

SIGHTLINES

NEWS FROM THE SPRINGFIELD MUNI OPERA

EARLY SPRING 2010

Audition Workshops February 20

Muni's 2010 season is just around the corner. This year's shows are *Seussical*, *Into the Woods*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Annie*.

The Audition Workshops give you a chance to learn about the audition process as well as what each director is looking for in their shows. The workshops will be held **Saturday, Feb. 20, in the LRS Theater at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th St., Springfield, IL. The Children's Workshop will begin at 10:30 a.m.** Children must be at least eight years old and less than 14 years old by March 20, 2010 in order to participate in Children's Auditions. The **Adult Auditions Workshop will begin at 1:00 p.m.**

If you haven't attended the Auditions Workshop in the past, you will not want to miss it this year. You will learn the ins and outs of the audition process including our newest improvement, where you can fill out your audition form online. You will pick up tips for preparing for vocal and dance auditions, and learn about a recent rule change that gives 13-year-olds, who are mature physically and vocally, the option of auditioning as adults. You will hear from the directors all about their shows, have a chance to talk with them afterwards in the dining room, and pick up audition music. Reservations for your audition time can be made directly following the workshops. This is your opportunity to choose the date and time that works best for your schedule.

Our revised audition format used last year was well received and will be used again this year. It features closed vocal auditions with groups of 17 at a time in a relaxed atmosphere. All parts are identified as requiring either a brief, basic movement session that would be



Back row (left to right) are 2010 season directors Steve Williams (*Annie*), Laurie O'Brien (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Doug Hahn and Gary Shull (*Into the Woods*), and Mac Warren (*Seussical*). Seated are producers John Baker (*Annie*), Mike Rogers (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Julie Davis (*Into the Woods*), and Flynn Hanners (*Seussical*).

part of the vocal audition session, or a separate, full dance audition. It's going to be a great kickoff to an exciting season and we hope to see you there!

Adult Auditions

Auditions will be conducted in hour-long sessions with a maximum of 17 individuals in each session. A vocal warm-up session will be available 15 minutes prior to each session. Each auditionee will individually perform a song of their choosing and may be asked to do a cold reading from a script. At the conclusion of each session, auditionees will either participate in a basic movement audition or a dance audition session, depending on what parts they may be interested in. Each session will be open to only the show staffs (director, producer, assistant director, vocal director, choreographer), members of the Muni Boards of Managers and Trustees, and Auditions Committee volunteers.

Dance auditions will be required only for those individuals who are auditioning for a part that requires more than basic movement. Additionally, show staffs may invite an auditionee to participate in a dance audition. We ask

that you check in at the registration table 45 minutes before your audition session.

Saturday Schedule (March 6 & 13)

8:00 a.m. Registration opens
8:15 a.m. Vocal warm-ups for 1st session (Warm-ups will precede every audition session.)
8:30 a.m. 1st Vocal/Movement Session
9:30 a.m. 2nd Vocal/Movement Session
10:30 a.m. 3rd Vocal/Movement Session
11:30 a.m. Dance Audition Session
Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. 4th Vocal/Movement Session
2:00 p.m. 5th Vocal/Movement Session
3:00 p.m. Dance Audition Session
4:00 p.m. 6th Vocal/Movement Session

Sunday Schedule (March 7)

10:00 a.m. Registration opens
11:00 a.m. Dance Audition Session
12:15 p.m. Vocal warm-ups for 1st session (Warm-ups will precede every audition session.)
12:30 p.m. 1st Vocal/Movement Session
1:30 p.m. 2nd Vocal/Movement Session
2:30 p.m. 3rd Vocal/Movement Session
3:30 p.m. Dance Audition Session
4:30 p.m. 4th Vocal/Movement Session
5:30 p.m. 5th Vocal/Movement Session



Presented by



June 11-13, 16-20

The overarching plot of the show mirrors that of *Horton Hears a Who*, centering on Horton the elephant's endeavors to protect the people of Who-ville, who live on a tiny speck of dust. It also features characters and scenarios from many other Seuss books, including the Butter Side Uppers/Downers from *The Butter Battle Book*, Gertrude McFuzz, and some characters that never made an appearance in any of Dr. Seuss's books. The Cat in the Hat, an outside observer, acts as narrator and devil's advocate throughout the show, briefly leaping into the action on several occasions to create conflict and keep the story moving.

