



ANNIE JR AUDITIONS!

Hello and thank you for taking an interest in our production of Annie JR to be staged at Greig Hall. We are looking for a large cast of children ages 6-18 to bring this hit musical to life! The show is made up of 25 named roles, and a children's ensemble. The show has several full cast numbers with movement along with solos. All interested in taking part in our show would need to be comfortable singing, dancing, and acting.

DO YOU LOVE TO SING, DANCE or ACT??

Get in touch to apply for a place in our ensemble or book an audition slot for a principal role.

Based on the popular comic strip and adapted from the Tony Award-winning Best Musical, with a beloved book and score by Tony Award-winners, Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin, Annie JR. features everyone's favourite little redhead in her very first adventure.

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. Annie is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of an orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. Annie eventually foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, finding a new home and family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

We welcome you to join our Top Box Stratford-upon-Avon Vocalize Youth Theatre Company for this exciting project!

AUDITIONS

Friday 10th January 2025 5.00 – 7.30pm &

Saturday 11th January 2025 times tbc

(You will be allocated a time slot, please arrive 10 mins before)

**Rehearsal & Audition Venue – Wilmcote Village Hall, 38 Glebe Estate,
Wilmcote, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9XL**

Performance Dates – 4th & 5th July 2025

Performance Venue – The Greig Hall, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, B49 6AD

Rehearsals start Friday 17th January 2025 5.30-7.30pm

Additional Technical/Dress Rehearsals to be scheduled during show week.

PLEASE NOTE

Main communication will be through our WhatsApp group with details of rehearsals and any changes to schedule. Accepting a part is a commitment to attend all rehearsals, we ask you to inform the team via private message of any illness or other reason for non-attendance as early as possible to avoid any delay to the start of rehearsals. Missing continuous rehearsals may result in you losing your part in the show.

Audition Form

<https://www.topboxstudios.com/auditions>

Please complete the audition form on our website if you would like to apply for a principal role.

Audition Fee

<https://www.topboxstudios.com/product-page/auditionfee>

We ask for a £5 audition fee to cover costs. The Payment link is now live on our website. Once we receive your audition application form and payment you will then be allocated a time to arrive on the audition day.

Audition application deadline - Midday on Friday 3rd January 2025

Membership Fees

<https://www.topboxstudios.com/product-page/top-box-vocalize-youth-theatre-company-stratford-upon-avon-ages-6-18>

Membership fees are required to contribute towards rehearsal and production costs, fees are due at the start of every half term block (5-6 weeks) via our website memberships page.

Fees are £55 per block which equates to less than £6 per hour of rehearsal time.

Costume Fee

In order to enable us to stage our productions at a level which is expected from our company we hire in costumes for all performers.

This fee is a one-off payment of £30 to cover the hire cost. More information on this and details on how to pay will be provided closer to show week.

Please contact us for more details

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PRINCIPAL AUDITION DETAILS

No previous performance experience is necessary!

Auditions will consist of a song performance and line reading from the script. Please prepare one song from the show to 'perform' in the audition. You may not be required to sing the whole song. It is recommended that you warm up your voice and sing through your song before arriving at the audition. You can sing with backing track or a cappella.

During singing auditions, the panel will be looking for the following.

- Vocal ability and range.
- Ability to act/perform your song choice.

During your audition you will also be provided with a short one- or two-page script. The lines you read may not always be for the specific character you are auditioning for. This is okay, we are only looking at your acting abilities. Please feel free to try out an accent if you are confident with this. During this process you will be given instructions from the directors. This is to understand your approach, openness and receptiveness to direction and performance. You will be auditioning in front of our creative team, and we aim to make this an enjoyable experience so please do not worry, we all have experience of audition nerves!

