



Summer Musical Theater Production

High Cotton



Performance date: August 25th, 2013

Available roles (in order of appearance):

Newsies 1, 2 & 3 – children’s roles; they make several announcements throughout the show promoting newspaper sales, also in Chorus scenes

Reverend Fletcher – adult male, pastor of the local church

Milton Spurlin – adult male, mill worker

Florene Spurlin – adult female, Milton’s wife

Estelle Jacobs – Florene’s mother

Bradley Spurlin – young adult or older teen (solo); the Spurlin’s son

Hattie Davenport – adult female, wealthy wife of mill owner

Randolph Davenport – adult male, wealthy mill owner

Bonnie Davenport – young adult or older teen; the Davenport’s daughter (solo)

Jay – young adult or older teen, Bradley’s friend (solo/duet)

Quinton – young adult or older teen, Bradley’s friend (solo/duet)

Shark McShane – young to median adult, local gangster-type (solo)

Sister Prudence Jordan – young to median adult, self-righteous (solo)

Policeman – adult male

Jenny – young adult or older teen, snooty & spoiled; Bonnie’s friend

Amanda - young adult or older teen, snooty & spoiled; Bonnie’s friend

J.D. – adult male, town barber

Mabel – adult female, town sweet shop owner

Photographer – either gender

[Note: All characters will sing and perform amateur-level choreography in three Chorus songs. Most females will sing and perform amateur-level choreography in one other song.]

Synopsis of Show

High Cotton is set in 1929 just prior to the stock market crash which ushered in the Great Depression. Characters live in a small town where a cotton mill is the main employer (hence the show’s title). Society is somewhat divided between people like the wealthy owners of the mill and the working class who are employed there. This is even evident at the local church where many attend.

This social climate is disturbed by two events. One is the developing relationship between two young people; working-class Bradley and wealthy debutante Bonnie, even though their families disapprove. The other is the opening of a local speakeasy run by Shark; a move which prompts Sister Prudence to make it her mission to shut it down and keep all those sinners out of her town.

But unfortunate events, both national and local, cause the town’s citizens to see things differently. Learning anew to depend on the Lord, as well as on one another, everyone pulls together in an attempt to provide hope for their community.

Casting for the show will begin soon, so please let us know your interest in being a part of the show. We not only need actors and singers, but help in many other areas such as set building, painting, props, costumes, choreography, lighting, sound, stage hands and publicity. So please sign up.

Rehearsals begin on Sunday, June 9th at 3pm with an initial read-through.

If you have questions, see Bob Chichester or Krista Wine.