

jetty theatre

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company

Presents

LIONEL BART'S

OLIVER!

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Lionel Bart

Coming in 2026
8 - 31 May

Information Pack

Orchestral arrangements by William David Brohn

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).



OLIVER! – PRODUCTION INFORMATION PACK

Welcome

*Thank you for your interest in joining our production of Oliver!
We are excited to bring this iconic musical to life with a warm, inclusive and family-friendly rehearsal environment. Whether you are a seasoned performer or stepping onto the stage for the first time, we look forward to seeing what you will bring to this story.*

About the Show

Oliver! is a beloved musical based on Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist. Featuring unforgettable characters, powerful storytelling and a blend of humour and heart, it takes audiences on a journey from the grim workhouse to the bustling streets of London.

This production embraces community spirit, teamwork, creativity, and joy. We are committed to making this experience rewarding for performers and families alike.

Creative Vision

Our focus is to create:

*A welcoming, inclusive environment for cast and families
A safe and supportive space for young performers to learn and grow
Strong character-driven storytelling
High-quality vocal and ensemble tone
Dynamic staging that honours the heart and grit of Dickens' world*

Production Team

*Director: Jacinta Bentley
Musical & Vocal Director: Kate Freeman
Assistant Director: Loz Dalton
Choreographer: TBC
Production Manager: Emily Dalton
Further announcements to come.*

Auditions:

Adult Principal and Ensemble Auditions – Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December

By individual time slot

For Adults who cannot attend these dates - for Principal role - Video Auditions accepted please contact the production team.

For Ensemble you can attend the Children's Workshop Audition Saturday 31 January 2026 9:00am to 12:00pm

Children's Ensemble Workshop Audition – Group workshop format Saturday 31 January 2026 9:00am to 12:00pm. All Children to attend and only those children who are auditioning for Oliver are required to stay for individual auditions.

Oliver role Auditions - by individual time slot - Saturday 31 January 2026 12:30m to 3:00pm. (Adult Principals {Bumble, Fagin, Nancy & Bill) will be cast at this point and will hopefully be there to read with you)

Venues:

Adult Auditions - Community Village Rooms Earl Street (gated centre behind Coles)

Children's Workshop - TBC early January,

Children's Workshop Audition Format

We welcome children who love to sing, move, and tell stories.

Workshop Includes:

- Vocal warm-ups
- Simple movement activity
- Group singing
- Theatre games

What to Bring

- A water bottle
- Closed-in shoes
- Comfortable clothing for movement
- A great attitude and willingness to try

No solo audition required for children's ensemble – we want to see confidence, focus and teamwork.

Casting Considerations

We celebrate diversity and encourage performers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels to audition.

Casting will consider:

Vocal ability and acting connection
Character interpretation
Stage presence and energy
Availability and commitment
Ensemble collaboration

Rehearsals:

Thursday evenings from 630pm till 930pm - Generally adult cast and/or Oliver 6:30-7:30 as scheduled

Sundays 10-4pm (except Easter Sunday) Initially they will be -

o Children's Chorus, Oliver & Dodger - 10am - 1:00pm

o Adult Ensemble & Principals - 1:30 - 4pm or as schedule.

As we get nearer to showtime we will start running the full show and therefore will require the all cast to attend all day for Sunday rehearsals.

We expect cast to do all prep work, commit to rehearsals and make the effort of catching up at home on any thing that is missed in between rehearsals requirements.

Commitment to full company rehearsals leading into show week

Rehearsal dates

Sun 08 Feb (Introduction/read through Full Cast) - Time to be confirmed

Thu 12 Feb

Sun 15 Feb

Thu 19 Feb

Sun 22 Feb

Thu 26 Feb

Sun 01 Mar

Thu 05 Mar

Sun 08 Mar

Thu 12 Mar

Sun 15 Mar

Thu 19 Mar

Sun 22 Mar

Thu 26 Mar

Sun 29 Mar

Thu 02 Apr

Sun 05 Apr Easter Sunday NO REHEARSALS

Thu 09 Apr

Sun 12 Apr

Thu 16 Apr

Sun 19 Apr

Thu 23 Apr

Sun 26 Apr

Thu 30 Apr

Sun 03 May - TECH

Mon 04 May - TECH

Tue 05 May - DRESS

Wed 06 May - DRESS

(Full schedule will be provided at first cast meeting.)

