



# MUNDELEIN THEATRE



## **Included in this packet**

Audition Information	Character Breakdown
Crew Information	Audition Songs
Play Summary	Musical Numbers

[LeMis Interest Sheet](#)

## **Important Dates**

Info Meeting	Tues, 2/13	3:30-4:30	Aud
Audition Workshop	Thur, 2/15	3:30-5:00	Choir Rm
General Auditions	Tues, 2/20	3:30-6:00	A106
General Auditions	Wed, 2/21	3:30-6:00	A106
Dance Call (All)	Wed, 2/21	6:30-9:30	Cafeteria
Ensemble Callbacks	Thur, 2/22	3:30-5:30	Choir Rm
Callback Auditions	Fri, 2/23	3:30-9:00	Aud
Cast List Posted	Sun, 2/25	10:00 am	Website
Crew Meeting	Tues, 3/6	3:30-4:30	Aud
Performance	Thur, 4/26	7:30 pm	Aud
Performance	Fri, 4/27	7:30 pm	Aud
Performance	Sat, 4/28	2:00 pm	Aud
Performance	Sat, 4/28	7:30 pm	Aud
Set Strike (All)	Sun, 4/29	10-2 pm	Aud

**Please Note - This show rehearses during Spring Break.  
Please check the schedule prior to auditioning. Availability  
for Spring Break rehearsals will be considered in casting  
decisions.**

**[www.mundeleintheatre.org](http://www.mundeleintheatre.org)**

## **Audition Details**

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the callboard after the Informational Meeting. You will audition in the order in which you sign up. If you are auditioning alone, put only your name on the line. If you are auditioning with the duet, put both partners' names on the line. If you have a special circumstance (need to go first, need to go last, etc.) tell the audition proctor on the day of your audition and they will do their best to accommodate you.

Everyone auditioning is required to participate in all three of the following areas:

- *Acting* – *Les Miserables* is a sung-through show. In other words, there is no spoken dialogue. For this reason, there is no specific acting audition for this show. I left this section in this information packet to stress the importance of using your song to demonstrate your acting prowess.
- *Singing* – everyone will be performing a song from the show. A computer accompaniment (RehearScore) will be provided. There are multiple songs to choose from, all listed in this packet. The music can also be found on our website. Select the song that best suits your voice and most closely resembles the character you are most interested in playing. We highly recommend that you attend the Singing Workshop on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. This is not an audition, but an opportunity to learn the music that you will be singing at your audition. Even if you know the song, it would be a good idea to attend; you may pick up an important tip that will enhance your audition.
- *Dancing* – all who audition will be required to attend the general dance call. You will be taught a combination by our choreographer which you will then perform. Not to worry, you will be in a group and we will keep it fairly simple. The main reason for the dance call is to make sure people can handle basic movement, though we will also be identifying our strongest dancers. Come dressed to move and wear appropriate footwear.

## **Audition Tips**

To memorize or not to memorize? Always a popular question. We do not require the songs be memorized. That said, the more familiar you are with the material, the more effective your audition will be.

Be as familiar with the play and the characters as is possible. The script/score is available on our website. The original cast album is widely available. Be aware that there are differences between that album and the version we have licensed for performance.

Be confident – even if you have never done this before, walk into the audition as if you own the place.

Make bold choices – you need to show us your stuff. These are bigger than life characters, don't just stand and sing.

You will be the only student in the room during your audition, unless you have chosen the duet. In that case, it will be just you and your partner. You will be auditioning for several members of the artistic staff (Meier, Thompson, Bellas, Gunther, Harding). You will walk into the room and hand us your audition

forms. You should introduce yourself, and then sing your song. Do not be surprised if Thompson or Bellas has you sing some scales. We need to have a clear idea of your vocal range.

You will be nervous. That is a good thing. The key is to channel your nerves into good positive energy. It is important to remember that the directors want you to be great.

Though everything is available on the website, hard copies of the songs are also available from Mr. Meier in A106.

### **Audition Songs**

There are five songs from which to choose. Don't worry that the song is not from a character that you are interested in playing. The general audition is to hear your voice quality and to gauge your ability to act the song. The Information/Audition Sheet will give you the opportunity to tell us which characters you are interested in playing.

**Cosette/Marius:** (together) #16 "A Heart Full of Love": Pickup to measure 10 through Cosette at measure 64 (Marius does not sing at 63)  
[music](#)

**Eponine:** #19 "The Barricade": Pickup to measure 120-147  
[music](#)

**Fantine:** #3 "I Dreamed A Dream" 33-68  
[music](#)

**Javert:** #26 "Javert's Suicide": measures 66-92  
[music](#)

**Valjean:** "Prologue": measure 297-323  
[music](#)

### **Callbacks**

We will have an ensemble callback on Thursday 2/22 at 3:30 pm. This group will be made up of those we don't know as well and those being considered for ensemble or smaller roles. It is possible that some from the ensemble callback will be asked to return for the final callback on Friday, 2/23. Just because you are not called back for final callback does not mean you will not be cast in the show.

The general callback will be on Friday 2/23 at 3:30pm. The end time listed on the schedule is 9pm, but you never know how a callback will go. Not everyone will be staying until the end. We will send people home throughout the evening. It is possible, though not likely, that the callback may go later than 9pm. Be prepared. The list of callback songs will be available prior to the callback. This will give everyone a chance to look at the material in advance of the callback audition.

## Les Mis Crew

- You sign up for crew by filling out an Interest Sheet. You can get an Interest Sheet by seeing Mr. Meier (A106), Ms. Gunther (Media Center) or by going to our website.
- Leadership technical positions generally are assigned to experienced theatre students, but we do make exceptions from time to time, so sign up for whatever you are interested in.
- The crew list usually goes up with a day or two of the cast list.
- All crew members will need to attend an organizational meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 6 from 3:30-4:30

## Tech Leadership Positions

**Assistant Director(s)** – attends most rehearsals, works closely with the directors. Often in charge of some rehearsals.

**Production Stage Manager** – attends most rehearsals, in charge of show once it opens. Calls cues, manages all backstage activities.

**Assistant Stage Manager** – assists PSM in all backstage activities.

**Set Construction Crew Chief** – assists Mr. Basso in construction of the set. Also leads stage crew.

**Light Crew Chief** – assists Ms. Gunther in the design, hang and focus of the show. Oversees running crew and operates board during the run of the show.

**Sound Crew Chief** – assists Ms. Gunther in the design and execution of sound design. Oversees running crew and operates board during the run of the show.

**Prop Master** – secures all props for show, coordinates prop run crew for run of show.

**Make-Up Designer/ Coordinator** - will work closely with our cast, in charge of make-up execution during the run of the show and the makeup crew.

**Costume Coordinator** – oversees the costume crew and in charge of helping actors manage costumes for run of show.

**House Manager** – manages ushers and Front of House staff during run of show.

## Run Crew Positions

**Light Board Operators** –operates light board for run of show. Also operates follow-spots (if needed) for the run of the show. Expected at all light hang days.

**Soundboard Operators** –operates sound board for run of show. Also serves as microphone wrangler, coordinating equipment with actors during run of show.

**Stage Crew** – responsible for moving set pieces and scenery on and off stage during run of show. Expected at all set build days.

**Prop Crew** – responsible for managing all props during the run of the show.

**Costume/Make-up Crew** – assist actors with costumes and make-up during run of show.

## Tech Team Positions

These individuals show up for crew calls to help with set construction and light hangs. This is a great entry position for those new to Mundelein Theatre.

## Play Summary

***Les Misérables*** is a sung-through musical based on the novel *Les Misérables* by French poet and novelist Victor Hugo. Premiering in Paris in 1980, it has music by Claude-Michel Schönberg and original French-language lyrics by Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel, alongside an English-language libretto with accompanying English-language lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer. The London production has run continuously since October 1985, making it the longest-running musical in the West End and the second longest-running musical in the world after the original Off-Broadway run of *The Fantasticks*.

