



Florence Nightingale On Stage 2024



Annie Audition Information For children aged 6-18 years

Thank you for registering for our production of Annie. 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.

We try very hard to keep costs to a minimum, but these productions are expensive to put on. There will be a show fee of £165 for the project, which will include a show t shirt and most of your costumes.

We no longer have funding for children who qualify for Pupil Premium. If you think you will struggle to pay the show fees, please contact onstage@fnhospice.org.uk

Key Dates

Date	Event	What for
30 th June 10 am - 7 pm (starting with youngest at 10. am)	Auditions:	All roles ages 6-18 years, acting, singing and Principal Dancers. 8-18 years
1 st July	Callback Invitations sent out	Sent via email.
2 nd July 4.30 pm – 9pm	Callback Auditions: Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Offices	For Lead Roles ages 6-18 years – acting & singing
By 5 th July	Casting notification	Email informing you of the outcome of the auditions.
28 th September	Get together rehearsal (timings tbc)	Get to know each other and do some initial singing
Mid-October	Outline rehearsal schedule notification	sent via email.
26 th October to 1 st November (inclusive)	Rehearsals	Show rehearsals: location in/near Wycombe to be confirmed
1 st November	Technical and Dress Rehearsals	Wycombe Swan Theatre
2 nd November	SHOW DAY!	Wycombe Swan Theatre

Auditions

We are holding auditions on **Sunday 30th June** from 10 am pm till 7 pm. These will cover acting, singing and dancing. We will be auditioning in age groups, starting with the youngest at 10.00 and each will last between 1 and 1½ hours. At this stage we are unable to give you precise timings, but we will start with the youngest children.

We have had a huge amount of interest in this project already. If necessary, we will cap audition numbers at 200, but will run a reserve list if more apply than we have capacity for.

There will be 100 places available in the cast; we may not be able to take everyone, so it is inevitable that some children may be disappointed at the end of this process, and we ask that you, as their parents/guardians, help to support us and manage their expectations. Because of the numbers that we are dealing with and the compressed timescale of the project, we **will not** be able to give individual feedback on auditions and outcomes.

If you have performed in one of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's productions before, please **do not assume that you will automatically get a place**; there simply will not be enough space for everyone. We want you to be aware of this at the outset.

Venue

The main auditions will be held at **Tyler's Green Village Hall, Church Road, Tylers Green, Penn, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP10 8LN**. Call back auditions will be held in the education suite at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity head offices in Aylesbury.

Audition days

- You will be sent the time for your audition by email.
- Please bring your child to Tyler's Green Village 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. We do not have space for parents in the audition space, but you may be able to wait in the foyer; or you can go shopping or grab a coffee nearby. Your child will be required for the whole of the time slot allocated to their audition 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.
- The show synopsis and list of main characters is contained in **Appendix 1** at the back of this pack

ALL attendees will need to sing a short excerpt from the song 'Tomorrow'. Everyone will sing as a group and those who have indicated on their audition form that they want to be considered for a lead role will be asked to sing a solo. This excerpt is in **Appendix 2** at the back of this pack. You can listen to it on Spotify at

<https://open.spotify.com/track/1AXO42HiJSTgPq7KbJAEjp?si=REGBrXjiRq6ghDVll80iAw&context=spotify%3Aalbum%3A0T1IQv20NNCoFIZkvHN3SQ>

- If your child wants to audition for a lead role, they will need to perform a short dialogue. This is in **Appendix 3** at the back of this pack.
- If your child wants to audition for a cameo/speaking only role, they will need to perform a short dialogue. This is in **Appendix 3** at the back of this pack.
- Your child should wear light comfortable clothing that they can move easily in (this is particularly important for the dance auditions).

Principal Dancer Auditions

We will be casting two groups of Principal Dancers – Junior Principal Dancers will be ages 8-12 and Senior Principal Dancers ages 13-18. All children in the cast will do some dancing or movement even if they are not cast as Principal Dancers.

The Principal Dancer groups will have extra, more complex dances; we will be looking for children for these groups who can pick up dance moves quickly and execute them expressively.

What to bring to the audition

- A recent photograph with their name and date of birth on the back. This should be of head and shoulders only and 6" x 4" in size.
- Light refreshments and plenty to drink.
- Any necessary medication; Please inform of us of any medical conditions prior to the audition, including SEN or other conditions that we should be aware of (particularly if they find auditions stressful).

Call back auditions for principal roles

A short synopsis of the musical and a list of the principal roles are contained in **Appendix 3** at the back of this pack. We will let you know by **1st July** if you have been invited for a call back to audition for a lead role. If you are not invited for a call back audition, do not assume that you will not be offered a place on the project.

