

Chesterton Youth Theatre proudly presents *Mary Poppins Jr.*

Audition Pack

We are thrilled to announce that we will be performing ***Mary Poppins Jr.*** in the Spring Term.

At Chesterton Youth Theatre, we are committed to giving students opportunities to perform in inclusive shows such as 'Finding Nemo' (2024) and 'Twelfth Night' (2023), as well as performing in projects which are cast by audition only. *Mary Poppins Jr.* will be the latter, with a limited cast size.

Show Dates

Mary Poppins Jr. will be performed in The Atrium Theatre at Chesterton Community College on Tuesday 1st April until Thursday 3rd April 2025. We will be performing the show three times at 7:30pm on each evening.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will take place on a Tuesday and a Wednesday from 3:15pm until 5:30pm in the Dance Studio.

Due to the limited rehearsal period, cast members **MUST** be available for rehearsals on Tuesday and Wednesday. Performers who are not available on these rehearsal days will not be considered for this show bar exceptional circumstances.

Casting

We are anticipating that *Mary Poppins Jr.* will have a maximum cast of 35 performers. Whilst in the past we have double cast lead roles to give more opportunity to performers, we have decided that this show will not be double cast as we have a shorter rehearsal period due to the availability of the theatre. As this show is open to a large number of students, it is important to highlight that it is likely that this show will feature older students and that the selection from year groups will be different (for example, 12 performers for Year 10/11, 9 performers from Year 9, 8 performers from Year 8 and 6 performers from Year 7. *Please note that this is to give an idea of how many performers from each year group for estimation purposes*).

Auditions are open to any student at Chesterton Community College. We are expecting the casting process to be competitive so it is likely that we will have many unsuccessful candidates on this occasion. Over the course of each academic year, Chesterton Youth Theatre offers multiple opportunities for students to be involved in other performances; we would encourage everyone to gain some audition experience but remember that this project is not the "be all and end all". If anyone feels overly worried or distressed at the prospect of not being cast, it is advisable that they don't audition for this show and join projects in the future.

It will not be possible to provide feedback following auditions due to time constraints; all those auditioning should also be aware that Chesterton Youth Theatre's casting decisions are final and, on this occasion, will be formed with the rationale of 'best person for the job'!

The characters have been split up into 3 categories which are principal roles, large supporting roles and small supporting roles. All the roles in these categories have speaking roles and require the actor to sing a solo line or part of an ensemble.

The ensemble will consist of dancers who can sing in harmony. All actors in this show will need to sing due to the small cast size. We are also looking for competent tap dancers so please mention this on your audition form.

More information on the roles available are found later in this audition pack.

The Auditions

Audition Workshop – The Dance Studio

We will be hosting an audition workshop on **Tuesday 14th January at 3:15pm until 5pm** in the Dance Studio. In this workshop, you will learn the audition songs and the choreography.

Auditions – The Dance Studio

These will be held on **Wednesday 15th January at 3:15pm** until TBC. We hope the auditions will be finished by 5:30pm however, we are unable to give a finalised end time at this moment as we do not know how many performers will attend. Below is what you will need to prepare:

- Acting – Please prepare the character’s monologue that you wish to audition for.
- Singing – Please prepare the character’s song that you wish to audition for (E.g. ‘Spoonful of Sugar’ for Mary Poppins). If auditioning for Ensemble or Dancer, you will need to prepare the ensemble song and sing this with a group of 5/6 performers. **Everyone needs to sing at the audition!**
- Movement – You will be taught 2 different movement sequences which are approximately 4 counts of 8 each. **If you can tap dance, you will be taught another sequence as we require tap dancers for this show.** These are listed below:
 - Character Movement – You will learn the chorus to “Supercalifragilistic”.
 - Dance – You will be taught a dance sequence (4 counts of 8) to “Let’s Go Fly A Kite”.
 - Tap Dance – You will be taught a tap sequence (4 counts of 8) to “Step In Time” **(This is only for students that tap dance outside of school).**

We would recommend that students attend the audition workshop on the Tuesday, so they prepared however, this is not essential. We would always recommend that performers be familiar the dialogue in their singing and acting audition, so that they can look up from a script for part/all of their performance!

