

An American in Paris – Character Breakdown

This breakdown is designed to guide audition preparation and casting. All roles will be cast with an emphasis on acting, vocal ability, and movement/dance skill. Students may be considered for more than one role.

Principal & Featured Roles

Jerry Mulligan – Male, Tenor, Strong Dancer

An optimistic American GI-turned-artist, newly settled in post-war Paris. Charismatic, artistic, impulsive. Strong ballet and jazz technique essential.

Key songs: “I’ve Got Beginner’s Luck,” “Liza,” “‘S Wonderful”

Lise Dassin – Female, Soprano, Strong Dancer

A young French ballerina with a mysterious past. Elegant, graceful, and torn between duty and dreams. This is a principal ballet role.

Key songs: “The Man I Love,” “Liza,” “An American in Paris Ballet”

Adam Hochberg – Male, Baritone, Light Mover

A wounded American composer and narrator. Wry, introspective, and emotionally grounded. Provides heart and honesty to the story.

Key songs: “But Not for Me,” “I Got Rhythm,” “‘S Wonderful”

Henri Baurel – Male, Tenor, Strong Mover

A wealthy, closeted Frenchman who dreams of being a nightclub star. Earnest, awkward, and deeply kind.

Key songs: “I’ll Build a Stairway to Paradise,” “For You, For Me, For Evermore”

Milo Davenport – Female, Mezzo-Soprano, Light Mover

A wealthy American arts patron with confidence, wit, and flair. She supports Jerry’s artistic ambitions and harbors feelings for him.

Key song: “Shall We Dance?”

Madame Baurel – Female, Mezzo, Non-Dancer

Henri’s elegant and emotionally guarded mother. Represents the traditional French elite. Carries emotional weight in key scenes.

Monsieur Baurel – Male, Baritone, Non-Dancer

Henri’s father, proud and conservative but ultimately supportive. Short scenes with meaningful presence.

Mr. Z – Male, Spoken Role, Dancer

Director of the ballet company. Efficient, commanding, and focused on Lise’s future. Strong character actor.

Olga – Female, Spoken Role, Dancer

Ballet rehearsal mistress. Sharp, humorous, observant. Often provides comic contrast in rehearsal scenes.

Store Manager / Waiter / Character Ensemble – Flexible Gender, Light Mover

Small featured ensemble roles with personality and comedic timing. Appear in Parisian scene work and transitions. May double with dancers.

Dance Ensemble – 8 Female / 8 Male

The dance ensemble is essential to the storytelling of the show and will appear as ballet dancers, Parisians, artists, soldiers, café patrons, and more. Some dancers may be assigned featured moments, solos, or partnering work.

Dance styles: classical ballet, jazz, and musical theatre.

Key numbers:

- “I Got Rhythm”
- “I’ll Build a Stairway to Paradise”
- “Fidgety Feet”
- “Second Rhapsody Ballet”
- “An American in Paris Ballet”

Dancers must demonstrate strong technique, versatility, and the ability to embody character through movement.