The call back auditions will be held on **2nd July** from 4 pm – 9pm in in the education suite at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity head offices. We will send you an audition time by email.

If your child is hoping to audition for a lead role, please keep this date free. **If they cannot attend on this date, they will not be considered for a lead role.**

Lead role auditions will require both acting and solo singing.

Audition outcome

All parents will be emailed the outcome of all the auditions by **5th July**. We will let everyone know the outcome at the same time.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be intensive and held every day from **Saturday 26th October to Friday November 1st**. We expect all children to attend the rehearsals they are called to.

Rehearsals will be in or near High Wycombe; exact location to be confirmed.

Everyone must be available for the technical and dress rehearsals which will be held on Friday 1st November on the main stage at Wycombe Swan Theatre. Please keep these dates free.

Performance date – Saturday 2nd November

The show will take place at Wycombe Swan Theatre. There will be two performances: a matinee and evening. Depending on numbers, the youngest age group may be split, with one group performing in the matinee and the other in the evening. The elder children will perform in both shows.

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 however be used during rest breaks.

Commitment: If you accept a place offered to you, we expect your child/children to be at every rehearsal for the full time they are called for as well as the performances. 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.

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.
- An outline rehearsal schedule so you know which days your children will be called.

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

We will set up a closed Facebook Group to post up to date information prior to and during rehearsal week. This will be used to support our communications and will not be the primary source of information. We will also continue to be in regular contact by email; if you do not have Facebook you won't miss out on important information. We will confirm arrangements once the show is cast.

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

Important notes

- 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.
- 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.
- A reminder that we will be looking to cast around 150 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.**

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.

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 Annie, by emailing: onstage@fnhospice.org.uk

Story Synopsis

Synopsis

A spunky young orphan is taken in by a rich eccentric, much to the chagrin of the cantankerous woman who runs the orphanage.

Based on the hit Broadway musical. Young orphan Annie has lived a hard knock life in an anything but happy orphanage run by the ruthless matriarch Miss Agatha Hannigan. She quietly escapes her orphanage and sets out to find her parents, who she believe will claim her as their own with a broken locket. Her path leads her to be placed in the care of eccentric billionaire Oliver Warbucks. After a few days, Warbucks realizes that Annie means more to him than life itself. But Miss Hannigan, along with crooks Rooster and Lily plots to do away with Annie and will stop at nothing to reclaim her.

Principal Characters

We will be casting children in principal roles as follows:

Annie

A streetwise orphan; she is eventually taken in by Oliver Warbucks. Spunky, friendly, big voiced.

Gender: Female

Age: 9 to 13

Orphans

The other girls in the orphanage with Annie. These girls are gritty, neglected and vulnerable, yet basically honest and potentially loveable. Includes Molly, Kate, Tessie, Pepper, July, and Duffy.

Gender: Female & male

Age: 6 to 15

Grace Farrell

Faithful secretary to Mr. Oliver Warbucks. Poised, sweet, gentle.

Gender: Female

Age: 15 up

Rooster

Miss Hannigan's no-good brother looking for a quick buck. A sleazy, slick con man.

Gender: Male

Age: 15 up

Lily

Rooster's girlfriend, who is also out for a quick buck. She is considered to be a floozy and bimbo.

Gender: Female

Age: 15 up

Bert Healy

The ultimate radio personality. He helps Annie by broadcasting about the search for her birth parents.

Gender: Male

Age: 15 up

Servants

The servants at the Warbucks mansion. Includes Drake, Mrs. Pugh, Mrs. Greer, Cecille, and Annette.

Gender: Any

Age: 15 up

Ensemble roles will include.

Servants Hooverville Citizens, Orphans, Londoners

Gender: Any/ Any age

Appendix 2 – Audition Songs

Everyone will need to sing the following excerpt from ‘Tomorrow’ (bars 2-23) in a group

Tomorrow (These lyrics are the start of the song)

The sun'll come out tomorrow
Bet your bottom dollar, that tomorrow there'll be sun
Just thinking about tomorrow
Clears away the cobwebs, and the sorrow 'til there's none
When I'm stuck with a day that's gray and lonely
I just stick out my chin, and grin, and say, oh
The sun'll come out tomorrow
So, you gotta hang on 'til tomorrow, come what may
Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you, tomorrow
You're always a day away

Those auditioning for lead roles will need to sing the following excerpts:

Annie – Age: 9 to 13

Tomorrow (These lyrics are the end of the song)

