

SIGHTLINES

NEWS FROM THE SPRINGFIELD MUNI OPERA

FEBRUARY 2011

Muni Audition Workshops Will Be Saturday, February 19

The Muni encourages everyone interested in learning about the 2011 season of Broadway Under the Stars to attend Muni's Audition Workshops on February 19. Our season of *Big River*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hairspray* and *The Wizard of Oz* requires performers of all ages, sizes and abilities.

The Workshops will take place Saturday, February 19, 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. The Adult Audition Workshops will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The Audition Workshops are an opportunity to learn about the audition process, how to register and prepare for your audition, and to hear from each show's staff as to their expectations. We begin sign-up for the audition time slots right after the Workshops, enabling you to choose the date and time that works best for your schedule.

Muni Auditions feature closed vocal auditions, with groups of 17 at a time, in a relaxed atmosphere. A brief, basic movement session is part of the vocal audition session. Participation in a separate full dance audition is required for those wishing to be considered for certain identified parts. Come to the Audition Workshops to learn more.

Adult Auditions

Adult Auditions take place in hour-long sessions with a maximum of 17 individuals in each session. We encourage check-in at the registration table 45 minutes before the scheduled session start time. Timely check-in allows for participation in a vocal warm-up prior to the audition. Once in the audition room, each participant

performs a song of their choosing, may be asked to read from a script, and participates in a basic movement audition. Individuals wishing to be considered for parts identified as requiring more than basic movement participate in separately scheduled dance auditions. In some cases, show staffs may request an auditionee to participate in a dance audition. Participants in the dance audition are encouraged to schedule their dance audition in the dance session closest to their vocal audition.

Saturday Schedule (March 5 & 12)

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 6)

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

Children's Auditions March 19

Children's Auditions take place in two-hour long sessions. In the first hour, Muni staff teach the children a

The Muni

A Message From the President

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be Muni's president this year! We have a great lineup of shows for 2011, and directors and staffs who will give all of us wonderful experiences from June through August.

Please join us onstage, backstage, at the top of the hill and in the audience for what looks to be a magnificent summer.

— Dennis S. O'Brien

simple song and dance. Parents or guardians are permitted to observe the learning portion of the audition. During the second hour, the children perform the song and dance in front of the show staffs that plan to cast from Children's Auditions. As is the case with Adult Auditions, no one is permitted to observe the audition portion. Typically, callback invitations are posted in the lobby shortly following each audition session. Children's Callbacks will take place either later March 19 or on March 20.

Generally, children must be at least eight years old and less than 14 years old by March 19, 2011, to participate in Children's Auditions. However, the Muni Board of Directors and Trustees voted last year to give 13-year-olds the option of auditioning as adults. The rule was designed for 13-year-olds who are mature both physically and vocally, who would not likely be cast as children and would be more suited to an adult role.

More information about Children's Auditions will be available at the Audition Workshops on February 19.

BIG RIVER

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

Presented by



June 10-12 and 15-19

Look out for me, Oh muddy water
Your mysteries are deep and wide
And I got a dream of going someplace
And I got a need to climb upon your
back and ride.

"Muddy Water," Roger Miller, 1985

And with those lyrics, we join Huckleberry Finn and Jim on their adventure rafting down the mighty Mississippi in *Big River*.

Adapted from Mark Twain's classic novel by William Hauptman with music and lyrics by Roger Miller ("King of the Road"), *Big River* won the 1985 Tony awards for Best Musical, Best Book, Best Score, Best Direction of a Musical and several more.

With a score rooted in bluegrass and country music styles, the audience is carried along with the current as they encounter colorful characters such as Tom Sawyer, the Widow Douglas, Pap, the King, and Duke and Mary Jane Wilkes. This is a celebration of pure Americana, deeply rooted in the Midwest.

