

## Character Breakdowns

### Peter Pan

Musically Peter is written for a mezzo soprano or a boy with an extremely high/unbroken voice. Performers of either sex are invited to audition but they must be able to meet the requirements of the score.

Girls must be able to convincingly pass for a boy and therefore must be androgynous in appearance and able to sing/speak/move convincingly as a boy.

Peter is self-centred, arrogant and cocky. He is also mischievous, wild and full of fun. Even imminent death is seen as, 'An awfully big adventure.' Peter is on the verge of puberty but determined to fight it. He furiously resists any attempt to awaken adult thoughts, feelings or behaviour. Sometimes this leads him to lash out. He is very mercurial and his emotional state changes very swiftly, from weeping despair to joyful exuberance. The actor taking on this role must be able to convincingly and sympathetically embody such extreme mood swings. Peter will have the opportunity to fly and be choreographed in armed and unarmed combat. (Please see notes: **Audition Expectations** for the required skills.)

### Wendy Darling

Wendy is also on the cusp of puberty but she is keen to embrace the grown up world of relationships and particularly Motherhood. She revels in the traditional male/female roles of domesticity. This is a tough acting challenge as Wendy must be played with absolute sincerity. Her values may seem alien to us now but in Victorian England they were standard and acceptable and our audience must believe in her innocence. Peter awakens adult sensations in her. Although she is still too young to fully understand them she knows she wants more than friendship from Peter and is devastated when he seems oblivious to her feelings. Wendy will have the opportunity to fly. (Please see notes: **Audition Expectations** for the required skills.)

Must be very well spoken (Received Pronunciation)

### Captain Hook

Hook is the captain of a band of pirates. Although a heightened character he is a genuine villain and **not** a pantomime baddie. He hates Peter with a vengeance and is determined to hunt him down and kill him. Our audience must genuinely believe that Peter is in danger and fear for his life. Hook will be choreographed in armed combat with Peter so must be physically fit and have a certain level of coordination in order to master these skills. Hook has a hugely inflated ego so he cannot tolerate anything other than total obedience from his crew.

### **Tinkerbell**

In this production Tinkerbell will appear as a real presence. This is a non-speaking part but requires **excellent** non-verbal skills. Tinkerbell must look like an angel, the picture of innocence and adorable 'cuteness' However she is a spoilt, jealous little 'madame' who will not tolerate any competition for Peter's affections. Looks like Cinderella but behaves like Verruca Salt (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.) My ideal Tinkerbell would look around six years of age but as our lower age limit is 8 we are happy to see older children who look younger. Tinkerbell will have the opportunity to fly. (Please see notes: **Audition Expectations** for the required skills.)

### **John Darling**

John is the middle child. He is the oldest boy and is therefore torn between wanting to be 'The man of the family' and enjoying being a child. When he first reaches Neverland he is shocked by the roughness of the Lost Boys and their lack of basic manners and cleanliness but is also very drawn to them. It does not take him very long to shed his Victorian upbringing and join the gang with gusto!

Must be very well spoken (RP)

### **Michael Darling**

Michael is the baby of the Darling family and used to being protected and comforted (whilst feeling hard done by and left out on occasion-certain he is being ignored because of his position in the family.) He is very quick to adapt to life in Neverland and is the first to forget his Mother and that he has a life and a family back home.

Must be very well spoken (RP)

### **Smee**

Smee is Hook's right hand man. He firmly believes his is a terrifying, fierce pirate but in reality the children find him fun and have a real cheeky affection for him. Smee is a loveable buffoon, clumsy and awkward but trying very hard to do things, 'right.'

### **Nana**

Nana will be played by an actor of either sex and will be coached in physicality by our specialist, Gary Andrews. This is a physically demanding role and an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in physical theatre and developing their skills in this area. Nana will also take part in Neverland scenes as part of the ensemble.

### **Mr and Mrs Darling**

These two characters have to confidently hold harmonies so must be strong singers. Although small parts they are great fun and must be convincing in their portrayal of Victorian parents. Must be extremely well spoken (RP) Mr and Mrs Darling will also take part in Neverland scenes.

Must be very well spoken (RP)

### **Age Range of Characters**

Any young person of any age is welcome to audition for a principal role. However when it comes to casting we will need Mr and Mrs Darling to appear believably older than their children, Wendy and Peter must appear the same age and Michael must clearly be the youngest member of the family. Therefore we will be looking to cast a 'family' and ages will be relative to those who turn up on the day!