



Presents

Lionel Bart's

OLIVER!

Children's Auditions

Sunday 19th November

Book your Audition



<https://www.trybooking.com/CNAVO>

Nova's production of **Oliver!** will be performed at *The Round*, Nunawading from Friday 15th March to Sunday 24th March, 2024. Production week will start Monday 11th March with a call time at the theatre of 6:00pm to approximately 10:30pm. **All cast are required to attend all rehearsals in production week.** There will also be a **mandatory** publicity photo call at a day & time to be advised.

Production Team

Director: Noel Browne

Musical Director: Amber Simm

Choreographer: Wayne Robinson

AUDITIONS

DATE: Sunday, November 19, 2023

Please arrive at least **10 minutes before** your audition time in order to complete the required paperwork. Please print and complete the audition form at the end of this pack and bring it with you with a **headshot attached! This is important and is used for identification purposes only!** You will be auditioned in a group of up to 10 people. We will hear you sing and you will also sing part of a song from the show. There will then be a short dance audition where you'll be taught some choreography. Your audition will be 30-40 minutes long in total.

WHERE: NOVA's Rehearsal Hall at 543 Elgar Rd, Mont Albert North

Car Park entrance is on Box Hill Crescent.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Singing (all roles):

Please bring a prepared song for your audition.

The song should be from a musical (but **not from** Oliver!) and in a style that is consistent with the character you are auditioning for. This should be something that you are **very** comfortable with **not** something you learned the day before!

Please **bring sheet music (in the correct key)**. There will be an accompanist at the audition. If photo copied please have it in an interleaved folder for the pianist. **Backing recordings are not acceptable.**

Please be aware that you may not get to sing all of your song due to numbers of people to audition, so if the Audition Panel feels they have heard enough to determine your vocal quality they may stop you mid note. **This should not be taken** as any indicator of whether you will or will not be cast!! It simply means that we are happy with what we have heard.

Dancing:

A dance audition will be held as part of your audition. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes.

Call Backs:

Call Backs (recalls) will be held as required. You will be notified as soon as possible after your singing audition if you will be required for a call back. **NOTE:** No call back **does not** mean that you are not in!! Simply it means that we are happy and have enough information at this stage.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL AUDITIONEES

- Audition time is strictly limited so use your time to show the panel what you can do. No extra time will be available. The panel will be looking for vocal quality, range and pitch as well as dramatic and movement ability.
- Audition pieces should be well prepared. Remember, it is in your own interests to present yourself well.
- An accompanist will be provided.
- Singing unaccompanied or with a CD is **not acceptable**.
- All auditions are private and may only be attended by the panel and auditionees.
- Your singing audition will take about 5 mins and consists of you singing your selected song for the panel. The panel will evaluate your song selection on what we hear. We know what we are looking for, so don't be concerned if you are not required to sing an entire song. It means that we have enough information at this time.
- Please don't apologise to the panel for the state of your health or your voice. **We do take nerves and health** into consideration!
- Please printout and complete the last 2 pages (the audition form) of this document and **attach your headshot (This is important used for identification purposes only!)** and bring this with you to your audition.
- There will be recalls as required. Those required for a call back will be notified as soon as soon as possible after the initial round of auditions.
- **All auditionees** will be notified of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible.
- Please do not contact us, we will definitely contact you either by phone or email.

We expect all cast to be available to attend all rehearsals. **Please provide us** with any dates you are not available during the rehearsal process on the audition form.

And most of all, enjoy it!! This is your moment to shine! Remember that we are on your side! We are just as concerned as you are to have you succeed in convincing us that you are right for this production!

