

## **Miss Agatha Hannigan**

The orphanage matron. Her distaste for her job and the children is obvious in every move she makes and every line she delivers. She is predictable and funny, in her ridiculous, cruel ways. This person needs to be able to act with her whole body!

*She has over 100 lines and sings in Little Girls and Easy Street, both with reprises.*

*Vocal range: Alto or Gravelly mezzo Acting age: 30-45*

Libretto audition: A1 S1 : P7 to P9 & P13 to P15; A1 S4 : P32 to P38

Music audition: Little Girls: bars 30 to 61

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Aha! Caught you!

*(MISS HANNIGAN flings ANNIE to the floor and switches on the hallway light. The ORPHANS hide under their covers)*

I hear ya, brat. I ALWAYS hear ya. Get up. I said, get up!

**ANNIE**

*(Getting warily up)*

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

There! Now, what do you say? WHAT ... DO ... YOU ... SAY?

**ANNIE**

*(Tough; through her teeth)*

I love you, Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Rotten orphan.

**ANNIE**

*(Angrily)*

I'm NOT an orphan. My mother and father left a note saying they loved me and they were coming back for me.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

That was 1922, this is 1933.

*(laughing)*

They must've got stuck in traffic.

*(MISS HANNIGAN switches on the LIGHT in the dormitory, sticks her head through the door and BLOWS her whistle loudly)*

You in here. Get up. Get up!

*(Blows whistle at Molly, who is still hidden under the covers.)*

Get up!

*(Molly gets up)*

*(To ANNIE, motioning to her to put the basket and flashlight back in the dormitory)*

Put them things away.

*(MISS HANNIGAN takes a pint bottle out of her bathrobe pocket and takes a swig. Molly is standing at her side looking at her. After a beat she notices Molly)*

It's medicine!

*(SHE finishes the bottle)*

**MOLLY**

*(Tugging at MISS HANNIGAN to get her attention when she is done drinking)*

You must be very sick!

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Waits a beat. Turns and loudly tries to scare Molly)*

Boo!

**MOLLY**

*(MOLLY doesn't flinch, then-)*

Boo!

*(MISS HANNIGAN flinches)*

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Now, for this one's shenanigans, you'll scrub this floor, and strip them beds for the laundry man.

**TESSIE**

*(Whining)*

But it's four o'clock in the morning.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Laughs cruelly)*

I know. And you'll get down on your knobby little knees and clean this dump until it shines like the top of the Chrysler Building.

**ORPHANS & ANNIE**

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Get to work. Now!

*(ORPHANS runs for pails and return to front of stage. Each bumps into MISS HANNIGAN, saying 'sorry', but not meaning it at all)*

Why any kid would want to be an orphan, I'll never know.

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**MISS HANNIGAN**

Good morning, Children.

**ORPHANS**

Good morning Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Well?

*(One at a time, ANNIE and the ORPHANS say, "I love you, Miss Hannigan," through clenched teeth)*

**MOLLY**

*(From the hamper, but not visible)*

I love you, Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

You. What are you doing in there?

**MOLLY**

*(Pops her head up)*

Nothin'.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(To ANNIE, who is nearest the hamper)*

Get her out of there! Get here out!

*(MOLLY imitates MISS HANNIGAN'S walk until HANNIGAN sees her. Next line is directed to MOLLY)*

You, your days are numbered. All right. Breakfast.

**ORPHANS**

Hot mush?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

No. You don't get hot mush this morning.

*(The ORPHANS jump up and down and loudly cheer)*

You get cold mush.

*(MISS HANNIGAN jumps up and down imitating the orphans' cheer)*

And after your mush you'll go to your sewing machines. There's an order of dresses you'll finish today if you have to work straight through to midnight.

**THE ORPHANS & ANNIE**

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(A laundry truck has arrived outside the Orphanage)*

Now line up.

*(The ORPHANS and ANNIE file past MISS HANNIGAN, who inspects them as a laundry man, BUNDLES McCLOSKEY, comes in the front door carrying a load of clean sheets. BUNDLES comes into the dormitory)*

**BUNDLES**

Laundry. Laundry man.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Move it!

