



Follies Audition Information



Thank you for showing interest in auditioning for Inspirations Theatre Company's Production of 'Follies'. Please feel free to share this information pack but remind anyone that they **MUST** complete the online audition registration form at www.tinyurl.com/InspoAuditionForm.

Important Dates:

Please ensure that these dates are blocked out in diaries.

Dress Rehearsal: 06/06/2027. **Essential That All Cast Attend.**

Theatre Dress Rehearsal: 07/06/2027. **Essential That All Cast Attend.**

Theatre Technical Rehearsal: 08/06/2027. **Essential That All Cast Attend.**

Show: 09/06/2027 - 12/06/2027. (5 in total). **Essential That All Cast Attend.**

Rehearsals

Every Thursday (Unless Specified) 7:00pm - 9:00pm [including over school holidays].

Sunday Sessions (5pm-7pm then extended to 4-8pm) will run from 07/03/2027 at the very least.

Any additional rehearsals will be discussed as we progress through the show material.

Venues

Auditions, rehearsals and dress rehearsal will be taking place at:

The Eagle Club, St John's Road, Newbold, S41 8QN.

Theatre Dress Rehearsal, Theatre Technical Rehearsal and the show itself will be taking place at:

The Playhouse, 50 Storforth Lane, Hasland, S41 0PW.

Auditions

Taking place on **Saturday 3rd October 2026 from 10:00am**. These auditions are **open to all (including non-Inspirations members) from the age of 17 (on show dates)**. If you do not turn 17 before the opening performance on 09/06/2027 then unfortunately you cannot be involved - but explore our Junior (ages 6-14) and Intervarsity groups (ages 13-18) for alternate opportunities.

If you are unable to attend the audition date please contact us so we can discuss alternative arrangements. Confirm your interest by completing the online audition registration form at www.tinyurl.com/InspoAuditionForm you will then be allocated a time slot. If you are unable to make this time then please let us know ASAP.

When you arrive please enter at the rear of the building and remain in the waiting area where you will be required to sign in. There will be a keyboard and a speaker available to practice with. You will then be called through to the audition room in turn.

Panel Members: Joshua Mason (Creative Director), Melanie Gilbert (Musical Director).

All auditionees should select one character as their primary audition role. You should then select one contrasting character and prepare both assigned songs. The contrasting choice allows you to showcase your **versatility** by performing material that differs from your primary audition role. Your contrasting choice may indicate a secondary role that you are interested in, but it does not have to. We would encourage you to make a diverse choice where possible for example, **Sally and Stella** rather than **Sally and Phyllis** which allows you to demonstrate a broader range of performance skills across both a primary and secondary principal role. Your chosen songs should demonstrate your vocal ability, range and performance skills. However, when performing a Sondheim show, our primary focus is on **acting through song** and creating specific, believable characterisations.

It is therefore **essential that you research each of your songs and understand its place within the show**. You should have a clear understanding of what is happening in the story at that point, what has happened to your character, what they want, and why they are singing the song. You will most likely be asked about this during your audition. Most importantly, we want to see **your interpretation** of these characters and songs. 'Follies' has been performed by many iconic performers over the years, but we do not want you to try to emulate previous performances. Instead, use the material as a starting point to create **your own distinctive interpretation of the character**.

The following link provides access to the backing tracks that will be used in the audition as well as demonstration vocal tracks (uncut). Please do not rehearse with alternative tracks. Vocal lyric sheets are also provided (in both cut and uncut versions), but it is expected that you will have memorised the words for your audition www.tinyurl.com/InspoAuditionInfo.

Finally there will be a **short discussion with the panel members** where we will ask about previous experience, knowledge of the show, preferences of roles etc. and you have a chance to tell us anything else you think the panel needs to know.

Successful Auditions

Any current members of Inspirations Theatre Company are guaranteed a place in the ensemble even if they do not audition. Everyone who auditions is also guaranteed a place in the ensemble. Principal parts will be offered to individuals by **Saturday 24th October 2026**.

