



2026 Show Programme

LIONEL BART'S

Oliver!

INFORMATION PACK

PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

All You Need To Know

Thank you for your interest in joining Geronimo Musicals' season of Oliver! We are so excited that you are here! Oliver will be our very first full length show and will provide an excellent learning and performing opportunity for anyone between the ages of 8 and 21. Please take the time to read through this booklet carefully so you are fully informed of the details and expectations of being a part of this production!

When is the rehearsal period and where are rehearsals?

Our rehearsal period will be over Term 1 & 2 of 2026. The majority of our rehearsals will take place at Geronimo Performing Arts (143 Pilkington Road, Panmure) with additional rehearsals and performances at Sacred Heart College (102 Crossfield Road, Glendowie).

Does everyone who signs up get into Oliver?

Our programme will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no audition to join the production, however we do have a limit on the size of our cast. To guarantee your spot, sign up as soon as you can!

Who can perform in Oliver?

Registrations are open to performers aged 8 - 21. Our cast rehearses in two groups, *Juniors* (ages 8-11) and *Oliver Ensemble* (ages 12-21). If you are between the ages of 11 and 12 and would like to consider being a part of the Oliver Ensemble and not the Juniors, please email musicals@geronimo.nz before you register.

When are regular rehearsals?

Our regular rehearsals will be every Wednesday of Term 1 & 2 with additional lead rehearsals every Saturday.

Wednesday

- Juniors (8-11): 4.00pm - 5.30pm*
- Oliver Ensemble (12+): 5.30pm - 8.30pm*
- Lead Rehearsal: 8.30pm - 9.30pm*

Saturday

- Lead Rehearsal: 1.00pm - 5.00pm*

How can I audition for a lead role and who attends the lead rehearsals?

In the first couple of rehearsals, each cast member will learn some singing, dancing and acting. We will then hold an audition for lead & featured roles, in which every cast member will participate. Even if you do not wish to be a lead, it's a great learning experience and a big confidence booster! We will then hold a callbacks session, where we will ask some cast members to learn some additional material so we can make thorough casting decisions. Then, once we have cast the show, each lead rehearsal will be utilised to learn specific songs and scenes that only some characters are required for. This means that no one will be asked to attend every lead rehearsal.

Will I be required for the full duration of every rehearsal?

After we hold our auditions and cast the show, different cast members will be cast in different numbers. This only applies to our 'Oliver Ensemble' cast members (everyone aged 12+). If you are in the Junior group, you will be needed for every rehearsal for its duration. For the Oliver Ensemble however, it will depend on which song, dance or scene we are covering. You will likely be needed for most rehearsal dates for most of the time, however, please be aware that you may not be required for the full duration every week.

How are we made aware of any updates to the schedule?

Once you have registered, you will get access to our full rehearsal schedule. This schedule is a working schedule, meaning it will be updated as we go along. No new dates and times will be added, but it will become more detailed regarding what exactly is going to be covered in each rehearsal as we go along. Please make sure to regularly check the schedule so you are aware of what is being covered!

Are there any other rehearsals?

Yes! There will be some additional rehearsals on a few weekends and over Theatre Week. We will release specific group call times for these rehearsals closer to the time, but here are the important dates to take note of. Please keep them free.

Lead & Featured Roles Audition Process

Extra Audition Workshop: Saturday 14th February

Callbacks for lead roles: Saturday 21st February

Weekend Workshops

Weekend Workshop 1: 7th & 8th March

Weekend Workshop 2: 16th & 17th May

Run throughs

Stagger through: Saturday 13th June

Run through: Wednesday 17th June

Run through: Saturday 20th June

Run through: Sunday 21st June

Run through: Wednesday 24th June

Theatre Week

Saturday 27th June – Monday 6th July

We will send out a full and comprehensive theatre week schedule once we have confirmed exactly what we need to be done on each day, for now, please keep all of those dates free.

All rehearsal times and locations will be updated regularly on the rehearsal schedule.

Are rehearsals compulsory?

We understand that young people usually have many extra commitments that can take them out of rehearsals. When you register, please be very clear if there are any rehearsals you cannot attend. Once you sign up, you have committed yourself to every rehearsal on the rehearsal schedule.

While we try to be as flexible as possible, the production team reserves the right to remove a cast member from their role or the show due to lack of attendance or commitment.

When are where are the performances?

Performances for Oliver will be at the Sacred Heart College Theatre on July 3rd – July 6th.

Junior Performances

To provide a positive, enjoyable, and age-appropriate experience for our Junior performers, their rehearsal and performance schedule is intentionally less intensive than that of our Oliver Ensemble.

We will also split our Junior's into two casts, meaning that they will perform in half the shows. We tested this system in our last production and were very happy with the results!

How can I register and what payment is involved?

To register, fill out our registration form! If you do not have access to it, you can find it on our website, geronimo.co.nz/musicals. Then, your registration will be added to the Geronimo Portal. If you have not been with Geronimo before, you will be sent clear instructions! The Geronimo Portal is a great tool for managing classes, fees and info!

