

Overshadowed Theatrical Productions Announces Auditions for “The Christmas Schooner”

Audition Dates:

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 AM - Noon

Monday, September 27, 7:00-9:00 PM

Callbacks if needed: Tuesday, September 28, 7:00-9:00 PM

To schedule an audition slot, please email Reba Hervas: reba.hervas@overshadowed.org.

Director: Reba Hervas | Music Director: John Hacker

About the show: The whole family will enjoy this heart-warming story of the first Christmas tree ship and the family who risked their lives to fill Chicago with the Christmas spirit. This critically acclaimed musical features a powerfully moving story and an exquisite score of both original music and traditional holiday favorites. Based on the historic Great Lakes voyages of Christmas tree ships during the late 1800s and early 1900s, *The Christmas Schooner* tells the true story of a Michigan shipping captain who braves the deadly winter weather to bring Christmas trees to homesick German-American families in turn-of-the-century Chicago. A timely and stirring tale of love and loss, *The Christmas Schooner* reminds us of tradition, family, and responsibility.

Character Breakdown*

Karl Stossel: A curious boy who admires his grandfather & father greatly and wants to grow up to be a sailor. Age: 8 to 11, Vocal range: G3-E5

Gustav Stossel: Peter's father, too proud to be part of the American landscape, and does not want to forget where he came from. He is a hardworking sailor, a wise, calm and kind man, but very stubborn. Age: 55 to 65, Vocal range: A2-E5

Alma Stossel: Peter's wife and Karl's mother. She is motherly and caring but very strong, and very proud to now call herself an American. She holds down the house while her husband is at sea. Age: 25 to 35, Vocal range: G3-F5

Peter Stossel: The quintessential husband, father, and son. He loves his family very much. Has a strong sense of obligation to the other immigrants who have been less fortunate than he has, which ultimately leads to his demise. A hardworking sailor. Age: 35 to 45, Vocal range: A2-E5

Rudy: The goofier of the two between himself and Oskar, he is also a skilled sailor who deeply respects Captain Stossel. Loves food and has a biting sarcasm. Age: 20 to 35, Vocal range: B2-G5

Oskar: A hotheaded, know-it-all with a big heart. He likes to pick fights with Gustav and is one part of a dynamic duo with Rudy. A sailor who deeply respects Captain Stossel. Age: 20 to 35, Vocal range: B2-G5

Steve: Although he is a man of indulgence, he is all business. Perhaps the most mature and most serious of Captain Stossel's three right-hand men. Has a deep respect for Peter and would probably be second in line to captain the schooner. Age: 35 to 45, Vocal range: B2-B4

Karl Stossel: The same boy as he was at 9, but stronger, more mature, and becoming a man like his father. Has a strong sense of obligation to honor his father's legacy following his death. Age: 13 to 17, Vocal range: C3-E5

Ensemble and Storytellers

*Actual actor age does not need to fit exactly to the above ranges

What to bring:

*Sheet music - be prepared to perform 8-16 bars of a classical musical theater piece from the Golden Era of musical theater (no recorded music, a cappella or songs from the show).

Be prepared to provide all conflicts between the audition dates and closing night.

Performance dates:

Nov. 26, Nov. 25, Nov. 26, Dec. 1, Dec. 2, Dec. 3, Dec. 8, Dec. 9, Dec. 10, Dec. 15, Dec. 16, Dec. 17

If you have questions, please contact the producer at Reba.Hervas@overshadowed.org

Rehearsals will begin ASAP after casting. It is important to fill out the conflict sheet as completely as possible as the rehearsal schedule will be made from that. Plan on 3-4 rehearsals a week depending on what we are rehearsing. Tech week will be 5 days.

Auditions and rehearsals and performances will be held at 900 Foster Rd in Medinah, Illinois.

It is very important that we have a list of ALL CONFLICTS at the time of the audition.