

Proudly presented by Abbey Musical Theatre



One of the world's most iconic and longest-running musicals, *Les Misérables* tells the story of Jean Valjean, a former convict who spends a lifetime seeking redemption. Set against the backdrop of 19th-century France and the aftermath of the French Revolution, this timeless story of intertwined destinies reveals the power of compassion and the quiet evil of indifference to human suffering. As Valjean's quest for a new life carries him into Paris and to the barricades of the Student Revolution, he is hunted by Inspector Javert and the ghosts of his past. Amidst a battle for the soul of Paris, he discovers the true meaning of love and salvation.

Performed in over 40 countries and 22 languages and with a lush, swelling score that features such famed songs as "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," and "Bring Him Home," *Les Misérables* brings Victor Hugo's revolutionary novel blazingly to life.

Experience the theatrical sensation!

ON STAGE AT THE
REGENT ON BROADWAY, PALMERSTON NORTH

9 – 24 AUGUST 2019

DIRECTOR/MUSICAL DIRECTOR

BARRY JONES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/MUSICAL DIRECTOR

ANDREA MAXWELL

GENERAL INFORMATION

- “Les Misérables” Director/Musical Director Barry Jones
- “Les Misérables” Assistant Director/Musical Director Andrea Maxwell

- All auditionees must complete an AMT audition form.
- Audition forms can be accessed from AMT’s website – www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz on the ‘Auditions’ page.
- On your audition form you are required to show your vocal range. Not only should you put ‘Tenor’ or ‘Baritone’ (for example), but you will also need to indicate what your bottom and top notes are.
- “Les Misérables” will be on stage at the Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North, from **9 – 24 August 2019**.

Things You Need To Know

- Diversity is encouraged and all ethnic groups are welcome to audition.
- All roles are open to audition.
- Auditions will be held in intervals of 5 minutes each.
- Singing auditions will be “individual” auditions.
- Please arrive for your audition a minimum of 20 minutes prior to your booking for administration and to allow yourself adequate time for personal preparation.
- Auditions will be held Saturday & Sunday, **9 & 10 March 2019** at **Te Tihi, Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School**, South Street, Palmerston North.

Audition Booking Information

To audition for “Les Misérables” you must register and book an audition time, prior to Saturday, 9 March 2019, with;

Kay Nagy, Production Secretary – “Les Misérables”
E: aknagy@inspire.net.nz
M: 021 890 806

- You need to put everything you’ve got into your audition. We want you to be able to relax on the day and enjoy learning from the audition experience. We do, however, want you to be prepared – it shows us that you’ve put some thought and commitment into this.

Principal (Soloist) Role Auditions

- Principal (Soloist) role singing auditions will be in intervals of 5 minutes each.
- The roles available and audition songs are detailed below.
- If you bring sheet music, please ensure it is in the right key – there will be an accompanist provided.
- A CD player will be available for audition backing tracks.
- Principal (soloist) auditionees should be aware of their character’s songs from the show and have done their homework on them.
- All auditionees should bring a recent picture with them to accompany their audition form.

Ensemble Auditions

- Ensemble singing auditions will be in intervals of 5 minutes each.
- For Ensemble roles, please prepare either a song from “Les Misérables” or a song of your choice
- Please bring a second selection in case you are asked for a second song.
- If you bring sheet music, please ensure it is in the right key – there will be an accompanist provided.
- A CD player will be available for audition backing tracks.
- All auditionees should bring a recent picture with them to accompany their audition form.

Rehearsals

- **You must be prepared to commit to rehearsals and the performance dates.** If for any reason, you may not be able to attend any of the rehearsals, you must detail this on your audition form and this will be considered in the audition process. Any non-attendance at rehearsals will not be tolerated unless approved prior to the rehearsal season beginning.

Important: Your participation in this production requires a huge commitment in both time and professionalism in order to ensure a production of the highest possible quality. Therefore, please do not audition if you are not in a position to commit fully to the rehearsal schedule. While talent is the primary consideration when casting, level of commitment will also be a consideration and final choices for principal and ensemble roles will be made with this in mind.

All roles available are on an unpaid basis.

