

## Decatur Park District's PERFORM!

### *GUYS and DOLLS!*

#### Audition Hints

We are very excited that you are auditioning for the upcoming production of *GUYS and DOLLS!* presented by the Decatur Park District's program, PERFORM! Auditions are by appointment only (Call 422-5911 to schedule an audition appointment from November 14 – December 8). Auditions take place in 30-minute time slots and are held on Friday, December 9 from 4 – 6:30 pm, Saturday, December 10 from 10 AM – 2 PM. Callbacks, which are invited auditions are held on Sunday, December 11 from 1 – 4 PM and are for those actors we need to see just a bit longer (not everyone will be called back). Please wear shoes that allow you to do a simple dance call at your audition. Auditions and rehearsals through March 5, 2017, are held at the ARC, 2020 North Oakland Avenue.

Rehearsals at the ARC begin January 7 and are held Saturdays from 12:30 – 4:30 and Sundays from 1pm-4pm although there will be some Sundays that rehearsal will be 1 - 5 pm. Performances are March 17 – 19 at the Decatur Civic Center Theatre, with **mandatory** TECH rehearsals beginning March 11 – 16. If you are cast as a lead, you will be asked to rehearse earlier on Saturday or perhaps during the school week after school or in the evening, depending on flexibility of schedules. **PLEASE bring your list of conflicts to your audition and turn in with audition form. We make the master rehearsal schedule with these conflicts.**

#### GENERAL NOTES:

You'll be auditioning in a group of 10 actors with varying ages and abilities. You will be asked to fill out an audition form which will ask you to write down your experience, part(s) interested in and your conflicts as well as contact information. Please fill forms out legibly.

Choosing a cast is never easy. It not only considers the actors' acting ability but also physical attributes that make them look like a specific character. We appreciate your support in our casting choices.

#### What will auditions be like?

We'll have you sign in and fill out an audition form to tell us about yourself. Don't worry if you've never done this before – experience is not required. You will have measurements and a picture taken prior to your audition. So please come early (20 minutes suggested) and we will measure you and take a picture that we put on your audition form. Forms will be e-mailed to you prior to the audition. We also understand that rehearsals may overlap with school and sporting competitions. We ask that you provide us with details of these and other conflicts and impacts at your audition.

Everyone who's auditioning will be expected to introduce themselves and tell us their age and then sing *The Happy Ending (m tbd)* and/or recite a 30 second poem/monologue/joke or story. If you do not know *The Happy Ending*, there will be music available for you to use. If you prefer to sing something more familiar, you may sing Happy Birthday, Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star or my Country Tis of Thee. Please note that if you can perform your audition from memory it helps us cast you easier than if you are not performing from memory. In addition, auditioners will be taught some basic choreography onsite. The Director and Vocal Director will run the audition; the Stage Manager, Tech Supervisor and Costumer will run the audition process prior to you auditioning. We're all friendly and promise that it won't be intimidating! You may be asked to perform a part that you're obviously not suited for, or that you have no interest in. It doesn't mean you're being considered for that part but rather helps us gauge your flexibility and range.

No parts are pre-cast, and we would like to find a spot for everyone that is interested in being in the show and have attended auditions, unless special arrangements are made in advance. We will have call-backs as part of this show's audition process, and possible understudies from the ensemble will be selected for some key roles. Not everyone will be called back.

#### Among the things we'll be looking for are:

- Speaking/singing voice quality – Can you project, so that you'll be heard from the back of the auditorium?
- Energy – Can we hear the interest and excitement in your voice?
- Facial Expression – Does it match the words you're reading?
- Character – Can you "be" the person you're reading?
- Willingness – Can you follow instructions and give it your best shot?

### **How will you pick the cast?**

Of course, voice quality will be a key component for a musical. But many things go into putting a cast together. Your performance at the audition is important, but so are other things that are not in your control. The script dictates to a large extent who will be cast. So casting is a process of placing actors of an appropriate age who fit in combination with the other actors.

### **When will I know if I'm cast?**

Callback notifications will be made by Saturday evening, December 10<sup>th</sup>, for the callback audition on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Callback auditions will involve not only further vocal and dance evaluations, but will challenge auditioners' acting and interpretative abilities in an improvisational style. If an additional callback date is needed, it will be December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. Cast lists will be sent via e-mail by December 23 and will ask that you let us know if you are accepting the position by December 31, 2016. This gives us time to make changes in the casting if you choose not to do the show. We will also post the cast list on our website [www.decatour-parks.org](http://www.decatour-parks.org) under the ARTS page. And remember, not getting the role you want isn't a negative, it just means we see your strengths differently. All actors are important roles in this show and we need a strong ensemble to make the performances successful.

