

Sweeney Todd Character Breakdown

Ensemble

The ensemble is a large, ever present, and important part of this story. They act as the chief storytellers, taking on the roles of customers, townspeople, police, inmates at the insane asylum, Sweeney's thoughts, and Sweeney's victims. There is a feeling of them always being nearby, watching. The ensemble gets ample opportunities for vocal challenges and is showcased with solos and harmonies throughout the show.

Sweeney Todd

Sweeney escaped from prison after being wrongfully accused and jailed for fifteen years. Formerly a proud barber, a loving husband and a happy father, Sweeney is now consumed by loss and revenge. He has returned to London to right the wrongs committed against him, his wife, and his daughter. Sweeney is charming but hot-tempered, ferocious yet vulnerable. Strong baritone/bass. London dialect. Stage age: 40s

Mrs. Lovett

An entrepreneurial meat pie shop owner who will do whatever it takes to survive. She is in love with Todd and hopes that he'll forget the past and build a new life with her. At first shocked by Sweeney's bursts of violence, Lovett turns his desire for revenge into a profitable business venture. She is resourceful, ambitious, charismatic, and has great comedic timing. Mezzo with belt. Speaks with a Cockney accent. Stage age: 30s-40s

Anthony Hope

A youthful sailor who helps Sweeney return to London and unexpectedly falls in love with Johanna. He is idealistic, romantic and a little reckless. His passions sometimes get the better of his reason. He is by far the most optimistic character, but over the course of the show he awakens to the horrors around him. Tenor. Speaks with a standard British accent. Stage age: 17-25

Johanna

An energetic girl with a curious nature, full of innocence, constantly yearning for freedom. Sheltered and wide-eyed. Todd's long-lost daughter and Judge Turpin's ward. Homeschooled and largely homebound. She has a rebellious, subversive and romantic streak and longs to escape her confinement. Soprano. Speaks with a standard British accent. Stage age: 16-20

Tobias Ragg

A poor youngster apprenticed first to Pirelli and then to Mrs Lovett. He is industrious and eager to please, with a good sense of humor. Uneducated, but innately clever and observant, Tobias responds quickly to the kindness of Lovett but grows increasingly suspicious of Sweeney. Tenor. Speaks with a Cockney accent. Stage age: 12-15

Judge Turpin

A lecherous public official who portrays himself as a sanctimonious authoritarian. He takes advantage of his position to imprison Todd, assault Lucy, and take Johanna in as his ward. He is

aware that what he wants and what he's done is wrong, yet chooses to ignore or push against his conscience. Bass/baritone. Speaks with a standard British accent. Stage age: 50+

Beadle Bamford

A pompous public official who is responsible for the health and safety of London. He possesses a dry, deadpan sense of humor and enjoys wielding his power. He is deeply loyal to Turpin. The Beadle loves singing children's nursery rhymes, which remind him of his youth. Tenor with a strong falsetto. Speaks with a standard British accent. Stage age: 30+

Beggar Woman/Lucy Barker

An eerie, poor soul living on the streets of London. She supports herself by begging. The Beggar Woman is Sweeney's wife, Lucy, who lost her mind after being assaulted by Turpin and taking poison. She has occasional flashes of lucidity and distrusts Mrs. Lovett. She is the only one who sees what's happening but no one will listen to her. Mezzo. Speaks with a Cockney accent. Stage age: 30s-40s

Adolfo Pirelli

An Irish former employee of Sweeney's who has since developed a public persona as a flamboyant and flashy world-famous Italian barber. A charlatan who sells fake medicine and challenges other barbers to shaving contests. Pirelli is charming, calculating, and over-the-top comedic. He does not take lightly to being publicly embarrassed by Sweeney. High tenor. Speaks in both an Italian and Irish accent. Stage age: 30+

Jonas Fogg

The owner of Fogg's Asylum. Fogg sells the hair of inmates to wigmakers. Considers the inmates "children" and takes pleasure in showing them off to visitors. Chooses to ignore the human rights of his patients in the name of scientific progress. Speaks with an Estuary dialect. Stage age 30+