



WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE
AUDITION NOTICE
2019 SUMMER SEASON
Managing Artistic Director: Kevin Connell
General Manager: Jeniffer Hankinson
Board President: Bob Hite
Board Vice President: Kristy Metzger

Weathervane Playhouse is located at 100 Price Road, Newark, OH 43055-3380.

Weathervane Playhouse will be holding auditions for its 51st Summer Season: *Aida*, *Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike*, *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*, *Romance/Romance*, and *Billy Elliot the Musical*. Weathervane Playhouse is Ohio's longest running professional summer stock theatre, producing award winning summer productions since 1969. Non-AEA Auditions and Callbacks will be held at the Weathervane Playhouse in Newark, Ohio, on the following dates:

MARCH 1, 2, and 3, 2019

Friday, March 1, 2019

4:00 – 8:00pm General Auditions (you may be called back to dance, sing or read later this evening)

8:00 – 10:00pm Callbacks: Dancing / Singing / Reading

Saturday, March 2, 2019

10:00am – 12:30pm General Auditions for **YOUTH ACTORS ONLY**

- Actors under the age of 15 will be considered for multiple roles in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* and *Billy Elliot the Musical*. Those youth actors 16-years and above will be considered for Ensemble roles in all musicals performing in the 2019 Summer season.
- You may be called back to dance, sing or read later this evening.

1:00 – 6:00pm General Auditions

- You may be called back to dance, sing or read later this evening.

7:00 – 10:00pm Callbacks: Dancing / Singing / Reading Callbacks, as needed.

Sunday, March 3, 2019

10:00am – 5:00pm General Auditions

- You may be called back to dance, sing or read later this evening.

6:00 – 9:00pm Callbacks: Dancing / Singing / Reading Callbacks, as needed.

**PERFORMERS OF ALL AGES AND ETHNIC AND RACIAL BACKGROUNDS
ARE ENCOURAGED TO AUDITION.**



Please arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled audition time, and bring a copy of your headshot and resume. **Please prepare a 32-bar cut of a Golden Age ballad or up-tempo (a musical from the 1940's-1960's), OR a ballad or up-tempo in the style of one of the productions in the 2019 summer season.** Please bring sheet music in your key. An accompanist will be provided. Also, **prepare a one-minute Comic monologue (you may not be asked to perform the monologue).**

You may be called back to sing, dance, and/or read from the script later in the day. Please bring proper dance attire, if you have them.

DIGITAL AUDITION OPTION: If you are unable to attend the March 1-3 auditions at the Playhouse, we encourage you to submit a digital audition. Please follow the above audition criteria and send video (YouTube link preferred), headshot, and resume to auditions@weathervaneplayhouse.org by Thursday, February 28.

Pay and/or stipend is involved for roles, plus housing.

We intend to have the 2019 season follow a repertory format for our actors, with rehearsals primarily taking place from 10am-6pm. This means that all full-season actors (from out-of-town) will be given housing. All company members are required to participate in all strikes, theatre cleans, and additional duties, as assigned.

Actors interested in performing only one show should **STILL** attend the local auditions.

For any additional questions, please contact Kevin Connell (Managing Artistic Director) or Jeniffer Hankinson (General Manager), at auditions@weathervaneplayhouse.org.



CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS:

AIDA:

Rehearsals & Performances: May 23-June 15

Book by Linda Woolverton, Robert Falls, and David Henry Hwang

Music by Elton John

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* is an epic tale of love, loyalty and betrayal, chronicling the love triangle between Aida, a Nubian princess stolen from her country, Amneris, an Egyptian princess, and Radames, the soldier they both love. Aida and Radames' love for one another becomes a shining example of true devotion that ultimately transcends the vast cultural differences between their warring nations, heralding a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity. *Aida* is based on Giuseppe Verdi's 19th-century opera of the same name. (PG)

AIDA: (Mezzo-Soprano) A brave Nubian Princess who is loyal to her people but is torn between her heritage and love for an Egyptian Captain. Daughter of King Amonasro.

RADAMES: (Tenor) An Egyptian Captain and the son of Zoser. A strong, handsome, adventurous soldier who falls in love with Aida.

AMNERIS: (Mezzo-Soprano) A materialistic Egyptian Princess who is the betrothed of Captain Radames. Daughter of the Pharaoh.

