

# Annie Characters

## **ANNIE**

Annie is a complex little girl. She is a tough, streetwise urchin who is nevertheless vulnerable when she thinks she might lose what has become most important to her: a newfound "family" who loves her. She has to be motherly in scene one, independent in scene two, overwhelmed in scenes four and five, needy in scene seven, and hopeful for the future in scenes ten and eleven. The actor who plays Annie must be strong vocally and musically. She must be capable of vocal projection without strain. Although she is at times aggressive or crafty, the audience should never doubt Annie is a friendly and caring child; she will go to any extent to gain the love of a family to which she can belong.

- Age 11
- Orphan
- Vocal Range: Mezzo (A below middle C – High F)
- Strong vocally and strong actress

## **MISS HANNIGAN**

This woman is definitely a "has-been." Her distaste for her job and the children that are part of it should be obvious in every line she speaks, every song she sings and every move she makes. The student who plays her must have an excellent sense of comic timing. The acrid delivery of her lines and the torch-like rendition of her songs must distinguish her from the other characters in the show.

- Age 40's
- The villainous director of the orphanage.
- Mezzo (G below middle C – High D)
- Must play comedy well
- More mature voice
- Has to change character from being mean to falsely loving in a split second
- Likes to think of herself as a diva
- Loves to flirt

## **OLIVER WARBUCKS**

This may be the most challenging role in Annie for a student in this age group. He must appear middle-aged, self-assured and confident. At first awkwardly affectionate toward Annie, he soon finds himself completely charmed by her. The student who plays Warbucks will need to be extremely focused throughout the show. His posture, walk and speech patterns are very important.

- Age 50 – 60
- Billionaire: self-assured and confident
- Walk and speech patterns have to be more mature
- Baritone (A below middle C – High D)

## **GRACE FARRELL**

Grace is mature, calm, cool and "together." She is classy and businesslike when dealing with Miss Hannigan and Warbucks, yet maternal toward Annie. The student playing Grace can set herself apart from the other characters simply by the sophisticated way she walks. Grace should seem ready with an answer for just about anything. Each dramatic situation should seem to come "under control" the moment she glides into a scene. The student playing Grace must be able to negotiate the challenging intervals in "N.Y.C."

- Age 20's
- Private secretary to Warbucks
- Attractive, classy, tall, well-dressed
- Soprano (A below middle C – high D)



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## ROOSTER & LILY

These two are quite the team -- "team" being the operative word, as the characters play off each other constantly. You might consider casting students of contrasting heights. Rooster can even be shorter than Lily; after all, these two are not to be taken too seriously! Rooster is flashy and self-assured. His "moves" should be as smooth as a gambler's, as should be the message he sells in "Easy Street." Lily (airhead that she is) is always distracted, although she manages to pick up on any conversation involving money. She never acts as the leader, always bringing up the rear while tripping over her own feet (it is difficult to walk and check your makeup in a compact at the same time). "Easy Street" is the most challenging number in the show, in terms of vocal range. If the students playing Rooster and Lily are strong both vocally and visually, the audience will feel like joining them in "Easy Street"!

## ROOSTER HANNIGAN

- MRS. HANNIGAN's brother
- Flashy. Self-assured. Moves smoothly in a gangster way.
- Baritone; Wide vocal range (G below middle C – high E flat)
- Must be able to play off of LILY. They are a team. Comedy role with Brooklyn accent.

## LILY ST. REGIS.

- ROOSTER's girlfriend
- Airhead. Looking good and money are all that matter to her.
- Soprano; Wide vocal range (B flat below middle C – High E flat)
- Comedy role with Brooklyn accent.

## ORPHANS

These girls are gritty, neglected and vulnerable, yet basically honest and potentially lovable. The actors portraying them must be able to have mischievous fun with each other as well as "sibling-style" fights. Each student should be able to create and shape her own character. Children auditioning for these roles need to have vocal strength and be visually expressive. All of their blocking and movements must appear motivated and strong. Cast these characters well and you will have won over your audience by the end of scene one.

**LEAD ORPHANS.** Must have the ability to have mischievous fun with one another.  
(G below middle C to High E flat)

- ❖ **MOLLY**, age 6. Tiniest. Frightened (looks to Annie for mothering.)
  - **Vocal Range** (A flat below middle C – B above middle C)
- ❖ **KATE**, age 7. Next smallest
  - **Vocal Range** (middle C to High D)
- ❖ **TESSIE**, age 10. Most emotional. Cries or laughs easily. Her phrase is "O, my goodness, O, my goodness."
  - **Vocal Range** (A below middle C to High D)
- ❖ **PEPPER**, age 12. Toughest. Stands up for herself and defends everyone.
  - **Vocal Range** (middle C to High D)
- ❖ **JULY**, age 13. Quietest.
  - **Vocal Range** (G below middle C to C above middle C)
- ❖ **DUFFY**, age 13. Tallest, most mature.
  - **Vocal Range** (middle C to High D)



# Annie Characters



## **PRESIDENT FDR.**

- Baritone (C flat – E sharp)
- Be comfortable in a wheelchair
- Must look mature
- Be able to imitate President Roosevelt's voice and mannerisms.

## **DRAKE.**

- Baritone (A below middle to High D)
- English butler. Head servant.
- Ideally, should be tall enough to carry ANNIE.

**SANDY.** Male dog which can be played by a tiny male or female student. Sings.

**BUNDLES McCLOSKEY.** Laundry man. Character actor. Flirts with Miss Hannigan.

**APPLE SELLER:** No solo singing but dialogue with ANNIE.

**DOG CATCHER.** No solo singing but dialogue with ANNIE.

**LT. WARD (Policeman).** No solo singing.

**MANSION STAFF** (all must be strong singers)

**CECILLE & ANNETTE.** French maids. Could be dancers in addition to singers.

**MRS. GREER** Head housekeeper.

**MRS. PUGH** (pronounced "pew"). Cook.

**STAR-TO-BE.** Solo in NYC. A young "GRACE FARRELL."

**USHERETTES.** Small solos in NYC

**BERT HEALY.** Head of the Oxydent radio show. He's a scene-stealer. Has to be number one.

**BERT HEALY'S GIRLS.** Three harmonizing voices on his radio show.

**RADIO ANNOUNCER** Has to have professional sounding speaking voice and manner

**SOUND EFFECTS MAN.** Be able to handle old-fashioned sound effects props. Comedian.

**\* Radio Announcer and Sound Effect Man could be played by one or two people**

**LOUIS HOWE.** FDR's assistant.

**OTHER NEEDED CHARACTERS: CHAUFFER, SERVANTS, ORPHANS, NEW YORKERS & A PARADE OF NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CHARACTERS ON TIMES SQUARE, THE "CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD."**