



GYPSY

A MUSICAL FABLE

Audition Call

May 24-26, 2024

PLEASE NOTE: This document has been updated as of April 17, 2024. Changes highlighted.

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for Mariposa Arts Theatre's November 2024 production of *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*!

Please take the time to read this entire document thoroughly for full information on auditions and what you will need to prepare. **If you have any additional questions upon reading this document in full, please direct them to Amy Lewis (Stage Manager) at amythesm85@gmail.com.**

Performances for *Gypsy: A Musical Fable* will take place from November 7 - 17, 2024.

Director: Josh Halbot

Musical Director: Sami Jo Whalen

Choreographer: Sheri Nicholls

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Before We Begin

Mariposa Arts Theatre Values Diversity & Inclusivity: We welcome ALL actors to our auditions- of any abilities, ages, body types, ethnicities, and gender/sexual identities & expressions- who are interested in being a part of our shows. MAT is a non-profit, non-Equity, community theatre group, therefore any and all acting roles are volunteer commitments, not paid positions.

A Note on the Term ‘gypsy’

Mariposa Arts Theater acknowledges that the term ‘gypsy’ has been used as a racial slur against the Roma people for centuries, and often co-opted as a term to describe a nomadic or “free- spirited” lifestyle or a bohemian/folk-influenced “aesthetic”, reinforcing long-standing stereotypes of the Romani and ignoring their nuanced history. While we cannot avoid using the word as the title of this show, and as the name of a character within, we- and anyone involved with this show- will not use it to describe any person, race, or culture. We understand this word carries historical and cultural significance, and commit to ensuring its use is limited exclusively to the context of the characters within this show.

About The Show

Lauded as one of the greatest American musicals of all time, *Gypsy* tells the story of one fiercely devoted mother’s singular destructive ambition to find fame and fortune for herself and her two daughters. Based on the real memoirs of striptease legend Gypsy Rose Lee, *Gypsy* is a fascinating tale of greed, ambition, selfishness, showbusiness, and self-discovery. Not only hailed as the crowning achievement of 20th century ‘Book Musicals’, *Gypsy* features lasting and memorable numbers such as “Let Me Entertain You”, “Together, Wherever We Go”, and “All I Need Is The Girl” as well as indomitable Broadway powerhouse numbers like “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” and “Rose’s Turn”. It is exactly this combination of unforgettable music and indelible characters which has helped *Gypsy* stay relevant and spellbinding 65 years after its Broadway debut in 1956.

Audition Information

Auditions will take place at the **MAT Rehearsal Warehouse at 12 Brammer Drive in Orillia:**

Friday May 24 from 7-10pm

Saturday May 25 from 1-5pm*

Sunday May 26 from 1-5pm*

**Time may be extended depending on demand. Callbacks to follow, if necessary.*

You will be asked to fill out a short form with your personal information, desired role(s), scheduling availability, and relative experience. As this is a show with children in the cast, **all involved in the production will require a vulnerable sector check**, which MAT will arrange over the summer. Rehearsals for the show will begin in late August, and will be three times a week. Dates will be scheduled to accommodate the majority of availability. Performance dates will be November 7-10, and 14-17. The 10th and 17th will be matinee performances.

We also will be casting understudies for all lead/featured roles. Ideally understudies will be cast from ensemble roles, and used only in emergencies.

List of Roles

Each type of role will have its own unique requirements to prepare for auditions, so be sure to check the corresponding part of the **Audition Requirements** section.

Lead Roles

Rose - Mezzo-soprano F3-C5 - The ultimate stage mother. Lives vicariously through her children, especially June. Loud, brash, pushy, myopic, but underpinned by a vulnerability and charm which develops as she unravels. Minimal dancing. Confident movement. Quintessential Broadway singing voice. Think Ethel Merman meets Bette Midler meets Judy Garland meets Patty LuPone. 45+ F.