Rehearsals begin April 15

Staff

Director: Steve Kaplan
Producer: Mike Rogers
Assistant Director: Flynn Hanners
Vocal Director: Damien Kaplan
Choreographer: Marj Berchtold
Conductor: Damien Kaplan
Rehearsal Accompanist: Dave Barnes
Set Design: Paul Presney
Master Builder: Mike Maddin
Set Decorator: Rob Ardoin
Costume Design: Marge Roth
Property Design: Inez Berg
Stage Manager: Dennis O'Brien



Big River: director Steve Kaplan (left) and producer Mike Rogers.

Lighting Design: Roger Carr
Sound Operator: Gabe Rutledge
Make-up/Hair Design: Gwen Cribbett,
Frankie Wygal
Production Coordinator: Michelle Tebrugge

Parts Available

Huck Finn: Tenor (Low A2-high B^b4)
Jim: Baritone/Tenor (Low A2-high G4)
Tom Sawyer: Tenor (E3-high F4)
Pap: Baritone (Low B2-high F4)
Duke: Tenor (E3-high A4)
King: Tenor (C[#]3-high A4)
Young Fool: Tenor (D3-high E4)
Alice's Daughter: Alto/Soprano (Low G3-High C6)
Mary Jane: Mezzo Soprano (Low B3-C[#]5)
Joanna: Alto (Low B3-A4)
Susan: Alto (Low G[#]3-E4)
Widow Douglas: Mezzo Soprano (Low B3-High F5)
Miss Watson: Soprano (Low B3-High B^b5)
Judge Thatcher: Baritone (Low B2-B3)
"The Crossing" Soloist: Alto (Low G3-C5)
Townpeople/Chorus



Presented by



July 1-3 and 6-10

Guys and Dolls offers a high energy, over-the-top dance show with a large cast of zany characters. Set in the Broadway theater district, *Guys and Dolls* is the story of an incongruous romance between an inveterate gambler, Sky Masterson, and a Salvation Army-type missionary girl. Sky is bet by another gambler, Nathan Detroit, that he can't romance the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown. Meanwhile, Nathan has troubles of his own finding a location for his floating crap game while dodging the pressure of his fiancée of 14 years (Miss Adelaide) to set the wedding date. These central themes are surrounded by driven gamblers, petty racketeers and gum-smacking show girls... all with comedic stories of their own!

Rehearsals begin May 16

Staff

Director: Julie Davis
Producer: Rose Schumacher
Assistant Director: Lori Ann Mitts
Vocal Director: Bill Bauser, Jr.
Choreographer: Julie Ratz
Conductor: Dia Langellier
Rehearsal Accompanist: Brendan Finnell
Set Design: T. David Parker
Master Builder: Todd Schumacher



Guys and Dolls: producer Rose Schumacher (left) and director Julie Davis.

Costume Design: Phyllis Maynerich
Property Design: Melody Sheehan
Stage Manager: Tom Frost
Assistant Stage Manager: Mike Rogers
Lighting Design: Roger Carr
Light Board Operator: Danny Bohn
Sound Operator: Galen Schneider
Make-up/Hair Design: Diane Hoots
Technical Advisor: Doug Hahn
Production Coordinator: Cindy Hamblin

Parts Available

Quoted age is the character's age, not necessarily the actor's age.

Nathan Detroit: 35 to 45, Baritone B-High G. Nathan is the heart and soul of *Guys and Dolls*. He has been engaged to Miss Adelaide for 14 years. Nathan must be a strong actor with excellent comic timing. He has solo parts in several numbers.

Sky Masterson: 30-36, Baritone B-High G. Sky is the quintessential, smooth as velvet Broadway gambler. Sky needn't be the best dancer, but he does have several solos and must be able to own the stage whenever he appears, especially during the signature number, "Luck Be a Lady Tonight." He does have a soft spot for Sarah Brown and has to be able to convey it to the audience.

