

AuditiOns - The BiOgraph Girl

Book by Warner Brown ♦ Lyrics by Warner Brown and David Heneker ♦ Music By David Heneker
Directed by Roy Hammond ♦ Musical Director/Conductor – Joe Biddle ♦ Choreographer - Richelle "Rikki" Howie

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER
123 CENTERWAY
GREENBELT MD 20770-1802

MONDAY, September 25, 2006, 7:30pm – 10pm
WEDNESDAY, September 27, 2006, 7:30pm – 10pm

Rehearsals start September 28, 2006

Production Dates: November 10, 2006 – December 3, 2006 (4 weekends)

PERFORMANCES ARE SCHEDULED OVER THANKSGIVING WEEKEND (Fri., Sat. AND Sun.) Actors must be able to commit to performing that weekend.

Fade In: New York, 1912 - the birth of the "flickers" and that memorable age of stardust and stars, of tinsel, glamour and scandals, of sky-rocketing salaries and tremendous vitality.

The musical salutes Hollywood's glorious era of silent pictures. Parading the movies' earliest heroes, heroines and clowns, it is a nostalgic reminiscence of the silent movies seen through the eyes of four famous figures: Mary Pickford and Lillian Gish, both of them great silent film stars; D. W. Griffith, the most famous of all the American silent directors and Adolph Zukor, one of the studio bosses who laid the foundations of the movie industry we know today. Throw in Mack Sennett and the Keystone Kops and you're guaranteed a night of magical mayhem.

Fade Out: Los Angeles, 1927 – the dawn of the "talkies" and the end of an era.

Character Breakdown: (Note: All actors except for D.W. Griffith must have dance ability. All ROLES are singing. Age ranges approximate.)

Lillian Gish: actress will portray Miss Gish from ages 19 – 34, petite, demure, pretty. She was a major star of silent films and a greatly respected figure of the American theatre.

Dorothy Gish: actress will portray Miss Gish from ages 14 – 29. Lillian's younger sister and an equal success in silent films though in a lighter vein. Will double in other parts in later half of the play.

Mrs. Gish: 40's – 50's, actress mother of Lillian and Dorothy. Her close friend was Mrs. Charlotte Smith, mother of Mary Pickford. She looks down at "movie acting." Overbearing, protective mother. Will double in other parts in later half of the play.

Mary Pickford (Gladys Smith): actress will portray Miss Pickford from ages 20 – 35. She achieved international fame and fortune in the movie business as Mary Pickford, "the world's sweetheart." Although not the original "Biograph Girl," she inherited the title when Florence Lawrence left Biograph Studios. Portrayed in the play as a young child who is never allowed to grow up because her fans didn't want her to. A "Baby June" type character.

D.W. Griffith: late 30's – 50's, greatest of the pioneer film directors. A visionary in his day but when the audiences wanted lighter fare he continued to produce epics and moral stories. Died a broken and poor man.

G.W. "Billy" Bitzer: late 30's – 50's, Griffith's cameraman for 16 years. Primitive cameras obliged him to improvise which accidentally gave Griffith some of his finest effects, among them the fade-out. Will double the role of Zukor.

Johannes Epping: Griffith's accountant. Constant worrier, nebbish, numbers man. Any age.

Adolph Zukor: late 30's – early 50's, one of the small time salesmen who became the big-time bosses of Hollywood. Not a smart man but had street smarts and knew what the audiences wanted.

Mack Sennett: actor will portray Mr. Sennett from ages 32 – 47. King of silent film comedy who introduced Chaplin to the screen and created the Keystone Kops. All he wanted to do was make people laugh. Actor should have some ability at pantomime.

Walter L. Hall: pioneer scenic designer, was largely responsible for the famous set design of Babylon.

Usherette/Pressmen: any ages, one female/two males. Will play various roles through the play in retelling the story of the pioneer days of silent movies.

Requirements: Be prepared to read from the script. Please prepare 16 bars of an up-tempo number. Accompanist will be provided. CD/Tape player also will be available. Wear suitable clothes for the dance audition. Non-Union.

For more information please contact the director at Hammond_balt@excite.com or call the theatre at 301-441-8770. Website for the theatre is www.greenbeltartscenter.org