



OLIVER AUDITIONS!

The award-winning musical adaptation of the classic Dickens novel springs to life with some of the most memorable characters and songs ever to hit the stage. Consider yourself invited to join our Top Box Company for this exciting project!

Hello and thank you for taking an interest in our production of Oliver to be staged at the Redditch Palace Theatre. We are looking for a large cast of adults & children to bring this hit musical to life! The show is made up of 17 named roles, a childrens ensemble and an adults 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.

AUDITIONS

Auditions Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May 2023 9am – 6pm

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

Rehearsal & Audition Venue - Top Box Studios, Second Floor, Canon Newton House, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 4HA.

Performance Dates – Week commencing 5th February 2024.

Performance Venue - Redditch Palace Theatre, Alcester Street, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 8AE

Rehearsals start 28th May 2023!

Sunday 28th May 2023 - Principal cast read through (Time TBC)

Mondays from 6.15pm (Childrens ensemble rehearsals- To be scheduled)

Sundays from 4.00pm (Principal rehearsals and adult ensemble rehearsals- To be scheduled)

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

[Auditions | Top Box Studios](#)

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

Audition Fee

[Top Box Audition Fee | Top Box Studios](#)

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 5th May 2023

Membership Fees

[Top Box Theatre Company \(Adult\) | Top Box Studios](#)

[Top Box Vocalize - Youth Theatre Company \(Ages 6-18\) | Top Box Studios](#)

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 £45 per block which equates to less than £3.50 per hour of rehearsal time.

Please contact us for more details

Top Box Studios

2nd Floor Canon Newton House

Kingfisher Centre

Redditch

Worcestershire

B97 4HA

Phone: 01527 390351 / 07846 116885

Email: office@topboxstudios.com

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

Act One

Dozens of workhouse boys file into a large barren room and take their places at the table. It is still raining outside while the boys dream inside of gorging their gullets with delicious eats... but are only given gruel to satisfy their hunger ("Food, Glorious Food"). At the end of the measly meal, one boy approaches the haughty Mr. Bumble and asks for more. The request seems

blasphemous to Mr. Bumble and the workhouse mistress, Widow Corney, who catch the boy and demand to know his name before deciding how to punish him (“Oliver”).

After the chaos in the dining room, the Widow Corney and Mr. Bumble retire to the Widow’s parlour. Widow Corney offers Mr. Bumble some gin to calm his nerves, which gives him the courage to kiss her on the lips and propose marriage (“I Shall Scream”). The Matron interrupts them with Oliver. Mr. Bumble takes the boy and his few belongings, planning to sell him for a good price (“Boy for Sale”).

Mr. Bumble and Oliver arrive at Mr. Sowerberry’s, the haggard undertaker who is interested in buying Oliver as a coffin-follower for children’s funerals. The undertaker’s wife, Mrs. Sowerberry, agrees (“That’s Your Funeral”). Oliver is given a meager meal of scraps and shown his bed amongst the coffins (“Where Is Love?”).

Oliver is startled awake the next morning by a loud kicking at the door. Noah Claypole enters, a brash employee, and instigates a fight by insulting Oliver’s dead mother. Oliver gets trapped in a coffin as Noah catches Mr. Bumble to punish him. Amidst the chaos, Oliver escapes.

A week passes before Oliver, hungry and exhausted, meets a boy named Jack Dawkins, also known as The Artful Dodger. Dodger offers Oliver lodgings at the residence of Mr. Fagin in London (“Consider Yourself”). Dodger leads Oliver to Fagin’s den, where he is instantly welcomed by Fagin and his boys and introduced to their line of work (“Pick a Pocket or Two”). After the boys have gone to bed, the sinister Bill Sikes arrives and unloads his burgled loot for Fagin before silently sneaking back into the night.

Oliver awakens early the next morning and witnesses Fagin having a nightmare. The whole gang soon wakes up as Nancy, Bill Sikes’ girlfriend, and Bet arrive at the den (“It’s a Fine Life”). Nancy immediately takes a shine to young Oliver (“I’d Do Anything”).

Nancy leaves to return to Bill Sikes before he wakes up. Fagin sends the boys off to start the morning’s pickpocketing, leaving Oliver under the tutelage of Dodger (“Be Back Soon”). In the streets of London, Dodger picks his first victim, Mr. Brownlow, and flees the scene, leaving Oliver to be caught for the crime.

Act Two

In a noisy, smoky pub called The Three Cripples, Nancy is encouraged by the clientele to perform a rousing song (“Oom-Pah-Pah”). The fun and revelry are immediately stalled when Nancy’s abusive villain of a boyfriend arrives, striking fear throughout the entire pub (“My Name”).

