

# Audition Pack

Thank you for your interest in taking part in Nativity the Musical! Here is all the information you need for this production.

## Creative Team:

**CODS Director: Alison Withey-Harrison**

**Invicta Youth Theatre Director: Christina Yates**

**Musical Director: Nick Ingman**

**Choreographer: Heather Brooks**

**Children's Vocal Coach: Marc Henderson**

## Official Trailer:

<https://youtu.be/i-2aSrXXies>

All songs can be found on the Official Soundtrack on YouTube:

[Overture & Opening](#)



Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:

# Nativity!

## The Musical

Music by  
Debbie Isitt  
and  
Nicky Ager  
Orchestrations  
by George  
Dyer

Book and  
Lyrics by  
Debbie  
Isitt

A colorful illustration of a nativity scene. An angel with white wings and a yellow robe stands on a wooden manger. Below, Mary and Joseph are shown with the baby Jesus in a manger. Three wise men in crowns stand to the right. A cow and a donkey are on the left. The background is a dark blue night sky with white stars and a bright starburst.

OUR AUTUMN SHOW

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1 2025  
Auditions in Spring 2025 - [cranbrookods.org.uk/nativity](http://cranbrookods.org.uk/nativity)

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



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# Overview

## What's the show about?

Every child dreams of starring in a Nativity, and at St. Bernadette's School, they're doing just that – but with a twist! The kids, along with their grumpy teacher Mr. Maddens and his zany assistant Mr. Poppy, are attempting to stage a musical version of the Christmas classic. But the real chaos begins when Mr. Maddens promises a Hollywood producer will be in the audience to turn it into a movie!

Prepare for a show full of festive fun, laugh-out-loud moments, and a whole lot of sparkle as the kids work to make their Christmas wishes come true.

## Director's Motivation and Vision



I am so excited to be directing 'Nativity! The Musical'. I have taught in a variety of Prep, Primary and Nursery schools spanning over 30 years. My inspiration for directing this musical was a direct result of rehearsing three different Nativities during the same year a few years ago- two in a Prep school and one in a Primary school. It was around this time I discovered the Nativity films with life mirroring art! I am eager to use my experience of preparing real nativities to bring this heartwarming production to life.

Nativities contain a special kind of magic, spontaneity and joy which I am keen to embody in this production. As a music therapist I am also passionate about providing intergenerational creative experiences, so am delighted that both adults and children (and a dog!) will be working creatively together and sharing the stage in a meaningful way. I am thrilled to be collaborating with Invicta Youth Theatre team. It is wonderful to have Chrissie and her team on board.

My aim is to create a happy, fun filled production where all the cast and crew, on stage and off, work together as part of a creative team. The emphasis is very much on collaboration and teamwork.

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# Nativity Characters



\* *must be a strong singer*

\* **Paul Maddens**- A teacher at St Bernadette's Primary School- he's trying to produce a Nativity play that will, for once, outdo a rival school

\* **Gordon Shakespeare**- A teacher at Oakmoor School, Paul's long-term rival

\* **Jennifer Lore**- Paul's ex girlfriend- she left him to move to Hollywood

\* **Desmond Poppy**- Paul's new teaching assistant- childlike and enthusiastic. Mrs Bevan's nephew

**Mrs Patricia Bevan**- Head teacher of St Bernadette's, Desmond Poppy's Aunt

**Miss Rye**- Teacher at St Bernadette's

**Patrick Burns**- A Critic

**The Lord Mayor**

**Mr Parker**- A Hollywood Film Producer and studio boss

**Priest**

**CHILD PAUL/CHILD GORDON/CHILD JENNIFER**

**Children of Mr Madden's Class**

**Children of Shakespeare's Class**

**Cracker the Dog**

**COMPANY:** MADA Company, Teachers, Reindeer, Santa, Christmas Trees, Casting Guy, Paparazzi, TV Reporter, Guests at the Christmas Ball, Hollywood Tour Guide, Gary (Hollywood Tour Driver), Tourists, Studio Security Guards, Film Director, Cast and Crew, Studio Receptionist, Oakmoor Parents

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# Musical Numbers

## **Act 1:**

**Overture** – Orchestra, Company and Mr Poppy

**M.A.D.A - [Here Comes Santa Claus](#) / **Going For The Big Time"** – Mr Maddens, Jennifer, Mr Shakespeare and Company**

