

Ballyhoo Theatre Mainstage Production of CABARET

Ballyhoo Theatre is excited to announce our Mainstage production of Cabaret, September 11-27, 2026. Auditions are open to those aged 18+. All participants are volunteers and will receive a small stipend of \$250.00.

Cabaret, the 1966 groundbreaking masterpiece with music by John Kander and Fred Ebb and book by Joe Masteroff, is set in the shadows of 1931 Berlin during the rise of the Nazi regime. Cabaret explores the relationships between club performer Sally Bowles and American novelist Cliff Bradshaw, and between gentle Fräulein Schneider, a boarding house proprietor, and her tenant Herr Schultz, a mild-mannered Jewish fruit seller. Overseeing the action at the Kit Kat Klub is the mysterious Master of Ceremonies, presenting classic musical theatre hits as commentary throughout the piece. Cabaret examines the dangers of keeping our eyes closed to the world around us, and reminds us to stand up against the power of hatred to take away our human rights.

Performances are at The Black Box at Edmonds College. Most rehearsals will take place at Lake Forest Park Town Center.

What to Prepare:

Please prepare a cut of a song that displays your vocal range, and a short monologue. Audition time limit is 3.5 minutes maximum. Initial auditions will be via video. Video audition deadline is June 21 at 11:00pm, but you may send them in as soon as you like. IF you happen to have a dance reel, please include that (not included in the 3.5 minutes), but you don't need to make one for these initial auditions. (Note: We are totally fine if you send in an audition video that you have already used for another show – we know how hard self-tapes are!)

In person callbacks are Monday, June 29. Video callbacks are acceptable if you are unable to come in person, but will require you to learn choreography for a dance video depending on which characters you are called back for.

Please submit a resume, headshot (if you have one), and these audition forms (pages 2 and 3) via email along with your initial video audition. You may email ballyhoo.theatre@gmail.com or visit ballyhoo.theatre.org to download the forms.

Cabaret – Rehearsal/Show dates:

Please mark any full/partial conflicts after each date below. It's very important that we have your conflicts ahead of time, and that (other than illness) these conflicts don't change throughout the process. Include your travel time (with typical bad Seattle traffic) in your conflicts. We will likely rehearse 5 days a week with 6 days a week as we get closer. Minimal conflicts will be allowed as we have a short rehearsal process.

Possible rehearsal dates (you will not be called to all dates):

Example:

~~Aug 25~~ (This means you aren't available at all this date.)

Aug 26 – 7:30pm-9:30 (This means you can BE AT REHEARSAL during those hours and have already allowed for extra travel time and typical bad Seattle traffic.)

- Monday, Aug 3 – 6:00-9:30
- Tuesday, Aug 4 – 6:00-9:30
- Wednesday, Aug 5 – 6:00-9:30
- Thursday, Aug 6 – 6:00-9:30
- Friday, Aug 7 – 6:00-9:30
- Saturday, Aug 8 – List availability
- Monday, Aug 10 – 6:00-9:30
- Tuesday, Aug 11 – 6:00-9:30
- Wednesday, Aug 12 – 6:00-9:30
- Thursday, Aug 13 – 6:00-9:30
- Friday, Aug 14 – 6:00-9:30
- Saturday, Aug 15 – List availability
- Monday, Aug 17 – 6:00-9:30
- Tuesday, Aug 18 – 6:00-9:30
- Wednesday, Aug 19 – 6:00-9:30
- Thursday, Aug 20 – 6:00-9:30
- Friday, Aug 21 – 6:00-9:30
- Saturday, Aug 22 – List availability
- Monday, Aug 24 – 6:00-9:30
- Tuesday, Aug 25 – 6:00-9:30
- Wednesday, Aug 26 – 6:00-9:30
- Thursday, Aug 27 – 6:00-9:30
- Friday, Aug 28 – 6:00-9:30
- Saturday, Aug 29 – List availability
- Monday, Aug 31 – 6:00-9:30
- Tuesday, Sep 1 – 6:00-9:30
- Wednesday, Sep 2 – 6:00-9:30
- Thursday, Sep 3 – 6:00-9:30
- Friday, Sep 4 – 6:00-9:30

Shows dates/times:

- Friday, Sept 11 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, Sept 12 at 7:30pm
- Sunday, Sept 13 at 2:00pm
- Friday, Sept 18 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, Sept 19 at 7:30pm
- Sunday, Sept 20 at 2:00pm
- Friday, Sept 25 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, Sept 26 at 7:30pm
- Sunday, Sept 27 at 2:00pm

TECH:

- Saturday, Sept 5 – 12:00-10:00pm – Load In/Tech/Rehearsal (Actors will likely be called in the evening, but please keep the whole day as TBD)
- Sunday, Sept 6 – 12:00-10:00pm – Actor time TBD
- Monday, Sept 7 – LABOR DAY - NO REHEARSAL
- Tuesday, Sept 8 – Tech/Pre-dress 5:30-10:00pm
- Wednesday, Sept 9 – Dress Rehearsal 5:30-10:00pm
- Thursday, Sept 10 – Full Dress Rehearsal 5:30-10:00pm

Ballyhoo Theatre – Cabaret

Name:

Pronouns:

Phone number:

Email address:

Ballyhoo strives to create a casting process that is welcoming and serves those auditioning as well as the creative team in the full exploration of the material. All body types, races, ethnicities, and abilities are desired for any available role. Ballyhoo recognizes that most characters are written as binary (using he/him or she/her pronouns) and we invite GNC, genderqueer, transgender, and nonbinary actors to submit for all roles with which they identify – **most roles are open to all genders**. If you have access needs, please let us know. If there is anything that will help to make you comfortable in our audition room, please ask.

What time in the evening do you normally become available Monday-Friday? Please include your travel time to Lake Forest Park/Edmonds (list the time you are available to START rehearsals). Typically rehearsals will be from 6:00-9:30pm on weeknights.

What time are you normally available on Saturdays? Please include your travel time to Lake Forest Park/Edmonds (list the time you are available to START rehearsals). Typically Saturday rehearsals are from 1:00-6:00pm, but we'd like to know all hours you are available.

What is your availability for callbacks on June 28? (Please list ALL available hours)

Please list your dance/movement experience (if not included on your resume):

Are there any roles you are particularly interested in being considered for?

Please list the roles that you are NOT willing to accept:

Would you be willing to accept an internal understudy position?

Would you be willing to accept an external understudy position?

Please list anything else you'd like us to know, or list any questions you have:

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS – Most roles are open to ALL genders. Some roles may double and/or understudy another role. Age guidelines are “playable” ages, not actual ages.

Master of Ceremonies (Emcee) – Host at the Kit Kat Club -- a gender-nonconforming/presenting, exuberant figure; comfortable with being close to the audience; dark, comedic, sinister, vulgar...yet lovable; requires a strong presence that is playful and mysterious. Must act, sing (some in German), and move well, and be comfortable with bawdy/suggestive staging/choreography and intimacy with all genders. Accent: German, age 20s-40s

Sally Bowles – A British cabaret singer at the Kit Kat Club. Quirky and flighty. Struggles with knowing the darkness of the reality of her life and has woeful luck in her relationships with men. Must act, sing, and dance well; comfortable with moments of intimacy and bawdy/suggestive staging/choreography. Accent: British, age: 18-30s (in the book she is aged 19, but we are casting a wider age net!)

Clifford (Cliff) Bradshaw – An American novelist and English teacher traveling to Berlin. Through his journey he explores the many facets and complexities of his sexuality, politics, and artistic goals. Must act and sing well, comfortable with light dance, and moments of intimacy. Accent: American, age: 20s-30s

Fräulein Schneider – A landlady who rents rooms to Cliff, Sally, and several other characters in her large flat. She is alone and is resigned to her place in life, but secretly longs for companionship. She is very critical of some people while looking the other way with others. Must act and sing well; comfortable with light dance and moments of light intimacy. Accent: German, age 50s-70s

Herr Schultz – A Jewish fruit shop owner who falls in love with Fraulein Schneider; sweet, lovable, and adoring; a bit naïve about the political turmoil in Germany. Must act and sing well; comfortable with light dance and moments of light intimacy. Accent: German (Note: we will prioritize casting a Jewish actor in this role.) Age 50s-70s

Fräulein Kost – A sex worker who rents in Fraulein Schneider's boarding house; larger than life personality, quick witted and sharp tongued; should be comfortable exhibiting a strong sensual and commanding nature; must act and move well and sing in German. May double as Kit Kat Performer. Accent: German, age 20s-late 30s

Ernst Ludwig – A friendly and likable German, takes English lessons from Cliff, and smuggles funds for the Nazi party; comfortable with stage movement and light dance; sings in German. Accent: German, age 20s-40s

The Kit Kat Performers – These performers are often in salacious situations and costumes. They are an eclectic mix of types and aren't a “matching unit”. Strong actors that dance/move well with confidence. They will be part of various scenes in and out of the Club; should be comfortable interacting with the audience occasionally and comfortable with bawdy or suggestive staging and choreography, and intimacy. All genders and body types welcome and celebrated. All have German accents with the exception of Texas, who has a standard American accent. Some may understudy principal roles as well, and play other characters in the show. Rosie/Lulu/Frenchie/Texas/Fritzie/Helga/Bobby/Victor/Hans/Herman – ages 18-late 30s

Understudies – We will need external understudies for Fräulein Schneider and Herr Schultz/Ernst Ludwig, and possibly others.