

Auditions Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 6, 2023

How do I sign up for auditions?

Go to our website at amherstacts.org/auditions and choose an available audition slot. Signups will be open on August 1, 2023.

Where are auditions?

The Bangs Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA.

When are auditions?

Audition date and times are:

Friday, September 15 from 6:00 pm to 9:15 pm

Saturday, September 16 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Sunday, September 17 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Callbacks will be on Monday, September 18 from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Bangs Center

Note: Please call Sam at 413-265-8900 if you need an alternative audition time due to the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

How old do I need to be to audition?

Our shows are multi-generational for children and adults. To be eligible to audition, you must be at least seven years old and must have entered second grade or higher.

What time should I arrive for my audition?

Please arrive promptly at your appointed time. Arriving 5 or 10 minutes early is a good idea.

What will happen when I arrive?

You will sign in with the audition volunteers and receive an information sheet to take home. The forms are also available online at: amherstacts.org/auditions. The audition volunteers will check to make sure you have already filled out the [online audition form](#). **Please fill out this form before attending auditions.**

What should I bring with me to the audition?

As long as you have filled out the [online audition form](#), you only need to bring yourself, any sheet music you might want, and perhaps a water bottle. Dress comfortably, ready to move (no flip flops). You must inform us of any and all possible conflicts, including vacations, recitals, sports events, other theater group and dance rehearsals and performances etc., even if you are not sure if they will conflict or not. If anything has changed since filling out the online audition form, please bring those details with you as well. **Casting decisions will not be made without conflict information, and no absences will be excused in January.**

What if I have to cancel my audition at the last minute?

Send an email to producer@amherstacts.org or call producer, Sam, at 413-265-8900.

Do I have to come prepared with a song to sing at the audition?

Yes. Please prepare a song for your audition. An accompanist will be available for you to use. No a cappella auditions, please. If you are auditioning for a lead, you are required to sing a song from the show. Below is a list of suggested songs by character. Sheet music for these songs can be found at the Amherst Community Theater website amherstacts.org/auditions. Please sing the measures indicated (ex: m1-m29) and in the given key. Our preference is that you sing a song from the show, but if you choose to

sing a song that is not from the show please bring sheet music in the correct key for the accompanist. Each person auditioning should expect to sing one song, even if they wish to be considered for multiple roles. Some people may be asked to sing more than one song if the director so desires. If multiple songs are listed for callbacks, please prepare all of them.

Note: We hope to create a cast of the best performers possible. We will cast based on skills and chemistry with other actors, not on look, gender, age, race, body type, or anything else. Audition for a part you can perform and do not self-select out because of any preconceived notion of who the part might be for.

What we are looking for at auditions:

- Do you have any spontaneous, creative acting skills?
- Are you willing to take risks?
- How well do you work with others?
- Can you take direction?
- How well do you move?
- Can you learn choreography?
- Can you dance and act at the same time?
- What is your vocal range?
- Can you project your voice?
- Can you learn music?
- Can you sing and act at the same time?

*There are two versions of the Cat in the Hat music. Feel free to sing whichever version is most comfortable for your voice.

Role (vocal range)	Character Notes	Audition Music Song (measures)	Callbacks (note: you may be asked to sing the regular audition music again at callbacks)
Cat in the Hat (F2 – F4)	Our story’s omniscient narrator, he/she is fun loving and enjoys rhyming. Pops up throughout the story to help the audience. Wise and attentive.	How Lucky You Are (m4 – end)* Female Version Male Version	Oh, The Thinks You Can Think (m1 – m16)* Female Version Male Version How Lucky You Are (reprise) (m4 – m29)

Jojo (Ab3 – C5)	The Mayor’s son, he is a Who that is always finding trouble. Bright, creative, and inadvertently mischievous. Possesses a wildly expansive imagination and finds solace in his friendship with Horton.	It’s Possible (m5 – m41)	Alone in the Universe (m45 – m84)
Horton the Elephant (A2 – F4)	Our story’s main character, he is a compassionate and gentle elephant. Commonly misunderstood because of his larger size. He is protective and loving of all creatures in the jungle.	Alone in the Universe (m9 – m44) Solla Sollew (m60 – 84)	Alone in the Universe (m45 – m84)
Gertrude McFuzz (F3 – F5)	Horton’s one-feathered-tail bird neighbor. Gertrude is sweet and timid. Though kind and loyal, she is also self-conscious of her shortfalls.	All for You (Verse) (m1-25) AND All for You (m21 – end) <i>Included here as one file</i>	The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz (entire song)
Mayzie Labird (G3 – Eb5)	The most beautiful bird in all of the jungle. Oblivious to her self-centered ways, she relies on her talent of manipulation, and intoxicating beauty, to navigate her way through life.	Amazing Mayzie (m8 – m70)	How Lucky You Are (reprise) (m4 – m29)
Sour Kangaroo (F#3 – F5)	The ‘leader’ of the jungle. She is loud, brassy, and stubbornly set in her ways. A caring mother, but unabashedly sassy and soulful.	Biggest Blame Fool (mA – mE AND m1- m21)	

Mayor and/or Mrs/Spouse of Mayor	The parents of Jojo, political figures of Whoville and new parents, navigating the trials and tribulations of parenthood.	Here on Who (m8 – m24)	How to Raise a Child (entire song)
General Schmitz	General of the military academy where Whoville cadets learn what “makes a boy a man.”	The Military (m1 – m14b AND m1 – m14)	
Featured Ensemble: Wickersham Brothers	The Wickersham brothers are a group of trouble-makers who taunt Horton and terrorize the Whos. They are citizens of the Jungle.	Monkey Around (m12 – m36)	Biggest Blame Fool (m37 – m49)
Featured Ensemble: Bird Girls	A group of flamboyant and sassy singing birds who serve as narrators for much of our story.	Amazing Mayzie (m62 – m103) OR All For You (m25 – m36 Oohs) <i>For either song, pick whichever part is most comfortable for you.</i>	

*There are two versions of the Cat in the Hat music. Feel free to sing whichever version is most comfortable for your voice.

