



Panda Players

Registered Charity Number: 1112851



Information Booklet

Lou Marron
Musical Director

David J Martin
Director/Choreographer

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Choreographer

Annie Information Booklet

This booklet aims to provide you with all the essential information about show dates, rehearsals, auditions, characters and costs relating to Panda Players' production of Annie in March 2025.

Show Dates, Times & Venue



There will be five performances at the Elgiva theatre in Chesham HP5 1HR from Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th March 2025. Performances will be nightly at 7:30pm from Wednesday to Saturday and there will also be a matinée performance at 2:30pm on the Saturday.

All performers are required to arrive at least one hour before i.e. 6:30pm for evening performances and 1:30pm for the matinée performance.

Rehearsals

Most rehearsals will be at The United Reformed Church, The Broadway, High Street, Chesham HP5 1BX.

There is parking nearby in Star Yard and it is close to Chesham station.

There will be three pre-audition rehearsals for audition preparation on Thursday 17th October, Tuesday 22nd October and Thursday 24th October, between 7:30pm and 8:30pm for children's roles and between 8:30pm and 10:30pm for adult roles.

Rehearsals will take place from November 2024 to March 2025 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30pm to 10:30pm (*earlier 9:30pm finish for children where possible*) and on Sundays 15th December 2024 (*if needed*), 26th January 2025 (*if needed*), but definitely on Sundays 2nd, 9th & 23rd February and Sunday 2nd March 2025 all from 2pm to 6pm.



Performers are required to attend the Band Call and familiarization tour on Sunday 9th March 2025, the Technical Rehearsal on Monday evening 10th March 2025 and the Dress Rehearsal on Tuesday evening 11th March 2025 at times to be advised. All these will be at the Elgiva theatre.

Rehearsal schedules will be published, but all rehearsal times are subject to change, although changes will be advised in advance.

Children must be signed in and signed out of each rehearsal they attend and must be dropped off and collected from inside the rehearsal venue by their parent or guardian.

It is important to please be on time for rehearsals as there will not be time to catch up if you miss something. The rehearsal schedule will try to take account of absences known before rehearsals begin, but if you miss 3 rehearsals, the Panda Players' Committee will review your attendance and you may be asked to leave the show. If you are unable to attend a rehearsal (due to a known or unavoidable absence) please arrange for someone to take notes on your behalf and liaise with them before the next rehearsal to catch up.

Auditions

Auditions will take place at Ballinger War Memorial Hall, HP16 9LQ on Sunday 3rd November 2024 at various times between 10am and 5pm.

If you wish to audition, please complete an Audition Form available on our website <https://www.pandaplayers.co.uk/annie-audition-information>, where you will also find the audition pieces.



Adults In order to audition for an adult role, you must either be a fully paid up member of Panda Players for the current membership year, or, if not a member, pay a non-returnable audition fee of £20, which will be used as part payment of your show fee if you take part in the show.

Children Any children wishing to audition will be required to pay a non-returnable audition fee of £20, which will be used as part payment of their show fee if they take part in the show.

Movement/Dance Everyone taking part in the show will have some movement or dance and a movement/dance audition piece will be set at pre-audition rehearsals.

Further details of the costs involved in taking part are shown later in this booklet.

Audition Tips

Show your reliability by showing up on time.

Show your commitment by learning the audition pieces or at least one, but, if that is not possible, you should fully familiarize yourself with them.

Do not just know the lines, know the character you are becoming. Let the directors see a striking difference between the person that just said hello to them and the character that is now coming to life in the audition.

Of course, those auditioning for singing roles should be able to sing in tune.

Perform with **energy, passion & pace**.

Lead Children's Roles

We plan to have two teams of children who will all perform every show, but alternate the seven orphan roles named in the script.

Annie

A complex, 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 shows independent, needy, maternal and hopeful qualities. Although she is at times aggressive or crafty, there is no doubt that Annie is a friendly and caring child. She should be strong vocally and musically and be able to light up the stage in "Tomorrow!"