Below you will find all the material you need:

Singing Auditions

For the singing audition, you will be asked to prepare a song based on the character that you wish to audition for. **We are looking for strong vocalists who are confident at acting through song.** Whilst we are looking at the voice in this section, it is essential that you perform the song giving us a portrayal of the character. If you are auditioning for a role then please prepare the song by that character. If you are auditioning for any other role that is not mentioned below or to be part of the ensemble, please prepare one of the three songs below.

If you are auditioning for the roles of *Mary Poppins*, *Winifred Banks*, *Mrs. Brill*, *Bird Woman*, *Mrs. Corry* or *Miss Andrews* then please prepare: **“A Spoonful of Sugar”**

Lines: From the beginning of the song up to the line, “In the most delightful way.”

Lyrics: In every job that must be done

There is an element of fun

You find the fun and snap!

The job's a game

And every task you undertake

Becomes a piece of cake

A lark! A spree! It's very clear to see that

A Spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down

The medicine go down-wown
The medicine go down
Just a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down
In a most delightful way

Guide Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdtKxF9p0NA>

Instrumental Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEDA041ewbA>

If you are auditioning for the roles of Bert, Mr. Banks or Robertson Ay then please prepare: “**Jolly Holiday**”

Lines: From the beginning of the song up to the line, “No wonder that it’s Mary that we love.”

Lyrics: All it takes to the spark, then something as plain as a park becomes a wonderland.

All you have to do is look a new and then you’ll understand

Why it’s a jolly holiday with Mary

Mary makes your heart so light

When the date is great and ordinary

Mary makes the sun shine bright

Oh, happiness is blooming all around her

The daffodils are smiling at the dove

When Mary holds your hand, you feel so grand

Your heart starts beating like a big brass band

Oh, it’s a Jolly Holiday with Mary

No wonder that it’s Mary that we love

Guide Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgIAKZ9lfOE&t=2s>

Instrumental Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtS0qgwZGq0>

If you are auditioning for the roles of *Jane* or *Michael Banks* then please prepare: “**The Perfect Nanny**”

Lines: From the beginning of the song up to the end of the song. Please prepare the whole song and sing both Michael and Jane’s lines.

Lyrics: If you want this choice position

Have a cheery disposition

Rosy cheeks, no warts!

Play games, all sort

You must be kind, you must be witty

Very sweet and fairly pretty

Take us on outings, give us treats

Sing songs, bring sweets

We won't hide your spectacles

So you can't see

Put toads in your bed

Or pepper in your tea

Hurry, Nanny!

Many thanks

Sincerely,

Jane and Michael Banks:

Jane and Michael Banks.

Guide Track: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7oP2V_zUp8

Instrumental Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrsV1zyx4uY>

Audition Monologues

Mary Poppins: Are you looking for a nanny? Very well, then. Now let's see. "Play games all sorts." Which I most certainly can. "Rosy cheeks and fairly pretty." There's no objection on that score, I hope. (Waits for a response). I'm glad to hear it. You'd like to see my references? Well, I make it a point never to bring references. The best people never require them, now. The best people also give every second Wednesday off from six 'til late and that is what I will take. I believe a trial period might be wise. I'll give you one week. I should know by then! I'll see the children now.

Mrs. Banks: George, I'm glad you're home! There's something I'd like to discuss with you. It's about the children. They're missing. Katie Nana has looked everywhere. I can't let her go, George. She left us. I'm awfully sorry about this, George. I suppose you'll want to discuss it. When I chose Katie Nana I thought that she would be firm with the children. I'll try to do better next time. Unless, of course, you hire the next Nanny. Oh, would you George. I'd be so grateful!

Jane: When we heard that father was going to search for a new Nanny after Katie Nana left us, we wanted to have some say in the matter. After all, it was "our" nanny that they were seeking to hire. Father didn't approve of our advertisement. He replied that it was "most interesting" and then sent us off to the nursery. All we requested was that the applicant be kind, witty, attractive, play games & give us treats. Father found our suggestions to be bothersome and he told us he had "enough of this nonsense!"