The total cost for each cast member will be \$520 (the culmination of two \$200 term fees and a \$120 show fee).

At the start of term, you will be invoiced for Term 1 and the show fee. At the start of term 2, you will be invoiced for the Term 2 fee.

PART 2: MEET THE TEAM



Director
Matthew Curtis



*Music Director /
Co-Production Manager*
Sam Crichton



Choreographer
Jess Walker

Sam, Matthew and Jess will be running rehearsals throughout the process. They will be in charge of directing the blocking, singing and choreography.

*Joanne Curtis
Kerry Walker
Amy Duffell*

*Co-Production Manager
Technical Director
Admin Assistant*

Joanne, Kerry & Amy won't be present in all rehearsals, but play a key role in bringing this show to life.

GERONIMO *Musicals*

production of

LIONEL BART'S

Oliver!

Book, Music & Lyrics
by Lionel Bart

3rd – 6th July 2026
Sacred Heart College Theatre

Director
Matthew Curtis

Musical Director
Sam Crichton

Choreographer
Jess Walker

Artistic Design
Kerry Walker

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

Characters in the show

Everything you need to know about the audition process will be made available to you in the first few rehearsals. Below is a list of some of the characters in the show, the level of performance skill that's required and the age range that we will be looking for. This is to give you a head start if you want to try for a certain role!

Oliver

Male / Female

Strong Actor, Strong Singer, Good Mover

A pure-hearted orphan who, despite enduring neglect and cruelty, retains innocence, courage, and a strong moral core. Oliver is quiet, thoughtful, and emotionally expressive. His journey drives the story as he longs for love, family, and belonging.

Nancy

Female

Strong Actor, Strong Singer, Strong Dancer

A spirited and courageous woman, raised by Fagin but now in a toxic relationship with Bill Sikes. She is torn between loyalty to Bill and her growing desire to protect Oliver. Warm-hearted and deeply human.

The Artful Dodger

Male / Female

Strong Actor, Strong Singer, Strong Dancer

A lively, cheeky pickpocket and Fagin's star pupil. Street-smart, confident, and charming, he takes Oliver under his wing. Often seen as the leader among the boys.

Mr. Bumble

Male / Female

Strong Actor, Strong Singer, Good Mover

The pompous, self-important Beadle of the workhouse. Loves power and appearances but is easily flustered when challenged.

Fagin

Male / Female

Strong Actor, Good Singer, Good Mover

A charismatic, manipulative leader of a group of child thieves. He is cunning yet strangely charming, switching between menace and humour. Morally corrupt but layered—he survives through wit rather than strength.

Bill Sikes

Male

Strong Actor, Good Singer

A brutal criminal and the most feared man in London's underworld. He is intimidating, violent, and unpredictable. Represents the darkest side of survival.

Mr. Brownlow

Male / Female

Strong Actor

A wealthy, kind-hearted gentleman who takes Oliver in. He represents compassion and justice.

Mrs. Corney

Female

Strong Actor, Strong Singer, Good Mover

The stern and sharp-tongued matron of the workhouse. Pursues Mr. Bumble for status and convenience more than love.

Bet

Female
Good Actor, Strong Singer, Good Mover

Nancy’s close companion. Young and impressionable, she looks up to Nancy and is still engulfed in Fagin’s world.

Mrs. Sowerberry

Female
Strong Actor, Good Singer, Good Mover

The dominating force in the household. Controlling, sharp, and dismissive of Oliver.

Noah Claypole

Male
Strong Actor, Good Singer, Good Mover

A bullying apprentice who delights in tormenting Oliver. Cowardly and foolish when confronted.

Mrs. Bedwin

Female
Strong Actor, Good Singer, Good Mover

The devoted housekeeper to Mr. Brownlow. She cares deeply for Oliver and becomes a maternal figure.

Charley Bates

Male / Female
Good Actor, Good Singer, Good Mover

One of Fagin’s boys, second in rank to Dodger. Spirited and mischievous, but less cunning.

Mr. Sowerberry

Male
Strong Actor, Good Singer, Good mover

A gloomy undertaker who takes Oliver as an apprentice. He is business-minded and somewhat oblivious to his wife’s domineering nature.

Charlotte

Female
Strong Actor, Good Singer, Good Mover

The Sowerberrys' daughter—lazy, flirtatious, and dismissive. She mocks Oliver and sides with Noah.

Mr. Grimwig

Male
Strong Actor

A quirky, grumpy friend of Mr. Brownlow who always assumes the worst. Despite his dour attitude, he is loyal.

Old Sally

Female
Strong Actor

A dying woman who reveals the truth about Oliver’s origins. Small but crucial dramatic role.

PART 4: CONCLUSION

Thank you again for your interest in signing up for Oliver! with Geronimo Musicals. We are really looking forward to having you as part of the cast! If you don't have access to our registration form already, it can be found on our website, geronimo.co.nz/musicals. For more information on the show, classes and other projects we will be working on throughout the year, visit our website or email us at musicals@geronimo.co.nz
