

**Westfield Summer Stage**  
***Les Misérables (school edition)***

**Character Breakdown**

**Jean Valjean**

Jean Valjean is the hero of the show. It is his life journey that we follow. Jean Valjean is supposed to be stronger than other men, and so he should physically appear robust. He should carry himself confidently onstage and come across to the audience as reasonably mature and paternal. Valjean's capacity for change is his greatest asset throughout the story. Jean Valjean is a vocally demanding role, so cast your best male singer and actor.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: A4, Vocal range bottom: G#2

**Javert**

Javert is the inspector who serves as antagonist to Jean Valjean. At first glance, Javert might appear to be the villain of the story, but upon closer examination, he is not an evil man. He is a dedicated policeman with a profoundly strong sense of duty. Unlike Valjean, Javert's attitudes are rigid and unmovable. He is stern, forbidding, and lacking in compassion. Javert should be a talented actor who can convincingly stand up to Jean Valjean. Javert should have a rich baritone voice and be a good singer.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: F#4, Vocal range bottom: F2

**Bishop Of Digne**

The Bishop is a good man who saves Valjean's soul through showing compassion. The Bishop of Digne's kindness carefully establishes the premise of the show by literally buying Jean Valjean's soul for God. This powerful role requires a nice baritone voice and a good actor.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: E4, Vocal range bottom: A2

**Fantine**

Fantine is the beautiful young girl left to fend for herself and her daughter, Cosette. She is rejected by society. She is a brave woman defeated by life who clings to her dignity and is sustained by her love for her daughter, sacrificing everything for the young Cosette. A performer with a powerful voice that is more mezzo (or alto) than soprano.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: Eb5, Vocal range bottom: F3

### **Foreman**

The Foreman begins Fantine on her desperate, downward spiral. He should be virile, commanding, and a bit sleazy around the edges.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: D4, Vocal range bottom: D3

### **Bamatabois**

Bamatabois is the customer who taunts Fantine into violence. He is a wealthy, dissolute young man who thinks of himself as a gentleman, even dressing in expensive clothes. He is drunk and in a sadistic mood. He chauvinistically feels it is his right to buy anything, even Fantine.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: D3

### **Old Woman**

The Old Woman is a nice, featured role who purchases Fantine's hair. Her vocal solo is a bit tricky, so a strong singer is needed.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: E4

### **Young Cosette**

Young Cosette is Fantine's daughter and the Thénardiens' ward. She has been forced into child labor. She is underfed, beaten by Madame Thénardier, and bullied by Eponine. Young Cosette should be as physically small as possible, especially against Jean Valjean and the Thénardiens.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: C5, Vocal range bottom: A3

### **Madame Thénardier**

She is married to Thénardier. Together, Madame Thénardier and Thénardier con the world as partners in crime. She is coarse, vulgar, and nasty to Little Cosette. She can improvise in nearly any situation. An actress with excellent physical comedy skills who is also a good musician with a good sense of rhythm.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: G#3

### **Thénardier**

Thénardier is the true villain. He is the embodiment of evil. That said, he should also possess a wicked sense of humor. He delights in cheating, robbing, defrauding, and blackmailing, and relishes every aspect of his schemes with glee. Thénardier is also the opportunist and realist of the show. An excellent comedic actor who can portray a nasty edge. Vocally, the role is not incredibly demanding; a character voice is best.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: G4, Vocal range bottom: C2

### **Young Eponine**

Young Eponine is the pampered daughter of the Thénardiens. She does little except taunt Young Cosette. The role requires no singing or speaking. She should be a smaller version of grown Eponine and resemble Eponine in appearance and features.

Gender: female

### **Gavroche**

Gavroche is Thénardier's son. He is left to fend for himself and lives by his wits in the streets of Paris. His archenemy is Javert, the policeman. Gavroche is brave, witty, and arrogant, with a fantastic, unchanged voice. Gavroche is best played by the smallest boy available. Gavroche has a very dramatic death at the barricade.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: G5, Vocal range bottom: B3

### **Eponine**

Eponine is the Thénardiens' daughter. Living hand to mouth, she survives by helping her father in his life of crime. She is a young girl who is streetwise and tough but also sensitive and lonely. This tragic character is hopelessly in love with Marius, knowing that he will never love her. She bravely follows Marius to the barricades. She should be an excellent actress and singer with a contemporary edge to her voice.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: E5, Vocal range bottom: F3

### **Enjolras**

Enjolras is the student leader. He is handsome, brave, and daring, although youthful. He combines his revolutionary ideals with strong, charismatic leadership. He should be a natural leader oozing with charisma and have a very strong high baritone or a tenor voice. Enjolras must inspire the students to fight and, ultimately, to die for their beliefs.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: G4, Vocal range bottom: A2

### **Marius**

Marius is the romantic hero of the story. He is impulsive, passionate, willful, and headstrong. His moods change according to his circumstances. He is sweet and tender but also capable of great courage and compassion. Marius should have a lovely, lyrical voice with a contemporary edge.

Gender: male, Vocal range top: Ab4, Vocal range bottom: A2

### **Cosette**

Cosette is Fantine's strong-willed, loving daughter. She is an intelligent, inquiring, personable girl; she is not in any sense a sappy, romantic heroine. Once she is adopted by Jean Valjean, Cosette lives a comfortable, if secluded, life. She falls instantly in love with Marius, changing her world and her priorities. The role calls for an excellent singer with a lovely, lyrical soprano voice.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: C6, Vocal range bottom: Bb3

### **Ensemble and Featured Vocalists – any gender**

Convicts, Constables, Factory Workers, Thieves, Shop Girls, Prostitutes, Revolutionaries (ABC Students), Sailors, the Poor, and Wedding Guests.