

# **Oklahoma!:** character descriptions

## **Laurey Williams**

romantic lead

playing age: c.18 to 30

singing voice: soprano

Notwithstanding her beauty and elegance, is strong-willed and 'feisty'. Is in love with Curly – as he is with her – but, like him, is 'shadow-boxing' and 'playing hard to get'.

## **Curly McLain**

romantic lead

playing age: c.21 to 35

singing voice: baritone

Handsome (*and almost-a-hero!*) cowboy. Cocky and, according to Aunt Eller, "*smart-alecky*". Is in love with Laurey (*see above*). Means well most of the time, but has a *little bit* of a spiteful streak (*viz. Pore Jud is Daid*).

## **Jud Fry**

the villain of the piece!

playing age: c.35 to 50

singing voice: bass-baritone

Evil. And irredeemably so. Sometimes played with sympathy (*viz. Lonely Room*), but, we believe, deserves none. "*Bullet-coloured [and] growly*", filthy dirty, a lech, a bully ... and, we discover during the smokehouse scene, a murderer withal.

## **'Ado' Annie Carnes**

comic role

playing age: c.18 to 30

singing voice: soprano / mezzo-soprano

Naïve, innocent and easily led. *Crucially, in no way 'knowing'*. Is genuinely flattered by all the male attention suddenly turned in her direction in the previous couple of years or so, and means everything she says to boys ... at the time she says it!

## **Will Parker**

comic/romantic role

playing age: c.21 to 35

singing voice: tenor / light baritone

preferably a good dancer / mover

Another cowboy. He is jealously possessive of 'Ado' Annie – whom he is keen to marry – but well-meaning. Unfortunately, though, 'not the sharpest tool in the box', as they say!

## **Aunt Eller**

a benign matriarch

playing age: c.40 to 70

singing voice: mezzo-soprano / light contralto

A tough cookie. Has brought up her niece Laurey by herself, and with her (and a series of itinerant farmhands, of which Jud is the latest) has run her farm successfully in 'a man's world'. Good-hearted, but does not suffer fools gladly!

### **Ali Hakim**

comic role

playing age: c.35 to 60

singing voice: any (his solo lines in *It's a Scandal! It's a Outrage!* are 'declaimed' rather than sung, and he can sing whatever line with which he's comfortable in the chorus here and there)

Travelling Middle-Eastern peddler (from Persia he says!), of the kind American folklore usually associates with snake oil – although that's never mentioned specifically in this piece. A bit of a sleazy 'chancer', but has a great deal of charm, particularly for the ladies. Unsurprisingly, however, Aunt Eller and Laurey see straight through him. 'Ado' Annie on the other hand...!

### **Andrew 'Old Man' Carnes**

a not-so-benign patriarch!

playing age: c.50 to 70

singing voice: tenor / light baritone

'Ado' Annie's father. An American version of a good old-fashioned "*Git orf moi laaaaand!*", shotgun-wielding, 'Farmer Palmer' (for those who remember *Viz* magazine ... and if you don't ... Google it!). Has it in for Will, as he doesn't want his "*little rose-bud*" marrying a cowboy, but, curiously, appears to prefer she marries Ali Hakim. Says what he likes ... and likes what he says!

### **Gertie Cummings**

supporting role

playing age: c.18 to 30

singing voice: any

Irrepressible flirt who initially has Curly in her sights, but ends up marrying Ali Hakim. Daft as a brush, and with an infuriating laugh to match.

### **Cord Elam**

supporting role

playing age: c.35 to 70

A Federal Marshal – as he keeps on reminding everybody following Jud's death! A stickler for the rules ... but is teased by Aunt Eller, and ultimately ignored.

Other smaller roles with occasional one-off lines, either spoken or sung (*viz.* Slim, Ike Skidmore, the various girls in *Out Of My Dreams*, etc.) will either be cast at the discretion of the audition panel or allocated accordingly during subsequent music or floor rehearsals.