

Floyd Central Theatre Arts Presents:
THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD
Audition Information

High School Auditions:	Thursday, August 4 Singing begins at 3pm, Dance call begins at 3:30.
Location:	Floyd Central High School Choir Room & Dance Studio
Who Can Audition?	9th-12th grade Floyd Central High School Students
Roles	All roles are available to all students Please see attached list for character breakdown

What Do I Prepare or Bring With Me?

- 16-32 bars of a musical theatre song. Please bring accompaniment sheet music. (a pianist will be provided)
- The choreography for the dance is provided in advance via video. Students may learn either video depending on their comfort or ability. Bring jazz, character, or gym shoes. The tap call is optional. If you choose to participate, bring your own tap shoes.
- Bring the CAST EXPECTATIONS document printed out and signed with you to your audition. Printed copies are available in Studio One.

You MUST complete this required Audition Form BEFORE arriving at audition:

<https://forms.gle/6kLjYCLPazofDsxxA>

Callbacks for some roles will be held on **Thursday, August 11**. Details will be shared after initial auditions.

What will help me succeed in my audition?

- Act the song! We love hearing pretty voices, but this show is a melodramatic farce that needs exaggerated facial expressions, over-the-top characters, and character choices, from leads to ensemble. We are looking for strong and committed actors.
- Prepare what you are going to say before you come into the audition room. Include speaking to the accompanist and slating in your audition practice.
- For the dance call, get together with other students to practice prior to auditions! Dance is so much less intimidating when you have someone to work (werk!) with.
- Practice, Practice, Practice! If you fail to prepare, you are preparing to fail.
- Take a breath and share your talents! We want you to succeed and are cheering you on!

Have other audition questions? Audition FAQ: www.floydcentraltheatre.org/audition-faq.html

The Mystery of Edwin Drood Characters

The actors in this production have two parts: their actor-self as a member of the Music Hall Royale, and the part they play in the Music Hall's production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. In the descriptions below, the acting company member is listed first, with the Drood role second. There are 8 suspects in the murder, who will be expected to learn multiple endings. All characters have British accents – variations like Cockney, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, etc are fine as well.

Chairperson/Mayor Thomas Sapsea - The leader of the music hall troupe and our host for the evening. The Chairperson carries the majority of the dialogue; must be quick with a joke, able to improvise, and have clear and crisp diction. S/he is in charge of keeping the pace of the show moving. Unexpectedly fills in as the Mayor in Drood when another actor fails to show up.

James or Joyce Throttle - the Stage Manager for the Musical Hall Royale who helps to keep the Chairperson on track throughout the play.

Clive Paget/John Jasper - The Royale's male lead, a devilishly attractive man who loves to flirt with the audience. In *Drood*, he is the villain. Rosa Bud's vocal teacher. His calm cool exterior hides that he is madly in love (obsessed) with Rosa Bud, despite the fact that she is promised to his nephew, Edwin Drood. A suspect.

Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood - Prima donna and London's leading male impersonator with a lot of talent, ego and love for her little dog. Must command the stage with bravado and charm. As Edwin Drood, she is an attractive, rich, and popular young man who has everything.

Deirdre Peregrine/Rosa Bud - The not-so-innocent ingenue of the Music Hall Royale, Deirdre portrays the young, beautiful and apparently fragile Rosa Bud. Rosa is betrothed to her childhood friend Edwin Drood, the only man who isn't in love with her. A suspect.

Angela Prysock/Princess Puffer - Angela has been a favorite of London audiences forever, a staple of the stage. As the mysterious Princess Puffer, she is the opium dealer and general purveyor of vice of all kinds. Rough around the edges but still glamorous. A suspect.

Janet Conover/Helena Landless: Janet is a long-standing member of the acting troupe, asked to play Helena Landless who returns to England after her family colonized Ceylon. She is protective, mysterious, and a little bit snotty. A suspect.

Victor Grinstead/Neville Landless: Victor is enjoying his first-ever performance with the Music Hall Royale. His character, Neville, is Helena's twin brother. Very passionate and often angry, with uncontrollable eyebrows. He Falls for Rosa Bud, falls out with Edwin, and is therefore another suspect in the murder.

Cedric Moncrieffe/Reverend Crisparkle - Cedric is an open book. Crisparkle is a local clergyman who was once in love with Rosa Bud's mother. He seems reverent, and yet sometimes he borders on just a little creepy, always saying the wrong thing. A suspect

Phillip Bax/Bazzard - Devotee of the theatre, the everlasting understudy, and a sad sort of funny man. He may be forgotten, or may have a major part if the evening turns out that way. In his role as Bazzard, he is often an audience-favorite suspect who is very capable of stealing the whole show. A suspect (can be played by a man or woman)

Nick Cricker, Sr./Durdles - “Clown Prince of the Royale” who makes the most of every line. In *Drood*, he plays the drunk gravedigger and comic relief. A suspect.

Nick Cricker, Jr./Deputy - The upcoming comic of the Royale. As the Deputy, he is the lowest in the pecking order, and very funny. A bit of a street rat.

Wendy and Beatrice - Members of the company, these characters are contemporaries of Rosa Bud who sing a fabulous quartet with Rosa and Helena in Act I as well as participating in the rest of the company goings-on.

Flo - a young showgirl who is over-excited about getting to the big number at the end of Act I.

Company Members - These are important characters throughout, taking much of the responsibility for creating the world of the play, and working individually with sections of the audience. Actors must have great audience engagement, improvisational skills, and not be afraid of talking to strangers.

Company Dancers - The showgirls of the music hall royal. Trying to earn their keep and make a living by doing whatever they have to do. Ballet and tap required.

***A note on Neville and Helena:** In the original 1980s production, these were white actors who performed with stereotypical east-asian accents and brownface. We acknowledge that this is based in history, but FCTA strives to be sensitive to a modern understanding of cultural appropriation and disrespect. In our production, these two characters are the children of a colonist of any ethnicity, who have returned to England and are now singled out as foreigners based on where they grew up, despite their British citizenship. Students called back for these roles should plan on performing two distinct accents or voices to separate their characters. One is the “actor,” and the other should be the over-the-top “character.” This is a farce, after all!