



OPENING NIGHT
T H E A T E R

CONFIDENCE. COMMUNITY. CHARACTER.

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH's

MARY POPPINS JR.



PROGRAM & AUDITION GUIDE

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**All cast materials, music tracks, &
important links can be found at:**

openingnighttheater.com/poppinsmaterials



WELCOME!

Welcome to the cast of Opening Night Theater's 2022 FALL/WINTER PRODUCTION OF MARY POPPINS JR!

We're so excited to begin working with all of you and can't wait to get started! We hope you're ready for all of the musical theatre magic that's to come.

There's a lot of information here about auditions, our time together, cast materials, and more. As always, please reach out with any questions!

Your ON! Team

Josh, Christian, Nicole

STORY & CHARACTERS

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Welcome to the world of London, England in 1910 — and, specifically, the dysfunctional home of the Banks family. Jane and Michael, the young Banks children, have sent yet another nanny packing, dismissing these children as hopelessly and irrevocably spoiled and misbehaved. With a father who works constantly and mother who is always distracted, Jane and Michael have suffered without strong caretaking forces in their lives. But when the magical Mary Poppins flies in on the wind, she brings whimsy, magic, and disciplined common sense to the children's lives. Mary Poppins' transformational influence does not stop with the children — eventually, she teaches the grown-ups, as well, to open up and realize that “anything can happen if you let it.”

CHARACTERS:

Bert

The narrator of the story, is a good friend to Mary Poppins. An everyman, Bert is a chimney sweep and a sidewalk artist, among many other occupations. With a twinkle in his eye and a skip in his step, Bert watches over the children and the goings-on around Cherry Tree Lane. He is a song-and-dance man with oodles of charm who is wise beyond his years. Cast your strongest male singer, dancer, and actor in this role.

George Banks

Husband to Winifred and father to Jane and Michael, is a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding "precision and order" in his household, he is a pip-and-slippers man who doesn't have much to do with his children and believes that Miss Andrew, his cruel, strict childhood nanny, gave him the perfect upbringing. George's emotional armor, however off-putting, conceals a sensitive soul. A baritone, George may speak-sing as necessary and should be among your strongest male actors and singers.

STORY & CHARACTERS (CONT'D)

Winifred Banks

George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. She is a loving homemaker who is busy trying to live up to her husband's social aspirations while striving to be a model wife and mother. Cast an actor who can portray a great warmth and depth of feeling. Winifred should have a pure vocal tone and be one of your stronger actors and singers.

Jane Banks

The high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness. Cast a wonderful actor and a strong singer who can take the audience on an emotional journey.

Michael Banks

The cheeky son of Mr. and Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty, he adores his father and longs desperately for his attention. Both he and Jane misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents. Michael should be a great actor and singer. Ideally, he reads onstage as younger than Jane.

Mrs. Brill

The housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked, she's always complaining that the house is understaffed. Her intimidating exterior is a cover for the warmth underneath. She does not have to be a strong singer, but she should be a solid actor.

Robertson Ay

The houseboy to the Banks family. Forgetful and clumsy, he often bumbles simple tasks. He doesn't do a lot of singing, but he should be a good comedic actor. Note: his last name is pronounced like "eye."

Mary Poppins

Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange, neat and tidy, delightfully vain yet very particular, and sometimes a little frightening, but she is always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says. The role calls for an excellent singer and actor who should be able to move well. Since she carries a majority of the show, precision and diction are key.

STORY & CHARACTERS (CONT'D)

Bird Woman

The Bird Woman is covered in a patchwork of old shawls, her pockets stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell the crumbs to Passersby, who ignore her as if she doesn't exist. While she should be a good singer, there can be a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the difficulties of her situation.

Chairman

Chairman, the head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed, is an Edwardian stuffed shirt. He does not need to be a strong singer, but he should be a good actor with great stage presence.

