



# La Cage Aux Folles

FALL 2019

## AUDITION INFORMATION

### Show Synopsis

La Cage aux Folles is a delightful Broadway Musical romp. Beautiful music, a touching love story, and the drag performing Cagelles, combine with great comedy to make a wonderful evening of entertainment. It is the only Musical to have won the Tony for Best Musical (1983) as well as two additional Tony's for Best Rival of a Musical (2004 and 2010). The original production won a total of six Tony's, including Best Score. Written by Jerry Herman of Hello Dolly (1964) and Mame (1966) fame, and Harvey Fierstein, the show is structured in a traditional manner for its time. The story it told is what makes the show unique. Considered adventurous in 1983, La Cage aux Folles tells the love story of George and Albin, a gay couple who having raised George's son Jean-Michel, need to resolve how to deal with his wish that their relationship is kept a secret from the ultra-conservative parents of his fiancée. Secondary love stories include Jean Michael with George, Albin, and his fiancée Anne.

Georges and his husband Albin, stage name Zaza, run a St Tropez nightclub, La Cage aux Folles, where the stars and the chorus line are men in drag. Georges and his Albin are deeply in love and have lived happily together for many years. Georges' son Jean-Michel (the result of a casual liaison some twenty four years before) arrives home with news. He's engaged to Anne. That's the good news. The bad news is that her father is head of the Tradition, Family and Morality Party, whose sworn aim among other right wing ideas is to close the local drag clubs. And her parents want to meet their daughter's future in-laws. Jean-Michel has described Georges as a retired diplomat, but believes his parent's life style will ruin his ambition to marry Anne. Jean-Michel has a solution. Albin will absent himself for the visit, Georges will invite Jean-Michel's estranged birth mother - and all the furniture will be changed for something less ... flamboyant. Having been asked to skip the introduction dinner party, Albin defiantly and unapologetically sings "I Am What I Am". This show stopping number was a pivotal moment in the story and a ground breaking moment for Broadway bringing the gay lifestyle to mainstream public.

The next morning Georges finds Albin on the beach and suggests that he attends the introduction dinner as macho uncle Al. Back at the apartment, now transformed into a cell reminiscent of a monastery, Georges receives a telegram. Jean-Michel's mother Sybil isn't coming. What to do? A ring at the door. Anne's parents arrive. Albin, unable to feel comfortable as Uncle Al sees his opportunity, flees to his room, and emerges as a buxom forty-year-old Mother. Jacob has burned the dinner. A trip to a local restaurant, Chez Jacqueline, belonging to an old friend of Albin and Georges, is quickly arranged. No one has briefed Jacqueline on the situation and she asks Albin for a song. Alas, as Zaza, he completely forgets himself and at the rousing company song "The Best of Times" climax tears off his wig, as is Zaza's custom, revealing his true identity.

For more information, maps, etc. visit our website at: [www.e-m-p.ca](http://www.e-m-p.ca)

Back at the apartment the Dindons make their disapproval known. Their daughter is not persuaded. She's in love with Jean-Michel and will stay with him. The Dindons prepare to leave. Their way is blocked by Jacqueline, who has arrived with the Press! How piquant to have a picture of the most notorious anti-homosexual with the most famous St Tropez homosexuals. Georges and Albin have a solution. Anne and their son must be allowed to marry, of course. And the Dindon's will be allowed to escape - through La Cage aux Folles next door! And that is what happens, in a farcical ending, with the Dindon's dressed as artistes of the revue, and Mr. Dindon as the ugliest drag queen imaginable! So all ends happily - at least for everyone for whom it should.

## **Artistic Team**

### **Clive Lacey – Director**

Clive comes from a community theatre family and except for a 10 year break as a hockey Dad, has been performing, designing and directing in community theatre his entire adult life. EMP has been Clive's musical theatre home since 1982 when he joined the ensemble of Mame. Memorable roles at EMP include, Herod in JC Superstar, (the first one), Henry in My Fair Lady, Fagin in Oliver, Cladwell in Urinetown, and Julian Marsh in 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Clive designed the EMP sets for Brigadoon, Cabaret (twice), and West Side Story. Clive's directorial debut with EMP was Anne of Green Gables in 2008. He subsequently directed and designed EMP productions of The Producers in 2010, Jesus Christ Superstar in 2011, and Les Miserable in 2014. After the Les Miserable marathon a little break from directing was required, but Clive is excited to get back in the directorial ring for La Cage and participate in telling the lovely story contained in this ground breaking Broadway classic.

