

Lead Character Descriptions- February, 2025



Audition information will be on our website by Fri. Feb. 21 for any students interested. **Audition Prep night is Tues. February 25, followed by auditions on February 26. Callbacks are March 11-12.**

Listed below are all characters with a brief description. Please read through them all, and **choose one or two roles** you are interested in auditioning for. We encourage you to **GO FOR IT!!** **Most Lead roles are much more demanding of your time and require work at home, so please consider the extra time on Wed. evenings BEFORE you choose to audition.**

Please note- Some lead roles are only in ONE scene. Feel free to ask Elizabeth about some of the smaller roles if you are interested in attending “some” Wed. evenings.

- ❖ **Bad News Boys**-(A & B group) Specialty Dance. Tough and sneaky town troublemakers who are not afraid to cause a ruckus. They are a featured dance group in the scene and song “Trouble”. We are looking for sharp, clean movements.
- ❖ **Goodie 2-shoes Girls**-(A group) Specialty Dance. Snobby tattle-tail girls; sharp, expressive & on beat in the dance movements. Featured singer/dancers in various songs. (*Shipooopi*, *Pick-a-Little Reprise*)
- ❖ **Smiley Girl**- (A group girl) Non-speaking role. Confident, bright, and seeking her moment to shine. Smiley girl delivers a note to the mayor on stage and smiles her biggest smile until she has to get pulled off. Auditions in April, after we get to know them better.
- ❖ **Shakespeare kids**-(B group boy/girl) Speaking roles. (Blossom, Pansy, Puck, and Mustardseed) These children perform a scene with Eulalie Shinn, and have a few lines and fun costume. Must speak clearly, and keep that smile on! Auditions in April, after we get to know them better.
- ❖ **Gracie Shinn:** (2-4th gr. female) Speaking role. The Mayor’s youngest daughter, who is the leader of the Goodie 2 Shoes girls. She does the specialty dance with them, and is a snotty little tattletale.
- ❖ **Amaryllis:** (3-6th gr. female) Singing & speaking role. **Must harmonize well.** A young piano student of Marian’s, who also happens to have a sweet crush on Winthrop. Her spirits get down easily as she doesn’t understand why Winthrop doesn’t talk when he is around her. She sings by herself and sings in harmony with Marian in “*Good Night My Someone*”.
- ❖ **Winthrop:** (3-6th gr. male) Singing & speaking role. **Must harmonize well.** Marian’s little brother, cute as a button. Does not talk much because of a lisp, and missing his father who passed away. He learns to trust again because of Harold Hill, and is a chatterbox by the end of the show. Sings two large solos and always **speaks and sings with a lisp** in (*Gary Indiana* and *Wells Fargo Wagon*).
- ❖ **Drum Majorettes**- (B group, female) They are in two Specialty Dances. Strong dancers who must be able to march to the beat, and do fun energetic “cheer-style” moves such as the splits, toe-touch, high kicks, and a possible pyramid. (*Shipooopi*, and a *Drum March*)
- ❖ **“Wells Fargo” Soloists**-(B & C group) Singing role. Strong voice, energetic, descriptive with facial expressions as they sing their specific solo in “*Wells Fargo Wagon*”, *as well as in the scene.*
- ❖ **Zaneeta Shinn:** (C group female) Dancing, singing, & speaking role. Mayor Shinn & Eulalie’s giddy teenage daughter, and the best young dancer in town. She has a crush on the town “bad boy” Tommy. Not rebellious, but learning to stand up for herself. Cute & feminine, and a beautiful, graceful dancer. Partner dances with Tommy in many songs & sings a short solo in “Wells Fargo Wagon”.
- ❖ **Tommy Dijilas:** (C group male) Dancing & speaking role. An overconfident teenager with sharp dance moves from the “wrong side of town.” He starts out as a troublemaker, but falls for Zaneeta and dates her in secret from her father. He straightens up after Harold comes into town and helps him find purpose in assisting with the band. Strong, athletic dancer. Partner dances w/Zaneeta in many songs.
- ❖ **C group Dance Troop**- (C group girls/boys) Specialty Dance. Zaneeta & Tommy’s dancing crew with the best moves in town. Ladies dance with grace & excellent rhythm, the boys dance with confidence & strength. Featured dancers in *Marian the Librarian*. Must feel comfortable doing partner dances.
- ❖ **D group Dance Troop**- (D group girls/boys) Specialty Dance. The dancing crew with Harold & Marian in “*Shipooopi*”. The ladies dance with grace & excellent rhythm, the boys dance with confidence & strength. Must feel comfortable doing partner dances, as they are playing “Adults” in this show.