Full Synopsis

It is 3 A.M. on a chilly morning in early December 1933. Six orphans are asleep in the dormitory of the Annex of The New York City Municipal Orphanage. The orphans are Molly, the littlest, who is six; Kate, the next-to-littlest, who is seven; Tessie, the crybaby, who is ten; Pepper, the toughest, who is twelve; July, the quietest, who is thirteen; and Duffy, the biggest, who is also thirteen. Molly is just waking up from a dream and crying out for her mother. The other orphans wake up and begin arguing. Annie, who is eleven and has been up cleaning, runs in. Annie comforts Molly, who begs her to read the note that Annie's parents left when they abandoned her. Pepper reminds the group that they also left Annie one-half of a silver locket and kept the other half with a promise to reclaim her one day. Annie then pulls Molly close to her and sings about the parents she imagines but has never known. The other orphans join her ("Maybe"). Thinking about her parents inspires Annie to run away from the orphanage to search for them. She packs a bag and is ready to leave when she is discovered by Miss Hannigan, the villainous director of the orphanage. Miss Hannigan makes all the orphans get up to scrub floors and strip the beds to "pay" for Annie's misbehaviour. Their complaints that it is four o'clock in the morning fall on deaf ears. As they clean, the orphans complain about their difficult circumstances ("Hard-Knock Life").

In the morning, when Bundles McCloskey, the laundry man, comes to make a pick-up from the orphanage, the orphans take advantage of the fact he is flirting with Miss Hannigan and sneak Annie out of the building in a laundry bag. Realizing Annie has escaped, Miss Hannigan calls for the police as the orphans celebrate ("Hard-Knock Life – Reprise").

Annie is on a street lined with tenements when she encounters a mutt being chased by dog catchers. She rescues him and sings "Tomorrow," expressing her feelings that both she and the dog must believe everything will be fine for them in the future. When a policeman makes her prove the mutt is her dog, she names it Sandy on the spot and then calls it to come to her. The dog miraculously responds, and they become a team.

Back at the orphanage, Miss Hannigan is being tormented by the orphans. She expresses her disgust with her lot in life as the keeper of "Little Girls." The policeman arrives and returns Annie. As Miss Hannigan is threatening Annie, Grace Farrell, an attractive and well-dressed young woman, enters, carrying an attaché case. She is the private secretary to the billionaire, Oliver Warbucks, who wants to invite an orphan to his mansion for Christmas. Annie campaigns for the opportunity, but Miss Hannigan does everything in her power to discredit Annie. Grace is instantly drawn to Annie and is determined to bring her to the Warbucks mansion. She demands that Miss Hannigan sign the required papers, and then she escorts Annie to a waiting limousine. Miss Hannigan fumes as the orphans celebrate ("Little Girls – Reprise").

Grace brings Annie to Mr. Warbucks' mansion and introduces her to the servants. Annie is in awe of her new surroundings, but she is made to feel completely welcome by the staff ("I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here"). Oliver Warbucks arrives on the scene. He is a powerful figure in the country and a pivotal player in the current economic crisis. He rarely stops thinking about business and is taken aback by Annie's appearance in his house. He had expected the orphan to be a boy and is puzzled by the prospect of dealing with a little girl. Yet, almost immediately, he feels a deep connection to Annie's personality, which remind him of his own humble beginnings. Contrary to his usual behaviour, he decides to take a night off. Warbucks escorts Annie to see a movie at the Roxy, then treats her to an ice cream soda and a hansom cab ride around Central Park.

As she tours New York with Warbucks and Grace, Annie sees the city in a new way ("N.Y.C.") At the end of the evening, Annie is exhausted and Warbucks carries her home. As they leave Times Square, the faithful Sandy enters and then forlornly wanders off in search of Annie.

Grace arrives at the orphanage to tell Miss Hannigan that Oliver Warbucks wants to adopt Annie. She leaves just as Miss Hannigan's brother, Rooster, arrives with his girlfriend, Lily. Rooster has come to borrow money from his

sister. Miss Hannigan shares the news of Annie's pending adoption by Warbucks. The siblings lament their misfortunes ("Easy Street").

Warbucks is talking to the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. A package from Tiffany & Co. arrives, containing a silver locket for Annie. Warbucks tells Annie that he wants to adopt her and gives her the locket. Instead of the happy response he imagined, Annie begins to weep. When he learns about her dream of finding her parents and the secret of the half-locket she has treasured for so long, he sets his own feelings aside and orders an exhaustive search for Annie's parents. Warbucks laments his loss but is resolved to find Annie's real parents ("You Won't Be an Orphan for Long").

