



## Audition Guide

**16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - John McIntosh Arts Centre, London Oratory School, Fulham**

### Show Summary

After trying to escape his father's low-key, family ambitions for him, Charlie Price has suddenly inherited his father's shoe factory, Price and Sons, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Charlie must now face the decision of whether to pursue a new life in London with his fiancée Nicola, or return to the town in which he grew up and save his father's dreams. Ultimately, Charlie decides to try to live up to his father's legacy and rescue his family business, and, in doing so, he finds unlikely inspiration in the form of Lola. A fabulous drag queen in need of some sturdy stiletto boots, Lola turns out to be the one person who can help Charlie become the man he's meant to be. As they work to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair find that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible. With the door thrown open and the world at their fingers, Charlie discovers that when you change your mind about someone, you can change your whole world.

### Our Production

The Cygnets Players' production of Kinky Boots will stay true to the original script, but add its own unique elements of originality. We have added five exciting new parts, The Divas, who will give strong voices to the Angels, and in true drag tradition, the Angels will now lip-sync and dance with energy. This is an LGBTQAI+ story and our aim is to be as inclusive and diverse as possible; we aim to create a supportive and happy cast family to share the positive Kinky Boots messages. We want this production to have a true British feel (think vibes of the 2005 film) bringing the truth and showing the life of factory workers and these fabulous characters. However, when we say "British", we encourage auditions from all ethnicities and nationalities to reflect the true diversity of the UK. This is a story of humanity, gender expression, accepting others and most importantly accepting ourselves. *Just be who you wanna be!*

### Information Evening and Pre-audition Workshops

An information evening will be held virtually on the evening of **28<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm** over Zoom. To join, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87465607914?pwd=Q0ZTTm52cEIDQUhXYk8zVHZrS2NNdz09>

Or enter these details into your Zoom app:

Meeting ID: 874 6560 7914

Passcode: 701386

This evening will give an idea of the vibe of the show, get the theatre community excited about the production and give a chance to ask questions to the Production Team.

Workshops will be held in St Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road, Southfields, SW18 5EP on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 19:45** to teach a song and a dance from the show. To keep within capacity limits, we will be running the same workshop twice on each day; all the workshops will be the same, so you only need to attend one slot. Both workshops will be the same, so there is no need to attend both.

The workshops are not a pre-requisite to audition; there will be recording of the song and dance to practice with at home, but attending will be a useful environment to get comfortable with the material. Due to Covid restrictions, space is limited so please sign up for an hour-long workshop slot here - <https://doodle.com/poll/72wrw2trzr6xfxbg>

### **Auditions**

Auditions will be held on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 19:30-22:00** and **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 14:00-18:00** at St Barnabas Church Hall, SW18 5EP.

To book a time slot, please fill in this interest form <https://forms.gle/mVJErStNHbFkqt4i9>. You will then be sent the booking page and detailed audition form via email. ***Please check your spam folder!***

Audition slots are for an hour, and you will be given a more specific slot on arrival. The dance call (performing the dance learnt at the workshop / from the video) will be at the start of each slot, followed by individual auditions, so you need to arrive ready to go at the start of your slot. If you have trouble attending any of the available slots, please contact [cygnetskinkyboots@gmail.com](mailto:cygnetskinkyboots@gmail.com)

Recalls for larger roles will be held on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 19:30** at St Barnabas Church Hall.

If you are successful and are cast, you must then become a member of the society. Membership is £35 a year if you pay as a one-off, or only £30 when you set up a standing order (we can provide you with a standing order form to fill out). This gives you members' rates to our social events and access to our members' groups and mailing lists, as well as entitling you to vote on society matters at the AGM and other official meetings.

Show fee information, plus a note on financial accommodations, is on page 6.

### **Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion**

Cygnets are committed to diversity and inclusion within our casting and storytelling. With this in mind, we are following a **conscious casting** process, ensuring there are opportunities for all people, from every walk of life to take part. Our full Diversity and Inclusion statement can be found at the end of this document.

**Note on gender of parts:** In Kinky Boots, themes of gender and gender identity form a large part of the plot, so we are generally keeping the parts to their originally written gender in the production. However, we are open to all genders for each part; you need only be comfortable presenting as the gender the role is written. For example, if you are non-binary but wanting to portray a male character, we welcome this. Character descriptions below give the gender of the character.

**Note on disability accommodation:** Some parts require technical dancing but there are a number of parts which would suit performers with physical and other disabilities, so we encourage such auditionees. Accessibility information for our rehearsal and performance venues can be found at the end of this document.



