



Oklahoma!

Rodgers & Hammerstein's



AUDITION MATERIALS

Introductory Evening – Thu 8th Oct (Velmead School)

Auditions – Sun 18th October (Velmead School)

www.codymusical.co.uk



Production Team's notes:

Our vision for this production is a bold, contemporary reimagining set in a recognisably modern rural community. Costuming and design will reflect present-day working America - denim, dust, pickup trucks, ranches, wind turbines; grounding the story in a world that feels immediate and relatable. The design will be focussed on high-quality projection which will transform the stage with the depth and breadth of the open plains.

While the aesthetic will be modern, the emotional truth of the piece will remain untouched. The original lyrics and lib will not be changed - historical references will work as metaphors - for example 'Surrey with a fringe on top' will refer to a bright sparkling red 4x4 pickup truck. The integrity of Rodgers and Hammerstein's storytelling is what makes Oklahoma! endure. If we are truthful to the characters, if we ensure that we genuinely root for Curly and Laurey, and fully understand the loneliness and instability that drive Jud, then the audience will respond, regardless of period.

The music interpretation will lean more towards bluegrass/hill billy style rather than orchestral. The band will be on stage, and we intend to include some actor/musicians where it works with the score. The dance style will remain broad and pick up on different styles which will include line dancing, traditional ballet, contemporary ballet, and soft shoe.

We encourage everyone interested in being in this production to attend the intro night on 8th October where more detail will be given about the approach to the show and what to expect from the auditions.

Please familiarise yourself with the show before auditioning. Good reference versions are:

- National Theatre at Home version online with Hugh Jackman and Maureen Lipman:
<https://www.ntathome.com/oklahoma>
- BBC Proms semi-staged performance with the John Wilson Orchestra:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBccEsgAOaY&t=1404s>

Dance Auditions

Ensemble Dance Auditions

Following the positive feedback to the more informal dance workshop audition that was held for 'Don't Stop the Music', we intend to run the ensemble dance audition in much the same way. This will take place on Tuesday 13th October. The audition dance will be taught in one large group, and after learning the dance it will be performed in small groups. Please note these will be filmed. No special shoes needed!



Featured Dancing Roles

We will be auditioning for featured dancers too and there is plenty of opportunity for dancing. Big dance numbers include the Dream Ballet, The Farmer and the Cowman, Kansas City and Many a New Day. There is also the possibility of casting a 'Dream Laurey', a dancer who doubles as Laurey for the Dream Ballet. It will be decided at the auditions as to whether this is cast as a separate dancer or not. We would also consider casting a 'Dream Curly' and a 'Dream Jud' if there was interest in this.

If you would like to audition for a featured dancing role, as well as attending the general dance workshop please also do the Laurey ballet/featured dancers audition (women) and the male principal dance audition (Will Parker/Curly/featured dancers (men). These dances will be taught on Tuesday 13th and the auditions will be part of the main audition day on Sunday 18th October.

For the women: Ballet shoes if you have them, if not then jazz shoes/bare feet.

Acting / Singing Auditions

Principal Auditions

Principal acting auditions will be on Sunday 18th October. There is an alternative audition date on Thursday 15th for those who absolutely can't make the Sunday. We would prefer you to be off book for the lib part of the audition. Individuals auditioning for one of the featured roles do not need to audition separately for a minor role. If you wish to only be considered for a principal role, please make it clear on the audition form. Please note these auditions will be filmed, for internal use only.

There are 3 principal females and 5 principal males, as below:

Female

- Laurey (playing age 20s)
- Aunt Eller (playing age 40s/50s/60s)
- Ado Annie (playing age 20s)

Male

- Curly (playing age 20s/30s)
- Jud (playing age late 20s/30s)
- Will Parker (playing age 20s/30s)
- Ali Hakim (playing age 30s/40s)
- Andrew Carnes (playing age 50s/60s)

Ensemble Auditions

Anyone wishing to be considered for the ensemble must also attend the ensemble acting audition workshop on Thursday 15th October. This will involve some group acting exercises and a bit of improvising. We will add in some individual lines which can be read but we would like you to do an American accent for these. Nothing needs to be prepared in advance. From this audition we will also consider the casting of the minor speaking roles (Gertie Cummings, Ike Skidmore, Cord Elam).



Important Dates:

Thu 8th Oct:

- 8-10pm Intro evening to discuss the show, the roles and the director's approach. Will talk through the audition process and include a bit of singing.

Tue 13th Oct:

- 8-9pm Dance Audition workshop.
This will be treated as the dance audition for those wishing to be in the ensemble.
- 9-9.20pm Singing plus dancing
- 9.20pm Male principal dance teaching - Will Parker/Curly/male featured dancers.
- 9.30pm Female principal dance teaching - Laurey ballet/female featured dancers

Thu 15th Oct:

- 8-9pm Acting Audition workshop
- 9-10pm New members individual singing auditions
Actor/Musicians instrument auditions
Alternative audition date only for those who absolutely cannot attend on Sun 18th

Sun 18th Oct:

- 10am Recap principal dances
- 10.30am Dance auditions – Ballet dance and Male principal dance
- 11.15am Principal singing auditions
- 1.00pm Acting auditions – in pairs to be pre-selected by production team. Some men may need to go more than once to get through all the women.

Tue 20th Oct:

- 8-10pm First full cast (post audition) rehearsal.

Rehearsal Timings

All rehearsals (unless otherwise stated), will be held at Velmead School, Velmead Rd, Fleet, Hants GU52 7LG. Rehearsals run from 8:00-10:00pm Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Occasionally we may choose to start earlier at 7:30pm. There will be some Sunday rehearsals which will be clearly indicated in the schedule, published early in the rehearsal period.

Show week: Sat 13th March (get-in at Princes Hall) to Sat 20th March

Actor / Musicians

We are keen to include some actor / musicians in this production, either in featured roles or minor roles. If you wish to be considered as an actor / musician please attend on Thursday 15th October with your instrument and be prepared to play something for us.

Who Can Audition?

Absolutely anyone over school leaving age is invited to come along and audition to be in the show, regardless of whether you are a current member or a potential new one. We are a very inclusive



society, welcome people from all walks of life and background and work hard to make everyone feel welcome, respected and involved.

New Members

If you are new to CODY, we must see you perform both in dance, acting and singing for entry into the Company. It is therefore vital that you attend the intro evening on Thursday 8th October, and fully participate in the dance and acting workshops on Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th October. You are welcome to audition for any of the principal parts listed on Sunday 18th October, or sing a song of your choice on Thursday 15th October.

Audition Panel

The auditions will be held in front of a panel of 5 people including the Director, the Musical Director, the Choreographer and two independent panel members. There will also be a 6th non-voting Chair of the panel.

Please note: For these auditions, there will not be the opportunity for other company members to watch the auditions. We hope this will encourage all members, both old and new, to feel as relaxed as they can be and have an opportunity to show us their best selves!

If you have any questions please email the production team: oklahoma@codymusical.co.uk

