

## THE MATCHMAKER CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(Scroll down for *Annie Kids* descriptions)

**Horace Vandergelder** - a merchant of Yonkers, New York, mature teen, male. A loveable curmudgeon; volatile and hotheaded. He's a self-made man who has amassed his wealth by being frugal. He finds spending money painful. Prototype is Walter Matthau.

**Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi** - a friend of Vandergelder's late wife, mature teen, female. Bursting with life; has a twinkle in her eye; mischievous; an improviser; a trickster. She can talk herself out of any problem she gets into. She is charismatic and charming.

**Cornelius Hackl** - a clerk in Vandergelder's Store, 15 and up, male. Full of self-confidence, daring, and full of adventure. Cool under pressure. A perfect complement to Irene Molloy's rebellious impulsiveness.

**Irene Molloy** - a milliner, 14 and up, female. She works in a milliner's (hat) shop and on the outside appears content, but she is a rebel at heart. She is driven by frustration with her financial and social limitations, a hot head. She seems prim, but when necessary, the gloves come off. A thoroughbred who's been locked up in a stable and cannot be contained any longer. A good match for Cornelius.

**Minnie Fay** - Mrs. Molloy's assistant, 13 and up, female. In awe of Irene Molloy's rebellion. She is genuinely innocent; sheltered. She follows rules like a good girl should. She's not up tight, she's just never conceived of breaking rules.

**Barnaby Tucker** - an apprentice in Vandergelder's Store, 15 and up, male. Boyish, earnest, naïve, and innocent. A country bumpkin; think Gomer Pyle (goofy, nerdy).

**Ermengarde** - Mr. Vandergelder's niece, whom Ambrose wants to marry, 13 and up, female. High strung, fluttery and birdlike. She is inherently very submissive and takes the safe road. She wouldn't dream of talking back to a parental figure or superior. She and Ambrose Kemper are opposites, but a good match.

**Miss Flora Van Husen** - a friend of Vandergelder's late wife & Dolly, mature teen, female. The queen of the romantics; all love, air and dreaminess. She's a crazy old lady who just loves love. However, when you cross her, you get nailed with a purse. She is a formidable presence.

**Malachi Stack** - con man with a heart, 15 and up, male. A trickster servant; one step away from criminal. A loveable drunk. Character type.

**Ambrose Kemper** - an artist in love with Ermengarde, 15 and up, male. An artist with a fiery temper, attractive and winning. A guy who wants more from his life and won't take "no" for an answer. Flashes to anger when he perceives injustice. He is more like Vandergelder than anyone else; not in complete control over his temper. He dotes on Ermengarde and wants to take care of her.

**Gertrude** - Vandergelder's housekeeper, 14 and up, female. A governess.

**Miss Van Husen's Cook** - 14 and up, female. Very grounded.

**Rudolf** - a Waiter, German/Slavic accent - 14 and up. Rudolph is a high-class waiter who loses control.

**Joe Scanlon** - a barber, 14 and up, male. A flustered barber with a flair for comedy.

**August** - a waiter - 14 and up.

**Cabman** - an intimidating presence; gruff, rough around the edges.

**Extras** (ages 13-18, male and female, smaller roles will also be cast as extras): shop clerks Molly's hat shop, customers in hat shop and restaurant, waiters, gypsies.

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## ANNIE KIDS CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

**Annie** – female. A complex, tough, streetwise urchin who is surprisingly vulnerable when she thinks she might lose what has become most important to her: her newfound "family."

**Molly, Kate, Tessie, Pepper, July, Duffy** – female. The Orphans are gritty girls that are neglected and vulnerable, yet basically honest and lovable.

**Miss Hannigan** – female. A definite "has-been." Her distaste for her job should ooze from every line she delivers. Actress needs excellent comic timing and be able to create a character that is larger than life.

**Grace Farrell** – female. Oliver Warbucks's calm, cool and classy secretary. She appears businesslike when dealing with Miss Hannigan and Warbucks, yet maternal toward Annie.

**Rooster Hannigan** – male. Roster and Lily St. Regis are the comic team who claim to be Annie's parents but are revealed to be Miss Hannigan's swindling brother and his sleazy girlfriend in disguise.

**Lily St. Regis** – female. Lily is a perfect role for an actress who is naturally funny, has a good sense of timing and is a strong singer.

**Oliver Warbucks** – male. He is the daunting millionaire who made his fortune during World War I as an industrialist. In the beginning, Warbucks is awkwardly affectionate toward Annie and then finds himself completely charmed by her.

**Sandy** - the stray dog that Annie adopts. Sandy has no lines but has the capability of earning spontaneous applause when he sings "Tomorrow" with Annie!

**The Apple Seller** – any gender.

**Lt. Ward** – male. He is the policeman who questions Annie about Sandy, the stray dog. This is a non-singing role.

**Bert Healy** – male. He is the classic announcer on a radio show of the era. This is a non-singing role and is perfect for someone who is naturally funny with a big voice.

**Bundles** – male. He is the laundryman for the orphanage.

**President Franklin D. Roosevelt** – male. He is enlisted by Oliver Warbucks to help locate Annie's parents. He will be pushed onstage in a wheelchair and delivers a momentous line about "A New Deal!"

**Louis Howe** – male. He is President Roosevelt's trustworthy aide.

**Star-To-Be** – female. She is a glamorous diva in the number "N.Y.C."

**Usherette** – female. Ushers Warbucks, Annie and Grace to their seats in the Roxy at the end of "N.Y.C."

**The Ensemble (may be multiple cast, opportunities for lines in some cases):**

**The New Yorkers** are comprised of a wonderfully colorful collection of characters, usually identified by their occupation. We will explore and develop these characters in the historical context of the 1930s. Some ideas for these roles are: street vendors, homeless people, tourists, taxi drivers, newsboys, pickpockets, street cleaners, mothers and children, additional stars-to-be, and news reporters.

**Drake and the Servants** – mixed genders. The loyal domestic help of Oliver Warbucks. This group of performers sings with the ensemble and can be double cast as New Yorkers in "N.Y.C."