



Audition Notice

Key dates

Workshop: Thursday 7 November, 7pm

Auditions: Tuesday 26 November, Wednesday 27 November and Thursday 28 November

Recalls: Saturday 30 November

Rehearsal dates: one or two before Christmas based on availability, Tuesday and Thursday evening and Saturday daytime after Christmas

Sitz probe / tech rehearsal: Sunday 23 Feb

Dress rehearsal: Monday 24 Feb

Performances: 25 -29 February

About the show

This show is both a parody and loving homage to the genre of musicals. It is the same basic plot, with the same archetypal characters, (re)played five times over, with the plot twists, turns and outcome to be exactly how they would be in the style of show they are following.

The variations are (from Samuel French): “a Rodgers & Hammerstein version, set in Kansas in August, complete with a dream ballet; a Sondheim version, featuring the landlord as a tortured artistic genius who slashes the throats of his tenants in revenge for not appreciating his work; a Jerry Herman version, as a splashy star vehicle; an Andrew Lloyd Webber version, a rock musical with themes borrowed from Puccini; and a Kander & Ebb version, set in a speakeasy in Chicago.” This show not only has a lot of in-jokes for musical theatre nerds, but has broad enough appeal to amuse those who don’t like musicals too!

The cast technically only requires four performers, two male and two female, in this production we are adding two additional “generic ensemble” performers to make a cast of six. The only accompanist is from an onstage grand piano.

The show is a “done in one”, that is one act with no interval, a running time of approximately 90 minutes and is almost entirely sung with very short dialogue scenes linking the songs.

There is the possibility this show will be performed acoustically so this may influence casting decisions. It is high-energy show for performers with good stamina, they barely leave the stage. It is a singers and character actors show for the main four and improv and comic timing for the additional two performers.

The soundtrack is not easy to come by, but you can listen to clips on the Samuel French website (<https://www.samuelfrench.co.uk/p/2153/musical-of-musicals/>).

The cast

Jitter – the landlord / villain

Characters to be inspired by: Judd from Oklahoma (Corn!), Sweeney Todd from Sweeney Todd (A Little Complex), Dwight Babcock from Mame (Dear Abby), The Phantom from Phantom of the Opera (Aspects of Junita) and Emcee from Cabaret (Speakeasy)

Billy – the hero / male romantic lead

Characters to be inspired by: Curly from Oklahoma (Corn!), Billy from Company (A Little Complex), Patrick from Mame (Dear Abby), Judas from Jesus Christ Superstar (Aspects of Junita) and Luis from Kiss of the Spiderwoman (Speakeasy)

June – the ingenue / female romantic lead

Characters to be inspired by: Laurey from Oklahoma (Corn!), Cinderella from Into The Woods (A Little Complex), Ermengarde from Hello Dolly (Dear Abby), Evita from Evita (Aspects of Junita) and Sally from Cabaret (Speakeasy)

Abby – the matron / the “character” part

Characters to be inspired by: Mother Abbess from The Sound of Music (Corn!), Joanne from Company (A Little Complex), Dolly from Hello Dolly (Dear Abby), Norma from Sunset Boulevard (Aspects of Junita) and Matron “Mama” Morton from Chicago (Speakeasy)

Ensemble

Ensemble numbers to be inspired by: Oklahoma! (Corn!), The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (A Little Complex), Hello Dolly (Dear Abby), Go, Go, Go Joseph (Aspects of Junita) and Cell Block Tango (Speakeasy) and One from Chorus Line for the final number (Done!)

Workshop

There will be a pre-audition workshop where you can come find out more about the show, meet the production team and hopefully get answers to any questions you have about both this production and being in a Sedos show.

You do not have to attend the workshop in order to audition.

The workshop will be on Thursday 7 November, 7-9pm at 1 Brewers Hall Gardens (BHG), EC2V 5DX

Sign up to let us know you plan to attend at membership.sedos.co.uk

Auditions and recalls

Auditions: Tuesday 26 November, Wednesday 27 November and Thursday 28 November

Recalls: Saturday 30 November

Auditions and recalls will be held at 1 Brewers Hall Gardens (BHG), EC2V 5DX

Auditions will be held as individual audition slots which we expect to last about 10 minutes. The auditions are divided up into 30-minute slots from 7-9:30pm, with three audition spaces available per slot.

Sign up to audition at membership.sedos.co.uk. Audition slots are free for Sedos members and £5 for non-members.

If you are auditioning for the Principal Characters (Jitter, Billy, June, Abby): please prepare a song that is from “legit” music theatre – ideally from one Rodgers & Hammerstein, Sondheim, Herman, Lloyd Webber or Kander & Ebb. Gentlemen: one Jitter reading and one Billy reading from the selected pieces and Ladies: one June and one Abby reading. You may not be asked to do both.

If you are auditioning for the Ensemble: please prepare a nursery rhyme that you are prepared to “ham up” and take direction on, as well as a reading for Jitter or Billy for gentlemen and June or Abby for the ladies.

Audition pieces will be provided via email in advance of your audition.

Please note: a familiarity with all of the aforementioned theatre styles will be advantageous in auditions.

The production team

Producer: Clare Harding

Clare has produced numerous shows for Sedos, most recently Dangerous Liaisons (2019) and Lucky Stiff. She is a queen of sewing and construction, having produced a ridiculous volume of costumes and props for Sedos.

Director: Emma J Leaver

This will be Emma's fourth time directing for Sedos, previously The Drowsy Chaperone (2017), I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (2016) and In Cahoots (2014). Emma has also stage managed and assistant directed a number of shows, primarily for Sedos and Centre Stage and occasionally performs, recently seen in the ensemble for Next Thing You Know (2019) and with Improv.

Musical Director

We are still confirming an MD for this show – they will be very much be part of the show, playing onstage from the piano for each performance.

Other Information

- Fees and membership: Sedos is one of London's premier amateur theatre societies with the aim of producing quality amateur theatre to the best artistic quality possible. In the nature of amateur theatre performers are not paid – not even expenses. To perform in The Musical of Musicals: The Musical! you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £35 per year, £30 if paid by Direct Debit) and pay a participation fee of £40. There is a £5 audition fee non-refundable fee for non-Sedos members.
- Age restrictions: All persons auditioning must be 18 years or older
- A Note on Diversity: We encourage diversity and encourage auditionees from all ethnicities.
- Location: Workshop, Auditions, recalls and rehearsals will all be held at Sedos HQ, 1 Brewers' Hall Garden (BHG), London EC2V 5DX.
- Involvement in other Sedos productions : given there may be overlap of rehearsal and performance dates you may not be able to participate in Ophelia Thinks Harder.
- If you have any further questions please email musicalofmusicals@sedos.co.uk