

VICTOR VICTORIA

Book by Blake Edwards
Music by Henry Mancini & Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse
Additional Music by Frank Wildhorn

Originally produced on Broadway by
Blake Edwards, Tony Adams, John Scher,
Endemol Theatre Productions, Inc.,
Polygram Broadway Ventures, Inc.

Based on the theatrical motion picture owned and
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Audition notice

26th November – 6th December, Bridewell Theatre

Director: Angus Jacobs
Musical Director: Matt Gould
Producer: Clare Harding
Assistant Director: Alex Magliaro
Stage Manager: Laura Graham - Matheson
Choreographers: Angus Jacobs & Gayle Bryans

To book an audition slot or register for the workshop please e-mail: victorvictoria.sedos@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION – A Word from the Director

Having recently directed and co-choreographed Sedos' successful production of Hot Mikado, I couldn't resist the challenge of bringing Victor/Victoria to the Bridewell Theatre. ***Victor/Victoria*** is a musical comedy based on the 1982 film of the same name, which starred Julie Andrews in the lead role and features the iconic song "Le jazz hot". The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won the Oscar for best Original Music Score. It was adapted in 1995 as a Broadway musical, where Julie Andrews reprised the lead role receiving a Tony nomination.

Vision

With the familiar sights of Paris, its boulevards, and café culture we will aim to create an 'open but intimately authentic' setting for this production, pulling on the heart strings with the poignant moments, and lifting the spirits with the camp frivolity that the clubs of the time evoked. Small period touches to the time will feature throughout – from set to costumes.

Synopsis of the story

Set in Paris in 1934, a penniless singer (Victoria Grant) colludes with a struggling nightclub singer to disguise herself as a man "Victor", to entertain as a female impersonator "Victoria" - and as a result becomes the toast of Paris. Complications arise when a macho Chicago businessman/gangster sees the act and finds himself attracted to the star. Much hilarity ensues until "Victor" confesses 'he' is not a he and they fall in love.

Not just a 'song & dance'

This is a character driven show with many different and varied parts. There are non-singing, non-dancing roles, serious roles, plus some comedic parts and everything in between. It is a fun, story driven show with truly something for everyone.

The lead role is a gift of a part for any actress and she has one of the most iconic songs in musical theatre "Le Jazz Hot". The production numbers will be dramatic and offer challenging and interesting choreography.

Please note: not all the cast **have** to dance, but they will be required to show their 'movement skills'.

There are many great actors/singers/dancers in central London and I want to showcase their talent - there is certainly something for everyone.

Angus

Director

The creative team

Director: Angus Jacobs

Angus has been a member of Sedos since 1997, with roles in Slice of Saturday night, Hot Mikado and Cabaret (amongst others) before taking a break to study at Guildford School of Acting (GSA). After various professional roles, he returned to Sedos as choreographer for City of Angels, and later played the Baron in Grand Hotel. He created two successful cabarets for Sedos 'Red Hot and Black' and 'Too Darn Hot' and most recently directed and co-choreographed Hot Mikado.

Musical Director: Matt Gould

Matt's musical director credits for Sedos include Grand Hotel, Parade, My Favorite Year, Rent and Hair. Other MD credits include Merrily We Roll Along, Into the Woods, Sweeney Todd, Company, Jesus Christ Superstar, Anything Goes and Cabaret. Matt also directs for Sedos - credits include Hapgood, Arcadia, House and Garden, A Man of No Importance and most recently Into the Woods.

Assistant Director: Alex Magliaro

Alex Magliaro joined Sedos in September 2012 as part of the Guys and Dolls cast. He subsequently played Andy Fastow in the 2013 summer festival production of Enron. Most recently he played Joe Pendleton in Sedos's production of Heaven Can Wait.

Producer: Clare Harding

Clare has been a member of Sedos since January 2012 and in that time has taken on a number of production roles including Costume Assistant, Stage Manager, Lighting and Sound Operator and for Enron and In Cahoots Producer. Before Sedos she produced two musicals whilst at University – South Pacific and Honk! and Stage Managed for Putney Arts Theatre.