Von Hussler

Von Hussler is a businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal. This is a great character role for a fantastic actor who can command the stage with pomposity.

John Northbrook

John Northbrook is an honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory for his community. This is a great role for a good actor and solid singer who may not be ready to tackle a large part.

Mrs. Corry

Mrs. Corry owns a magical Talking Shop. She is a mysterious woman of indeterminate age, but has plenty of spirit and is sharp as a tack. Cast an excellent actor who's not afraid to be over the top in this fun role.

Miss Andrew

Miss Andrew is George's overbearing and scary childhood nanny. With her bottle of nasty-tasting brimstone and treacle to keep naughty children in line, she is a bully who only knows one way of doing things: her way. Cast one of your stronger singers in this featured role.

Neleus

Neleus is a statue who, once brought to life by Mary Poppins, is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. This role is a wonderful opportunity to feature one of the strong dancers in your ensemble.

Ensemble Groups & Featured Roles

All ensembles require group singing; Ensemble & Featured Characters include:

Katie Nanna, Park Strollers, Statues, Neleus, Bird Woman, Honeybees, Clerks, Miss Smythe, Chariman, Von Hussler, John Northbrook, Vagrants, Buskers, Passerby, Mrs. Corry, Customers, Miss Andrew, Kite Flyers, Chimney Sweeps, Policeman and the Messenger.

SCHEDULE & MATERIALS

Program Schedule

**Saturday, 9/24 - 10am - 1pm
(Auditions & First Rehearsal)**

Saturday, 10/1 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 10/15 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 10/22 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 10/29 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 11/5 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 11/12 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 11/19 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 11/26 - 10am - 1pm

***Tuesday, 11/29 - 4pm-7pm**

***Tuesday, 12/6 - 4pm-7pm**

Saturday, 12/10 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 12/31 - 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 1/7 - 10am - 1pm

***Tuesday, 1/10 - 4pm-7pm**

***Friday, 1/13 - 4pm - 7pm @ Barnsdall Gallery Theatre**

**Saturday, 1/14 - Show Day @ Barnsdall Gallery Theatre:
11am Cast Call Time - Performances at 1pm & 5pm**

WHAT TO BRING EACH REHEARSAL DAY:

- **Water bottle**
- **Snack**
- **Comfortable/closed-toe shoes**
- **Script binder!**

Scripts can be downloaded on our cast materials page. If you do not have access to a printer, we will have hard copies on the first program day. We recommend that everyone have a binder for their script materials!



FAQ

WILL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO AUDITION FOR YOUR PROGRAMS?

If they've registered, they're guaranteed a spot in our cast! Auditions are only to determine where everyone is placed. Auditions, confidence, and comfort level will help us during this process. But don't worry, every role matters, and everyone will have their moment to shine. Roles are typically assigned between audition day and the next scheduled rehearsal.

We've found it to be incredibly beneficial, both for the directors and the cast members, to have participants of all ages working together on a production. It gives the older kids a sense of leadership and responsibility, while the younger ones look up to them. They have so much to learn from each other.

ARE YOUR PARTICIPANTS SEPARATED BY GRADE/AGE DURING REHEARSALS?

WHAT TYPE OF TRAINING DO YOUR STAFF RECEIVE?

Our staff have received training in a wide range of creative fields, from dance, to playwriting, education, and more. All of our directors have in-classroom experience. Our core staff are also certified in CPR and First Aid.

We continue to monitor and follow the most current guidance per the CDC, LA County, and LAUSD (where applicable) and will update accordingly. Masks are currently optional but strongly encouraged during program days. All three of our ON! directors are fully vaccinated, and we currently require masks for our in-person audiences as well.

HOW ARE YOU HANDLING COVID/HEALTH SAFETY?

HOW WILL MY CHILD GET TO REHEARSAL?

For our GALA-only program, we are going to be sending out a sign-up sheet for parent volunteers to accompany our performers walking from campus to the Ebell.

