

MERELY PLAYERS ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS

for

A Razzle-Dazzle Sensation *CHICAGO*

Our Annual Spring Musical

Monday and Tuesday, December 11 and 12, 2023 from 5:45 – 9:30 p.m.

Merely Players is excited to offer the opportunity for community members aged 16 and older to work together once again as we produce this jazz musical sensation.

Rehearsals begin in March 2024, and performances are in May 2024.

There are no particular roles set aside for youth. High School youth will be competing for roles alongside adults.

All Roles, including Tech, are open.

The show will be directed by Mona Wood-Patterson, choreographed by Zachary Chiero, musically directed by Tom Kyser, designed and tech directed by Charles Ford, and stage managed by Selena Trujillo.

FEMALE LEADS:

VELMA KELLY: Female, 25-55 (Range: Alto, E3-D5)

Vaudeville performer who is accused of murdering her sister and husband. Hardened by fame, she cares for no one but herself and her attempt to get away with murder.

ROXIE HART: Female, 20-45 (Range: Mezzo-Soprano, F3-B4)

Reads and keeps up with murder trials in Chicago, and follows suit by murdering her lover, Fred Casely. She stops at nothing to render a media storm with one goal: to get away with it.

MATRON "MAMA" MORTON: Female, 45-70 (Range: Alto, F#3-Bb4)

Leader of the prisoners of Cook County Jail. The total essence of corruption. Accepts bribes for favors from laundry service to making calls to lawyers. "When you're good to Mama, Mama's good to you."

MALE LEADS:

BILLY FLYNN: Male, 30-65 (Range: Baritone Bb2-G4)

Established lawyer who hasn't lost a woman's case yet. Master of media manipulation who will get a girl off the hook as long as she can fork up the hefty \$5,000 fee.

AMOS HART: Male, 30-60 (Range: Baritone, C3-F#4)

Roxie's faithful husband. Lies for her and tries to take the blame until he realizes that he has been two-timed by Roxie. Still in love with her, or misguided, he believes anything she says in her pursuit to get out of jail.

SUPPORTING FEMALE:

The Merry Murderesses: Liz, Annie, June, Mona : Female, 18-55 (Range: Ensemble, A3-C#5- must be good dancers)

Prisoners at Cook County Jail who murdered their men.

HUNYAK: Female, 18-45 (Range: Non-Singing Role- must be a good dancer)

Hungarian Prisoner at Cook County Jail. The only English she speaks is the phrase, "Not Guilty." Which follows her to her grave.

SUPPORTING ANY GENDER:

MARY SUNSHINE: Male or Female, 25-55 (Range: Soprano, Bb3-Bb5; Could use Falsetto)

Sob sister reporter from the Evening Star. Believes there is a little bit of good in everyone and will believe anything she is fed that matches her beliefs.

ENSEMBLE

Must sing and act well. Many characters with solos and lines are scattered throughout. The Ensemble is a strong force in this production.

DANCERS

Showcased throughout show

THEATRE TECHNICIANS

We are also looking for fun and capable backstage technicians. No experience is necessary – we train. Those interested in tech are welcome to come on either date for a tech interview.

REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE:

This musical will have a fun and lively 9-week rehearsal period, beginning on February 26, 2024. There is no rehearsal from March 15 – 24 (9R spring break)

Rehearsals will typically be Mondays – Thursdays from 6:00-9:30. Rehearsals will last until 10:00 during the last week.

There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, April 13, from 9:30- 7:00. There will also be a Friday rehearsal on April 26. The entire cast and crew must be present at these rehearsals.

A rehearsal schedule will be provided to let everyone know specific times that they are called once the show has been cast.

Show Runs:

MAY 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm

MAY 5, 12, and 19 at 2:00 pm

You must be able to attend all performances.

Please be sure to write down or discuss any known conflicts with the director – sometimes, it's possible we can work around a conflict or two if we know in advance. You will not be considered if you cannot make it to all rehearsals in the last two weeks and all performances.

AUDITION DETAILS:

Monday and Tuesday, December 11 and 12 from 5:45 – 9:00 p.m. Everyone auditioning can appear at 5:45 on either date.

Callbacks by invitation only are on Wednesday, Dec. 13

If you are unable to attend either audition, you may submit your audition via video to merelydirectors@gmail.com no later than Monday, December 11, 2024. Naturally, it is to your advantage to appear in person.

AUDITION LOCATION:

MERELY UNDERGROUND – 789 Tech Center Drive

Singing

At your audition, you should come prepared with 16- 32 bars of **any song from the show**. We are reaching for a high level of acting and singing. Choose a selection that shows us what you can do. We will have a live accompanist. You can bring your own sheet music or tell our accompanist what song and section you will be singing.

Dance

There will also be a movement/dance audition, but you do not need to prepare specifically for that. Just brush up on your jazz dance skills between now and then.

Acting

Additionally, you will have an acting audition. Choose one of the following monologue sides for your audition. Memorization is required. EVERYONE, even those who want to be in the singing or dancing ensemble, must complete an acting audition.