



Audition Pack

Performance Dates: Saturday 8th June - Sunday 9th June 2024

Performance Venue: The Italian Garden, Cannizaro Park, Wimbledon

Auditions: Sunday 24th March, Monday 25th March, Wednesday 27th March 2024. South Wimbledon Community Association, Victory Road, SW19 1HN.

WELCOME TO SONGS UNDER THE SUMMER SUN!

After the premiere of 1927's *The Jazz Singer*, the worldwide fascination with the movie musical is still going strong. For many, the glorious technicolour of a musical on the big or small screen was our first glimpse into this magical world of singing, dancing and all that jazz.

This year, *Songs Under the Summer Sun* ("Let's Go to the Movies") will have a strong narrative arc. With a cast of soloists, a newly formed MTC ensemble, a wonderful band and some guest dancers, we'll take the audience on a wonderful, nostalgic journey from the blockbusters of Rodgers & Hammerstein right through to the most toe-tapping modern day jukebox movie musicals. You can

expect sprinklings of Disney, injections of the swinging 60s and soundscapes to really help to set the scene. And all to be enjoyed with a picnic under the sun? Yes please.

We're looking for a cast of 10 strong storytellers who are versatile vocalists. You'll be asked to move for sure, but no specific dance experience required. The team are so excited to see some fantastic auditions and start piecing together our cast for this very special show.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director - Emma Coffey (she/her)

Emma has been a member of MTC since 2012, first appearing in *A Chorus Line*. She has since taken part in many shows across London as both a performer and a director. Before moving to the Big Smoke, Emma was often found avoiding her studies by performing in, choreographing and directing a number of productions at the University of Warwick. Having most recently performed the role of Judy in MTC's *9 to 5* (ACT Kingston, 2022), she is excited to be taking on the task of directing again and can't wait to bring some movie magic to a hopefully sunny Cannizaro Park!

Favourite Movie Musical: This is ridiculous and I absolutely refuse to choose.....ok FINE it's The Sound of Music. Or maybe Funny Girl.

Musical Director - Gareth Alber (he/him)

This is Gareth's first production with Mayhem, having been active on SWamdrum scene for 7 years as MD for shows with WLOS, Cygnets and PLOS (did anyone see "Alice in Pantoland" in December?) in the past (can he now call SWamdrum Bingo?) He is currently musical director for HMOS production of "Rent" in March. He is a trained singing teacher with students on the professional audition circuit, and is on the faculty of Sylvia Young Theatre School. Having always been a fan of musical theatre, he is very much looking forward to getting stuck in with some Hollywood glitz and glam!

Favourite Movie Musical: Far too many to choose from! Probably The Greatest Showman, for many reasons, but also anything Disney (those Disney Renaissance movies, I swear...)

Assistant Musical Director - Michael Stacey (he/him)

Michael joined MTC in 2013 for their production of *The Producers* and has appeared in a number of musicals and Shakespeare productions for the company and other societies over the years. He also co-Musical Directed *Memories of Mayhem* and the first SUTSS in 2021. Before moving to London many many years ago, Michael studied Musical Theatre at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). He was last seen on stage in MTC's production of *Anything Goes* and before that was in the cast for last year's SUTSS. He's excited to be coming back to Cannizaro Park for his third time with this brilliant cabaret.

Favourite Movie Musical: Singin' in the Rain (not his weather prediction for the show)

Producer - Laura Jayne Pike (she/her)

Laura became a member of MTC in 2022, appearing as Doralee in the production of 9 to 5 (ACT Kingston, 2022) She has also appeared in many other shows across London as a performer. This will be Laura's first role as a producer for MTC, but having worked in the events industry as a project manager for 8 years she is excited to be taking on this task and can't wait to help pull the show together!

Favourite Movie Musical: Dreamgirls - just too many bangers!

PERFORMANCES

There will be two shows per day on the weekend of 8th and 9th June 2024 at Cannizaro Park, Wimbledon (Italian Gardens). Performances will start at 1pm and 5pm daily, with cast expected at the venues by 11am each day. There will also be a full dress rehearsal in the park with the band in the afternoon of Friday 7th June and all cast members must be available to attend. Please note the performances will be open-air, and we will only cancel performances in the event of bad weather if required for health & safety reasons.

AUDITIONS

The team behind this year's show are keen to make auditioning as stress free as possible for everyone involved. Having all been performers ourselves, we know that it can be nerve wracking but encourage everyone to remember that we are in your corner and willing you to do well!

What do I need to prepare?