MEREB: (Tenor) A young Nubian slave and servant to Radames. He is faithful to his Nubian heritage and befriends Aida upon her arrival to Egypt.

ZOSER: (Tenor) The manipulative and evil Chief Minister hungry for power. He attempts to poison the Pharaoh and is father to Radames.

PHARAOH: (Spoken) The Leader of Egypt and father to Amneris. An older, distinguished gentleman.

NEHEBKA: (Mezzo-Soprano) A Nubian slave who is friendly with Aida. She creates a robe for the Nubian Princess.

AMONASRO: (Spoken) An honorable and peaceful man who is imprisoned by Egypt. The King of Nubia and father to Aida.

ENSEMBLE: (Variety) Ministers; Soldiers; Egyptian Men; Palace Women; Nubians; Guards



VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE:

Rehearsals & Performances: June 6-June 29

A Play by Christopher Durang

In *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, comic master, Christopher Durang, takes characters and themes from Anton Chekhov's 19th Century plays, pours them into a blender, and mixes them up. The utterly hilarious and occasionally touching result is *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* set in present day Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In the play, adult siblings Vanya and Sonia reside in their old family home, mourning their lost dreams and missed opportunities. When their often-wrong, fortune-telling maid warns of impending dangers, and their movie star sister, Masha, arrives unexpectedly with young, sexy, boy toy, Spike, the family is launched into a rollicking weekend of one-upmanship, exposed nerves, and a lot of broken mugs. Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* contains laugh-out-loud comedy that will tickle your funny bone and stimulate your mind. (PG)

VANYA: (50s) Lives in Bucks County. Resigned to his life, more or less, at least compared to Sonia. An observer, he holds a lot back, until he absolutely cannot anymore. Needs to have good comedic timing and a strong use of language.

SONIA: (Early 50's) Vanya's adopted sister who lives with him in Bucks County. Discontent, upset, regretful. Resentful of Masha, yearns for something else out there. Feels like she might actually be in a Chekhov play. Must be able to do a "Maggie Smith" impersonation.

MASHA: (50's) Vanya's biological sister, glamorous and successful movie actress, who goes gallivanting around the world. Wishes she had been a "classical actress." Owns the property where Vanya and Sonia live. Has had five failed marriages, and has recently taken up with Spike.

SPIKE: (18-29) An aspiring actor, self-absorbed, not the brightest. Masha's new companion, very handsome and he knows it. Must be extremely comfortable on stage in only his underwear.

NINA: (early 20's) Lovely, sincere, would-be actress, visiting her aunt and uncle next door. Starstruck, energetic, hopeful for what the future holds for her and everyone else.

CASSANDRA - Vanya and Sonia's cleaning lady... and a soothsayer. Sometimes surprised by her own ability to predict the future. Must have a strong use of language, as she has Greek Tragedy-style monologues



ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL:

Rehearsals & Performances: June 20-July 13

Book by Dennis Kelly

Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin

Matilda The Musical is inspired by the beloved book by the incomparable Roald Dahl. Matilda is an extraordinary girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers, whose talents are constantly belittled by her cruel parents and headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, a cruel authoritarian that loathes children. Matilda's one saving grace is the highly lovable schoolteacher, Miss Honey. In *Matilda*, good and evil are locked in battle in this childlike world that is not very childlike. Dreaming of a better life for herself, Matilda dares to take a stand against the oppressive forces in her life and takes her destiny into her own hands. *Matilda* is a reminder that it only takes a little gumption to overcome life's unwarranted obstacles. (G)

YOUTH CASTING (Ages 9-15):

MATILDA WORMWOOD: (Mezzo-Soprano) Enigmatic, serious, intense.

AMANDA THRIPP: Strong dance and vocal ability

LAVENDER: Loud and kooky, likes to have fun, strong singing and acting.

ALICE: Strong and bold, strong dance and vocal ability.

HORTENSIA: Feisty, strong dance and vocal ability.

ERIC: Cute. Small. Ability to learn.

BRUCE BOGTROTTER: Comic acting ability.

NIGEL: Strong dance and vocal ability

TOMMY: Strong dance and vocal ability.

