



On The Town

Audition Info and Character Descriptions

Revised January 22, 2014

Auditions are at Stowe Town Hall Theater on
Saturday, March 8 at 9:00am – 1:00pm or 1:30 - 5:30, or
Sunday, March 9 at 1:00 – 5:00

See www.stowetheatre.com for more information!!

Show dates: July 16 – 19, July 23 -26, July 30 – August 2

Rehearsals: Rehearsals begin the week of May 5 (date tba). Rehearsals will generally be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights from 6 - 9pm and Sundays from 1 - 4:00pm. Many rehearsals will be held in Burlington area.

General Notes:

- (1) “Ages” listed below are stage age – the age you must be able to appear to be on stage. There is a fairly wide range for the six principal roles of Hildy, Claire, Ivy, Ozzie, Chip and Gabe because it is important that the characters’ ages work well together as they pair off as various love interests. The pairings of the six principals are: Hildy – Chip; Ozzie – Claire; and Gabe – Ivy. Teens must have turned at least 15 years old by April 1, 2014 in order to be able to audition. In addition to older looking teens being considered for the principal roles, there are roles for high school girls and boys in the chorus, including the three sailors who close the show with “*New York, New York (Reprise)*.”
- (2) **A note on race neutrality:** We are firmly taking a race neutral approach to casting. The casting of shows in the 1940’s was not racially mixed but we are racially neutral in our casting. We encourage all people of all races to audition.
- (3) This is an ensemble show. There are 6 principal leads, 2 secondary leads and a number of speaking and singing supporting roles. There are also a number of dance sequences involving members of the chorus. Virtually everyone on stage will have the opportunity to shine.

About On The Town:

On The Town takes place in a 24-hour period sometime during the month of May or June in 1944, just prior to, or just after, D-Day in Europe. It concerns three sailors – Ozzie, Chip and Gabe – on shore leave in New York City and their quests to find happiness in the short time they would have. It is important to remember that in 1944, much hard fighting remained to be done until World War II would end in May of 1945 in Germany and in August of 1945 in Japan. Indeed, *On The Town* opened in Boston and New York City during December 1944, as the devastating Battle of the Bulge was continuing in Europe and while there were continuing battles throughout the Asian theater of war.

Given this backdrop, the show does not forget how fragile life was for the young men who were serving (“*Lonely Town*,” “*Some Other Time*”), but at the same time it expresses through comedy, dance and great

exuberant tunes (e.g., “*New York, New York*,” “*Come Up To My Place*,” “*Carried Away*”) the innate optimism that the show’s creators felt. Composer Leonard Bernstein, writers Betty Comden and Adolph Green and choreographer Jerome Robbins were all in their 20’s when the show opened, and *On The Town* is as much a homage to their city, New York City, as it is an expression of their youthful optimism of how America would endure following the war. The challenge for all the actors in this show is to balance the exuberance and optimism expressed throughout the show, against the sadness of so many young people dying.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the auditions or character descriptions, please contact one of the members of the artistic team: Artistic Director, Steve Magowan at smagowan63@gmail.com. Music Director, Carol Spradling at carolspradlingvt@gmail.com. Choreographer, Karen Amirault at amirault@burlingtontelecom.net.

Principal Roles

The Three Sailors:

- Ozzie:** Ages 22 - 32. Vocal range: Character baritone, F flat to C.
Ozzie is one of three sailors on 24-hour shore leave in New York City. Of the three, he is the most worldly and most interested in meeting a girl for a fling during his day in the City. Ozzie feels a tremendous loyalty to Gabey, who at some point during their lives in the Navy saved the lives of Ozzie, Chip and others. Ozzie should be able to present himself as a relatively big and strong person (in one scene he is said to resemble a statue of a prehistoric man in the Natural History Museum). Ozzie’s love interest is Clair de Loone, a budding anthropologist. Strong movement abilities; strong comic actor.
- Audition material: New York, New York, measure 55 - 70
Carried Away, measure 66 – 75 and 89 – end
- Chip:** Ages 18 - 28. Vocal range: Baritone, G flat to G.
Chip is one of three sailors on 24-hour shore leave in New York City. Of the three, he is the most naive and the one least interested in meeting a girl for a fling during his day in the City (though he is not completely uninterested). He wants to see the sights of New York City so he can tell his Dad all about them, as is made clear in his duet with Hildy, “*Come Up To My Place*.” Strong comic actor.
- Audition material: New York, New York, measure 87 - 107
Ya Got Me, measure 98 – 116
- Gabey:** Ages 22 – 34. Vocal range: Baritone, G flat to G.
Gabey is the third sailor on shore leave and the one most prone to being a romantic. He has performed some unknown heroic deeds on his ship. Gabey falls in love with the ideal of a woman as presented in a post of “Miss Turnstiles” (Ivy Smith) and spends the show pursuing her. The actor portraying Gabey must be able to authentically project his naivete, his optimism and his romanticism. Gabey is involved in several dance sequences. Strong dance/movement abilities; strong vocals and acting.

