

Teen Performance Ensemble

Winter 2019 Fact Sheet

The Program

WFT's Teen Performance Ensemble program, for students in grades 6-12, is the opportunity for teen actors to deepen their skills as theatrical storytellers. Over a 12-week period students will further develop their actor's tools while rehearsing for a culminating production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* to take place on the WFT stage on **June 5 & 6**.

Audition required

Tuition \$850 (Tuition assistance available.)

The Play

Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Book and Best Original Score, *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a loving send-up of the Jazz Age musical, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. With the house lights down, a man in a chair appears on stage and puts on his favorite record: the cast recording of a fictitious 1928 musical. The recording comes to life and *The Drowsy Chaperone* begins as the man in the chair looks on. Mix in two lovers on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man, a desperate theatre producer, a not-so-bright hostess, two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, a misguided Don Juan and an intoxicated chaperone, and you have the ingredients for an evening of mad-cap delight. Hailed by *New York Magazine* as "The Perfect Broadway Musical," *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a masterful meta-musical, poking fun at all the tropes that characterize the musical theatre genre. (From *MTIshows.com*)

Cast Breakdown

Man In Chair: Musical theatre aficionado who mourns the end of the Golden Era. He narrates the show as he listens to the record on vinyl.

Mrs. Tottendale: The air-headed, proper, and bossy host of the wedding.

Underling: Mrs. Tottendale's savvy butler who is thrifty and stiff yet has an understated sense of humor.

Robert Martin: The dashing, ever-cheerful groom; played by matinee-idol at the time, Percy Hyman. Actor playing Robert must feel comfortable tap dancing.

George: Robert's anxious, dim-witted best man who has Robert's best-interest always at heart. Actor playing George must feel somewhat comfortable with tap dancing.

Feldzieg: Broadway producer who is desperate for his star to return to his show; played by famous comic actor of the time, Jack Adler.

Kitty: Feldzieg's dim-witted companion who has hopes of being a star; played by famous comic actress at the time, Sadie Adler.

Gangsters: Posing as pastry chefs, this duo is intending to collect from Feldzieg; played by the vaudeville duo Tall Brothers. Actors playing these roles should be comfortable with broad humor and comic timing.

Aldolpho: European self-proclaimed "ladies man"; played by former silent movie star of the time, Roman Bartelli.

Janet Van De Graaf: The famous bride. Glamorous and talented star of Feldzieg's Follies; played by rising star of the time, Jane Roberts.

The Drowsy Chaperone: Janet's confidante and friend; played by well-established stage actress of the time, Beatrice Stockwell.

Trix: The brave and brash female aviator who, by chance, is recruited to preside over the wedding.

Ensemble Roles: Cast members playing Ensemble roles appear and perform in many of the numbers of the show. Because this musical is a homage to Jazz Era Broadway musicals, there are many opportunities for big singing and dance numbers.

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Tentative Rehearsal Schedule*

Please review the rehearsal/performance schedule. **All rehearsals are subject to change.** We may add rehearsals and/or call smaller groups of actors to certain rehearsals based on the work that needs to be accomplished. Actors should be prepared to provide **all known conflicts** at the date of their audition. Actors **must be available** for all rehearsals May 26 through the final performance.

Auditions

Auditions for the program are Wednesday, February 5 from 5pm to 8:30pm and Saturday, February 8 from 12:30pm to 4:30pm., Auditions will be scheduled in 10-minute appointments. Actors accepted into the program will then participate in auditions/callbacks for specific roles in the production within the first week of rehearsal.

For your initial audition, please prepare 32 bars of a musical theatre song written in the style of or from the Jazz Age of Musical Theatre, the 1920's - 1940's. Suggested composers to look at are: Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, George & Ira Gershwin. Other musical theatre material is acceptable but please try and find music from or in the style of the show. Additional sides (scenes) from the show will be shared prior to the audition.

To secure an audition appointment please email WFTed@bu.edu with your preferred date and time slot.

Have any questions? You can call a member of our Education staff at 617.353.2994 or email us at WFTED@bu.edu

The Creative Team

Nick Vargas (Director)

Todd Gordon (Music Director)

Jeri Hammond (Choreographer)

Drowsy Chaperone Rehearsal Schedule



March						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Rehearsal 1pm to 6pm	9	10	11 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	12	13	14
15 Rehearsal 1pm to 6pm	16	17	18 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	19	20	21
22 Rehearsal 1pm to 6pm	23	24	25 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	26	27	28
29 Rehearsal 1pm to 6pm	30	31				
April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	2	3	4
5 Rehearsal 1pm to 6pm	6 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	7	8 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	9 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	10	11
12	13 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	14	15 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	16 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	17	18
19	20 Start of MA April Vacation	21	22	23	24	25
26 Rehearsal 12:30pm to 6pm	27 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	28	29 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	30 Rehearsal TBD		
May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Rehearsal 12: 30pm to 6pm	4 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	5	6 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	7 Rehearsal TBD	8	9
10 Rehearsal 12:30pm to 6pm	11 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	12 Rehearsal TBA	13 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	14 Rehearsal TBD	15	16
17 Rehearsal 12:30pm to 6pm	18 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	19 Rehearsal TBA	20 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	21 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	27 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	28 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	29 Rehearsal 6pm to 9pm	30
31 Rehearsal/Tech 12:30pm to 7pm						
June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Tech 5:30pm to 10pm	2 Tech 5:30pm to 10pm	3 Tech 5:30pm to 10pm	4 Tech/Final Dress 5:30pm to 10pm	5 Performance at 7pm, Call time of 5:30pm	6 Performance at 3pm, call time of 1:30pm & Performance at 7pm, Call time at 5:30pm

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE