



Stagelight Productions All About Auditions

1. Homeschooled students who profess faith in Jesus Christ in grades six through twelve are eligible to audition for *Mary Poppins*. This cast will be limited to 30 (preferably 25) student actors. Actors need not be students of Arise Christian Academy. Students who are no longer homeschooled but who have previously participated in Stagelight Productions are also eligible to audition.
2. Parents and Students, please, *before the auditions*, read this document in its entirety as well as **Actor and Parent Information**, including our general rehearsal and tech week schedules, parent and actor expectations and commitments, and more.
3. All students auditioning must complete and submit to the director, Pamela Fahs, the **Actor Audition Registration by Sunday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.** No registrations will be accepted on the day of auditions. Audition Registration may be submitted in person or mailed in time for November 2 receipt to Pamela Fahs, Stagelight Productions, 12783 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

As a Christian ministry of Arise Christian Academy (ACA), all performers and stage/tech crew members must sign ACA's Statement of Faith, stating that they wholeheartedly agree with and will abide by all elements of the Statement of Faith. We take very seriously a student's agreement with our Statement of Faith, so we ask students to carefully read it and prayerfully consider their signature and its meaning before the Lord before signing and auditioning. A parent must also sign the Statement of Faith. The Statement of Faith is printed on the Actor Audition Registration sheet and is also posted on ACA's website, www.Arise-Christian-Academy.com.

Please complete the section regarding rehearsal conflicts as accurately as possible. Also, please be aware of our "Casting Policy Statement": *I am interested in performing in Stagelight Productions' Mary Poppins, and I will accept any role offered to me except that of _____*. If you cannot agree with and stand by this statement and would like to explain, please contact the director, Pamela Fahs, to discuss whether you should audition for this production.

4. Students will not audition for a specific role. During auditions, each student will perform part of a song and part of a script. These performances will give the director an idea about

each student's acting and singing abilities and help in deciding which student will suit each character role best.

5. Students may choose one song to sing from the four given options for the auditions and must use the listed backing track during the audition. No student will be permitted to sing *a cappella* at auditions.
6. Students who hope to be cast in speaking roles should speak in a British accent during auditions.
 - Most of the characters in *Mary Poppins* will speak either with Received Pronunciation (RP), which is a standard British accent that sounds very well-to-do (think of actors like Sir Patrick Stewart or Dame Judi Dench), or with Cockney accents.
 - The easiest way to learn an accent is to listen to it over and over again. YouTube clips are excellent resources to get started.
 - Here are two resources:
 - British Library Sound Archive: <http://sounds.bl.uk/Accents-and-dialects> Contains audio clips and oral histories from five different archives, including the Survey of English Dialects and BBC Voices. Scroll down to "View by" for access to hundreds of recordings sorted by county, date, or as clickable options on a sound map.
 - IDEA (International Dialects of English Archive): www.dialectsarchive.com Created by a dialect coach in 1997, this website contains dozens of samples of dialects from all over the globe – over 90 examples from England alone.
7. **For girls auditioning**, please wear a skirt or dress to match the time of the story.

Auditions for *Mary Poppins*

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Hope Baptist Church

8801 Stephens Road, Laurel, Maryland 20723

Please proceed directly to the Sanctuary on the upper level of the church.

Four to six students at a time will be called to meet in the audition room with the director and another assistant for the singing portion of the audition. After the singing auditions, reading of brief monologues (which will be given at auditions) may be performed with the small group of four to six students or in the large audition room in front of all those auditioning, depending on the director's needs.

Only students auditioning may sit in the audition room. Parents, please be prepared to drop your students off for the auditions, or there is limited seating in the church lobby in which to wait. Some students will finish before 7:30 p.m.

In summary, here are your steps for the auditions:

Before the Auditions

1. Anytime before the audition but **by Sunday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.**, please complete the **Actor Audition Registration** and submit it to the director, Pamela Fahs in person or by mail (sent early enough to ensure receipt by 11/2). If you have not previously performed in a Stagelight production, please attach a photo of yourself. *No digitally submitted registrations will be accepted, and no new registrations will be accepted on the day of auditions.*
2. Learn to speak in a British accent if you hope to be cast in a speaking role.
3. Prepare one of the four selected songs to sing along with the prescribed backing track (instrumental music with no singing).
 - Song Option 1 - "Finale - Anything Can Happen if You Let It"
 - Song Option 2 - "Feed the Birds" (Bird Woman's and Mary Poppins's parts)
 - Song Option 3 - "Spoonful of Sugar"
 - Song Option 4 - "Winds Do Change" AND "A Man Has Dreams"

At the Auditions

1. Speak in a British accent if you hope to be cast in any speaking role.
2. Sing your prepared song along with the prescribed backing track when you are called with a small group. *You may use the lyrics while singing your song.*
3. After the singing auditions, read one of the given monologues when you are called. The director may ask you to read an additional monologue or two.

Callbacks for Mary Poppins

Thursday, November 6, 2025

4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Hope Baptist Church

8801 Stephens Road, Laurel, Maryland 20723

Please proceed directly to the Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church.

Callback auditions are closed.

Parents, please be prepared to drop your students off for the auditions.

Your child may finish before 6:30 p.m.

The director will invite some but not all students for callback auditions on Thursday, November 6. It will not be necessary to call back everyone being considered for a role; students who are not invited to callbacks may still be under consideration for lead, supporting, or featured roles.

