

OLIVER!

Fall 2010

AUDITION INFORMATION

Show Synopsis

At a time when American musicals dominated the West End stages in London, Lionel Bart was essential in the rekindling of musicals in the U.K. He did this by writing and composing an adaptation of the story *Oliver Twist* written by Charles Dickens in the early 1800's. The moving plot and the universal themes made *Oliver!* a success and was the first of Charles Dickens' works to be staged in a musical form. It opened in the New Theatre on June 30, 1960 and ran for 2618 performances launching careers of several child actors at the time including Davy Jones who later became a member and television icon of the group *The Monkees* and Phil Collins who would later form *Genesis* gaining notoriety as a composer himself. Three years later, *Oliver!* opened on Broadway and was nominated for ten Tony Awards including Best Musical for which Lionel Bart was the first English composer to ever win in that category. There have been many revivals of *Oliver!* in several countries, but most recently has been remounted in 2009 in London to rave reviews.

"In the little world in which children have their existence, whosoever brings them up, there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt, as injustice." – Charles Dickens

Oliver Twist and subsequently *Oliver!* the musical, is the story of a young orphan boy who reflects the life of poverty in England in the 1830's. It exemplifies the battles of good versus evil, with the evil continually trying to corrupt and exploit the good. It portrays the power of love, hate, greed and revenge and how each can affect the people involved. Oliver is searching for love and acceptance, but falls into the hands of Fagin whose character represents the evils of greed using manipulation to have a band of boys do his dirty work by pick pocketing unsuspecting passers-by. The dichotomy lies with Oliver's character representing all that is good in society. It shows how we can easily be led off course in life and be forced or manipulated into making detrimental choices, only to find networks of people who can help steer us to the right path again.

There are many musical numbers in this show and require several strong singers and actors to bring this story to life on stage. Here is a brief layout of the musical numbers:

ACT ONE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <u>1.</u> Overture | Orchestra |
| <u>2.</u> Food, Glorious Food | Boys, Oliver |
| <u>3.</u> Oliver | Boys, Mr. Brumble, Widow Corney |
| <u>4.</u> I Shall Scream | Widow Corney, Mr. Bumble |
| <u>5.</u> Boy For Sale | Mr. Bumble |
| <u>6.</u> That's Your Funeral | Mr. Sowerberry, Mrs. Sowerberry, Mr. Bumble |
| <u>7.</u> Where Is Love? | Oliver |
| <u>8.</u> Consider Yourself | The Artful Dodger, Oliver, Boys, Chorus |

9. Pick A Pocket Or Two
10. It's A Fine Life
11. I'd Do Anything
12. Be Back Soon

Fagin, Boys
Nancy, Bet, Boys
The Artful Dodger, Nancy, Oliver, Bet, Fagin, Boys
Fagin, The Artful Dodger, Oliver, Boys

ACT TWO

1. Oom-Pah-Pah
2. My Name
3. As Long As He Needs Me
4. Where Is Love? (Reprise)
5. Who Will Buy?
6. It's a Fine Life (Reprise)
7. Reviewing The Situation
8. As Long As He Needs Me (Reprise)
9. Reviewing The Situation (Reprise)
10. Finale

Nancy, Bet, Chorus
Bill Sykes
Nancy
Mrs. Bedwin
Oliver, Street Criers, Chorus
Nancy, Bill Sykes, Fagin, The Artful Dodger
Fagin
Nancy
Fagin
Company

Artistic Team

Deva Neely, Director

Deva is excited and thrilled to be directing *Oliver!* for Etobicoke Musical Productions! She is an honours graduate from Ryerson Theatre School's Acting Program. Deva spends her days playing the role of music teacher at Crestwood School where she directs five musicals and prepares two big concerts a year where her primary choir and nationally recognized junior choir perform at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts. Deva has also directed shows and run programs at Camp Manitou, National Music Camp and for Arts Alive in Stratford, Ontario. She has spent many years performing on stage in many productions. Her favourite roles over the years have been Mrs. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol; the musical* with Etobicoke Musical Productions, the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* with Scarborough Players, Olivia in *The Hope Chest* and several shows at the Toronto Fringe Festival. Deva has been nominated and won several awards in festivals throughout Ontario. These past few years have brought Deva some notoriety as a choir director. Her junior choir was invited to perform at Music Fest Canada in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 2005, her junior/middle school choir was one of eight selected within the Toronto District School Board to perform at the Spring Festival at Massey Hall. Deva has also conducted a mass choir of 400 children for the Conference of Independent Schools Music Festival at Roy Thompson Hall. One of the highlights of Deva's career took her to New York City where she was considered for the lead in *Hairspray* on Broadway. Many thanks to those who have supported Deva along this bumpy, wonderful road called life. Much love goes out to family and friends!

