



Audition Notice – My Fair Lady

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 myfairlady@geoidsmt.co.uk

Geoids Musical Theatre is delighted to announce the audition dates for our upcoming musical *My Fair Lady* on 4 December at 1:30 pm, 6 December at 7:00 pm and 9 December at 7:00 pm.

About the Show

Summary

My Fair Lady, based on George Bernard Shaw's classic play *Pygmalion*, tells the familiar story of Eliza Doolittle, a Covent Garden flower seller who, inspired by phonetician Henry Higgins' public boast that he could change her social status by teaching her how to speak correctly, turns up at his door asking for lessons in order to fulfil her dream of working in a flower shop. However, Eliza eventually succeeds so well that she outgrows her lowly ambitions, and manages to become an indispensable part of Higgins' life.

The original 1956 production of *My Fair Lady* with Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews helped define the modern musical theatre. The original production enjoyed a seven-year run on Broadway leading to the 1964 film, which won several Oscars, including Best Picture.

Its classic musical numbers include "With A Little Bit of Luck", "I Could Have Danced All Night", "On the Street Where You Live" and "Get Me to the Church on Time".

Concept

We understand that this incredibly well-loved show is very much ingrained in people's memory, and as such, believe it would be foolish, perhaps even conceited, to put a *clever* twist or groundbreaking interpretation upon this classic. Instead, the challenge is to meet the audience's nostalgia for it. This will mean adding energy and interest to create an always-moving, heightened theatrical production that matches or, hopefully, surpasses their technicolour memory of the film.

Heightened and even *stylised* does not necessarily mean a cartoon Dick van Dyke thumbs-in-lapels cock-er-ney version of London. Our production will be happening within a mile of the real Covent Garden, which is as close to central London as you will find any non-professional staging of this show. It will require fully-rounded and convincing cast of lively characters that will, obviously, require a talented cast of performers who can multi-role and improvise in order to bring the different aspects of Edwardian London to life.

Register your interest in the show and book your audition space by emailing myfairlady@geoidsmt.co.uk. In order to ensure we are able to best allocate attention of the audition panel, please let us know your audition date preference.

Performances

4 April – 8 April 7:30pm with a matinee on Saturday 8 April at 2:30pm at the Bridewell Theatre.

Auditions

There will be 3 first round auditions dates. Please note each session will **START** at the time listed below. Please therefore arrive at least 15 minutes early to register and get changed.

1. Sunday, 4 December at 1:30 pm at the Union Theatre, Old Union Arches, 229 Union Street, London, SE1 0LR. The nearest tube station is Southwark, served by the Jubilee Line. The Union Theatre is a 2-minute walk from Southwark Tube.
2. Tuesday, December, 6 December 7:00 pm at the Union Theatre.
3. Friday, 9 December at 7:00 pm at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4QH, which is a short, walk from Liverpool Street Station.

YOU MUST EMAIL TO REQUEST AN AUDITION SLOT.

Please email myfairlady@geoidsmt.co.uk with your first and second choice of first round audition. You will be assigned an individual slot for your singing audition, but please note that all auditions begin with a dance call, which begins at the time listed above. Once your slot is confirmed, you will be emailed the audition materials to prepare.

The initial round audition will involve a group dance audition and an individual singing audition.

Each session will begin with a warm up led by the choreographer, followed by a short dance call, where a routine will be taught to the whole group and performed together in front of the panel. Please note, the show commands different levels of dance requirements from different cast members. The dance audition will focus on general movement and include some stomp/tap action. We encourage comfortable dance clothing and shoes are recommended. Tap shoes are not needed.

The individual singing audition will be in front of the audition panel. We will ask the men to prepare an extract from “On the Street Where You Live” OR “I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face”, and women will have the option of preparing extracts from “I Could Have Danced All Night” OR “Show Me”. The exact songs will be distributed upon audition sign up. As we have limited time in the auditions, it is requested that you come to the audition familiar with the singing materials.

If you are only interested in one of the leading roles but not the ensemble, *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 ensemble performers being disappointed if we cast you and you drop out.

Recalls

Recalls will be held on 10 December and will focus on principal characters. Please note recalls will involve singing and script reading depending on the character. Recalls will be held at

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4QH. Recalls will start from 10am, however, specific call times will be notified.

Rehearsals

The first rehearsal will be held on 7 January at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4QH.

Full cast rehearsals will be held on Friday evenings from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm commencing 20 January. This rehearsal will either be at Lillington Gardens Community Centre or Bishopsgate Institute.

There will be an additional rehearsal on a to be determined weekday with lead 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 Friday 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 number of N/As 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 changes in availability from what is notified on your audition form, your participation in the show may be revisited.

Fees

If you are not already a member of Geoids, there is a suggested donation of £5 to audition for the show. If you are successful and cast then you must become a member of Geoids, which will cost a further £10. You can otherwise become a full member now for a total cost of £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 *My Fair Lady* will be £85, which helps cover production related costs.

Rehearsal Venues

We will generally be holding Friday rehearsals at Lillington Gardens Community Centre, Pimlico, which is a short walk from Pimlico Tube Station or Bishopsgate Institute. Saturday rehearsals will generally be held at Bishopsgate Institute.

Required Availability

Aside from the rehearsals previously stated, cast will be required on the below dates:

Saturday 1 April (All day)

Sunday 2 April (All day) - Get in and Technical rehearsal

Monday 3 April from 6pm – Dress Rehearsal

Cast

As even some of the leading cast and certainly *all* of the ensemble will be playing multiple roles throughout the show, we are looking for enthusiastic versatile performers who can swap

between roles - from chirpy barrow boy to Ambassador, from flower girl to Duchess. Your character playing ability is just as important as your singing voice. Whilst this is not a 'dance show', you must be ready and willing to dance and move. Our acclaimed choreographer will get you there if you are committed and focussed.