Students will be invited to callbacks by Wednesday morning, November 5. They will also be informed of what to prepare for callbacks, e.g., singing specific songs from *Mary Poppins* and reading script passages from the show.

The following songs will likely be used for callbacks:

- Mary Poppins: "Practically Perfect"
- Bert: "Chim-Chimeree" or "Jolly Holiday"
- George Banks: "Cherry Tree Lane"
- Winnifred Banks: "Being Mrs. Banks"
- Jane and Michael Banks: "Perfect Nanny"
- Mrs. Brill, Robertson Ai, Park Keeper, Bank Chairman, Von Hussler, John Northbrook: "Let's Go Fly a Kite"
- Bird Woman: "Feed the Birds"
- Miss Andrews: "Brimstone and Treacle"

Mary Poppins Show Information

Synopsis

[From MTI] One of the most popular Disney movies of all time is capturing hearts in a whole new way: as a practically perfect musical! Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, *Cameron Mackintosh and Disney's Mary Poppins* delighted Broadway audiences for over 2,500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it."

Mary Poppins is an enchanting mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers and astonishing stagecraft. This show is a perfect opportunity to showcase a strong, iconic female performer, as well as unique special effects and illusions.

Lead Roles

MARY POPPINS (20s) is 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 always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says.

BERT (30s), the narrator of the story, is a good friend to Mary Poppins. An everyman, Bert has many occupations, including hurdy-gurdy player, sidewalk artist, and chimney sweep. Bert watches over the children as well as the goings on in Cherry Tree Lane. He has charm, speaks with a Cockney accent, and is a song-and-dance man.

JANE BANKS (11), the high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, is bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness.

MICHAEL BANKS (9) is the cute and cheeky son of Mr. and Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty, he adores his father and tries to be like him. Both he and Jane misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents.

Supporting Roles

GEORGE BANKS (early 40s), father to Jane and Michael Banks, is a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding “precision and order” in his household, he is a pipe-and-slippers man who doesn’t have much to do with his children and believes that he had the perfect upbringing by his nanny, the cruel Miss Andrew. His emotional armor, however, conceals a sensitive soul. A baritone, George may speak-sing as necessary.

WINIFRED BANKS (30s) is George’s wife and Jane and Michael’s mother. A former actress, she is a loving and distracted homemaker who is busy trying to live up to her husband’s desire to only associate with “the best people” as well as be a model wife and mother. She suffers from the conflicting feelings that she’s not up to the job of “being Mrs. Banks,” yet she is, and more. She has a great warmth and simplicity to her tone.

Featured Roles

ADMIRAL BOOM (50s) is a retired Royal Navy man and neighbor of the Banks family. A physically large man with a loud and booming voice, he speaks in Navy jargon and has a soft spot for his neighbor, Miss Lark.

KATIE NANNA (30s) 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.

MISS ANDREW (40s-50s) is George’s overbearing and scary 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.

MISS LARK (30s) is the haughty next-door neighbor of the Banks family who treats her dog, Willoughby, as if he were her child.

MRS. BRILL (50s) is the housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked and harassed, she’s always complaining that the house is understaffed. Her intimidating exterior is a cover for the warmth underneath. Mrs. Brill doesn’t have a high opinion of nannies in general and Mary Poppins in particular.

MRS. CORRY (40s) owns a magical gingerbread shop. She is a mysterious woman of great age who speaks with a Caribbean accent (or any accent that would make her seem exotic).

NELEUS (16-20) is the statue of a young boy posed with a dolphin in the park. Neleus was separated from his father, Poseidon, and misses him very much. A small and lonely being, he is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. This role is a wonderful opportunity to feature one of the strong dancers in your ensemble.

ROBERTSON AY (20-30) is the houseboy to the Banks family. Lazy, sleepy, and grumbling, he never gets things right and believes himself to be useless.

BIRD WOMAN (50s) is covered in a patchwork of old shawls, and her pockets are stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell her crumbs to passersby, who ignore her as if she doesn't exist. Sings "Feed the Birds." There can be a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the hardness of her life.

PARK KEEPER (40s-50s). Uniformed and officious, he makes sure no one breaks park regulations. His life is defined by rules, but he secretly hankers after his childhood.

BANK CHAIRMAN (50s), the head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed, is an Edwardian stuffed-shirt. He can speak/sing his lyrics if necessary.

Featured Ensemble Singers

VON HUSSLER (30s-40s) is a businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal. He speaks with a German accent.

VALENTINE is a stuffed boy doll belonging to Jane.

TEDDY BEAR and DOLL are toys belonging to Jane and Michael. Other toys can be added as desired.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS 1, 2, 3, 4

Other Roles

POLICEMAN (30s-40s) is a neighborhood fixture who is respected by and observant of the households on his beat.

QUEEN VICTORIA (40s-50s) is a statue in the park.

MISS SMYTHE (40s) is the Bank Chairman's humorless secretary.

JOHN NORTHBROOK (30s-40s) is an honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory for his community. He speaks with an accent from Northern England.

ANNIE and FANNIE (20s) are Mrs. Corry's daughters.

Ensemble (all dance numbers)

Park strollers, chimney sweeps (tap dancers), clerks, citizens, toys, visitors to Mrs. Correy's gingerbread shop