

## **SUNSET BOULEVARD**

### **PRINCIPAL CAST/ENSEMBLE CHARACTER DESCRIPTION AND STORYLINE**

**DIRECTOR'S NIGHT** - Tuesday 30th June - 7.30pm - at Manchester Place, LU6 1HT

Tuesday 6th June - First audition pieces sing through

Friday 9th June - Second audition pieces sing through

**TUESDAY 13th JUNE. - AUDITIONS**

### **SUNSET BOULEVARD - THE STORY**

Director - Alan Goss

MD - Jo Smale

Choreographer - Jo Herd

Sunset Boulevard the musical with book and lyrics by Don Black and Christopher Hampton and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber is based on Billy Wilder's Academy Award-winning 1950 film of the same title, Opening first in London in 1993, the musical has had several long runs internationally and also enjoyed extensive tours.

In 1949 Hollywood, down-on-his-luck screenwriter Joe Gillis tries to hustle up some work at Paramount Studios. He meets with a producer who shoots down his proposed script as well as a request for a loan to bring his car payments up to date. He does, however, meet Betty Schaefer, a pretty, young script editor who proposes they work together to develop one of his earlier projects. As they chat, Joe is spotted by car repossession agents and makes a quick escape.

During the car chase that ensues down Sunset Boulevard, Joe evades his pursuers by pulling into the garage of a dilapidated mansion. Beckoned inside the house, Joe encounters Norma Desmond. A one time famous star of silent films, who lives in the once luxurious Hollywood mansion on Sunset Boulevard attended to only by Max Von Mayerling. Joe Gillis, is enlisted to work on a script Norma has written with which she hopes to make a "return". Joe finds himself in servitude and a love affair, enmeshed in Norma's fantasies of coming glory. He tries to escape but she attempts suicide and he returns. He sneaks out at night to write his own script with Betty Schaeffer a girl he eventually falls in love with. When he eventually tells Norma the truth about her own fantasies, she shoots him. The shock tips the balance in her mind and she walks downstairs to be arrested, believing the cameras and crowds are to welcome her return to the screen.

## **CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

With 8 major roles and over 50 ensemble singing/speaking parts for all ages there will be great opportunities for character roles for all.

### **PRINCIPAL ROLES:**

**NORMA DESMOND.** 50's, star quality, belt/mix G#3 – D5, Silent movie star who still lives in her isolated dream world of the past. Maturely attractive and stylized in dress and manner. Eccentric and jaded.

**JOE GILLIS,** 30 – 40, Strong vocal, high baritone, not “pop” style young writer struggling to make his name in Hollywood. Not Hollywood in manner, but very Hollywood in looks. Tall, strikingly handsome, self-assured, yet with a manly rugged demeanor. An excellent singer with a natural film-style approach. Charming, with an opportunist-like quality.

**MAX VON MAYERLING,** 50 to 60, baritone, Ex-film-director-turned-devoted-servant, with European accent. Norma's biggest fan and also her first husband.

**ARTIE,** 25 – 30, bari-tenor, Joe's friend, a generous, hardworking director's assistant. Clean cut professional, but fun. Betty's fiancé.

**BETTY SHAEFER,** 20 – 30, belt/mix, Artie's fiancée, a clean-cut, bright-looking girl, in her twenties. Sweet but sophisticated in a professional manner, a go-getter who wants to sincerely work with Joe...eventually falling for him.

**CECIL B DEMILLE,** 50 – 65, Famous film director. Baritone, Strong, imposing with a fatherly quality. Doubles in additional roles.

**SHELDRAKE/Ens,** 45 – 60, bari-tenor, Boss of the studio, neurotic, stressed. Doubles in additional roles.

**MANFRED/Ens,** 30 – 45, tenor, expensive tailor to the stars. Doubles in additional roles. **ALL PLAYING AGES ARE APPROXIMATE!**

**FEMALE ENSEMBLE ROLES:** secretary, beautician, harem girl, waitress, astrologer and many more.

**MALE ENSEMBLE ROLES:** Salesmen, Camera Operators, Choreographer, Reporters, Asst. Director, Police Officers, Actors, Cinematographer, Undertaker, Musicians, Police Captain and many more.....

**ALL PLAYING AGES ARE APPROXIMATE!**

## **CAST AUDITION INFO - SUNSET BOULEVARD**

**AUDITIONS - TUESDAY 13th JUNE - Dunstable Community Halls in Manchester Place, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 1HT.**

### **NORMA DESMOND: (50s)**

I - 5 - 16 - Now don't you give me a fancy price ... I am big the pictures got small

I - 11 - 47 - What time are they supposed to get here ... Max get me a taxi.

II - 9 - 85 - I can't go on with the scene..... I'm ready for my close up

### **JOE GILLIS: (30s)**

I - 2 - 7 to I - 2 - - You wanted to see me ..... Good!

I - 5 - 16 - Now don't you give me a fancy price ..... I am big the pictures got small

I - 9 - 36 - In december..... since I arrived

I - 11 - 47 - What time are they supposed to get here ..... Max get me a taxi.

I - 12 - 49 - Hey Gillis.....I want to talk to you.

### **MAX VON MAYERLING: (50-60)**

II - 7 - 76 - What's the matter Max..... that's right

### **BETTY SCHAEFER (20s)**

II - 6 - 73 to II - 6 - 75 - T-H-E-E-N-D .....You did

I - 12 - 49 - Hey Gillis..... I'm glad you came I wanted to talk to you.

### **CECIL B DEMILLE (late 60s)**

II - 3 - 60 - (HEATHER) Mr DeMille ..... give me minute

II - 3 - 61 - Well,Well Well... Come on in

### **ARTIE GREEN: (late 20s) -**

I - 12 - 49 - Hey Gillis.....I want to talk to you.

### **SHELDRAKE : (30 - 40)**

I - 2 - 7 to I - 2 - 8 - You wanted to see me .... Good!