When I'm stuck with a day that's gray and lonely
I just stick out my chin, and grin, and say
The sun'll come out tomorrow
Oh, you gotta hang on 'til tomorrow, come what may
Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you, tomorrow
You're always a day away
Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you, tomorrow
You're always a day away

Grace Farrell - Age: 15 up

You Won't Be An Orphan For Long'

If he should need the FBI
Then he will have the FBI!
With all the favors that he's done
J. Edgar Hoover owes him one!
And then the midnight oil gets burned
Till not a stone is left unturned!
He will search everywhere
And he'll find them, I swear
Oh, you won't be an orphan for long!
Where other men would call it quits
And disappear
He'll use his fortune and his wits
So never fear!
Cross the street or cross the sea
Annie, sweet, we guarantee
That you won't be an orphan
No, you won't be an orphan for long!

Although this song is sung by three people in the show, please learn all the lyrics for the audition

Easy Street

Easy street, Easy street, Where the rich folks play
Yeah, yeah, yeah,
Move them feet, Move them ever-lovin' feet
To easy street, Easy street
When you get there, stay
It ain't fair, How we scrounge
For three or four bucks
While she gets, Warbucks
The little brat!
It ain't fair this here life, Is drivin' me nuts!
While we get peanuts
She's livin' fat!
Maybe she holds the key, That little lady
To gettin' more bucks, Instead of less
Maybe we fix the game, With something shady
Where does that put us?
Give you our guess, Yes!
Easy street, Easy street
Annie is the key, Yes sirree
Yes sirree, Yes sirree
Easy street, Easy street
That's where we're gonna --
Be!

Bert Healy Age: 15 up

Fully Dressed

Hey hobo man,
Hey Dapper Dan,
You've both got your style
But brother, you're never fully dressed
Without a smile
Your clothes may be Beau Brummelly
They stand out a mile
But brother you're never fully dressed
Without a smile
Who cares what they're wearing
on Main Street or Saville Row
It's what you wear from ear to ear
And not from head to toe.
That matters
So, Senator, so, janitor
So long for a while
Remember you're never fully dressed
Though you may wear the best
You're never fully dressed without a
Smile

Appendix 3 – Audition Dialogue

Please see various audition dialogue below. These are for different ages/gender as described.

Female age 10-15 – Choose either Option 1 or Option 2; you will only need to perform one of these

Option 1

Pipe down, all of you. Do you want Hannigan to hear you? I know, she's talking in her sleep. Shhhh, Molly. It's all right, Annie's here. Blow. It was only a dream. Now we've all got to get back to sleep. It's after three a.m. All right, I'll read you my note again if you promise to go back to sleep. (clears throat) "Please take care of our little darling. We've named her Annie. She was born on Oct. 28 ." So, you're laughing are you? Do you want to sleep with your teeth inside your mouth or out?

Option 2

No! No please don't make me take my locket off. I don't want a new one. (Fingering her locket) This locket, my Mom and Dad left it with me when... when they left me at the Orphanage. And there was a note, too.

(Loudly) They're coming back for me. And, I know, being here with you for Christmas, I'm real lucky. But... I don't know how to say it... (She begins to cry) The one thing I want in all the world... more than anything else is to find my mother and father. (More tears) And to be like other kids, with folks of my own.

Female age 6-9 ONLY

Mama! Mama! Mommy! I was dreamin' 'bout my Mama, Annie. We was on the merry-go-round and she was smiling and holding my hand. And then, she was gone. I couldn't stop the merry-go round and I couldn't find her no more, nowhere. Annie, will you read me your note again, please? It always makes me feel better. I promise I'll go to sleep after you read me your Note.

Male (Age 6-15)

I got him! I got the dog! Now what should we do with him? The dog Catcher said he was dangerous. He don't look dangerous to me. He's just a dumb mutt, that's all. He aint worth nothin'. Maybe we should shoot him. We'd be town heroes! Hey, I know what we could do with him. (with a mischievous grin) As long as we don't get caught . . .

Male age 16 plus

Sure enough. They finally let me out. This time some old geezer said I swindled him out of eleven hundred bucks??? Why did he say I swindled him out of eleven hundred bucks? Cuz.... (with pride) I swindled him out of eleven hundred bucks. But I'm not about to sit here while some crummy orphan is living in the lap of luxury and the two Hannigan kids have ended up on the skids. I got a plan

Female age 16 plus

Hi. I'm Lily St. Regis from Jersey City. You know, like the hotel. I'm named after it! So you live in this dump? The city may foot your bill but this aint exactly Buckingham Palace. (she laughs) Your pearls aint even real. Rooster? I thought you said your big sis was livin' in clover? She's living' in the skids