

General Audition notes: Hello auditionee! You have won our hearts and minds just by reading this audition form! So don't be nervous or hesitant to come join us. We welcome you to come on down and have some fun with us. We cannot wait to see your amazing talents!!

Vision for the show: The historical aspect of this show dictates the magnificent visual demands of each scene. The time period portrayed was the "renaissances" era in America where creativity inspired changes in society that we grapple with today. We are looking to recreate these historical events and characters in the most "vaudeville/show biz" manner that we can. We will require actors that are interested in being creative and inventive on stage.

SUPPORTING/ENSEMBLE ROLES: RAGTIME offers members of the three ensembles multiple opportunities to play a number of impactful parts with lines. Supporting roles to be cast during rehearsals include: Admiral Peary, Stanford White, Harry K. Thaw, Willie Conklin, Judge, train conductor, people of New Rochelle/Harlem/Union Square, Jewish immigrants, factory workers, demonstrators, newsboys, reporters, bureaucrats, Coalhouse's Men, and numerous other ensemble roles. Willingness and Ability to dance and do fight choreography is a plus. A few roles are open for handicapped actors as well.

Coalhouse Walker, Jr: African-American male/Any complexion. 25-35 (baritone with strong top range; range: Ab to G, with a sustained high F#).

Dance skill required; Pantomime pianist;

Needs to be able to show the transformation from proud, confident, privileged and stubborn to shock, grief, heartbreak, anger, madness...

***Seeking for an actor who can hold the stage with posture, attitude, charisma and engagement. Whether in times of glory or disaster he needs to find a way to provide leadership qualities.*

Sarah: African-American female/Any complexion. Late teens-early 20's (lyric soprano; range: low G# to high F# on staff)

A mother's daughter, not extremely mature to the demands of womanhood/motherhood yet raised to be a good woman.

***Seeking a dynamic actress who can clearly portray the emotional arc of the songs she is singing as well as a romantic connection with Coalhouse. Heavy vocal/acting demands.*

Mother: Anglo-American female. 30+ (lyric soprano; range: low G to high Eb on staff)

Needs to show a gentle/motherly side and very compassionate beyond social expectations, optimistic and hopeful of the good in people. The events of the musical are heavily from Mother's point of view so we see how the events affect her.

***Seeking an actress who can really own her role as the backbone of the family. Leads with dignity, wisdom and determination. Portrays qualities of a solid protagonist.*

Father: Anglo-American male. 40+ (baritone; range: B to E on staff)

Needs to show the range from being very cautious and resistant to change, to finally coming around to having compassion for Coalhouse and what new ideology he stands for.

**Seeking an actor that can portray strong bravado and the determination/stubbornness of an Anglo-man in an Anglo-man's world. Also needs to show a severe change of heart/mind to show compassion and understanding to other people and their struggles.

Mother's Younger Brother: American male/Any ethnicity. 20-25+ (tenor/baritone with strong top range: B to high F#)

Opposite of Father in terms of being non-resistant to change. He is in-fact becomes a spearhead of change. He is willing to give up his life of guaranteed privilege to become part of a civil rights movement of unknown and dangerous fate.

**Seeking actor who can portray youthful exuberance and kindheartedness as well as a distinct vision and determination to become a leader and follow his own path. Is a rebel to the ways of society and yet a fan of the people.

Young Boy: Anglo-American male. 8-12 (juvenile voice; range: E to Db on staff) precocious and curious.

**Seeking a young actor who is a fan of being the center of attention and loves story-telling. needs to be able to project his voice and speak very clearly and energetically.

Tateh: Eastern European/Any complexion/Jewish Immigrant male. 30+, slight accent (tenor; range: Db to high F#) A creator of his own opportunities and a very responsible and caring Father.

**Seeking an actor to show the creative energy and a revolutionary mind meant to change the world. He should be able to portray the organic nature of Tateh's ideas, creations and means for survival. Although emotionally affected by what happens around him/to him he remains very adaptive and passionate to create his own success and joy in life.