There will be a mandatory cast meeting on Sunday, March 28. Additional information is updated on our website: <http://sites.google.com/site/seussical2010/>

Rehearsals begin April 25

Staff

- Director: Mac Warren
- Producer: Flynn Hanners
- Assistant Director: Christie Lazarides
- Vocal Director: Jill Stephenitch
- Choreographer: Ronda Brinkman
- Musical Director: Damien Kaplan
- Set Design: Mac Warren, Mary Young, Julie Kochman, Kevin Kulavic
- Master Builder: Kevin Kulavic, Mac Warren
- Costume Design: Julianne Shoopman
- Property Design: Melody Sheehan, Inez Berg
- Stage Manager: Mac Warren
- Assistant Stage Managers: Kevin Kulavic, Connor McNamara
- Lighting Design: Adam Grogan
- Make-up: Emilie Yeager
- Production Coordinator: Kevin Kulavic

Parts Available

"Stage age" is the age the actor must portray on stage, but is *not necessarily* the actor's true age. Cat in the Hat and Roo may be performed by a male or female.

Cat in the Hat: The Cat is the playful narrator of the show, and provokes change in the lives of those around him/her. The Cat's intentions, although mischievous, are benevolent. *Any vocal range.* Stage age: 18-35 years old. *Dance audition required.*

Horton the Elephant: A gentle giant and a thinker, Horton is the protector of the defenseless and keeper of his word. *Tenor/baritone.* Stage age: 20s-30s.

Gertrude McFuzz. Awkward and insecure. Gertrude is Horton's next door neighbor, and is determined to win his attention and affection. *Soprano/alto.* Stage age: 20s-30s. *Dance audition required.*

Boy/JoJo: Courageous, and a thinker of thinks. *Soprano/alto.* Stage age: 8-15 years old. *Dance audition required.*

Mayzie La Bird: Intelligent, beautiful, talented and quite sure of herself. Mayzie finds great pleasure in being admired, adored and celebrated by those around her. *Soprano/alto.* Stage age: 20s-30s. *Dance audition required.*

Sour Kangaroo: The diva of the jungle, with style and flair. She is a tyrannical marsupial with attitude... hopefully she'll have a change of heart. *Soprano/alto.* Stage age: 30s.

Roo: Sour Kangaroo's child... a Mini Sour Kangaroo in many ways. *Any vocal range.* Stage age: 8-13 years old.

Bird Girls (3): Flamboyant "Girl Group" back-up chorus. Often found flirting with the Wickersham Brothers. *Various vocal ranges.* Stage ages: 2 Girls will be 18-30 years old; 1 Girl will be 8-15 years old. *Dance audition required.*

Wickersham Brothers (3): Strong and confident. These alpha males are the jungle "bad boys" known to "monkey" around. They're a little more macho when the Bird Girls are around. *Various vocal ranges.* Stage ages: 2 Brothers will be 18-30 years old; 1 Brother will be 8-15 years old. *Dance audition required.*

Vlad Vladikoff: Scary and formidable. Vlad does the Wickersham's dirty work. *Any vocal range.* Stage age: 20s-30s. *Dance audition required.*

Yertle, the Turtle: An honorable statesman. *Baritone/bass.* Stage age: 40s+.

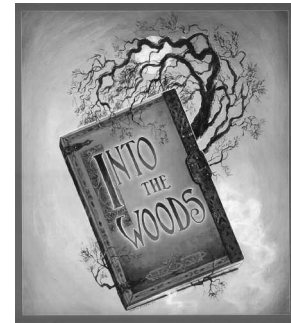
Mr. Mayor (of Who-ville): The proud mayor of Who-ville, and JoJo's father. *Tenor/baritone.* Stage age: 30s-50s.

Mrs. Mayor (of Who-ville): The mayor's wife, and JoJo's mother. *Soprano.* Stage age: 30s-50s.

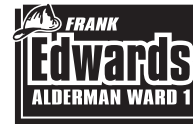
General Genghis Khan Schmitz: Sees the world in simple contrasts: good and evil, weak and strong, boy and man. Strongly believes in the values of militaristic regimentation. *Baritone.* Stage age: 40s+.

The Grinch: The Grinch... need we say more? *Baritone/bass.* Stage age: 20s-30s.

Who-ville Citizens/Jungle Animals (8-12): Ensemble, various ages. 4-6 Children (8-13 year olds) and 4-6 Adults (14-109 years old).



Presented by



July 2-3, 6-11

An ambivalent Cinderella? A blood-thirsty Little Red Ridinghood? A Prince Charming with a roving eye? A Witch... who raps? They're all among the cockeyed characters in this fractured fairy tale. When a Baker and his Wife learn that they have been cursed with childlessness by the Witch next door, they embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell, swindling, lying to and stealing from Cinderella, Little Red, Rapunzel and Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk). Everyone's wish is granted at the end of Act One, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later, with disastrous results. What begins as a lively, irreverent fantasy in the style of *The Princess Bride* becomes a moving lesson about community responsibility and the stories we tell our children.

Individuals auditioning for the Wolf are required to participate in dance auditions. All others will participate in the movement auditions.