Sarah Brown: 24-33, Soprano B-B. Sarah is the girl next door with a more adventurous side waiting to get out. She is Sky's mirror opposite and he is her weakness. Sarah must be an excellent singer and a good actor, but needn't be a strong dancer. She must be able to show two distinctly different sides and hold her own next to Sky.

Miss Adelaide: 32-42, Mezzo A-E. Adelaide is a comic version of the classic gambler's moll. She must have a strong sense of pitch and a well-developed character voice in both singing and dialogue. Adelaide needs to have excellent comic timing and be a strong dancer. She has solos and duets and could be an alto or mezzo soprano.

Nicely Nicely Johnson: 30-60, Tenor D flat-High B flat. Nicely is a walking, talking Broadway comedy. He can be any physical size, shape or type, but must be a great comedic actor and a wonderful singer. Nicely needs to be able to deliver the

super showstopper, “Sit Down You’re Rockin’ the Boat.”

Benny Southstreet and Rusty Charlie:

Any age, *Baritone D to F*. These two gamblers can be any shape or size, but must be able to hold their own part when they sing the trio number “Fugue for Tin horns” with Nicely Nicely. Together, these three are Nathan’s sidekicks.

Arvide: 45+, *Baritone D-F*. Arvide is the leader of the missionary band and Sarah’s father. He needs to be tender and parental. He sings a beautiful ballad.

General Cartwright: 40+, *Soprano E-C*. The Salvation Army matron. She is one tough cookie, until she loses herself in “Sit Down You’re Rockin’ the Boat.”

Big Jule: 40+. A tough Chicago mobster. Needs to be a big guy with a big character voice.

15 Guys: 20-50. Guys are gamblers, workers, New York City folks, policemen, and members of the Missionary Band. Many will have speaking parts and six will be featured dancers.

15 Dolls: 20-50. New York City folks or missionary band members. Six need to be very strong dancers for the Hot Box Night Club and the Havana Club scene.

Adelaide, Hot Box Dancers and Featured Guy Dancers need to go through dance auditions. All the rest need only go through movement.

hairspray
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Presented by



July 22-24 and 27-31

Tracy Turnblad, a large girl with big hair and a kind heart, has only one passion — to dance. She wins a spot on the local TV dance program, “The Corny Collins Show,” and is quickly transformed into a teen celebrity. She then successfully sets out to vanquish the program’s reigning princess, win the heart of the super handsome Link Larkin, and racially integrate the television show.

Rehearsals begin May 23

Staff

Director: Craig Williams II
 Producer: Whitney Rosen
 Assistant Director: Donna Ragan
 Vocal Director: Steve Rotello
 Assistant Vocal Director: Jill Gum
 Choreographer: Anna Bussing
 Musical Director: Damien Kaplan
 Conductor: Kellen Fant
 Rehearsal Accompanists: Mike Spanhour,
 Melanie Pinter
 Production Designer: Brett Rutherford

Master Builder: Kevin Ford
 Costume Coordinators: Jane Brownback,
 Marge Ray
 Property Design: Melody Sheehan, Linda
 Grimble
 Stage Managers: Kevin Kulavic, Pam Brown
 Lighting Design: Justin Wardell
 Light Board Operator: Dan Bohn
 Sound Operator: Chris Cliburn
 Make-up/Hair Design: Clare Hart, Emily
 Yeager
 Production Coordinator: Debbie Copp

Parts Available

All cast members will be required to go through the dance audition process. Characters requiring strong dancers are noted below.

Tracy Turnblad: Caucasian female, 16+. Plus-size girl who wants nothing else but to be a part of “The Corny Collins Show.” *Mezzo-Soprano*. Strong dancer.

Link Larkin: Caucasian male, 16+. Clean cut, handsome and sexy heartthrob and star of “The Corny Collins Show.” *Tenor*. Strong dancer.

Corny Collins: Caucasian male, 18+. Local celebrity, host of “The Corny Collins Show.” Bright, over the top, boisterous. *Tenor*.