Other Considerations

As Oliver is a huge role it will be shared between 2 children

We are exploring options of 2 mid week school performances - TBC

From experience with other theatre companies these performances have been very successful in community and school engagements.

If the school performance option is not confirmed we will have a Thursday night performance 21 May 2026.

Both Oliver's will perform

5 Evenings - 1x Wednesday, 2x Friday, 2x Saturday

4 Matinees - 2x Saturday, 2x Sunday

1 'School' performance

They have been named as Rascal and Rogue casts

Option 1

Fri 08 May 7:30pm - OPENING NIGHT Rascal

Sat 09 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Sat 09 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Sun 10 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Wed 13 May 11:00am - Schools Performance Rogue

Fri 15 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Sat 16 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Sat 16 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Sun 17 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Wed 20 May 11:00am - Schools Performance Rascal

Wed 20 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Fri 22 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Sat 23 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Sat 23 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Sun 24 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Wed 27 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Fri 29 May 2:00pm - Evening Rogue

Sat 30 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Sat 30 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Sun 31 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Option 2

Fri 08 May 7:30pm - OPENING NIGHT Rascal

Sat 09 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Sat 09 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Sun 10 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Wed 13 May 17:30pm - Evening Rogue

Fri 15 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Sat 16 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Sat 16 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Sun 17 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Wed 20 May 10:00am - Schools Performance Rascal

Wed 20 May 2:00pm - Schools Performance Rogue

Fri 22 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Sat 23 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Sat 23 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Sun 24 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rogue

Wed 27 May 7:30pm - Evening Rascal

Fri 29 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Sat 30 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Sat 30 May 7:30pm - Evening Rogue

Sun 31 May 2:00pm - Matinee Rascal

Character Breakdown:

Oliver Twist: Age: 10 - 15 Vocal type: A3 to E5 Medium voice (Mezzo)

Oliver Twist is the 11-year-old orphan around which the whole plot of the show revolves. Oliver is intelligent and kind, but he is not afraid to stand up for himself when the situation calls for it. He longs for a family and escapes to the big city to make his fortune – though he has no idea what adventures await him there!

NB:(This role will be cast gender blind)

Artful Dodger: Age: 18- 25 Vocal type: A3 to E5 Medium voice (Mezzo)

Fagin's brightest pupil - an undersized 16. Dodger is one of the most famous characters in literature. Dodger is charming, upbeat, and charismatic. Though Dodger works for Fagin as a thief, Dodger is the first person to show Oliver real kindness and a place to belong.

NB:(This role will be cast gender blind)

Fagin: Age 35-55 Vocal type – Baritone (Top F)

A conniving career criminal, who takes in homeless boys and teaches them to pick pockets. Although a darker character, he has a humorous side which he uses to his advantage. Often played with a 'Jewish influence' in line with Dicken's original description of 'the Jew'.

A strong character actor and singer, who also needs to move well. He needs to show warmth towards the boys in his care, has a miserly streak, needs to calm and placate Bill, but is ultimately only interested in his own self-preservation.

Nancy: Age 25-45 Vocal type – Mezzo/Alto (G below middle C to top G)

When she was younger she worked for Fagin but is now a "barmaid" at the Three Cripples Bar. She lives with and loves Bill Sykes, is pretty, intelligent and longs for a better life. She feels very protective of Oliver but is eventually murdered for the steps she takes on his behalf.

A great singer with a full range of vocal ability – we know she can belt out a song but we need to see her vulnerability too. The actress must be able to portray a full range of emotions from having a laugh in the pub to being a 'beaten woman' who is brave enough to stand up to Bill. The audience must absolutely love this 'tart with a heart'. Good mover. Cockney accent.