Performance Dates

Friday – 9 August 2019
Saturday – 10 August 2019
Sunday – 11 August 2019 (4.00 p.m. matinee)
Wednesday – 14 August 2019
Thursday – 15 August 2019
Friday – 16 August 2019
Saturday – 17 August 2019
Sunday – 18 August 2019 (4.00 p.m. matinee)
Wednesday – 21 August 2019
Thursday – 22 August 2019
Friday – 23 August 2019
Saturday – 24 August 2019

(Total = 12 performances)

ROLES AVAILABLE

JEAN VALJEAN

Cosette's adopted father, Valjean is an ex-convict who leaves behind a life of hatred and deceit and makes his fortune with his innovative industrial techniques. He finds fulfilment in loving his adopted daughter and helping people who are in difficult situations, even when it means risking his own life and welfare. Valjean adopts pseudonyms to evade the police and combines a convict's street smarts with his newfound idealism and compassion. His whole life is a quest for redemption and he ultimately finds bliss on his deathbed.

Age:

- Mid 40s – later ages to mid 50s

Ability Required:

- High lyric baritone or tenor with strong low notes, A to B
- Must believably be seen as a man with great physical strength
- Very strong singer/actor
- The voice needs to have a pop/rock sound or a classical sound of extraordinary textual clarity

Audition Material:

- "Bring Him Home" – Bar 95 to the end (*"Bring him peace, bring him joy ..."*)
- "Who Am I" – Bar 112 to the end (*"Who am I? Can I condemn this man to slavery ..."* to end)

Call Back:

- The complete song
-

JAVERT

A police inspector who strictly believes in law and order and will stop at nothing to enforce France's harsh penal codes. Javert is incapable of compassion or pity and performs his work with such passion that he takes on a nearly animal quality when he is on the chase. He nurses an especially strong desire to recapture Valjean, whose escapes and prosperity he sees as an affront to justice. Ultimately, Javert is unable to say with certainty that Valjean deserves to be punished. This ambiguity undermines the system of belief on which Javert bases his life and forces him to choose between hypocrisy and honour.

Age:

- 40s –ages to 60s

Ability Required:

- Baritone, F to F#/G (belt or classical, but must have a darker quality than Valjean)
- Must be able to believably balance against Valjean in strength, determination and power
- Must be able to manage heights while singing
- Strong singer/actor

Audition Material:

- "Stars" – Bar 19 to Bar 40 (at A1 *"Stars in your multitudes"* to *"... pay the price"*)

Call Back:

- The complete song
-

FANTINE

A working class girl who leaves her home town of Montreuil-sur-mer to seek her fortune in Paris. Fantine's innocent affair with a dapper student named Tholomyès leaves her pregnant and abandoned. Although she is frail, she makes a Herculean effort to feed herself and her daughter, Cosette. Even as she descends into prostitution, she never stops caring for Cosette. She represents the destruction that 19th century French society cruelly wreaks on the less fortunate.

Age:

- Early to mid 20s

Ability Required:

- Mezzo, Gb to Eb
- Strong singer/actor
- This actor must be willing to cut her hair if long

Audition Material:

- "I Dreamed a Dream" – Bar 33 to 50 (*"But the tigers come at night" ... "when autumn came"*)

Call Back:

- The complete song
-

MARIUS PONTMERCY

The son of Georges Pontmercy, a colonel in Napoleon's army. Marius grows up in the home of his grandfather, M. Gillenormand, a monarchist. Marius has an identity crisis when he learns the real reason for his separation from his father and this crisis sets him on the path to discovering himself. An innocent young man, Marius is nonetheless capable of great things and manages both to fight on the barricades and successfully court the love of his life, Cosette.

Age:

- Early 20s

Ability Required:

- Tenor, Middle C to High Ab
- Strong singer/actor
- Romantic lead

Audition Material:

- "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables" – Bar 20 to end (*"From the table in the corner" to end*)

Call Back:

- "Heart Full of Love" – with Cosette (entire song)
-

COSETTE

Fantine's daughter, who lives as Valjean's adopted daughter after her mother dies. Cosette spends her childhood as a servant for the Thenardiers in Montfermeil, but even this awful experience does not make her hardened or cynical. Under the care of Valjean and the nuns of Petit-Picpus, Cosette ultimately blossoms into a beautiful, educated young woman. She finds fulfilment in her love for Marius. Cosette is innocent and docile, but her participation in Valjean's many escapes from the law show that she also possesses intelligence and bravery.