Please note that NOVA reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion, to Not cast any role from these auditions if, in the opinion of the Audition Panel, the right person for the role is not found. In this event Nova may pursue other means to fill a vacant role.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Bringing Charles Dickens' beloved novel to life, Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* takes audiences on a wild adventure through Victorian England. Join young, orphaned Oliver Twist as he navigates the London's underworld of theft and violence, searching for a home, a family, and - most importantly - for love. When Oliver is picked up on the street by a boy named the Artful Dodger, he is welcomed into a gang of child pickpockets led by the conniving, but charismatic, Fagin. When Oliver is falsely accused of a theft he didn't commit, he is rescued by a kind and wealthy gentleman, to the dismay of Fagin's violent sidekick, Bill Sikes. Caught in the middle is the warm-hearted Nancy, who is trapped under Bill's thumb, but desperate to help Oliver, with tragic results. With spirited, timeless songs like "As Long as He Needs Me," "Food, Glorious Food," and "Where Is Love," *Oliver!* is a musical classic.

CHARACTERS (playable ages) & VOCAL RANGES

Character Name	Gender & Playable Age Range	Part Size	Vocal Part(s)	Dance
Oliver Twist	Male 12-13	Lead	Soprano A3-F5	Int Dance
Fagin	Male 40+	Supporting	Bass-Baritone B2-F3	Movement
Bill Sikes	Male Late20s-40s	Supporting	Bass-Baritone C#2-C3	NA
Artful Dodger	Male 14-16	Supporting	Soprano A#3-F5	Int Dance
Nancy	Female mid-20s-30s	Supporting	Alto A3-E5	Exp. Dance
Mr. Bumble	Male 40+	Featured	Tenor	NA
Mr. Sowerberry	Male 40+	Featured	Baritone C2-F3	NA
Mrs. Sowerberry	Female 40+	Featured	Soprano C3-F5	NA
Noah Claypole	Male 17-21	Featured	Spoken	NA
Mr. Brownlow	Male 50s+	Featured	Spoken	NA
Old Sally	Female 60s+	Featured	Spoken	NA
Mrs. Bedwin	Female 40s+	Featured	Spoken	NA
Widow Corney	Female 40s+	Featured	Soprano B2-G5	Movement
Charlotte	Female 16-18	Featured	Spoken	Movement
Bet	Female 13-16	Featured	Alto Ab3-E5	Int Dance
Workhouse Kids	Male & Female 10-14	Ensemble	Soprano/Tenor	Dance
Fagin's Gang	Male & Female 10-14	Ensemble	Soprano/Tenor	Dance
Dr. Grimwig	Male 40s+	Ensemble	Spoken	NA
Adult Ensemble	Either Gender, various ages	Ensemble	Various	Movement – Exp Dance

Character Breakdown

Oliver

British accent. The protagonist of the story, Oliver Twist is a young boy, born in a workhouse and quickly orphaned. Overworked, underfed, and without any family, Oliver sets out on a quest to find a place to belong. Although Oliver is young, small, and innocent, he is also feisty, charming, and intelligent. Oliver has a strong moral compass, and tries to do what's right, even though he's in a world that compels people to be morally grey, at best. Hardly a natural pickpocket, Oliver is naive and tries to believe the best of people -- making him easily manipulated, but still unable to shake his innate sense of right and wrong. He is, however, quite brave and willing to put himself on the line for those he cares about. Oliver's greatest dream is to be loved. The actor playing Oliver should have strong, charismatic stage presence, a vulnerable but tough personality, and a strong child's voice.

Fagin

Cockney accent. An intelligent, sneaky, and charming career criminal. Fagin takes in homeless boys and teaches them to be pickpockets. As a young man, Fagin was a petty criminal, himself, but is now aging and greedy. A true coward, Fagin prefers to have others do the dirty work, while he benefits. Fagin is complex-- he is at once a father figure, a master, a scoundrel, and an eccentric vagabond. Unlike in the novel and in film adaptations, in the stage play Fagin often factors in as comic relief. The actor playing Fagin should have charm for days, a great sense of humour, and a depth that betrays the notion of a one-sided career criminal.

Bill Sykes

Cockney accent. Cruel, brutish, and merciless, Bill is a professional burglar and former student of thievery under Fagin's tutelage. Bill has taken another former pickpocket from Fagin's gang, Nancy, as his lover. A dangerous abuser, Bill treats the things he cares about most with contempt and violence. Bill is bad to the bone, lacking empathy or remorse. Prone to fits of rage, Bill can turn violent at the slightest provocation. He's a heavy drinker, and is even more violent when drunk. At the end of the play, Bill beats Nancy to death.