**THE ORPHANS & ANNIE**

Mornin', Bundles.

**BUNDLES**

Mornin', kids. Clean sheets once a month whether you need 'em or not.

*(During the following, ANNIE, hidden by the ORPHANS, sneaks into the laundry bag)*

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Seductively)*

Mornin', Bundles

**BUNDLES**

*(Avoiding HER)*

Oh yeah, Aggie, runnin' a little late. See ya in January.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Aw, c'mere ya big handsome brute. Don't you wanna know what I'm gettin' you for Christmas?

**BUNDLES**

*(Reluctantly crossing over to her)*

What?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Egg Foo Yung in Chinatown for two. On me.

**BUNDLES**

Egg Foo Yung? For Christmas?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

All ya can eat. So what are you getting me?

**BUNDLES**

What did I get you last year?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Nothin'.

**BUNDLES**

Good. You're getting it again.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Ahh, get out of here with that damn laundry.

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**OFFICER WARD**

*(Entering room from door)*

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan is it?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Yeah.

**OFFICER WARD**

I'm Lt. Ward, 17th Precinct. We found your runaway.

*(Calling out the door)*

You!

**ORPHANS**

Annie! Annie!

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Seductively)*

Oh, thank you, so much Officer. Children, children, guess what?

**ORPHANS**

What?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Too nice to believe)*

There's hot cocoa and ginger snaps for you in the Recreation room.

**ORPHANS**

What recreation room?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Shoo-shoo-shoo! Shoo!

*(ANNIE tries to run off with all the ORPHANS, but HANNIGAN grabs her)*

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Thanks so much, Officer.

**OFFICER WARD**

She was in one of them Hooverilles down by the docks. Had a mangy mutt with her, but he got away.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Oh, poor punkin, out in the freezin' cold with just that thin sweater. I hope you didn't catch influenza. Thanks so much, Officer.

**OFFICER WARD**

*(He can't wait to get out)*

All in the line of duty.

*(To ANNIE)*

And you. Don't Let me ever hear that you run away again. From this nice lady.

**ANNIE**

She's not...

*(HANNIGAN closed ANNIE'S mouth with hand)*

**OFFICER WARD**

Good Afternoon.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Good afternoon, Officer.

*(WARD exits. HANNIGAN hurls ANNIE down to the ground)*

Now, I'm gonna have your head and the next time you walk out that door it'll be 1953. Well, are you glad to be back? Huh?

**ANNIE**

*(tough)*

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Liar! What's the one thing I always taught you: Never tell a lie. Well, what's the one thing I always taught you?

**ANNIE**

*(tough)*

Never tell a lie, Miss Hannigan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Pacing, crazily)*

For what you done I could get fired. Have the Board of Orphans stickin' their nose in here. Well, you'll pay for it. I promise.

*(There is a knock at the door. HANNIGAN crosses to door and turns back to ANNIE and talks to her as though she were a dog)*

Stay!

*(Opening door)*

**GRACE**

*(Entering)*

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Yeah?

**GRACE**

*(Extends HER hand)*

Oh, good. I'm Grace Farrell

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(looks at HER hand)*

So?

**GRACE**

...and the New York City Board of Orphans suggested that...

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Panics)*

Wait! Hold it!! I can explain everything!!! It wasn't my fault. It was Annie, you see, who got into Bundles' laundry bag and ...

**GRACE**

Miss Hannigan, I...

**MISS HANNIGAN**

... and, sure, I know I should of called Mr. Donatelli instead of the cops, but I ...

**GRACE**

Miss Hannigan, I'm sorry, but I haven't the slightest idea what you're talking about.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Wait a minute, hold it, sister, I get it.

*(Referring to Grace's briefcase)*

If it's beauty products you're peddling, I don't need any. Get out.

**GRACE**

Miss Hannigan, I am not "peddling" anything. I'm private secretary to Oliver Warbucks.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(interrupting)*

Oliver Warbucks? THE Oliver Warbucks?

**GRACE**

THE Oliver Warbucks.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Crosses upstage of GRACE and offers her a seat)*

Love the hat!

*(Sitting)*

I read in Winchell's column that Oliver Warbucks is the world's richest unmarried man.

*(ANNIE positions herself behind HANNIGAN, sitting on the floor, able to make eye-contact with GRACE)*



**GRACE**

*(All business)*

I wouldn't know, I don't read Mr. Winchell. Miss Hannigan, Mr. Warbucks has decided to invite an orphan to spend the Christmas holidays at his home.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

An orphan?

**GRACE**

Yes, an orphan.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

You sure he wouldn't rather have a lady? I got two weeks comin'.

*(A long look from GRACE)*

It's a joke. What sort of orphan did you have in mind?

**GRACE**

Well, she should be friendly.

*(Unseen by Hannigan, ANNIE waves to GRACE)*

And intelligent.

**ANNIE**

Mississippi. Capital M-I-double S-I-double S-I-double-P-I. Mississippi.

**GRACE**

And cheerful.

*(ANNIE laughs a big laugh)*

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(To ANNIE)*

You shut up. And how old?

**GRACE**

Oh, age doesn't really matter. Say, eight or nine.

*(ANNIE gestures upward to indicate that SHE wants GRACE to say a higher age)*

Ten.

*(ANNIE gestures still higher)*

Eleven.

*(ANNIE gestures to GRACE to stop and then points to her own hair)*

Yes, eleven would be perfect. And oh, I almost forgot, Mr. Warbucks prefers red-headed children.

*(ANNIE stands up, directly behind HANNIGAN)*

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Eleven. A red-head. No, I'm afraid we don't have any orphans like that around here.

**GRACE**

What about this child right here?

*(BOTH looking at ANNIE)*

**MISS HANNIGAN**

*(Grabbing ANNIE)*

Annie? Oh, no, you wouldn't want her...

*(Struggling for an excuse)*

She's ... she's a drunk ... and a liar! A drunk and a liar.

*(ANNIE struggles to get out from behind HANNIGAN)*

**GRACE**

Yes. I'm sure she's a drunk and a liar. Annie. Come here. Annie, would you like to spend the next two weeks at Mr. Warbucks' house?

**ANNIE**

I would love to. I would REALLY love to.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

Hold it.

*(Blows whistle. ORPHANS run on and stand looking at GRACE)*

Now you can have any orphan in the Orphanage, but not Annie.

**GRACE**

Why?

**MISS HANNIGAN**

I just told you.

**GRACE**

*(Deadly)*

I assume, Miss Hannigan, that it has something to do with all that business about the laundry bag and the police. Perhaps I should call Mr. Donatelli at the Board of Orphans and...

*(MISS HANNIGAN laughs)*

*(GRACE holding out an official-looking document)*

Sign it.

**MISS HANNIGAN**

I'll sign it. I'm an easy gal to get along with. If it's Annie you want, it's Annie you get.

# #9 - LITTLE GIRLS

(Scene changes to Orphanage)

8  
1-8

9 (Dialogue)  
(Soprano Sax solo)

7  
12-18 19

20

7  
22-28 29

MISS HANNIGAN: Get to work, all of ya!

30 **Audition Start**  
(MISS HANNIGAN)

Lit - tle girls, lit - tle girls, Ev - 'ry - where I turn I can

32 see them. — 33 34 Lit - tle girls, lit - tle girls,

35 night and day I eat sleep and breathe them. — 36 37 I'm an or - di - na - ry

38

wo - man with feel - ings. I'd like a man to nib - ble on my

ear. But I'll ad - mit no man has bit, So

how come I'm the moth - er of the year?

46

Lit - tle cheeks, lit - tle teeth, ev - 'ry - thing a - round me is lit - tle. —

If I wring lit - tle necks, Sure - ly I would get an ac - quit - tal! —

54

Some wom - en are drip - ping with dia - monds,

Some wom - en are drip - ping with pearls. Luck - y me! Luck - y me!

Look at what I'm drip - ping with: Lit - tle girls.

Audition End