

Mary Poppins Show Synopsis

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it."

Mary Poppins Character Breakdown

Bert: The narrator of the story is a good friend to Mary Poppins. An everyman, Bert has many occupations, including hurdy-gurdy player, sidewalk artist, and chimney sweep. Bert watches over the children as well as the goings on in Cherry Tree Lane. He has charm, speaks with a Cockney accent, and is a song-and-dance man.

Gender: Male/Age: 30 to 35/Vocal Range top: F#4-bottom: B2

Mary Poppins: Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange, neat and tidy, delightfully vain yet particular, and sometimes a little frightening but always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says. A mezzo soprano with strong top notes, she should be able to move well. She can have a more traditional soprano sound, but precision and diction is the key.

Gender: Female/Age: 20 to 25/Vocal range top: C6-bottom: Gb3

George Banks: The father to Jane and Michael Banks, is a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding "precision and order" in his household, he is a pipe-and-slippers man who doesn't have much to do with his children and believes that he had the perfect upbringing by his nanny, the cruel Miss Andrew. His emotional armor, however, conceals a sensitive soul.

Gender: Male/Age: 40 to 45/Vocal range top: Eb4-bottom: Bb2

Winifred Banks: George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. A former actress, she is a loving and distracted homemaker who is busy trying to live up to her husband's desire to only associate with "the best people" as well as be the model wife and

mother. She suffers from the conflicting feelings that she's not up to the job of "being Mrs. Banks," yet, she is, and more. She has great warmth and simplicity to her tone.

Gender: Female/Age: 30 to 35/Vocal range top: D5-bottom: A3

Jane: The high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, is bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness.

Gender: Female/Age: 11 to 12/Vocal range top: F#5-bottom: A3

Michael: The cute and cheeky son of Mr. and Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty, he adores his father and tries to be like him. Both he and Jane misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents.

Gender: Male/Age: 9 to 10/Vocal range top: E5-bottom: A3

Katie Nanna: Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children.

Gender: Female/Age: 30 to 35, speaking feature

Policeman: A neighborhood fixture who is respected by and observant of households on his beat.

Gender: Male/Age: 30 to 40, speaking feature

Miss Lark: The haughty next-door neighbor of the Banks family who treats her dog, Willoughby, as if he were her child.

Gender: Female/Age: 30 to 35, speaking feature

Admiral Boom: A retired Royal Navy man and neighbor of the Banks family. A physically large man with a loud and booming voice, he speaks in Navy jargon and has a soft spot for his neighbor, Miss Lark. Can be any vocal range as needed. If Admiral Bloom doubles as the Banks Chairman, he can be a baritone.

Gender: Male/Age: 50 to 55, speaking feature

Mrs. Brill: The housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked and harassed, she's always complaining that the house is understaffed. Her intimidating exterior is a cover for the warmth underneath. Mrs. Brill doesn't have a high opinion of nannies in general and Mary Poppins in particular. She does not have to be a strong singer.

Gender: Female/Age: 50 to 55/Vocal range top: D#5-bottom: F#3

Robertson Ay: The houseboy to the Banks family. Lazy, sleepy and grumbling, he never gets things right and believes himself to be useless. He doesn't do a lot of singing, but his "Spoonful" solo can be a fun surprise.

Gender: Male/Age: 20 to 25/Vocal range top: G#4-bottom: F3

Park Keeper: Uniformed and officious, he makes sure no one breaks park regulations. His life is defined by rules, but he secretly hankers after his childhood. Has baritone vocal feature.

Gender: Male/Age: 40 to 40/Vocal range top: Eb4-bottom: Bb2

Neleus: The statue of a boy posed with a dolphin in the park. Neleus was separated from his father, Poseidon, and misses him very much. A small and lonely being, he is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. This role is a wonderful opportunity to feature one of the strong dancers in your ensemble. He doesn't necessarily have to be a small boy.

Gender: Male/Age: 16 to 20/Vocal Range top: F#4-bottom: B2

Queen Victoria: A statue in the park.

Gender: Female/Age: 40 to 45, feature

Bank Chairman: The head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed. Is an Edwardian stuffed-shirt. He can speak/sing his lines if necessary.

Gender: Male/Age: 50 to 60/Vocal range top: D4-bottom: C3

Miss Smythe: The Bank Chairman's humorless secretary.

Gender: Female/Age: 40 to 45, speaking feature

Von Hussler: A businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal. He speaks with a German accent.

Gender: Male/Age: 30 to 35/Vocal range top: D4-bottom: C3

John Northbrook: An honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory for his community. He speaks with an accent from Northern England.

Gender: Male/Age: 30 to 35/Vocal range top: D4-bottom: C3

Bird Woman: Covered in a patchwork of old shawls, and her pockets are stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell her crumbs to passersby, who ignore

her as if she doesn't exist. Sings "Feed the Birds." There can be a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the hardness of her life.

Gender: Female/Age: 50 to 55/Vocal range top: C5-bottom: Gb3

Mrs. Corry: Owns a magical gingerbread shop. She is a mysterious woman of great age who may speak with an accent that would make her seem quirky. Sings in Supercal.

Gender: Female/Age: 40 to 45/Vocal range top: D5-bottom A3

Annie and Fannie: Mrs Corry's daughters who are just as eccentric as she is who work in her shop with her.

Gender: Female/Ages: 16 to 25, speaking feature

Miss Andrew: George's overbearing and scary nanny. With her bottle of nasty-tasting brimstone and treacle to keep naughty children in line, she is a bully who only knows one way of doing things – her way. A soprano with an alto belt, there can be some heaviness to her voice along with range.

Gender: Female/Age: 50 to 60/Vocal range top: F5-bottom: Gb3

Valentine: One of Jane and Michael's neglected toys. Gender: Flexible / tenor vocal range top: E4 bottom: A3

Teddy Bear: One of Jane and Michael's neglected toys. Gender: Flexible/ vocal part alto or baritone

Doll: One of Jane and Michael's neglected toys. Gender: Female/ vocal part soprano/alto

Mr. Punch: One of Jane and Michael's neglected toys, speaking feature.

Ensemble:

- Parkgoers in *Jolly Holiday*
- Bank clerks and customers in *Precision and Order* and more
- Chatterboxes shopping for letters in *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*
- Toys like circus monkeys, soldiers, harlequins, etc. in *Playing the Game*
- Chimney Sweeps in *Step in Time*
- Starlighters creating constellations in *Anything Can Happen*
- and MORE!