### **Tuition:**

Tuition fee includes rehearsal, costume, show fee and show shirt. Shoes are not supplied. \$150/(\$130 resident) or \$125/(\$110 resident) for Dance/Drama students. There is also a 15% sibling discount. Payment plans and scholarships are available. If you need scholarship information or payment plans, please contact Ms. Tami via e-mail:

[trobinson@decparcs.com](mailto:trobinson@decparcs.com) or phone: 217-421-6648 EXT 3 for details.

### **What am I committing to?**

By coming to auditions you're not committing to anything. Come try us out and see what you think. If we offer you a part, and you accept, then you are definitely making a commitment to attend every rehearsal possible. That means you can't miss a rehearsal unless it's absolutely necessary and you've notified Ms. Marie on conflict sheet. No absences are allowed during the last two weeks of rehearsals. Even if you have your part learned down pat and don't feel you need to be there, remember that your fellow actors are dependent on you being where you're supposed to be, and choreography is a team sport! A major factor in a production not getting to a polished, professional level is a cast that is erratic in attendance. OK, enough preaching – we just want you to understand the importance of being at rehearsals.

### **Tell me about this play**

Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls* ran for 1,200 performances when it opened on Broadway in 1950. It received nearly unanimous positive reviews from critics and won a bevy of awards, including Tony Awards, Drama Desks and Oliviers.

Set in Damon Runyon's New York City, *Guys and Dolls* follows gambler, Nathan Detroit, as he tries to find the cash to set up the biggest crap game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer, Adelaide, laments that they've been engaged for fourteen years without ever getting married. Nathan turns to fellow gambler, Sky Masterson, for the dough, but Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown. *Guys and Dolls J.* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, but everyone eventually ends up right where they belong.

Frank Loesser's brassy, immortal score makes *Guys and Dolls* a crowd pleaser. The large cast features both a variety of ensemble and star roles and is sure to be a treat for audiences and performers of any age.

### **What are the roles available?**

The large cast features both a variety of ensemble and principal roles. There are ample opportunities for ensemble highlights in the roles of Hot Box Girls, gangsters, missionaries and city dwellers. This show requires all ages and abilities. As we do with PERFORM! we will double cast the show so we have two casts performing, *New York* and *Havana* are the cast names. *New York* performs Friday and Saturday and *Havana* performs Saturday and Sunday, March 17 – 19, 2017.

## Cast of characters

### **Nicely-nicely Johnson**

Just like his name suggests, he is the nicest and cheeriest of the gambling crooks. High-spirited and a bit naïve, but sincere and genuine. Nathan's loyal friend and lackey.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: B5 Vocal range bottom: D4

### **Benny Southstreet**

Nathan's right-hand man and a gambler himself. Smart, slick, always moving and shaking, but with what he thinks are Nathan's best interest at heart.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: D4

### **Sarah Brown**

A pretty, bright-eyed woman who serves as Sergeant of the local Mission. She fully believes in her worthy cause and wishes to convert the gambling sinners to saints. Falls unexpectedly in love with Sky along the way. She is prudish and uptight, but eventually lets go.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: B3

### **Arvide Abernathy**

The bass drum and cymbal player in the Mission band, he is Sarah's loving grandfather. Wise and sweet, he wants nothing but the best for her.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: D4

### **Harry The Horse**

A crook and gambler. He is a tough guy with dollar signs as his bottom line. Brings Big Jule into Nathan's craps game and backs his cheating, but is also a man of his word in the gambling community.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: F3

### **Lt. Brannigan**

A New York police officer who is on to Nathan's illegal craps games and is dead-set on catching him. A tough, no-nonsense character.

Gender: Male

### **Nathan Detroit**

A good-hearted gambler and craps game organizer who could never hit the bigtime. He loves Adelaide, but cannot quit his gambling ways. A broke schemer with unwitting ways.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: D4

### **Miss Adelaide**

Nathan's fiancé and a lead performer at the Hot Box nightclub. She loves Nathan more than anything in the world and desperately wants to get married. Pretty, outspoken, stubborn.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: A3

### **Sky Masterson**

A high-stakes gambler whose luck never seems to run out, and a wild card who surprises himself when he falls in love with the unlikeliest of women. Suave, smart, handsome.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: B3

### **Big Jule**

A big time craps player from Chicago who uses a gun and his own pair of rigged dice to bully his way into never losing. Tough looking. A bit of an oaf.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: F3

### **Ensemble**

Sightseers, Mission Band (Agatha, Calvin, Martha), Crap Shooters (Liver Lips Louie, Angie The Ox, Rusty Charlie), Hot Box Girls, Waiters, Cuban Dancers