CAST CONTRACT

Before we begin the session, we'd like our performers and crew members to read through our contract with a parent/guardian. We intend to make this a fulfilling, fun experience in musical theatre.

To read and sign off on our ON! Theater cast contract, please visit the link below or scan the QR:

openingnighttheater.com/castcontract





AUDITIONS & SURVEY

Auditions for cast participants will be held on our first program day. Performers will have time on the first day to review and practice the materials before auditioning.

Please prepare (ONE) of the included monologues AND (ONE) of the included song excerpts. Monologues and songs should be performed solo. Audition songs should also be sung acapella (without music).

We want this process to be as fun and stress free as possible. Every single role matters, and everyone will have a lot to do in the show. Just do your best!

You can tell us a bit about yourself prior to auditioning at openingnighttheater.com/castcontract.

For crew participants, please share your areas of interest at the link above.

We can't wait to meet you!

AUDITION MONOLOGUES

Mr. Banks:

Winefred, where are the children? What do you mean you don't know? You say you've looked everywhere for them? Very well, I shall deal with this at once. Give me the police station, quickly please. This is George Banks at number 17 Cherry Tree lane. It's a matter of some urgency. I should like to see a policeman around immediately. A policeman's here? Well, what wonderful service. Thank you & Goodnight

Mrs. Banks:

George, I'm glad you're home! There's something I'd like to discuss with you. It's about the children. They're missing. Katie Nana has looked everywhere. I'm awfully sorry about this, George. I suppose you'll want to discuss it. When I chose Katie Nana I thought that she would be firm with the children. I'll try to do better next time. Unless, of course, you hire the next Nanny. Oh, would you George. I'd be so grateful!

Mary Poppins:

Good morning. I've come in answer to the advertisement. George and Winefred Banks live here, do they not? And you are looking for a nanny? Very well, then. Now let's see. "Play games all sorts". Which I most certainly can. "Take us on outings give us treats", "rosy cheeks and fairly pretty". There's no objection on that score, I hope. *(Waits for a response)* I'm glad to hear it. I believe a trial period might be wise. I'll give you one week. I should know by then! I'll see the children now.

AUDITION MONOLOGUES (CONT'D)

Bert:

Wait! Stop! Don't move a muscle. I'd know that smile anywhere. Mary Poppins! And you two, I've seen you about; chasing a kite last time, I believe. Where did you say she was taking you? To the park? Hmm? Not if I know Mary Poppins. Other Nannies take children to the park, but when you're with Mary Poppins, suddenly you're in places you've never dreamed of. Well, of course it aint for me to say, but what she's probably got in mind is a jolly holiday somewhere. Some place different, where you've never been before!

Jane/Michael:

Good morning, father. We had the most wonderful day yesterday! Mary Poppins taught us how to play, "Tidy Up." The toys came to life and did all the work, spit spot, we hardly had to do a thing. And then Mary Poppins made us play "A Walk in the Park" in the park. And the statues came to life--And the sky turned purple--And we danced with street artists. Oh, I wonder what games we're going to play today?!

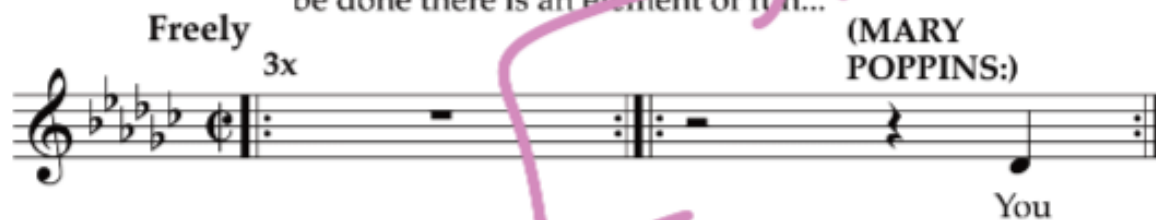
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A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR

(MARY POPPINS:) In every job that must
be done there is an element of fun...



