

The Book of Will

Character Descriptions

Henry Condell: 40, feisty, hopeful friend and actor in the King's Men

John Heminges: 50, reasonable friend and financial manager of the King's Men; owner of the Globe Tap House; a good man, a gentleman, if serious.

Richard Burbage: 50s, seasoned lion of the stage, famous across England, loud and proud (doubles William Jaggard and Horatio)

Alice Heminges: 35, John's daughter and alewife, knows everyone and hangs with the boys (doubles Susannah Shakespeare)

Ben Jonson: Poet laureate of England, friend/rival of Shakespeare. Amazing drunk. A bear of a man. Surprisingly weepy. (doubles Barman and Sir Edward Dering)

Elizabeth Condell: Henry's wife, savvy and fun (doubles Emilia Bassano Lanier, Fruit Seller, and Marcellus)

Rebecca Heminges: John's wife, a good wife. Strong, busy with their grocery business, a woman who has weathered much but loves her husband and sons and God (doubles Anne Hathaway Shakespeare)

Ed Knight: "Stage manager" for the King's Men, self-serious & particular (doubles Isaac Jaggard)

Ralph Crane: Humble scrivener of the King's Men. Quick, sure, quiet (doubles Barman, Compositor, and Francisco)

William Jaggard: Successful if shady publisher of books, plays, and playbills. He is confident in his ability to get what he wants. Very experienced, very connected, willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. An ass. (doubles Richard Burbage)

Isaac Jaggard: William's son, will inherit the business. Sensitive, an artist at heart. (doubles Ed Knight)

Marcus: 20, printer's apprentice at the Jaggard print shop, nosy but honest (doubles Boy Hamlet, Crier, and Bernardo)

Emilia Bassano Lanier: 50, fiery Italian feminist and poet, independent woman, lover of life and Shakespeare (doubles Elizabeth Condell, Fruit Seller, and Marcellus)

Anne Hathaway Shakespeare: 60, Shakespeare's now ailing wife. Strong-willed, a classy lady, a survivor. (doubles Rebecca Heminges)

Susannah Shakespeare: 30, good girl and daughter of Shakespeare (doubles Alice Heminges)

*Also casting understudies/swings for all roles.

Bandstand

Character Descriptions

Donny Novitski: 20s, gifted pianist and crooner; confident, boarding on arrogant; energetic but restless, frustrated, impulsive. When performing for a crowd, his charm always wins out.

Julia Troy: 20s, smart, nurturing, bookish. Unassuming but becomes quite alluring when performing in front of a crowd. Hides her vulnerability and grief with sly humor and a strong resolve. Beautiful singer with a strong voice.

Mrs. June Adams: 50s, Julia's mother. Natural mother with a wry sense of humor. A realist but extremely proud of her daughter. Pointed, wise, intuitive about people.

Jimmy Campbell: 20s, excellent saxophone player; a lawyer by trade who is analytical and calculating. Secretly attracted to Donny. Loyal but slow to trust. Quick wit and cautious.

Davy Zlatic: 20s-30s, excellent bass player. A big soul, boisterous, occasionally vulgar. An alcoholic by any other name, but a cheery one—a cheer that covers a deep-seated darkness. He has the size and command of a person who can do harm if he chose to.

Nick Radel: 20s-30s, excellent trumpet player. Generally irritated with the world and people. Sharp, cynical sense of humor. Channels his irritation into a fierce sense of self.

Wayne Wright: 20s-30s, excellent trombone player. Disciplined, precise, impatient—on his way to anxiety and compulsive behaviors. Loyal, lovable, caring but tries to disguise his need for connection.

Johnny Simpson: 20s-30s, a talented drummer. A simple soul, but he is not stupid or foolish—just slow on the uptake occasionally. Extremely loyal and trustworthy.

Ensemble: dancers, soldiers, singers, radio personalities & hosts, other characters

*Also casting understudies for all principal roles and swings for ensemble roles.

A Chorus Line

Character Descriptions

Zach: 40s, Director and choreographer of the show. Short and harsh on occasion but ultimately cares for the dancers. Non-singing role.

Larry: 20s-30s, Zach's assistant. Strong dancer. Straightforward, working to get the job done. Not particularly sympathetic; he's done this a lot.

Carrie Ferguson: 30s. A featured performer who is returning to the chorus line with younger and less experienced dancers. A bit desperate and willing to prove her worth to her ex, Zach.

Alan Deluca: 20s-30s. Straight, tough, full of machismo, proudly from the Bronx. Newlywed to Kristine

Kristine Urich: early 20s. Newlywed to Alan. Anxious when not dancing. Awkward and naïve.

Diana Morales: 20s. Sassy, tough, optimistic. Determined and athletic dancer from the Bronx. Latina.

Bobby Mills: 20s. A difficult childhood drove him to have a quick wit with a sharp tongue. Ostentatious.

Mark Anthony: late teens. Naïve and optimistic. Charming but inexperienced in this realm, even though he is a great dancer.