Leading Cast

Professor Henry Higgins: Baritone (B2-E4) - Middle-aged confirmed bachelor, professor of phonetics & an expert elocutionist. An academic whose confidence in his own abilities and attention to his work mean that he is inconsiderate of normal social niceties. He has no need for any romance in his life as he sees it as something that would interfere with his life and routine.

Eliza Doolittle: Soprano (A3-G5) – A cockney flower girl who hopes to lift herself out of the gutter to elevate her standing and become a lady. She is smart and knows what she can be but needs help to realize her dream. Eliza becomes an object of a bet between Henry Higgins and Colonel Pickering.

Colonel Pickering: Baritone (C3-D4) – An ex-British officer & fellow linguist specializing in Indian dialects. Always considerate and a gentleman. Always kind, his thoughtful treatment of Eliza helps her to respect herself.

Alfred P. Doolittle: Baritone (G3-E4) – Eliza's father, a bin man (when not avoiding work) An unembarrassed and an unashamed advocate of drink and pleasure. Not a bad man but not exactly honourable if it means there a drink in it for him.

Mrs. Pearce: Mezzo-Soprano E4-G4 – Henry Higgins' sometimes exasperated but mostly patient housekeeper

Freddy Eynsford-Hill: C3-F4 – A young man from the upper classes who becomes smitten with Eliza and what she represents for him. A dreamer.

Mrs. Higgins: Henry's mother. A refined lady of the upper class. Kind and understanding of Eliza's dilemma. Despairing of her son's lack of feeling and lack of consideration of others.

Ensemble Roles with small speaking/singing parts:

Mrs Eynsford-Hill: Freddy's mother

Professor Zoltan Karpathy: Hungarian Linguistic Expert – full of himself and his own abilities.

Harry: Bass/Baritone – Drinking companion of Alfred Doolittle

Jamie : Tenor – Drinking companion of Alfred Doolittle

Household staff, market traders, flower girls, drinkers, cockney characters, Ascot race goers, Embassy Ball guests including the Queen of Transylvania and her escort, buskers, bystanders among other parts.

Production Team

Daniel Penfold – Director

In 2003 Daniel started in non-professional theatre in Bristol. He set up his own theatre group in 2011 where he directed and produced *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He went on to adapt, direct and compose for *A Christmas Carol* and *The Tempest*. In 2013 he created and directed a new musical version of *The Wind In The Willows* with songs by Fraser McAlpine.

Arriving in London in 2014 he has spent two years gradually infiltrating its musical theatre world. He has been on stage with Geoids acting and singing (*Sweet Charity*, *Sunset Boulevard*), elbowed his way in as a photographer (*Sweet Charity*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Hair*, *42nd Street*) and then as an assistant director/photographer/publicity designer on *Ragtime The Musical* (Bishopsgate Institute/Centre Stage) before finally getting the opportunity to work as part of the running crew (plus photographer and programme designer) on Geoids' last production *On The Twentieth Century*.

Erika Gundersen – Musical Director

Erika Gundersen is a distinguished graduate of the University of British Columbia in Canada as well as the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, where she has completed a Masters in Performance as well as an Artist Diploma as an Opera Répétiteur. She is currently on fellowship at the Guildhall, training as a conductor and vocal coach, and also works freelance as a pianist and music director. Recent credits include *RENT* (Vivo d'Arte), *Door* (GSMD Opera), *Urinetown* (St. Monica's Players), *Ariane* (GSMD Opera), *Side by Side by Sondheim* (GSMD), *Sweeney Todd* (Vivo d'Arte), *The Rape of Lucretia* (GSMD Opera), *Parade* (London Theatre Workshop, Vivo d'Arte), *Bugsy Malone* (St. Monica's Players), *Our American Cousin* (Finborough Theatre), *Songs for a New World* (Jazzhands Optional), *Titanic* and *The Music Man* (Theatre Under the Stars Vancouver), *Smile* and *Thirteen* (Awkward Stage Productions.)

Lemington Ridley – Choreographer/Costume Design

Lemington Ridley 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 featured dancer on Broadway and has travelled the world as theatrical arts performer. Entering the Ballroom and Latin world, he began training with top teachers and coaches and has been a Ballroom/Latin teacher for over 15 years and developed a unique style in his performance and teaching.

Lemington 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. He continues to perform and coach mainstream and same-sex couples on a competitive level. Using his experience in ballet, jazz, contemporary, yoga, and reiki, he helps dancers understand their bodies. "Dance from the heart" has always been his motto, and with this approach he inspires others to understand themselves better thru dancing.

While Lemington was pursuing a career in dance, he also has had a career in Fashion. He has been in design for 20 years, beginning as an eveningwear and bridal wear designer. He has been a featured designer in *Vogue*, *WWD* and *Modern Brides* magazines and has shown during New York Fashion week numerous times. He began working in theatre during high school and has kept a close connection with costume design. 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.

Blake Klein – Producer

Blake has produced, designed and directed shows that include *On the Twentieth Century* (Bridewell Theatre, Producer), *Sunset Boulevard* (Bridewell Theatre, Producer), *42nd Street* (Bridewell, Technical Producer), *Americana* (Bridewell, Producer), *Reefer Madness* (Bridewell, Assistant Producer), *Sweet Charity* (Cockpit, Producer), *Cabaret* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *1776* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *Guys and Dolls* (Set and Lighting Design) and *Steel Magnolias* (Director/Creative Producer).

For further information and to register your interest and preferred audition date please email: myfairlady@geoidsmt.co.uk

You can also find us in the following places:

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

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

Twitter: [@GeoidsMusicalT](https://twitter.com/GeoidsMusicalT)