Aviva Cipin, Musical Director

Aviva just can't get enough Dickens!!! After this past winter's amazing experience as MD for EMP's *A Christmas Carol*, she's looking forward to climbing those steps to the EMP orchestra loft to music direct

Oliver (for her second time!). Her involvement with EMP as MD has been fun and enriching. It includes *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Damn Yankees*, and The EMPressions show choir

director for two years. Some of her other favourite music directing experiences include *A Little Night Music*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Anything Goes*. She holds a Specialized Honours Degree in Music from York University and is currently a teacher. Aviva proudly served on the Board of EMP, where she got the opportunity to learn from the "inside" what a truly supportive and well-run group this is. EMP feels like family, and once again, it's nice to be home!

Samantha Zimmerman, Choreographer

Samantha is thrilled to be choreographing *Oliver!* this fall with Etobicoke Musical Productions. She brings with her over 20 years of dance, and 12 years of teaching experience. She recently put her life as a dance teacher on hold to pursue a career in theatre and arts management. Trained in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, modern, acro, hip hop, musical theatre and voice, Samantha has studied with many master teachers across the United States and Canada. Samantha has a degree from the University of Waterloo with a minor in Fine and Performing Arts, and is a graduate of the Humber College Arts Administration and Cultural Management post-graduate program. She has attended the Dance Masters of America Teachers' Training School at the University of Buffalo, and is a member of the International Academy of Dance Adjudicators. Samantha's choreography credits include "Once Upon a Mattress", "Cabaret" and "Godspell". She has performed in several shows, including "The Producers" with EMP, "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "The King and I", as well as lead dancer at the Palladium Vallarta Resort in Mexico.

Rehearsals: Monday & Wednesday Evenings, 7:15pm -10:30pm
Sunday Afternoons, 1:15pm - 5:00pm

1st rehearsal Wednesday, September 8, 2010 (To Be Confirmed)

Note: *not all cast members are called for all rehearsals, but must be available if called.*

Note: *it is possible that additional rehearsals could be called from time to time.*

Performances: 8 shows over 3 weekends: Evening performances are at 8pm (6pm call);
Matinees are at 2pm (12pm call)

November 19, 20,21(Matinee) 26,27, 28(Matinee) December 3, 4 (Matinee)2010

Other information: All members of the cast are required to become members of EMP and pay membership fees. In addition, all cast members are expected to help out in other areas of the production *from time to time* with activities such as flyer drops, set construction and painting, etc. All cast members assist in strike after the final performance.

Audition Requirements:

Auditions are booked in 7-minute increments on the available date of choice. Auditions require two songs for principal roles featuring singing roles, one song for other roles, a short dramatic monologue and participation in a group dance (movement) audition in the middle of the audition evening. Because of the

lack of musical theatre pieces for children, they may choose songs from other genres like folk, Disney or Celtic styles. No pop or rock songs please!

The group dance (movement) audition will occur in the middle of every audition evening from approximately 8:20PM to 9:10PM . **Therefore anyone who has an audition time before 8:20PM will need to wait after their audition for the dance break and all those who have an audition time after 9:10 will need to arrive at or before 8:00PM in order to have time to sign in prior to the dance audition.**

Individuals will be advised if they are called back for a role (or roles) by end of day on June 6th after the initial auditions. Arrangements will be made to get call back material to those chosen, most likely by e-mail or fax. *Please ensure your e-mail or fax contact information is accurate at time of audition!*

All principal roles and potentially some supporting/featured roles will require a call-back. Casting for all roles will be announced as soon as possible after callbacks Sunday June 13, 2010. (See also call back requirements, below). All of those auditioning will be notified via email or phone (their choice) as to their casting status as soon as possible **after** June 13, 2010.

Please arrive for your audition in sufficient time to get settled and to fill out the necessary paperwork (audition information sheet). Bring a Theatre Resume & photograph if available (although not mandatory).

Audition Format:

- **Prepare two contrasting songs**, but **not** from the show, if you are auditioning for a **principal or featured vocal role**. If you wish to be considered for (non-principal/youth role) a single song is sufficient.
- Please no Pop or Rock. The style of classic musical theatre would be ideal.
- You **MUST** bring sheet music, in the correct key for the accompanist. Pre-recorded accompaniment is not permitted. Please, no Acappella
- You *may* be asked to perform some basic vocal range tests or improvisational work with the song
- Due to time-constraints, music auditions may be cut mid-song: don't despair - this is not a bad sign!!!
- **Adults - prepare a SHORT Dramatic monologue, 60 seconds in length (max). **Children – prepare a short dramatic story if you don't have a monologue.**
 - You may be asked to do some basic improvisational work with the monologue.**
- **Everyone auditioning will participate in a movement (dance) audition**
 - Please bring comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear.

