



## Audition Notice – Top Hat

***PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to be in the show in any capacity, ensemble, lead role or backstage/crew, please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing [tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk](mailto:tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk)***

Geoids Musical Theatre is delighted to announce auditions for our upcoming musical *Top Hat*.

### **About the Show**

*Top Hat* brings the glamour of Hollywood's golden age and the glorious, tap-dancing magic of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to the stage in one of the greatest dance musicals of all time.

Packed full of Irving Berlin's greatest hits including, Cheek to Cheek, Top Hat, White Tie & Tails, Let's Face the Music & Dance and Puttin' on the Ritz, *Top Hat* tells the story of Broadway sensation Jerry Travers who dances his way across Europe to win the heart of society girl Dale Tremont. An uplifting and hilarious romantic comedy celebrating 1930s song, style and romance, *Top Hat* dazzles with beautiful costumes, breath-taking dance and captivating comedy.

Geoids' production of *Top Hat* will be London's amateur premiere of this show. We are honoured to be the first London theatre society to produce the show and already have big ideas of how to transform the Bridewell Theatre into an Art Deco wonderland worthy of this joyful, captivating score.

To bring this show to life, we are looking for a cast of charismatic performers and vibrant characters.

### **Are we only looking for accomplished tap dancers? No!**

We are looking for a mix of great tap/ballroom dancers and excellent singer/actors, particularly comic actors. The dancers will be featured throughout the show and have plenty of fantastic numbers to enjoy. The actor/singers will join in with a bit of basic tap in *Top Hat*, *White Tie and Tails* – don't worry, we will teach you all you need! – and take part in plenty of other choreographed numbers as well. Time has been built into the rehearsal schedule to make sure all the dance is well rehearsed and given the mix of ballroom, music theatre and tap styles, there will be a lot of extremely interesting stuff to learn and do.

**Register your interest** in the show and book your audition space by emailing [tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk](mailto:tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk)

## Performances

Tue 31<sup>st</sup> October – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm with matinee on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2:30pm at the Bridewell Theatre.

## Auditions

The initial round audition will involve a group dance session (catering for all levels of dance ability), and an individual slot for singing and reading a small piece of text.

There will be 4 first round audition sessions. Each session will be structured as follows: Individual singing/reading appointments during the first hour, a group dance call during the second hour, and further individual singing/reading appointments during the third hour. All auditionees will be informed, by email, of the time slot for their individual singing/reading appointment and their group dance call. In this way, we can make sure all auditionees cover both singing/reading and dance within 2 hours, minimising waiting around time.

Please arrive 15 minutes in advance of your first call time to register and prepare.

### Session ONE:

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July – Group dance call 11:30-12:30.**

Individual appointments either 10:30-11:30 or 12:30-13:30.

Husky Studios, Studio 2. 29a Amelia Street, London. SE17 3PY.

### Session TWO:

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July – Group dance call 15:30-16:30.**

Individual appointments either 14:30-15:30 or 16:30-17:30.

Husky Studios, Studio 2. 29a Amelia Street, London. SE17 3PY.

### Session THREE:

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Group dance call 12:00-13:00.**

Individual appointments either 11:00-12:00 or 13:00-14:00.

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London. EC2M 4QH.

### Session FOUR:

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Group dance call 15:00-16:00.**

Individual appointments either 14:00-15:00 or 16:00-17:00.

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London. EC2M 4QH.

## YOU MUST EMAIL TO REQUEST AN AUDITION SLOT.

Please email [tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk](mailto:tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk) with your first and second choice of audition session. Once your slot is confirmed, you will be emailed the audition materials (music and reading excerpts) to prepare, and a form to fill in and bring to the audition. There will

**be a few spares available on the day, but please print and bring your own materials if you are at all able to.**

For the dance component of the audition, we encourage you to dress in a manner to allow you to move freely. There will be a short warm up, a bit of tap (but don't worry if you are new to this - there is plenty of time to learn!) and some ballroom. If you don't have tap shoes, don't worry – wear whatever shoes you are comfortable in. If you do bring tap shoes, please bring another pair of shoes for the ballroom element. Please also ensure you bring a bottle of water, as it is likely to get quite warm!

For the vocal audition, we ask that you sing an excerpt of a song from the show. We have specified audition excerpts for each principal character and for the featured ensemble in the character description tables below (In the **Cast** section of this notice). We are not looking for perfect performances at this stage, but please be familiar with the excerpt, as we won't have time to teach them at auditions. If you have any questions about your song choice, feel free to email us and ask.

You can get an idea of the songs from the cast album on Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/album/1dGLS3lJqxSLpYPs11be9H>) but please don't feel you need to imitate the styles used on this recording. We're looking for your own personal interpretation of the songs and the characters.

Unfortunately, we may not have time to hear the whole song. We apologise in advance if we have to stop you part way through.