Age:

- 18

Ability Required:

- Soprano Bb to High C
- A light young 'floating' sound, without heavy vibrato
- Lively, personable, curious and mischievous
- Romantic lead

Audition Material:

- "Heart Full of Love" – Bar 67 to 89 (*"A heart full of love" to "not a dream after all"*)

Call Back:

- "Heart Full of Love" – with Marius (entire song)
-

EPONINE

The Thenardiers' eldest daughter. Eponine is a wretched creature who helps her parents steal, but she is eventually redeemed by her love for Marius. She proves that no one is beyond redemption and she ultimately emerges as one of the most tragic and heroic figures.

Age:

- 18

Ability Required:

- Mezzo, F to High F
- An enormous and beautiful belt voice with the ability to sing with vulnerability and softness
- Physically, this actor must believably be able to pass for a young boy
- Strong singer/actor

Audition Material:

- "On My Own" – Bar 128 to M146 (*"I love him, but when the night is over" to "... the world is full of happiness that I have never known"*)

Call Back:

- The complete song
-

THENARDIER

A cruel, wretched, money-obsessed man who first appears as Cosette's keeper and tormentor. Thenardier extorts money from whomever he can and he frequently serves as an informant to whoever will bid the highest. His schemes range from robbery to fraud to murder and he has strong ties to the criminal underworld in Paris. Blinded by greed, Thenardier is incapable of loving other human beings and spends every minute in pursuit of money.

Age:

- 30s or 40s – ages to 50s or 60s

Ability Required:

- Tenor C to G
- Comic relief along with his wife, Madame Thenardier
- Strong actor

Audition Material:

- "Master of the House" – Bar 121 to 139 / Bar 155 to 171 (*"Enter M'sieur, lay down your load" to "... til I'm satisfied" and "Charge 'em for the lice" to "... it's amazing how it grows"*)

Call Back:

- The complete song – with Madame Thenardier
-

MADAME THENARDIER

Thenardier's wife, Madame Thenardier is just as evil as her husband and takes special pleasure in abusing Cosette. In later years she becomes her husband's most devoted accomplice and is particularly enthusiastic about his schemes to rob Valjean and Cosette.

Age:

- 30s – ages to 50s

Ability Required:

- Alto, G# to D
- She is coarse, greedy, larger than life and able to improvise in any situation
- Scheming, comic and quick to see an opportunity

Audition Material:

- "Master of the House" – Bar 188 to 208 (*Madame Thenardier's solo*)

Call Back:

- The complete song – with Thenardier
-

ENJOLRAS

The leader of the Friends of the ABC. Enjolras is a radical student revolutionary. He is both wild and beautiful. Together with Courfeyrac and Marius, Enjolras leads the insurrection at the barricade.

Age:

- Late 20s

Ability Required:

- Tenor, A to high G#
- Strong singer/actor

Audition Material:

- “The People’s Song” – Bar 3 to Bar 24 (*“Do you hear ...” to “... when tomorrow comes”*)
-

THE BISHOP OF DIGNE

Monsieur Myriel is a much admired clergyman whose great kindness and charity have made him popular throughout his parish. He passes on these same qualities to Valjean and initiates the ex-convict’s spiritual renewal by saving Valjean from arrest and making him promise to live as an honest man.

Age:

- 46 – 60s

Ability Required:

- Bass
- This is an important featured role
- The actor will double in the Ensemble

Audition Material:

- Either a song from the show or a song of your choice
-

YOUNG COSETTE

Fantine’s young daughter. Boards with the Thenardiers. She is mistreated, worked like a drudge, beaten by Madame and bullied by young Eponine. She is fearful, lonely and dreams of something better. This actor appears in one scene as young Cosette and may appear as a street urchin in Act 1.

Age:

- Stage age of 7 years old

Ability Required:

- Soprano – A to C above Middle C
- This actor may alternate roles with the actor playing Young Eponine

Audition Material:

- “Castle on a Cloud” – Bar 40 to 54 (*“There is a lady all ...” to “not on my castle on a cloud”*)
-

YOUNG EPONINE

The Thenardiers’ spoiled, pampered daughter who bullies young Cosette mercilessly. This actor will appear in this scene as well as in the slums of Paris and in Act 2 as a street urchin.

Age:

- Stage age of 7 years old

Ability Required:

- Non singing/speaking
- This actor may alternate roles with the actor playing Young Cosette

Audition Material:

- “Castle on a Cloud” – Bar 40 to 54 (*“There is a lady all ...” to “not on my castle on a cloud”*)
-

GAVROCHE

The Thenardiers' oldest son. Gavroche is kicked out of the house at an early age and becomes a Parisian street urchin. He is a happy to lucky child who enjoys the small pleasures of life and demonstrates unusual generosity toward those even less fortunate than he is. He is also fierce and brave and plays a decisive role in the barricade even though he does not have a gun.