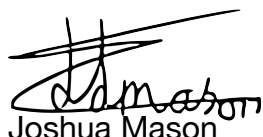
Any minor roles remaining after this will be assigned in due course with priority being given to those who auditioned and did not secure a principal role. Once casting has been assigned - if you are not currently part of Inspirations Theatre Company you will be required to sign up to the 'all inclusive' style **monthly direct debit membership plan**. More details are provided in due course.

Expectations

- To **fully prepare** your audition based on the information available within this pack.
- To **commit to the whole process**. If you are successful in securing the chance to perform in 'Follies' with Inspirations Theatre Company, and you agree to be involved, no matter the role, then we expect you to complete the show as a cast member.
- To **attend every rehearsal** unless for reasons beyond your control. Any known absences must be logged at least 1 week in advance with absences due to illness required 24 hours in advance. Please let the audition panel known of any clashes with the outlined schedule. Regular attendance is an important commitment when joining the cast. Multiple unauthorised absences may result in your position within the cast being reviewed.
- To help in anyway you can to **advertise the production**. Including attending flyer drops, community performances, sharing social media posts, creating a buzz online etc.
- Aim to **sell a minimum of 10 tickets**. This can be to friends, family, colleagues or through encouraging sales through previously mentioned marketing opportunities.
- To **support and encourage** each member of the cast and creative team to achieve.
- To learn all material including lyrics, lines, harmonies, dances etc by the agreed deadline by **using any online resources** provided to help you accomplish this.
- To keep up to date with all information on BAND and be **active in the community** there.
- To offer any **additional support** you can to help make the show a reality from prop making, costume sourcing, backstage/front of house duties, setting up pack away help etc.

Questions

If you have any questions then please get in touch with Joshua Mason via email at inspirationstc.email@gmail.com or by calling/texting on 07584 635932.



Joshua Mason
Company Director - Inspirations Theatre Company

Audition Requirements

Full vocal tracks and vocal scores have been provided for all songs so you can understand the whole songs journey which will better prepare you for performing any backing track and lyric cuts.

Female Identifying Roles

<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Vocal Range</u>	<u>Song To Prepare</u>	<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Vocal Range</u>	<u>Song To Prepare</u>
Sally	F3 - G5	Losing My Mind	Carlotta (Will Join Ensemble)	E3 - B4	I'm Still Here (Cut)
Young Sally	C4 - G5	You're Gonna Love Tomorrow (Cut)	Solange (Will Join Ensemble)	A3 - G5	Ah, Paris!
Phyllis	F3 - E5	Could I Leave You	Stella (Will Join Ensemble)	E3 - F5	Who's That Woman (Cut)
Young Phyllis	B3 - E5	You're Gonna Love Tomorrow (Cut)	Hattie (Will Join Ensemble)	G3 - B4	Broadway Baby
			Heidi / Young Heidi (Will Join Ensemble)	D4 - G5	One More Kiss

Male Identifying Roles

<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Vocal Range</u>	<u>Song To Prepare</u>	<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Vocal Range</u>	<u>Song To Prepare</u>
Ben	A3 - F5	The Road You Didn't Take	Roscoe (Will Join Ensemble)	D4 - A5	Beautiful Girls (Cut)
Young Ben	C4 - F5	Waiting For The Girls Upstairs (Cut)	Theodore (Will Join Ensemble)	B2 - D4	The Rain On The Roof
Buddy	C4 - F5	Buddy's Blues			
Young Buddy	C4 - G5	Waiting For The Girls Upstairs (Cut)			

Other Roles

(Not Being Specifically Auditioned But Feel Free To Express Interest)

Emily (Sings 'The Rain On The Roof' With Theodore) [Will Join Ensemble],
 Weissman (Spoken Only),
 Max (Spoken Only - May Be Doubled) [Will Join Ensemble],
 Kevin (Spoken Only - May Be Doubled) [Will Join Ensemble],
 Dee Dee (Spoken Only - May Be Doubled) [Will Join Ensemble],
 Sandra (Spoken Only - May Be Doubled) [Will Join Ensemble],
 Other 'Young Version' Follies Girls.