ADULT CASTING:

MISS AGATHA TRUNCHBULL: (Baritone) a former Olympic hammer-throwing champion, is now the terrifying, tyrannical headmistress of Crunchem Hall. Miss Trunchbull believes the motto of her school wholeheartedly --"Bambinatum Est Magitum" or "Children are Maggots" -- and proves it with punishing physical education classes, arbitrary rules (no pigtails), and the menacing "Chokey," a cell filled with pieces of glass and nails so locked-up students can't sit or stand. Agatha Trunchbull is the aunt



of the lovely teacher Miss Honey, and has robbed her of her inheritance. The role of Miss Trunchbull is played by a man, but should be played seriously as an extreme female character rather than with a winking nod to it being a man in drag.

MISS JENNIFER HONEY: (Age 25-35; Mezzo-Soprano) A mild, quiet person who never raises her voice and possesses the gift of being adored by children.

MRS. ZINNIA WORMWOOD: (Age 30s; Mezzo-Soprano) Mother of Michael and Matilda. She is obsessed with her amateur Ballroom dancing partner and her looks. She never wanted Matilda and thinks she's a "lousy little work," and wants to be rid of her. She loves her son, Michael, however. Must have strong comedic skills. Dance: Strong understanding of movement, partnering an asset.

MR. HARRY WORMWOOD: (Age 35-40s; Baritone) A dealer in second-hand cars - "a mean crooked crook" – a prankster and joker. Dance: Needs to be agile.

MICHAEL WORMWOOD: (20s; Tenor) The Wormwood's monosyllabic son. Teenage looking with deadpan comedy. Physically fit and strong mover.

MRS. PHELPS: (Age 30s-50s; Spoken) Warm and nurturing local librarian who encourages Matilda's love of reading.

THE EXCAPOLOGIST (or Escape Artist)/ENSEMBLE: (50's; Baritone) Is a character in Matilda's story. He is the most talented escapologist in the world, and is married to the most talented acrobat in the world, who he loves very much. The Escapologist also becomes an imaginary father figure for Matilda, and is later revealed to be Miss Honey's actual father. May double as other characters in the ensemble in "Miracle."

COOK/ENSEMBLE: (Mezzo-Soprano) The cook of Crunchem Hall. She chain-smokes cigarettes, keeps a low level of personal cleanliness, and does whatever Miss Trunchbull asks. Doubles as other characters in the ensemble in "Miracle," "School Song," "When I Grow Up," "The Smell of Rebellion, and "Revolting Children."

SERGEI/ENSEMBLE: (30s; Rich Baritone) Russian Mafia Boss who appears intimidating. Requires an accomplished Russian accent. Dance: Strong dance track.

HENCHMAN #1/ENSEMBLE: (Tenor) A member of Sergei's Russian Mafia. Doubles as other characters in the ensemble in "Miracle," "School Song," "When I Grow Up," "The Smell of Rebellion, and "Revolting Children."

HENCHMAN #2/ENSEMBLE: (Tenor) A member of Sergei's Russian Mafia. Doubles as other characters in the ensemble in "Miracle," "School Song," "When I Grow Up," "The Smell of Rebellion, and "Revolting Children."



HENCHWOMAN/ENSEMBLE: (Mezzo-Soprano) A member of Sergei's Russian Mafia. Doubles as other characters in the ensemble in "Miracle," "School Song," "When I Grow Up," "The Smell of Rebellion, and "Revolting Children."

ACROBAT/ENSEMBLE (Female; 20s-30's; Mezzo-Soprano) A strong performer with accomplished vocal and dance abilities. Acro and gymnastic skills an asset.

DOCTOR/ENSEMBLE: (Male; 20s-30s; High Tenor) Rock quality. Dance: Strong dance track, including salsa.

RUDOLPHO/ENSEMBLE: (20s-30s; Tenor) Mrs. Wormwood's dance partner; fit and athletic, with a flair for character comedy. Dance: Very strong dancer, Latin ballroom skills an asset.

ENSEMBLE: (Variety) Strong performers with accomplished vocal and dance abilities.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE:

Rehearsals & Performances: July 4-July 27

Book & Lyrics by Barry Harman

Music by Keith Herrmann

Romance/Romance is a musical with a book and lyrics by Barry Harman and music by Keith Herrmann. This two act musical is linked by the common theme of love and one song performed in both acts. Act I is *The Little Comedy*, a delightful 19th Century romp based on a short story by Arthur Schnitzler and explores the budding relationship between two people who have adopted personas other than their own to find their summer romance. *Summer Share*, Act II, is based on Jules Renard's 1898 play *Le pain de ménage*. It's a modern look at affection and disaffection between two couples at a summer house in the Hamptons. (PG)

ALFRED VON WILMERS/SAM: (25-35; Tenor) ACT I - A wealthy young man, tired of women only wanting him for his money. ACT II: Contemporary man questioning his love for his wife and his love for his best friend's wife.

JOSEFINE WENINGER/MONICA: (25-35; Alto/Mezzo) ACT I - A woman used to wanting men for their money. ACT II - Contemporary woman questioning his love for her husband and her love for her best friend's husband.

HIM/LENNY: (25-35; Baritone) ACT I - A dancer. ACT II – A loyal husband.

HER/BARB: (25-35; Soprano/Mezzo) ACT I – A dancer. ACT II – a loyal wife.



BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL:

Rehearsals & Performances: July 18-August 10

Book & Lyrics by Lee Hall

Music by Elton John

Billy Elliot the Musical is Elton John and Lee Hall's adaptation of the acclaimed 2000 film, written by Hall and directed by Stephen Daldry. Set in County Durham (North Eastern England) during the miners' strike of 1984-85, the plot revolves around Billy, a motherless boy who trades boxing gloves for ballet shoes. It is through his love of dance that Billy discovers a passion that unites his family, inspires his community, and changes his life forever. Hall's screenplay, and the musical adaptation, was inspired in part by A. J. Cronin's 1935 novel about a miners' strike, *The Stars Look Down*, to which the musical's opening song pays homage. (PG)

BILLY ELLIOT: (10-13; BOY SOPRANO) A boy who stumbles upon a ballet class and develops a passion for dance. To him, dance is a way to feel whole and free himself from the problems of life. He finds himself stuck between appeasing family and chasing his newfound love.

JACKIE ELLIOT: (35-45; Baritone) Billy's stoic father. A widowed miner struggling with maintaining a household in lieu of a work strike, he is still deeply scarred by the death of his wife. Billy's dancing initially sends him into a rage but he learns to support his son.

TONY ELLIOT: (18-25; Baritone) Billy's brother. A lazy but passionate miner. Hotheaded and scrappy with seemingly no regard of respect for his father, although he shares his disapproval of dance.

GRANDMA: (60-75) Billy's eccentric grandmother. She is forgetful and a little aloof. Despite her inattention, she harbors a bitter resentment towards her dead abusive husband but has found solace through dance.

MUM: (mid-30's; Mezzo-Soprano) Mum died a couple of years earlier, leaving behind her two sons, Tony and Billy, and her husband, Jackie. Although she is no longer alive, she is still very much alive in Billy's memory. Mum wrote Billy a letter to open when he turns eighteen, but he's opened it and read it already. She encourages him to follow his dreams and his heart.

MRS. WILKINSON: (40-50; Alto/Mezzo) The local ballet teacher who eventually becomes Billy's mentor. Hardened and mouthy, she actually has capacity for caring when she sees promise in Billy. Believes in the power of personal expression through dance.



MR. BRAITHWAITE: (40's/Baritone) Mr. Braithwaite is the accompanist for Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet class. He is reliable and dedicated to the ballet students, and clearly devoted to Mrs. Wilkinson. He is quiet and shy in his demeanor, often appearing in the background. However, as Mrs. Wilkinson encourages Billy to dance, Mr. Braithwaite reveals himself to be a talented dancer.

DEBBIE WILKINSON: (9-12) The ballet teacher's daughter. A bit stand-offish and argumentative, her childhood crush on Billy leads her to constantly discourage him.

MICHAEL: (10-13; Boy Soprano) Billy's careless and fun-loving best friend. He lives in the realm of expressing oneself, going so far as to commonly dress in women's clothing.

GEORGE: (35-45; Spoken) George is a miner in a small village in the north-east of England. He is currently on strike, along with the rest of the miners. He is also the village boxing coach and tells Jackie Elliot, that his son, Billy, has not been coming to his boxing classes. George does not understand Billy's fascination with dancing, but eventually supports him and helps to raise money for Billy to travel to London to audition for The Royal Ballet School. George does not have any solo singing, but sings with the ensemble.

OLDER BILLY/ENSEMBLE: (20's) A dancer.

ENSEMBLE: (Variety)

Miners (Big Davey, Lesley)

Ballet Girls (Angela Robson, Tracey Atkinson, Keeley Gibson, Tina Harmer)

Police Officers

Royal Ballet School Members (Clipboard Woman, Posh Boy, Posh Son)