Age:

- 9 – 12 years old

Ability Required:

- Cockney accent is an advantage
- Alto, unchanged voice B to G – could be played by a girl if necessary

Audition Material:

- “Look Down – Beggars Song” – Bar 10 to 19 (*“How do you do?” to “Follow me”*)
-

ENSEMBLE

The Ensemble is a critical part of the flow and movement of the show and will be featured in many different ways throughout. We are looking for very strong singers and, although this isn't a heavy “dance” show, we are looking to see a range of contrasting movement styles – from the base, grungy and solicitous to the dainty, affected and aristocratic. We would like to see people who feel comfortable moving by themselves and with others in the background of the story – from building crowd scenes to building stage combat, from physicalising gun shots and the lifting of heavy rocks to creating a realistic physical exchange between a whore and her customer, from affected aristocrats to elegant waltzers and to playing more than one character believably. Much of the story is told through the atmosphere and locations set by the Ensemble's movement, so the ability to be a risk taking, creative, receptive and flexible group member is critical. In addition to strong signing and movement skills, “plays well with others” is a great talent to have in this casting situation!

Featured Ensemble Roles – Males

- ABS Society:** “Abaisse”. Their name is a play on the words of the French “the abased” or “the people below”. Students and workers, part of a secret society to fight for freedom. The students are from wealthy families, the workers are a stark contrast. Doubled with other ensemble roles. They include;
- Combeferre** *A philosopher and believer in peace. He is gentle, humane, strong and brave.*
- Feuilly** *A worker, self educated and an orphan. A believer in “nationality”. Affectionate, warm, poetic.*
- Courfeyrac** *A student. He is youthful, passionate and fearless.*
- Joly** *A medical student. Eccentric and light hearted, although occasionally morbid. His name is from the English ‘jolly’.*
- Prouvaire** *A student of social studies. He is kind, soft spoken and, at the right moments, strong and masterful. He is a poet.*
- Lesgles** *A student, cheerful, laughing at life but unlucky. Close friends with Joly.*
- Grantaire** *A student, the opposite of Enjolras. He believes in nothing. He admires Enjolras, but loves to mock him. Witty and often drunk, he is happy being with the group and they put up with him because of his good humour. He keeps a watchful eye on Gavroche and is most heartbroken when Gavroche is killed.*

Audition Material:

- Either a song from the show or a song of your choice
-

THENARDIER'S GROUP OF THIEVES

They include;

Brujon *Physically strong. The body of a bear and a pea sized brain. A gangster, stupid and evil.*

Babet *Physically frail, but lean and cunning.*

Claquesous *"He is the night" – tough, dangerous and secretive.*

Montparnasse *A teenager, handsome and dangerous. Kills with a knife. Possessive of Eponine.*

Audition Material:

- Either a song from the show or a song of your choice
-

OTHERS

The Foreman *The foreman of the factory where Fantine works. He is sleazy and even a bit menacing.*

Bamatabois *Late 20s to 40s. The "customer" who taunts Eponine into violence. Wealthy, dissolute young man who thinks of himself as a gentleman. Drunk, sadistic and feels he can buy anything – even Fantine.*

The Pimp *20s – 30s. Controls the prostitutes at the dock. Mean, aggressive and abusive. Small solo line in "Lovely Ladies."*

Other Male Ensemble *Chain gang, Farmers, Labourers, Sailors, Constables, Citizens, Beggars, Wedding Guests, Waltzers*

Audition Material:

- Either a song from the show or a song of your choice
-

FEATURED ENSEMBLE ROLES - FEMALES

Factory Girl/ Woman 1 *20s. Fights with Fantine. Mean, catty and threatened by Fantine's beauty. Jealous of the attention that the Foreman pays her.*

Old Woman *This is the woman who bargains with Fantine for her hair.*

Other Female Ensemble *Farmers, Innkeeper's Wife, Whores, Factory Workers, Citizens, Beggars, Wedding Guests, Waltzers*

Audition Material:

- Either a song from the show or a song of your choice
-

There will be no dance or movement audition for *Les Misérables*. However, some moderate movement is needed by some of the on stage cast in this production.