Charlie's fiancée who is a driven and sophisticated woman trying to escape small-town life in Northampton. Good pop singer.

### Don

*Character Gender*                      *Ethnicity: Any*                      *Vocal Range: Baritone*      *Age: Late 20s*  
*Presentation: Male*

Burly hyper-masculine bear of a factory worker who extends a lot of judgement to Lola. Has a menacing physicality. Strong actor. Takes part in ensemble numbers and scenes as one of the factory workers.

### Harry (also in Ensemble)

*Character Gender*                      *Ethnicity: Any*                      *Vocal Range: Tenor*              *Age: Mid-Late 20s*  
*Presentation: Male*

A contemporary of Charlie's, but his opposite. Harry is successful, self-aware, confident and carefree. Must have a great rock voice and typically plays the guitar, and though not a requirement for the part we'd love to see performers who can play! Takes part in ensemble numbers and scenes as one of the factory workers.

### George

*Character Gender*                      *Ethnicity: Any*                      *Vocal Range: Tenor*              *Age: 40s+*  
*Presentation: Male*

Factory Manager, keeping up traditions and reserved but with a cheeky side. Takes part in ensemble numbers and scenes as one of the factory workers.

### Pat

*Character Gender*                      *Ethnicity: Any*                      *Vocal Range: Mezzo-  
Soprano*                      *Age: 30+*  
*Presentation: Female*

Officious office manager who will let loose her wild side when allowed. Strong pop/rock voice. Takes part in ensemble numbers and scenes as one of the factory workers.

### Trish

*Character Gender*                      *Ethnicity: Any*                      *Vocal Range: Alto*                      *Age: 40+*  
*Presentation: Female*

Factory worker who has been there longer than any of the other women. Able to act comedically. Takes part in ensemble numbers and scenes as one of the factory workers.

### Mr Price (also in Ensemble)

*Character Gender*                      *Ethnicity: Any*                      *Vocal Range: Baritone*      *Age: 50+*  
*Presentation: Male*

Charlie's father who appears at the start of the show and in the finishing sequence and is in the ensemble.

### Ensemble

*Assorted genders, ethnicities, vocal ranges and ages*

Able to move well and learn relatively simple dances, and full of enthusiasm. Opportunities for smaller roles such as the property developer, muggers in London and Lola's father. All Ensemble will need to move in high-heeled boots for the final number!

### Young Lola and Young Charlie

The parts of Young Lola and Young Charlie will be cast separately once Lola and Charlie have been selected for the main cast. Playing age 10-12.

### Understudies

Due to uncertainty around Covid-19, we will be casting understudies for the main parts (details on which roles to be announced) from the ensemble. There will not be an allocated show for understudies to perform in and this is just a precaution, but you will have the chance to attend rehearsals and receive training for principal roles.

### Audition Pieces

You can audition for more than one part, but please audition with the pieces from your preferred role. All audition pieces and dance videos will be added to this drive in the lead-up to the auditions <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18ncDOSsazvRaCZQPxydFNiPQkCr8KoT>

### Dancing

There will be two dances – one more advanced. If you are auditioning to be an Angel (including if this is your less preferred role) you will need to do the advanced dance as well as the universal one. There will also be more complex dancing for most members of the female ensemble so it's highly encouraged for female-presenting individuals who wish to be in the ensemble to also learn the advanced dance. The dance will be taught at workshops, and a video to learn from will be available on the drive closer to auditions.

### Acting/Dialogue

Audition pieces for each character are available on the drive. One of the audition panel will read in the lines of the other characters in the piece. If you are auditioning for Ensemble only, Divas or Angels, you do not need to learn a dialogue piece – but try to show character in your singing and dancing audition.

### Singing

Audition pieces for each character will be available on the drive including an indication of which part(s) the song is for; recall songs will also be added. If you are going for a solo singing role (named part) or would like to be considered for a solo line, please prepare one of the principal pieces (the most relevant for the part(s) you are auditioning for) plus the ensemble piece. If you are just going for the ensemble, feel free to just prepare the ensemble piece. If you are auditioning for an Angel it is not a requirement that you sing, but preferred that you do sing one of the pieces.

### Rehearsals and Shows

Rehearsals will be on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 19:30-22:00**, and from January on **Sunday afternoons/evenings (time TBC)**, at St Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road, Southfields, SW18 5EP. The first rehearsal will be Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The rehearsal schedule has not been fully formed yet and will partly depend on cast availability, so please let us know your availability as accurately as possible on the audition form.