Emma Goldman (historical): Eastern European/Any complexion/Jewish Immigrant female/Anarchist. 40+, slight accent. (alto, range: low G# to Db on staff)

**Seeking an actress who can portray an extremely powerful and stoic figure, regardless of physical stature. Is the spearhead of large scale changes in society and is determined to stand up for what she feels is right for the poor, working class of America. Needs to be able to own the stage amongst a crowd of people.

Harry Houdini (historical): Hungarian Immigrant male/Magician/body-builder. 30+ (tenor; range: mid. C to high G) **One of the top celebrity performers to go mainstream media.

**Seeking an actor with a strong sense of presentation and comfort at being a human "spectacle". Showing a sense of interesting body control, contortionism, dexterity, flexibility will help further build the visual characteristics of Harry for our production.

Evelyn Nesbit (historical): Anglo-American female. Vaudevillian "girl on the swing". 18-25 (belter/soprano, range: middle C to Db on staff). Will consider older actors.

**Seeking a dynamic song/dance girl of the time period. Knows how to play up the sex appeal in a vaudevillian manner. Also any skills along the lines of core dance training, gymnastic/acrobatics, etc. will enhance the capability of this character in our production.

Young Girl (Tateh's daughter): Eastern European/Jewish Immigrant female. 6-12 (juvenile voice; range: E to Db on the staff). Will consider older actors who can play as shy and naive.

**Seeking a talented young actress to portray the innocent, quiet and shy daughter of Tateh. The audience falls in love with what Tateh stands for based on how strong his relationship with "Young Girl". Being able to effectively react to emotional situations in her scenes is key. Sadness, Hunger, Fear, Happiness, Pride.

Sarah's Friend: African-American/other ethnicity female. Late teens - 30. (Gospel lyric-soprano or alto range: low G to stratosphere scat top note)

**Seeking a show-stopping Gospel vocalist for this role. 'Till We Reach that Day' is a major turning point of the show and her vocal performance spearheads the emotional passion with the entire cast following her lead. Strong dance skills are a plus.

Grandfather (Mother's father): Anglo-American male. 55+ (some "speak sung" lyrics, baritone) Although high society, Grandfather is an extremely proud, gruff and stubborn man. His idiosyncrasies should show up in Mother's character but maybe much more refined and cleverly situational. Despite his obtuse personality he needs to come across as lovable and appealing to the audience.

** Seeking an engaging actor who has experience with comedic timing and walking and talking like an old man. Needs to be able to walk with the assistance of a cane.

Booker T. Washington (Historical): African-American male, distinguished. 25+ (some "speak sung" lyrics, baritone)

Booker T. is probably the most educated and intelligent character in the show. His political and social philosophy is extremely well structured and thought out. He is essential to the show because he portrays the heartbeat of an idealistic society and mindset which transcends into today's times.

**Seeking a character actor who can really make the dialog of the character his own and be able to learn to deliver the lines as if he has been thinking and preparing them for years.

Henry Ford (Historical): Anglo-American male. 30-45 (some "speak sung" lyrics, baritone) Seeking an actor who can portray the spirit of arguably one of the greatest engineers in American History.

**Seeking an actor who can create his own interpretation of the character and bring something "unique" to the mix. Open to interpretation, looking for something fun and interesting. Nerdy, intelligent, inspirational, instructive are some character attributes that come to mind. With more vocal skills would be used in New Rochelle ensemble as well.

JP Morgan (Historical): Anglo-American male; banking mogul. 45+ (some "speak sung" lyrics, baritone)

**Seeking an actor who can create his own interpretation of the character and bring something "unique" to the mix. Open to interpretation, looking for something fun and interesting. Wealthy, intelligent, corporate, successful, proud, powerful, inspirational are some character attributes that come to mind. With more vocal skills would be used in New Rochelle ensemble as well.

Little Coalhouse: Walk-on at end of show. African-American male. Age 3-8 (no spoken lines or singing). This is one of the most emotional/powerful moments of the show and a child is needed to portray the legacy that Coalhouse and Sarah have left behind to live the American Dream.

**Seeking either a very young or very short child to have a walk on role at the end of the show. Late bedtime required but tons of admiration involved.