



THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

Audition Pack

Centre Stage Taupo

Introduction

Welcome to Centre Stages' audition pack for The Drowsy Chaperone. Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for considering being part of this show. Please read it carefully, particularly the sections on rehearsals, show dates and character descriptions, before booking your audition slot.

All roles are open to performers aged 16 and over. Diversity is encouraged and all ethnic groups, ages and backgrounds are welcome to audition.

Production Team

This is our production team:

Director: Ross Humphrey

Musical Director: Tara-Lea Uebergang

Choreographer: Rebecca Kelly

Production Manager: Christine Dolman

Production Secretary: Jolene Rodley

Performance Dates

14th – 24th October 2026 at the Matai Street Playhouse. Centre Stage reserves the right to add an extra performance within this timeframe.

Pack out will be the day after the final performance (25th October) and all cast and crew are expected to be involved.

Music, Book & Licensing

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY LISA LAMBERT AND GREG MORRISON

BOOK BY BOB MARTIN AND DON McKELLAR

The Drowsy Chaperone began life in 1998 as a short musical spoof written by friends as a wedding gift for the real Bob Martin and Janet Van De Graaff, before being expanded for the Toronto Fringe

Festival and eventually Broadway, where it won five Tony Awards including Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score.

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The Story

A devoted musical theatre fan, a dusty cast recording, and a wedding day that refuses to go to plan!

When a die-hard fan of classic musicals puts on his favourite (entirely fictional) 1928 cast album, the show springs to life around him in glorious technicolour. It's the eve of the wedding of glamorous Broadway star Janet Van De Graaff and dashing oil tycoon Robert Martin — but a desperate producer, a hammy 'Latin lover', two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, a forgetful society hostess and Janet's permanently tipsy chaperone all conspire to throw the big day into chaos.

Equal parts loving tribute and gleeful send-up of the golden age of musical comedy, The Drowsy Chaperone is a warm, witty and wildly funny celebration of why we fall in love with musicals in the first place — and you can be part of it!

Audition Dates

Audition bookings will open online from 20th June 2026. Visit www.centrestagetaupo.co.nz for the link to book your slot and to complete the audition application form.

Auditions will be held at the Playhouse, 10 Matai Street, Taupo as follows:

- Tuesday 7th July 2026, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday 8th July 2026, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Call backs (if needed): Saturday 11th July, from 2:00pm

If you are unable to attend auditions on 7th/8th July but are still keen to be part of this show, please email us at drowsy@centrestagetaupo.co.nz.

You will be auditioning before a panel consisting of the director, musical director, choreographer and a committee representative from Centre Stage. Please be prepared for the possibility of a call back. Getting a call back does not guarantee a role, and you may still be cast even if you are not called back. Please make sure your audition form includes a contact phone number where we can reach you easily during the audition period.

Character Details

The ages listed are of the role, not the actor.

Principal Roles

Character	Age	Vocal Range	Description
Man in Chair	30s – 60s	Baritone(G2 – C4)	A reclusive, lovably neurotic musical theatre aficionado who narrates the show from his living-room armchair, conjuring the cast and story to life around him as he plays his favourite record. Witty, warm and quietly

			heartbroken — the only character not drawn from 1920s stock archetypes.
Janet Van De Graaff	20s – 30s	Alto with big belt(G3 – E5)	A glamorous, talented star of Feldzieg's Follies, torn between giving up the stage and marrying Robert. Vivacious, outgoing and loves being the centre of attention — the consummate 1920s starlet. Strong movement and a 'special skill' (acrobatics, juggling, etc.) a real plus.
Robert Martin	30s – 40s	Tenor(A#2 – G4)	The debonair, ever-cheerful groom-to-be, hopelessly in love with Janet. The archetypal 1920s leading man — charming, optimistic and a little cheesy. Must be comfortable tap dancing, and ideally roller skating.
The Drowsy Chaperone	40s – 50s	Alto with strong belt(F3 – D5)	Janet's boozy, devil-may-care confidante and a melodramatic showbiz diva who steals every scene she's in. Care-free, often because she's drunk, and utterly unbothered by what anyone thinks of her. A wonderful comedic lead role.

Featured Roles

Character	Age	Vocal Range	Description
Mrs. Tottendale	40s – 60s	Alto character voice(G3 – Db5)	A wealthy, flighty and endlessly forgetful widow hosting the wedding at her estate. Charming, bubbly and completely oblivious to the confusion she causes everyone around her.
Underling	50s – 60s	Tenor character voice(Ab2 – G4)	Mrs. Tottendale's dry, unflappable butler — stoic, sarcastic and quietly hilarious. Think a cross between a classic English butler and a long-suffering straight man.
Mr. Feldzieg	40s – 50s	Baritone(Db3 – Db4)	The harried Broadway producer who will do anything to keep Janet in his struggling Follies and stop the wedding. Nervous, sarcastic, impatient and a little insensitive.
Kitty	20s – 30s	Soprano with comedic belt(Bb3 – F5)	Feldzieg's dim, big-hearted chorus girl companion with dreams of being a leading lady. A classic 1920s 'dumb blonde' comic role with a great voice.
Aldolpho	40s	Bass/Baritone with strong falsetto(A#2 – G4)	A self-proclaimed Latin lothario hired to seduce Janet away from her wedding — vain, theatrical and a total buffoon. Vaudeville-style comic acting and a thick exaggerated accent required; great comic timing essential.
George	30s – 40s	Tenor(F3 – Bb4)	Robert's incredibly anxious best man, who makes it his life's mission to ensure the wedding goes off without a hitch. Loyal, sincere and very, very nervous. Must be able to tap.
Gangster #1 & #2	30s – 40s	Tenor(Db3 – Gb4)	Two oddly charming gangsters posing as pastry chefs, sent to stop the wedding on behalf of Feldzieg's investors. Function best as a single comic double act — think Abbott and Costello. Good comic timing and dance skills essential.

