

About the show:

Iolanthe is a fairy who committed the crime of marrying a mortal 25 years ago. Her 24-year-old son Strephon -- who is half a fairy (down to the waist) -- wants to marry Phyllis, a Ward in Chancery, but the Lord Chancellor refuses to give his permission for the marriage. Meanwhile, the members of the House of Lords are also very interested in marrying Phyllis. When Strephon is falsely accused of being unfaithful, the fairies decide to take on the House of Lords. Full of wonderful music and funny satire on politics and the legal system that still ring true today, this show is considered one of the best of Gilbert & Sullivan's many collaborations.

We seek a cast that is reflective of our diverse community and encourage people of all races, ethnicities, genders, ages, and body types to audition for lead and ensemble roles. Some physical limitations may be able to be accommodated in this show, particularly for Peer roles; please reach out if you wish to learn more.

All roles are open. Non-AEA, no pay. Prepare a song to demonstrate your vocal range and skill, in English, memorized. An accompanist will be provided; unaccompanied auditions and recorded accompaniment are not allowed. Songs from the show are encouraged.

Roles:

Iolanthe (mezzo-soprano): Female-presenting; appears to be 17. Any race/ethnicity or body type. A former well-loved leader among the fairies, she is also a rule-breaker who loves her son Strephon and the husband she was forced to leave. She will do anything for them, including sacrificing her own life. This role involves portrayal of depths of emotion.

Phyllis (soprano): Female-presenting; appears to be 19. Any race/ethnicity or body type. An Arcadian shepherdess and Ward in Chancery, Phyllis is in love with Strephon, but that doesn't prevent her from enjoying the attention she receives from other men. Smart, rustic, teasing, and sure of herself. She becomes heartbroken when she believes Strephon has been unfaithful.

Queen of the Fairies (contralto): Female-presenting; can be any apparent age over 18. Any race/ethnicity or body type. An imposing fairy who expects respect and will enforce it, she is also capable of both mercy and romantic infatuation. While she believes in rules, her practical nature allows her to compromise in the end. This role includes a small amount of physical comedy.

Celia (soprano): Female-presenting; can be any apparent age over 18. Any race/ethnicity or body type. A leader among the fairies, she is unafraid to say exactly what she thinks. Mischievous.

Leila (mezzo-soprano): Female-presenting; can be any apparent age over 18. Any race/ethnicity or body type. A leader among the fairies, she is more diplomatic than Celia, but also quite willing to use sarcasm when it suits her.

Fleta (speaking role with ensemble singing): Female-presenting; can be any apparent age over 18. Any race/ethnicity or body type. A leader among the fairies, she is less wise than Celia or Leila but open with her questions.

Strephon (baritone): Male-presenting; appears to be 24. Any race/ethnicity or body type. An Arcadian shepherd who is also half a fairy (down to the waist), he is in love with Phyllis and also has a close, loving relationship with his mother Iolanthe. An idealistic believer in romance, he is willing to persevere in order to achieve the marriage of his dreams until his heart is broken when Phyllis believes he has been unfaithful.

Lord Chancellor (baritone): Male-presenting; appears to be middle-aged or older. Any race/ethnicity or body type. A conflicted person who tries to do right by his wards and by the law, but who is also tortured by the conflict between his perceived duty and his personal desires. This role involves strong patter singing, portrayal of depths of emotion, and a small amount of physical comedy.

Lord Tolloller (tenor): Male-presenting; appears to be middle-aged or older. Any race/ethnicity or body type. Leader of the House of Lords. Aristocratic, pompous, and always trying to one-up Mountararat. Initially resistant to change, he winds up embracing it.

Lord Mountararat (baritone): Male-presenting; appears to be middle-aged or older. Any race/ethnicity or body type. Aristocratic, pompous, and always trying to one-up Tolloller. He whines when things don't go his way.

Private Willis (bass): Male-presenting; can be any apparent age over 18. Any race/ethnicity or body type. Stalwart, steady, and thoughtful. This role involves standing in one place on stage for a long period of time.

Chorus of Fairies (soprano/alto): Any apparent gender; any apparent age over 18. Any race/ethnicity or body type. Smart, active, communal, and prone to fall in love.

Chorus of Peers (tenor/baritone): Any apparent gender; any apparent age over 18. Any race/ethnicity or body type. Rigid, staid, self-important, but able to eventually see a good thing when it comes their way.