

BILLY ELLIOT

THE MUSICAL



AUDITION PACK

AUDITIONS (CHILDREN) – 21st & 22nd October 2023 From 10am (both days) - LEGS DANCE STUDIO

10am – Dance Call 1

11am – Dance Call 2

12pm – Lunch break

1pm – Individual Singing Auditions for successful dance call auditionees

AUDITIONS (ADULTS) – 24th & 25th October 2023 From 7pm (both days) - COOK COMMUNITY HUB

7pm – Dance Call

8pm – Individual singing audition slots (Adults Only)

Please note: *When booking your audition, please provide a list of your relevant experience (no more than one page in length) along with a current headshot.*

Children – progression through the dance call will determine singing slot allocation for the afternoon. Children should be wearing appropriate dance clothing (tights / correct footwear) for the audition.

Adults – singing audition slots will be allocated at time of booking.

To book your audition - please send an email with recent headshot and performance CV to:

billyelliotfreeraintheatre@gmail.com

RELEVANT DATES

Rehearsal days	Sunday 10-5, Monday 7-10pm, Tuesday 7-10pm In March 2024, Thursday 7-10pm will be added as a rehearsal.
Rehearsal start date	26 November 2023
Christmas break	17 December 2023 – 7 January 2024
Intensive Rehearsal Week	8 – 12 January 2024
Bump In	1 April 2024
Season	9 April – 5 May 2024

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Jarrad West

Choreographer: Michelle Heine

Musical Directors: Katrina Tang & Caleb Campbell

Presented by Free Rain Theatre

BILLY ELLIOT CAST BREAKDOWN

PLEASE NOTE: WHILE ACCENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR AUDITIONS, ALL ACTORS CAST IN THE SHOW WILL NEED TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE GEORDIE ACCENT THAT THE CHARACTERS USE. SOME ACTORS WILL ALSO NEED TO SPEAK WITH A REFINED BRITISH ACCENT, AS WELL.

THE SCRIPT DOES CONTAIN COARSE LANGUAGE AND ALL CHARACTERS USE IT AS PART OF THEIR DIALOGUE.

MALE IDENTIFYING ROLES (CHILD/TEENS)

BILLY

Description	Male, 9 – 13. A boy who stumbles upon a ballet class and develops a passion for dance. To him, dance is a way to feel whole and free himself from the problems of life. He finds himself stuck between appeasing family and chasing his newfound love.
Vocal Range	E3 – C5 (Treble/Boy Soprano)
Dance	Must have ballet and tap training. Must be able to jump rope. Acrobatics, tumbling, and/or gymnastics training a plus, but not required.
Audition Songs	“Electricity” (BALLAD) AND An Uptempo (Personal Selection)
Notes	Seeking TWO performers to alternate this role.

MICHAEL

Description	Male, 9 – 14. Billy's carefree and fun-loving best friend. Must sing (A#4 - B4). He lives in the realm of expressing oneself, going so far as to commonly dress in women's clothing. Must have strong tap abilities. Experience in other dance forms a plus, but not required.
Vocal Range	A#3 – B4 (Treble/Boy Soprano)
Dance	Must move well. Some dance training, especially in tap, is required for this role.
Audition Songs	“Expressing Yourself” (UPTEMPO) AND A Ballad (Personal Selection)
Notes	This role MAY (or MAY NOT) double for Billy Alternates on their “Off Days”

POSH BOY/TALL BOY (KEVIN)

Description	Male, 8 – 14. The Tall Boy (Kevin) is a boy whose father goes against the picket line, and who continually tries to venture to the other side of the line to be with his friends. The Posh Boy is a very proper English boy from London who encounters an upset Billy Elliot and attempts to console him, only to be punched for doing so. Featured role, speaking. Must have choral/ensemble singing experience. Dance not required, but it is a plus.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing
Dance	No dance required for this role.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)
Notes	This role MAY (or MAY NOT) double for Billy Alternates on their “Off Days”

LITTLE BOY

Description	Male, 5 – 8. A young boy who has a fun and humorous personality. This character starts the show with his entrance, and has some touching, adorable, and funny bits throughout the course of the show. No dance or singing experience is necessary.
Vocal Range	No singing experience is required for this role.
Dance	No dance required for this role.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)
Notes	N/a

FEMALE IDENTIFYING ROLES (CHILD/TEENS)

DEBBIE WILKINSON

Description	Female, 8 – 15. The ballet teacher's daughter. A bit stand-offish and argumentative, her childhood crush on Billy leads her to constantly discourage him. Must have ballet and tap experience and have experience in choral/ensemble singing.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing.
Dance	Must have ballet and tap experience.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