Annie and Warbucks are guests on the popular Bert Healy radio show ("Maybe – Reprise"). They make a plea for Annie's parents to return, and Warbucks offers \$50,000 to anyone who can prove they are her mother and father.

The orphans are listening to Bert Healy's radio show and sing their own version of Bert Healy's signature song, "You're Never Fully Dressed without a Smile." Miss Hannigan, furious about Annie's good fortune, sends them out of the room. Rooster and Lily arrive, disguised as Ralph and Shirley Mudge, claiming to be Annie's parents. They reveal their identity to Miss Hannigan and share their plot to claim Annie and the \$50,000 reward. Once they have the money, the trio plan to do away with Annie and live in the lap of luxury ("Easy Street – Reprise").

At the mansion, Annie and Warbucks discover that Grace has interviewed and dismissed hundreds of people claiming to be Annie's parents, but no one mentioned anything about a locket. The F.B.I. has also reported that the purchasers of the locket cannot be traced. It appears that Annie's quest cannot have a happy ending. Warbucks declares his intention to adopt Annie, and Annie accepts. Preparations are set in motion for a party to celebrate the adoption. Annie and Warbucks express their delight with the idea of becoming father and daughter ("I Don't Need Anything but You"). Just then, Rooster and Lily, disguised as Ralph and Shirley Mudge, appear with the other half of Annie's locket.

They also have Annie's birth certificate, which has been supplied by Miss Hannigan. They announce their intention to take Annie home to live with them in New Jersey. Warbucks convinces them to let Annie spend Christmas with him at the mansion. The Mudges can pick her up the next day. Rooster and Lily

agree and leave. Everyone toasts Annie Mudge, but Annie breaks into tears and runs upstairs. Grace tells Warbucks that she feels she has seen Mudge before.

The next morning, Annie waits apprehensively for the Mudges to claim her ("Maybe – Second Reprise"). President Roosevelt arrives with the news that the F.B.I. has analysed the handwriting on the note Annie's parents left behind to trace their identity. The investigation revealed that her real parents were named David and Margaret Bennett and that they are dead. The Mudges are impostors. Annie and Warbucks declare their love for each other. They realize only Miss Hannigan could have given the Mudges the locket and birth certificate. Miss Hannigan arrives with the orphans to celebrate Christmas. As the Mudges arrive to claim Annie, another communication from the F.B.I. reveals their true identities as Rooster and Lilly. Miss Hannigan tries to save herself by pretending to have no association with them and begins leading the orphans in Christmas carols. All three are hauled off to jail, and Roosevelt promises everyone that they will have a much better life in the future... a "New Deal" ("Tomorrow – Reprise"). A huge package arrives for Annie; when she opens it, Sandy jumps into her arms.

Character Breakdown

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. She also needs a good understanding of subtext so she can act appropriately during the various scenes between Warbucks and Grace, and Miss Hannigan and Grace. 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.

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: A3

The Orphans

Molly, Tessie, July, Duffy, Kate and Pepper. 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.

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.

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: G3

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."

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Rooster

Rooster and Lily 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." "Easy Street" is the most challenging number in the show, in terms of vocal range.

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Lily

Rooster and Lily 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! 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.

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Warbucks

This may be the most challenging role 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. He begins his transformation when he views "N.Y.C." through Annie's eyes and falls in love with the city again...and with her. The student who plays Warbucks will need to be extremely focused throughout the show. His posture, walk and speech patterns are very important.

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Sandy

In this production, Sandy is played by a human. Sandy is Annie's canine friend and scrappy in her own right. This dog also has to sing.

Servants (Drake, Mrs. Greer and Mrs. Pugh)

From the moment these characters enter the acting area, their presence, posture and speech should suggest the most fastidious of domestic help. (Your actors will have fun perfecting the precision steps, nods and curtsies.) Their heads are always held high, and they rarely show their emotions.

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Song list

Maybe

It's the Hard Knock Life

It's the Hard Knock Life (Reprise)

Tomorrow

Little Girls

Little Girls (Reprise)

I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here

NYC

Easy Street

You Won't Be an Orphan For Long

Maybe (Reprise)

You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile

Easy Street (Reprise)

I Don't Need Anything But You

Maybe (Reprise)

Tomorrow (Reprise)