

Glorious!

Glorious is the hilarious comedy about possibly the worst singer in the world! In 1940's New York, the performer who everyone wanted to see live was Florence Foster Jenkins, an enthusiastic soprano whose pitch was far from perfect. She was known as 'the first lady of the sliding scale', she warbled and screeched her way through the evening to an audience who mostly fell about with laughter. But this delusional and joyously happy woman paid little attention to her critics, instead she was surrounded by a circle of devoted friends who were almost as eccentric as she was.

Glorious is based upon a true story and the play spins from Florence's charity recitals and extravagant balls, through to her bizarre recording sessions and an ultimate triumph at Carnegie Hall.

Cast

Florence Foster Jenkins An eccentric American lady in her sixties/seventies. The emphasis here is on an eccentric. In her head she honestly believes she is a wonderful singer and when she sings she hears beauty. This part requires great comedy acting. It can be played by an actress who can sing (badly) or by a singer who can act and knows how to sing badly.

NB

There will be a singing audition for this part (see below)

Cosme McMoon Florence's pianist. Also American. Ideally a playing age of early 30's. The actor does not have to be able to play the piano – that can all be mimed though some innate 'musicality' would be great! Cosme is obviously gay though he is not 'camp' character.

NB

I would like there will be a 'piano-playing' audition for this, mimed to the clip below.

St Clair Florence's boyfriend, also in his sixties. He is an English actor (probably not a very good one), living in New York. He is fiercely protective of Florence, though it is never quite clear whether that is because he truly loves her, or loves her money and the protection it affords him.

Dorothy Florence's American friend of a similar age. She is as eccentric as Florence and probably truly believes that Florence has an incredible singing talent. She is Florence's

go-to person for all things – making Florence’s larger than life costumes, accessories and props

Maria Florence’s Mexican maid, who speaks little or no English, and as Florence speaks little or no Spanish their interactions are interesting! She is usually very grumpy and has ‘attitude’. She is only with Florence because she needs the job and is cheap! Has to be able to realistically pull off speaking Spanish whilst plucking a chicken.

Mrs Johnson This is a very small part, age largely irrelevant. She appears once at Florence’s concerts and ‘outs’ Florence in public as a poor singer.

Singing Audition – Adele’s Laughing Song from Die Fildermaus

Use this clip on YouTube to hear how it *should* sound!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cCzGOMIPWU>

These are the words we will be using

Really dear Marquis, take a look at me, my style and my elegant air! Strongly I advise, you to scrutinise young ladies with far more care! I’m dressed in the best of good taste. Ah!

Petite with a neat little waist. Ah!

These jewels I am wearing, my manners and my bearing,

Pray tell me where I go to see the like displayed

By anyone as a lowly as a lady’s maid!

He can’t distinguish wheat from chaff, it’s so absurd one has to laugh!

What a blunder Ha Ha Ha

Can you wonder Ha Ha Ha

We are laughing Ha Ha Ha

Laughing laughing

Ha ha ha ha ha ha

Can you wonder Ha Ha Ha We are laughing Ha Ha Ha

Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!etc

This is a link to a video clip of the audition piano piece

<https://youtu.be/nxIRCOOj87M>

Piano Playing audition to be mimed, if possible to this piece

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR187Blo82k>