(MARY POPPINS hands JANE and MICHAEL
each a broom, and they begin to sweep.)

Rall. ten. ten.

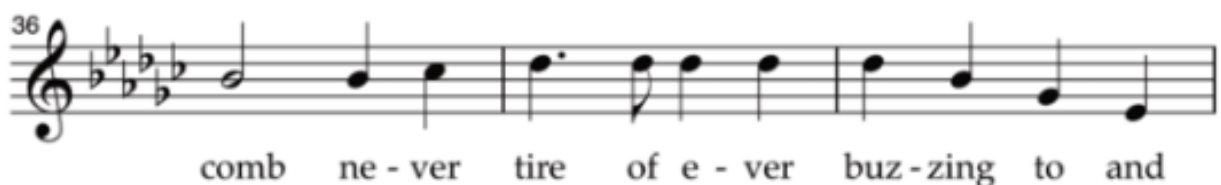
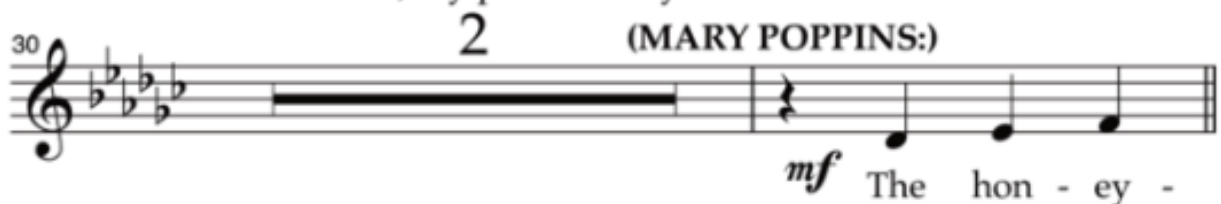




(A group of HONEYBEES enters.)

HONEYBEES: Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz!

MARY POPPINS: Oh, my point exactly.



SUPERCALIFRAGILISTIC- EXPIALIDOCIOUS

MICHAEL: That's not a word.

MARY POPPINS: Of course it's a word
And unless I'm very much mistaken,
I think it's a rather useful one.

(MARY POPPINS:)
(vocal second time only)

Vivace **3**

When

5

try - ing to ex - press one - self it's frank - ly quite ab -

8

surd to leaf through leng - thy lex - i - cons to

11

find the per - fect word. A lit - tle spon - tan -

14

e - it - y keeps con - vers - a - tion keen. You

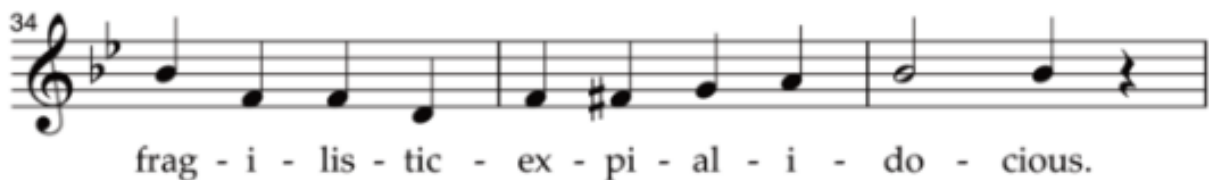
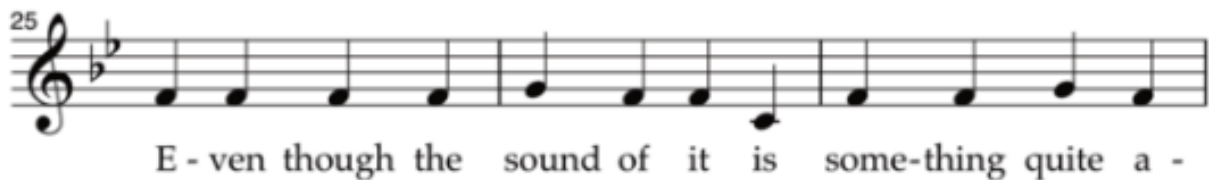
Colla voce **Rit.**

17

need to find a way to say pre - cise - ly what you mean.

