

# GYPSY

A MUSICAL FABLE

## Audition Packet

Book by Arthur Laurents

Music by Jule Styne

Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Suggested by memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee

Original production by David Merrick, Leland Hayward, & Jerome Robbins

Co-directed by Gabrielle Niederhoffer and Ethan Riordan

# ABOUT THE SHOW

Inspired by the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, *Gypsy* tells the story of “Mama” Rose, an overbearing stage mother attempting to thrust her two daughters into stardom on a dying vaudeville circuit. We meet daughters June and Louise as children and follow the development of their act as they become adults, where June is the star, while the shy Louise plays a background role. When June runs off with one of the chorus boys, Rose decides to make Louise a star in her own right. Through unlikely means, Louise finds her identity as a performer. She adopts the stage name Gypsy Rose Lee and breaks free of her mother’s expectations, leaving Rose to deal with the fallout alone.

Content warnings: Coarse language, sexual innuendos, depictions of stripping

## TIMELINE

### **Audition Slots - JE Theater**

*Sunday, October 2nd : 2:30 PM - 6 PM*

*Tuesday, October 4th : 7 PM - 10 PM*

*Thursday, October 6th : 7 PM - 8:30 PM*

*Friday, October 7th : 12 PM - 2:30 PM*

### **Callback Slots - JE Theater**

*Saturday, October 8th : 12:30 PM - 4 PM*

*Sunday, October 9th : 10 AM - 1 PM*

### **Dance Call Slots - Silliman Dance Studio**

*Friday, October 7th : 9 AM - 10 AM*

*Friday, October 7th : 10 AM - 11 AM*

*Saturday, October 8th : 10 AM - 11 AM*

### **Group Chemistry Reads - JE Theater**

*Monday, October 10th : 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM*

*Tuesday, October 11th : 8 PM - 9 PM*

### **Finding the JE Theater:**

The JE Theater is located in the basement of entryway G. Someone will be waiting in the entryway to check you in.

### **Finding the Silliman Dance Studio:**

Enter the main Silliman doors and turn right after you pass the bathrooms. Open the door and walk down the stairs. Turn right and walk past the pool tables.

# CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS

*Gypsy* features performance opportunities for actors, dancers, and/or singers of all levels of experience. Listed below are the lead and supporting roles.

We hope to create a world that represents the diversity of our University. As such, ***we both welcome and encourage actors of all races, ethnicities, and gender identities to audition for all roles.***

## **Mama Rose**

Low F to C

Rose is the ultimate "stage mother" who lives vicariously through her two daughters.

## **June**

A flat to Eb

The talented sister who is frustrated with her overbearing mother. Dance experience preferred.

## **Louise**

C sharp to E flat

Shy and loyal. Pushed aside by Rose in favor of June. When June leaves the act, Rose tries to make Louise a star. She becomes the famous burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee.

## **Herbie**

Baritone

Candy salesman and Rose's manager. Has a heart of gold, but also has the power to defend the people he loves.

## **Tulsa**

F to G

Singing and dancing member of the "Farm Boys." Dreams of having his own act. Dance experience preferred.

## **Tessie Tura**

C# to D Flat

An experienced and wisened Burlesque performer. Specialty - Ballet stripper. Ballet skills optional.

## **Mazeppa**

G (below middle C) to B Flat

An experienced and wisened Burlesque performer. Specialty - Trumpet stripper. Trumpet skills optional.

## **Electra**

B Flat to D

An experienced and wisened Burlesque performer. Specialty - Lightbulb stripper. Electrical experience not required.

## **Uncle Jocko**

Non-Singing

Vaudeville master of ceremonies at a weekly kiddee talent show. Hates stage mothers. Would rather be drinking.

## **Vaudeville Ensemble**

Assorted voice parts (singing and non-singing). Dance experience preferred for some ensemble members.

# THE AUDITION

## WHAT TO PREPARE

For your audition, please prepare 32 bars of a song of your choice.

## WHAT SONG SHOULD I SING?

You're welcome to sing any musical theater song that you feel is a good fit for your vocal part.

Please come to your audition with your sheet music, and bring two copies if you don't have it memorized. If you have trouble locating sheet music, or need ideas for what to sing, you can reach out to our music director Nicole at [nicole.lam@yale.edu](mailto:nicole.lam@yale.edu).

If you have any access needs that we can help address to make your experience auditioning as comfortable/safe as possible, please let us know by reaching out to [ava.king@yale.edu](mailto:ava.king@yale.edu) and we will be happy to accomodate.

# DANCE CALL

## WHAT ARE DANCE CALLS?

In addition to singing and acting, dance calls offer us an opportunity to see how comfortable you are with dancing/choreographed movement! *Gypsy* is a dance-heavy show, so dance calls give us a chance to see what you can do in a low-stakes environment. We have three possible dates listed where you can attend a dance call to accommodate scheduling issues, but you only need to sign up for one slot.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN THE DANCE CALLS?

The dance call is only one hour, and our choreographer Gabrielle will teach everyone a small portion of a dance from the show. While a portion of this is to see how well you pick up choreography and give you a chance to show off any previous dance experience you may have, the most important thing we are looking for is enthusiasm and willingness to take on new challenges. If you have any questions/concerns, or you cannot make the dance call for scheduling reasons, please contact Gabrielle at [gabrielle.niederhoffer@yale.edu](mailto:gabrielle.niederhoffer@yale.edu).

## WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE?

Absolutely nothing! Just make sure to wear clothes that you're comfortable moving in, and shoes that you can dance in — sneakers, jazz shoes, or character shoes are all okay.

# CALLBACKS

## WHAT ARE CALLBACKS?

Callbacks are an additional opportunity for the prod team to get you know you better as a vocalist and performer. Unlike auditions, callbacks are specific to a single character, and are aimed at seeing how you embody that part. During callbacks, we will ask to see three things:

1. **A short cut of a song the character sings in the show**
2. **A side**
3. **Reading a scene alongside other actors (Depending on the part)**

We will not be holding callbacks for every role, so please do not view the presence/absence of a callback as reflective of your chances of being cast in the show!

## WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE?

The timeline between auditions and callbacks is tight, so the only thing you should prepare is a small vocal cut for your character and a side. Again, no memorization is required, and we'll send your sheet music and the side in your callback notification.