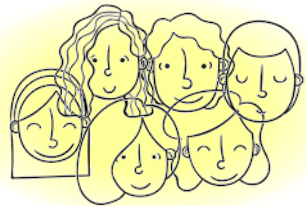


She has about 140 lines and sings in 11 numbers. She will need to be available to rehearse often. Acting age 11 Vocal range: mezzo-soprano

The Other Orphans

The rest of the orphans are gritty girls that are neglected and vulnerable, yet basically honest and lovable. They are girls that can have "mischievous" fun together, as well as "sibling style" fights. Each one should be able to shape her own specific character, be a good singer and visually expressive.

- Molly** The youngest orphan. Acting age 6
- Kate** The next youngest. Acting age 7
- Tessie** The cry baby. Acting age 10
- Pepper** The toughest. Acting age 12
- July** The quietest. Acting age 13
- Duffy** The oldest. Acting age also 13



It is likely that girls who play these orphans will be older than the acting ages shown.

Anyone who auditions for the role of Annie will not need to also audition for another orphan role.

Depending on the number and suitability of girls auditioning, we may have additional orphans in each team who will not have lines, but will sing and dance.

Lead Adult Roles

Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks 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. He must appear middle-aged, self-assured and confident.

Warbucks has over 100 lines and sings in 6 numbers. Vocal range: Baritone

Grace Farrell 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.

Grace has over 100 lines and sings in 5 numbers. Vocal range: Soprano

Miss Agatha Hannigan 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. This person needs to be able to act with her whole body!

Miss Hannigan has over 100 lines and sings in Little Girls and Easy Street. Vocal range: Alto

Daniel Francis “Rooster” Hannigan Miss Hannigan's despicable brother. He 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.

Rooster has just over 50 lines and sings in Easy Street. Vocal range: Baritone/Tenor

Lily St. Regis She 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.

Lily has just over 30 lines and sings in Easy Street. Vocal range: Soprano

Other Roles

The remaining actors in the company play a number of different roles with the opportunity to be in several scenes and/or be allocated a solo in a song. Including...

Servants

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 sing in: *I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here, You Won't Be An Orphan for Long, I Don't Need Anything But You and New Deal For Christmas.*

Drake The English butler.

Mrs. Greer The head housekeeper.

Mrs. Pugh The cook.

Cecille A French maid.

Anette A French maid.

Menservants Additional servants.



The servants will also help to move scenery.

Radio Station

Bert Healy The ultimate radio personality. He helps Annie by broadcasting about the search for her birth parents. *Vocal range: Tenor* He sings in: *Fully Dressed*.

The Boylan Sisters (Bonnie, Connie & Ronnie) Harmony singers on Bert Healy's radio programme. [They can either be young girls waiting to be 'found', or older women at the end of their careers]. *Vocal range: Sopranos* They sing in: *Fully Dressed*.

Jimmy Johnson Personality on the Bert Healy show.

Fred McCracken & Wacky Personalities on the Bert Healy show.

Sound Effects Person Creates sound effects as needed. Non-speaking

United States Cabinet

Franklin Delano Roosevelt US President who helps discover who Annie's real parents are. *Vocal range: Baritone*

Harold Ickes Male Roosevelt cabinet member. *Vocal range: Baritone*

Frances Perkins Female Roosevelt cabinet member. *Vocal range: Mezzo-Soprano*

Cordell Hull Male Roosevelt cabinet member. *Vocal range: Baritone*

Henry Morgenthau Male Roosevelt cabinet member. *Vocal range: Baritone*

Louis Howe Male Roosevelt cabinet member and FDR's personal assistant. *Vocal range: Baritone*

They all sing in: *Cabinet Tomorrow*.

New York City

Many cast members will take on various cameo roles. All the following characters have at least one speaking line or a solo singing line:



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 & jobless people who live in a shanty town.

Bundles McCloskey The laundryman who serves the orphanage.