Artful Dodger

Cockney accent. An orphan boy who was taken in by Fagin, a retired thief, and taught to be a pickpocket. Dodger is well-spoken, precocious, and utterly charming. Though just a boy, he acts, speaks, and dresses like a grown man. Dodger is the most intelligent of Fagin's boys, so he's considered Fagin's "right hand man," and picks up recruits (like Oliver Twist) to add to Fagin's roster. Dodger is physically deft, making him an excellent pickpocket and easing his escapes from the police, and he knows the city and his trade like the back of his hand. The actor playing Dodger should have a strong, dynamic stage presence, a quirky, bright personality, and a strong unchanged voice.

Nancy

Mid-20s, Cockney accent. A young prostitute, Nancy was once a child pickpocket in Fagin's gang, and now is the lover of gang leader Fagin's right-hand man, Bill Sikes. Nancy must hold many truths at once-- she has a strong moral compass, but returns to Bill even when he mistreats her. Nancy comes to truly care about

Oliver, the young orphan, but struggles to come to terms with the way Bill, the man she loves, abuses the boy. Despite the fact that Nancy is a career criminal, she is noble, kind-hearted, and moral. Like many abused women, Nancy returns to Bill because she has no one and nowhere else to run. Eventually, her denial of Bill's violent nature catches up with Nancy; in a particularly violent bout of abuse, Bill beats her to death. The actor playing Nancy should have a strong lower range and a belt up to C#5. She should be an actor everyone wants to root for, with emotional depth and heart.

Mr Bumble

Mid-50-ish, British accent. Mr. Bumble is the town "beadle" (a petty officer of a certain parish,) and oversees the workhouse where Oliver Twist is born. He claims to work for Christian morals, but his behaviour serves himself much more than it serves any heavenly power. Mr. Bumble is self-righteous, greedy, and cruel to the children and impoverished people under his care. May double in the ensemble.

Mr Sowerberry

The town undertaker, to whom Oliver Twist is apprenticed. He is stingy, slimy, and defers entirely to his wife. The actor playing Mr. Sowerberry should have excellent comedic timing and a witty sense of humour. Will double in the ensemble.

Mrs Sowerberry

The wife of Mr. Sowerberry, the undertaker. Mrs. Sowerberry is mean-spirited, judgmental, and constantly nagging her henpecked husband. Will double in the ensemble.

Noah Claypole

16 to 18 years old, Cockney accent. Noah is apprenticed to Mr. Sowerberry, the undertaker. He is pimply, cowardly, and an nasty bully. He treats Oliver, the younger apprentice, quite poorly, taunting him and beating him. Noah enjoys a flirty relationship with the Sowerberry's daughter, Charlotte. Will double in the ensemble.

Mr Bownlow

Upper class British accent. Mr. Brownlow is a wealthy, intelligent gentleman who becomes orphan Oliver's benefactor. It transpires that he is, in fact, Oliver's grandfather. Mr. Brownlow is compassionate, understanding, and willing to stand up for what he believes is right. May sing in the ensemble.

Old Sally

Cockney accent. The nurse at Oliver's birth in the workhouse. She steals Oliver's mother Agnes' gold locket after she dies in childbirth, which ends up being a clue to Oliver's identity. Will double in the ensemble.

Mrs Bedwin

British accent. The kind, warm, and generous housekeeper of Mr. Brownlow. Will double in the ensemble.

Widow Corney

Cockney accent. The matron at the workhouse where Oliver Twist is born. She is cruel, greedy, and hypocritical. Like Mr. Bumble, the beadle (who she eventually marries,) the Widow Corney professes to be righteous, but behaves callously towards others. In her marriage with Mr. Bumble, she is demeaning and demanding. May double in the ensemble.

Charlotte

Late teen. The rude and obnoxious daughter of the Sowerberrys, who run the local funeral parlor. Charlotte takes great pleasure in teasing young Oliver Twist, and flirts lasciviously with the Sowerberry's apprentice, Noah Claypole. Will double in the ensemble.