Trix the Aviatrix	30s – 50s	Alto(Ab3 – Eb5)	A brave, brash and sassy female aviator who, by chance, ends up presiding over the wedding. A small but show-stopping role; may double in the ensemble.
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Ensemble

Character	Age	Vocal Range	Description
Ensemble	18 – 45	Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass	Wedding guests, reporters, Follies girls and household staff who sing, dance and bring 1920s sparkle to every number. We are looking for a versatile, energetic ensemble of all ages, body types and backgrounds who move and sing well. Strong tap technique highly valued.
Superintendent	Any	Vocal range — any	A small but memorable cameo role who arrives to fix the lights at a key dramatic moment near the end of the show. Often doubled with an ensemble track.

Musical Numbers (indicative)

The score includes the following numbers — a flavour of what's in store, rather than an audition song list:

Act One

- Fancy Dress — Mrs. Tottendale, Drowsy Chaperone & Company
- Cold Feets — Robert, George
- Show Off — Janet & Ensemble
- As We Stumble Along — Drowsy Chaperone
- I Am Aldolpho — Aldolpho, Drowsy Chaperone
- Accident Waiting to Happen — Robert, Janet
- Toledo Surprise — Gangsters, Feldzieg, Kitty, Mrs. Tottendale, Underling & Company
- Act One Finale — Company

Act Two

- Bride's Lament — Janet & Ensemble
- Message From a Nightingale — Kitty, Gangsters, Aldolpho, Drowsy Chaperone
- Love Is Always Lovely (In the End) — Mrs. Tottendale, Underling
- Finale Ultimo (As We Stumble Along, reprise) — Company

Preparation for Audition

- Please arrive early for your audition, allowing time to sign in and ensure you are vocally and physically warmed up.
- Bring fluids.

- Prepare your audition to the best of your ability — it shows the creative team you're serious about the role.
- Have some understanding of the character(s) you are auditioning for.
- Be professional and bring plenty of energy to your performance.
- Dress appropriately.
- And enjoy yourself!

Song Choice

- Your audition song (approximately two minutes or less) should show off your vocal range and suit the jazzy, pastiche 1920s style of the show, or a similar character-driven musical theatre style.
- Please come prepared with a backing track (without vocals) on a USB stick or your phone — not as part of a playlist.
- If you are auditioning for a principal or featured character, you may be asked to read a short scene for that role.

Dancing

Part of your audition will assess movement, but there will be no set choreography piece to learn.

We are looking for performers who are comfortable with, soft-shoe and 1920s-style choreography, including some partnered lifts and comic stunt work (no prior acrobatics experience necessary, though it's a bonus).

Auditionees for Robert and George will be assessed for their ability to learn tap.

Rehearsal Dates

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, 28th July 2026.

Later in the schedule, rehearsals may run up to four times per week, though generally not all cast will be required at every session. Rehearsals will take place on weeknights, e.g. Tuesday and Thursday, 7pm – 9.00pm and Sunday, 2-5 & 6-9, with occasional additional sessions as needed.

All rehearsals will be scheduled in advance, and a full rehearsal schedule will be presented at the first cast meeting prior to rehearsals beginning. Rehearsals will take place at [Venue Name, Address].

The show runs from 14th – 24th October 2026. You must be available for all evenings and weekends during this period, including pack-out (25th October).

Production Expectations

Your participation in this production requires your undivided commitment to ensure a production of the highest possible quality. If cast, you cannot commit to any other production during the rehearsal period or production season.

You should not audition if you are unable to commit to the full rehearsal and performance schedule. If you have any other commitments (personal or work) that may affect your ability to attend rehearsals, please provide full details on your audition application form. Not all performers will be required at every rehearsal, and rehearsals will be scheduled as carefully as possible to make the best use of everyone's time.

Casting Announcement

Performers will be notified by email or phone of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible following casting. Feedback will not be given individually. A full cast announcement will follow via Centre Stage Taupo's social media and website.

All cast and crew are considered goodwill ambassadors for Centre Stage Taupo and for the show, and we expect everyone involved to meet that responsibility both in person and online.

Other Information

All cast involved in this production will need to become a financial member of Centre Stage Taupo, and are required to agree to and adhere to a code of conduct covering health and safety, personal wellbeing and responsibilities to fellow cast and crew members.

You must complete and submit the audition application form (available through our website).

Contact

Please direct any queries to **drowsy@centrestageataupo.co.nz**

Your Centre Stage Taupo,

Drowsy Chaperone Team

June 2026