

CCA Spring Musical Theater Production: Show Packet

Singing in the Rain

Short Synopsis:

1927 Hollywood. Monumental Pictures' biggest stars, glamorous on-screen couple Lina Lamont and Don Lockwood, are also an off-screen couple if the trade papers and gossip columns are to be believed. Both perpetuate the public perception if only to please their adoring fans and bring people into the movie theaters. In reality, Don barely tolerates her, while Lina, despite thinking Don beneath her, simply-mindedly believes what she sees on screen in order to bolster her own stardom and sense of self-importance. R.F. Simpson, Monumental's head, dismisses what he thinks is a flash in the pan: talking pictures. It isn't until *The Jazz Singer* (1927) becomes a bona fide hit which results in all the movie theaters installing sound equipment that R.F. knows Monumental, most specifically in the form of Don and Lina, have to jump on the talking picture bandwagon, despite no one at the studio knowing anything about the technology. Musician Cosmo Brown, Don's best friend, gets hired as Monumental's ideas man and musical director. And by this time, Don has secretly started dating Kathy Selden, a chorus girl who is trying to make it big in pictures herself. Don and Kathy's relationship is despite their less than friendly initial meeting. Cosmo and Kathy help Don, who had worked his way up through the movie ranks to stardom, try make the leap to talking picture stardom, with Kathy following along the way. However, they have to overcome the technological issues. But the bigger problem is Lina, who will do anything to ensure she also makes the successful leap into talking pictures, despite her own inabilities and at anyone and everyone else's expense if they get in her way, especially Kathy as Don's off-screen girlfriend and possibly his new talking picture leading lady.

Character Breakdown:

Dora Bailey: Always first on the scene for any major film opening, and she has the Hollywood scoop. This is a perfect non-singing role for a student with a great speaking voice who isn't quite ready for a lead.

Gender: female (non-singing)

Don Lockwood: Hollywood's leading man in silent film. Charming and charismatic, Don has no shortage of female admirers. Don is smart and levelheaded; he likes being a famous Hollywood actor, but he doesn't let the celebrity hype go to his head. Cast your best male singer and actor in this role, and someone who pairs well with Kathy.

Gender: male Vocal range: Bb2 – Eb4 (solo)

Lina Lamont: A glamorous star of Hollywood's silent films. She believes everything amazing she reads about herself in the gossip magazines, including that she and Don Lockwood are madly in love. Your actress will have to work to accomplish the right amount of exasperating ditz to bring this character to life. Cast a confident, comedic actress who is not afraid to take positive risks and can keep Lina's nasal, grating voice consistent throughout the entire show.

Gender: female Vocal range: Bb3 – Db5 (solo)

Cosmo Brown: Often serves as the comic relief in the show. Quick-witted and sure-footed, Cosmo is fast with a one-liner to lighten the mood. Cosmo is Don's right-hand man, and it's great to cast someone who physically contrasts with Don. Cast someone with great comedic chops and a strong musical sense as he leads many numbers in the show.

Gender: male Vocal range: Bb2 – Db5 (solo)

Roz: Always by Lina's side, or trailing after her. As Lina's manager, Roz works hard to make sure nothing upsets her. This non-singing character is a great supporting role for a promising young actress.

Gender: female (non-singing)

Dexter: The studio's director for Lamont and Lockwood films. He's loud and blustery, and he's easily frustrated with his assistants and Lina. This is a perfect non-singing role for an actor with a big voice who can show his frustration as he works to complete his first talkie.

Gender: male (non-singing)

Dexter's Assistants: Dexter's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Assistants are great featured roles for ensemble members who are new to the stage.

Gender: any (non-singing)

Kathy Selden: Wants to become an actress. She takes her career as an artist seriously and is embarrassed that she has to take jobs like singing and popping out of a cake just to get by. Cast your strongest singer and actress who can easily portray an honest likability as well as a tough exterior. An actress who pairs well with Don is also important as they have many scenes together.

Gender: female Vocal range: Eb5 – G3 (solo)

Miss Dinsmore and the Teacher: The vocal coaches hired to turn Lina's voice into cultured perfection and to work with all of the other actors in the show. Tough, proper and slightly overworked, these characters are great roles to feature your hard-working ensemble members. These are non-solo singing roles.

Gender: female (non-singing)

R.F Simpson: A junior movie producer at Monumental Pictures, who isn't the most imaginative guy in the studio. He is not an especially commanding leader and is particularly scared of Lina and her tantrums.

Gender: Male (non-singing)

Zelda: Lina's right-hand gal, who informs her that Kathy's voice is being dubbed over hers. Zelda can be dramatic and over-the-top like Lina, but at her core, she cares about her friend. This is a fantastic featured role for a confident performer who is unafraid to make bold choices.

Gender: female (non-singing)

Broadway Melody Host: A natural leader. This role can be male or female and should be one of your stronger singers. This actor doesn't need to be an excellent dancer, but he or she needs to command the stage with an air of confidence.

Gender: any Vocal range: Bb2 - F5 (solo)

Broadway Dancers: Broadway Dancers #1 and #2 are featured in "Broadway Melody" and should be excellent singers and dancers.

Gender: any Vocal range bottom: C3- F5 (sing & dance)

Chorus Girls: The Chorus Girls #1, #2, #3 and #4 are great featured singing roles in "Make 'Em Laugh." They don't need to be great singers as long as they can convey character and are able to be heard.

Gender: female Vocal range bottom: C4 - D5 (sing & dance)

Stagehands: Stagehands #1, #2 and #3 are great featured singing roles in "Make 'Em Laugh." They don't need to be great singers as long as they can convey character and are able to be heard.

Gender: any Vocal range bottom: F4 - C5 (minor singing & dancing)

Ensemble: (with small speaking parts)

These roles can be double and triple cast.

Gender: any

Fan #1 & #2

Policeman

Pedestrian #1 & #2

Young Lady

Butler

Student #1, #2, #3,

Screening Guest #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

Sam: Sound engineer/tech

Sound Engineer

Audience member #1 & #2

Orchestra Leader (Conductor)

Ensemble: (non speaking parts)

Crowd, Party guests, Students, passerby, Broadway chorus, audience members, stars, sound crew, chorus girls, etc.

Audition Preparation:(Speaking)

*** SIDE 1:**

DORA

Hello, out there! This is Dora Bailey talking to you at the premiere of Monumental Pictures' The Dancing Cavalier. Once again we reunite those immortal screen lovers Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont in their first all-talking, all-singing, all- dancing musical romance. It is an event that will go down in cinema history.

*** SIDE 2**

DON

Now look, let me explain...

KATHY

(looking at him, gasps)

You are a criminal. I've seen that face someplace. You're a famous gangster. I've seen your pictures in the papers - or in the post office, with a lot of numbers on your chest.

(KATHY looks around wildly and sees a POLICEMAN at the corner. She jumps up and waves.)

Officer! Officer!^[L]_[SEP]

POLICEMAN

Yes, ma'am? Anything wrong?

KATHY

This man, he—^[L]_[SEP]

POLICEMAN

Oh - why it's Don Lockwood.

KATHY

Don Lockwood?

POLICEMAN

Out for a stroll?

DON

Actually, yes.

POLICEMAN

You sure are a lucky lady. Goodnight, Mr. Lockwood.

DON

Goodnight, and “mum’s the word.”

(DON indicates “mum’s the word.” The POLICEMAN returns the gesture and exits.)

Well – thanks for saving my life. I’d very much like to know whose hospitality I’m enjoying.

KATHY

Selden. Kathy Selden.

DON

Enchanted, Miss Selden. I’m sorry I frightened you. I was getting just a little too much love from my adoring fans.

KATHY

I knew I’d seen you. ^[I]_[SEP]

KATHY

I – I don’t remember... I saw one once. If you’ve seen one, you’ve seen them all.

DON

Of course. Er, which of my pictures have you seen?

DON

Well, thank you.

KATHY

Oh, no offense, but the personalities on the screen don’t impress me. I mean, they don’t even speak – they just make a lot of dumb faces... Well, you know.

(KATHY imitates a movie pantomime.)

DON

You mean like what I do?

KATHY

(mock earnest)

Well, yes.

COSMO

(to DON)

Well... convincing?

DON

Enchanting. Why?

COSMO

Don't you get it? Use Kathy's voice. Lina just moves her mouth and Kathy's voice comes out, singing and talking for her.

KATHY

That's wonderful. [LINA]

DON

No - no. I couldn't let you do it, Kathy.

KATHY

Why not?

DON

Because you wouldn't be seen. You'd be throwing away your own career.

KATHY

It has nothing to do with my career. It's only for one picture. The important thing now is to save The Dueling Cavalier, save Lockwood and Lamont.

COSMO

Yeah.

DON

Well, if it's only for this one picture. Do you think it'll get by?

KATHY

Of course it will.

COSMO

Sure. And it's simple to work the numbers. All you gotta do is dance around Lina and teach her how to bow.

DON

All right. We'll go to R.F. and spring it on him in the morning.

COSMO

Well, it's three AM, in the morning... Almost my bedtime... I best be going.

*** SIDE 4**

LINA

(impossibly nasal and flat, but totally unaware of anything wrong)

Ta-tay-tee-toe-too.

MISS DINSMORE

No, no, Miss Lamont. Rrrround tones. Rrrround tones. Now, let me hear you rrrread your line.

LINA

(very flat on the "an" sounds)

"And I can't stan' 'im."

MISS DINSMORE

"And I cahn't stand him."

LINA

"And I can't stan' 'im."

MISS DINSMORE

"Cahn't!"

LINA

"Can't"

MISS DINSMORE

"Caaahn't!"

LINA

(like a goat bleating)

"Caaaan't."

*** SIDE 5**

LINA

Zelda, you know, you have to see things with your own eyes to believe it. If you hadn't opened my eyes, I'd still be walkin' around in the dark.

ZELDA

That's what friends are for...

LINA

You're a real pal. This business is a jungle. It's dog-eat-dog. Vultures waiting to eat your carcass before you're dead. And how about that little snake in the grass?

ZELDA

I told ya'.

LINA

You were right. And I wasn't going to believe you. Can you imagine what lies she must have told him about me? ^[LINA]_[SEP] Me - his fee-an-see! The girl he's gonna marry! You read all about it.

ZELDA

Sure. You must be brokenhearted.

LINA

Think of all those people when they find out they're using someone else's voice instead of mine - and what's wrong with my voice anyway?!

ZELDA

Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

LINA

Yeah, ain't it the truth.

ZELDA

Don't let it upset you, honey. You know how it makes you sweat. And remember. Last time you got hives.

*** SIDE 6**

DEXTER

Roll film!

1ST ASSISTANT

Rolling!

2ND ASSISTANT

Rolling!

3RD ASSISTANT

Rolling!

DEXTER

Don, cross to her! Cross to her! You love her! Act with your eyes! Bigger eyes! You love her! Let's see it!

(SIMPSON enters and crosses to DEXTER.)

SIMPSON

Hold it, Dexter! Hold it!

DEXTER

Cut!

1ST ASSISTANT

Cut!

2ND ASSISTANT

Cut!

3RD ASSISTANT

Cut!

SIMPSON

Tell them to go home! We're shutting down for a few weeks!

DEXTER

Shutting down?^{[[]]}_{SEP}

DON

What's the matter, R.F.?

SIMPSON

The Jazz Singer, that's what's the matter. It's a sensation. The public is screaming for more!

DON

More what?

SIMPSON

Talking pictures! Talking pictures!

DEXTER

Oh, that's just a freak—

SIMPSON

We should have such a freak at this studio! Dexter, we've got to put our best foot forward. We're going to make *The Dueling Cavalier* as a talking picture.

DEXTER

But we don't know anything about talking pictures!

SIMPSON

(crossing to DON)

Don, believe me, it will be a sensation: "Lamont and Lockwood" – They talk!

Singing Roles: Access on YouTube

"You were meant for me" - Don Lockwood

<https://youtu.be/CSLQeDZ7EoI?si=vPZQnPHDt8RI85hI>

"What's Wrong with me" - Lina Lamont

https://youtu.be/eZH12sKYDbA?si=eonw_Hg5Jbe5qrAQ

"Fit as a Fiddle" - Cosmo Brown

<https://youtu.be/RuhEcCT9ORY?si=UkuSw5SmBJRasIRh>

"Lucky Star" - Kathy Seldon

<https://youtu.be/u-3GSoJ1nNU?si=evgiwVMpzWaYiUdB>

"Broadway Melody" - Broadway Melody Host

https://youtu.be/Ov96wxIH3oM?si=LxYAd2Q8mWsp_MiS

"Make Em Laugh" - Chorus Girls

<https://youtu.be/2kXSBZ73ocs?si=JMQWoFmodDpfbAHn>

Dance: Follow link below and practice “Singing in the Rain” routine.

<https://www.mtishows.com/singin-in-the-rain-jr-choreography-videos>