Louise - Mezzo-soprano C#4/Db4-D#5/Eb5 - Constantly overlooked in favour of June, she is delicate, meek, and unprepossessing at first. Blossoms into the titular Gypsy Rose Lee. Must be a confident singer and dancer, as well as comfortable with burlesque and risqué numbers/costuming. 20-30 F, plays younger.

June - Mezzo-soprano G#3/Ab3-D5 - The golden child, all grown up. Pretty, talented, “All American” pageant beauty, and resentful of Rose’s domination. Must be a strong/flexible dancer. Any proficiency with tap/gymnastics/baton or similar “vaudeville” talents would be an asset, but isn’t a requirement. 20-30 F, plays younger.

Herbie - Baritone Gb2/Ab2-B3 - Possible husband number four for Rose, and agent for the family’s act. Heart of gold, constantly being tested by Rose’s myopic quest for success. Minimal dancing, competent support singing in duos/trios. 45+ M.

Featured Roles (singing/dancing required)

Tulsa - Baritone F2-G3 - All-American boy. Strong dancer preferably, but willing to accommodate someone unsure but capable. Member of the family act, but dreams of having his own. Eventually runs away with June. Sings “All I Need Is The Girl”. 20-30 M, plays younger.

Electra - Mezzo-soprano G#3-D5 - A stripper, just past their prime. Ditzzy and supremely confident. Limited dancing, confident movement and singing. Sings “Ya Gotta Have A Gimmick”. Must be comfortable with a burlesque/risque costume. Flexible age/gender.

Mazeppa - Alto G3-A#4 - A stripper, just past their prime. Brassy and supremely confident. Limited dancing, confident movement and singing. Plays trumpet badly. Sings “Ya Gotta Have A Gimmick”. Must be comfortable with a burlesque/risque costume. Flexible age/gender.

Tessie Tura - Mezzo-soprano C#4-C#5 - A stripper, just past their prime. Seasoned and supremely confident. Limited dancing, confident movement and singing. Ballet training, or ability to fake it, an asset. Sings “Ya Gotta Have A Gimmick”. Must be comfortable with a burlesque/risque costume. Flexible age/gender.

Featured Ensemble and Burlesque Ensemble* (singing/dancing required)

Broadway/Hollywood Boys:

Yonkers, L.A, Angie, others - The Family Act, all grown up. Forced into stagnation and arrested development by Rose’s lust for fame, they eventually leave for greener pastures. Confident but uncomplicated dancing and singing required, largely focused on high Vaudeville energy. 20-30 (flexible), but play younger. M presenting.

Hollywood Blondes/Toreadoras/Garden of Eden Girls:

Agnes, Marjorie May, Delores, Thelma, others - the replacements after the original act is driven off by Rose’s singular quest for fame. Trying admirably to fill in and learn the new act, never quite living up to Rose’s expectations. Mirror Louise’s journey of self discovery. Capable but uncomplicated dancing and singing required. Must be comfortable with burlesque dancing and costuming. 20-30 F range, but flexible. F presenting.

Please see **Audition Requirements for further description of requirements for Burlesque Ensemble.*

Featured Ensemble (spoken only, may be double cast)

Miss Crachitt - Comedic, Production Assistant for Grantzinger’s Theater. Doubts the act and Rose. 30+ F.

Pop - Rose's father. Retired rail worker. Exhausted by Rose, refuses to support her delusions any longer. Gruff and stubborn. 70+ M.

Weber - LA Theater manager, does not want to hire the act. Any age/gender.

Uncle Jocko - Vaudeville theatre master of ceremonies running a down-market kiddie talent show. Hates stage Mothers, especially Rose. 30+ M.

Georgie - Uncle Jocko's assistant. M/any

Kringelein - Akron hotel manager. Jaded with showbiz types. Has seen it all. Fed up. 40+ M

Mr. Goldstone - Silent rep of the Orpheum Theater. A momentary messiah for the act. 40+ M

Cigar - Wichita burlesque manager. 30+ any

Patsey - Wichita burlesque stage manager. 30+ any

René - Louise's maid. F/any

Phil - Louise's press agent. M/any

Bourgeron-Cochon - a photographer. All/any

Stage Mothers, Hotel guests, etc.