Choreographer: Gayle Bryans

Gayle has nearly 30 years of experience as a musical theatre performer. Principal roles with Sedos include Miss Adelaide (Guys and Dolls), Mallory/Avril (City of Angels) and April (Company). For Sedos she choreographed Grand Hotel, My Favorite Year, The Wild Party, Into the Woods, co-choreographed Too Darn Hot and recreated the original choreography for Eurosedos 2005 and 2007.

Key dates

Workshop (optional):	Tuesday July 22nd – 7-9pm
Auditions:	Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th – 6.30-9:30pm
	Saturday 16th August – 10.30am-6:30pm

Recalls:	Sunday 17th August – 1pm onwards
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All will take place at 1 Brewers Hall Garden, EC2V 5BX

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday daytimes three times in the month, the alternate being held on the Sunday. Our intention is not to run double weekend rehearsals. Rehearsals are scheduled to commence on Saturday 6th September and will be held in central London, venue to be confirmed.

Performances - Wednesday 26th November–Saturday 6th December.

The performances take place at the Bridewell Theatre (Bride Lane, Fleet St, London EC4Y 8EQ), where Sedos is the resident theatre company, at 7.30pm every night (excluding November 30th and December 1st), plus 2.30pm Saturday matinees.

Please ensure that you keep the entire weekend of 22nd/23rd November free as this will include final rehearsals, band-call, get-in etc etc.

Workshop and Audition format

Workshop – July 22nd 7-9pm

The workshop will be an opportunity to learn more about the musical, the roles and the audition process. There will be opportunities to read and act out extracts of the script and sing through some of the numbers! No preparation is required and attendance is strictly optional.

If you are planning on attending the workshop, please e-mail victorvictoria.sedos@gmail.com so we have an idea of numbers.

Audition format & dates

All first round auditions will be solo and conducted in front of the audition panel and Sedos committee liaison (non-decision making) only.

- **Character auditions:**
 - All character roles (excluding Victor/Victoria & Norma) - Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th of August
 - Half hourly slots from 6:30-7pm to 9-9:30pm
- **Victor/Victoria, Norma & Dancer auditions:** Saturday 16th August – All dancers (male & female)
 - Group 1: 10am – 2:30pm (10am – noon Dance, 12:30-2:30pm individual slots)
 - Group 2: 2:30-6:30pm (2:30-4:30pm Dance, 4:30-6:30pm individual slots)

Character Auditions (including Victor/Victoria & Norma) you will be asked to:

1. Sing a song (please bring piano sheet music). We won't have the capacity to play backing tracks.

Note: We acknowledge that not everyone knows Victor/Victoria and we would like to hear you at your best. If you have time to prepare a song from the show - please do. Please see the cast breakdown for songs allocated to the various parts. If not, please try and pick something suitable either for the role that you are auditioning for or that demonstrates knowledge of the style – but the most important thing is to show us what you can do!

For Victor/Victoria Grant, Toddy, King Marchan and Norma you will be required to sing a specific song from the show – details with the character descriptions below.

2. Read a short section of dialogue for your chosen character.

Victor/Victoria, Norma & Dancer auditions: You will be asked to:

1. Sing a song - as above for 'character' audition.

2. Dance – There will be two elements to this audition

- a. A short extract from a number in the show. Please bring appropriate clothing and ladies bring your character heels.
- b. Tap (optional) – please bring your tap shoes. If you can't tap but would like to 'soft shoe shuffle' that is also acceptable. We would love to see you try.

On registration, you will be provided with access details to get the songs & dialogue for your character.

Please note: that while you are welcome to register an interest in several roles, we may only have time to hear you read for one at the initial audition. We may also only have time to hear part of the song, so don't be put off if you are stopped partway through — this is not a reflection on your performance.

