

**MERELY PLAYERS
ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS**

for

A Musical Classic
GUYS AND DOLLS

Our Annual Spring Musical

Monday and Tuesday, November 11 and 12, 2024 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 Golden Age musical.

Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls* is set in Damon Runyon's 1950's mythical New York City. With a string of hits, including "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," "Luck Be a Lady" and "I've Never Been in Love Before, *Guys and Dolls* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, and even into the sewers, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong. It's a classic for a reason, and it's pure joy!

Rehearsals begin in Feb. 24, 2025, and performances are in April and May, 2025.

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

All Roles are open - except for Sky Masterson, who will be played by Conor Sheehan.

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

For more information about the musical, see <https://www.mtishows.com/guys-and-dolls>

FEMALE LEADS:

Sarah Brown: G5-B3, 20-35: A bright-eyed woman who serves as Sergeant of the local Mission. Idealistic and sheltered, she is passionate about her cause and wishes to convert the gambling sinners to saints. Falls unexpectedly in love with gambler Sky Masterson along the way.

Miss Adelaide: F5 – A3, 30-45: 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. Outspoken, determined, funny.

MALE LEAD:

Nathan Detroit: F5-D4, 35-50: 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. NATHAN has one song. He is a character actor and does not have to be a fabulous singer.

SUPPORTING ROLES:

Nicely-Nicely Johnson: B5-D4, 25-60: 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.

Benny Southstreet: G5-D4, 25-60: 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.

Harry The Horse: G5-F3, 35-55: 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.

Big Jule: Male, G5-F3, 30-50: 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. Does not have to sing well.

General Matilda B. Cartwright: Regional representative of the Salvation Army. Powerful, matronly, no-nonsense with a formidable presence and, it transpires, a sense of humour. Able to play age: 40 - 70 Female mezzo.

Hot Box Dancers: A chorus of performers who back-up Adelaide in her night club act. Dancing, singing and character performance required. They perform 2 numbers with Adelaide & will double into other aspects of the ensemble. Able to play age: 18 - 40

Lt. Brannigan: 25-80: 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. Does not need to sing.

Arvide Abernathy: D4 – F5, 55 – 80. A member of the Mission band, this character is Sarah's loving relative. Wise and sweet, they want nothing but the best for her. Has a beautiful solo.

ENSEMBLE

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

DANCERS

Showcased throughout show, from Havana to the sewers of New York City. Any gender

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 24, 2025. There is no rehearsal from March 14 – 23 (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 12, from 9:30- 7:00. There will also be a Friday rehearsal on April 18. 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:

April 25, 26, 27, May 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2025

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

Callbacks by invitation only will be slated later.

If you are unable to attend either audition, you may submit your audition via video to merelydirectors@gmail.com no later than Monday, November 11, 2025. 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 (Paula Millar). You can bring your own sheet music or tell our accompanist what song and section you will be singing. Please sing in the correct show tune key; if you do not, you may be asked to sing in the key of the show later.

Dance

There will also be a movement/dance audition, but you do not need to prepare specifically for that.

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.