

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

NOTE: The roles of Velma Kelly and the Master of Ceremonies are pre-cast.

ROXIE HART: Female (Range: Mezzo-Soprano, F3-B4); Very strong dancer, singer, actor

After being arrested for murdering her lover, Roxie is smitten with the attention and notoriety she receives in the press. Her pursuit of an acquittal now leads to an unrelenting desire for fame on the vaudeville stage.

BILLY FLYNN: Male (Range: Baritone Bb2-G4); Strong actor and singer

Charming, suave and a master of manipulation, Billy is a lawyer who makes celebrities of his clients in order to sway public opinion—a perk that Roxie takes full advantage of. With a perfect track record in the courtroom, Billy will take on any case as long as it means putting money in his pocket.

MATRON "MAMA" MORTON: Female (Range: Alto, F#3-Bb4); strong actor and singer

The tough, sassy, corrupt warden of the Cook County Jail, “Mama” treats her inmates like family and would do anything for them—as long as she gets something in return. Mama solicits bribes for favors, anything from laundry service to making calls to lawyers. “When you’re good to Mama, Mama’s good to you.”

AMOS HART: Male (Range: Baritone, C3-F#4); strong actor and singer

An auto-mechanic and the hapless husband of Roxie, Amos lies for her and tries to take the blame for her crime until he realizes that he has been two-timed by Roxie. Somewhat simple-minded and innocent, Amos remains steadfast and loyal to Roxie, even though his help (and even his presence) is hardly acknowledged.

MARY SUNSHINE: “Female”— played by a Male in drag (Range: Soprano, Bb3-Bb5); strong singer and actor

A sappy tabloid columnist for the *Evening Star*. Mary believes there is a little bit of good in everyone and will believe anything she is fed that matches this belief. At the end of the musical, Mary’s own secret is exposed.

THE ENSEMBLE:

In addition to the specific characters outlined below, Ensemble members will play various roles throughout--Reporters, Doctor, Fan Dancers, Foreman of the Jury, Masters of Ceremony, Roxie’s Boys, etc. All ensemble members need to be strong singers and dancers.

LIZ: Female, (Range: A3-C#5); strong singer and dancer

One of the “merry murderesses” of Cook County Jail. Liz is imprisoned after shooting two warning shots into her husband’s head.

ANNIE: Female, (Range: A3-C#5); strong singer and dancer

One of the “merry murderesses” of Cook County Jail. Poisons her lover after finding out he already has six wives. “One of those Mormons, ya’ know.”

JUNE: Female, (Range: A3-C#5); strong singer and dancer

One of the “merry murderesses” of Cook County Jail. After her husband accuses her of an affair with the milk man, he mysteriously runs into her knife ten times.

HUNYAK: Female, (speaking); strong dancer

One of the “merry murderesses” of Cook County Jail. Hungarian Prisoner at Cook County Jail. The only English she speaks is the phrase, “Not Guilty.” Which follows her to her grave. Speaks Hungarian.

MONA: Female, (Range: A3-C#5); strong singer and dancer

One of the “merry murderesses” of Cook County Jail. Murders her lover after he has a round of affairs with other woman, and an occasional man. I guess you could say it was “artistic differences.”

FRED CASELY: Male, (speaking); strong dancer

Roxie’s short lived lover. Murdered for trying to leave Roxie.

SERGEANT FOGARTY: Male, (speaking)

Assigned to Roxie’s case. After asking the right questions, he manages to get Roxie to confess.

GO-TO-HELL-KITTY: Female (speaking)

Steals the spotlight when she Murders her husband along with three other woman. Her crimes are labeled “Lake Shore Drive Massacre.”

HARRY: Male (speaking)

Murdered by Go-To-Hell Kitty for sleeping around with three women behind her back.

AARON: Male (speaking)

Court appointed lawyer for Hunyak. He tries to get her to confess to speed along the trial.

JUDGE: Male (speaking)

Judge overseeing Roxie’s Trial.

MARTIN HARRISON: Male (speaking)

Chicago’s District Attorney, the prosecuting attorney in Roxie’s trial.

COURT CLERK: Female (speaking)

Swears people in with their hand on the bible. “Blah, Blah, Truth, Truth. Selp-yuh God.”

CHARACTER SIDES

Please select the side of your choice for the initial audition. Prefer this to memorized but you can hold paper in your hand.