21 **Steady - In 2**

Su - per - cal - i - frag - i - lis - tic - ex - pi - al - i - do - cious!



END

JOLLY HOLIDAY

Start

Freely

(BERT:)



mp

All that it takes is a spark, then



some-thing as plain as a park be - comes a won-der-land

(BERT moves into the park with MARY POPPINS. JANE and MICHAEL follow. PARK STROLLERS meander.)



All you 'ave to do ____ is look a - new.

Rall.



Then you'll un - der - stand ____ why...

Tempo



It's a jol - ly 'ol - i - day with Ma - ry

MARY POPPINS: Oh really!



Ma - ry makes yer 'eart so light!



When the day is gray and or - di - nar - y

MARY POPPINS: You
do talk nonsense, Bert.



Ma - ry makes the sun shine bright! Oh,



'ap - pi-ness is bloom - ing all a - round 'er The

MARY POPPINS: I haven't
the faintest idea what—



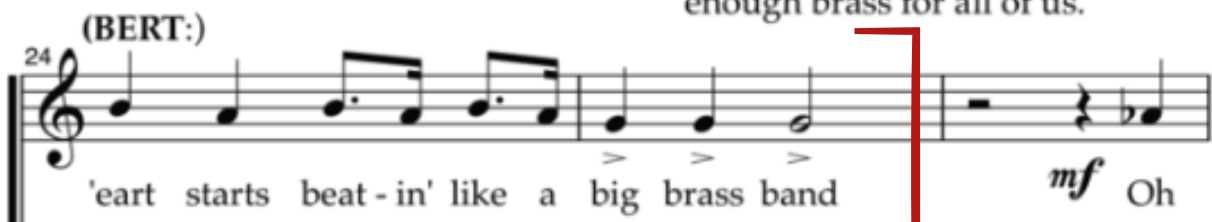
daf - fo-dils are smil - in' at the dove When

Più mosso



Ma - ry 'olds your 'and you feel so grand your

MARY POPPINS: You've
enough brass for all of us.



(BERT:)
'eart starts beat - in' like a big brass band

mf Oh

A MAN HAS DREAMS

(MARY POPPINS exits with JANE and MICHAEL as VON HUSSLER enters.)

GEORGE: Mr. Von Hussler, I've considered your arguments, but I'm afraid my answer is no.

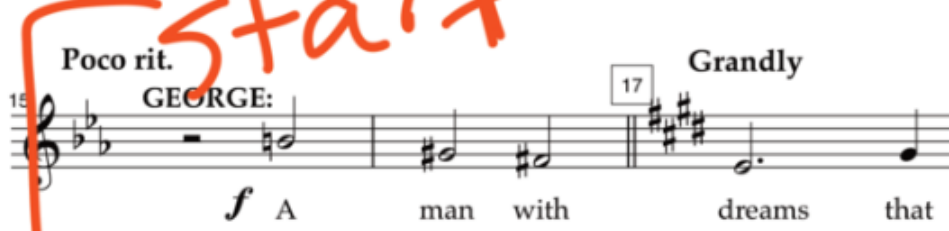
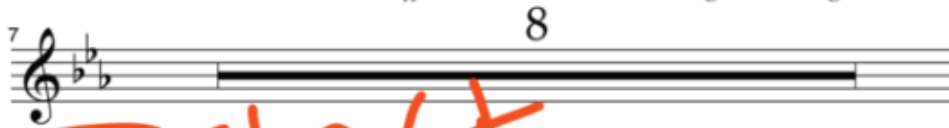
VON HUSSLER: So you don't recognize a good idea?