**Review** – Critic

**Five Star Review/Better Than You** – Mr Shakespeare and Oakmoor Kids

**St Bernadette's** – St Bernadette Kids

**My Very First Day Of School** – Mr Poppy

**Wrapped In A Rainbow** – Mr Maddens and Jennifer

**Hollywood Are Coming** – Mr Poppy, Mrs Bevan, Lord Mayor, St Bernadette Kids and Company

**Our School Nativity** – Mr Poppy, Mr Maddens and St Bernadette Kids

**The Lord Mayor's Ball** – Mr Shakespeare, The Critic and Company

**Dear Father Christmas**– St Bernadette Kids

**Hollywood We're Coming/Sparkle and Shine** – St Bernadette Kids and Company



## **Act 2:**

**Welcome To Hollywood** – Jennifer and Company

**Jennifer's Request**– Jennifer

**Dear Father Christmas (Reprise) / My Very Last Day at School** – St Bernadette Kids and Mr Poppy

**Herod The Rock Opera**– Mr Shakespeare and Oakmoor Kids

**Suddenly** – Mr Maddens and Jennifer

**Our School Nativity (Reprise)** – Mr Poppy, Mr Maddens and St Bernadette Kids

**Nazareth** – St Bernadette Kids

**One Look** – St Bernadette Kids

**Good News** – St Bernadette Kids

**Hollywood Never Came** – Mr Shakespeare (2022 production onwards)

**Sparkle And Shine**– Full Company

**She's The Brightest Star** – St Bernadette Kids

**Suddenly (Reprise)** – Mr Maddens and Jennifer

**One Night, One Moment** – Full Company

**Sparkle And Shine**– Full Company

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# Characters Audition Information

## MR POPPY

**Lead** - Male playing age 25-45

**Vocal range** – Tenor



Mr. Poppy is the heart and soul of the show! A vibrant, larger-than-life character with a massive voice and endless charm, he's an untrained, overly enthusiastic teaching assistant – the kind every teacher secretly dreads! Funny, quirky, and full of childlike wonder, Mr. Poppy connects effortlessly with kids (and dogs!). He's Mrs. Bevan's lovable nephew, bringing big laughs, big energy, and big performances. This is a dream role for a confident singer, actor, and musician with great comedic timing!

**Audition dialogue x 2** p2-3; p23-24

**Audition song** – My Very First Day at School

**Example track:**

<https://youtu.be/OVV7g7mUSGQ?feature=shared>

## PAUL MADDENS

**Lead** - Male playing age 25-45

**Vocal range** – Baritone



Mr. Maddens is a grumpy, down-on-his-luck ex-actor turned disillusioned teacher who hates Christmas – thanks to his heartbreak when his love left for Hollywood and failed Nativities. A fierce rival to his old school friend, Gordon Shakespeare, he's determined to put on the best Nativity ever (even if Gordon always wins!). With a strong, confident voice and plenty of acting chops, Paul must bring this complex character to life, all while loving kids and dogs! A standout role for a versatile singer/actor!

**Audition dialogue x 2** – p23-24; p78 'You look beautiful..watch the show please'

**Audition song** - Wrapped in a Rainbow

**Example track:**

[https://youtu.be/-\\_t95WZJ3qw?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/-_t95WZJ3qw?feature=shared)

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## Characters Audition Information

### GORDON SHAKESPEARE

**Supporting Lead** - Male playing age 25-45  
Vocal range – Tenor (needs falsetto!)



Gordon Shakespeare, once best friends with Paul and Jennifer, now teaches at a Prep School where he thrives on being the centre of attention. Snooty, snobby, and hilariously dramatic, Gordon becomes Paul's arch enemy, determined to snag the 5-star review for his own Nativity. This larger-than-life character is perfect for a comic actor with a powerful singing voice!

**Audition dialogue** – p31

**Audition song** – Herod the Rock Opera

**Example track:**

<https://youtu.be/pFkAKwkO5cc?feature=shared>

### JENNIFER LORE

**Supporting Lead** – Female playing age 25-45  
**Vocal range** – Alto



Jennifer, once an old drama school friend of Paul and Gordon, was once in love with Paul. But she followed her Hollywood dream, leaving him behind – only for things to fall apart. Now, missing Paul, she convinces her Hollywood boss to fly to Coventry and see his Nativity production. With her powerful, melodic voice, Jennifer brings heart and emotion to some beautiful, unforgettable songs.