The Three Girls:

Clair: Ages 22 – 32. Soprano, low F to high C.
Clair de Loone is a self-described “cold blood scientist,” an anthropologist to be precise who cannot control her impulses. She is engaged in the study of man in order to control her impulses. The actress portraying Clair must have a strong singing voice and great comic timing. Although she is engaged to be married to Judge Pitkin W. Bridgework, Clair’s love interest is Ozzie. Strong comic actress and strong dancer as well.

Audition material: Carried Away, measure 80 - end
Some Other Time, measure 3 – 25

Hildy: Ages 20 – 32. Mezzo-soprano, low A to high G.
Hildy is a cab driver who is desperately hungry for a man. She shares an apartment with Lucy Schmeeler, wherein one girl lives in the apartment 12 hours a day while the other is working. Hildy meets Chip when Chip is looking for a cab and then spends much of the rest of the show trying to seduce him. Hildy also has a soft side and wants to help Gabey over his disappointment of not being able to find Miss Turnstiles. Strong comic actress.

Audition material: I Can Cook Too, measure 24 - end
Some Other Time, measure 43 – 58

Ivy: Ages: 22 – 32. Mezzo-soprano, low C to high G.
Ivy Smith is “Miss Turnstiles,” and she is by turns an innocent as well as someone who is a bit conniving as she tries to get ahead. At heart, though, she is a romantic. Her love interest is Gabey. The actress portraying Ivy must be able convincingly to portray her striving to better herself while also maintaining her essential optimism. Ivy’s role is primarily a dancing role, she has a number of dance sequences and it is important that she be either a dancer or one who can learn movement easily.

Audition material: Carnegie Hall Pavane, measure 19 – 26

Other Singing Roles:

Madame Dilly: Ages 45 – 65. Mezzo-soprano, C to high E flat.
Madame Dilly is Ivy’s singing teacher and very much a lush. She provides comic relief and is a bit of a conniver. Strong comedic presence. Will double as little old lady who appears in various chase scenes and the ensemble. May double as Diana Dream and Dolores Dolores.

Audition material: Carnegie Hall Pavane, measure 1 - 14

**Judge Pitkin/
Workman 1:** Ages 35 – 65. Bass.
Judge Pitkin is engaged to Clair de Loone. He is a bit too understanding of Clair’s problems with man. A dignified fellow with great comic timing. Will double as a workman and in the ensemble. May double as Workman 1.

Workman 1 opens the show with the soulful lament, “*I Feel Like I’m Not Out of Bed Yet.*” If Workman 1 and Pitkin are played by separate actors, Workman 1 may double as Rajah Bimmy and an announcer.

Audition material: I Understand (Pitkin’s Song), measure 53 - end
I Feel Like I’m Not Out of Bed Yet, measure 1 – 16

Diana / Dolores Ages 22 – 35. Soprano.
Diana Dream and Dolores Dolores are nightclub singers who appear and sing rather depressingly when the group is trying to cheer up Gabe. May double as Flossie.

Audition material: I Wish I Was Dead, measure 11 - end

Rajah Bimmy: Ages 30 – 65. Bass
Rajah is the MC for a dancing show featuring Ivy. Will double as Miss Turnstiles announcer.

Audition material: Same as Pitkin/Workman 1.

Ensemble Auditions:

We are looking for no more than 4 women and 4 men to be in the ensemble and to have speaking roles such as the roles below and to perform in various dance sequences. If you are not auditioning for any of the foregoing roles or are auditioning for the ensemble, choose as follows:

Sopranos: Carried Away, measure 80 – end
Altos: I Can Cook Too, measure 24 – end or
Some Other Time, measure 43 – 58
Tenors: Lucky To Be Me, measure 1 – 18 or
Carried Away, measure 66 – 75 and 89 – end
Bass: I Understand (Pitkin’s Song), measure 53 – end, or
I Feel Like I’m Not Out of Bed Yet, measure 1 – 16

Speaking Roles:

There are several speaking roles, which do not require any lead singing, though it is preferred that all actors be able to sing, dance and act. Audition for these parts as set forth under “Other Auditions.”

The principal non-singing roles are:

Lucy Schmeeler: Hildy’s roommate. She has a terrible cold and provides comic relief. Strong comedic actor. Will double in the ensemble and be a dancer in various scenes. If you are auditioning for the Lucy role, you will be given a speaking part to work with at the audition.

Flossie: Flossie is a character on the subway in each subway scene who tells an elaborate story about an altercation with her boss throughout the show. Strong comedic actress. Will double in the ensemble and be a dancer in various scenes. May double as the singer Diana Dream/Dolores Dolores. If you are auditioning for the Flossie role, you will be given a speaking part to work with at the audition.