Can I sing my audition song as a duet?

No.

Do I have to dance at the audition?

Please be prepared to move and wear proper attire (i.e., no flip-flops).

Do I have to read from a script at the audition?

You will be asked to read something from the script at auditions. This is a cold reading with no need to prepare ahead of time. Children may be asked to participate in an acting exercise instead of reading.

Will I go into the audition room alone or in a group?

You will be called into auditions as part of a group of about 10 people.

Must parents accompany children to auditions?

Parents should accompany their children to help sign in, but parents are not permitted into the audition room.

Can I bring my own musical accompaniment (i.e., CD player) to the audition?

No.

Can I sing my audition song without piano accompaniment?

No.

What should I wear at the audition?

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes (dance shoes if you have them), such as workout attire. No flip-flops, please.

How long will the audition last?

The audition will last a total of one hour and fifteen minutes. You can expect to be in the audition room for approximately one hour.

Who will be in the audition room?

The director, musical director, choreographer, producer, and rehearsal stage manager will lead the auditions. There may also be additional support staff in attendance.

When will I know if I have a callback?

Callback phone calls will be made in the evening on Sunday, September 17th.

Will there be callbacks for chorus members, or just for lead roles?

Callbacks will likely be for lead roles only. There may be a callback for major dancers, however.

When are callbacks?

Callbacks will be on Monday, September 18th from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Bangs Center.

If I don't get a callback, is it possible that I will still be cast in the show?

Yes. Callbacks are not necessary for all parts.

When will I know if I have been cast in the show?

Everyone who is cast in the show will be notified by phone by Saturday, September 23rd, at 8:00 pm at which time the complete cast list will be posted on the web page.

If I am not cast in the show, will I get a phone call?

No, only those who are cast will receive a phone call. There are simply too many people to call in a timely manner. Check the web page on Saturday, September 23rd after 8:00 PM to see the cast list.

Will everyone who auditions receive a part in the show?

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer everyone who auditions a role in this production. Our total cast size will be between 55 and 65 performers.

When and where is the first rehearsal?

The first rehearsal will be on **Sunday, October 1st from 12:00 to 5:00 pm** at the Bangs Center.

When and where will rehearsals be held?

Regular rehearsals are scheduled for Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 pm, Fridays from 6:00-9:00 pm, Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm, and an occasional Saturday rehearsal from 1:00-5:00pm. **All rehearsals (except for October 1st) will be held at the Amherst Regional Middle School unless you are notified**

otherwise. (Please note that the Sunday, October 1st rehearsal begins at noon at the Bangs Community Center.) Not all cast members will be called to all rehearsals, but you should remain flexible and available for all scheduled rehearsals as rehearsal plans do change.

Technical Rehearsals and Dress Rehearsals will be held at Bowker Auditorium at UMass. **These rehearsals are mandatory. The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. Please note that rehearsals often run later than the scheduled end time.**

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm (Required Bowker Orientation and Rehearsal)

Friday, January 5, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Full Cast Rehearsal)

Saturday, January 6,, 2024 from 12:00 pm to 10 pm (with 45 minute dinner) (Dry Tech)

Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 12:00 pm to 10 pm (with 45 minute dinner) (Wet Tech)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6pm - ? Dress Rehearsal 1

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 6pm - ? Dress Rehearsal 2

What are the dates of the performances?

Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Friday, January 12, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

Thursday, January 18 , 2024 at 7:30 pm

Friday, January 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

Possible Snow Dates

Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 7:30pm

Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 7:30pm

Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 7:30pm

Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:30pm

What if I have to miss some of the performances?

All cast members are **required** to participate in all performances.

How much does it cost to be in the show?

Our standard registration fee is \$80 for each cast member.

If the fee poses a hardship for your family, we encourage you to pay what you can. If you are able to pay a higher fee, please do so to help us support families with less ability to pay. No family will be turned away from casting because of inability to pay the fee.

This fee entitles each cast member to two complimentary tickets to the show. Comp tickets will be for Thursday or Friday shows only. Cast members must contact Amherst Recreation directly by phone or in person to reserve their comp tickets. Tickets sell fast so reserve your comps early!

Will I be expected to help with costumes, set building, and/or other tasks during the show?

All cast members are required to help with tasks in the months prior to the show and during the course of the production. These tasks can be done by the cast member or by a family member or friend. Details of these mandatory support activities can be found in the *Important Information and Dates* document, available at amherstacts.org/auditions.

Why are there mandatory show support activities for cast members and families?

A typical Amherst Community Theater production requires hundreds and hundreds of hours of labor. Much of this time is donated by the production team and non-cast volunteers in our community, but our extraordinary shows would not be possible without the work of cast members and their families. In order to coordinate our efforts and ensure a high level of support, we expect a minimum of 8 hours of pre-show donated time per cast member in November and December. The pre-show time may be spent in the costume shop or the set shop and may be performed by the cast member, a family member, or a friend. We also ask that a family member or friend provide support work during two performances in January. A list of all the ways to help during a performance can be found on the *Important Information and Dates* document. (This can be found at amherstacts.org/auditions). We believe that you will find working with Amherst Community Theater to be a fun, rewarding, and amazing experience. We can't wait to get started!

What parts will be available, and for what age groups?

The total cast will be composed of 55 to 65 actors. All roles are available and to all age groups. There are no pre-cast roles.