There will be a few lines of text to be delivered, which will also be sent to you when you register. This will give us an idea about your interpretation, delivery and, most importantly, your creativity. Given that the musical is set in America, London and Italy we may well ask you for American, British and/or Italian accents. If you are auditioning for a specific principal part we will definitely ask you to deliver the text in the appropriate accent.

**If you are only interested in a specific role, please be honest in noting so on your audition form. It will not affect whether you are considered for that role, but it will avoid other potential performers being disappointed if we cast you and you drop out.**

## Recalls

Recalls will be held at The Poor School, 242 Pentonville Rd, Kings Cross, London N1 9JY on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, and will focus on principal characters and advanced dancers. Please note recalls will involve singing and script reading depending on the character. There may be some more dancing dependent on the character you are being recalled for. We are also likely to pair up principal parts, as we're looking for great partnerships (Dale & Jerry; Jerry & Horace; Horace & Madge etc.) as well as fantastic individual performances. Please note: if you do not get a recall, this does not mean you're not in the show: all casting notifications will be made after recalls.

## Rehearsals

Full cast rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings and *either Saturday or Sunday* daytimes, excluding the final weekend of rehearsals (28-29<sup>th</sup> October) when there will be rehearsals on both days. There will be a full cast read/sing through on Sunday 13 August. Following this, regular Wednesday rehearsals will commence on Wednesday 16 August, and regular weekend rehearsals will commence on the first weekend of September. These rehearsals will either be held at Bishopsgate Institute (Liverpool Street), Lillington Gardens Community Centre (Pimlico), or the Poor School (Kings Cross).

There will be an additional rehearsal on a to-be-determined weekday (most likely Thursday) with principal characters, which will be arranged based on schedules of relevant cast and production team members.

You will be required to notify us of any unavailability for Wednesday and weekend rehearsals on your audition form. Availability for rehearsals is a key factor that will be considered by the audition panel. Unfortunately, if there are a significant number of unavailable dates that cannot be reconciled against the proposed rehearsal schedule, you may be unable to be in the show. While it is understood that people's busy lives may result in certain unavailability developing after we start work on the show, you are required to promptly notify the production team of any changes in your availability. In the event of substantial changes in availability from what is notified on your audition form, your participation in the show may be revisited.

## Required Availability

The following dates are must-attend for all cast:

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October (11-5pm) – Full Run  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October (7-10pm) – Full Run  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October (All day) – Costume Run & Sitzprobe  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October (All day) – Get in and Technical rehearsal  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October from 6pm – Dress Rehearsal

## Fees

If you are not already a member of Geoids, there is a suggested donation of £5 to audition for the show, or you can join now. If you are successful and cast then you must become a member of Geoids. Membership costs £15. As well as covering your insurance as a performer, this entitles you to audition for free at any future Geoids show within that year.

Show fees for *Top Hat* will be £85, which helps cover production related costs. These fees must be paid in full by the week of the show, and can be paid all in one go, or in instalments over August, September and October.

## Cast

We are looking for a cast of c. 24-26 people to bring this glamorous and iconic show to life. In addition to the 6 principal characters there are many featured acting, singing and dancing roles which will be split throughout the ensemble cast. The show is at its heart a musical comedy, so we're looking for a multi-talented team of charming comedic performers who are willing to work hard and have fun as a group.

### PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMANCE SKILLS	AUDITION SONG (CHOOSE ONE)
<b>Jerry Travers</b>	An American Broadway star. Fred Astaire in the original movie. A suave, charming, impulsive American gentleman. Seems like genuinely a great guy to hang out with.	Baritone (to F4) American accent Has to have great line and posture and be a very comfortable mover. Not essential to be an expert tap dancer as we can build the choreography around the expertise of the actor.	Isn't it a Lovely Day (Bars 1-84)
<b>Dale Tremont</b>	An American society beauty. Ginger Rogers in the movie. Model for Alberto Beddini. Feisty, elegant, strong and yet with a romantic side.	Alto / Mezzo (to E5) American accent A very good dancer with very graceful line. Not essential to be an expert tap dancer as we can build the choreography around the expertise of the actor.	Easy to Dance With (Bars 5-66 & 122-end)
<b>Horace Hardwick</b>	A British theatre producer. Great friend of Jerry Travers. Older than Jerry. Nervous. Unintentionally very funny.	Bass/Baritone (to E4) British accent. An excellent comic actor. Very little movement required. No tap.	No Strings (Bars 9-57)
<b>Bates</b>	Horace's personal valet. A curious character. Adorably uptight and judgmental. Currently feuding with Horace over Horace's choice of tie.	No solo singing, but may take part in some of the group work. British accent. An excellent comic actor. Very little movement. No tap.	Either of the two ensemble cast songs