Miss Andrew: How was my journey? It was thoroughly unpleasant. I never enjoy travel. You must be poor George's wife. Your flowerbeds are disgracefully untidy. Take my advice: Plant evergreens. Or even still, have nothing at all, just a plain cement courtyard. This isn't much of a house now, is it? Look at that dust! There! And there! Hasn't anyone ever cleaned those curtains? Oh, it doesn't take a lot to keep you happy, now does it?

Mr. Banks: Winifred, where are the children? What do you mean you don't know? Very well, I shall deal with this at once. Give me the police station, quickly, please. This is George Banks at number 17 Cherry Tree Lane. It's a matter of some urgency. I should like to see a policeman around immediately. A policeman's here? Well, what wonderful service. Thank you & goodnight. Now, Winifred, please don't be emotional. Now if you'll go into the kitchen I'm sure Cook will find you a nice plate of something. As for the two of you, to the nursery this instant!

Bert: Wait! Stop! Don't move a muscle. I'd know that smile anywhere. Mary Poppins! And you two, I've seen you about; chasing a kite last time, I believe. Where did you say she was taking you? To the park? Hmm? Not if I know Mary Poppins. Other Nannies take children to the park, but when you're with Mary Poppins, suddenly you're in places you've never dreamed of. Quick as you can say, "strike me pink" the most unusual things begin to happen.

Michael: "Wanted: a nanny for two adorable children." "Play games, sing songs, bring treats . . .", A must! I don't know why father didn't like our advertisement. I thought it was jolly good! Several nannies arrived to apply for the position, but none of them met the description we'd requested. They were rather nasty-looking. Well, Jane, they were! Then something rather peculiar happened. All the nasty, nannies blew away! Huge gusts of wind swept them all off their feet. I was glad! Well, Jane, I was!

Mary Poppins Jr. Characters

Principal 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. He is a song-and-dance man with oodles of charm who is wise beyond his years.

Mr. 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 pip-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.

Mrs. Banks: 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.

Large Supporting Roles

Mrs. Brill: 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.

Robertson Ay: The houseboy to the Banks family. Forgetful and clumsy, he often bungles simple tasks. He should be a good comedic actor.

Bird Woman: Covered in a patchwork of old shawls, her pockets stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She

Small Supporting Roles

Katie Nanna: Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children.

Neleus: A statue who, once brought to life by Mary Poppins, is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. Strong dancing role.

Miss Smythe: The bank Chairman's humorless secretary.

Chorus Roles

Park Strollers: 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.

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

Customers: Bright, colorful British citizens visiting Mrs. Corry's Talking Shop.

Kite Flyers: Families flying kites in the park.

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

Michael Banks: 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.

Mary Poppins: 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.

tries to sell the crumbs to Passersby, who ignore her as if she doesn't exist.

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.

Miss Andrew: 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.

Chairman: The head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed, is an Edwardian stuffed shirt.

Von Hussler: A businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal.

John Northbrook: An honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory for his community.

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. Strong dancing role.

Policeman: A neighborhood patrol officer.

Messenger: Delivers a summons to George from the bank

Clerks: Employees at the bank. These roles require actors who can sing.

Audition and Production Agreement

As this show will be cast by audition only, we have added an audition form and production contract at the end of this audition pack. At Chesterton Youth Theatre, we have the highest expectations for all the cast and crew to have excellent attendance, be punctual to rehearsals and be positive and polite through the rehearsal process. This performance agreement has been created to ensure that cast members are fully committed to this production.

If you agree with the statements on the agreement, please sign it and gain a counter signature from a parent or guardian. You will need to bring this signed agreement to the audition to participate in the performance.

We hope that this audition pack is useful and look forward to seeing you at the auditions. Break a leg!

Ms S Marston
Artistic Director of Chesterton Youth Theatre
Head of Drama at Chesterton Community
College

Mr. L Cooper
Director of Mary Poppins Jr.

Chesterton Youth Theatre's performance of Mary Poppins Jr.