Bet

Late teen/young adult. Cockney accent. One of Fagin's former child pickpockets, Bet is now a friend of Nancy, and a fellow prostitute. She idolizes Nancy, and is charmed by little Oliver. She fantasizes about wealth and class, but it doesn't come naturally to her. Will double in the ensemble.

Workhouse kids

Child, Early Teen. The orphaned children at the workhouse where Oliver is born. They are poor, brow-beaten and underfed, but each has a unique personality and perspective on his or her situation. Should be strong singers with unchanged voices and comfortable movers.

Fagin's Gang

Child, Early Teen. The gang of pickpockets who are housed and fed by Fagin. He teaches them to pick pockets, takes what they get, and gives them food and shelter. Most are orphans and homeless. All actors playing members of Fagin's gang should have bright, unique personalities and a strong singing voice.

Dr Grimweg

British accent. A friend of the wealthy and generous Mr. Brownlow, Dr. Grimwig examines Oliver at Mr. Brownlow's request. He is, in contrast to Brownlow, pessimistic, cynical, and jaded. At the core, however, he is a good man; his curmudgeonly attitude is merely a quirk of character. May double in the ensemble.

Adult Ensemble

British accent and Cockney accent. Ensemble members may play various roles, including bar keepers, street merchants, police officers, workhouse employees, and London citizens. There are featured solo lines for the following ensemble tracks: Rose Seller, Strawberry Seller, Milk Maid, Knife Grinder, Long Song Seller.

Musical Numbers

Act I

- Prologue / Overture – Orchestra
- Food, Glorious Food– Workhouse Boys
- Oliver!– Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney
- I Shall Scream – Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney
- Boy for Sale – Mr. Bumble
- That's Your Funeral – Mr. Sowerberry, Mrs. Sowerberry, and Mr. Bumble
- Coffin Music – Orchestra
- [Where is Love?](#) – Oliver
- The Fight - Orchestra
- Oliver's Escape – Orchestra
- [Consider Yourself](#) – The Artful Dodger, Oliver, and Chorus
- You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two – Fagin and Fagin's Gang
- It's a Fine Life – Nancy, Bet, and Fagin's Gang
- I'd Do Anything– The Artful Dodger, Nancy, Oliver, Bet, Fagin, and Fagin's Gang
- Be Back Soon – Fagin, The Artful Dodger, Oliver and Fagin's Gang
- Capture of Oliver – Orchestra

Act II

- Oom-Pah-Pah – Nancy and Chorus
- My Name – Bill Sikes
- [As Long as He Needs Me](#) – Nancy
- Where Is Love? (Reprise) – Mrs. Bedwin
- Who Will Buy? – Oliver, Vendors, and Chorus
- It's a Fine Life (Reprise) – Bill Sikes, Nancy, Fagin, and The Artful Dodger
- [Reviewing the Situation](#) – Fagin
- Oliver! (Reprise) – Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney
- As Long As He Needs Me (Reprise) – Nancy
- London Bridge – Orchestra
- Reviewing the Situation (Reprise) – Fagin
- Finale – Company

Rehearsal and Performance Information

Location: Unless otherwise notified, rehearsals are held at the NOVA MUSIC THEATRE Rehearsal Hall, Elgar Rd, Mont Albert North

Meet & Greet: Tuesday, XXX 7:30pm at NOVA's hall.

Rehearsals will start: Tuesday, XXX. 7:30pm. All cast will be required. Late November to week before Christmas and resume last week in January.

Rehearsals are held at the following times. A detailed schedule will be provided and in the early stages of rehearsal you may not be required for all rehearsals. Children will be scheduled on Sundays and before 9pm on week days.

Tuesday nights - 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Thursday nights – 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Sunday afternoons - 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Weekend Rehearsal: Boronia K-12 College, Saturday & Sunday, TBA

Theatre Rehearsal Dates:

Sitzprobe: TBA

Production Week Rehearsals: (Cast required for all rehearsals) at The theatre – “The Round”.

