

Florence Nightingale On Stage 2023

Nativity The Musical Audition Information

Thank you for registering for our production of Nativity the Musical! The project will be raising funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. The money raised from the show will help us continue to fund specialist hospice care for hundreds of patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

Important Dates

Event	Dates	What for
Auditions	Wednesday 3rd May	All roles ages 6-15 years, acting and singing
	Saturday 6th May	All roles ages 6 years and over acting, singing, and dancing
Get together rehearsals	TBC	Get to know each other.
Dress and Tech Rehearsals Performances	Friday 27 th October	
	Saturday 28 th October	

Auditions

We are holding auditions on Wednesday 3rd and Saturday 6th May. If you want to audition as a principal dancer, these are only being held on Saturday. The auditions will be split into separate age groups as follows.

Wednesday 3rd May 6- 15 years, acting and singing only.

6 – 9 years: 4pm – 5pm

10 – 12 years: 5.15pm – 6.25pm

13 – 15 years: 6.40 – 8pm

Saturday 6th May: 6- 15 years, acting, singing and principal dancing.

6 – 9 years: 10am – 11am

10 – 12 years: 11.15am – 12.25pm

13 – 15 years: 1.00 pm– 2.30pm

Saturday 6th May acting, 16 years and over: acting, singing, and dancing.

If you are aged 16 years or over, there will be some ensemble and principal roles available.

16 years and over, 2.40pm – 3.30pm

Venue

Auditions will be held at The Old Town Hall, St. Mary Street, High Wycombe, HP11 2XE

Audition days

- Please bring your child to Old Town Hall 15 minutes before your time slot. This is so we can check in all the children and will help us to start the audition promptly
- You will be asked to leave your child; chaperones will look after all the children during the auditions.
- There is some space in the town hall foyer to wait while your child is auditioning, though it is limited (You may be better off trying to grab a coffee nearby). Your child will be required for the whole of the time slot allocated to their age group
- Your child will be introduced to the team, the audition process will be explained to them and we will set out our expectations of all participants.
- ALL attendees will learn a song from the show.
- If your child wants to audition for a principal role, they must be prepared to sing and act in front of others. Audition dialogues are contained in Appendix 1. Audition songs are contained in Appendix 2. Your child will need to perform the dialogue for their preferred role; this does not need to be learnt by heart but it is advised.
- They should research their chosen character(s) before the audition; simple cast descriptions are contained in Appendix 3
- Your child should wear light comfortable clothing that they can move easily in (this is particularly important for the dance auditions).

What to bring to the audition

- A recent photograph with their name and date of birth on the back
- Light refreshments and plenty to drink.
- Any necessary medication; Please inform of us of any medical conditions prior to the audition

Audition outcome

All parents will be emailed the outcome of the auditions asap **after 14 May**.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be intensive and held every day during, from Saturday 21st to Thursday 26th October. Children need to be available for every day that they are called, though there will be a rest day built into the schedule according to child performance licensing requirements.

They must be available for the technical and dress rehearsals which will be held on Friday 27th October on the main stage at Wycombe Swan Theatre.

Performance date – Saturday 28th October

The show will take place at The Wycombe Swan Theatre, High Wycombe. There will be two performances: a matinee and evening.

Other Opportunities behind the scenes

Do you have a child aged 16 years or over who is not interested in performing but is keen to learn about what happens behind the scenes to create the magic on stage? We have some places for off stage opportunities as well - or maybe they already have relevant skills?

Please let us know if your child is interested in any of the following -

- Hair
- Make up
- Props
- Back stage crew
- Lighting
- Sound
- Video/photography

If your child is offered a part in the show

Please note the following:

Behaviour: We expect all participants to behave in a safe and responsible manner and that there is mutual respect between production members and cast members.

Our basic rules are that the children must:

RESPECT each other, the production team and the chaperones – everyone is there to help things run smoothly and ensure your child has a fabulous time

DO NOT call out or speak over anyone who is already talking

LISTEN – to each other

NO mobile phones or chewing gum allowed. Phones must be switched off and put away during rehearsal and performance times; they can be used during rest breaks

Commitment: If you accept a place offered to you, we expect your child/children to be at every rehearsal they are called for as well as the performance. Even one missing person can affect the dynamic of the cast and have a massive impact on what we can achieve that day.

However, we do understand that illness and the unexpected happens; please email us if your child is unable to attend.

Communication: We rely on good communication with parents to ensure that the production runs smoothly. It is essential that in the run up to rehearsals and during the rehearsal week, you check your emails. Remember to check your spam folder too in case key information has ended up there.