Edna Turnblad: Caucasian male, 25+. Mother of Tracy Turnblad. Plus-sized mother who wants Tracy to be happy no matter what size she is. *Tenor*.

Motormouth Maybelle: African-American female, 40-50. A radio DJ and queen of Baltimore soul music. Brassy, infectious personality with a strong, gospel singing voice. *Mezzo*, must belt.

Penny Pingleton: Caucasian female, 16+. Tracy Turnblad’s best friend. Unsure of herself, but eventually finds the courage to stand up to authority for what she believes. *Mezzo*, must belt.

Amber von Tussle: Caucasian female, 16+. Bratty, selfish resident princess of “The Corny Collins Show,” despite her lack of talent. She is willing to do anything to win the Miss Teenage Hairspray pageant. *Mezzo*, must belt. Strong dancer.

Velma von Tussle: Caucasian female, 30+. Amber’s scheming mother and producer of “The Corny Collins Show,” who pushes her daughter to seek the stardom that she never had. *Mezzo*, must belt.

Seaweed J. Stubbs: African-American male, 16+. A hip “Negro Day” dancer and the son of Motormouth Maybelle who falls in love with Penny. *Tenor*. Strong dancer.

Little Inez: African-American female, 13-18. Seaweed’s younger sister, who tries to audition for “The Corny Collins Show” but is turned away because she is black. *Mezzo*, must belt. Strong dancer.

Wilbur Turnblad: Caucasian male, 35+. Tracy’s goofy father, who owns the Har-De-Har Hut joke shop and is still madly in love with his wife, Edna. He encourages Tracy to follow her dreams. *Baritone*.



Hairspray: producer Whitney Rosen (left) and director Craig Williams II.

The Dynamites: Three African-American females, 20+. A singing group reminiscent of the Supremes. Strong dancers and belters.

Nice Kids: Four Caucasian females, four Caucasian males, 16+. Dancers on “The Corny Collins Show.” *Various ranges*. Strong dancers.

Ensemble (10-15): Male and female, 15+. *Various ranges*. Strong dancers.

Female Authority Figures: 30+. The Matron guarding The Big Dollhouse; the Gym Teacher; and Prudy Pingleton, Penny’s overprotective and often close-minded mother. *Various ranges*.

Male Authority Figures: 30+. Mr. Pinky, owner of Mr. Pinky’s Hefty Hideaway who gives Tracy and Edna a makeover; Principal of Patterson Park High School; and Mr. Harriman F. Spritzer, the President of Ultra Clutch. *Various ranges*.



Presented by



August 12-14 and 17-21

In this most beloved musical of all time, follow the yellow brick road as Dorothy Gale, a young girl from Kansas, is transported by a cyclone into the magical Land of Oz and desperately searches for a way home. Join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, the Cowardly Lion and Toto, too, as they travel “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” Experience magic under the stars with lavish costumes, flying monkeys and the classic story that teaches us all “There’s no place like home.”

Rehearsals begin June 27

Staff

Director: Matthew Vala
 Producer: Jake Smith
 Assistant Director: Mary Kate Smith
 Vocal Director: Matthew Vala
 Choreographer: Elizabeth Cheney
 Conductor: Tom Philbrick
 Rehearsal Accompanist: Karen Ferguson
 Master Builder: Rob DeCroix
 Costume Design: Cheryl Sakris
 Property Design: Gary Germann
 Stage Manager: Jennifer Allen
 Lighting Design: Mark Caspary
 Light Board Operator: Adam Grogan
 Sound Operator: Daniel Shelton
 Make-up/Hair Design: Annie Germann
 Technical Consultant: Paul Presney
 Dog Trainer: Judy Williams

