calls for a charismatic performer with a natural swagger, confident vocals, and the smooth physicality to match. Dance training is a plus. *Vocal Range: B3 - G5 (Tenor)*

LILY ST. REGIS | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 20 - 35

Rooster's materialistic girlfriend and willing accomplice, Lily is perpetually distracted and reliably last to catch on — unless money enters the conversation, at which point she snaps to attention with impressive speed. She is never the one leading the charge, more often found bringing up the rear and tripping over her own feet. A natural comedic foil to Rooster's slick confidence, the role calls for a performer with a flair for physical comedy and the charm to match. Dance training is a plus. *Vocal Range: B3 - G5 (Soprano)*

FEATURED ENSEMBLE (8-12 actors, ages 16+)

A high-energy cast of singers, actors, and movers to play the following characters. Dance training is a plus but not required.

MANSION STAFF | Any Ethnicity | Age: 20 - 60

From the moment these characters enter the acting area, their presence, posture and speech should suggest the most fastidious of domestic help. Their heads are always held high and they rarely show their emotions. Played by creative performers who can create charming, individual characters.

DRAKE - The English butler.

MRS GREER - The head housekeeper.

MRS PUGH - The cook.

CECILLE & ANNETTE - French maids.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT | Male | Caucasian | Age: 40 - 60

The 32nd President of the United States. A Democrat and friend of Warbucks. *Vocal Range: Eb3 - F4 (Baritone)*

BERT HEALY | Male | Any Ethnicity | Age: 30 - 45

The ultimate radio personality. Head of the Oxydent Hour of Smiles radio show, he helps Annie by broadcasting about the search for her birth parents. A strong, solo-quality singer capable of a vaudeville-style delivery. *Vocal Range: E4 - G5 (Tenor)*

BOYLAN SISTERS: Ronnie, Connie, and Bonnie | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 20 - 30

The enchanting backing group at the Oxydent Hour of Smiles who aid Bert Healy in singing "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile." *Vocal Range: A3 - Gb5 (Soprano)*

STAR-TO-BE - Hopeful and confident actress just arrived in New York City. Iconic solo in “N.Y.C.” *Tap dance training preferred.*

MR. BUNDLES - A laundry man.

LIT. WARD & POLICEMAN - Callous policemen.

DOG CATCHER & ASSISTANT - New York City dog catchers.

JIMMY JOHNSON - “Radio’s Only Masked Announcer;” guest on the Oxydent Hour of Smiles.

FRED MCCRAKEN - Ventriloquist guest on the Oxydent Hour of Smiles.

ROOSEVELT’S CABINET - Brash advisors to the president.

JUSTICE LOUIS BRANDIES - U.S. Supreme Court Justice; called on to aid in Annie’s adoption.

APPLE SELLER - Fruit seller trying to make it through the day.

EDDIE & SOPHIE - Residents of the Hooverville shanty Annie runs off to. Kind but embittered.

OTHER ENSEMBLE CHARACTERS INCLUDE NYC RESIDENTS, ROXY DANCERS, HOOVERVILLE RESIDENTS, and MANSION SERVANTS

ENSEMBLE SWINGS: The team is considering casting at least 2 Ensemble “Swings” who will perform a regular track, but also be prepared to step into other Ensemble Tracks, if necessary. More information on Swings available at Auditions and Callbacks.

ORPHAN DOUBLE CASTING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 19 - 22

THURSDAY (COMMUNITY PREVIEW INVITE-ONLY PERFORMANCE): Hard Knock Cast

FRIDAY: Bottom Dollar Cast

SATURDAY NIGHT: Hard Knock Cast

SUNDAY MATINEE: Bottom Dollar Cast

NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 20

TUESDAY ALT PUT IN REHEARSAL: TBD

WEDNESDAY: Bottom Dollar Cast

THURSDAY: Hard Knock Cast

FRIDAY: Bottom Dollar Cast

SATURDAY MATINEE: Bottom Dollar Cast

SATURDAY NIGHT: Hard Knock Cast

SUNDAY MATINEE: Hard Knock Cast