Character Descriptions

A Note On 'Playing Age'

The ages given are indicative rather than restrictive. We are open to performers outside these suggested ranges where they can convincingly inhabit the character. For the older characters especially, acting age, physicality, characterisation and the ability to communicate a sense of life experience will be more important than an actor's actual age. We are interested in performers who can convincingly inhabit the character and the relationships within the story.

Female Identifying Roles

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Playing Age</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sally	45+	Sally Durant is a former Follies girl who has never quite let go of the dreams and romantic possibilities of her youth. Now older, she remains warm, excitable and hopeful, but beneath her bright exterior lies a deep vulnerability and an increasing awareness of the life she imagined versus the life she actually lived. Sally arrives at the reunion eager to reconnect with Ben and to revisit the world she remembers so fondly. As the evening unfolds, however, the fading glamour of the theatre and the memories of her younger self force her to confront some uncomfortable truths about love, ambition and the choices she made. Sally should not be played simply as naïve. There is humour, energy and genuine joy in her, alongside an often painful inability to distinguish between the past she remembers and the reality in front of her. In our crumbling, stripped-back theatre world, Sally is someone desperately trying to keep the magic alive - even as the world around her is falling apart.
Young Sally	18 to 25+	Young Sally is bright, romantic and full of possibility. As a young Follies girl, she sees the theatre, and her future, through a lens of excitement, optimism and idealism. She is drawn to Ben and captivated by the idea that their lives together could become the wonderful story she imagines. Young Sally should have a genuine sense of joy, energy and youthful confidence, but there should also be the beginnings of the insecurities that will shape her older self. She believes passionately in the promises of love and the possibilities of tomorrow, without yet understanding how easily those promises can change. She represents the glamour and possibility of the theatre before it begins to crumble. She should feel as though she belongs to a world where everything is still possible - making the contrast with the older Sally, surrounded by the remnants of that world, all the more poignant.
Phyllis	45+	Phyllis is intelligent, witty and fiercely self-possessed, with a sharp tongue and a formidable sense of humour. A former Follies girl, she has built a life of sophistication and independence, but beneath her confidence lies a complicated mixture of resentment, disappointment and unresolved feelings about her marriage to Ben. She is emotionally grounded and uses wit as a way of maintaining control. Her relationship with Ben is full of history, affection and bitterness, often existing in several emotional states at once. She should embody the faded glamour and knowing theatricality of the old Follies world. She understands that the theatre is crumbling, perhaps more clearly than anyone, but she refuses to be sentimental about it. Her humour and confidence are, in part, the armour that allows her to face what remains

