

Mary Poppins

Story Synopsis

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and 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 members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it."

Main Roles

Mary Poppins *Character Age: Mid 20's* **Extra Strong Singing and Acting**

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.

Vocal range bottom: G3

Vocal range top: F5

Bert *Character Age: Mid 20's* **Extra Strong Singing and Acting**

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.

Vocal range bottom: B2

Vocal range top: F4

Jane Banks *Character Age: 8-10 yrs* **Extra Strong Singing and Acting**

The high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness.

Vocal range bottom: A3

Vocal range top: Eb5

Michael Banks *Character Age: 5-7 yrs* **Extra Strong Singing and Acting**

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.

Vocal range bottom: A3

Vocal range top: E5

Mary Poppins

George Banks *Character Age Early 40's* **Extra Strong Singing and Acting**

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.

Vocal range bottom: Bb2 Vocal range top: F4

Winifred Banks *Character Age Mid 30's* **Strong Actor**

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.

Mrs. Brill *Character Age Mid 50's* **Strong Actor**

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.

Robertson Ay *Character Age Late Teens* **Actor**

The houseboy to the Banks family. Forgetful and clumsy, he often bumbles simple tasks. Note: his last name is pronounced like "eye."

Featured Roles

Katie Nanna

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

Neleus (*dance solo*) **Strong Dancer**

Neleus is a statue who, once brought to life by Mary Poppins, is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. This role is a wonderful opportunity to feature one of the strong dancers in your ensemble.

Bird Woman (*vocal solo*) **Singer**

The Bird Woman is 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..

Miss Andrew (*vocal duet with Mary Poppins*) **Singer**

Miss Andrew is George's 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.

Mary Poppins

Mrs. Corry (*vocal duet with Mary Poppins*)

Singer

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.

Miss Smythe

Miss Smythe is the bank Chairman's humorless secretary.

Chairman

Chairman, the head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed, 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.

Von Hussler

Von Hussler is a businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal.

John Northbrook

John Northbrook is an honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory for his community.

Ensemble 1 – Great dancers who can sing

Park Strollers

The Park Strollers are 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.

Chimney Sweeps

Chimney Sweeps (including Sweep 1, Sweep 2, Sweep 3, and Sweep 4) are Bert's cheerful, friendly, and agile friends who keep London's chimneys in working order. This role requires actors that are **great dancers and good singers**, capable of bringing the show-stopping number "Step In Time" to life.

Statues

The Statues are stone sculptures. Thanks to Mary Poppins, these works of art come alive and **dance** with Bert and the Park Strollers.

Honeybees

The Honeybees are conjured by Mary Poppins to help teach the children the benefits of "A Spoonful of Sugar."

Ensemble 2 – Great actors

Clerks

The Clerks, like George, are employees at the bank.

Mary Poppins

Vagrants, Buskers, and Passerby

Vagrants, Buskers, and Passerby are citizens of London passing by the cathedral during "Feed the Birds."

Customers

The Customers are bright, colorful British citizens visiting Mrs. Corry's Talking Shop.

Kite Flyers

Kite Flyers consist of families flying kites in the park.