



Oliver !



Adult Auditions

If like me, you are of a certain age, you will probably be most familiar with Lionel Bart's musical "Oliver!" via the Oscar winning film version from the late sixties.

And what a marvellous film it is! Superbly cast and directed, it is (dare I say it) definitely a film of its time.

Having decided that I would very much like to direct the stage version, I went back to the source material and re-read Dickens' novel for the first time in 30 odd years.

What a grim piece of literature! Brutal and demoralising, I came away from it thinking what an odd choice it must have been to adapt as a piece of musical theatre. That however, is the brilliance of Lionel Bart's adaptation. Amongst the suffering and cruelty, he manages to find every spark of decency and humanity in the novel with his uplifting music and lyrics. Who can resist the infectious "Floor, glorious food", the poignant "Where is love?" or the chutzpah of "Consider Yourself"?

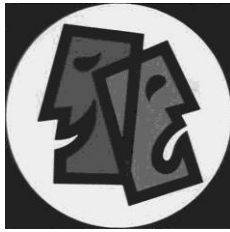
In this joint Pirates & NWTC production I would definitely like to return to the grittiness and grime of the original novel. Mid-19th century London was the biggest metropolis in the world, full of people from all over the burgeoning empire whose daily lives were a constant struggle for survival.

It is therefore important to me that the cast of this production reflects the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the city at that time. Although considered a very British show, I would like to encourage any nationality to audition. Neither ethnicity nor accent will be a determining factor in the casting of the majority of the principal or supporting roles.

We had a fantastic response to the auditions for young people and I would love that to carry over to the adult auditions. I'd also like to encourage those of you who perhaps don't think of themselves as "natural singers" to audition. Some principals do not have solo songs (Mr. Brownlow, for instance) and, with one or two exceptions, acting ability will carry much more weight than "beautiful/technically proficient" singing voices - although plenty of these will be needed for the chorus!

"Oliver!" is full to the brim of some of the most despicable, cunning, conniving, grotesque characters ever to be presented on stage. Surely a joy for any actor to play! From Bill Sikes' violent psychopath to Mrs. Corney's sharp-tongued, scheming widow, there are numerous roles for any actor to get their teeth into.

So, if you fancy liberating your inner "grand guignol", come along to the "Oliver!" auditions on September 13th or 20th at the Kinneksbond, Mamer from 14:00 to 17:00. Please prepare a song of your choice to present to Philip Dutton, Musical Director. You can bring sheet music, a backing track or just sing a cappella. If you have a particular principal role that you would like to



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audition for, please find attached certain scenes from the script that you may wish to prepare. However, do not feel obliged to do so. Unfortunately our choreographer for adults, Allison Kingsbury is unable to attend either of the above dates so we may also require you to come along to a dance/movement workshop on Sunday 27th September at 14:00 at Bannanefabrik, 12 rue du Puits, Bonnevoie, L-2355 Luxembourg. Please let us know if you're unable to attend this. I'd also just like to say that, as a long standing member of Pirates, I feel an immense sense of gratitude and pride that I have been given the opportunity to direct this fantastic show. It is of huge importance to me that our two clubs have come together to put on this truly amazing piece of theatre. I truly believe that "Oliver!" embodies so many elements that should appeal to both the membership and audience of both our clubs.

Neil Johnson, Director

Below is a list of the adult principal roles:

Fagin	<i>An elderly receiver - runs training academy for young pickpockets. Harsh and sometimes brutal with his gang of youths. Highly intelligent and cunning.</i>
Bill Sikes	<i>A villain in his prime. A vicious psychopath, he is abusive to all around him.</i>
Mr. Bumble	<i>A large & pompous beadle of the workhouse. Full of his own importance although actually rather stupid and easily lead.</i>
Mrs. Corney	<i>A sharp-tongued, domineering widow - the workhouse Mistress. Intelligent and cruel, she will do anything to improve her social standing.</i>
Mr. Brownlow*	<i>An old gentleman of wealth & breeding. Tries to see the good in people and has sympathy for Oliver.</i>
Mr. Sowerberry	<i>The Undertaker. Browbeaten by his wife, he has become churlish, mean-spirited and cold.</i>
Mrs. Sowerberry	<i>"A thin, squeezed-up woman, with a vixenish countenance, having a good deal of taste in the undertaking way." Devoid of humour and charm.</i>
Mr. Grimwig*	<i>A Doctor friend of Mr. Brownlow. Somewhat pompous and snobbish.</i>
Mrs. Bedwin	<i>The Brownlow's Housekeeper. She is kindly and maternal towards Oliver</i>
Old Sally*	<i>A pauper. A drudge, downtrodden and brutalised by life.</i>

**These are non-singing parts*