Judy Turner: 20s, Awkward when not dancing. Funny, nervous. Warm and genuine.

Mike Costa: 20s, Cocky but likeable. Flirty and experienced New Jersey tap dancer. Can be aggressive and determined.

Val Clark: 20s. Can be vulgar in speech but an excellent dancer. Brazen, direct, and newly "enhanced" with plastic surgery.

Bebe Benzenheimer: 20s. Insecure but covers it with her dance ability. Quiet, kind, vulnerable.

Richie Walters: 20s Enthusiastic and midwestern. Cool, funny, laid back and likable. Black-identifying.

Paul San Marco: late teens-early 20s. Introverted and insecure. Just starting to feel comfortable as a gay man and earn his parents' acceptance. From Spanish Harlem and friends with Diana.

Maggie Winslow: late teens-early 20s. A sweet, little sister from next door. A dreamer. Warm and kind.

Don Kerr: 20s-30s. Flirtatious, married, typical "guys' guy." Cocky and a bit bullheaded. All American.

Sheila Bryant: 30s. Confident and brassy despite being the oldest dancer on the line. A bit of a brat but ultimately sophisticated. Wry wit.

Gregory Gardener: 20s. Sassy, Jewish, gay, a smart-ass. Owns his East Side New York vibe.

ENSEMBLE: A number of cut dancers are featured as well.

*Also casting understudies for all principal roles and swings for ensemble roles.

Cinderella

Character Descriptions

Ella: 20s. Quiet and usually unnoticed, but opinionated, charismatic, passionate, beautiful, and funny. Idealistic and hopeful, sees the good in everyone. Blossoms into a confident woman.

Topher: 20s-30s. Misguided prince but wants to lead an important life. A brave and heroic man but lonely and unhappy. Lovely charm but not a flirt. Innocent and thoughtful if a bit goofy. Genuine, kindhearted, morally centered.

Jean-Michael: 20s-30s. Spirited, passionate, a peasant and an advocate for his class. Can be impetuous and fiery. Harbors a crush on Gabrielle even if they are of different social classes. Not taken seriously—though he should be.

Gabrielle: 20s-30s. Ella's stepsister and Madame's daughter. Though raised to love material goods and social status, she is much more interested in empathy, passion, wit, and advocacy. Completely aware that she doesn't fit in to the world she is destined to be a part of.

Charlotte: 20s-30s. Ella's stepsister and Madame's daughter. Self-centered, brazen, materialistic, loud, and bratty. Holds an extremely high opinion of herself (though it is deeply unwarranted). Always finds a way to be the center of attention.

Marie: 40s-50s. Local eccentric and beggar woman. Secretly a fairy godmother. Wise, warm, otherworldly, charming. She makes dreams come true for those who deserve it.

Madame: 50s. Ella's selfish stepmother. Epitome of vanity and fashion. A ravenous social climber who values wealth, status, and material wealth above all else. Unapologetically dismissive and sometimes cruel. Constantly scheming to climb the social ladder.

Sebastian: Lord Chancellor of the kingdom. He is a trusted advisor to Topher but devious and selfish. Using propaganda and dishonesty, he keeps Topher isolated and uninformed about his kingdom. Believes he deserves to rule the kingdom—but rules without regard for the lower class—or anyone but himself.

Lord Pinkleton: Lord Chancellor's right-hand man. Announces royal balls, banquets, and even the weather to the villagers.

Ensemble: Knights, Peasants, Serfs, Townspeople, Ladies & Gentlemen of the Court, Servants, etc.

*Also casting understudies for all principal roles and swings for ensemble roles.

An American in Paris

Character Descriptions

Adam Hochberg: 20s-30s. American Jewish GI, wounded in the war, walks with a limp. Classically trained composer with great wit and an unassuming charm. Struggling to find his authentic voice as an artist. Ideally plays piano. Baritone D3-E4

Jerry Mulligan: 20s-30s. American GI who stays in Paris after the war to study painting and art. Spontaneous and playful, charming, and confident. Strong dance technique, including ballet, jazz, and tap. Baritone C3-E4.

Henri Baurel: 20s-30s. Handsome son of wealthy Parisians. Light-hearted but raised to take over the family social status and power. Secretly longs to be a song and dance man. Deeply in love with Lise. Baritenor C3-G4

Lise Dassin: 20s. Ethereal, elegant, expressive. Guarded after hiding during the Nazi occupation of France. Profound inner dignity, passionate, a dreamer. Strong ballet technique, including exquisite pointe work. Mezzo B3-B4

Milo Davenport: 30s. American heiress and art patron. Bold, a free spirit. Can be brazen. Used to getting what she wants. Mezzo G3-Dflat4

Madame Baurel: 50s. Dry & uptight mother to Henri. Obsessed with keeping up appearances, and can be self-righteous, but ultimately wants what's best for her loved ones.

