

AUDITIONS

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

Book, Music, Lyrics & Orchestration by Rupert Holmes

Presented by Mānoa Valley Theatre

Director – Miles Phillips

Music Director – Jenny Shiroma

Choreographers — Miles Phillips & Taylor Gruver

ABOUT THE SHOW

Based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel of the same name, THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD is a hilarious, interactive whodunit mystery musical that allows the audience to enter the action and become the ultimate detectives. In a delightful play-within-a play the young and charming Edwin Drood has apparently been murdered. But by whom? By Act II, everyone is a suspect, and the audience chooses the murderer!

AUDITIONS

Appointments Strongly Encouraged

Sunday, October 30th – 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Tuesday, November 1st – 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Auditions will be held at Mānoa Valley Theatre's MVT Studio Classrooms. MVT Studio is located at Manoa Marketplace, just mauka of the theatre itself, on the second floor above Central Pacific Bank. The exterior entrance staircase is directly across the street from the fire station.

Please call the office to schedule an audition appointment: 808-988-6131

Due to the close proximity of the cast, everyone must be fully vaccinated and boosted to be cast in this production. Please bring proof of full vaccination to auditions.

Actors must be 16 years of age to be cast in this production.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Rehearsal Period: November 14, 2022 – January 11, 2023

General Rehearsal Schedule is Monday-Friday 6:30-9:30. Weekends will be added once technical and dress rehearsals begin.

Performance Dates: January 12 – 29, likely extension through February 5

Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30 pm

Saturday and Sundays at 3:00 pm

Cast must be available for the entire run.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare 2 brief (1 minute) songs (1 ballad, 1 up-tempo) in the style of the show. Songs from the show are absolutely welcome. You will most likely only be asked to sing one song, so start with the song that best shows your suitability for the show or a specific role.

An accompanist will be provided. Sheet music must be in your key. No transposing on sight, no a capella singing, no recorded accompaniment.

Special skills like tumbling and juggling are a plus. If you have such skills, please point them out on your audition sheet and be prepared to demonstrate if asked.

Callbacks will be held by invitation within the days following the auditions. Dance/Movement will be included in the callbacks. When called back, sides and character specific songs from the show will be assigned. Please familiarize yourself with the score in advance.

Note: We are performing the 2012 Broadway Revival version of THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. The Original Cast and Broadway Revival Cast Recordings are available on Amazon, iTunes, and YouTube, to name a few.

A perusal copy of THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD will be kept in the administration office at MVT, for reading/research during business hours.

NOTE: We aim to cast consciously, and to keep performers from historically underrepresented backgrounds visible and valued in the casting process. We are invested in casting a diverse company of actors and encourage people of all races, ethnicities, religions, orientations, creeds, and the differently abled to submit for auditions.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Chairman/Mayor Thomas Sapsea: The leader of the music hall troupe. The Chairman carries the majority of the dialogue and must be quick with a joke and able to improvise. S/he is in charge of keeping the pace of the show moving. This part can be played by either a man or a woman, and can be any age over 40ish. Baritone/Low Alto (D#3 – F#4 – can pop octaves if needed).

Clive Paget/John Jasper: The Royale's male lead, a devilishly attractive cad, and he knows it. In Drood, he is the antagonist. Choirmaster of Cloisterham Cathedral, and uncle of Edwin Drood. In love with Rosa Bud. Madness lurks beneath his smooth exterior. 35-50ish. Bari-tenor (A2 – A4).

Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood: Prima donna and London's leading male impersonator, charming but, as you might expect, with determination and a lot of ego. Must command the stage. As Edwin Drood, she is an attractive, rich, and popular young man who has everything. 25-45ish. Mezzo (B3 – E5).

Deirdre Peregrine/Rosa Bud: The not-so-innocent ingenue of the Music Hall Royale, Deirdre portrays the love interest of Drood, the young, beautiful and apparently fragile Rosa Bud. 16-30ish. True soprano (A3 – B5), with a high B natural that can't be avoided.

Angela Prysock/Princess Puffer: Angela has been a favorite of London audiences forever, a staple of the stage. As the mysterious Princess Puffer, Madam, opium dealer and general purveyor of vice of all kinds, she is glamorous in her ruin. Over 50. Serious low alto (F3 – D5) – must have a big chest voice and lots of rapport with the audience. Possible opportunity to cast with a female presenting trans, drag or non-binary actor.

Janet Conover/Helena Landless: Janet is a long-standing member of the acting troupe, asked to play the mysterious Helena Landless who hails from the exotic British colony of Ceylon (now Shri Lanka). 25-50ish. Mezzo (G3 – D5 [optional E5])

Victor Grinstead/Neville Landless: Victor is enjoying his premier performance with the Music Hall Royale. His character, Neville, is Helena's twin brother. Very passionate and often angry. 25-50ish. Bari-tenor (C3 – G4), strong ensemble singer.

Cedric Moncrieffe/Reverend Crisparkle: This troupe member is a bit of an open book who plays an archetypal vicar, who is also a bit of a lurker, and was in love with Rosa's mother. Must be significantly older than Rosa. Baritone (C3 – G4), strong ensemble singer.

Phillip Bax/Bazzard: Devotee of the theatre, the everlasting understudy, who finally gets his moment. May have quite a major part if the evening turns out that way. Any age. Bari-tenor (A2 – Eb4 [opt G4 or Bb4]).

Nick Cricker, Sr./Durdles: "Clown Prince of the Royale" who makes the most of every line and plays the drunkard sexton in Drood. Over 30. Baritone or Tenor (B2 – F4) – ensemble singer.

Nick Cricker, Jr./Deputy: Boy, any age younger than Cricker, Sr. As the Deputy, lowest in the pecking order, and very funny. Any voice range – ensemble singer.

Wendy and Beatrice: Drawn from the company, these characters are contemporaries of Rosa Bud. (C4-D5)

Ensemble: 3 Women, 3 Men, strong singers and dancers, charming and enthusiastic performers, special skills like tumbling and juggling a plus. Play various cameo roles and understudy principal roles.