

Mary Poppins

Synopsis and Character List

Synopsis

Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney Film, *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 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 how to value each other again. Mary Poppins not only has a profound effect upon the children of the Banks family, but also Mr. and Mrs. Banks, who, thanks to Mary, realize the truth in the words "anything can happen if you let it."

Character List

Bert

The narrator of the story and 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. *(This character will fly and possibly be called for longer rehearsals on Tues, Thurs, and Sat.)*

Mary Poppins

Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange, neat and tidy, delightfully vain yet particular, and sometimes a little frightening but always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says. *(This character will fly and possibly be called for longer rehearsals on Tues, Thurs, and Sat.)*

George Banks

The 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

Winifred Banks

George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. A former actress, she is 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 the 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 great warmth and simplicity to her tone.

Michael & Jane Banks

Jane is the high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, is bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness. Michael 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. *(These characters will possibly be called for longer rehearsals on Tues, Thurs, and Sat.)*

Mrs. Brill

The housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked and harrassed, 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.

Roberson Ay

The houseboy to the Banks family. Lazy, sleepy and grumbling, he never gets things right and believes himself to be useless.

Miss Andrew

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. *(This character will fly)*

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.

Mrs. Corry

Owns a magical gingerbread shop. She is a mysterious woman of great age. Larger than life character. *(The actor play Mrs. Corry might use a culturally appropriate accent for the role)*

Neleus

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. Terrific singer and dancer.

Park Keeper

Uniformed and officious, he makes sure no one breaks park regulations. His life is defined by rules, but he secretly hankers after his childhood.

Bird Woman

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.

Admiral Boom, and Miss Lark

Neighbors of the Banks family. Mrs. Lark is the haughty next-door neighbor of the Banks family who treats her dog, Willoughby, as if it was a child. Admiral Boom 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.

Bank Chairman

The head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed as an Edwardian stuffed-shirt. He can speak/sing his lines if necessary.

Other Roles

Policeman, Queen Victoria, Miss Smythe, Von Hussler, Northbrook, Annie, Fannie, Chimney Sweeps, Statues, Penguins, Bank Employees, Patrons, Parkgoers.