Show week at the venue is from **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022** with full cast called:

- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Get-in and Sitzprobe: all cast required 9am-10pm
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Technical rehearsal, Time TBA-Midnight
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Dress Rehearsal, 5pm-11pm
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>-Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Shows, call time 6pm-11pm (7:30pm show)
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> – Shows, call time 10am-Midnight (12pm show, 5pm show, get-out)

There will also be some promotional events such as flyering and live performances for cast. More details on these will be given later – each member of the cast will be expected attend at least one promotional event, as these are vital for making sure you have big audiences to perform to!

### **Show Fee**

In amateur dramatics, because we are self-funded and doing this for fun, a show fee is paid by participants to cover all the costs of the show – things like performance rights, venue hire, scenery, costumes, lighting, insurance and lots more! This year, we are also facing increased costs due to Covid, which include additional rehearsal space and additional venue cleaning costs.

For Kinky Boots, the fee will be **£100**, with £50 of this due in the first week of rehearsals as a non-refundable deposit to cover the made-to-measure costumes you will have during the show.

We don't want financial circumstances to be a barrier to participation, so if you are concerned about the fee, or due to current circumstances you are unable to pay the £50 upfront, please speak to the Cygnet Players committee in confidence by emailing [info@cygnetplayers.com](mailto:info@cygnetplayers.com) - this will be kept fully independent from the Kinky Boots production team and audition process.

### **About Cygnet Players**

Cygnet Players is a young and vibrant company based in South-West London. We rehearse in Southfields and put on shows in and around Putney. We perform two musicals and a play every year, as well as putting on various concerts and other events. We also have regular social events, which are great opportunities to meet and catch up with other Cygnets. We always welcome new members, so if this is your first show with us – welcome to the family!

For more information about the company in general, have a look at our website at [www.cygnetplayers.com](http://www.cygnetplayers.com) or email [info@cygnetplayers.com](mailto:info@cygnetplayers.com).

You can also find us on social media:

- Facebook – [www.facebook.com/cygnetplayers](https://www.facebook.com/cygnetplayers)
- Instagram – [@cygnetplayers](https://www.instagram.com/cygnetplayers)

### **Covid-19 Policy**

We will adhere to all government guidance and rules on Covid-19.

We are currently able to meet, rehearse and perform indoors in large groups, without any restrictions. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and adapt accordingly if anything changes.

We strongly encourage the cast to perform regular lateral flow tests (even if you are double vaxxed) to ensure the safety of the cast.

Please do not attend a workshop, audition or rehearsal if you or anyone in your household is experiencing Covid symptoms.

If you test positive, are identified as a close contact, or have returned from an amber or red list country and are therefore required to self-isolate, please do so as per relevant government guidelines.

Detailed Covid-related information will be issued at the start of rehearsals.

### **Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion**

Cygnets Players strives to create an accessible and welcoming environment for members and audiences. We are committed to diversity and inclusion within our casting and storytelling to ensure there are opportunities for all people, from every walk of life, to take part.

As part of this, we are committed to a **conscious casting** process; making conscious decisions about how a show can be cast, rather than following the “traditional” model that repeats whatever has been done before. We are always open to non-traditional casting, and conscious artistic decisions will be made whenever race, ethnicity, gender or other factors are a key component of the story or integral to the relationships between characters. Where this is the case, it will be clearly highlighted in character breakdowns.

Cygnets is a member of the South West London amateur theatre societies’ Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Accessibility Group (IDEA): a group of five societies working towards improved diversity and inclusion in am dram.

We are open to feedback to improve our processes and create a warm and welcoming atmosphere that creates opportunities for people of all ethnicities, gender identities and physical abilities.

If you have any suggestions, feedback or ideas please speak to a member of the Committee or Production Team, or email [swamdramidea@gmail.com](mailto:swamdramidea@gmail.com). It will always be treated in the strictest of confidence but if you wish to provide feedback anonymously, please fill in [this form](#).

### **Disability Accommodation**

Our rehearsal venue (St. Barnabas church) has step-free access to the rehearsal rooms and accessible toilet facilities.

The performance venue (John McIntosh Arts Centre, London Oratory School) has step-free access to the stage, backstage areas and auditorium. The auditorium has allocated wheelchair spaces.

If you have more specific questions or requirements, please email [info@cygnetplayers.com](mailto:info@cygnetplayers.com).

### **Contact**

Please contact [cygnetskinkyboots@gmail.com](mailto:cygnetskinkyboots@gmail.com) with any questions about auditions and the show.

For any other questions about the society, please email [info@cygnetplayers.com](mailto:info@cygnetplayers.com).

***Good luck with your audition!***