- Monday 11th March 2024 – Piano Tech Dress Run
- Dress Rehearsals: 12th, 13th, 14th March 2024

Performances: Total of 8 performances with 4 matinees

- Friday, 15th March 7:30pm
- Saturday, 16th March 1:30pm
- Saturday, 16th March 7:30pm
- Sunday, 17th March 1:30pm
- Friday, 22nd March 7:30pm
- Saturday, 23rd March 1:30pm
- Saturday, 23rd March 7:30pm
- Sunday, 24th March 1:30pm

Call times in the theatre will be 1.5 hours prior to start times (6:00pm evenings and 12:00pm matinees) unless otherwise notified.

Cast members are expected to attend for the **photo call, costume fitting, publicity and promotional events** as required. These dates will be notified asap.

Bump Out: Sunday, after final performance – all cast are expected to help with this.

Show Fees: Adult Fees for cast are set at \$150. Children’s fees are set at \$75. Those who were in Cinderella only pay the show fee not the membership fee. The fees cover NOVA Music Theatre membership, Show Fees, Insurance, Tea & Coffee during rehearsals, Dinner between shows on Saturday 16 October, a show mug & certificate, Production Photos & Headshots for the program. Fees are payable at the Meet & Greet.

Important Parent's Information

Rehearsals

Arrival - We ask that parents please bring their child 15 mins before the start time of their rehearsal. This is to ensure they don't miss out on any warmups and are on time for rehearsal to start promptly. Children 15 years and over can be dropped off, but if there is any change in the person who will be picking them up, this needs to be written on the sign in sheet including a contact number.

Nova will try to be as specific as possible about rehearsal finishing times, however sometimes rehearsals may go a little later than expected. We thank you for your patience with this.

Pick up – Parents or guardians picking up children will need to come into the hall and sign out their child regardless of age. As there is no waiting area and restricted room within the rehearsal hall, people entering the hall may distract the cast from the scene they may be running. We ask that parents stay in their cars until they see the doors open and cast exiting before coming in to pick up and **sign out** their child. It is advised that parents aim to get to the hall around 10 minutes before scheduled pick up time, so children and supervisors aren't waiting for parents to arrive.

Supervision – The safety of the children is of utmost importance to NOVA and due to the nature of the rehearsal hall and location, we need to ensure that children are not leaving the rehearsal space unattended and are held responsibly throughout the rehearsal, particularly during breaks. The production team and cast will be heavily involved in the rehearsal and therefore are unable to provide this. We therefore require parental assistance with this.

Julie Wright will contact parents about their availability once a rehearsal schedule has been drawn up to create a roster for rehearsal supervision. It will also help parents get to know the show, how the show runs from start to finish and what scenes the children are in. This will be of benefit during the show when parent supervisors will oversee the children at the theatre (see more below).

Tea/coffee is available at the hall and parents are welcome to help themselves during the rehearsals.

Performances

As parents of children in NOVA's production of Oliver! you will be needed as a dressing room supervisor once rehearsals move to THE ROUND Theatre in Nunawading. The children may be a dressing room with other female cast, so **supervisors for performances will need to be women only.**

Duties of supervising parents may include:

- Taking the children to sign in and have their radio mic fitted.
- Staying side stage with children during sound checks.
- Ensuring children have the correct costume and make-up for each scene, assisting them if needed.
- Ensuring that children are quiet in the dressing rooms as noise travels to the auditorium.
- Ensuring children do not leave the dressing room without supervision except to go to stage
- Ensuring all children are picked up by a parent at the end of the night.
- Assisting children in hanging up costumes etc. at the end of each night.

(Other tasks may arise and / or the above list of duties may change once we get into the new theatre and understand the location of dressing rooms etc. Julie will update as soon as possible.)

Performance Period Roster Dates

Below is a list of dates and times NOVA requires dressing room supervisors. Please contact Julie by 15th February to advise what dates you are/ are not available to supervise.