**Audition dialogue** – p78-79; p65

**Audition song** – Jennifer's Plea

Example track:

<https://youtu.be/z1BQfh4DL-s?feature=shared>

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# Characters Audition Information

## MRS PATRICIA BEVAN



**Supporting Role** - Female playing age 45-70

Mrs. Bevan, the long-suffering Headteacher of St. Bernadette's and Mr. Poppy's Aunt, is a caring but burnt-out leader of a struggling school. Despite the challenges, the Hollywood Nativity offers her a glimmer of hope. A fun role with a touch of solo singing, perfect for a more mature actress!

Audition dialogue – p19; p59

**Audition song** – Hollywood Are Coming

Example track:

<https://youtu.be/magXwhr7zVY?feature=shared>

## THE LORD MAYOR



**Supporting Role** - Male playing age 45-70

The Lord Mayor is a charming, smaller role with a fun double act alongside Mrs. Bevan at the Mayor's Ball, where he's quite fond of her. This role includes a touch of singing and dancing, adding a bit of flair to the festivities

Audition dialogue – See 'Featured Ensemble' sheet

Audition song – Hollywood Are Coming

Example track:

<https://youtu.be/magXwhr7zVY?feature=shared>

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# Characters Audition Information

## MISS RYE



Cameo role - Female playing age 22+

St Bernadette's teacher who snitches on Mr Maddens- minimal lines needs a good teacher Paddington stare! (Can double with other cameo parts)

Audition dialogue – p84

Audition song – Hollywood Are Coming

Example track:

<https://youtu.be/magXwhr7zVY?feature=shared>

## THE CRITIC



Cameo role - Male playing age: any age from 30 upwards

Acerbic theatre critic who crushed Mr Madden's confidence

Audition dialogue – See 'Featured Ensemble' sheet

Audition song – The Critic's Review

Example track:

<https://youtu.be/gXKJq-nrr7Q?feature=shared>

## MR PARKER



Cameo role - Male playing age 40+ Non- Singing cameo role.

Jennifer's Hollywood Producer Boss- needs convincing American accent Audition dialogue – See 'Featured Ensemble' sheet

## PRIEST



Cameo role - Male playing age 40+ Non- Singing cameo role. Priest Paul confesses to-needs convincing Irish accent

Audition dialogue – p50-51

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## Characters Adult Ensemble Audition Information

**COMPANY:** MADA Company, Teachers, Reindeer, Santa, Christmas Trees, Casting Guy, Paparazzi, TV Reporter, Guests at the Christmas Ball, Hollywood Tour Guide, Gary (Hollywood Tour Driver), Tourists, Studio Security Guards, Film Director, Cast and Crew, Studio Receptionist, Oakmoor Parents



For Tour Guide, and Producer see: See 'Featured Ensemble' sheet

There are a few small cameo parts for adults with speaking lines which can be doubled up. These include the Hollywood Receptionist; Hollywood Guard; TV reporter; parents; Priest; Tour Guide etc.

Audition song: Welcome to Hollywood

Example track: [https://youtu.be/lv8eD0\\_nQ1w?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/lv8eD0_nQ1w?feature=shared)

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## Characters Audition Information- Children's Roles

**Katelyn (Star)** : confident and sassy, needs to be a strong singer –p47-48 (St B pupil)

**Ollie:** Needs to be able to rap p48-49 (St B pupil). Naughty boy, fights for role of Joseph

**Lucy** Helps with spelling p16 (St B pupil)

**Alfie:** Desperately wants to play Joseph-fights with Ollie (St B pupil) p47; 51

**Angel Gabriel:** Strong singer and dancer p102 'Good News' song (St B pupil)

**Boy Band** 'She's the Brightest Star' (St B pupils) p115-116

**Young Paul Maddens/Young Jennifer Lore/ Young Gordon Shakespeare** (mime at opening of show)

**Oakmoor pupils: Maleficent/ Sebastian/Quentin/Rupert-** p44-45

**Unnamed Child: 1,2,3,4,5** with speaking/singing lines (St B pupils)

**Ensemble roles:** Pupils of Oakmoor School and Pupils of St. Bernadette's school

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# Auditions



***(Nb: There is no need to learn audition pieces by heart. As a director I would prefer it if you didn't to maintain a sense of spontaneity!)***