- ❖ **Gossip Gals**-(C & D group girls) *Town gossip ladies who sing with movement in “Pick a Little Talk a Little” and a few scenes. Please audition for another lead role to be considered for Gossip Gals.*
- ❖ **Farmer:** (C group) Sings short solo in “Iowa Stubborn”. Audition for another male role to be considered.
- ❖ **Farmers wife** (C group) Sings solo in “Iowa Stubborn” Audition for another female role to be considered.
- ❖ **Harold Hill** :(D group male) Singing & speaking role. Harmonizes well, strong baritone, with excellent rhythm. He has movement ability, as well as the skill to memorize and deliver exact lines as they are written, and carry the show. A smooth talking con man & traveling salesman with an undeniable charm. He convinces the townspeople that they need a band to keep the kids out of trouble. As a man who loves a chase, he pursues the town challenge, Marian the Librarian, who he ends up eventually falling for. Intentional and articulate with each word he speaks, and sly with the way he strings phrases together. He is truly the conductor of this entire musical. Sings *Trouble, 76 Trombones, The Sadder But Wiser Girl, Marian the Librarian, Goodnight my someone Reprise & Till there was you.* He will kiss Marian at the end of the show.
- ❖ **Marian Paroo:** (D group female :) Singing & speaking role. High soprano who harmonizes well. Daughter to Mrs. Paroo and sister to Winthrop, she appears to be headstrong and rigid, unwavering librarian and piano teacher of the town. Underneath the facade is a woman who yearns to be swept off her feet by a man who matches her standards. We see a transformation in her- as she sees Harold give her brother Winthrop and the town some life and joy again. She eventually falls for him, even with the knowledge of his past transgressions. Poised and proper, with perfect posture. There is more to her than what meets the eye. She sings *My White Knight, Good Night My Someone, Will I ever tell you, and Till there was You.* She will kiss Harold at the end of the show.
- ❖ **Barbershop Quartet (Jacey, Ewart, Oliver, & Olin)**-(9-12th gr. male) Singing & speaking role. They must harmonize extremely well. Argumentative, bickering businessmen, “know it alls”, until they are united by Harold Hill and begin to sing in harmony. Once they start, they can’t stop, and the music takes over. They sing *Sincere, It’s You, Goodnight Ladies, and Lida Rose.*
- ❖ **Mrs. Paroo:** (D group female) Singing & speaking role. Mezzo Soprano. Widowed Irish mother to Marian and Winthrop, who speaks with an Irish accent. Sweet, cheerful homemaker who wants the best for everyone. Blunt, with a BIG personality! She adores Winthrop, loves to remind Marian of her unrealistic standards for men, and is easily swayed by Harold Hill and how he flatters her. She sings *Piano Lesson and Gary Indiana.*
- ❖ **Marcellus:** (D group male) Singing, dancing, & speaking role. Harmonizes well. Former con man and reunited friend to Harold Hill. He’s his right hand man, teaching him the ropes on how River City is run and how the people are. A comic role, offering a lovable personality with solid timing. Leads the town with the vocals in a huge dance called *Shipooopi*, and sings *The Sadder But Wiser Girl* as well.
- ❖ **Mayor Shinn:** (D group male) Speaking role. Mayor of River City, self-important, overbearing, not terribly intelligent, often seems puzzled & easily confused, getting important facts wrong. A man who listens to his wife, but protects his daughter Zaneeta by banishing her from seeing the “bad boy” in town. Likes being an authoritative figure, but comes across funny. Each line is executed with diction.
- ❖ **Eulalie Shinn:** (D group female) Speaking, off-pitch Singing (when singing by herself), and comical Dancing role. The Mayor’s Wife, a society lady, and always the first to know and spread the gossip of the town. Struts around like a Queen as if she owns the place; she is the main character of her own story. She confidently sings “*Thy Banners*” completely off-pitch, truly believing that she is a star who has graced the world with her beautiful voice and (not so graceful) dance moves. She keeps her husband in line when he gets too serious. She is a comedic relief. Though she’s off pitch on her own, when singing “*Pick A Little Talk a Little*”, we want her voice to blend in for overall quality sound.
- ❖ **Pick a Little Ladies (Alma, Ethel, Maude, Mrs. Squires):** (D group girls) Singing & speaking roles. They are the wives of Marcellus and the School Board Members (Barbershop Quartet). They follow their leader Eulalie around, and listen to the stories and scandals happening in River City. Each character should have distinct personality traits that differ from one another, however they all have one thing in common, and LOVE gossip. These ladies are over the top, animated, and wildly dramatic. They all sing “*Pick a Little Talk a Little*” and a few other songs.

- ❖ **Train Traveling Salesman:** (C or D group male) Rapping role. They have a syncopated song in the beginning of the show- no singing, but patterned to sound like a moving train. Must have good FOCUS and **feel the beat** to be part of the Train Rap, as each cue falls on an exact beat or word with a specific rhythm. Clear spoken, very deliberate and articulate. Salesmen on the train that warn each other about what they've heard about Harold Hill. They do not realize that he is there among them on the train and can hear everything they are saying. *Rock Island song* starts out the musical.
- ❖ **Charlie Cowell:** (D group male) Speaking role. A rigid traveling salesman, first seen on the train at the start of the show, he returns to town to warn them about Harold and hopefully make himself a hero. He exposes him to the town, showing the people his con-man ways. Also in the opening song, the Train Rap, so he **must have rhythm** (see description above for Train Salesman). Marian kisses him briefly.
- ❖ **Conductor:** (C or D group male) Speaking role He is the Conductor for the train, loud spoken and articulates with his speech. One of the first voices to be heard in the opening scene of the show.
- ❖ **Constable Locke:** (D group male) Speaking role. Small town cop in River City, always chasing the no good teens around town.