Lieutenant Ward A policeman who returns Annie to Miss Hannigan after she escapes from the orphanage.

Policeman Lieutenant Ward's police partner.

Dog Catcher A person who captures stray dogs on the streets of New York.

Usherette One line during NYC

Star-To-Be A young, aspiring Broadway actress. (*Mezzo Belt*) BIG Solo in "NYC".

Justice Brandeis Judge who Warbucks hires to legalise the adoption of Annie.

They all sing in: *Hooverville, NYC and New Deal for Christmas*.

The whole Company sings in the Bows.

There may be an opportunity for two or three young boys (playing age 8 to 13) to be in the show, but only in the New York City scenes.

Hooverville & New York residents will also help to move scenery.

The Costs Involved

The following costs are payable for taking part in the show

	Under 18 years old	18 years old or more
Audition Fee Payable by anyone who is not a member of Panda Players at the time of auditioning, but used as part payment of their show fee if taking part in the show	£20	£20
Membership Fee Per year (1st September to 31st August) or part of year	£40	£50
Show Fee Includes all show related payments, including script/score hire, paying for costumes, venue hire, props, technical equipment, band payment, etc., but excluding personal clothing items e.g. shoes, underwear	£65	£100
Total Show Payment (including membership fee)	£105	£150
Script/Score Returned Damaged A charge per book will be levied for any script/score that is returned either defaced or damaged	£40	£40

Photographs and Videos

Official photographs and videos of the show will incur an extra cost, the amount of which will be dependent on the number of people wishing to purchase these. Costs will be advised nearer to the show commencement date.

Notes for Parents/Guardians

- You will be asked for written permission (*on the audition form*) for photographs and/or video footage of your child to be taken for the following purposes;
 1. at auditions for identification during the casting process,
 2. to publicise the show e.g. on Facebook and in print.
 3. to record dance steps for home rehearsal
(*distributed on private Facebook page , WhatsApp group or by email*)
 4. to have their photo in the show programme.
 5. to appear in a video of the show (*if we obtain permission to record it*).
- You need to complete all contact details for your child on the audition form and pay their audition fee before they may audition.
- You must sign your child in and out of each rehearsal they attend and must drop them off and collect them from inside the rehearsal venue.
- You and your child are expected to attend at least one costume fitting session, possibly more, at a venue to be decided. Dates and times to be advised.
- You and your child are expected to publicise the show and sell tickets for it by word of mouth, displaying posters, via social media and by helping with flyer distribution sessions. Dates and times to be advised.
- You are expected to ensure that your child's costume is clearly named or numbered, clean and brought to the theatre on a hanger and, after the show, if asked, to wash the costume and return it to Panda Players.
- You are expected to help chaperone the children backstage at the theatre for at least one performance.
- No parents or guardians are permitted to be backstage at the theatre unless undertaking an official chaperoning role.

General Notes About Chaperoning

The law states that a Chaperone is acting in loco parentis (in the place of the parent) and should exercise the same care which a good parent might be reasonably expected to give that child. Be with the child at all times whether: on stage or in dressing rooms. You are the key person to whom the child looks for protection, clarification and support. You play an important part in the child's happy performing experience.

This includes: health and safety issues on stage; keeping a child engaged (by keeping them busy or enabling them to keep themselves busy, during their non-performance time); being aware of bullying as it can be very subtle; ensuring that all production staff, actors, cast, crew and chaperones (including dressers and makeup) are mindful of their conduct around children; signing children in and out of the performance venue.

Any unnecessary physical contact by anyone should be avoided, as it could be misconstrued, either by the child themselves or by others. Be sensible, you should never leave a child alone with other adults or put yourself in a vulnerable position.

Panda Players presents

Annie

at
The Elgiva, Chesham HP5 1HR



12th to 15th March 2025

tickets from



elgiva.com or **01494 582900**

Book by
THOMAS MEEHAN

Music by
CHARLES STROUSE

Lyrics by
MARTIN CHARNIN

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin

Presented on Broadway by Mike Nichols

Produced by

Irwin Meyer, Stephen R. Friedman, Lewis Allen, Alvin Nederlander Associates Inc.

