

MARY POPPINS JR. 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

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

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

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

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

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 bungles 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

Katie Nanna: Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children. Gender: Female

Park Strollers: 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: Any

Statues: Stone sculptures that, thanks to Mary Poppins, come alive and dance with Bert and the Park Strollers. Gender: Any

Neleus: One of the statues who, once brought to life by Mary Poppins, is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. Opportunity to feature one a strong dancer. Gender: Any

Bird Woman: 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. Should be a good singer with a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the difficulties of her situation. Gender: Female

Honeybees: 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: Like George, they are employees at the bank. These roles require actors who can sing. Gender: Both

Miss Smythe: The bank Chairman's humorless secretary. Gender: Female

Bank Chairman: The head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed; he 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: Any

Von Hussler: 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: 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. Gender: Male

Vagrants, Buskers, and Passerby: Citizens of London passing by the cathedral during "Feed the Birds." Gender: Any

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

Customers: Bright, colorful British citizens visiting Mrs. Corry's Talking Shop. Gender: Any

Miss Andrew: George Banks' 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. Stronger singer role. Gender: Female

Kite Flyers: Families flying kites in the park. Gender: Any

Chimney Sweeps: 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: Any

Policeman: A neighborhood patrol officer. Gender: Any

Messenger: Delivers a summons to George from the bank. Gender: Any