### **Mark Peterson – Musical Director**

Mark is excited to get back to EMP where he last MD'd for Les Misérables. A graduate of the University of Western Ontario's faculty of Music, Mark studied trumpet and voice during his degree in addition to working steadily as a pianist and voice coach. Mark enjoys doing theatre as a music director, rehearsal pianist and trumpet player. Some favourite experiences include Les Misérables, his all-time favourite musical and the reason he became a musician in the first place, Jesus Christ Superstar and Anne of Green Gables at EMP, as well as several productions of Into the Woods - his \*second\* favourite show. Mark is the Head of Music (and Dance!) at Mayfield Secondary School in Caledon, where he is privileged to work with some of the best teenagers on the planet. Enough about me - let's get started working on La Cage!

### **Baiba Senecal, Choreographer**

Baiba is excited to be back after choreographing Christmas Carol the Musical and Guys and Dolls for EMP.

She trained in ballet, ballroom, jazz and tap and then spent years dancing professionally on TV and the stage. She danced in a professional modern ballet company as well as a folk dancing troupe before competing in ballroom. Baiba went into teaching dance and finally choreographing musical theatre professionally and at the community theatre level. Such a joy bringing a musical to life.

**Rehearsals:** Monday & Wednesday Evenings, 7:15 pm -10:30 pm  
Sunday Afternoons, 12:15 - 6:00 pm  
First Rehearsal Sunday July 28, 2019—12:15 – 6 pm

*Note: not all cast members are called for all rehearsals, but must be available if called.*

*Note: it is possible that additional rehearsals could be called from time to time.*

**Performances:** 8 shows over 2 weekends: Evening performances are at 8pm (6pm call);  
Matinees are at 2pm (12pm call)  
October 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 2019 (Evenings)  
October 20, 26, 27, 2019 (Matinees)

**Performances will take place at Meadowvale Theatre, Mississauga.**

**Other information:** All members of the cast are required to become members of EMP and pay membership fees. In addition, all cast members are expected to help out in other areas of the production *from time to time* with activities such as flyer drops, set construction and painting, etc. All cast members assist in move in and strike after the final performance.

### Audition & Call-back Dates

- Auditions – Tues. May 14 (8:30 – 10:30), Wed. May 15 (7:50 – 10:30), Tues. May 21 (8:30 – 10:30)
- Call-back date - Sunday – June 2 (12:15-6:00 pm)
- Location: Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Etobicoke.

### Audition Format & Requirements:

Auditions are booked in 7-minute increments on the available date of choice.

#### Monologue

- Prepare a SHORT COMEDIC monologue, 60 seconds in length (max).
  - You may be asked to do some basic improvisational work with the monologue.

#### Music

- If auditioning for a principal role please prepare 2 songs, **one up-tempo** and **one ballad** musical theatre song in the style of the show. All other auditioners should prepare 1 song. Please no pop or rock songs, or songs from the show.
- It is usually wise to select the best 30 – 40 bars of your selected song and be prepared for redirect
  - You **MUST** bring sheet music, in the correct key for the accompanist. Pre-recorded accompaniment is not permitted. Please, no a cappella
  - You *may* be asked to perform some basic vocal range tests or improvisational work with the song

#### Dance

- Everyone auditioning will participate in a movement / dance audition. The group audition will occur in the middle of each audition session. If your audition time is set during the first part of the session, you will be asked to wait in the audition location until after the dance portion. If your audition time is set during the last part of the session, you will be advised about your arrival time for the dance audition.
- There are numerous roles for all levels of movement and dance. There are a few large numbers that require strong dancers - male and female. Wear comfortable clothing and footwear. Dancers auditioning for the Cagelles will be doing a kick line and any tricks that they are capable of i.e. cartwheels, splits etc.

Individuals will be advised if they are called back for a role (or roles) by end of day on May 22, 2019 after the initial auditions. Arrangements will be made to get call back material to those

chosen, most likely by e-mail. *Please ensure your e-mail contact information is accurate at time of audition!*

All principal roles and potentially some supporting/featured roles will require a call back. Casting for all roles will be announced as soon as possible after call backs. (See also call back requirements, below). All of those auditioning will be notified via email or phone (their choice) as to their casting status as soon as possible after June 2, 2016.

Please arrive for your audition in sufficient time to get settled and to fill out the necessary paperwork (audition information sheet). Bring a Theatre Resume & photograph if available (preferred, but not mandatory).

**The first opportunity to book an audition is at Information Night.  
After Information Night on April 23, 2019 please contact:**

**Danielle Amoroso  
Phone 416-761-9002 or 647-402-9002  
Email—daniamoroso25@gmail.com**

**Call-back Requirements:**

Those called back for **principal roles** will be asked to prepare specific musical selections and sides from the show. Some performers may also be called back to do a dance audition.

If you are auditioning for one of the principal roles, please indicate on the audition information sheet (obtained at the sign-up or at the audition) if you are willing to be considered for another role IF you are not given a call back for the principal role(s) you indicate.