**Children will need to send a 'self tape' for auditions using the link below.** Children who would like a speaking part/solo will also need to attend the in person auditions. Please click here:

[In association with Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society and Invicta Youth Theatre](#)

**Parents MUST stay with their children and accompany them at all times during the in person auditions at QHT for safe guarding purposes.**

**Help Day for children:** Saturday May 10th (we will teach a short routine/song & hand out sides for speaking roles). 10.30-12.00

**CODS Help night:** Thursday 15th May 7.30pm Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

## **Auditions (in person):**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am Queens Hall Theatre (QHT)

Monday 19th May 7.30pm Queens Hall Theatre (QHT)

Thursday 22nd May- back up audition slot if needed for call backs

**Rehearsals to start Monday 2nd June (QH) Schedule TBC**

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Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:



# Rehearsals and Performances

## Rehearsals:

**Mondays QHT**

**Thursdays PAC**

**Some Sundays in October**

Invicta Youth Theatre will rehearse the ensemble children during their Saturday sessions and join the rest of the cast nearer the time.

If children have a speaking part, they may need to attend some Monday or Thursday evening rehearsals

A detailed schedule will be given out once the show is cast. You may not be needed for every rehearsal.

## Production and Performance Dates:

**Show Week: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>-Sunday- November 1<sup>st</sup>-** you will be required for dress rehearsals/tech/preview night during some of the evenings of this week- so please keep these free.

There will also be a '**Get In**' date which is likely to be Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October where help is needed.

## Performances:

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October-**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November x 2 (matinee & evening)**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November-** Adult cast/crew will be required at the 'Get Out' to clear up Queens Hall from 10.00am

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Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:



## Membership

**All cast and crew MUST be a fully paid up member of CODS and have paid show fees before the first rehearsal. This is for insurance purposes.**

**A person cannot take part in the show unless they are fully paid-up member of CODS.**

## Commitment

### ATTENDANCE/LATENESS

Cast members are expected to attend every rehearsal called during the rehearsal period. However, if you are unable to make a CODS rehearsal due to illness or work/school commitments etc please let Alison know ASAP via: [nativitycods@gmail.com](mailto:nativitycods@gmail.com)

It can be detrimental to a production if cast members keep missing rehearsals without good reason. **Please do not commit yourself to another production which rehearses on the same nights if already involved in this one.**

### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Cast members are responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from rehearsals and performances as transport cannot be provided.

### PUBLICITY HELP

**All adult cast and crew are expected to help with publicising the show in some way.** This might be dressing up in costumes/handing out leaflets at local events such as Cranbrook on the Green or Cranbrook Apple Fayre /putting up posters/ creating/helping publicise the show on social media.

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# Membership & Show Fees

## Membership

**Membership forms must be completed by new members.**

Please make a payment via bank transfer of £10 (adults) or £5 (children under 18 years of age) to:

**Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society, Nat West Bank,**

**Sort Code: 60-06-18.**

**Acc. No: 30096669**

By being a member of CODS you will be part of our thriving Amateur Dramatic group and if you wish, can be involved in our Autumn musical (Nativity) and our Pantomime for 2025 which is Cinderella.

## Show Fees

Show fees are required to help with the costs of running the show. Musicals are very expensive to put on and can cost over £10, 000.

**Show fees for Nativity the Musical are:**

**Adults: £20**

**Children: £15\***



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# Are you interested in helping us?

## Chaperoning?

We need parents/carers to volunteer to get chaperone licenses. If parents/carers do not come forward to get licenses/chaperone, we will need to pay for chaperones. This will mean there will be a rise in the show fees for children. \*However, we are offering a reduction in the show fee of £10 for parents/carers who chaperone during rehearsals or show week.

When applying for a license, please bear in mind it can take several weeks for a chaperone license to arrive in the post.

For further information on becoming a chaperone click here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/activities-outside-school/children-in-entertainment/chaperone-licence>

## Have you got any skills that CODS can use for:

Publicity/Marketing - in person and online?

Set building skills?

Sound?

Lighting?

Making/sourcing Props?

Organising costumes?

Prompting?

Hairdressing/Makeup?

Photography/videography?