SUSAN PARKS

Description	Female, 8 – 15. One of Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet girls. Seeking girls with a fun personality who also have a good sense of comedic timing, as she is not the "best" dancer of the bunch and has some great bit parts in dance sequences. Must have ballet and tap experience, as well as choral/ensemble singing experience.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing.
Dance	Must have ballet and tap experience.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

TRACEY ATKINSON

Description	Female, 8 – 15. One of Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet girls. Seeking girls with a fun personality who also have a good sense of comedic timing. Tracey is always eating something during class and being called out by Mrs. Wilkinson for her size.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing.
Dance	Must have ballet and tap experience.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

KEELEY GIBSON

Description	Female, 8 – 15. One of Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet girls. Seeking girls with a fun personality who also have a good sense of comedic timing. She is a petite "mousy" girl who is an upbeat ball of sunshine who always has an ear-to-ear grin on her face.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing.
Dance	Must have ballet and tap experience.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

ANGELA ROBSON

Description	Female, 8 – 15. One of Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet girls. Seeking girls with a fun personality who also have a good sense of comedic timing. Angela is a bit sassy and is always poking fun at Mrs. Wilkinson behind her back.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing.
Dance	Must have ballet and tap experience.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

ALISON SOMERS

Description	Female, 8 – 15. One of Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet girls. Seeking girls with a fun personality who also have a good sense of comedic timing. Alison is the goody-two-shoes of the group and is
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	always trying to show off for Mrs. Wilkinson. She is always stealing the spotlight from the others.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing.
Dance	Must have ballet and tap experience.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

FEMALE IDENTIFYING ROLES (ADULT)

MRS. WILKINSON

Description	Female, 30-40s. Billy's dancing teacher. The local ballet teacher who eventually becomes Billy's mentor. Hardened and mouthy, she actually has capacity for caring when she sees promise in Billy. Believes in the power of personal expression through dance.
Vocal Range	Gb3 – Bb5 (sustained) (Alto)
Dance	Strong movement skills required. Must be able to jump rope. Some dance training is a plus, but not necessarily required for this role.
Audition Songs	“Born to Boogie” (UPTEMPO) AND A Ballad (Personal Selection)

GRANDMA

Description	Female, 60-70s. Must sing (F#3 - F#4). Billy's eccentric grandmother. She is forgetful and a little aloof. Despite her inattention, she harbors a bitter resentment towards her dead abusive husband but has found solace through dance. Good comedy skills required. Character actress. No dance required, some movement.
Vocal Range	F#3 – F#4 (Alto)
Dance	No dance required for this role.
Audition Songs	“Grandma's Song” (BALLAD) AND An Uptempo (Personal Selection)

LESLEY

Description	Female, 20s – 40s. One of the few female miners in the town; she is headstrong, bold, and not afraid to offer her two cents; she is one of the guys and often seems to blend in seamlessly with them.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing and be able to hold harmonies.
Dance	No dance required for this role. Must move well, as they will be required to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

BILLY'S MUM

Description	Female, 30s – 40s. Must sing (Gb3 – Bb5). She has died before the start of this show, but comes back as a vision in Billy's mind several times during the show and sings the touching song "The Letter" with both Mrs Wilkinson and later with Billy during the show in a reprise; she is a maternal force, strong and firm but full of warmth and love.
Vocal Range	G3 – E5 (Mezzo-Soprano)
Dance	No solo dance required but will need to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	“The Letter” (BALLAD) AND An Uptempo (Personal Selection)

MALE IDENTIFYING ROLES (ADULT)

DAD

Description	Male, 40s - 50s. Billy's dad. Leading actor. 40s. Geordie miner. Working class. Billy's stoic father. A widowed miner struggling with maintaining a household in lieu of a work strike, he is still deeply scarred by the death of his wife. Billy's dancing initially sends him into a rage but he learns to support his son.
Vocal Range	A2 – Eb4 (Baritone)
Dance	No dance required for this role. Must move well, as they will be required to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	“Deep Into The Ground” (BALLAD) AND An Uptempo (Personal Selection)

TONY

Description	Male, 17 – 25. Billy's brother. Must sing (D3 – F4). A lazy but passionate miner. Hotheaded and scrappy with seemingly no regard of respect for his father, although he shares his disapproval of dance.
Vocal Range	D3 – F4 (Tenor/Baritone)
Dance	No solo dance required but will need to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	“He could Be A Star” (BALLAD) AND An Uptempo (Personal Selection)

GEORGE

Description	Male, Late 30-50s. Billy's Boxing teacher. Geordie miner. Excellent comedy skills. Friend of Dad's. Spokesman of the miners. Community spirited. The owner of a local boxing hall that Billy attends; he is very brutish and unfriendly; he is tough as nails, but does express a side of compassion and humility, as well, when the time calls for it; he is loyal to his friends and to the Miner's Association, and cares deeply about his community and its well-being.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing and be able to hold harmonies.
Dance	No dance required for this role. Must move well, as they will be required to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

