

The Bishop -He is a good man who saves the hero with his compassion. Don't overlook the importance of this role. This character's compassion carefully establishes the premise of the show by literally buying the hero's soul for God. Low A to High E. **Audition song – “Do You Hear the People Sing”**

The beautiful daughter of a female lead. She is strong willed and loving. She is an intelligent, inquiring, personable girl. She is not in any sense a "soppy" romantic heroine. Once adopted by the hero, she lives a comfortable, if secluded life. She is challenging to the hero, behaving always with imagination and dignity. She falls instantly in love with one of the students, changing her world and her priorities. B flat (below middle C) to High C (2 octaves above middle C). **Audition song – “A Heart Full of Love”**

The student leader. He is handsome, brave and daring, although youthful. He combines his revolutionary ideals with a strong charismatic leadership. He is described by Victor Hugo as "a thinker, and a man of action". On the barricade he physically and vocally should dominate everyone else. He should ooze with charisma, be a natural leader, be good looking, and have a very strong high baritone or a tenor voice. Remember, he must lead the students to fight and ultimately die. His death at the barricade is one of the dramatic highlights of the show. A to G (above middle C). **Audition song – “Drink with Me”**

The daughter of the Innkeepers. She is a young girl who is streetwise and tough, but also sensitive and lonely. She is in love with one of the students, knowing that he will never love her. She bravely follows him to the Barricades in the hope that they will die there together. Once grown up, she moves with her family to Paris where they fall on hard times. Now poor, living hand to mouth, she survives by helping her father break the law. She is a tragic character, hopelessly in love with the student. She sings one of the most famous numbers in the show, "On My Own," and should therefore be an excellent singer with a contemporary edge to her voice and an excellent actress. F sharp (below middle C) to E. **Audition song – “On My Own”**

The beautiful young girl who, abandoned by her lover, is left to fend for herself and her daughter. She is rejected by society and forced through circumstances to become a prostitute. She is a brave woman defeated by life, sustained by her love for her daughter and clinging to her dignity. Sick with consumption, we witness her descent through poverty, hunger, cold, loneliness and destitution to death. She is a noble character, whose life becomes a series of terrible events that rob her of her pride, character, and ultimately her life. G flat (below middle C) to D. **Audition song – “I Dreamed a Dream”**

The Innkeeper's son. He is left to fend for himself and lives by his wits in the streets of Paris. His "arch enemy" is the Policeman. He is brave and witty. Think a young Artful Dodger. He has a very dramatic death at the barricade. B (below middle C) to G. **Audition song - “Little People”**

The inspector who serves as antagonist to the hero. He is unswerving in his belief that men cannot change for the good. "Once a thief, always a thief" is his mantra. At first glance he might appear to be the villain of the story, but on closer examination it is clear that he is not an evil man. He is aware that in society some people achieve control through evil and others through power of the law. He is a dedicated policeman, with a profound sense of duty. Unlike the hero he cannot change. His attitudes are rigid and unmovable. He is stern, forbidding and lacking in compassion. He should be an actor who can convincingly stand up to the hero. Low F to High F sharp. **Audition song – “Stars”**

The hero of the show. It is his life journey that we follow. He is supposed to be stronger than other men, and so physically should appear robust. He should reasonably carry himself as mature and paternal. His ability to change is his greatest asset. The key to his character is his great humanity and compassion. This is a vocally demanding role. Low A to High A. **Audition song – “Bring Him Home”**

The wife of the Innkeeper, she is as "one" with her husband. Together they con the world as partners in crime. They were made for each other, although she complains about him, she loves him deeply. She is coarse and vulgar, unhappy in her existence without knowing why. She is romantic, greedy, stupid, evil and larger than life. She is mean and nasty to the young version of the daughter of the one female lead and able to improvise in nearly any situation. G sharp (below middle C) to D.

Audition song – “Master of the House”

The handsome romantic hero of the story. He is impulsive, passionate, willful and headstrong. His moods change according to his circumstances. He is sweet and tender but also capable of great courage and compassion. In Act 1 he plays Romeo to the daughter of the one female lead's Juliet. He matures after the Cafe Song as a result of his experiences on the barricade. He should have a lovely, lyrical voice with a contemporary edge. Low A to High A flat. **Audition song – “A Heart Full of Love”**

The Innkeeper. The true villain of the story. He is the innkeeper and the embodiment of evil. That said, he should also possess a wicked sense of humor. He delights in cheating, robbing, fraud and blackmail, relishing every aspect of them with glee. He is tough, greedy, brutal, stupid and crafty and yet irresistible. He hates society and blames it and everyone else for all his misfortune. He is also the opportunist and realist of the show. He is a thief, a liar, a cheat, steals valuables from the dead with no remorse. He is also the comic relief of the production. However, his comedy is based in reality and shouldn't be too exaggerated. C (below middle C) to G sharp (above middle C). **Audition song – “Master of the House”**

The ward of the Innkeepers forced into child labor and sings "Castle On A Cloud." She is a trembling little creature, underfed, beaten by the Innkeepers and bullied by their daughter. Make sure she is small and looks properly pathetic and yet warms the audience's heart who should be sympathetic to her plight. A (below middle C) to C. **Audition song – “Castle on a Cloud”**

The pampered daughter of the Innkeepers. She does little except enter the stage and taunt the little version of the one lead female's daughter. The role requires no singing or speaking. She should be a smaller version of her grown self and resemble the older character in appearance and features. Non-singing

Ensemble. Audition song – “Do You Hear the People Sing”

There are many other small solo roles available and will be given out at the time of casting.

Auditions will take place at the Reading Civic Theatre Hall on May 4th & 5th. Please pick 1 day to attend. Call backs on May 6th & 7th. Perusal on April 27. Arrival time is 6:30 with a start time of 7:00 for all dates.

Contact Jeannette DeAngelo, the director, at 484-695-2017 for further info.

The epic tale of broken dreams, passion and redemption is set against a nation in the throes of revolution.