

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins JR.

Full Synopsis

Bert, a man of many trades, introduces the audience to the unhappy Banks family: father George, mother Winifred, and children Jane and Michael (Prologue). The family; the housekeeper, Mrs. Brill; and the houseboy, Robertson Ay, are shocked when Katie Nanna quits and storms out in frustration. George muses about what he expects from the household - the nanny, in particular ("Cherry Tree Lane - Part 1"). Though Jane and Michael insist upon their own requirements for their caregiver ("The Perfect Nanny"), George dismisses their requests ("Cherry Tree Lane - Part 2").

As if summoned, Mary Poppins appears, offering her services as a nanny. She fits the children's requirements exactly ("Practically Perfect / Practically Perfect - Playoff"). She then takes the children to the park, where they meet Bert, who describes how wonderful everyday life can be when spending time with Mary ("Jolly Holiday"). At first, the children are not convinced, but when Mary Poppins brings to life a park statue named Neleus, Jane and Michael are in awe of her. The children return home and gush to their father about the nanny, but George is preoccupied ("Winds Do Change").

A few weeks later, the household is preparing for Winifred's party, and Jane and Michael make a mess of the house. Despite Mary's magic ("A Spoonful of Sugar"), the party is ruined when no one attends ("Spoonful - Playoff"). Later, Mary takes the children on a visit to George's workplace, the bank ("Precision and Order - Part 1"). While Clerks are bustling about and clients are trying to convince George to grant them loans, the children burst into the bank ("Precision and Order - Part 2"). After a thought-provoking conversation with his children, George turns down Von Hussler's loan but agrees to give a loan to the kindly John Northbrook ("A Man Has Dreams").

As Mary and the children pass the cathedral, an old Bird Woman offers

to sell them seed to feed the birds. The children are at first disgusted by the woman, but Mary Poppins tells them to look beyond appearances ("Feed

the Birds"). Afterward, Mary whisks Jane and Michael off to Mrs. Corry's Talking Shop, where the children are given a delightful vocabulary lesson ("Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"). Later, Mary Poppins and the children return home to find George in a foul mood. He reveals to Winifred that after turning down Von Hussler, the client went to a rival bank that is now due to see great profit from the deal. The bank

has suspended George without pay. ("Twists and Turns"). Upset about their father's behavior, the children argue with Mary Poppins. Convinced they must learn their next lesson on their own, she puts them to bed and leaves behind a note before flying away over the rooftop ("Playing the Game / Chim Chim Cher-ee").

Six weeks pass, and the household struggles without Mary Poppins. However, Winifred encourages everyone to tidy up the house for the arrival of a surprise guest ("Cherry Tree Lane - Reprise"). The guest turns out to be George's former nanny, Miss Andrew, who immediately reveals herself to be a stern and cruel woman ("Brimstone and Treacle - Part 1"). Unhappy with their new nanny, the children run away and happen upon Bert in the park, who consoles them and produces a red kite, offering it to Michael. The kite ascends out of view, and when it's reeled in, it brings Mary Poppins back with it ("Let's Go Fly a Kite").

Mary accompanies the children home and demands that Miss Andrew leave. Miss Andrew resists, but after receiving a spoonful of her own medicine from Mary Poppins, the woman flees, apparently sick ("Brimstone and Treacle - Part 2"). The family is relieved to have Mary Poppins back ("Practically Perfect - Reprise"). However, the children are still burdened by their father's grim situation. They follow Mary Poppins to the roof, where Bert and his fellow Chimney Sweeps cheer them up with a lively tune ("Step in Time / Step in Time - Playoff"). Afterward, a Messenger brings news that the bank Chairman wants to speak to George that evening. Bert wishes George good luck ("A Spoonful of Sugar - Reprise"). After George leaves to speak to the Chairman, Mary Poppins instills confidence in the rest of the family ("Anything Can Happen - Part 1").

At his meeting with the Chairman, George is informed that Von Hussler's scheme has ruined the rival bank, while Northbrook has become very successful and is set to make George's bank a fortune. George is ecstatic ("Give Us the Word"). With newly found confidence, Winifred bursts in ready to stand up for George. Upon learning the news, she helps negotiate a much higher salary for her husband. The family is thrilled by their change of fortune ("Anything Can Happen - Part 2").

