

ONCE Character Descriptions

IMPORTANT NOTES

Yes, it's true, EVERY actor in the show plays an instrument! Please note the underlined instrument requirement in each description. There are some characters for whom there is some flexibility, so please look at that carefully. There are also some characters who COULD play some specialty instruments.

The age ranges and gender identities in the character descriptions are the ages and gender identities of the CHARACTERS. We are open to actors of any age and gender identity to portray these characters.

Please note that while the script indicates that the story takes place in Ireland with both Irish and Czech characters, we are open to actors from any ethnic or racial background for these roles to tell this story. We will be offering a dialect coach to all actors to assist in learning the Czech and Irish accents that are indicated below.

CAST BREAKDOWN

Girl

A determined and witty dreamer. Girl has come from the Czech Republic to Dublin for a new life. She is passionate about playing the piano and making music. Czech Accent.

Gender: Female

Age: 20s-30s

Guy

A down-on-his-luck musician in Dublin. He is lovesick and lost. He loves making songs and playing guitar but is ready to give up. Irish Accent.

Gender: Male

Age: 20s-30s

Billy

A music store owner who allows Girl to play piano in his shop. Opinionated and loyal to those he cares about. Plays guitar. Other possible instruments: Ukulele, Cajon/Cymbals/Percussion. Irish Accent.

Gender: Male

Age: 30s-60s

Reza

Girl's vivacious and flirtatious roommate. Plays violin. Czech Accent.

Gender: Female

Age: 20s-30s

Baruska

Girl's mother. Loving, generous, and idealistic. Plays accordion. Other possible instruments: Concertina. Czech Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of accordion skills keep you from auditioning! But you DO have to play SOMETHING – percussion, guitar, etc)

Gender: Female

Age: 40s-60s

Bank Manager

Corporate on the outside, but artistic on the inside. Plays **guitar** and **cello**. Other possible instruments: Mandolin. Irish Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of cello skills keep you from auditioning. But you **MUST** play the guitar).

Gender: Any

Age: 30s-50s

Da

Guy's father. A caring man who loves his son. Plays **mandolin**. Irish Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of mandolin skills keep you from auditioning **BUT** you should have solid guitar skills!)

Gender: Male

Age: 50s to 70s

Svec

Girl's quirky roommate. Plays **drums** and **guitar**. Other possible instruments: Banjo. Czech Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of either guitar keep you from auditioning. But you **MUST** play the drums).

Gender: Male

Age: 20s to 40s

Andrej

Girl's roommate. A big dreamer. Plays **guitar** and **electric bass**. Other possible instruments: Ukulele Czech Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of either guitar or bass skills keep you from auditioning. But you **SHOULD** have one or the other).

Gender: Male

Age: 20s to 30s

Eamon

A Dublin music studio manager. Plays **guitar** and **piano**. Other possible instruments: Melodica, Cajon/castenets/percussion. Irish Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of either guitar or piano skills keep you from auditioning. But you **SHOULD** have one or the other).

Gender: Male

Age: 20s to 50s

Emcee

Host of an open mic at a Dublin pub. Plays **guitar**. Irish Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of guitar skills keep you from auditioning! But you **DO** have to play **SOMETHING** – percussion, strings, accordian, etc)

Gender: Any

Age: 20s to 50s

Ex-Girlfriend

Guy's ex-girlfriend. Wanting a better life, she's moved from Dublin to New York. Plays **violin**. Irish Accent. (Some flexibility on the instrument here – don't let a lack of violin skills keep you from auditioning!)

Gender: Female

Age: 20s to 40s

Ivonka

Girl's daughter. Non speaking. Technically does NOT have to play an instrument – but it would be cool if she did!

Gender: Female

Age: LOOKS 5-6 years old. We are auditioning ages 6-10.

ENSEMBLE

Looking for 2-5 musicians/singers of all ages, ethnicities, and gender identities to round out the cast and band.

Ensemble members will be onstage for many numbers, singing, moving, and playing their instruments. They will ALSO participate in the pre-show concerts. Looking for: Percussion, guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, accordion, concertina, possibly violin or piano.