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Playing Age</u>	<u>Description</u>
Young Phyllis	18 to 25+	Young Phyllis is lively, confident and full of personality. As a young Follies girl, she possesses a natural theatricality and an infectious sense of fun, approaching life with energy and a willingness to embrace whatever comes next. She is less idealistic than Young Sally, with a sharper instinct for what she wants and an emerging confidence in her own appeal. There should be genuine warmth and youthful possibility beneath her confidence. Young Phyllis represents the energy, glamour and promise of the Follies at its height - a world that still feels permanent and full of possibility. The contrast with her older self should remind us of what time has changed, but also of the vibrant young woman who still exists somewhere beneath Phyllis's carefully constructed exterior.
Carlotta	50+	Carlotta is a former Follies star and one of the few people in the room who has truly made a life beyond the theatre. A celebrated actress in her younger years, she is glamorous, worldly and unapologetically herself, with a wicked sense of humour and an instinctive understanding of performance. Carlotta has lived through success, disappointment and the inevitable passing of time, but she refuses to be defined by what she has lost. Beneath her confidence and comic bravado is someone who understands what it means to survive when the spotlight moves on. She knows that memories can be painful, but she also knows how to turn them into a good story. Carlotta is almost a living survivor of the crumbling theatre itself. Where others may cling to the illusion of what the Follies once were, she has accepted the cracks, the dust and the fading glamour and learned to laugh at them. She should command the stage with the ease of someone who has spent a lifetime knowing how to hold an audience.
Solange	50+	Solange is elegant, sophisticated and effortlessly theatrical. A former Follies girl who has grown older without surrendering her sense of glamour, she carries herself with poise, wit and an unmistakable confidence in her own allure. There is something wonderfully self-aware and mischievous about Solange. She knows exactly what she has been, what she still is, and how others see her. Her sophistication should never become coldness; beneath the polish is someone who has spent a lifetime understanding the power of performance and presentation. Solange represents the enduring glamour of the old theatre. The building may be crumbling around her, but she refuses to crumble with it. She treats the fading world of the Follies almost as another stage - dressing for it, performing within it and finding pleasure in one last opportunity to be seen.
Stella	50+	Stella is warm, vivacious and wonderfully larger than life. A former Follies girl with an infectious sense of humour, she has retained the energy and theatricality that made her a performer in the first place. Stella brings a generous, comic warmth to the reunion. Her confidence and enthusiasm can sometimes border on exuberance, but beneath the humour is someone who genuinely loves the theatre and the people who shared this world with her. Stella represents the joy and spectacle of the Follies at their most exuberant. Even within the crumbling theatre, she can still summon the spirit of the showgirl who once commanded the stage. Her presence should remind us that, beneath the decay and nostalgia, there is still enormous life and pleasure in performing.

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Playing Age</u>	<u>Description</u>
Hattie	60+	Hattie is warm, witty and utterly grounded. A veteran of the Follies, she has lived long enough to see the theatre change, fashions come and go, and the spotlight move on to younger generations. Unlike some of the others, Hattie has little need to prove herself, she knows exactly who she is. Her humour is earthy, knowing and affectionate, with a wonderful ability to cut through pretension. There is resilience behind her warmth and a quiet understanding of the passage of time. She may no longer be the star of the show, but she understands that being part of the Follies was something worth celebrating. Hattie is a living connection to the theatre's past. Within the crumbling auditorium, she carries the spirit of a performer who has accepted that the building, the costumes and the applause will eventually disappear but the memories and the people remain. Her warmth should make '<i>Broadway Baby</i>' feel like a celebration rather than simply an exercise in nostalgia.
Heidi / Young Heidi	50+ / 18 to 25+	Heidi is elegant, warm and deeply connected to the world of music and performance. A former Follies performer who has spent much of her life pursuing music, she brings a sense of refinement and emotional depth to the reunion. Beneath her composed exterior is someone for whom the past remains very much alive. Heidi carries the grace and discipline of an experienced performer, but there is also a vulnerability in her relationship with memory and time. She understands the passing of the years perhaps more acutely than some of the others, making her connection to the theatre feel both beautiful and bittersweet. She feels like one of the last traces of genuine musical elegance within the decaying theatre. Her presence should bring a sense of stillness and sophistication to a world otherwise filled with fading glamour, dust and memories. Young Heidi is poised, talented and full of youthful promise. As a young performer, she possesses the elegance and musicality that will define her later life, but with a freshness and optimism that belongs to a world where her future still feels open. She should have a strong sense of musicality, charm and youthful sophistication, while retaining the vulnerability of someone who is still discovering who she might become. Young Heidi represents the beauty and musical richness of the Follies before time begins to take its toll. Seeing her alongside the older Heidi should remind us that the graceful woman we meet at the reunion was once a young performer with an entire future ahead of her.

Male Identifying Roles

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Playing Age</u>	<u>Description</u>
Ben	45+	Ben is charismatic, intelligent and successful, a man who has built the impressive life he once imagined for himself. He is confident, articulate and accustomed to being admired, but beneath the polished exterior lies a deep unease about the choices that brought him here. Ben's greatest strength, and perhaps his greatest weakness, is his ability to construct a convincing version of himself. He can charm a room and rationalise his decisions, but the reunion forces him to confront the possibility that the life he chose may not have been the life he truly wanted. He is a man standing in the ruins of his own past. The crumbling theatre becomes a physical reminder of the things he has tried to leave behind. He should not simply be played as arrogant or unhappy; there should be genuine charm, humour and vulnerability beneath the confidence, making his moments of self-reflection all the more affecting.

