

A Girl MissRed (Schools Edition) – Why we loved this as a show for our school. David Sackett, Prior Park College, Bath (PRODUCER)

Cast essentials

‘Kids Cast’ 13 named parts (7F, 6M)

1 main role with solos, 4 larger roles with solos, rest smaller roles with occasional lines and singing

Fran (F) – Main lead. Ideal for a young talented actor. Has the most lines in the show. Some songs are more challenging (both in range and melodic lines) but can be adapted (or shortened as we did) to suit.

Clara & Wanda (F) – Rathbourn Children. Solo singing required but the songs are not tricky and sensible range. Suits good character actors

Arturo (M) – Suits treble voice, occasional singing lines and one amazing song in the slightly more difficult quintet in act 2. If singers are less strong, this can be shortened to only the solo sections

Charlie (M) – One of 6 Blewitt Siblings. A few nice lines and one feature song (guaranteed to bring the house down)

Others (4M 4F) – All involved in ‘Kids’ chorus songs and occasional lines, And solo singing lines are not difficult in both notes and range.

Adult Cast 12 (8F 4M) named parts plus chorus

Martha (F) – Songs (Mezzo) are well written but have a wider range so would suit a singer who has had some experience and/or tuition. A perfect role for an aspiring young musicals star.

Mr Bracken (M) - Songs are in the high baritone range (to top F – though these notes are easily adaptable to a lower octave if, as we had, you don’t have a young male with that range!) A characterful role with lots of opportunities for a male lead

Miss Stacey (F) – Role for a good dancer who can also sing (Mezzo). The songs are not difficult in range or melody, but one has a big dance break.

Mrs Rathbourn (F) – Great character role. Vocal range is lower (towards Alto) and as well as small, interjected solos, there is a feature song in act 2

Mr Rathbourn (M) – Best suited to a rich baritone voice, has some beautiful melodic lines, an important quartet – a really nice support male lead.

Mrs Blewitt (F) – Great character part. As songs are more comic, singing ability does not need to be as strong as Mrs R. Melodies are more straightforward (Mezzo). Ability to dance is an advantage for act 2 song.

Mr Blewitt (M) – Singing does not need to be a strong point. Only occasional interjections and only one unaccompanied solo song (on way back from the pub!) Great comic part for a male in your cast

Mrs Potherthwistle (F) – Good character part with only occasional easy singing. Can be suited to someone with acting skills who isn't looking for that lead singing role.

W (F) – The mysterious woman Fran meets. One big song (mezzo) – not a difficult sing, but big dance opportunity. We doubled this role with our Miss Stacey which worked very well.

Tom Crocker (M) – Ghost that appears just the once. Beautiful song (lower baritone). Ideal if you have a great singer to fit into your show or can be double cast with Mr R as we did.

Aunt Cecile (F) – A couple of solo lines within ensemble songs (mezzo). Dialogue in a few scenes

Mrs Coles (F) - One short solo in the opening number, easier sing (Mezzo) and a couple of nice scenes of dialog

Other Chorus parts

Occasional lines for 'gossip women'

Pirates for Tom Crocker

Singing and dancing in several numbers through the show – the chorus won't be sitting around for long.

Choreography

There is a good balance in this musical of big choreography numbers (Not the Same, Trouble with Kids, Red Spells Danger, Friend Ship, Chrisma, Guilty, Live Wires, Odd Gets Even), smaller ensemble choreography (Sibling Sad Song, Hero Charisma, Inn with No Way Out, Trouble) with many other songs suiting 'acting movement'. Whilst there, as a musical should have, those 'showstoppers', the choreography is not daunting and does not dominate rehearsal schedules.

Staging

There are a large number of scenes but each is easily represented with a few items and a projection. There is no need to have a full set, so please do not be put off by the scene changes. Much can be done with props and costumes – as we did.

Band

The MD will ideally play the keys part or conduct as they wish. The Trumpet, Reed, Bass, and Trombone parts are more tricky and best suited to a good semi-pro or very advanced student. The Guitar and Drums are more accessible and we used students for these very successfully.

Costumes

We were lucky to have access to DareWe Productions costume collection and I would highly recommend using these to save on so much. Having the right look will make all the difference though be aware, planning costume changes – especially for Fran, needs some thought in advance.

Summary

With a good size cast (with slightly more female roles to male), most singing roles achievable by untrained young singers with opportunity for a couple of more experienced in musicals to shine, and a great story with a good message, A Girl MissRed is a definite for a senior schools production.