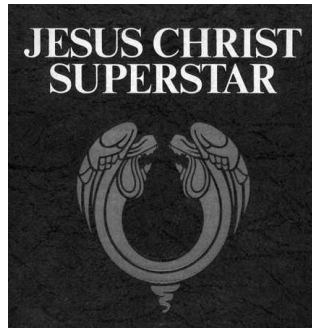
Rehearsals begin May 17

Staff

Directors: Doug Hahn, Gary Shull
 Producer: Julie Davis
 Vocal Director: Karen Ferguson
 Choreographer: Gary Shull
 Musical Director: Damien Kaplan
 Set Design: David Parker
 Master Builder: Tom Frost
 Costume Design: Phyllis Maynerich
 Property Design: Melody Sheehan
 Stage Manager: Julie Davis
 Assistant Stage Managers: Mike Rogers, Tom Frost
 Lighting Design: Roger Carr
 Make-up: Diane Hoots
 Production Coordinator: Michelle Tebrugge

Parts Available

Witch: 30+. *Mezzo-soprano*
Baker: 30+. *Baritone*
Baker's Wife: 30+. *Mezzo-soprano*
Cinderella: 20+. *Soprano*
Cinderella's Prince: 20+. *Baritone*
Rapunzel's Prince: 20+. *Tenor/baritone*
Little Red Ridinghood: 16-25. *Mezzo-soprano* (must skip)
Jack: 16-25. *Tenor*
Wolf: 18-30. *Tenor/baritone*
Jack's Mother: 40+. *Mezzo with falsetto*
Narrator: mature. Male or female (non-singing)
Mysterious Old Man: mature. *Baritone*
Cinderella's Stepmother: 40+. *Soprano*
Florinda: 18+. *Soprano*
Lucinda: 18+. *Soprano*
Steward: 30+. *Tenor*
Rapunzel: 20+. *Soprano*
Granny: mature. *Mezzo-soprano*
Cinderella's Stepfather: mature. *Tenor/baritone*
Snow White: 18-30. *Finale only*
Sleeping Beauty: 18-30. *Finale only*



Presented by



July 23-25, July 28-Aug. 1

Jesus Christ Superstar was one of the very first rock operas. It tells the story of the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth based on the account in St. John's gospel. It takes a modern viewpoint as it focuses on the conflict between Jesus and Judas Iscariot. Judas fears that Jesus' actions will bring down destruction on the Jews at the hands of their Roman oppressors.

Rehearsals begin June 1

Staff

Director: Laurie O'Brien
 Producer: Mike Rogers
 Assistant Director: Brett Rutherford
 Vocal Director: Steve Rotello
 Choreographer: Anna Bussing
 Musical Director: Tom Philbrick
 Assistant Musical Director/
 Accompanist: Dave Barnes
 Set Design: Michelle Lilly O'Brien
 Master Builders: Steve Button, George Tankersley
 Costume Design: Marge Roth
 Prop Design: Melody Sheehan
 Stage Manager: Dennis O'Brien
 Light Design: Roger Carr
 Make-up & Hair Design: Diane Hoots

Parts Available

Jesus Christ: Leader of the 12 apostles, Messiah to the people of Israel. *Tenor (A2-G5)*
Judas Iscariot: One of the apostles, Judas is very conflicted about the direction Jesus is going. He fears repercussions for the people of Israel. *Tenor (D3-D5)*
Mary Magdalene: An ex-prostitute and follower of Jesus, she finds herself

falling in love with him. *Alto (F3-Eb5)*
Pontius Pilate: Governor of Judea who fears being made into the villain of Jesus' downfall. *Baritone (A2-B4)*
Caiaphas: High priest who sees Jesus as a threat to the nation. *Bass (C#2-F4)*
Annas: A high priest (2nd to Caiaphas) who initially does not see Jesus as a threat. *Tenor (G2-D5)*
Peter: An apostle who is very close to Jesus. *Baritone (G2-G4)*
Simon Zealotes: An apostle who urges Jesus to lead his followers into battle against the Romans. *Tenor (G3-B4)*
King Herod: King of Galilee who does not take Jesus to be a serious threat. *Tenor*



Presented by



Aug. 13-15, 18-22

An orphan, Annie, and her dog, Sandy, are placed in the lap of luxury for a week as a part of a publicity campaign for Oliver Warbucks. However, Annie's stay turns out to be much more than anyone had bargained for as she works her way into everyone's hearts and learns a few things for herself.

Rehearsals begin July 5

Individual vocal rehearsals will be scheduled with the vocal director throughout the month of June.