### **SONG LIST:**

RUNYONLAND

FUGUE FOR TINHORNS

FOLLOW THE FOLD

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED

I'LL KNOW

A BUSHEL AND A PECK

ADELAIDE'S LAMENT  
 GUYS AND DOLLS  
 HAVANA  
 IF I WERE A BELL  
 MY TIME OF DAY  
 I'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE BEFORE  
 ENTR'ACTE  
 TAKE BACK YOUR MINK  
 ADELAIDE'S SECOND LAMENT  
 MORE I CANNOT WISH YOU  
 THE CRAPSHOOTERS' DANCE  
 LUCK BE A LADY  
 SUE ME  
 SIT DOWN, YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT

**What about rehearsals?**

Our schedule calls for weekend rehearsals. Our first rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, January 7. Rehearsals are normally on Saturday from 12:30 – 4:30 pm and Sunday 1 – 4 pm although there might be earlier calls at noon and some Sundays will have a 1 - 5:00 call. As we are planning to double cast the show, in the beginning we will have both casts learning music together and then we typically work with only one cast or both casts of gangsters, etc. You typically will have some type of rehearsal call each weekend but we try to work around conflicts and stage times so one cast may rehearse early on Saturday one week and later on Saturday another week or one cast will have rehearsal Saturday one week and Sunday the next week. The very first rehearsal will be a “read-thru” of the script, spoken rather than sung so we familiarize ourselves with the story we are telling. It’s just what it sounds like – we’ll all sit around and read the script. It’s the time to meet your fellow actors, hear the Director’s vision for the show, begin to assimilate your character, etc. Due to the unusual and popular nature of this production and availability of online versions to view, all actors should come to the read thru with familiarity of the script. Our first rehearsals will work on music and we’ll go “off book,” or have lines memorized, almost immediately so we can concentrate on acting quality and choreography where we break the production into sections and begin blocking and choreography. Blocking is the term used for any stage movement – crossing from one side to the other, sitting down, standing up – all the stuff that supports your lines. Bring a pencil and make notes in your script as you work. Once everything is blocked, we will start running an entire act at a time. By eight weeks in we will be doing a run of the show and the ninth week will be our final run through with cleaning. The tenth week begins our tech week at the Civic Center.

**Generic REHEARSAL SCHEDULE\***

Saturday, January 9 – March 5	12:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Sunday, January 10 – March 6	1 pm – 4 or 5 pm

**TECH WEEK\*\***

Saturday, March 11	1 pm – 5 pm New York Cast (Havana principles attend)
Sunday March 13	1 pm – 5 pm Havana Cast (New York principles attend)
Monday, March 14	5:00 pm – 8:30 pm New York Cast (Havana principles attend)
Tuesday, March 15	5:00 pm – 8:30 pm Havana Cast (New York principles attend)
Wednesday, March 16	5:00 pm – 9 pm New York Cast (if needed. Hope to be done by 8:30)
Thursday, March 17	5:00 pm – 9 pm Havana Cast (if needed. Hope to be done by 8:30)

\*Rehearsal will not call everyone at all times. Actors will rehearse when scheduled/called. TECH week however is MANDATORY and all cast members should be in attendance at their respective rehearsal.

**Can I Review the Script in Advance?**

Unfortunately, our license to perform GUYS and DOLLS! doesn’t allow us to provide scripts until actors accept their part and have paid the program fee. However, there is a lot of information online, including youtube musicals.

**When are Performances?**

There are 4 performances. 2 performed by the New York Cast and 2 by the Havana Cast. The New York Cast performs Friday, March 17 at 7 pm and March 18 at 2 pm. The Havana Cast performs March 18 at 7 pm and March 19 at 2 pm. Performances are held at the Civic Center Theatre. Tickets will go on sale January 30, 2017 at the Decatur Park District Administration Office, 620 East Riverside Road (office hours 8 am - 5 pm) and phone number is 217-422-5991. You may also purchase tickets online. There is a Civic Center seating chart on Arts web site, too. Tickets are \$8.00 for reserved seating.

**Who Will Be Working on This Show?**

Director/Choreographer: Marie Jagger-Taylor

Stage Manager: TBD

Music Director: Christine Smith

Costume Director: Kelly Brokaw

Technical Supervisor (set/lights): Harrison Austin

We do ask for parent volunteer assistance. There is a Volunteer Form that is part of your paper work and can use parent help for Costumes/Props/Set/Ushering and Cast Party. The Cast Party will be held Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Scovill Zoo Education Center from 6 – 8 pm.

What about....?

For any other questions, please contact Ms. Marie, Cultural Arts Manager, for further information:

e-mail: [mjtaylor@decparcs.com](mailto:mjtaylor@decparcs.com)

phone: 217-421-6648 EXT 1