Parts Available

Dorothy Gale: *Mezzo/Soprano.* Young, innocent Kansas girl, in search of something more. Strong singing and some dance required.
Hunk/Scarecrow: *Bari-Tenor.* Wants nothing more than to get a brain, which he's convinced he lacks. Despite this, he is plucky and clever in a pinch. Singing and dancing required. Gymnastic background preferred.
Hickory/Tin Man: *Bari-Tenor.* Desperate for a heart, the Tin Man joins Dorothy's journey to see the Wizard. Exceedingly charming and thoughtful. A kind-hearted romantic. Singing and dance (tap) required.
Zeke/Cowardly Lion: *Baritone.* Full of bravado, despite being convinced he's a coward. Nonetheless, a true friend, who proves himself when push comes to shove. Should move well. Singing and good comedic skills required.
Almira Gulch/Wicked Witch of the West: *Alto/Mezzo* or non-singing.

Vengeful, nasty and full of fire. Hungry for power and influence. Will do anything to get what she wants (and that goes for both characters).

Aunt Em/Glinda: *Soprano.* A down to earth woman, plain in her dress and her ways, and with a genuine affection for her niece and her husband. As Glinda, beautiful, beloved, with a quirky side. Strong singing required.

Uncle Henry/Oz Guard: *Baritone.* Dorothy's uncle and guardian. Good hearted with a sense of humor. A hardworking Kansas farmer and affectionate family man. As Oz Guard, a man full of character and wit.

Professor Marvel/Wizard: Non-singing. Accidental ruler of the Land of Oz, who happens to be an ordinary man from Kansas and a former circus magician. Verbose, articulate and prone to oration. Charming and kind-hearted.

General Winkie: The head guard of the Witch's Castle. Will double as an Ozian.
The Crows (3 males): These pesky crows keep coming to eat in the Scarecrow's field and laugh in his face. Must be comfortable with three-part harmony. The crows will double as Ozians.

The Trees (3 females): These lovely ladies scold the scarecrow for stealing their apples. Must be comfortable with three-part harmony. The trees will double as Ozians.

The Winkies (4 males or females): The guards of the Wicked Witch's Castle. Will double as Ozians.

Citizens of Oz: The Citizens of Oz are the adult chorus of the show. Singing and dance or movement audition required. Some Ozians will be featured dancers. If you are a dancer and interested in this



The Wizard of Oz: producer Jake Smith (left) and director Matthew Vala.

show, please go to the dance audition.
Munchkins: The little people of Munchkinland. The Munchkins will be played (at least mostly) by children from Children's Auditions. Singing and dance required. There are some featured roles among the Munchkins, such as the Mayor of Munchkin City, the Coroner, the Lollipop Guild, and the Lullaby League. Additionally some Munchkins will double as Citizens of Oz and Flying Monkeys.
Flying Monkeys: Minions of the Wicked Witch of the West. The monkeys do not speak or sing, but will most likely be double-cast as Munchkins. Nonetheless, non-singers will be considered.

A dance audition is required for: Dorothy Gale, Hunk/Scarecrow, Hickory/Tin Man, Zeke/Cowardly Lion, The Crows, Citizens of Oz, Munchkins, Flying Monkeys.

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 13.

Children's callbacks will take place in the afternoon and early evening of March 19 and/or March 20.

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

Casting

Adult casting will take place March 14. Show staffs will notify individuals cast as soon as possible on Monday, March 14.

Children's casting will take place as soon as possible following the conclusion of children's callbacks on March 20. Show staffs will notify children 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 5

Sunday, March 6

Saturday, March 12

Saturday, March 5 & 12

Registration 8:00 a.m.
 Vocal Warm-ups 15 minutes 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/Movement Sessions 1:00, 2:00, 4:00 p.m.

Dance Audition Session 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 6

Registration 10:00 a.m.
 Dance Audition Session 11:00 a.m.

Vocal Warm-ups 15 minutes 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 19

SIGHTLINES

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

Officers of the Board of Managers are: Dennis O'Brien, *President*; John Baker, *Vice President*; Randy Ragan, *Treasurer*; T. David Parker, *Secretary*.

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Photography by Tom Frost

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