A frantic Dodger explodes on the scene and informs Fagin that Oliver had been caught and taken off to Mr. Brownlow’s residence. Fearing the safety of their hideout, Fagin and Bill Sikes decide that they must kidnap Oliver back before he talks. Bill violently threatens Nancy to retrieve the boy (“As Long as He Needs Me”).

Oliver is given a clean bill of health after a visit from a doctor, and Mr. Brownlow allows him to return some books and pay a debt just up the street (“Who Will Buy”). On the street, Oliver is abducted by Nancy and Bill Sikes and returned to Fagin’s den. Stripped of his goods and books, Oliver tries to escape. Bill threatens to bludgeon him, but Nancy intervenes, taking the brunt of Bill’s violence herself (“It’s a Fine Life – Reprise”). All exit, leaving Fagin alone as he ponders his life of crime (“Reviewing the Situation”).

Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney, now unhappily married, argue in the parlor. They are interrupted by a visit from Old Sally, a former workhouse employee. Knowing that her death is imminent, she must reveal a secret that she has long held – Oliver’s mother died in her care after childbirth and left a single gold locket. Old Sally dies as the Bumbles set out to retrieve Oliver, hoping that they can track down his rich family. (“Oliver – Reprise”).

The Bumbles arrive at Mr. Brownlow’s in response to an advertisement about any knowledge of Oliver’s whereabouts. Mr. Brownlow realizes that the Bumbles are only out for personal gain and sends them away. He notices the face in the locket as his estranged daughter, Agnes, and realizes that Oliver is his grandson. Moments later, Nancy meets Mr. Brownlow in secret and tells him to meet her at midnight at the London Bridge to retrieve Oliver. (“As Long as He Needs Me – Reprise”).

Nancy and Oliver arrive at the London Bridge, only to be surprised by a stalking Bill Sikes. Nancy will not let Bill take Oliver. He throws her to the ground and bludgeons her to death. Mr. Brownlow arrives a moment after and sees Bill fleeing the scene. Alerting a crowd, they chase Bill back to Fagin’s, where they

corner him on a roof, Oliver his hostage. A sharpshooter successfully hits Bill, who falls to his death, reuniting Oliver with Mr. Brownlow.

Fagin, having successfully avoided capture, decides that maybe it is time to turn over a new leaf after all and leave the life of crime.

Character Breakdown

Oliver Twist

A workhouse boy about 11 years of age.

Gender: Male

Age: 8 to 12

Fagin

An elderly receiver - runs training academy for young pickpockets.

Gender: Male

Age: 50 to 70

The Artful Dodger

Fagin's brightest pupil - an undersized 16.

Gender: Male

Age: 14 to 18

Bill Sikes

A villain in his prime.

Gender: Male

Age: 30 to 45

Nancy

23 years old - a graduate of Fagin's academy, and Bill's doxy.

Gender: Female

Age: 20 to 25

Bet

A 15 year old lass in Fagin's establishment - idolises Nancy.

Age: 14 to 18

Mr. Bumble

A large and pompous Beadle of the workhouse.

Gender: Male

Age: 35 to 60

Mrs. Corney

A sharp-tongued, domineering widow - the Workhouse Mistress.

Gender: Female

Age: 40 to 55

Mr. Brownlow

An old gentleman of wealth and breeding.

Gender: Male

Age: 55 to 70

Mr. Sowerberry

The Undertaker.

Gender: Male

Age: 45 to 60

Mrs. Sowerberry

Mr. Sowerberry's wife and his overseer.

Gender: Female

Age: 45 to 60

Charlotte

The Sowerberry's young daughter.

Gender: Female

Age: 18 to 25

Noah Claypole

Mr. Sowerberry's pimply apprentice.

Gender: Male

Age: 18 to 25

Mr. Grimwig

A Doctor.

Gender: Male

Age: 30 to 50

Mrs. Bedwin

The Brownlow's Housekeeper.

Gender: Female

Age: 45 to 60

Old Sally

A Pauper.

Gender: Female

Age: 50 to 70

Charley Bates

A boy in Fagin's establishment.

Gender: Male

Age: 10 to 18

Ensemble

Workhouse boys, workhouse assistants, bow street runners, street vendors and crowd, etc.

Gender: Any

Song list

- Food Glorious Food
- Oliver!
- I Shall Scream!
- Boy For Sale
- That's Your Funeral
- Where is Love?
- Consider Yourself
- You've Got to Pick a Pocket Or Two
- It's a Fine Life
- I'd Do Anything
- Be Back Soon
- Oom-Pah-Pah
- My Name!
- As Long As He Needs Me
- Where is Love? (Reprise)
- Who Will Buy?
- It's a Fine Life (Reprise)
- Reviewing the Situation
- Oliver! (Reprise)
- As Long As He Needs Me (Reprise)
- Reviewing the Situation (Reprise)
- Finale