The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Icarus Productions.

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"® by permission of the Tribune Media Services Inc.

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All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

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Be inspired by amateur theatre

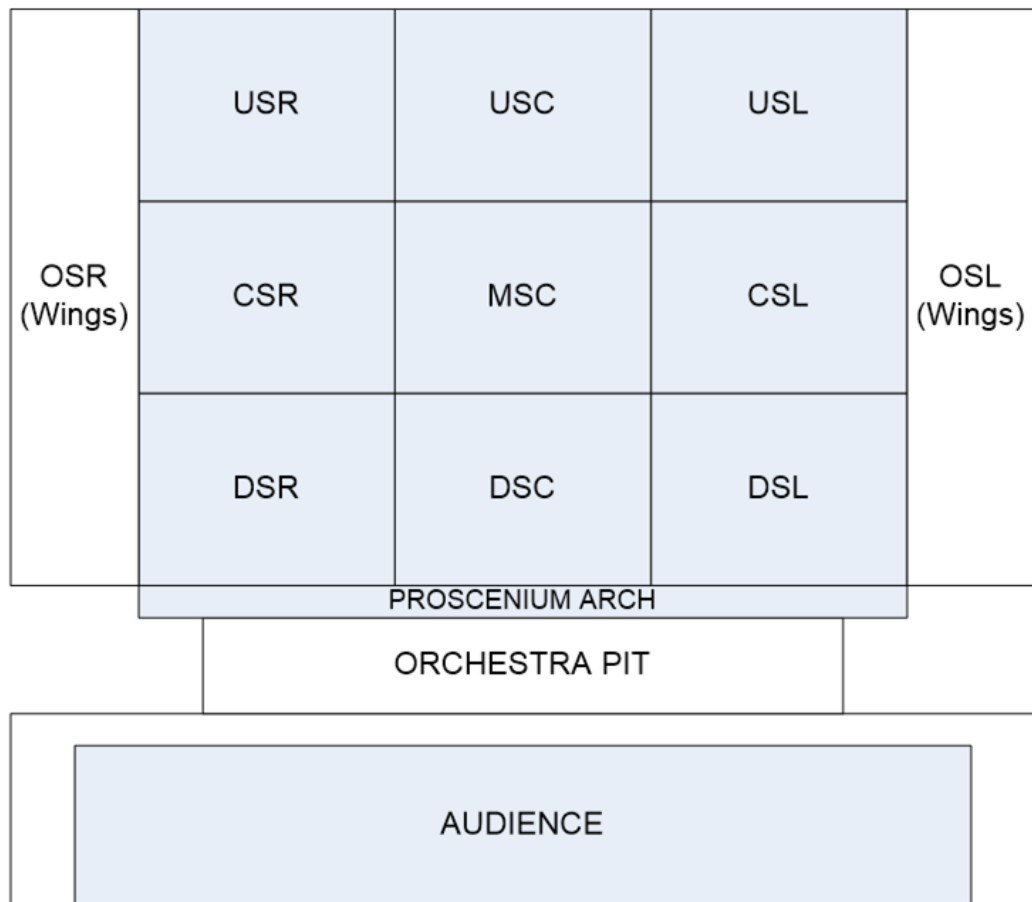


Thursday
Performance

Basic Stage Positions

SR = stage right; **SC** = stage centre; **SL** = stage left

U = up; **C** = centre; **M** = mid; **D** = down; **O** = off



Space for your own notes

Pre-Audition Rehearsals

**Thursday 17th October, Tuesday 22nd October
and Thursday 24th October 2024**

at Chesham United Reformed Church Hall

HP5 1BX

Audition Day

Sunday 3rd November 2024

at Ballinger War Memorial Hall

HP16 9LQ

Annie

Performances

Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th March 2025

at The Elgiva, Chesham

HP5 1HR