



Leicester Theatre Group is really excited, after our sold out run of Les Misérables at the Little Theatre Leicester, to bring the high energy excitement that is Cats to the same theatre in the week of Sept 17th 2018.

As always with our shows we are looking for more talent. Hopefully you can join us for auditions. We will be having full singing auditions too but our main dancers for this show will only be expected to hold a tune and can audition in small groups. If you have a great voice and can dance, we would very much like to see you of course!

The creative team for the show will be headed up by a former star of the West End Cats production Zoe Curlett who will be our Creative Director and choreograph the show.

The age limit for this is 10yrs for the kittens and up to 21yrs (on or before March 17th 2018) for the Cats. Fees for the show will be £125 and that covers everything including costumes and can be paid in instalments.

Rehearsals will start on April 8th 2018 and every Sunday and Wednesday from then. Wednesdays will be singing and lead rehearsals only until very close to the show. Rehearsals avoid the majority of dance school times, so you won't miss a thing at your school/college.

Audition dates

Please choose a date and book yourself in by emailing leicestertheatregroup@gmail.com.

- Sunday Feb 18th 10am – 1pm - **Dancers session with group singing auditions**
- Tuesday Feb 20th 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- Sunday March 18th 2pm – 6pm
- Sunday March 25th 2pm – 6pm

Recall auditions for lead singing roles will be Wed 28th March 6pm till 9pm

Audition location - Active Arts 35-49 Pool Rd, LE3 9GH

Information about what to do for the auditions is below as well as character details. Good luck for the auditions and we look forward to seeing you there.

DANCE AUDITIONS

You don't need to prepare anything. Come dressed appropriately in dance wear. We will teach you a routine which will be Jazz based and then you will be given the opportunity to show off any skills you have. The show needs acrobatics so let us know what you can do. This applies to both sets of auditions.

SINGING AUDITIONS

Dancers who are not confident singers – No need to prepare anything. We will put you into small groups. We must ensure that everyone is at least in tune so your group will do an exercise with our Musical Director.

Everyone else – You need to prepare a song, not from Cats please. Make sure it's from a musical otherwise a free choice. Bring the backing track with you on a device with an aux lead.

At recalls we may call back dancers and anyone we are looking at for the lead roles. You may be asked to sing a Cats song at that stage.

Cats – The storyline is below along with the main parts available.

Cats is a musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by T. S. Eliot, and produced by Cameron Mackintosh. The musical tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles and the night they make what is known as "the Jellicle choice" and decide which cat will ascend to the Heaviside Layer and come back to a new life. *Cats* introduced the song standard "Memory". The first performance of *Cats* was in 1981.

Directed by Trevor Nunn and choreographed by Gillian Lynne, *Cats* first opened in the West End in 1981 and then with the same creative team on Broadway in 1982. It won numerous awards, including Best Musical at both the Laurence Olivier Awards and the Tony Awards. The London production ran for 21 years and the Broadway production ran for 18 years, both setting new records. Actresses Elaine Paige and Betty Buckley became particularly associated with the musical. One actress, Marlene Danielle, performed in the Broadway production for its entire run (from 1982 until 2000).

As of 2016, *Cats* is the fourth-longest-running show in Broadway history, and was the longest running Broadway show in history from 1997 until 2006 when it was surpassed by *The Phantom of the Opera*. *Cats* is the sixth-longest-running West End musical. It has been performed around the world many times and has been translated into more than 20 languages.

Principal characters



Jennyanydots (Left) and Skimbleshanks in the Polish production of *Cats*, December 2007.

- **Asparagus / Gus** – An elderly actor, known as "the Theatre cat".
- **Bombalurina** – A red queen with a flame-colored pelt and an interest in the Rum Tum Tugger. She sings "Macavity" alongside Demeter and is 1 third of the "Gumbie trio" with Jellylorum and Demeter.
- **Bustopher Jones** – A fat cat respected by all, as the upper-class "St. James's Street Cat." He is described as "the Brummell of cats" due to his immaculate pelt, which resembles a tuxedo and spats. In most productions, the actor playing Gus also plays Bustopher, though in early productions the part was handled by the actor playing Old Deuteronomy.
- **Demeter** – A skittish queen. She sings "Macavity" alongside Bombalurina and is 1 third of the "Gumbie trio" with Jellylorum and Bombalurina.
- **Griddlebone** – Growltiger's lover in *Growltiger's Last Stand*, in which she sings *The Ballad of Billy M'Caw* or the mock Italian aria *In Una Tepida Notte* (depending on production). The name is from a cat in T. S. Eliot's collection of poems *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. Griddlebone is a white fluffy Persian queen who first appears in the poem 'Growltiger's Last Stand'. She inadvertently leads to the demise of her suitor, the dreaded Growltiger, to the hands of a gang of Siamese cats. She is one of the cats whose wicked deeds are widely known as an alleged agent for the cat who controls the operations, "The Napoleon of Crime," Macavity. Griddlebone appears in most productions of the play, usually played by the same actress playing Jellylorum, but not in the film version.
- **Grizabella** – A former "glamour cat", ostracised by the Jellicles, who has lost her sparkle and now only wants to be accepted.
- **Growltiger** – A theatrical character Gus recalls playing in his youth, and who appears in Gus' memory of the production of *Growltiger's Last Stand*. In some productions he is portrayed as a vicious pirate; in others, he is more comical.
- **Jellylorum** – A queen who watches out for the kittens, along with Jennyanydots. She sings "Gus: The Theatre Cat". Named after T. S. Eliot's own cat.
- **Jemima** – A kitten. She becomes the first cat to accept Grizabella when she sings alongside her in Memory (reprise) and sings a solo during The Moments of Happiness.
- **Jennyanydots** – The old Gumbie cat. She sits all day and rules the mice and cockroaches at night, forcing them to undertake helpful functions and creative projects, to curb their naturally destructive habits.
- **Macavity** – A notorious criminal known as The Napoleon of Crime. The character is a literary allusion to the Sherlock Holmes character Professor Moriarty.
- **Mr. Mistoffelees** – A young tuxedo tom learning to control his magical powers. He is a featured dancer, performing a minimum of twenty-four fouettés en tournant during his number. Mistoffelees' chorus identity is sometimes known as **Quaxo**.

- **Mungojerrie** – One-half of a notorious duo of cat-burglars, with Rumpleteazer, J.Francis,
- **Munkustrap** – The show's main narrator. A tabby tomcat who is storyteller and protector of the Jellicle tribe. He is Old Deuteronomy's second-in-command.
- **Old Deuteronomy** – The elderly Jellicle Leader.
- **Rumpleteazer** – One half of a notorious duo of cat-burglars, with Mungojerrie.
- **The Rum Tum Tugger** – A flashy cat. His temperament ranges from clownish to serious.
- **Skimbleshanks** – The railway cat. An active orange tabby cat, who lives on the trains and acts as an unofficial chaperone to such an extent he is considered rather indispensable to the train and station employees.
- **Victoria** – A white kitten. She is a featured dancer, opening with a solo in "Invitation to the Jellicle Ball" and is the first character to touch Grizabella.

Pictures from Leicester Theatre Group's 2013 production of Cats



Best wishes, and good luck with your auditions
 Karl Strickland (Producer), Zoe Curlett (Creative Director)