Staff

Director: Steve Williams
 Producer: John Baker
 Assistant Director: Patty Lanser
 Vocal Director: Gina Swickard
 Choreographer: Tracey Sims
 Musical Director: Debby Eddy
 Master Builder: Bob Lanser
 Costume Design: Phyllis Maynerich
 Property Design: Christa Baker

Parts Available

Dance audition required for Annie, Duffy, July, Kate, Molly, Pepper and Tessie and the Orphan Chorus only.

Special Audition Edition!

See back page for Audition Schedule, Callbacks and Casting.

Annie: Spunky, friendly, big voiced, street-wise urchin, one of the orphans. *Mezzo-soprano, A-high F*

Oliver Warbucks: Warm-hearted, stiff-collared host to Annie for two weeks at Christmas. *Baritone, C-high F*

Miss Hannigan: Cantankerous and mean old orphanage director. *Mezzo-soprano, A-A^b*

Grace Farrell: Faithful assistant to Warbucks. *Soprano, A-high G*

Rooster: Miss Hannigan's no-good brother. *Baritone, B-high G*

Lily: Rooster's floozy girlfriend. *Soprano, D-high G*

FDR: The President. *Baritone, C^b-E[#]*

Orphans: Ages listed indicate character should "appear to be" that age

Duffy: The biggest orphan (13 years old)

July: The quietest orphan (13 years old)

Kate: The next to littlest orphan (7 years old)

Molly: The littlest orphan (6 years old)

Pepper: The toughest orphan (12 years old)

Tessie: The cry baby orphan (10 years old)

Featured Roles: In alphabetical order

A Man

An Announcer

An Usherette

Annette: A French maid

Apple Seller

Artie

Bert Healy: Radio personality

Boylan Sisters: Singing sisters, perform on "Oxydent's Hour of Smiles" radio program, Bonnie, Connie & Ronnie

Bundles McCloskey: The Laundryman

Cecille: A French maid

Cordell Hull: Male Cabinet member

Dog Catchers

Drake: Warbuck's English butler

Eddie

Francis Perkins: Female Cabinet member

Fred McCracken: Radio personality

Harold Ickes: Male Cabinet member

Henry Morgenthau: Male Cabinet member

Honor Guard

Hooverville Denizen

Ira

Jimmy Johnson

Justice Brandeis

Kaltenborn's Voice

Louis Howe: Associate to Roosevelt

Lt. Ward

Mary

Mrs. Greer: The Housekeeper

Mrs. Pugh: The Cook

NBC Page

Peggy

Second Cop

Sophie: The Kettle

Sound Effect Man

Star To Be

Wacky: Radio personality

Orphan Chorus: Ages 8-13

SIGHTLINES

Sightlines is the official newsletter of the Springfield Municipal Opera Association, P.O. Box 2255, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Current officers of the Board of Managers are:
 Gil Opferman, *President*;
 Dennis O'Brien, *President-Elect*;
 Randy Ragan, *Treasurer*;
 Jennifer Jones, *Secretary*.

Sightlines is published by the Communications Committee: Hal Smith & Flynn Hanners, co-chairs; Mike Maddin, Donna Lounsberry, Kevin Ford, Chuck Hoots, Roger Holmes, Melody Sheehan, Daniel Shelton, Jason Goodreau.

Edited by
 Communications Committee

Photography by
 Tom Frost

For more information
 visit our website at
www.themuni.org

W H E R E & W H E N

Venue

The Audition Workshops and Adult and Children's Auditions will be held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th St., Springfield, IL 62701.

Callbacks

Adult callbacks will take place in the afternoon and early evening of March 14.

Children's callbacks will take place in the afternoon and early evening of March 20 and/or March 21.

Show staffs will notify those performers that they wish to see at callbacks.

Casting

Adult casting will take place March 15. Show staffs will notify persons cast as soon as possible on Monday, March 15.

Children's casting will take place as soon as possible following the conclusion of children's callbacks on March 21. Show staffs will notify persons cast as soon as decisions are made.

Casting information for adults and children's roles will be posted at www.themuni.org as it is available.

SCHEDULE

Adult Auditions

Saturday, March 6

Sunday, March 7

Saturday, March 13

Saturday, March 6 & 13

Registration 8:00 a.m.

Vocal Warm-ups 8:15 a.m. & prior to all Vocal/Movement Sessions.

Vocal/Movement Sessions 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 a.m.

Dance Audition Session 11:30 a.m.

Vocal/Basic Movement Sessions 1:00, 2:00, 4:00 p.m.

Dance Audition Session 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 7

Registration 10:00 a.m.

Dance Audition Session 11:00 a.m.

Vocal Warm-ups 12:15 p.m. & prior to all Vocal/Movement Sessions.

Vocal/Movement Sessions 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 p.m.

Dance Audition Session 3:30 p.m.

Vocal/Movement Sessions 4:30, 5:30 p.m.

Children's Auditions

Saturday, March 20

8:00 a.m.