Please register early - auditionees will be seen in order of registration ie. on a first-come first-served basis. So the sooner you register the less time you will have to wait for your slot. If there are times you cannot make please notify us when you register.

s – August 17th

Recalls will be held in “workshop” format – where everyone will audition together for scenes, looking at various combinations of characters, although solo songs will be heard individually. Please be prepared to stay all afternoon - but we will aim to finish as soon as we can. It is impossible to give you an indication, as we don't know how many people we will have. However, we will make a 'cut' when we have seen what we need to see, to avoid people staying longer than is necessary. **Please note: this will not mean you've not been successful**. It just means we have seen enough for us to make a decision. You will be provided with material to look at ahead of the recalls although we recognise that there isn't long to learn parts and this will be taken into consideration.

Auditions and recalls will be held at 1 Brewers Hall Garden, EC2V 5BX

Booking an audition - IMPORTANT

To book an audition, please email victorvictoria.sedos@gmail.com including the following information:

- What part(s) you are interested in. If “any”, please say “any”!
- Whether you can tap/'soft shoe shuffle'
- Any times you cannot make

If you cannot make the audition date, please get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate you. You will then receive an email with your allocated audition slot and access to retrieve the character dialogue and songs.

Notification

We will aim to inform you as quickly as possible after the auditions whether you have been recalled/cast. Our aim is to contact everyone individually, in the format you stipulate on your audition form. In the event that you are unsuccessful, we will be very willing to provide feedback when time permits.

Other show restrictions

Victor/Victoria is the final show in Sedos's season, and we don't envisage there will be a cross over in rehearsal times with other Sedos shows. However, if this does occur - please indicate when you register to audition for *Victor/Victoria* that you are also auditioning for or are already cast in another show, this also applies for shows with other companies where there may be a crossover.

Full details of the other shows and their auditions on the Sedos website, sedos.co.uk.

A note about accents

We intend to stage the show with American accents (the exception of course being Victoria Grant - who is quintessentially British) and if you can do one, we would love to hear it at auditions. However, please do not jeopardise your performance by concentrating on the accent to the detriment of your acting and singing. We will be holding accent coaching sessions during the rehearsal period.

What part should you go for? - Cast breakdown

Potential cast of 22 - This is actually a character driven show, so strong acting required for all vocal parts. It is also a great show for ensemble, with some great cameo acting parts available and of course there are the big dance numbers where we will be looking for strong dancers with good harmony singing skills.

Named vocal parts:

Victor/Victoria Grant

vocal range: Eb below middle C - Top F, must be very comfortable singing lyrically in the range Eb below middle C to Eb above middle C (i.e. a strong alto, but with a proper lyric soprano)

playing age: *Open*

A struggling British singer desperate for success. She meets Toddy when she is down at heel and there is an instant bond. Having got the better of Toddy's young wayward (closeted lover), Toddy convinces her to become Victor (A Polish aristocrat female impersonator). A strong actress required, who can pass off both characters of Victor and Victoria. She needs to be strong but also needs to show her vulnerability. The ability to dance would be an advantage but not essential.

Key song(s): "If I were a man", "Le Jazz Hot", "Louis Says", "Crazy World" & "Living in the shadows" amongst others.

Audition Song(s): "Living in the Shadows" or "Le Jazz Hot" for first round auditions, both for recalls - and you will need to be able to demonstrate the "shattering note"!

Toddy (Carroll Todd)

vocal range: Baritone, B to Eb above middle C

playing age: *Open but preferably older and worldly*

The warm & generous cabaret singer at the club Chez Lui. It's his bright idea to turn Victoria into Victor. Proudly gay, and willing to flaunt it and provoke outrage. Has great wit and comic timing. Great character part – dancing not essential, but the ability to 'tap/soft shoe shuffle' would be an advantage.

Key song(s): "Paris by night", "Trust me", "You and Me"

Audition Song(s): "Paris by night"

King Marchan

vocal range: Tenor/Baritone, A to F

playing age: *Open*

Classic leading man role. Strong, macho nightclub owner/gangster from Chicago, maybe slightly homophobic who eventually faces the questioning of his sexuality.