GEORGE: Perhaps not, but I recognize a good man when I see one.

VON HUSSLER: You will regret this, Herr Banks.

(VON HUSSLER leaves in a huff. GEORGE watches him go, thinking aloud.)



(NORTHBROOK enters. GEORGE turns around and extends his hand.)

(GEORGE:) Now, Mr. Northbrook, when exactly could the new factory open?

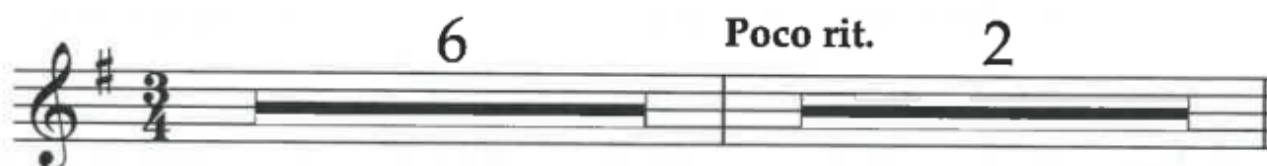
NORTHBROOK: (shaking GEORGE's hand) Thank you, sir! You won't regret this!



END

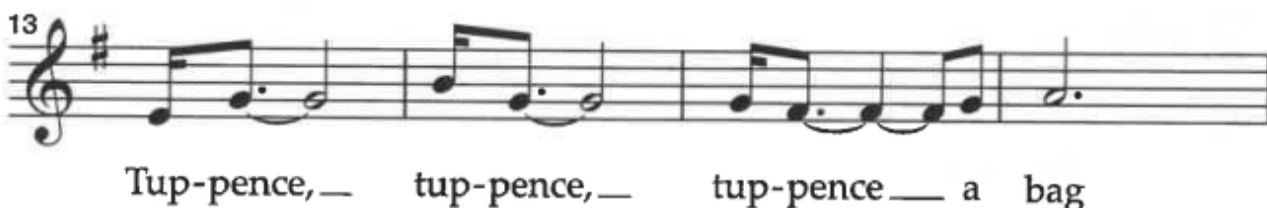
FEED THE BIRDS

(VAGRANTS and BUSKERS enter, forming an ensemble. MARY POPPINS, JANE, and MICHAEL enter. An old BIRD WOMAN proffers seed to them.)



Meno mosso

9 **BIRD WOMAN:**



MICHAEL: There's that horrible old woman!

MARY POPPINS: Don't point. And for your information, she is not in the least horrible.

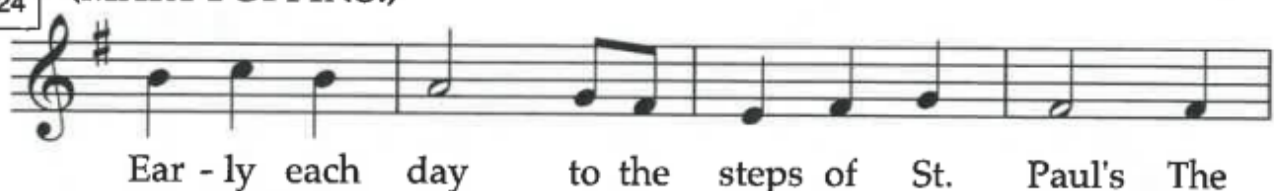
JANE: But she's just a bundle of rags!

MARY POPPINS: When will you learn to look past what you see?



Più mosso

24 **(MARY POPPINS:)**



28

lit - tle old bird wom - an comes. _____ In her

32

own spe - cial way to the peo - ple she calls

BIRD WOMAN:

36

Come buy my bags full of crumbs _____

40

mf Come feed the lit-tle birds Show them you care

44

And you'll be glad if you do _____ Their

48

young ones are hun - gry Their nests are so bare All it

52

takes is tup-pence _____ from you _____

Rit.

Rall.