**After information night, to book an audition, after May 12th 2010 contact Producer
Gerd Richter – 904-823-2143 -----Email:grichter0509@rogers.com**

Audition Dates: Tuesday, June 1, 2010
(7:15pm – 10:30pm) Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Thursday, June 3, 2010

Audition Location: Burnhamthorpe Auditorium
500 The East Mall
Etobicoke
(Just north of Burnhamthorpe Rd,
East of Hwy 427)

Call-back Requirements:

Only those being called back for a principal role will be contacted by E-mail or phone and advised accordingly. Callbacks will **definitely** occur for the following roles:

- **Oliver**
- **Fagin**
- **The Artful Dodger**
- **Bill Sykes**
- **Nancy**
- **Widow Corney**
- **Mr. Bumble**

In addition, callbacks **may** occur for one or more of the supporting/featured roles. These characters will be determined after the initial auditions and may include an additional dance audition.

If you are auditioning for one of the principal roles (above), please indicate on the audition information sheet (obtained at the sign-up or at the audition) if you are willing to be considered for another role IF you are not given a call back for the principal role(s) you indicate.

Only people who are required for callback auditions will be notified by E-mail/phone no later than end of day Monday June 7, 2010 and materials required for the callback will be forwarded by e-mail/Fax. *Please ensure your e-mail or fax contact information is accurate at time of audition!*

All others not required for callbacks will be considered for non-principal roles. No casting for any roles will be determined prior to the end of the auditions (call-backs) on June 13, 2010.

Callbacks will occur from 1:15 - 6:00pm on Sunday June 13, 2010. You will be notified of specific times when you are notified of the callback

People who cannot attend their call back above cannot be considered for the role(s).

Call back Date: Sunday June 13, 2010

Call back time: **Specified times to be provided when notified (1:15-6pm)**

Callback Location: Westway United Church

8 Templar Drive
Etobicoke
(Off Kipling Ave, 1/2 block North
of The Westway, East side of
Kipling)

For Further Information

**Book or cancel an audition-Gerd Richter - Show Producer
905-823-2143 griechter@rogers.com**

See attached summary of character descriptions, vocal ranges and dance requirements.

Cast of Characters:

Character	Age	Vocal	Dance	Description and Notes
	Play		Movement	
Oliver – Lead	8-13	Soprano	Basic- moderate dance experience.	The protagonist of the story. He is a lonely orphan boy born in the workhouse. Very sweet and innocent with a good disposition.
Fagin – major role	40- 70	Baritone	Basic- moderate dance experience.	Fagin is a career criminal who takes in homeless boys and teaches them to pick pockets for him. He has to be manipulative and conniving, but there is something loveable about him.
The Artful Dodger – major role	9-16	Alto	Basic- moderate dance experience.	The most clever of all of Fagin’s pickpockets. He introduces Oliver to Fagin.
Bill Sykes – major role	30- 50	Baritone	Basic- moderate dance experience.	Nancy’s brutal and abusive lover, a burglar and eventual murderer. He needs to be intimidating, menacing and scary.
Nancy- Major Role	20- 40	Alto	Basic- moderate dance experience	Bill’s abused girlfriend. Hard-nosed yet soft hearted
Mr. Bumble – minor role	38- 50	Baritone- strong upper register	Basic- moderate dance experience	The pompous beadle of the workhouse where Oliver was born.

Widow Corney – minor role	38-50	Soprano	Basic-moderate dance experience	The domineering workhouse mistress. She later marries Mr. Bumble.
Mr. Sowerberry – minor role	40-60	Baritone	Basic-moderate dance experience	The undertaker.
Mrs. Sowerberry	35-60	Soprano	Basic-moderate dance experience	Mr. Sowerberry's wife.
Mr. Brownlow – bit part	50-75	N/A	Basic-moderate dance experience	A kind and wealthy man of good breeding who is actually Oliver's grandfather.
Bet – bit part	25-35	Alto	Basic-moderate dance experience	Nancy's loyal friend and one of Fagin's former pickpockets.
Charlotte – bit part	13-20	N/A	Basic-moderate dance experience	The rude but also flirtatious daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sowerberry.
Noah Claypole – bit part	13-20	N/A	Basic-moderate dance experience	The Sowerberry's apprentice. He bullies Oliver about his mother and enjoys a flirtatious relationship with Charlotte.
Mrs. Bedwin – bit part	38-50	Soprano	Basic-moderate dance experience	Mr. Brownlow's friendly housekeeper.
Dr. Grimwig – bit part	30-85	N/A	Basic-moderate dance experience	
Old Sally – bit part	60-85	N/A	Basic-moderate dance experience	
Charley Bates – bit part	8-16	N/A	Basic-moderate dance experience	One of Fagin's pickpockets. He's the sidekick of the Artful Dodger.

**Etobicoke
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Workhouse Children/ Fagins Gang	8+	All	Basic- moderate dance experience	
Adult Ensemble	17+	All	Basic- moderate dance experience	