

## **Working - Notes for Performers**

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### **Audition Music for Working**

Question:

Hi! I'm trying out for my high school's musical Working in about two weeks. I haven't been able to find a lot of the music on the internet, so I don't really know what to sing style wise. I've heard sort of jazzy, but I really don't have any idea what would be appropriate...I have heard the waitress song which I really like, but I don't want to try out with material from the show...any ideas would be appreciated!!

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

The music for WORKING runs a pretty wide gamut (if a gamut can be said to be wide.) This is because the composers tried to stay as close as possible to a musical tone that would be appropriate for the individual characters. Most of the music is pop-oriented, so if in doubt about which characters you're auditioning for, I would err on the side of pop-appropriate material. But the older characters, such as the teacher, waitress, or retired man, have more "theatrical" music. The ethnic characters have music appropriate to them -- the older parking lot attendant has a kind of Harlem-in-the-40's number, the cleaning woman sings a Gospel-tinged song. And for narrative purposes, there are more folk oriented numbers written to be accompanied by guitar. I realize this isn't very helpful in narrowing it down, but my best advice would be to ascertain what characters might be appropriate for you and try to sing something that suggests them, or as I say, if you have no advance knowledge, go with something pop-oriented that shows off your voice. Good luck, Stephen Schwartz

### **Working the musical audition**

Question:

Hey Everybody!! I attend a theatre school and just found out that we are going to be putting on "Working." I am a soprano. Which part should I audition for??

Answer from Carol de Giere:

Hi. If you look on the licensing agency's site you'll find lots of info, including the casting and vocal ranges. [http://www.mtishows.com/show\\_detail.asp?showid=000081](http://www.mtishows.com/show_detail.asp?showid=000081)

You might also want to visit

<http://www.musicalschwartz.com/working.htm> for information on the album, video, etc.

### **Competing with song from Working**

Question:

My voice and acting coach have collaborated in deciding for me that I am going to compete in our high school thespian competition with the song "It's an art" from Stephen Schwartz's Working. I am responsible for character research and been searching the internet and cannot find much helpful information on the plot, character, tips, etc. If you know anything that would help me plz feel free to offer advice.

Answer from Michael Cole:

The best advice I can give is for you to check out the source material at the library. The musical is based on a book called Working by Studs Terkel. The lyrics to It's An Art are taken almost directly out of the book, so it would be informative for you to read the entire Delores Dante interview. Good luck in your competition! Best, Michael Cole In addition to following Michael's suggestion, you can stop by my site (Fan site for Stephen Schwartz) and also check your local libraries for the videotape of WORKING that was done for PBS years ago.

Another answer from a Forum visitor:

See the Schwartz biography "Defying Gravity," WORKING chapter for background information. There's a sizeable section about Delores and that song.

### **Working - Brother Trucker**

Question:

I'm in middle school and we are doing a production of Working in May. I was wondering how I should portray The Truck Driver to bring out his character to it's full potential.

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

Hi Matt: The trucker is someone who's been doing this a long time. He's a good guy, but it's a solitary job and he gets lonely doing it. He's the kind of guy who jokes around with people he meets at a truck stop or a diner, because they're the only people he gets to talk to. He has trouble staying awake while driving sometimes on the long trips, so he pops Benzedrene to help him not fall asleep at the wheel. For further information, read the interview in the Studs Terkel book of WORKING with Frank Decker. Hope this info helps. Have a great time doing the show. Sincerely, Stephen Schwartz

### **Working Character Ages**

Question:

Hey! I can't find the list of characters with their ages anywhere on the internet and I just found out about auditions for Working in my community. They want ages 15-60 and I'm 20 and a female. Can anyone just tell me which characters in that age range or have a website that says them all? Thanks so much!

Answer posted by Michael Cole that includes an answer from Stephen:

Hey Gang: Here is Stephen's response to me re: the Working Characters:

I will do the age range thing when I have a little more time. Meanwhile, let her know that of course it will depend on how true this production wants to stay to the real ages of the people (a lot of times they will cast younger people for vocal or acting reasons), but if they stay absolutely true to the ages, then Heather or Sharon are most likely. for a 20-year-old female. But tell her that in WORKING, there are also songs that are not necessarily sung by the characters (e.g.. "Millwork") and dance opportunities too, so there are other chances to be in it.

Answer from Stephen Schwartz posted later:

Please note, these are the ideal ages for these characters; I've VERY often seen them played successfully by younger actors of different ethnicities. Stephen

**WORKING CHARACTERS**

**ACT ONE**

Mike Dillard, ironworker, 40's

Al Calinda, parking lot attendant, African-American, late 50's or older

Amanda McKenny, project manager, 30's

Rex Winship, corporate executive, 45 or older  
Rose Hoffman, schoolteacher, white, 50's  
Babe Secoli, supermarket checker, late 30's or older  
Roberto Nunez, boxboy and migrant worker, 20's  
Conrad Swibel, UPS delivery man, 20's  
Kate Rushton, housewife, late 20's to late 30's  
Roberta Victor, hooker, late 20's to late 30's  
Candy Cottingham, political fundraiser, 40 or older

#### ACT TWO

Grace Clements, millworker, 40 or older  
Anthony Coelho, stone mason, 50's  
Frank Decker, interstate trucker, 30's or 40's  
Heather Lamb, telephone operator, any age  
Sharon Atkins, receptionist, 20's  
Enid DuBois, telephone solicitor, 40's or older  
Delores Dante, waitress, 40 or older  
Joe Zutty, retired, 60's or older  
Tom Patrick, fireman, 30's  
Maggie Holmes, cleaning woman, 40 or older  
Ralph Werner, salesman, late teens or early 20's  
Charlie Blossom, ex-copy boy, late teens or early 20's

#### **I'm Just Movin sheet music?**

Question:

I am a college student who is very interested in adding "Im Just Movin' " from Working into her rep book, and use it at an upcoming audition. But as I was trying to locate the sheet music, I had a very difficult time finding it. Is the music available to buy? And if not, where could I obtain it? Thanks so much, Brittany

Answer from Michael Cole:

Please email me for the music you are looking for: [office@stephenschwartz.com](mailto:office@stephenschwartz.com)

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Also see the other WORKING sections of this Forum archive.

For the DVD, album, sheet music, etc.

<http://www.musicalschwartz.com/working.htm>

To compare Terkel's Working with the musical

<http://www.musicalschwartz.com/working-musical.htm>

Learn about the show history, songs, and experiences of the original cast members in Chapter 10 of "Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz, from Godspell to Wicked."

<http://www.defyinggravitythebook.com/>

Notes from other productions, etc. – The Working Section of MTI showspace

<http://www.mtishowspace.com/mod/shows/mtishow.php?showid=000081>