Audition Form

Dear Performer,

Firstly, on behalf of Chesterton Youth Theatre and the production team, we would like to welcome you to the auditions and wish you the best of luck (or break a leg as they say in the theatre world).

Please read this letter carefully as this will contain information about how the audition will work.

Registration

Please fill in the form that is on the reverse to this letter and hand to the audition registration team. At this point, they will register you and give you an audition slot. Some performers will be required to sing with another performer in this audition. You will be handed an audition slip which will state the time of your audition.

The Audition

At the beginning of the audition, all performers will take part in a vocal and physical warm-up followed by the movement audition. At this point, we would like to remind you that we are looking for performers that are fully committed to the production and be looking at professionalism just as much as talent. After this, you will be sent to a holding room for the next part of the audition.

Before your solo audition, please be on stand-by 5 minutes before your audition. You will be invited into the Dance Studio by the audition panel when it is your time slot. When you enter, please hand them your signed performance agreement. Without this form, you will not be allowed to audition. During your audition, you will be asked a couple of questions before we begin. You will then perform the libretto which is stated on the audition pack and then be invited to perform the song that you have prepared. The accompaniment that you will use will be the rehearsal track minus the melody line which you have been using to practice however, if you would prepare to use the same track that you have used then please let the audition panel know. Please speak to the audition registration team with any questions.

Callbacks

Due to the limited rehearsal period, roles will be cast from your audition and will not require any callbacks.

We cannot wait to see your auditions.

Good luck!

Audition Form

Chesterton Youth Theatre

AUDITONEE:

AGE: VOCAL TYPE

PRODUCTION AUDITIONING FOR:

WHY DO YOU WANT TO AUDITION FOR THIS SHOW?:

ROLE AUDITIONING FOR:

SONG PREPARED:

AUDITION QUESTIONS

Yes **No**

1. Are there any roles in the show that you **DO NOT** want to be considered for? if yes, please write in other box at the end.
2. Would you accept a different role in the production (other than those mentioned in question 2), if offered?
3. Did you sign the performance agreement yourself and your parents/guardian?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

OTHER:

AUDITION SLIP

AUDITONEE:

TIME:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TIME IS APPROXIMATE AND THE AUDITIONS MAY OVER-RUN.

Chesterton Youth Theatre's performance of *Mary Poppins Jr.*

Performance Agreement

As a performer auditioning, I agree to hereby:

- I understand that signing this performance agreement **DOES NOT** mean that I am a member of the cast or stage crew and Involvement in *Mary Poppins Jr.* will be based upon a successful audition.
- I understand that this production is audition only and understand that there is a reasonable chance that I may not get selected to perform in this show.
- MY PARENTS/CARERS AND I understand that it will not be possible to gain feedback on my audition.
- I confirm that I have read through the *Mary Poppins Jr.* show pack with my parent/guardians. We are aware of the performance dates, and I confirm that I will be available for all.
- I confirm that I have read through the *Mary Poppins Jr.* show pack. My parent/guardian gives their consent for me to take part in the production should I be given a role in the cast or stage crew.
- I confirm that I am available to attend rehearsals on Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:15pm until 5:30pm and that I will not be cast in this production if I am unable to attend the rehearsals. I confirm that my parents/guardian have given consent for me to take part in rehearsals outside of regular school hours and extra-curricular hours.

If cast in this production, I agree to hereby:

- I understand that I **must attend all** my scheduled rehearsals for *Mary Poppins Jr.* in a punctual and positive manner.
- I understand that if I am unable to attend a rehearsal for *Mary Poppins Jr.* (through illness, schoolwork etc,), as much notice as possible will be given to the production team via email prior to that rehearsal.
- I understand that any rehearsal material for *Mary Poppins Jr.* is hired and therefore it is my responsibility for the upkeep of the libretto/score whilst in rehearsal period. Any lost or damaged material will need to be replaced, and I confirm that I will cover the cost of this replacement if needed which is £25.

Performer's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Parental/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please bring this agreement printed, signed and dated to your audition for *Mary Poppins Jr.*

Failure to bring the performance agreement will result in the performer being unable to audition for *Mary Poppins Jr.*