Bill Sykes: Age 30-45 Vocal type - Baritone

Bill worked for Fagin as a youth but is now a feared master criminal. Nancy's brutal, abusive lover and her eventual murderer.

The actor needs to be menacing and surly. He is good looking in a rough sort of way and 'loves' Nancy. The audience should feel that he is always on the brink of violence. Cockney accent.

Mr. Bumble: Age 35-50 Vocal type - Tenor

A large, pompous and corrupt bureaucrat and the Beadle of the workhouse where Oliver was born. Horrible to the boys in his supposed care and in love with Mrs Corney, who dominates him!

A great actor and singer needed for this role, who should tower over the children making them feel even more insignificant.

Widow Corney: Age 30-50 Vocal Type – Mezzo Soprano (Top F, A flat optional)

The Mistress of the Workhouse and sharp-tongued widow who is also corrupt. She later marries Mr. Bumble. She is described as a buxom beauty! Great character singing and acting with an accent that tries to be posh to hide her Cockney roots. Will be included in some ensemble scenes.

Bet: Age 20-30 Vocal type – Mezzo/Alto (A flat below middle C to top F sharp)

Nancy's friend, who may also have worked for Fagin. She is still a little naïve and is yet to see the true harshness of life.

Lovely singing and acting should portray her innocence, as a contrast to Nancy. Good mover with Cockney accent. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

****Mr. Sowerberry: Age 35+ Vocal type - Baritone***

The undertaker who buys Oliver to work in the funeral home. Sinister and malevolent.

A character singer and actor required with a mild Cockney accent. Some movement.

****Mrs. Sowerberry: Age 35+ Vocal type - Mezzo***

The undertaker's wife, who matches her husband in character. She has no qualms about leaving a young child to sleep amongst coffins!

A character singer and actor. Some movement.

****Noah Claypole: Age 16-25 (sing as ensemble)***

The Undertaker's apprentice, who may have also come from Workhouse. He feels threatened by, dislikes and torments Oliver. He bullies Oliver about his mother and enjoys a flirtatious relationship with Charlotte. Cockney accent. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

****Charlotte: Age 16-20 (sing as ensemble)***

The Sowerberry's daughter who is attracted to Noah. She is also unkind to Oliver and encourages Noah's bullying. Cockney accent. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

Mr. Brownlow: Age 50+ (sing as ensemble)

A kind, upper-class gentleman who we eventually discover is Oliver's grandfather.

We must see the element of regret that he once 'lost' a daughter and then the joy at finding his grandson. Depending on casting, the actor may appear in ensemble scenes.

****Dr. Grimwig: Age 40+ (sing as ensemble)***

Upper class, friend of Mr. Brownlow. He assesses Oliver's condition at the beginning of Act II, deeming him fit to go outside. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

****Mrs. Bedwin: Age 35+ (soprano - sing as ensemble)***

A housekeeper who works for Mr. Brownlow. Warm and caring personality.

Will be included in ensemble scenes.

Adult Ensemble: Age ranges 16 and up, singers (all voice types), characters (Old Sally, Charley, Governors etc) with cockney and traditional British accents.

Included in this are the "featured" soloists: The Rose Seller (mezzo), Strawberry Seller (soprano), Milk Maid (soprano), Knife Grinder (baritone) and Long Song Seller (Tenor);

* Will also be part of the ensemble

Audition Requirements

We ask everyone to prepare an audition song from a musical in similar style to Oliver.

For those auditioning for Principal roles you will be asked to sing a song from the show at your audition. You will also be required to read.

Please review the [Character Audition Pieces](#) link as this details the song we would like to hear and the section of script.

Cast Announcements

We endeavour to have Adult Principal roles cast before Christmas.

We also hope to have key adults attend the Oliver child auditions for chemistry reading

BOOK YOUR AUDITION HERE

<https://oliverthemusicaldayschedulecom.dayschedule.com>

Questions?

We are here to help!

✉ Email: Oliver2026CHMCCProductionTeam@gmail.com

☎ Contact: Jacinta - 0407684698 (Text is best)