Set in early 19th-century France, it is the story of Jean Valjean, a French peasant, and his quest for redemption after serving nineteen years in jail for having stolen a loaf of bread for his sister's starving child. Valjean decides to break his parole and start his life anew after a kindly bishop inspires him by a tremendous act of mercy, but he is relentlessly tracked down by a police inspector named Javert. Along the way, Valjean and a slew of characters are swept into a revolutionary period in France, where a group of young idealists make their last stand at a street barricade.

## Character Breakdown

### **Principal Lead Roles (Male)**

***Jean Valjean:*** A paroled convict and the protagonist and moral center of the show. Failing to find work with his yellow parole note and redeemed by the Bishop of Digne's mercy, he tears up the parole note and conceals his identity to live his life as an honest man. He redeems himself repeatedly with selfless acts of generosity and love. He steps in to save Fantine. He adopts Cosette and ultimately gives his blessing to her and Marius, allowing them to marry. He rescues Marius from the barricade.

***Javert:*** Police Inspector who relentlessly pursues Valjean for breaking parole. He sees the world and its people in shades of black and white, and believes that no one—including himself—is capable of change or redemption. He is NOT the villain, but his idea of the law is merciless and unbending

***Thenardier:*** An opportunist who has survived by robbing, cheating, stealing and looking out for himself, above all. Crooked, irreverent, selfish, boorish, vulgar. He plays the “bon vivant” host because it serves him well, and later leads a gang of dangerous thieves. Comic relief along with his wife Madame Thenardier.

***Marius:*** A young student who is searching for himself and his purpose through his studies and through the revolutionary ideas of his peers. He is a casual friend of Eponine, but falls in love with Cosette instantly at a chance meeting. Marius' experiences at the barricade age and mature him.

***Enjolras:*** Charismatic leader of the student revolutionaries. He believes that “the people” will join him in the fight to make a better world. Friend to Marius and the ABC students-- who are willing to follow him to the barricades and beyond.

### **Principal Lead Roles (Female)**

***Fantine:*** Desperate, haunted, terrified, hopeful, proud and fiercely protective of Cosette, Fantine is a woman who has been abandoned by her lover and seeks to support herself and her child, first by reputable work and then by selling everything that she has, including her body. As she dies of consumption, she asks Valjean to look after Cosette. Ultimately, she appears as a spirit and escorts the dying Valjean to paradise.

***Eponine:*** Daughter of the Thenardiers, she has followed in her parents' footsteps to life on the street. Once pampered, now a ragged waif, she has learned to take what she needs and wants from anyone not strong enough to protect it. The only thing she can't have is the love of Marius.

***Cosette:*** Fantine's daughter, she has become beautiful under Valjean's care. She is lively, personable, curious and mischievous. She challenges him, behaving with dignity and imagination when seeking information about her past. She falls instantly in love with Marius, changing her world and her priorities.

***Madame Thenardier:*** Opportunistic wife of Thenardier. She is coarse, greedy, larger than life, and able to improvise in any situation. Scheming, comic and quick to see an opportunity.

### **Children's Roles**

**(may be high school students or actual kids)**

***Young Cosette:*** Fantine's young daughter. Boards with The Thenardiers. She is mistreated, worked like a drudge, beaten by Madame and bullied by young Eponine. She is fearful, lonely and dreams of something better.

***Young Eponine:*** non-singing/non-speaking. The Thenardiers spoiled, pampered daughter who bullies young Cosette mercilessly.

***Gavroche:*** A child of the streets who has made his way with intelligence, honor and a cocky courage that endears him to the student revolutionaries. He sees himself as one of them.