**Only people who are required for call-back** auditions will be notified by phone no later than end of day June 2, 2016 and materials required for the call-back will be forwarded by e-mail. *Please ensure your e-mail contact information is accurate at time of audition!*

All others not required for call-backs will be considered for non-principal roles. No casting for any roles will be determined prior to the end of the auditions (call-backs) on June 2, 2019.

Call backs will occur on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and you will be notified of specific times when you are advised of the call back.

**People who cannot attend their call back cannot be considered for the role(s).**

**For Further Information  
To book or cancel an audition-**

**Danielle Amoroso**

For more information, maps, etc, visit our website at: [www.e-m-p.ca](http://www.e-m-p.ca)

**Phone 416-761-9002 or 647-402-9002  
Email—daniamoroso25@gmail.com**

**See attached summary of character descriptions and vocal ranges.**

### **Character Descriptions**

**Albin:** Age 60-66, Husband of George, “Mother” to Jean-Michel. Star Drag Queen at La Cage. Albin is emotional and dramatic and in love with George. The actor that plays Albin will need to reach the honest and deep sentiments of “I Am What I Am”. He needs a comic touch with dialogue and ease with physical comedy. Musical Numbers 7, Range High Baritone, A#2-G4. Dance; Performer Movement.

**George:** Age 44-50, Father of Jean-Michel and Albin’s husband. He is the owner and master of ceremonies of La Cage. In love with Albin he is the calm centre of the storm. A larger than life showman when La Cage MC, needs to be the loving husband and loving father when not. Musical Numbers 8, Range Baritone, G2-F4. Dance; Performer Movement.

**Jean Michel:** Age 24, Son of George, raised by George and Albin. He is in love with Anne and comes home to introduce his ultra-right future in-laws to his family. A charming young man who is very much like his father except that he is not gay. His journey is to realize that Albin is far more important to him than what his future in-laws think of Albin and his life-style. Musical Numbers 2, Range High Baritone, A#2-G4. Dance an asset.

**Anne Dindon:** Age 20-26, Jean Michel’s fiancé. Ensemble Singing. Dance an asset.

**Edouard Dindon:** Age 50-60, Anne’s Father. Deputy General of the Tradition Family and Morality Party. Is in danger of losing his position if found out to be in the company of Drag Queens and Gays. Musical Numbers 2, Range: Baritone, Bb2-Eb4. Dance: Some movement.

**Marie Dindon:** Age 45- 60, Anne’s Mother. Stands by her man although she may not always want to. Musical Numbers 2, Range Mezzo-Soprano, F4-A5. Dance: Movement

**Jacob:** Age 20-50, George’s flamboyant butler who would prefer to be the maid. Has a dream of being a huge drag star but may not be quite up to it. Lots of physical and costume comedy. Musical Range Baritone, Bb2-Ab4 Dance: Movement

**Frances:** Age any, Stage Manager. Is scripted as a male but could be female. Is a character in several backstage scenes. Comedy from a series of increasingly serious injuries from his relationship with Hanna. Ensemble singing. Dance: Movement level.

**Jacqueline:** Age 30-60, Owner of Chez Jacqueline a very exclusive and successful restaurant. Musical Numbers 1, and ensemble, Range: Mezzo, B3-F5. Dance: Performer Movement

**M. Renaud:** Age 30-60, Co-Owner of the Café. Is a participant in trying to teach Albin to be sufficiently masculine to pretend to be Uncle Al at dinner with the Dindon's Musical Numbers 1, and ensemble, Range: Baritone, B3-F5.

**Mme. Renaud:** Age 30-60, Co-Owner of the Café. Is a participant in trying to teach Albin to be sufficiently masculine to pretend to be Uncle Al at dinner with the Dindon's. Musical Numbers 1, and ensemble.

**Cagelles:** If you can dance and sing in drag....any age. The Cagelles will be a chorus of 6-12 drag queens who are the featured performers at George's La Cage Aux Folles. Primarily men, the Cagelles will also include 2-3 women also dressed as drag queens. All performers are fabulous, and flamboyant. They must be divinely happy to be performing as drag queens in various outrageous costumes. An ability to dance in heels is a necessity. Featured Cagelles include:

**Chantal:** The opera diva..... a great falsetto is a necessity. (countertenor?)

**Hanna:** A drag dominatrix Hanna's special skill is with a bull whip.

**Phaedra:** An ability to complete special dance tricks or acrobatics.

**Bitelle:** A favorite at La Cage. Playful both on and off the stage.

**Mercedes:** The longest standing member of La Cage. A seasoned performer.

**Ensemble:** Additional ensemble members are townspeople, patrons of La Cage, patrons of Chez Jacqueline, Reporters, Waiters, and Movers. Featured ensemble players include:

**Collete:** 20's, A flirtatious and promiscuous beauty of the French Riviera.

**Etienne:** 20's, Collete's friend.

**Tabarro:** Any, A fisherman known to George and Albin.