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Playing Age</u>	<u>Description</u>
Young Ben	18 to 25+	Young Ben is ambitious, intelligent and full of confidence in his own future. He is already driven by the belief that he is destined for something bigger, and the theatre is one of the places where he can exercise his charm, ambition and imagination. He should possess energy, charisma and youthful certainty, but there should also be a sense that he is still forming the man he will become. His confidence is genuine, but so is his idealism; he has not yet learned what his choices will cost him. Young Ben represents the promise of a future that has not yet been written. He belongs to the bright, glamorous world of the Follies before the cracks have appeared. His presence should make the older Ben's confrontation with the past more poignant - we are seeing the ambitious young man who believes he can shape his entire life, before time and choices begin to prove otherwise.
Buddy	45+	Buddy is warm, funny and fundamentally likeable, with an easy charm that makes him someone people naturally want to be around. He is less confident than Ben and often hides his insecurities behind humour, enthusiasm and an eagerness to please. Beneath Buddy's affable exterior is a man who has spent much of his life wanting to be loved and valued, particularly by Sally. His feelings are genuine, but his inability to see Sally and their relationship clearly creates a painful tension between what he hopes for and what is actually there. He is someone who has returned to the ruins of a world in which he once believed anything was possible. His humour and warmth should never disguise the vulnerability underneath. We should care about Buddy - even when we can see that his dreams and expectations are built upon a version of the past that no longer exists.
Young Buddy	18 to 25+	Young Buddy is energetic, charming and eager to be liked. He has a natural warmth and enthusiasm that draws people towards him, but beneath the confidence is a young man who is still searching for his place in the world. Young Buddy is romantic, hopeful and emotionally open. His feelings for Sally are genuine, and he approaches their relationship with the excitement and certainty of someone who believes that love can make the future everything he wants it to be. There is also an endearing awkwardness to him - he has not yet developed the humour and self-protection that will become such an important part of the older Buddy. He belongs firmly to the bright, optimistic world of the Follies before it begins to fade. He represents the excitement of youth, romance and possibility, making the distance between this young man and the Buddy we meet years later all the more poignant.
Roscoe	60+	Roscoe is a veteran of the Follies and a man who has spent much of his life in the theatre. He is proud, charming and steeped in the traditions of show business, carrying himself with the authority of someone who remembers when the Follies were something truly spectacular. There is an important mixture of nostalgia, pride and weariness to Roscoe. He understands that the world that made him is disappearing, but he still believes in the magic of performance and the importance of giving an audience a show. His relationship with the theatre is not sentimental so much as deeply ingrained as it's part of who he is. He can feel like one of the theatre's final custodians. As the building crumbles around him, he represents a generation of performers who learned to create glamour regardless of the circumstances. His performance should have warmth and theatricality, but also the sense of someone who knows that the curtain is beginning to fall on an era.

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Playing Age</u>	<u>Description</u>
Theodore	50+	Theodore is a former Follies performer with an exuberant personality and a genuine love of the theatre. He brings warmth, humour and a sense of youthful spirit to the older generation, refusing to let age diminish his enjoyment of performing. Theodore should feel playful, energetic and slightly mischievous, with the confidence of someone who knows that entertaining people is something worth doing at any age. There is no need for him to be overly sentimental about the past; his affection for the Follies is expressed through his sheer enjoyment of being part of the show. He represents the irrepressible spirit of performance. The theatre may be crumbling, the glamour may have faded and the past may be impossible to recover but Theodore can still step into the space and make it feel like a stage. His energy should remind us that the magic of theatre ultimately comes from the people who perform it, not the building around them.