

Chipstead Players

Audition Notice

Anne of Green Gables

Director: Ian Brown. Production Manager: Anne Thorn.

A play by Sylvia Ashby based on the novel by L.M. Montgomery

- Performance dates:** Wednesday 8th - Sunday 12th and Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th January 2020 (including 3 matinees, on Sat 11th, Sun 12th and Sat 18th).
- Rehearsals:** Tuesdays 7.30-10.00, Thursdays 7.30-10.00 and Sundays (time to be confirmed), beginning in October. (**Please note:** Children will rehearse on weeknights until 9.00, except for Anne, who appears in every scene.)
- Read Through:** Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm.
- Audition Dates:** Tuesday 24th September at 7.30pm.
Sunday 29th September at 2.30pm.

Production Manager: **Anne Thorn - anne44lane@yahoo.co.uk – 07798 812719**

Assistant PM: **Neil Black - neilyblack@gmail.com**

Please come to the auditions with holiday dates/availability and if possible, bring a small photograph. We are all very excited about this production and hope to have a great turn out at the auditions. Scripts will be available by contacting Anne. If you can't attend on the audition dates, please contact Anne and we will try to arrange to see you at another time.

The Story

Stern Marilla and her shy but warm-hearted brother Matthew had hoped to adopt a boy to work on their farm in Avonlea, Prince Edward Island, Canada, but the orphanage sends a talkative little girl by mistake. Marilla wants to send Anne back, but Matthew is immediately enchanted by Anne and eventually Marilla agrees to keep her. Their lives will never be the same. Anne's wit and good nature delight the community of Prince Edward Island and she gets into numerous scrapes. We follow Anne through her rebellious years, her transformation into a young woman and her romantic pairing with Gilbert.

This is a charming adaptation of the book and will be a real Christmas treat for our audiences.

Character Descriptions and Audition Pieces

NOTE: Anne and the other children age from around 12 to 16 during the play, so we will be looking for children who can show this change of age. Younger children auditioning, should dress to look older than they are, and older children should dress to look younger.

Anne Shirley - The protagonist of the play, Anne is an orphan who is adopted by Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert and grows up on their farm, Green Gables. The play follows Anne as she makes social blunders and tries to quickly absorb the rules of social conduct, religion, and morality that other children have grown up learning. She has difficulty mixing these social customs with her own unique sensibilities. Anne is stubborn, passionate, loyal, and intelligent. She loves beauty and fantasy and wants to be a good person. Anne has red hair, but this can be a wig. (P11 I suppose you are Mathew Cuthbert – P12 big words to express them. P43 OHHHHH – P44 never try to be beautiful again. P99 But I thought – P100 I'd like that, Gilbert).

Marilla Cuthbert - An unmarried woman who raises Anne. Aged late 50s to early 60s, Marilla lives at Green Gables with her unmarried brother, Matthew. Marilla has a stern face and tightly knotted hair. This physical severity mirrors her moral and emotional severity. Although Marilla does not usually express emotion, underneath she has a wry sense of humour and a loving heart. Although she raises Anne strictly, she loves her adopted daughter, and by the end of the play she has become softer and more

expressive. (P14 And what am I supposed to do? – Were no boys available? P 43 What are you doing here! – P44 teach you a thing or two. P94 I'm here – P95 your tongue would clean wear out).

Matthew Cuthbert - A sixty-year-old bachelor who lives at Green Gables with his sister, Marilla. Matthew is painfully shy and a little eccentric. Although he is terrified of women, he instantly likes Anne and pressures Marilla to adopt her. Anne considers Matthew a kindred spirit and always turns to him when she wants a sympathetic ear. (P10 I suppose the five-thirty – P11 I suppose it is. P65 Well now, Marilla – P65 Her heart's set on it).

Rachel Lynde - The town busybody. Rachel likes nothing better than to give her opinion and preach morals. An affectionate, quarrelsome friendship exists between her and Marilla. Rachel is outspoken about everything from politics to fashion, and, although childless, she never fails to advise Marilla on how to raise Anne. (P1 As I live and breathe – P2 An old maid and a bachelor).

Diana Barry - Anne's best friend. Diana is a pretty girl Anne's age, who lives next door to Green Gables. Diana and Anne become bosom friends immediately after they meet. Full of romantic notions about love and friendship, they swear devotion to each other forever. Although an agreeable girl, she lacks Anne's imagination, intelligence, and independence. (P30 Mother says – P31 Mrs Lynde is making ice cream! P47 Didn't know raspberry – P49 Ohhhh noooo.)

Mrs. Barry - Diana's mother. Mrs. Barry is a severe, unforgiving woman. She expects her children to follow strict and sometimes unreasonable rules and is quick to condemn Anne when she makes mistakes. (P48 Anne Shirley, what on earth – P49 I suggest you go home).

Mr. Phillips - The schoolmaster at Avonlea during Anne's first year at Green Gables. Mr. Phillips is an inattentive teacher and a capricious disciplinarian. Mr. Phillips spends class time flirting with his oldest student, Prissy Andrews. (P38 Not good enough, Moody – P39 Very good, Gilbert).

Miss Stacy - Anne's teacher. Miss Stacy becomes the Avonlea schoolteacher after the unpopular Mr. Phillips departs. Her unorthodox, liberal teaching methods worry the conservative Avonlea trustees and Rachel, but all of her students love her. She is a role model and mentor for Anne. (P 60 Miss Cuthbert – P61 to earn a living).

Mrs. Blewett - A woman living in Avonlea. Mrs. Blewett offers to take Anne in as a babysitter when she learns that Marilla intends to get a boy orphan in Anne's place. Marilla decides to keep Anne because Mrs. Blewett is a nasty, stingy woman, and not fit to care for a child. (P19 Got a heap – no bones about that).

Station Master - Small role. Could be doubled with Mr Spencer. (P10 Oh, Mr Cuthbert – got a tongue on her).

Mr Spencer - Small role. Could be doubled with Station Master. (P18 My sincere apologies – P 19 the whole matter straight away).

Gilbert Blythe - A handsome, smart Avonlea boy who becomes Anne's rival when he makes the mistake of teasing her about her red hair. Anne swears never to speak to Gilbert, and even when he rescues her from the river, she refuses to break the silence between them. Anne's rivalry with Gilbert keeps her motivated throughout her academic career. By the end of the play, the rivalry has become affectionate, and Anne and Gilbert have become friends. (P40 Hey Ruby Red Lips – P42 I said I was sorry. P 70 - Gladly – P 71 I'll never ask you again, Anne Shirley. P99 Anne, the trustees – P100 a lot of catching up to do).

Ruby Gillis - One of the youngest of the many Gillis girls. Ruby has learned about growing up from her older sisters and loves to share her superior knowledge with Anne and their other friends. Ruby inclines toward sentimentality and hysterical fits. She cares more for her good looks and her string of boyfriends than she does for her studies. (P51 - HELP! HELP! – do something so dangerous).

Josie Pye - A member of the notorious Pye family. Josie lives up to her family's bad reputation and inspires the dislike of her classmates. Anne tries to cultivate charitable feelings toward Josie but cannot manage to do so. (P86 –What did Marilla send – P87 – ever get used to it).

Charlie Sloane - One of the first people to recognize Anne's charms. Charlie admires Anne from afar from the time they are children. (P40 –Gilbert, who's this? – Let's dance).

Moody MacPherson - One of the boys in Anne's class at the Avonlea school and a classmate of hers at Queen's Academy. (P73 – Seven times – P74 capital of Alberta).

Children auditioning for Ruby, Josie, Moody and Charlie should be familiar with all the children's scenes in the play.