MR. BRAITHWAITE

Description	Male, 30s – 40s. Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet-class piano player (doubles as her husband and a member of the Royal Ballet Admissions Committee); he is a bit of scaredy-cat who hates confrontation, despite his large size, he also has a “secret” passion for dance and helps Mrs. Wilkinson prepare Billy for his audition.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing and be able to hold harmonies.
Dance	Strong movement skills required. Must be able to jump rope. Some dance training is a plus, but not necessarily required for this role.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

BIG DAVEY

Description	Male, 20s – 40s. A local miner and friend of Tony and Billy's dad; he is one of the leading forces of the Miner's Association during the strike in Durham County; he is also a bit hefty and at one point, he must eat an entire sandwich he has prepared on stage in front of the audience as a
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	sight gag; he is full of energy and life and does his best to keep the local community rallied around the cause and their spirits high.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing and be able to hold harmonies.
Dance	No dance required for this role. Must move well, as they will be required to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

POSH MAN/SCAB

Description	Male, 20s – 40s. Scab is one of the few villagers in the small mining town who has chosen not to go on strike to support his family; while an outcast to most of the community, he still offers his support to Billy and others with financial assistance and moral support. As Posh Man, he is an elite upper class British man who is attending auditions with his son at the Royal Ballet School. Featured role.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing and be able to hold harmonies.
Dance	No dance required for this role. Must move well, as they will be required to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

BILLY'S OLDER SELF

Description	Male, 20s – 30s. Billy's older self makes an appearance during the second act and performs a side-by-side dream-line dance sequence of Swan Lake with younger Billy; must have dance training and must be experienced in lifts and partner work, as he will work closely with younger Billy on this dance; must exude confidence and stature as a dancer. May also cover other ensemble roles in the show (Scottish Ballet Dancer, Royal Ballet Admissions Committee, Miner)
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing and be able to hold harmonies (if they would ALSO like to be a member of the ENSEMBLE).
Dance	Must have training in ballet and preferably have experience with lifts and partner work.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections) (IF auditioning to be part of the ENSEMBLE as well).

 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN (ALL AGES)

ENSEMBLE (AGES 8-99)

Description	Males and Females, 7 to Adult. To round out the ensemble and portray various characters and bit parts in the show (Posh Parents, Royal Ballet Students/Admissions Committee, Clipboard Woman, Ballet Class Dancers, Miners, Police Officers, Mr. Wilkinson, Community Members etc.); experience in dance is a plus but not required. Must have singing experience, preferably with ability to hold their own in tight harmonies and must be able to move well.
Vocal Range	Must have experience in choral/ensemble singing and be able to hold harmonies.
Dance	No dance required for this role. Must move well, as they will be required to learn basic blocking and choreography.
Audition Songs	16-32 Bar Cut of Ballad AND An Uptempo (both Personal Selections)

BILLY ELLIOT – SYNOPSIS

Act I

In County Durham, the 1984–85 coal miners' strike is just beginning ("The Stars Look Down"). Motherless eleven-year-old Billy stays behind after his boxing class to give keys to Mrs. Wilkinson, who runs a ballet class. The class is all girls, but Billy is attracted to the grace of the dance ("Shine"). At first, Billy's interest in dance is easily concealed from his family, as the only person home at the time is his grandmother. She reveals to Billy the abuse she suffered at the hands of her late husband, but that she found great joy in dance ("Grandma's Song").

While his father Jackie, brother Tony and neighbours are on strike and clash with riot police, Billy secretly takes dance lessons ("Solidarity"). During the number, the violent reality of the strike is contrasted with the peaceful practise of ballet.

Eventually, Jackie discovers Billy in the ballet class and forbids him from attending the lessons. Mrs. Wilkinson, who recognizes Billy's potential, privately suggests that he should audition for the Royal Ballet School in London, offering free private lessons to prepare him for the audition. Billy is not sure what he wants to do, so he visits his best friend Michael for advice. He finds Michael wearing a dress. Michael persuades Billy to have fun with him by dressing up in woman's clothing, rejecting the restrictive inhibitions of their working-class community ("Expressing Yourself").

For his first private ballet lesson, Billy brings things to inspire a special dance for the audition, including a letter from his mother ("Dear Billy (Mum's Letter)"). Through his lessons, he develops an impressive routine for his audition ("Born to Boogie"), as he forms a close bond with Mrs. Wilkinson. Her daughter, Debbie, tries to discourage Billy from auditioning because she has a crush on him. Meanwhile, Jackie and Tony are engaged in daily battles with riot police that often turn bloody. They struggle to support the family with very little in strike and union pay, a difficult task as the strike goes on for nearly a year.