ROXIE (To Amos with great feeling.) Oh, Amos, I knew you'd come. Amos, I know I've been sinful, but I'm changin', All I want now is to make up to you for what I done: And I will, Amos, just as soon after I get out of here. And I can get out of here, too. You see, there's this lawyer, and he costs five thousand dollars. (AMOS drops the cigar out of his mouth.) Oh Amos, I know I lied to you. I know I've cheated on you with other men. Oh Amos, I've even stolen money from your pants rockets while you were sleepin'. But I never stopped loving you, not ever-and I always thought-my Amos, he's so manly and so attractive and so ... I'm embarrassed..., so sexy.

BILLY. (Puts hand on money and takes it from Amos. Puts in desk drawer.) But, I took her case and I'll keep it because I play square, Now look, Hart, I'm not a braggart... I don't like to blow my own horn, but believe me, if Jesus Christ had lived in Chicago today-and if he had five thousand dollars and had come to me-things would have turned out differently. Now, here's what we're gonna do ... by tomorrow morning I'll have her name on the front page of every newspaper in town. She'll be a celebrity.

AMOS (To FOGARTY-Police) A man got a right to protect his home and his loved ones, right? Wait... what? She lied to me? Oh, she had him covered with a sheet and she's tellin' me that cock and bull story about this burglar, and I ought to say I did it 'cause I was sure to get off. Burglar, huh! And I believed her! That cheap little tramp. So, she was two-timin' me, huh? This time she pushed me too far. Boy, what a sap I was!

MATRON Ah, Baby, you couldn't buy that kind of publicity. You took care of Mama and Mama took care of you. Do you know what Mama's gonna do for you? She's gonna start you on a vaudeville tour. Well, I been talkin' to the boys at William Morris and due to your recent sensational activities I can get you twenty-five hundred. Come on, Vel, you know how I feel about you, You're my favorite. You're the classiest dame in this whole joint. You're like family to me-like my own. I'll do it for 50 bucks.

MARY SUNSHINE. (Spoken over Music) I don't see how you could possibly delay the trial another second, Mr. Flynn. My readers wouldn't stand for it. The poor child! To have her baby born in a jail!

THE MERRY MURDERESSES

LIZ. You know how people have these little habits that get you down .. Like Bernie. Bernie liked to chew gum. No, not chew. POP. Well, I came home this one day and , I am really irritated, and looking for a little sympathy and there's Bernie layin' on the couch, drinkin' a beer and chewin'. No, . , not chewin'. Poppin'. So I said to him, I said, "Bernie, you pop· that gum one more time . . . " and he did. So I took the shotgun off the wall and I fired two warning shots. into his head.

ANNIE. I met Ezekial Young from Salt Lake City about two years ago and he told me he was single and we hit it off right away. So, we started living together. He'd go to work, he'd come home, I'd mix him a drink, we'd have dinner. Well, it was like heaven in two and a half rooms. And then I found out, "Single" he told me? Single, my ass. Not only was he married . . , oh, no, he had six wives. One of those Mormons, you know. So that night, when he came home, I mixed him his drink, as usual. You know, some guys just can't hold their arsenic.

HUNYAK. Mit keresek, en itt? Azt mondjok, hogy a hires lakem lefogta n ferjemet en meg lecsaptam a fejet. De nem igaz, en artatlan vagyok. Nern tudom mert mondja Uncle Sam hogy en tettem. Probaltam a rendorsegen megmagyarazni de nem ertettek meg . . .

JUNE (Matter of factly.) Now, I'm standing in the kitchen carvin' up the chicken for dinner, minding my own business, and in storms my husband Wilbur, in a jealous rage. "You been scre,vin' the milkman." he says. He was crazy and he kept screamin', "You been screwin' the milk-man." And then he ran into my knife. He ran into my knife ten times.

MONA. I loved Alvin· Lipschitz more than I can, possibly say, He was a real artistic guy . . . sensitive ... a painter. But he was troubled. He was always trying to. find himself, He'd go out every night looking for himself and on the way he found Ruth, Gladys, Rosemary and Irving. I guess you can' say we broke up because of artistic differ-ences. He saw himself as alive and I saw him dead.

MISCELLANEOUS ENSEMBLE ROLE

FOGARTY (OFFICER) AH, NOW, WE'RE GETTING TO THE REAL STORY. That's a pretty cold blooded murder, Mrs. Hart. They're liable to hang you for that one. (with a laugh). Not so tough anymore, are you?