

Mamma Mia! Character Descriptions

By Mike Fidler, Director

The heart of Mamma Mia is the music of ABBA and we intend to present the songbook with maximum production value. In many ways the ambition is to make it feel as much like a pop concert featuring ABBA's greatest hits as a musical comedy in the traditional sense. For anyone interested in a slightly more rock and roll approach to theater, this is a show to get involved with behind the scenes.

It is also an opportunity to have a unique experience on stage. We are intending to cast a large "company" who, alongside the band, will be on stage through much (if not all) of the show. A much larger percentage of the numbers than usual are "production numbers" and our onstage company will serve as backing singers and dancers throughout in a performance style that will sometimes seem closer to American Idol than it will a "normal" musical. Many will never leave the stage.

While everyone will sing and dance to some extent, there will be featured dancers who will hardly be required to sing and there will be an ever-present chorus (in the true sense of the word), singing in virtually every number with limited movement. There will also be everything in between. A key component of this chorus will be its reflection of our own society and in this respect we are hoping to attract performers of all shapes, sizes and ages. The uniting factor on stage will be the energy, spirit and delight that is magically contained in the music of ABBA and our ambition will be to package up that joy and deliver it into the audience. Being part of this ensemble offers very exciting opportunity.

In terms of the libretto proper, Mamma Mia famously chronicles the story of a single Mom and her daughter on the eve of her wedding. On the surface, it's a familiar, breezy comedy as the daughter searches for the identity of her father and love interests wax and wane; underneath, a more poignant story develops as the two generations of women explore the requirement of a male figure in their quest for fulfillment and a mother comes to terms with her daughter leaving for adulthood. Available characters exist for all ages and genders, typically as follows, although note that the list below is subject to change and should not be considered definitive:

Principals....

Donna Sheridan

The owner of the Taverna on the Greek island of Kalokairi; Sophie's mother, (around 40, American). She is the former lead singer of "Donna and the Dynamos. Honest, straight and hard-working, she is the most naturalistic and vulnerable of the characters. Delivers some of the biggest solos in the show. (*The Winner Takes it All, Slipping Through My Fingers, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Money Money Money, among others.*)

Sophie Sheridan

Donna's headstrong 21-year-old daughter, Sophie is determined to have what her mother never had: a traditional family and a father to walk her down the aisle. Young, bright and energetic, she has lived all her life on the island and is ready to leave. (*I Have a Dream, Honey Honey, The Name of the Game, Lay All Your Love on Me, Under Attack, among others*)

Tanya Cresham-Leigh

One of Donna's oldest and best friends, Tanya (around 40) has married several millionaires and discovered a lot more about plastic surgery than love - to the extent that she was ever looking. Wild, fun-loving and a big character, she flirts mercilessly with young men, happy to play, but not to stick around. (*Chiquitita, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Does Your Mother Know, among others*)

Rosie Mulligan

Donna's friend (around 40, American, often plus-size) a former member of the Dynamos; unmarried, free-spirited and a renowned author of cookbooks. A character who has developed a confident, funny and self-deprecating exterior which

masks her inner vulnerability. Mostly comic, yet one of the most poignant moments in the show in the heart of Act 2. Dances like nobody's watching. (*Chiquitita, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Take a Chance on Me, among others*)

Sam Carmichael

One of Sophie's Potential fathers and a wealthy architect (40-50, American). Sam has regretted leaving Donna all his life and now finds himself divorced and back in her presence. He is straight-laced, confident and composed. At times he is perhaps a little over-bearing, but he is determined not to mess up the second chance he has been given... a very true and honest character within the chaos. (*S.O.S., Thank You for the Music, Knowing Me Knowing You, among others*)

Harry Bright

Another of Sophie's potential fathers and a respected London banker, (40-50, English). Once a head-banging, partying musician who went down the straight road - at least with his career. He is quirky, in the closet and something of a romantic nostalgist. A nice guy, determined to make up for some past regrets and full of singing. (*Thank You for the Music, Our Last Summer, among others.*)

Bill Austin

Another of Sophie's potential fathers, a well-known travel writer, Bill has visited the far reaches of the earth, but never found what he's really looking for. A real character (40-50, often English or Australian), Bill has generally avoided the complexities of a relationship and now wonders if it's too late. Lots of comedy and a golden heart within. (*Thank You for the Music, The Name of the Game, Take a Chance on Me, among others*)

Featured....

Sky

Sophie's fiancé; a former stockbroker who moved to the island in a young version of a mid-life crisis. He is older than Sophie (25-32, American), but smitten by her exotic charm. Perhaps he is too eager to please and has not quite found all the answers he had hoped for on the island. (*Lay All Your Love on Me, among others*)

Ali & Lisa

Sophie's friends who have traveled to the island for the wedding. (early 20s, American) A supporting double-act of bubbly, bridesmaid excitement, not necessarily gender-defined. (*Honey Honey, among others*)

Pepper

A flirty waiter at the Taverna featured through his brief relationship with Tanya. (20-25, could be from anywhere). Hot, energetic and fun-loving, makes a great double-act with Eddie. Opportunity for a good mover. (*Take a Chance on Me, among others*)

Eddie

A waiter, boatman and handyman at the Taverna. Other half of double-act with Pepper. (20-30, American). Fairly non-specific. Opportunity for a good young character actor to create something interesting. (*Full Company numbers*)

Father Alexandrios

The minister who officiates Sophie's wedding. Often a heavy-weight Greek Orthodox priest, this is a potentially delightful little role for a character actor of non-specified gender with some imagination. A nice little turn in Act 2 for someone who doesn't want too much to sing. (*Finale Numbers*)