

The Drowsy Chaperone

GENERAL CASTING NOTES & CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Chaperone is a smash 1920s musical as imagined and retold by *The Man in the Chair*. His imagination is pretty vivid, so all characters need to be played as slightly larger than life, in some cases bordering on caricature. Subtle characterization doesn't work in this show. In other words: Go for it!

The Man in Chair: Middle-aged, neurotic, insecure and a touch campy. Must have excellent comic technique and timing. This is the only non-singing role.

Janet Van de Graaff: (30s) Star of *Feldzieg's Follies* who is conflicted about giving up her life on the stage to marry Robert Martin. Attractive, vivacious, outgoing personality. She loves being the center of attention and is the consummate 1920s starlet. Vocal range: Alto with big belt (G3-E5)

Robert Martin: (30-40) The groom-to-be who is deeply in love with Janet. He is the token 1920s leading man – debonair, dashing, and a matinee idol. He is cheesy, cheerful, and optimistic. Ability to tap dance and roller skate a big plus. Vocal range: Tenor (C3 – Ab4)

The Drowsy Chaperone: (40s-50s) Janet's alcoholic confidante. Care-free, usually because she is drunk. An experienced "woman of the world" who couldn't care less what the world thinks. A melodramatic diva to be reckoned with who gleefully chews the scenery and steals just about every scene she is in. Great comedic role. Think Liza Minnelli meets Tallulah Bankhead. Vocal range: Alto with strong belt (F3-D5)

Aldolpho: (40s) Latin Lothario. A womanizing cad who is very impressed with himself. He is confident, vigorous, and a buffoon. Vaudeville-style acting and fake Spanish/Italian accent required. Should have great comic timing. Vocal range: Bass/Baritone + great falsetto (A#2-G4)

Mrs. Tottendale: (45-60) A wealthy widow and host of the wedding. She is flighty, eccentric, often times forgetful, and funny. She is absolutely charming, bubbly and oblivious to the confusion her behavior generates in other people. Vocal range: Alto character voice (G3-Db5)

Underling: (50s-60s) Mrs. Tottendale's unflappable butler and manservant. He is stoic, dry-humored and sarcastic. A cross between Arthur Treacher and Niles the butler from *The Nanny*. Vocal range: Tenor character voice (Ab2-G4)

Mr. Feldzieg: (40s-50s) Harried producer who will do anything to stop the wedding in order to keep Janet in the *Follies*. He is nervous, sarcastic, impatient, overbearing, and insensitive. Vocal range: Baritone (Db3-Db4)

Kitty: (30s) 1920s dumb blonde chorine. She is Mr. Feldzieg's companion and will do anything to be a leading lady. A cross between Norma Cassady from *Victor Victoria* and Lena Lamont from *Singin' in the Rain*. Vocal range: Soprano comedic belt (Bb3-F5)

George: (30s-40s) Robert's anxious best man. He is loyal, sincere, and nervous. Makes looking out for Robert's interests his top priority so that the wedding will come off without a hitch. Tap dance skills a big plus. Vocal range: Tenor (F3-Bb4)

Gangsters 1 & 2: (30s-40s) Two jovial gangsters who are posing as pastry chefs. Typical 1920s Broadway gangsters full of word play and stylized movements. Good comic timing and dancing skills required. Vocal range: Tenor (Db3-Gb4)

Trix the Aviatrix: (35-50) The brave and brash female aviator. She is sassy, sleek and a take charge kind of gal. Preferably an African American actress as originally cast. May double in the ensemble. Vocal range: Alto (Ab3-Eb5)

Ensemble: (20-40) A strong, dancing/singing ensemble. Size variable depending on how many people audition. Vocal range: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass