

THE  
ACADEMY  
OF PERFORMING ARTS

Presents..



The Musical

**DIRECTORS:**

John F. Kennedy & Terrence Brady

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR:**

Chris Morris

**STAGE MANAGER:**

Amy Kaser

**CHOREOGRAPHER:**

Shannon Rose Murphy

**CONTACT: [JFK@ACADEMYPLAYHOUSE.ORG](mailto:JFK@ACADEMYPLAYHOUSE.ORG)**

**SHOW DATES:**

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> (Fri, Sat, Sun), with a Premiere on Sat, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>

**1<sup>st</sup> AUDITION DATE:**

Saturday, July 31, 2021 – 6:30 PM (Reserve a spot or walk-in)

**AUDITION LOCATION:**

The Academy Playhouse, 120 Main Street, Orleans, MA

## **AUDITIONS:**

Please prepare for a song and/or a brief monologue of your choice. Chris Morris will be available for piano accompaniment if you bring along your sheet music for piano. Do NOT be nervous as this will be an opportunity to get to know each other first, no pressure. We will have plenty of roles available in the ensembles, as well as the principal roles. More than anything, we want you to enjoy the audition and, hopefully, the performances with your castmates. We plan on becoming a wonderfully crazy Irish and Czech family and put on a show like none before in our region. This type of musical experience only happens **ONCE** (bad pun)!

**Along with Musical Director Chris Morris, and Choreographer Shannon Rose Murphy, we encourage you to join our cast. We promise to do everything possible to show you how welcome you are among new friends and how our show will affect audiences to their cores. If you cannot attend our first audition and wish to make alternate arrangements, please reach out. If you are unsure about any of the above roles, or if you have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at: [JFK@AcademyPlayhouse.org](mailto:JFK@AcademyPlayhouse.org) We would be delighted to talk with you. Please include your name, number, best times, questions, etc. You can even reserve an audition time to be sure.**

## **CASTING**

Cast Size: up to 25 performers, including the choir and ensemble

### **Character Breakdown**

**\*\*\*Below are the prototypical characters in the show. The directors will entertain several cast roles that either play different instruments or do not play instruments. If you feel you would be right for the role and do not play an instrument or feel you do not completely fulfill the character description, we strongly encourage you to audition as there are always workarounds!**

**\*\*\*Below are only the “principal” roles. There are other roles for additional musicians that play any type of instrument (melodica, harp, accordion, squeezebox, brass, percussion, harmonica, triangle, tambourine, banjo, cello, guitar, violin, mandolin, drums, tin whistle, clarinet, flute, keyboards, ukulele, bodhran, bagpipe, etc.). We can find a place for most of these instruments.**

**\*\*\*A full choir with a wide vocal range for ethereal harmonies and singalongs will be seated for the entire show and pre-show.**

### **Girl**

A determined and witty dreamer. Girl has come from the Czech Republic to Dublin for a new life. She is passionate about playing the piano and making music.

Gender: Female

Age: 20 to late 30s

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: F#3

## **Guy**

A down-on-his-luck musician in Dublin. He is lovesick and lost. He loved making songs and playing guitar but is now ready to give up.

Falsetto up to C#5

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to late 30s

Vocal range top: G#4

Vocal range bottom: F#2

## **Billy**

A large bearded man and music store owner who allows Girl to play piano in his shop. Opinionated and loyal to those he cares about. Plays guitar. He is funny and a scene-stealer! Gender: Male

Age: 25 to 50s

## **Reza**

Girl's vivacious, sexy and flirtatious roommate. Plays violin.

Gender: Female

Age: 20 to 40s

Vocal range top: A5

Vocal range bottom: D4

## **Baruska**

Girl's mother. Loving, generous, and idealistic.

Gender: Female

Age: 45 to 60

## **Bank Manager**

Corporate on the outside, but artistic on the inside. Plays guitar and cello.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 30 to 50s

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: G3

## **Da**

Guy's father. A caring man who loves his son. Plays mandolin.

Gender: Male

Age: 50 to 70

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: G3

## **Svec**

Girl's quirky roommate. Plays drums and guitar.

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 40

## **Andrej**

Girl's roommate. A big dreamer. Plays guitar and bass.

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 40

Vocal range top: F#4

Vocal range bottom: A3

## **Eamon**

A Dublin music studio manager. Plays guitar.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 20 to 50s

## **Emcee**

Host of an open mic at a Dublin pub. Plays guitar.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 20 to 50s

Vocal range top: D4

Vocal range bottom: C3

## **Ex-Girlfriend**

Guy's ex-girlfriend. Wanting a better life, she's moved from Dublin to New York. Plays violin. Gender:

Female

Age: 20 to 40

## **Ivonka**

Girl's daughter.

Gender: Female

Age: 6 to 10

## **Choir Ensemble**

All ranges, both male and female. This will be the magical ingredient that turns great songs into pure enchantment and otherworldly experiences. This is the secret sauce to the show.

## **Musician Ensemble**

Singers and musicians of all stripes and types, it doesn't matter if your instrument seems obscure. Will be on stage throughout the show and participating in a meaningful role. Some ideas for musical instruments may include (but not limited to): melodica, harp, accordion, squeezebox, brass, percussion, harmonica, triangle, tambourine, banjo, cello, guitar, violin, mandolin, drums, tin whistle, clarinet, flute, keyboards, ukulele, bodhran, bagpipe, etc., etc.

## **FULL SYNOPSIS**

***ONCE is a love song, dedicated to our audience, who will have no choice but to be transformed and moved. Music is love. ONCE is magic. Prepare to be changed for good!***

This will be an experience of music and love not experienced before by theatergoers and casts in our part of the world. The show will essentially begin long before the first page of the script. The house will be open and the cast in "places" one hour beforehand as the Dublin pub is actually real and serves alcohol and beverages during singalongs with "open mic" performances and Irish Christmas songs. Audiences will arrive and participate on the stage for cocktails and to sing along. Cast members will be on the stage throughout the pre-show and performance, speaking in Irish accents or Czech accents. Even the ushers and box office personnel will speak in Irish accents.

From the moment a patron walks into The Academy Playhouse doors, they will be in a live, working pub in Dublin, and all the excitement that comes along with that! Cast members will interact with audiences and always remain in character! The theater seating is so intimate, and the show so immersive, that everyone WILL be in Ireland for the entire time we are together.

No one walks out of this moving and powerful show unchanged. We are determined to make sure the cast feels that way, too, and never forgets the magic that we will share with audiences and each other.

### **Act One**

On a street in Dublin, Guy, a musician, sings a song he wrote ("Leave"). As he puts his guitar on the ground and is about to leave it, Girl, a Czech woman, approaches and asks him if he wrote that song and why he is leaving his guitar behind. Guy explains he doesn't want it anymore and that he works for his dad's vacuum cleaner repair shop. Girl excitedly tells him that her vacuum needs repairing and that she can repay him in music. She takes Guy to a shop owned by Billy, who lets Girl play the piano there. She implores Guy to play another song of his. Guy refuses and begins to leave, but sheet music falls from his bag. Guy tells her to keep the sheet music and again turns to leave, just as she begins to play his music on the piano. He stops. He gets out his guitar and they sing his song together ("Falling Slowly"). Girl asks Guy who the song is about, but Guy evades her questions.

At the vacuum repair shop, Girl talks to Da, Guy's father. After Guy fixes her vacuum, he offers to show her his room. In his room, Guy plays her a recording of one of his songs ("The Moon"). In the recording, Guy and his Ex-Girlfriend are talking about the song. Guy explains to Girl that she left six months ago for New York and has met someone there. Girl tells him that he should go to New York to win her back and asks him to make a CD of his songs. Guy tries to kiss her, and she stops

him.

The next day, Guy comes by Billy's shop and apologizes to Girl for his behavior. He walks her home and hands her a CD. Girl invites him to her apartment, where he meets her roommates Andrej, Svec, and Reza and mother Baruska. A little girl enters, and the Girl introduces her, Ivonka, as her daughter ("Ej Padá, Padá Rosička").

Later, Girl listens to Guy's CD and asks him why there are no lyrics. Guy invites her to add her own. When he asks about Ivonka's father, Girl elusively replies that they are having difficulties and he is not around. They thank each other and agree to meet again. After he leaves, Baruska implies that there is something between Girl and Guy, but Girl insists they are just friends. Alone, she plays Guy's CD and sings her own words along with his music ("If You Want Me").

