



DGASS – Sorcerer 2019

Notes on Characterisation and dialogue auditions

I want you to be as comfortable as possible at the auditions and if you think nerves might get the better of you during the dialogue then by all means use the words. I'm looking for potential, not a polished performance. I just want you to leave with us both feeling that I've seen your best effort. Very best of luck to you all!

Fiona Main
Director

Alexis

Alexis is a romantic, idealistic and rather arrogant young(ish) man. He is openly expressive and vocal about his feelings and believes that it is his duty to make the world as blissfully happy as he is by whatever means necessary. His sense of entitlement and blind love for Aline make him believe he is always right and the challenge for the successful actor will be to make him likeable to the audience. His dialogue can be seen as tedious if not delivered well, so I want you to demonstrate the full extent of his pomposity and passion in the audition.

Playing age: 30's – 40's
Standard RP upper class English accent preferred

Aline

Aline is (thankfully) one of the more spirited G&S female romantic leads and in our 1920's Gatsby-esque production she will have her entourage of flapper 'bridesmaids'. She is just as blissfully in love as Alexis but is not afraid to stand up for herself and tell him when she thinks he's wrong. The audience should always sympathise with her in her unwavering love for Alexis, despite his obvious failings. She has quite a lot of dialogue so there is much more opportunity to show acting skills with this role than some of the other G&S female romantic leads. I want to see the romance but also an added feisty spark in the audition.

Playing age: 20's
Standard RP upper class English accent preferred

Sir Marmaduke

Sir Marmaduke is a reserved, upper-class, stiff-upper-lip, no-nonsense, frustrated aristocrat. He conceals his inner passion because it would be coarse and un-gentlemanly to reveal or discuss such things (he finds his son's displays of emotion distasteful). The confines of his upbringing and the social conventions of his generation mean that he cannot tell Lady Sangazure of his true



feelings for her. Although the character may seem straight-laced there is great opportunity for comedy for Sir M in his duet with Lady S. Overall he is the generous, likeable Lord-of-the-manor.

Playing age: 60's

Standard RP upper class English accent preferred

Lady Sangazure

Lady Sangazure is a woman of dignity and deeply concealed passion (until she drinks the love potion). She is a loving mother to Aline and can seem a little sad in Act 1 due to her undeclared love for Sir Marmaduke. Lady S has no dialogue which is a challenge for anyone playing her as all her emotions must be expressed through her singing and her actions. I will be looking for the contrasts in the singing audition between the reserved and the passionate Lady Sangazure. She must be able to handle comedy as she has some wonderful comic opportunities in her duets with Sir M and John Wellington Wells. She should always have the sympathy of the audience.

Playing age: 50's – 60's

Standard RP upper class English accent preferred

John WW

Wellington Wells is one of the great patter baritone roles and vocal dexterity is obviously a must. Our Sorcerer will not be so much the top-hat-wearing Victorian version but more a 1920's cockney spiv. There is definitely a bit of the Del Boy about him. He's very much a salesman and a patter merchant and can evoke an air of mystery as well as demonstrate a talent for comedy. We never really learn too much about the personal life of JWW, as befits his mysterious 'Sorcerer' persona. I'll be looking for the ebullient confidence of a seasoned trader from our JWW.

Playing age: 40's – 60's

Cockney accent preferred

Dr Daly

Dr Daly is our local clergyman. He is a bit of a daydreamer and is often reminiscing about his youth and regrets the lack of a companion in his life. His constant daydreaming means that he doesn't notice some of the things going on right under his nose – especially the adoration he receives from Constance. Dr Daly is kind and serene and resigned to a life alone. These things are reflected in both his dialogue and his songs – which are some of the loveliest in the piece. He does have some fantastic comedy moments too, so I am looking for an absent-minded serenity and wonderful comic timing from our Dr Daly.



Playing age: 40's – 50's
Standard RP English or surprise me!

Mrs Partlet

Mrs Partlet is a fantastic character role reminiscent of Jane Austen's Mrs Bennet in her efforts to get her daughter married off to a suitable man. She is a well-known face in the local community, being a pew-opener for the aristocracy at the local church. She's warm and kind and a bit of a brash, well-meaning busybody and this should come across in her dialogue. She's a hard-working local so I'd like to hear some kind of accent which, given the phonetically written opening to Act 2, should probably be West Country, but I'm open to ideas. Don't let the accent put you off auditioning.

Playing age: 40's – 50's
West Country (or similar) accent suggested but not essential

Constance

Constance is a shy young lady who is desperately in love with Dr Daly but can't tell him how she feels. She relies on her mother's vain attempts to get him to notice her and her shy, retiring character should be a sharp contrast to her mother's forthrightness. She has some lovely plaintive singing although not a huge amount of dialogue. Constance has great opportunities for comedy and her whole demeanour and the physicality of the character should be able to get laughs on their own. Along with the Notary, she has some wonderful scene-stealing opportunities in Act 2. She is obviously her mother's daughter therefore their accents should be similar, although Constance's may not be so pronounced.

Playing age: 20's
West Country (or similar) accent suggested but not essential

Notary

In this production the Notary and the deaf old man will be one and the same which gives us another great character part that comes into his own in Act 2. He should be a bit bumbling and deaf and can get some great physical comedy laughs throughout the piece as well as the fantastic comedy duet with Constance in Act 2. By making the Notary deaf and bumbling we can also inject some more comedy moments into the signing scene in act 1. A great opportunity for scene-stealing and a great fun part with the added advantage of not having to learn dialogue!

Playing age: 60's upwards!
Accent can be anything you like but MUST be easily understandable and clear.

Hercules

We'll not be auditioning for the part of Hercules as he only has 3 lines and no singing. I will choose a lucky cast member during rehearsals



Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society

to take on this small but perfectly formed role! He will therefore not be a child as is suggested in the lib.