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMANCE SKILLS	AUDITION SONG (CHOOSE ONE)
<b>Alberto Beddini</b>	An Italian fashion designer. Beautifully put together. Very proud. Very eccentric. Very fond of Dale (his muse).	High baritone/Tenor (to G4) Italian accent. An excellent comic actor. Graceful, but very little movement. No tap.	Latins Know How (entire song)
<b>Madge Hardwick</b>	Horace's wealthy American wife. Great friend of Dale Tremont. Older than Dale but still very glamorous. Brassy. Confident. Light hearted.	Alto (to C5) American accent. An excellent comic actor. Dance not essential, but dance skills could be used. No tap.	Outside of That, I Love You (Bars 1-50)

### FEATURED CHARACTERS TO BE PLAYED BY MEMBERS OF THE ENSEMBLE CAST

TYPE	CHARACTERS	AUDITION SONGS (CHOOSE ONE)
<b>FEATURED ACTING / SINGING</b>	Soprano soloist – to top B (London) / Tenor soloist – to top A (Venice) / Jerry's Manager (London) / Concierge of the Thackeray Club (London) / Hotel florist (London) / Cab driver (London) / Assistant florist (London) / Hotel receptionist (London) / Hotel manager (London) / Hotel manager (Venice) / Singing quartet of waiters (Venice) / Singing hotel families at the hotel (London) / Policeman (Venice) / Fisherman (Venice) / George the dresser (London) / American reporters (New York)	Top Hat White Tie and Tails (Bars 35-69) or Easy to Dance With (Bars 17-66 & 122-end)
<b>FEATURED DANCERS</b>	Broadway singer/dancers (New York) / Dancing hotel maids & porters (London) / Chorus girls at the Prince's Theatre (London) / Dancers at the Prince's Theatre (London) / Specialty dancers & hotel guests (Venice)	

### Production Team

**Tal Hewitt (Director)** - Tal has always been a huge fan of Top Hat the movie, and is delighted to be directing the stage musical for Geoids. Previous direction credits include A Chorus Line, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and City of Angels. Recent on stage credits include Candide, Company, Ragtime and My Fair Lady. A trained dancer, her particular passion is dance musicals. She is thrilled to be working with such an amazingly talented team on this show.

**Paul Cozens (Musical Director)** – Paul has had a range of experience from running an annual summer school music theatre-themed show choir to MDing for a number of London companies. He also enjoys appearing on stage and likes to share his time between the two.

London shows MDd include Our House, Wedding Singer, Wild Party, Copacabana, Oklahoma and Slice of Saturday Night. On stage credits include Assassins, Candide, A Man of No Importance, Rent, Dames at Sea, Hot Mikado and HMS Pinafore. When he's not engaged in the above, you'll find him playing keys, violin, viola or reeds in the pits of the same companies.

**Lemington Ridley (Costume Designer & Ballroom Choreographer)** – Lemington began his professional dance career as a ballet and jazz dancer in New York City, training with The Alvin Ailey Company. He has been a Ballroom/Latin teacher for over 15 years and is one of the most well-known and respected same-sex Latin dancers in the world, having been two-time United States Same-sex champion, three-time British champion and ranked 3rd in the World same-sex competitions.

Costume design-wise, he has also been a featured designer in Vogue, WWD and Modern Brides magazines and has shown during New York Fashion week numerous times. Though he spends most of his time designing costumes for ballroom and Latin dancers, he has turned his attention back to the theatre stage and is now sought after for his tasteful and detailed designs for stage and screen. He was also the choreographer and costume designer for Geoids' production of My Fair Lady.

**Charlie Welch (Tap Choreographer)** – Charlie is ISTD and RAD trained in tap, ballet and modern and has been performing in the amateur circuit since she was a child. She has 10 years of choreographing experience including Anything Goes, Witches of Eastwick, Oliver!, Into the Woods, and 13 for the Edinburgh fringe. Top Hat will be Charlie's choreographing debut for Geoids although she has been a performing member for the past 3 years.

**Giles Burden (Technical Producer)** – Giles has worked as Stage Manager on a good number of Geoids shows including 42nd Street, On the 20th Century and My Fair Lady, and is delighted to be back working on Top Hat as Technical Producer. When not working at Bishopsgate Institute, Giles enjoys inventing new cocktails and falling off cliffs in far flung locations.

**Katy Robinson (Company Manager)** – Having been in 'On The Twentieth Century' and 'My Fair Lady' with Geoids, Katy is excited to be working on Top Hat as a production team member, and can't wait to see everything come together. Previous producing/CM credits include 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and 'Humble Boy' at Sheffield University. Katy is also on the Geoids committee.

For further information and to register your interest and preferred audition date please email Katy at [tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk](mailto:tophat@geoidsmt.co.uk)

You can also find us in the following places:

Website: <http://www.geoidsmt.co.uk/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/geoids>

Twitter: @GeoidsMusicalT