Key song(s): "King's dilemma", "Almost a love song"

Audition Song(s): “King’s dilemma”

Norma Cassidy

vocal range: Traditional belt, Bb to Eb

playing age: *Open*

King’s ditzzy blonde cabaret performer/girlfriend. Great comedic/character part who must be able to sing and dance (tap skills a benefit).

Key song(s): “Paris makes me horny” & “Chicago Illinois”

Audition Song(s): Chicago Illinois

Squash Bernstein

vocal range: Must be able to hit a Top G

playing age: *Open*

King’s Bodyguard – the strong silent type (with a hidden ‘softer’ side). Sings one very high note in Victor/Victoria (*Top G*)

Key song(s): “Victor/Victoria”

Plus:

- **Flower seller** - sings ‘Paris by night’ in Act 2, and will feature in the opening sequence, preferably female
- **Jazz singer at Cassell’s** – sings the opening to ‘Le Jazz Hot’. Could be male or female.

Named Acting Parts:

Richard Di Nardo - playing age: *Open – late 20’s/early 30’s but must appear younger than Toddy*
Toddy’s young handsome former lover. An arrogant, shallow, narcissistic user – still in the closet.

Henri Labisse- playing age: *Mid to late 30’s+*

Proprietor of ‘backstreet club’ Chez Lui – slightly shabby and unsophisticated. Hard done by and bitterly jealous of other’s success. Ability to deliver in a ‘comedy’ French accent would be an advantage but not essential.

Andre Cassell - playing age: *Mid 30’s+*

Agent/producer & successful nightclub owner. Having a successful club is all that matters to him. Oblivious to Miss Selmer (or is he?).

Simone Kallisto - playing age: *Mid 30’s +*

‘Faded’ actress – bitter & twisted. Was extremely successful in her day, but whose style is slightly dated though still glamorous. ‘Friend’ or cougar of Richard Di Nardo.... a comedy French accent would be an advantage but not essential.

Miss Selmer - playing age: *Open*

Cassell’s overly protective, direct and extremely officious personal secretary. No one gets passed her. She controls everything at Cassell’s, secretly in love with him but totally overlooked.

Madame Roget – preferred age 40+

Tired and ‘crotchety’ comedy cleaner. No lines but needs to be a ‘physical’ actress, due to the moments in the script.

Ensemble & character parts include:

- Sal – King Marchan’s businessman/gangster partner
- Juke & Clam – Sal’s ‘heavies’
- Cosmetics president
- Gregor - Waiter
- Choreographer

Plus various other smaller acting parts (male and female with wide age ranges required), plus 4 male/4 female dancers (could be more) for the big production numbers. These can cross over but not necessarily – there is great scope to have a wider and varied cast.

Dancers (potentially 8-10):

We are looking for enthusiastic dancers, and a 50:50 split male/female. Performing in the following numbers:

1. Paris by night - opening scene setting, which sets the tone of the show, some partner work
2. Le jazz hot – large production number, featuring ‘Victor’
3. The Tango – opportunity for a featured ‘pas de deux’ tango
4. Louis Says – large ‘over the top’ production number with ‘Victor’ as Marie-Antoinette
5. Apache – character dance
6. Paris by night - reprise
7. Chicago Illinois – girls only set in a Chicago speakeasy (potentially tap) and a kick line
8. Finale – ‘Victor/Victoria’

SYNOPSIS

Set in 1934 Paris, Toddy, a performer at Chez Lui in Paris, sees Labisse, the club owner, auditioning a struggling singer, Victoria Grant. After her ‘classical’ audition, Labisse writes her off, and she responds by sustaining such a high note, the pitch shatters his wine glass. That night, Richard (Toddy’s gay lover) comes to Chez Lui as part of a straight foursome and Toddy incites a brawl by insulting Richard and the women in his group. Labisse fires Toddy and bans him from the club.