Children's Ensemble

Baby June - Mezzo-soprano D#4-D#5 - Sugary sweet children's beauty pageant winner type. Rose's golden child who can do no wrong. Strong singer and flexible dancer/performer. 8-12 f.

Baby Louise - Mezzo-soprano D#4-D#5 - A perpetual second fiddle to June. Constantly overlooked by Rose and the world. Meek, shy, always a step behind. Understated singing/dancing. Tomboy-ish 8-12 f.

Newsboys/Farmboys/Other Vaudeville acts

4-6 (or more) backup dancers to Baby June. A Vaudeville supporting cast of high energy, capable singers and dancers. Rose has taught them well and expects everything a delusional stage mother would: big smiles, high energy, and stay out of June's light. 8-14(ish) any gender, but m presenting during the ensemble numbers. Focused entirely in Act 1. Will also be used as competing acts for Uncle Jocko's audition.

Audition Requirements

Lead Role or Featured Ensemble w/ Singing:

PLEASE PREPARE one song of thematic relevance to the show and under 3 minutes in duration. Be prepared to sing the entire number, however we may need to stop you during due to scheduling restraints. Please ensure you can provide an instrumental or karaoke backing track when contacted by our Stage Manager to schedule your audition. We will have a bluetooth speaker available to use, or you may bring your own if you feel more comfortable.

As well, please also prepare a short monologue of thematic relevance to the show, and under one minute in length. You may be asked to read from the script as well, time permitting.

There will also be a guided group dance requirement, so please dress comfortably and wear appropriate footwear.

NOTE: If auditioning for Rose, please be prepared to sing “Rose’s Turn”, as well as read from the script- your audition will take longer than others.

Featured Ensemble (Spoken Only)

PLEASE PREPARE a short monologue of thematic relevance to the show, under one minute in length. As well, you may be asked to read selected scenes from the script alone or with a scene partner. You will still be asked to participate in the group dance requirement to gauge your movement confidence and ability, so please wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear.

Burlesque Ensemble

PLEASE PREPARE a short song of thematic relevance to the show. Anyone who indicates prior burlesque experience is asked to prepare a short number demonstrating your talent. Costumes are not necessary, but props are welcomed if relevant for the number. You will still be asked to participate in the group dance requirement to gauge your movement confidence and ability, so please wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear. As well, you may be asked to read selected scenes from the script alone or with a scene partner.

NOTE: As the burlesque dancers are featured in Act 2, dancers should expect to be double cast in speaking-only parts.

UPDATE: Previously, Burlesque Dancers were not asked to prepare a song. While they will not have solos, there will still be small singing parts to perform. We apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause.

Children's Roles/Ensemble

PLEASE PREPARE one energetic song of less than 3 minutes in length. Be prepared to sing the entire number, however we may need to stop you during due to scheduling restraints. Please ensure you can provide an instrumental or karaoke backing track when contacted by our Stage Manager to schedule your audition time. We will have a bluetooth speaker available to use, or you may bring your own if you feel more comfortable.

There will also be a group dance/movement requirement, so please dress comfortably and bring appropriate footwear.

NOTE: If auditioning for Baby June or Baby Louise, please be prepared to read dialogue from the script. Anyone auditioning for Baby June may be asked to demonstrate any additional dance/vaudeville-esque skills they may have.

Audition Form

Please fill out the appropriate form below to indicate your interest in auditioning for Mariposa Arts Theatre's Fall 2024 Production of *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. **You must submit a form in order to audition.** You will be contacted by our Stage Manager to confirm a time for your audition.

AUDITION FORM

AUDITION FORM (UNDER 18)

If you have any additional questions upon reading this document in full, please direct them to Amy Lewis (Stage Manager) at amythesm85@gmail.com.

GOOD LUCK!