When the day of the Royal Ballet School audition comes, the police come through the village, injuring Tony. Billy's family and some members of the community are gathered at the Elliot home, where Mrs. Wilkinson arrives when Billy fails to meet her to leave for the audition. She reveals that she has been teaching Billy in preparation for this audition, which upsets and angers Jackie and Tony. Tony tries to force Billy to dance on the table in front of everyone. Suddenly, the police approach and, as everyone escapes, Billy calls out to his father saying that his mother would have let him dance, to which Jackie says, "Your Mam's dead!". Billy goes into a rage ("Angry Dance"), and from that moment on, he stays away from anything related to ballet.

Act II

Six months later at the miner's annual Christmas show, the children put on a show disparaging Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is seen as the antagonist by the coal miners ("Merry Christmas, Maggie Thatcher"). Billy's father gets drunk and sings an old folk song that elicits memories of his deceased wife and the usually stoic man leaves in tears ("Deep Into the Ground"). Left alone with Billy in the Community Centre, Michael reveals he has feelings for him, but Billy says that the fact that he likes ballet does not mean that he is gay. Michael gives him a kiss on the cheek. Michael tries to get Billy to show him some dancing, but Billy is sad and tells him to leave.

Michael departs, but leaves a music player running. Billy feels like dancing for the first time since the day of the aborted audition and dances while dreaming of being a grown-up dancer ("Swan Lake"). Unknown to Billy, his father arrives and watches him dance. Overcome with emotion, Jackie goes to Mrs. Wilkinson's house to discuss Billy's prospects as a dancer. She confirms Billy's talent, but is not sure whether or not he would get into the Royal Ballet School after missing the audition. Mrs. Wilkinson offers to help pay for the trip to London for the next audition, but Jackie refuses and leaves, questioning his working-class pride and the future mining has for his boys.

Jackie decides the only way to help Billy is to return to work. When Tony sees his father cross the picket line, he becomes infuriated and the two argue over what is more important: unity of the miners or helping Billy achieve his dream ("He Could Be A Star"). The argument comes to blows and Billy is hit accidentally. A miner chastises them for fighting and says that the important thing is looking after the child. One by one, the miners give money to help pay for the trip to the audition, but Billy still does not have enough for the bus fare to London. A strike-breaker arrives and offers him hundreds of pounds. An enraged Tony attempts to shun his donation, but no one else speaks up in his support. Now drained of hope, Tony dismally ponders whether there's a point for anything anymore and runs off.

Billy and his father arrive at the Royal Ballet School for the audition. While Jackie waits outside, an upper-crust Londoner highlights the contrast between the Elliots and the families of the other applicants. Jackie meets a dancer with a thick Northern accent, who confesses that his father does not support his ballet career, but sharply advises Jackie to "get behind" his boy. Billy nervously finishes the audition with a feeling that he did not do well. As he packs his gear, he becomes overwhelmed and punches another dancer. The audition committee reminds Billy of the strict standards of the school and their zero-tolerance on violence. They have received an enthusiastic letter from Mrs. Wilkinson explaining

Billy's background, situation and talent/potential; then ask him to describe what it feels like when he dances. Billy responds with a heartfelt declaration of his passion ("Electricity").

Back in Durham, the Elliots resume life, but times are tough and the miners are running a soup kitchen to ensure everyone is fed. Eventually, Billy receives a letter from the school and, overwhelmed and fearful, knowing that it heralds the end of the life he has known, informs his family that he was not accepted. Tony retrieves the letter from the waste bin and discovers that Billy had lied and actually was accepted - the family rejoice. At the same time, the miners' union has caved in; they lost the strike. Tony laments that miners are "dinosaurs", that by the time Billy returns home, all surrounding village's men will be jobless. Billy visits Mrs. Wilkinson at the dance class to thank her for everything she did to help him. Debbie is sad that Billy will be leaving.

Billy packs his things for the trip to the school and says goodbye to the soon-to-be-unemployed miners who are returning unhappily to work ("Once We Were Kings"). Billy says goodbye to his dead mother, who often visits him in his imagination ("Dear Billy (Billy's Reply)"). Billy breaks the fourth wall and begins to walk down the centre aisle before Michael stops him to say goodbye. Billy drops his suitcase and runs onto the stage to give Michael a kiss on the cheek. Billy then walks back off stage, retrieves his suitcase and walks out toward his future alone.

The entire cast comes out on stage and calls Billy back to celebrate the bright future ahead of him ("Finale").