ENSEMBLE: Mr. Z, Olga, Monsieur Baurel, Soldiers, French Citizens, Bar Patrons, Dancers, Store Customers & Staff, Celebrities, Party Guests

*Also casting understudies for all principal roles and swings for ensemble roles.

Constellations

Character Descriptions

Marianne: 20s-40s. A theoretical physicist. Analytical but with an inquisitive heart.

Roland: 20s-40s. A beekeeper. Romantic and curious.

*Also casting understudies for all principal roles.

Tiananmen

Character Descriptions

Protestors:

Fan Xirui: female, early 20s. Chinese-identifying. A student at Peking University and an eager newcomer to political activism.

Sheng Yingjie: male, early 20s. Chinese-identifying. A student at Peking University and a member of the Communist Youth League

Wu Guoxin: male, early 20s. Chinese-identifying. A student at Peking University, leader of the underground “Democracy Salons” on campus, and instigator of the protests

Tay Lee: female, 20s. Chinese-identifying. pop singer icon

Bystanders:

Young Fan Zhilan: female, 10, Chinese-identifying. sister to Xirui

Fan Zhilan: female, 40s (grown adult), Chinese-identifying. sister to Xirui

Hong Kong Reporter: female, 40s, Chinese-identifying.

Medic: female, 30s, Chinese-identifying.

Yingjie’s friend: male, early 30s, Chinese-identifying.

Party Leaders:

Deng Xiaoping: male, 85, Paramount Leader of China, Chinese-identifying.

Li Peng: male, 61, Premier of the People’s Republic of China, hardliner against the protests, Chinese-identifying.

Zhao Ziyang: male, 70, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, sympathetic to the protests, Chinese-identifying.

Ensemble: Students, hunger strikers, citizens of Beijing, People’s Liberation Army Soldiers, police.

*Also casting understudies for all principal roles and swings for ensemble roles.

The Prom

Character Descriptions

Alyssa: late teens. A high school senior & a cheerleader. Secretly Emma's girlfriend but afraid to come out—especially to her overbearing mother. Pop mix/belt.

Emma: late teens. A high school senior forced into the spotlight for asking her girlfriend to the prom. Smart, wry, used to dealing with adversity but still a reluctant advocate in the spotlight. Pop mix/soprano.

Dee Dee Allen: 30s-50s. A Broadway diva. Enormous talent with an ego to match. Self-involved but humorous. Longs to do something meaningful and good for someone else. Strong alto/Broadway belt.

Barry Glickman: 30s-50s. Openly gay Broadway showman. Politically incorrect but unaware. Impulsive and tends to make a scene wherever he goes. High baritone/tenor with a Broadway belt.

Trent Oliver: 30s-40s. Pretentious Broadway veteran who is better known for infomercials. Loves the sound of his own voice and reminding everyone he attended Julliard. Strong pop/legit baritone.

Angie: 30s-40s. Perpetual ensemble member in Broadway's *Chicago* pining away for her chance at the lead. Jaded and a traditional Fosse girl. Strong alto belt.

Sheldon: 30s-40s. A press agent with charisma and charge. Traditional musical theatre baritenor.

Marion Hawkins: 30s-50s. Small town principal of a high school. Can get flustered easily but has a heart of gold and a drive to do good. Broadway enthusiast. High baritone.

Mrs. Greene: 30s-40s. Alyssa's mother. School board president. Strong, controlling, intimidating. Loves her daughter but forces a particular view of "right" and "wrong." Strong alto.

Ensemble: Other students, faculty, news media, etc.

*Also casting understudies for all principal roles and swings for ensemble roles.

Dreamgirls

Character Descriptions

Effie Melody White: 20s-40s. Black-identifying. Confident & outspoken. Strong depth of emotion. Strong-willed and sure of herself, if insecure at times. Lead singer of the Dreamettes. Mezzo with a strong belt

Deena Jones: late teens-30s. Black-identifying. A “Diana Ross” type who starts a backup singer but later takes the lead of the Dreamettes. Accommodating and sweet but has a hidden strength. Mezzo.

Lorrell Robinson: late teens-30s. Black-identifying. Energetic, outspoken, young. Backup singer of the Dreamettes. Soprano.

Curtis Taylor, Jr.: 20s-40s. Black-identifying. Cadillac dealer and manager of the Dreams. Driven and full of life. Tenor/high baritone.

James “Thunder” Early: 30s-50s. Black-identifying. A soul singer known for his adaptability. Tenor with a strong falsetto

C.C. White: 20s-30s. Black-identifying. Composer by trade and Effie’s brother. Tenor.

Michelle Morris: late teens-40s. Black-identifying. A backup singer and a replacement for Effie. Mezzo-soprano.

Marty Madison: 40s-60s. Black-identifying. Theatrical agent for J.T. Early. Baritone.

Ensemble: producers, directors, press, singers. Ensemble is primarily Black-identifying with two roles for Caucasian-identifying women (the Sweethearts, back up singers, non-speaking) and some roles open to any ethnicity.

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