Prior to the start of rehearsals, you will be sent

- information on what your child needs to have learnt. Principals must have learnt their lines and cues and be off script if possible; this is imperative for intensive rehearsals.
- a rehearsal schedule so you are up to date with what is being done each day

During rehearsal week we will send updates as necessary; this may include adjustments to the rehearsal schedule.

We will set up a closed Facebook Group to post up to date information prior to and during rehearsal week. We will confirm this once the show is cast.

Costumes: You will be asked to supply some costume elements such as basic school uniforms. We have a team of helpers who will be making and sourcing most of the items

Show Fees: Whilst every attempt is made to keep costs to a minimum, we are doing this project to raise funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. There will be show fee of £150 for the project, which will include a show t shirt with your child's name printed on it and most of your costumes.

If you qualify for Pupil Premium, please let us know.

Are you interested in helping us?

Parent help is always welcomed. In particular we are hoping that many of you will be prepared to help with chaperoning, even if only for one session. You will need to be DBS checked (we can organise that for you) and if you have a chaperone licence – even better!

Also – not just the children need help... we do too. Have you got any skills that we can use in set building, painting or dressing? What about helping to make props? And of course, we will also need help with sewing and organising costumes. Are you a hairdresser or make-up artist at heart (or have been itching to have a go?) If you want to help out in any way, please email

onstage@fnhospice.org.uk

We also welcome anyone who is interested in helping to sponsor the project and there are marketing opportunities if you want to promote your business as a supporter of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

Important notes

- As this is a huge fundraising community project you are invited to make a donation to help cover our audition costs
- Do not worry if your child has no experience. We are principally looking for character, energy and enthusiasm which is as important, if not more so, than being the best singer, dancer or actor. We are also looking for commitment to the whole production and an overall love of theatre.
- We will send you the time and date of your child's audition slot
- Please confirm that your child will be attending on their allocated date and time by return email. This will help us to manage numbers and ensure we have enough chaperones.
- We will be looking to cast around 100 children. It is inevitable that some children will be disappointed at the end of this process, and we ask that you, as their parents, help to support us and to manage their expectations,

MOST IMPORTANTLY -HAVE FUN!

Creative Team

DIRECTOR – Amy Dunstall

PRODUCER – Grizelda Hafter

PRODUCTION MANAGER – Zoe Harbour

MUSICAL DIRECTOR -Paul Guenault

CHOREOGRAPHER -Helayna Liviero

Thank You.

Thank you for allowing your child/children to audition for this exciting production. We hope that they will have a fabulous time. We are looking forward to meeting your children and working with them on this exciting project

We hope this information pack answers any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need to discuss further any information regarding your child and their involvement in Nativity, by emailing: onstage@fnhospice.org.uk

Appendix 1 – Audition Dialogues

If you want to be considered for a principal role, please select the audition dialogue from the following:

Girls aged 6 -15 years

Mr. Poppy Hi Katelyn
Girl Hello!!!
Mr. Poppy Hello! What do you want to be?
Girl I want to be the star
Mr. Poppy Okay, why would...
Girl The star of Bethlehem!
Mr. Poppy ...and why would you want to be the star of Bethlehem?
Girl Because its shiny!!! And because I look like a pop star, sound like a pop star, I am a pop star!!!

Boys aged 6 -15 years

Paul No, no, no, Mr Poppy, no!!! Some really good ideas there, but none of that is going to happen - and anyway these children will never be able to do that!
Mr Poppy Yes, they will.
Boy No, we won't- we're useless - everybody knows we're useless.
Mr Poppy You're not useless
Boy That's what Mr Maddens always calls us
Paul No, I don't.
Boy Yes, you do.
Paul No, I don't
Boy You do. You told Mrs Bevan that we are - Lucy heard you

Children ages 15 years and over

Do you want to hear a story? ... Alright! Once upon a time, in a magical far-off kingdom called - High Wycombe - there lived three best friends. Jennifer Lore...

Paul Maddens ...

And Gordon Shakespeare!

And they were the three best friends that anyone had ever seen!

And just like all kids they loved Christmas; they loved playing games and they loved throwing snowballs!

And as they grew older, they still loved Christmas, still loved playing games and still loved throwing snowballs - who wouldn't? And one day, two of them fell in love ...

JENNIFER and GORDON lock eyes and are drawn towards each other and are about to kiss.

No, not you two! Two of them fell in love ...

(JENNIFER quickly moves away from GORDON - relieved. PAUL is drawn towards GORDON and they almost kiss.)

No, no, no no...!

(PAUL runs away from GORDON very relieved and finds JENNIFER -they stare into each other's eyes and move towards each other -PAUL and JENNIFER kiss lovingly.)