Back at the Banks home, Bert realizes that Mary Poppins will be leaving soon - the family no longer needs her help. He bids her farewell ("Goodbye Then, Mary"). Leaving behind only a locket, Mary Poppins disappears into the sky. However, she leaves the Banks family much happier than she found them, and they vow never to forget her ("Anything Can Happen - Finale").

Casting

Cast Size: Large 21 And Up

Cast Type: Children

Dance Requirements: Standard

Character Breakdown

Bert

The narrator of the story, is a good friend to Mary Poppins. An everyman, Bert is a chimney sweep and a sidewalk artist, among many other occupations. With a twinkle in his eye and a skip in his step, Bert watches over the children and the goings-on around Cherry Tree Lane. He is a song-and-dance man with oodles of charm who is wise beyond his years. Cast your strongest male singer, dancer, and actor in this role.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: B2

George Banks

Husband to Winifred and father to Jane and Michael, is a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding "precision and order" in his household, he is a pip-and-slippers man who doesn't have much to do with his children and believes that Miss Andrew, his cruel, strict childhood nanny, gave him the perfect upbringing. George's emotional armor, however off-putting, conceals a sensitive soul. A baritone, George may speak-sing as necessary and should be among your strongest male actors and singers.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Winifred Banks

George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. She is a loving homemaker who is busy trying to live up to her husband's social aspirations while striving to be a model wife and mother. Cast an actor who can portray a great warmth and depth of feeling. Winifred should have a pure vocal tone and be one of your stronger actors and singers.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Jane Banks

The high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness. Cast a wonderful actor and a strong singer who can take the audience on an emotional journey.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Michael Banks

The cheeky son of Mr. and Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty, he adores his father and longs desperately for his attention. Both he and Jane misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents. Michael should be a great actor and singer. Ideally, he reads onstage as younger than Jane.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Mrs. Brill

The housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked, she's always complaining that the house is understaffed. Her intimidating exterior is a cover for the warmth underneath. She does not have to be a strong singer, but she should be a solid actor.

Gender: Female

Robertson Ay

The houseboy to the Banks family. Forgetful and clumsy, he often bumbles simple tasks. He doesn't do a lot of singing, but he should be a good comedic actor. Note: his last name is pronounced like "eye."

Gender: Male

Mary Poppins

Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange, neat and tidy, delightfully vain yet very particular, and sometimes a little frightening, but she is always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says. The role calls for an excellent singer and actor who should be able to move well. Since she carries a majority of the show, precision and diction are key.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Ensemble Groups & Featured Roles

All ensembles require group singing; featured roles require either solo singing or solo acting, or both. For each featured role, the pages showcasing the character's lines or vocals are listed.

Ensemble & Featured Characters include:

Katie Nanna, Park Strollers, Statues, Neleus, Bird Woman, Honeybees, Clerks, Miss Smythe, Chariman, Von Hussler, John Northbrook, Vagrants, Buskers, Passerby, Mrs. Corry, Customers, Miss Andrew, Kite Flyers, Chimney Sweeps, Policeman and the Messenger.

Gender: Male

Katie Nanna

Katie Nanna is Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children. This role is perfect for a performer who is not quite ready for a larger role.

Gender: Female

Park Strollers

The Park Strollers are citizens of London who go from drab and dreary to bright and colorful as they get swept up in Mary Poppins's adventures in the park.

Gender: Both

Statues

The Statues are stone sculptures. Thanks to Mary Poppins, these works of art come alive and dance with Bert and the Park Strollers.

Gender: Both

Neleus

Neleus is a statue who, once brought to life by Mary Poppins, is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. This role is a wonderful opportunity to feature one of the strong dancers in your ensemble.

Gender: Both

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: Bb4

Bird Woman

The Bird Woman is covered in a patchwork of old shawls, her pockets stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell the crumbs to Passersby, who ignore her as if she doesn't exist. While she should be a good singer, there can be a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the difficulties of her situation.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Honeybees

The Honeybees are conjured by Mary Poppins to help teach the children the benefits of “A Spoonful of Sugar.” These roles require good movers who can sing.

Gender: Both

Clerks

The Clerks, like George, are employees at the bank. These roles require actors who can sing.

