



Consider yourself one of us?

The Mercury Theatre, in collaboration with Colchester Operatic Society and Colchester Operatic Society 2nd Edition, are preparing a grand production of Lionel Bart's **Oliver!**, and we would love for you to be involved. Performance dates are 27th September to 12th October.

How can you Audition to be a cast member in this amazing experience?

If you wish to play a Workhouse Kid, be in Fagin's Gang or be considered for the role of Oliver, Artful Dodger, Bet, or Nancy, you will need to apply in advance by preparing a video.

For your video, please state your name, age, hobbies, and explain briefly why you would like to be involved in this production. We would also like you to sing a song from your favourite musical.

You must be 11 years of age or over on the day of the audition, Sunday 5th May 2019. **Applicants for Bet must be over 16, and for Nancy must be over 18.**

The completed pre-audition form (downloadable from both COS and Mercury websites) and videos will need to be emailed to cos1theatre@hotmail.com by 5pm on Monday 8th April, 2019. Please title your email: OLIVER/YOUR NAME

All applicants will be notified by email on April 24th 2019, if they are shortlisted to the next stage.

Successful video applicants for Oliver, Artful Dodger, Workhouse Kid or Fagin's Gang will be invited to attend a pre-audition workshop on either Wed 1st or Thu 2nd May (7.30pm – 10pm) to prepare for an audition to be held on Sun 5th May (9.45am – 4pm), all to be held at the Abbey Field Centre (Circular Road South, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UW).

Successful video applicants for the roles of Bet and Nancy and those who wish to audition for any other roles are invited to attend a pre-audition workshop on Wed 8th or Thu 9th May (7.30pm – 10pm), prior to an audition on Sun 12th May (9.45am – 4pm), at the Abbey Field Centre. To attend, please register your interest by sending your name, playing age and a contact email address to cos1theatre@hotmail.com by 24th April 2019. Exact timings for the day will depend on numbers and we will let you know prior to the day.

There is no need to prepare an audition piece but you would need to fill out an Audition Form (downloadable from both COS and Mercury websites) and bring this with you.

- ATTENDANCE AT ALL TECHNICAL REHEARSALS, DRESS REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES IS COMPULSORY.
- ALL PERFORMANCES WILL TAKE PLACE AT 'MERCURY AT THE ABBEY FIELD'
<https://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk/mercuryatabbeyfield/>

**IF YOU WISH TO AUDITION PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU
CAN COMMIT TOTALLY TO THIS SHOW**

Rehearsal & Performance Dates are as follows:

Principals on Tuesdays at St Theresa's School Clairmont Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9BE

Tuesday	21-May	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	04-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	11-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	18-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	25-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	02-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	09-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	16-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	20-Aug	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	03-Sep	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Tuesday	10-Sep	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm

Juniors and Fagin on Wednesdays at Abbey Field Centre, Circular Road South, Colchester, Essex CO2 7UW

Wednesday	22 May	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	05-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	12-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	19-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	26-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	03-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	10-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	17-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	21-Aug	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	04-Sep	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday	11-Sep	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm

Adult Company on Thursdays at Abbey Field Centre, Circular Road South, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UW

Thursday	23-May	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	06-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	13-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm

Thursday	20-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	27-Jun	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	04-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	11-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	18-Jul	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	22-Aug	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	05-Sep	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	12-Sep	Rehearsal	7.30pm – 10pm

Full Company on Alternate Sundays at Abbey Field Centre, Circular Road South, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UW

+ **Wednesday 18th / Thursday 19th September for Final Run Through's**

+ **Technical Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals & Performances** (Friday 20th September – Saturday 12th October)