OOoooooooh yeah. Paul and Jennifer were the happiest anyone could have been, they spent every minute of every day planning every minute of every day for the rest of their lives. If I am being honest, I think Gordon wished that he was with Jennifer

Appendix 2 – Audition Songs

All auditionees including ensemble will need to learn at the following songs (check to see which ones you need to learn). Everyone will sing the song in a group. If you want to be considered for a principal role, you will also need to sing the song as a solo. You can listen to the songs on

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/5qqbMAQsLfHfEjXj90wt0M>

Girls aged 6 -15 years

Okay everybody, clap your hands! I'm a superstar and I'm coming out tonight!

I'VE HAD A LITTLE MAKEOVER AND I'M ALL DRESSED UP TONIGHT

A CHEEKY DRINK, A NAUGHTY WINK, WE'LL LOOSEN UP ALRIGHT

STAND BACK AND PUT YOUR SHADES ON,

COS I'M ABOUT TO SHINE

MY BLINDING LIGHT WILL THRILL YOU

COS THERE'S NO STARLIGHT LIKE MINE'

Boys aged 6 -15 years

SHE'S MY SHINING STAR FROM ABOVE

SHE TWINKLES AND SHE SPRINKLES AND I WANT TO BE HER LOVE

I WANT TO SQUEEZE HER, PLEASE HER, SHARE A SLICE OF PIZZA

EXTRA SPICY!

SHE MAKES ME HOT UNDER THE COLLAR AND FUZZY DEEP INSIDE

I WISH I COULD LASSO HER AND TAKE HER FOR A RIDE

SHE'S TINY, SHE'S SHINY, SHE SPARKLES IN THE NIGHT

I LOVE HER AND I NEED HER TO GUIDE ME THROUGH THE NIGHT

Boys aged 6 -15 years

THINGS ARE REALLY COOL AT ST BERNADETTES

OUR SCHOOL IS SO FULL OF JOY

FOR EVERY GIRL AND BOY

THERES NO OTHER SCHOOL, LIKE ST BERNADETTES

US CHILDREN ARE REALLY GOOD

YOU'D SPONSER US IF YOU COULD

WE'RE JUST SO MISTUNDERSTOOD

AT ST BERNADETTES

Boys aged 6 -15 years

AWAY IN A MANGER, NO CRIB FOR A BED
THE LITTLE LORD JESUS LAYS DOWN HIS SWEET HEAD
THE DAD WAS ALL ANGRY LIKE JEREMY KYLE
HIS MUM WAS ALL ANGRY NOT EVEN A SMILE
HE WAS SHOT DOWN, BUT IT WASN'T ME
HE WAS SHOT DOWN IN THE NATIVITY
HE WAS SHOT DOWN, DOWN IN A MANGER
SHOT DOWN FOR HIS NIKE TRAINERS

Children aged 15 years and over

WELCOME TO HOLLYWOOD, HERE WE ARE
START AS AN EXTRA WE'LL MAKE YOU A STAR
MOVIE TIME AND THE FANTASY GROWS
SPECIAL EFFECTS AS THE DIALOGUE FLOWS
YOU THINK IN SPACE BUT THAT'S JUST A CONFUSION
COS ITS ALL A SET AND ITS JUST AN ILLUSION
ROMANTIC COMEDY
WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE COMPLETE
WHO ELSE CAN COMPETE
WELCOME TO HOLLYWOOD

Story Synopsis

Synopsis

When drama school graduate turned school teacher Paul Maddens loses the love of his life Jennifer Lore around Christmas time, the last thing he wants to do is direct the St Bernadette's school Nativity. With his previous attempts earning him -2 star reviews from local reviewer Patrick Burns (who favours his rival Gordon Shakespeare's festive shows at Oakmoor School), Mr. Maddens finds himself juggling his aching heart, his new larger-than-life teaching assistant Mr. Poppy and a white lie about Hollywood that soon spirals out of control...

Principal Characters

There are some principal schoolchildren who will have dialogue and need to sing solos. These are not quite the same as the original film/touring musical. We have split some of the roles so that we can offer as many children as possible a chance to shine. We will be casting:

Katelyn: confident and Sassy

The Star: needs to be a strong singer – the star of Nativity

Ollie: The naughty boy who desperately wants to play Joseph

Alfie: Needs to be able to rap

Angel Gabriel: Strong singer and dancer

Young Paul Maddens

Young Angela Lore

Young Gordon Shakespeare

Narrators: open the show and introduce the story

In addition, there are a few small speaking and singing parts for other schoolchildren and characters in The Nativity

Ensemble roles

Pupils of Oakmoor School

Pupils of St. Bernadette's school

Adult roles

Please note that the principal adult roles will be performed by adults (already cast)