Gender: Both

Miss Smythe

Miss Smythe is the bank Chairman’s humorless secretary. This smaller role is great for a performer who is new to the stage.

Gender: Female

Chairman

Chairman, the head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed, is an Edwardian stuffed shirt. He does not need to be a strong singer, but he should be a good actor with great stage presence.

Gender: Male

Von Hussler

Von Hussler is a businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal. This is a great character role for a fantastic actor who can command the stage with pomposity.

Gender: Male

John Northbrook

John Northbrook is an honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory for his community. This is a great role for a good actor and solid singer who may not be ready to tackle a large part.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: D4

Vocal range bottom: C3

Vagrants, Buskers, and Passerby

Vagrants, Buskers, and Passerby are citizens of London passing by the cathedral during “Feed the Birds.” They can also play the Park Strollers earlier in the show.

Gender: Both

Mrs. Corry

Mrs. Corry owns a magical Talking Shop. She is a mysterious woman of indeterminate age, but has plenty of spirit and is sharp as a tack. Cast an excellent actor who's not afraid to be over the top in this fun role.

Gender: Female

Vocal range bottom: C#4

Customers

The Customers are bright, colorful British citizens visiting Mrs. Corry's Talking Shop. This group can be the same Park Strollers and Passersby from before.

Gender: Both

Miss Andrew

Miss Andrew is George's overbearing and scary childhood nanny. With her bottle of nasty-tasting brimstone and treacle to keep naughty children in line, she is a bully who only knows one way of doing things: her way. Cast one of your stronger singers in this featured role.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: G#3

Kite Flyers

Kite Flyers consist of families flying kites in the park. They can also be comprised of the same ensemble members as the Park Strollers, the Passersby, and Mrs. Corry's Customers.

Gender: Both

Chimney Sweeps

Chimney Sweeps (including Sweep 1, Sweep 2, Sweep 3, and Sweep 4) are Bert's cheerful, friendly, and agile friends who keep London's chimneys in working order. These actors should be great dancers and good singers, capable of bringing the show-stopping number "Step In Time" to life.

Gender: Both

Policeman and the Messenger

The Policeman, a neighborhood patrol officer, and the Messenger, who delivers a summons to George from the bank, are great roles for students new to the stage that might not be ready for a large role.

Gender: Both

Full Song List

MARY POPPINS JR. : PROLOGUE
MARY POPPINS JR. : CHERRY TREE LANE (PART 1)
MARY POPPINS JR. : THE PERFECT NANNY
MARY POPPINS JR. : CHERRY TREE LANE (PART 2)
MARY POPPINS JR. : PRACTICALLY PERFECT
MARY POPPINS JR. : PRACTICALLY PERFECT (PLAYOFF)
MARY POPPINS JR. : JOLLY HOLIDAY
MARY POPPINS JR. : WINDS DO CHANGE
MARY POPPINS JR. : A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR
MARY POPPINS JR. : SPOONFUL (PLAYOFF)
MARY POPPINS JR. : PRECISION AND ORDER (PART 1)
MARY POPPINS JR. : PRECISION AND ORDER (PART 2)
MARY POPPINS JR. : A MAN HAS DREAMS
MARY POPPINS JR. : FEED THE BIRDS
MARY POPPINS JR. : SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS
MARY POPPINS JR. : TWISTS AND TURNS
MARY POPPINS JR. : PLAYING THE GAME / CHIM CHIM CHER-EE
MARY POPPINS JR. : CHERRY TREE LANE (REPRISE)
MARY POPPINS JR. : BRIMSTONE AND TREACLE (PART 1)
MARY POPPINS JR. : LET'S GO FLY A KITE
MARY POPPINS JR. : BRIMSTONE AND TREACLE (PART 2)
MARY POPPINS JR. : PRACTICALLY PERFECT (REPRISE)
MARY POPPINS JR. : STEP IN TIME
MARY POPPINS JR. : STEP IN TIME (PLAYOFF)
MARY POPPINS JR. : A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR (REPRISE)
MARY POPPINS JR. : ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN (PART 1)
MARY POPPINS JR. : GIVE US THE WORD
MARY POPPINS JR. : ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN (PART 2)
MARY POPPINS JR. : GOODBYE THEN, MARY
MARY POPPINS JR. : ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN (FINALE)
MARY POPPINS JR. : BOWS