

Audition Information for SMASH Productions

“Annie”

SMASH Productions is pleased to produce the heartwarming musical, “Annie” that proves that the sun will always come out tomorrow! The show will be performed at The Villages Savannah Center on April 15-16, 2027. We expect to have four performances. Dress and Tech Rehearsal will take place on April 13 and 14.

Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression in 1930s New York City, “Annie” is a beloved Broadway musical that follows the story of a plucky, optimistic young orphan determined to find her parents, who abandoned her years earlier at a home run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. Spunky and resilient, Annie charms her way out of a “hard-knock life” when she is selected to spend the holidays with billionaire Oliver Warbucks, a stern businessman whose heart is completely transformed by the child’s infectious optimism.

Featuring songs like “Tomorrow”, “Maybe” and “It’s a Hard Knock Life”, the show follows Annie’s journey from rags to riches, navigating the schemes of Miss Hannigan and her con-artist brother, Rooster, while ultimately discovering that family is found through love and connection not just blood ties

This heartwarming, Tony Award-winning classic, written by Thomas Meehan, music by Charles Strouse, and lyrics by Martin Charnin, based on the “Little Orphan Annie” comic strip, serves as a symbol of hope, demonstrating that a positive outlook can brighten even the darkest of times.

“Annie” is filled with unforgettable characters, dazzling production numbers, and iconic songs with a cast that includes adults and children of all ages.

Rehearsals will begin on a limited basis in November and December due to the Holiday Season. We will follow our regular schedule beginning in January 2027. SMASH rehearses on the following days and times:

- Monday afternoons from 12:30 pm to 4:50 pm at Manatee Recreation Center
- Tuesday evening from 6 pm to 9 pm, Rec Center TBD
- Thursday evening from 5 pm to 8:30 pm at Big Cypress Recreation Center
- Saturday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm or 10 am to 2 pm, Rec Center TBD

Open Auditions are planned for all parts on:

- **Thursday April 16 from 5 PM to 9 PM at Big Cypress Rec Center**
 - Children Auditions begin at 5:00 PM
 - **All Adults are encouraged to arrive at 6 PM**
- **Saturday April 18 from 10 AM to 3 PM at Big Cypress Rec Center**
 - Children Auditions from 10 AM – 11 AM
 - **All Adults are encouraged to arrive at 11 AM**
 - Call backs for Auditioners upon request of Casting Committee

Auditions may consist of vocal selections and/or dance movements which will be taught to Auditioners. Cold readings upon request of Casting Committee.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Casting Committee

Bob Stehman, Artistic Director

Mary Ann Rockenbach, Musical Director

Barb Byers, Choreographer

Susan Feinberg, Producer

CAST OF CHARACTERS

LEADS:

Adult Male Roles

- **Oliver Warbucks:** A powerful billionaire, who always has his mind on business, but has a kind heart looking for someone to love. Sings “NYC”, “Something Was Missing” and “I Don’t Need Anything but You”. (Baritone to High F). This role involves a small amount of dance. May be required to SHAVE head.
- **Rooster:** Miss Hannigan’s greedy, slimy and dishonest brother. Strong comedic skills. Sings “Easy Street”. (Tenor to high G)

Adult Female Roles

- **Grace Farrell:** Loyal and intelligent private secretary to Oliver Warbucks. She brings Annie and Warbucks together. Calm, cool, sweet, classy and confident. (Soprano to high G)
- **Miss Hannigan:** Desperate and unhappy with her lot in life, she is an alcoholic orphanage matron who is Annie’s nemesis. Strong, comedic acting, singing and dance movement. Her character is larger than life. Sings “Little Girls” and “Easy Street”. (Alto A to D)
- **Lily St. Regis:** Shady, floozy girlfriend of Rooster. Character actress with strong comedic acting, singing and dance movement.

FEATURED ROLES:

Adult Male Roles

- **Roosevelt:** President of the United States of America, who takes an immediate liking to Annie and her optimism. Must be able to imitate Roosevelt. (also is in Ensemble)
- **Bert Healy:** A popular radio announcer. Sings “You’re Never Fully Dressed without a Smile”. (Tenor to F#) (also is in Ensemble)

Adult Female Roles

- **Star to Be:** Feature / Ensemble - Aspiring Broadway actress who sings during “NYC”. Strong Singer. (Mezzo)
- **The Lovely Boylan Sisters:** (Connie, Ronnie, Bonnie). Singing Group that sings backup to Bert Healy. MUST be able to sing well and harmonize.

ENSEMBLE:

Adult Roles (could be male or female)

- **Perkins: Character part** - Associate of President Roosevelt (Soprano or Baritone)
- **Hull: Character part** - Associate of President Roosevelt (Must be able to sing harmony)
- **Morganthau: Character part** - Associate of President Roosevelt (Must be able to sing harmony). This role is possibly doubled with chorus.
- **Ensemble:** Townspeople who appear in “Hooverville”, “NYC” and appear as servants at Warbucks’ Mansion, Roosevelt Cabinet and Bert Healy’s radio show

Adult Male Character Ensemble Roles

- **Bundles McCloskey:** Laundry man who flirts with Ms. Hannigan and aids Annie’s attempt to escape. Spoken role only
- **Jimmy Johnson:** Silly radio personality on Bert Healey’s radio show
- **Fred McCracken:** Puppet wrangler, uses a dummy on Bert Healey’s radio show (Baritone)
- **Harold Ickes:** An associate of President Roosevelt. Must be able to sing harmony.
- **Louis Howe:** An associate of President Roosevelt. Must be able to sing harmony.
- **Drake:** Head butler in the Warbucks’ home
- **Lt. Ward:** NYPD officer who is suspicious of Annie

Adult Female Ensemble Roles

- **Cecile and Annette:** Maids at Warbucks’ home
- **Mrs. Greer:** Oliver Warbucks’ head housekeeper
- **Mrs. Pugh:** Oliver Warbucks’ cook

SANDY [Annie's dog]: Auditions for Sandy will take place at a later date. Ideal dogs must be comfortable around children [particularly Annie], loud music, stage lights and sounds, and able to follow commands like sit, stay, come and respond to the name "Sandy". Auditions will involve interacting with the dog’s owner and selected actors who interact with the dog to assess the dog’s training and behavior. Any dog considered must be a service dog in order to rehearse/perform at the Rec Centers and the Savannah Center.

Please contact Bob Stehman at [**rbs1019@gmail.com**](mailto:rbs1019@gmail.com) if you have any questions.