Date	Call	Start Time*
Production Week:		
Mon 11/3	Cast Call	6pm
Tue 12/3	Tech Run and Sitzprobe	6pm
Wed 13/3	Full Dress Rehearsal	6pm
Thur 14/3	Full Dress Rehearsal	6pm
Opening Weekend:		
Fri 15/3	Performance 1 – Evening	6pm
Sat 16/3	Matinee	12noon
Sat 16/3	Evening Performance	6pm
Sun 17/3	Matinee Performance	12noon
Second Weekend:		
Thu 22/3 (TBA)	Evening Performance	6pm
Fri 22/3	Evening Performance	6pm
Sat 23/3	Matinee Performance	12 noon
	CAST DINNER (TBC)	5.00pm
	Evening Performance	6pm
Sun 24/4	Matinee Performance	12pm

*Finish time will be at the conclusion of rehearsal (including time for notes if applicable) or performance. This may vary according to rehearsal needs.

Working with Children – Due to NOVA policies and child safety expectations, parents supervising will need to have a **current Working with Children Check (WCC)**. If you don't

already have one for work or other activities, a volunteer check can be obtained free of charge. You can apply at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/ . Please list NOVA Music Theatre under Organisation details, so that NOVA is notified as soon as your application is approved. You will need to have at least applied for a WCC before you can supervise at rehearsals, so please start your application as soon as possible. Please contact Julie if you need assistance with obtaining your WCC.

Cast Party - The cast party is not organised by NOVA music theatre but has deemed the cast party not suitable for underage cast members*. It is important that your children understand this, so they don't become disappointed in not being invited. It is suggested that parents may want to organise a dinner at a local restaurant or other child only event for after they have completed their duties for bump out after the last performance, so they don't feel like they are missing out.

**Please note, NOVA considers children aged 16 and under as 'underage'. Cast members between 16 and 18 may attend the cast party with strict parental supervision only, and it is suggested that they only stay for the first hour or two.*

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and again, if you have any questions or concerns with anything contained here, please do not hesitate to contact Julie on 0414 898 384 or any of the other members listed in the cast Membership booklet.

Song _____

OLIVER!

**Attach Photo Here
Please**

Name

Address:

Phone: Mobile: E-Mail

Role you are auditioning for:

Will you accept another role: Y N Will you work in chorus: Y N

Do you read music: Y N Play an instrument: Y N Dance: Y N

List your experience & training here or attach CV.

Are you auditioning for another production: Y N Are you in another production: Y N

Are you available to Rehearse on Tuesday & Thursday evenings & Sunday PM: Y N

We may also call rehearsals at other times in necessary.

Please list any dates your child is unavailable.....

Please be sure that you are prepared to give this production your **FULL commitment!** In order to present a professional standard production, **we expect the cast to approach it professionally, in every way!**

We require you to **attend all rehearsals** as called and devote time to develop your Acting, Singing & Movement skills in order to convincingly portray your character. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be issued regularly giving adequate notice of your required rehearsal calls attendance.

Initial music calls will be held for the first few weeks Tuesday & Thursday & choreography will follow on Sunday afternoons. Setting scenes (blocking) will commence as the music is learned.

All scheduled rehearsals MUST be attended! Absences disrupt the rehearsal process.

****NOTE! Absences may necessitate replacing you in the production!****

To meet the above criteria the following must be agreed to:

- Attend rehearsals as called.
- Contribute to the production enthusiastically.
- Take direction.
- Wear costumes, wigs & makeup as directed.
- Attend publicity/photo calls.
- Attend working bees as rostered.
- Supply footwear as directed by wardrobe coordinator.
- Give **full co-operation** at all times to the production team.
- Attend costume calls.
- Arrive **on time (10 minutes before start time)** in order to start promptly.
- Do not miss **any** rehearsal calls.
- **Maintain a positive and supportive attitude towards the company and the production team!**
- **Sell tickets to the show.**
- **Inform the Production Secretary as early as possible of any absences from rehearsals.**
- **Parents will be required to be rostered on for supervision. Our Children's Coordinator will organize this.**

I have read the above and, if accepted into the production, I agree to abide by these criteria.

I agree to have my child's name listed on the cast list to be published on the NOVA website, Social Media Platforms & used for other publicity. YES NO

Signed **Date**
Parent/Guardian