Another day, Guy plays a song he's made up about the sad state of his life ("Broken Hearted Hoover Fixer Sucker Guy") when Girl enters. She proposes that they record his songs to submit to a record company and hopefully win his Ex-Girlfriend back. Somewhat reluctant and skeptical, Guy agrees.

First, they must go to the bank for a loan to pay for recording in a studio. Before they head to the bank, Baruska tells Girl and Guy (and the audience) a cautionary tale of a man who almost chased his dreams but never did out of fear. Because he does not understand Czech, Guy does not know what she is saying. At the bank, the Bank Manager is sympathetic to Girl's impassioned case for their loan but tells them he needs assurance that they will be able to pay back the loan. Guy sings one of his songs ("Say It to Me Now"), profoundly moving the Bank Manager. It turns out he has a guitar of his own. He performs a song of his own for Guy and Girl ("Abandoned in Bandon"). When he asks for their honest feedback, they tell he can play well but can't sing or write songs. Nevertheless, the Bank Manager grants them a loan.

At a pub's open mic, Guy and Girl are watching her friends perform. When the host announces the next performer as "The Hooverman", Girl tells Guy that it's him. Nervous, Guy performs a love song ("Gold"). Guy and Girl look at each other during the song, in love with each other.

## Act Two

At a rehearsal in Billy's shop, tensions are running high - especially between Billy and the Bank Manager, who are both in Guy and Girl's band. Rehearsal becomes complete chaos, and Billy kicks them out of his shop. At a pub, Guy begs Billy to give the band another chance. Girl asks Reza to seduce and charm Billy as a favor. In return, Reza tells Girl to be honest about her feelings for Guy and to tell him how she feels. Reza and Billy hit it off and dance.

Guy and Girl take a small trip to Howth Head to be by the sea. Guy reminisces about his childhood memories of this place. A romantic moment almost happens, but Girl clarifies that she is still married to Ivonka's father. Guy asks her in Czech if she still loves him. Girl replies in Czech that she loves Guy, but he doesn't know what she's saying. As she leaves and the scene changes, Guy sings ("Sleeping").

At the studio, Guy, Girl and the band record their first song ("When Your Mind's Made Up"). While everyone else takes a break after that song, Girl plays a song alone ("The Hill") that reveals her feelings about Guy, who walks in on her singing. After she finishes, she tells Guy that her husband is coming to Dublin to try to work things out. Guy accuses her of pushing him away, and Girl retorts that he still has something with his ex in New York. He reveals that he no longer sings his songs for his former love - he sings for them. Girl stops him and tells him "It Cannot Be About That". Guy leaves ("Gold (A Cappella)").

Another day, Bank Manager and Billy have made amends and found common ground with each other. Girl approaches Guy and asks him if he will call Ex-Girlfriend that night. Guy says he will and asks her to come by later. Girl hesitantly agrees. At his father's shop, Guy plays his record for Da, who is very proud of his son. Guy finally calls Ex-Girlfriend. She confesses she misses him. When he tells her that he's coming to New York, she is overjoyed - and so is he. Girl does not show up.

At her apartment, Billy, Andrej, Svec, and Reza surprise Girl with a piano. She sits at the piano. Although they are in separate places, Guy and Girl play together ("Falling Slowly (Reprise)").

## **RESOURCES:**

There are numerous resources on YouTube for videos to better acquaint yourself with the magic of **ONCE**. Here are just a few to get the flavor:

<https://youtu.be/rL-022UxNPc>

<https://youtu.be/yaqvNAFfLPk>

<https://youtu.be/-dl3dpCsrt4>

<https://youtu.be/DR01Q7E3Hok>

## **SOUND TRACK**

There are free versions of the original Broadway cast by doing a YouTube search for “Once the musical album.” Keep in mind, however, there are numerous songs we will add in the pre-show hour that are not on the album, especially some Christmas, “open mic-type” and choir pieces.

**Welcome to Dublin!**

*John F. Kennedy*

*Terrence Brady*

*Chris Morris*

*Amy Kaser*

*Shannon Rose Murphy*