Toddy later spots Victoria sheltering from the rain and he invites her into the warmth of his apartment. The next morning Richard shows up to collect his things. Victoria, who is wearing his pajamas thinks that Richard might harm Toddy, she gets angry, and literally throws him out. Witnessing this, Toddy is struck with the inspiration of passing Victoria off as a man (the illusion convinced Richard) and presenting her to Andre Cassell, the most successful agent in Paris, as a female impersonator.

Cassell accepts her as Count Victor Grazinski, a gay Polish female impersonator and Toddy's new boyfriend. Cassell gets her a nightclub show and invites a collection of club owners to the opening, including King Marchan, an owner of multiple clubs in Chicago, who is in league with the mob. King attends with his ditzy moll Norma Cassidy and burly bodyguard Bernstein aka Squash. Victor is a hit, and King is smitten, but devastated and incredulous when she is "revealed" as a man at the end of her act. King is convinced that "Victor" is not a man.

After a quarrel with Norma and his subsequent failure with her later that night, King sends her back to America. Determined to get the truth of Victor's gender, King sneaks into Victoria and Toddy's. Labisse is also intrigued by this new ‘star’ and is suspicious of his origins and is intent on finding the truth and also sneaks into Victor’s apartment – and finds the dress that Victoria wore to her disastrous classical audition.

King invites Victoria, Toddy, and Cassell to Chez Lui, where Labisse attempts to expose Victor as a fraud. Another fight breaks out with exactly the same foursome as before; Squash and Toddy are arrested with the bulk of the club clientele, but King and Victoria escape. King kisses Victoria not

caring about Victoria's gender ("I don't care if you are a man!"), to which Victoria responds ("I'm not a man!") leading them to get together.

Squash returns to the suite and catches King with Victoria in bed. King tries to explain, but soon receives a shocker himself - Squash reveals himself to be gay. Meanwhile, Labisse hires a P.I., Charles Bovin, to investigate Victor. Victoria and King live together for a while, but keeping up the public act of Victoria being a man strains the relationship and King ends it. Back in Chicago, Norma tells King's club partner Sal Andretti, that King is having an affair with Victor.

At the same time that Victoria has decided to give up the persona of Victor in order to be with King, Sal arrives and demands that King transfer his share of the empire to Sal for a small portion of its worth. Squash tells Victoria what's happening, and she interrupts the paperwork signing to show Norma that she is really a woman, and prevent King from having to lose his stake. That night at the club Cassell tells Toddy and Victoria that Labisse has lodged a complaint against him and "Victor" for perpetrating a fraud. The Inspector confirms to Labisse that the performer is a man and Labisse is an idiot.

In the end, Victoria joins King in the club as her real self. King is stunned, as moments earlier, the announcer had said that Victor is going to perform. It is revealed that Toddy is masquerading as Victor. After an intentionally disastrous, but hilarious performance, Toddy claims that this is his last performance. The film ends with King, Squash, Victoria, Cassell and the public applauding enthusiastically.

Backstage Help

Behind the scenes more your thing? We are always looking for good people willing to help backstage. If you are interested in helping out backstage in any capacity (from stage crew to building scenery to sewing costumes to providing front of house assistance) then please let Clare know by e-mailing victorvictoria.sedos@gmail.com We would be delighted to hear from you!

Being part of the band

If you are interested in being part of the band, please email: matt@mjgould.co.uk

Sedos: audition, participation and membership fees

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality amateur shows to the best artistic quality possible. Please note that performers are not paid — not even expenses. To perform in *Victor/Victoria* you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £40. There is a £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members. If you are cast in the show, your audition fee will be deducted from your participation fee.

For more information about Sedos, please visit our website, sedos.co.uk.

If you have any questions regarding the show, the rehearsal process or the audition process, please contact Angus (Director) or Clare (Producer) as you feel appropriate:

Angus: AngusJ01@hotmail.com

Clare: victorvictoria.sedos@gmail.com

Remember to get in early for an audition slot email; victorvictoria.sedos@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop and auditions!