Sunday	09-Jun	Rehearsal	10am – 4pm
Sunday	23-Jun	Rehearsal	10am – 4pm
Sunday	07-Jul	Rehearsal	10am – 4pm
Sunday	21-Jul	Rehearsal	10am – 4pm
Sunday	01-Sep	Rehearsal	10am – 4pm
Sunday	15-Sep	Rehearsal + Band Call	10am – 4pm
Wednesday	18-Sep	Rehearsal (Full Company)	7.30pm – 10pm
Thursday	19-Sep	Rehearsal (Full Company)	7.30pm – 10pm
Friday	20-Sep	Tech	6pm – 10pm
Saturday	21-Sep	Tech	10am – 10pm
Sunday	22-Sep	Tech / Sitzprobe	2pm – 6pm
Wednesday	25-Sep	Tech + Band	7pm – 11pm
Thursday	26-Sep	Dress + Band	7pm – 10pm
Friday	27-Sep	1st Perf	7:30pm
Saturday	28-Sep	2nd Perf	7:30pm
Sunday	29-Sep		
Monday	30-Sep		
OCTOBER			
Tuesday	01-Oct		
Wednesday	02-Oct	Evening Performance	7:30pm
Thursday	03-Oct	Evening Performance	7:30pm
Friday	04-Oct	Evening Performance	7:30pm
Saturday	05-Oct	Matinee and Evening Performance	2:30pm / 7:30pm
Sunday	06-Oct	Matinee Performance	3pm
Monday	07-Oct		
Tuesday	08-Oct		
Wednesday	09-Oct	Evening Performance	7:30pm
Thursday	10-Oct	Evening Performance	7:30pm
Friday	11-Oct	Evening Performance	7:30pm
Saturday	12-Oct	Matinee and Evening Performance	2:30pm / 7:30pm

NB There are no rehearsals between the 22nd July and the 19th August (School Holidays)

Please do not audition if you cannot commit to these dates. Should you miss three rehearsals without prior notification and approval, you will be asked to forfeit your place in the Oliver! company. Any fees paid are non-refundable.

Additional information about Oliver!

The professional Creative Team – Directing the show will be **Ryan McBryde** who has had recent successes with *Pieces of String* and *Moll Flanders*. **Charlie Morgan**, regular choreographer of the Mercury pantomime will choreograph and assistant direct the show. Taking up the baton is **James Cleeve** who musically directed *Liza Pulman sings Streisand*, which visited the Mercury last year. Costumes and set will be designed by **David Shields**, known to the Mercury audiences for his extravagant pantomime designs (*Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*) and the John Cleese farce *Bang Bang*. The Sound Designer will be **Chris Bogg** who has designed the Mercury productions of *Spamalot*, *Pieces of String* and the last three pantomimes.

Financial Commitments – All participants will need to be a member of Colchester Operatic Society or Colchester Operatic Society 2nd Edition in order to audition. A membership fee of £10.00 will be collected at the pre-audition stage. Successful candidates will be required to pay a show fee of £75.00, payment to be made at the first rehearsal. Cash and cheques accepted (cheques made payable to Colchester Operatic Society), card payments also accepted with an additional fee to allow for admin costs. Cast members will be expected to provide their own stage footwear and some personal items (tights, etc.).

If you are concerned about this, we will be offering 5 Bursary places where your fees will be paid for you and all costumes provided. Please do let us know if you would like more information.

Chaperones

Colchester Operatic Society works closely with Essex County Council to ensure compliance with the various Child Protection Legislation. Colchester Operatic Society (COS/CO2) now have a “Child Protection Policy” available on the COS website. A copy to view will be available at all rehearsals and performances. Broadly speaking this affects all members aged 16 or under.

Registered chaperones will be responsible for the care of members until they are returned to parents or parent-nominated adults. We will endeavour to finish rehearsals and performances at the notified times and would respectfully request that parents collect their child promptly at that time. A chaperone will stay with members until they are collected. They will not be allowed to leave unsupervised.

Should you require any further information, please email Colchester Operatic Society cos1theatre@hotmail.com.

Tickets are available **NOW** from - www.mercurytheatre.co.uk