

## Mary Poppins Character Information

Here is a list of all the characters you can audition for!

**\*\*Remember, if your child is not comfortable auditioning by themselves they can audition in a group! They will automatically be put in the ensemble \*\***

### Lead Roles

#### **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.

**Vocal Audition:** "Jolly Holiday"

**Monologue:** *Talking to Michael about flying a kite with his father (crouches before MICHAEL, speaking gently)* "O' course you have. But you need to know how it's done. Get some training in, and you'll make him the proudest father in the whole bloomin' empire"

#### **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 pipe-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 actors and singers

**Vocal Audition:** "A Man Has Dreams"

**Monologue:** "But—oh, take it up with Mrs. Banks. She manages all that side of things. (*heads towards the door*) Nothing domestic has anything to do with me. (*turns back and raises a finger*) And don't forget the references!"

#### **WINIFRED BANKS**

is 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.

**Vocal Audition:** "Anything Can Happen (Part 2)"

**Monologue:** "Mrs. Brill, what about the cake? Are you quite sure you know how to ice it? I'll just go up and check the drawing room"

#### **JANE BANKS**

the high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, is bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness.

**Vocal Audition:** "The Perfect Nanny"

**Monologue:** "Poor Daddy. Ever since he stopped working, he just sits and mopes... Mary Poppins used to say he needed our help, but now it's too late."

### MICHAEL BANKS

is 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.

**Vocal Audition:** "The Perfect Nanny"

**Monologue:** "She looks like something that would eat its young. Which explains a lot."

### MRS. BRILL

is 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.

**Monologue:** "All right. I will give you one task and one task only. Put the icing tools next to the cake. Do you think you can manage that? For you, yes. For me, no. I swear, a slave in ancient Rome was on a pleasure cruise compared to my life in this house!"

### ROBERTSON AY

is the houseboy to the Banks family. Forgetful and clumsy, he often bungles 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."

**Monologue:** "I'd like to be helpful. Please, Mrs. Brill. I don't mind, honest. Is that all?"

### MARY POPPINS

is 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

**Vocal Audition:** "Practically Perfect," "A Spoonful of Sugar"

**Monologue:** "Good morning. I've come in answer to the advertisement. Now, let's see. (*pulls a mended piece of paper from her pocket*) "Play games, all sorts." Which I most certainly can. "Take us on outings, give us treats. "Rosy cheeks and fairly pretty." (*to GEORGE*) There's no objection on that score, I hope?"

## Ensemble Groups & Featured Roles

All ensembles require group singing;  
featured roles require either solo singing or solo acting, or both

### **KATIE NANNA**

is Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children. This role is perfect for a performer who is not quite ready for a larger role.

**Monologue:** "Those little beasts have run away from me for the last time. I've said my say, Mrs. Brill. I've done with this house forever!"

### **The PARK STROLLERS**

are citizens of London who go from drab and dreary to bright and colorful as they get swept up in Mary Poppins's adventures in the park.

**Group Audition:** Sing "Spoonful of Sugar" in a group

### **The STATUES**

are stone sculptures. Thanks to Mary Poppins, these works of art come alive and dance with Bert and the Park Strollers

**Group Audition:** Sing "Spoonful of Sugar" in a group

### **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.

**Vocal Audition:** "Jolly Holiday"

### **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.

**Vocal Audition:** "Feed the Birds"

### **The HONEYBEES**

are conjured by Mary Poppins to help teach the children the benefits of "A Spoonful of Sugar."  
These roles require good movers who can sing.

**Group Audition:** Sing "Spoonful of Sugar" in a group

### **The CLERKS**

like George, are employees at the bank. These roles require actors who can sing

**Audition:** Sing "Precision and Order (Part 1)"

### MISS SMYTHE

is the bank Chairman's humorless secretary. This smaller role is great for a performer who is new to the stage.

**Audition:** \* We will assign this small role to someone who auditions with the group and is ok talking by themselves

### 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.

**Monologue:** " Good morning. (sees *GEORGE*) Banks! A word...I see Herr Von Hussler is coming in again today. Have you made your decision? (*waits for answer*) Good, good. Be sure it's the right one"

### 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

**Monologue:** "Herr Banks, what objections can you have? My security is more than adequate and Latin America is an expanding market. Have you no courage? Are you man enough to be a banker?"

### 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.

**Vocal Audition:** "Precision And Order (Part 2)"

### VAGRANTS, BUSKERS, and PASSERSBY

are citizens of London passing by the cathedral during "Feed the Birds." They can also be play the Park Strollers earlier in the show

**Audition:** \* We will assign this small role to someone who auditions with the group

### 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

**Vocal Audition:** "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"

### The CUSTOMERS

are bright, colorful British citizens visiting Mrs. Corry's Talking Shop. This group can be the same Park Strollers and Passersby from before.

**Audition:** \* We will assign this small role to someone who auditions with the group

### **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

**Vocal Audition:** "Brimstone and Treacle (Part 1)"

### **KITE FLYERS**

consist of families flying kites in the park. They can also be comprised of the same ensemble members as the Park Strollers, the Passersby, and Mrs. Corry's Customers

**Audition:** \* We will assign this small role to someone who auditions with the group

### **CHIMNEY SWEEPS (including SWEEP 1, SWEEP 2, SWEEP 3, and SWEEP 4)**

are Bert's cheerful, friendly, and agile friends who keep London's chimneys in working order. These actors should be great dancers and good singers, capable of bringing the show-stopping number "Step In Time" to life.

**Audition:** \* We will assign these roles based on dancing auditions

### **The POLICEMAN, a neighborhood patrol officer, and the MESSENGER**

who delivers a summons to George from the bank, are great roles for students new to the stage that might not be ready for a large role.

**Audition:** \* We will assign this small role to someone who auditions with the group and is ok talking by themselves