### **Featured Ensemble Roles (Males)**

***Male ABC SOCIETY:*** Students and workers, part of a secret society to fight for freedom. The students are from wealthy families, the workers are a stark contrast. They include:

***Combeferre:*** a philosopher and believer in peace. He is gentle, humane, strong and brave.

***Feuilly:*** a worker, self-educated and an orphan. A Believer in "nationality". Affectionate, warm, poetic

***Courfeyrac:*** a student, He is youthful, passionate and fearless.

***Joly:*** a medical student. Eccentric and lighthearted, although occasionally morbid. His name is from the English "jolly"

***Prouvaire:*** a student of social studies. He is kind, soft spoken and at the right moments strong and masterful. He is a poet.

***Lesgles:*** a student, cheerful, laughing at life but unlucky. Close friends with Joly.

***Grantaire:*** a student, the opposite of Enjolras. He believes in nothing. He admires Enjolras, but loves to mock him. Witty and often drunk, he is happy

being with the group and they put up with him because of his good humor. He keeps a watchful eye on Gavroche and is most heartbroken when Gavroche is killed.

***Thenardier's Gang of Thieves.*** They include:

***Brujon:*** Physically strong. The body of a bear and a pea sized brain. a gangster, stupid and evil.

***Babet:*** Physically frail, but lean and cunning

***Claquesous:*** "He is the night." tough, dangerous and secretive

***Montparnasse:*** a teenager, handsome and dangerous. Kills with a knife. Possessive of Eponine

***The Foreman:*** The foreman of the factory where Fantine works. He is sleazy and even a bit menacing

***Bamatabois:*** The "customer" who taunts Fantine into violence. Wealthy, dissolute young man who thinks of himself as a gentleman. Drunk, sadistic and feels he can buy anything-even Fantine.

***The Pimp:*** Controls the prostitutes at the dock. Mean, aggressive and abusive. Small solo line in "Lovely Ladies"

***Other male ensemble:*** Chain Gang, Farmers, Laborers, Sailors, Constables, Citizens, Beggars, Wedding Guests, Waltzers

#### **Featured Ensemble Roles (Females)**

***Bishop of Digne:*** Houses Valjean after his release from jail and gives him gifts of silver and absolution. His act of kindness inspires Valjean to improve himself and escape the label of "criminal". This role will be changed to a nun so that a female can play the role.

***Factory Girl/Woman 1:*** Fights with Fantine. Mean, catty and threatened by Fantine's beauty. Jealous of the attention that the foreman pays her.

***Old Woman:*** E to high D. This is the woman who bargains with Fantine for her hair.

***Other female ensemble:*** Farmers, Innkeeper's Wife, Whores, Factory Workers, Citizens, Beggars, Wedding Guests, Waltzers

**We know that this is a male heavy show. We will try and find as many opportunities for our female cast members as is possible.**

**As we have done in years past, all cast members will sing in the pit chorus when not on stage.**

## **Musical Numbers**

A word about the School Edition of Les Miserables. The School Edition is the only version that is allowed to be performed by high schools. There are not that many differences between the two. Some of the songs have been arranged in different keys to make them more manageable for high school voices. No characters or songs have been eliminated from the show, but some verses have been eliminated or cut down. For this reason they have renamed some of the songs. In the list below, I have put in parenthesis the names of the songs from the original.

### **Act I**

Prologue (Work Song, What Have I Done)  
At The End Of The Day  
I Dreamed A Dream  
The Docks (Lovely Ladies)  
The Cart Crash (Who Am I)  
Fantine's Death (The Confrontation)  
Little Cosette (Castle on a Cloud)  
The InnKeeper's Song (Master of the House)  
The Bargain  
The Beggars (Look Down)  
The Robbery  
Stars  
The ABC Café (Red and Black)  
The People's Song (Do You Hear the People Sing)  
Rue Plumet (In My Life)  
A Heart Full Of Love  
The Attack On Rue Plumet  
One Day More

### **Act II**

Building The Barricade (On My Own)  
Javert At The Barricade (Little People, A Little Fall of Rain)  
The First Attack  
The Night (Drink With Me, Bring Him Home)  
The Second Attack  
The Final Battle  
The Sewers  
Javert's Suicide (Turning)  
The Café Song (Empty Chairs at Empty Tables)  
Marius & Cosette  
The Wedding  
Epilogue