The theme of this year's show is 'Let's Go to the Movies!' We are crafting a revue that will showcase the very best of the movie musical, from its inception to the present day. For the auditions, we are looking for songs that showcase not only your voice, but your ability to really tell a story.

We'd like you to prepare a short extract from two songs of contrasting styles, both from [movie musicals](#). As guidance, the length of the extract should be around a verse and a chorus. You could choose one ballad and one uptempo number, or one number from an older film and one from something more modern.

The show is a truly ensemble piece, with everyone required to sing not only solos but also have roles in duets, trios and company numbers. We're therefore asking you to prepare two extracts so that we can see the full range of your voice and acting skills.

Please note, you must bring sheet music for your chosen extracts to the audition and it should be clearly marked as to where you'd like it to start and finish.

Whilst we would love for you to bring two extracts that show us who you are as a performer and demonstrate everything you can bring to the stage, we understand that sometimes it's tricky to choose from the thousands of options out there. To help with this, we've suggested a few songs below that you could choose if you'd like to, but please do not take this as an instruction, simply a starting point for inspiration!

Song examples - for inspiration!

Soprano examples

I Could Have Danced All Night from My Fair Lady

On The Steps of the Palace from Into The Woods

Mezzo/Belter examples

I Dreamed A Dream from Les Miserables

Don't Rain On My Parade from Funny Girl

Alto examples

All That Jazz from Chicago

There Are Worse Things I Could Do from Grease

Tenor examples

Out There from The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat from Guys and Dolls

Baritone/Bass examples

If Ever I Would Leave You (Camelot)

Oh What A Beautiful Mornin' from Oklahoma

What will happen in the audition?

At the start time for your audition slot, we will welcome you in small groups and give an introduction to each person on the panel.

Each auditionee will then have a solo slot in the room with the Creative Team. There will be no other auditionees in the room whilst your audition is taking place.

We will then ask you to sing the extracts you have prepared. The panel may or may not ask you to repeat an extract, or section of an extract, with some direction. Whether we ask you to repeat something or not is not an indication of how well you have performed or how likely we are to cast you.

What happens after the audition?

Once the panel has deliberated, successful auditionees will receive a telephone call from a member of the team no later than Sunday 31st March. If you are not cast in the main company, you will receive an email and will be most welcome to join the new MTC ensemble, details of which can be found below.

BOOKING YOUR AUDITION

To book your audition, please visit the booking page:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayhem/auditions-songs-under-the-summer-sun-lets-go-to-the-movies/e-ldkvgy>

After you have booked a slot, you will be sent a pre-audition form to complete before the audition itself.

FEES

In order to audition, anyone who is not a member of MTC will be asked to pay a fee of £5 to contribute

to the associated costs of running auditions. This is non refundable, but if you do then become a member of the cast, £5 will be subtracted from your show fee.

MTC membership is now just £15 for an entire year, which provides access to early booking for events, reduced ticket prices and much more, including waiving of audition fees. You can become a member using our [simple online form](#).

All cast members must be members of MTC and in addition, we ask for a show fee of £60 towards production costs and rehearsal venues.

Mayhem is committed to ensuring that our auditions and productions are accessible to everyone. If for any reason you are unable to pay the requested fees, please don't hesitate to contact info@mayhemtheatre.co.uk and our membership team will be able to offer alternative solutions.

REHEARSAL DATES

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday 3rd April and will continue on each Sunday, Monday and Wednesday until the show.

There will be an additional Friday rehearsal on Friday 7th June, which is the dress rehearsal at Cannizaro Park.

Not all cast will be required for each rehearsal, with a full rehearsal schedule being published once auditions have taken place and cast availability has been confirmed. However, we are delighted this year to be able to have a longer rehearsal process for the show and are keen to make sure that each and every number is given lots of love and attention, so we do ask that our cast is as committed as possible throughout the process.

NEW FOR 2024!

We are very excited this year to be offering a further performance opportunity to those who are unable to commit to the full rehearsal period, who are not cast in the main company or who would prefer to sing as part of an ensemble.

The MTC ensemble will join the company to perform in 3-4 numbers, allowing us to make the biggest sound the Italian Garden has ever heard! Performing in 4 part harmony, this is a brilliant opportunity for performers to join us over a shorter rehearsal period and enjoy learning some fabulous songs without the pressure of a full show.

The ensemble will not be required to audition and will pay a reduced show fee of just £10. All

ensemble members must be members of MTC.

More information will be sent to anyone who registers their interest using our [online form](#).

CONTACT INFO

Our friendly team is ready and waiting to help with any questions you might have. Please don't hesitate to email songs@mayhemtheatre.co.uk