

# Salomé

Oscar Wilde

## Castings

### Salome's Dance

The choreography for Salome's famous dance is an integral part of any production of this play. Therefore, it is also part of the castings.

Auditioning as Salome is not necessary (although possible, of course) to be cast as choreographer of this dance.

The form in which the audition for the choreography is presented is open to the applicants!

### Salome (f); major part

"The Princess"

(Scenes: 3, 4, 6, 9, M1)

Salome, daughter to Herodias and step-daughter to Herod, had the worst kind of childhood – a cold, unloving mother and a step-father who only ever paid her attention in the worst way.

Initially, all she is hoping for when she demands to see her step-father's prisoner is a little distraction (and maybe a small way to defy his wishes for once). But as soon as she sets eyes on Iokanaan, her fascination with him gives way to a full-blown obsession. This must be love, she is absolutely certain of it. Iokanaan, unfortunately, will have none of it.

Over the course of the play, her bitterness at not only being regarded as no more than a pretty object by her family, but also being harshly rejected by Iokanaan, overtakes her entirely and leads to ever more escalating violence.

### Herod (m); major part

“The Crimelord”

(Scenes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, M2)

Herod is the acting ruler over a small “empire“ built mostly on murder and fear, run out of his nightclub, the “Galilee”. He has always been adept at sniffing out suitable allys to further his power, which he gained in the first place by killing his own brother and marrying his sister-in-law.

Even though he is undeniably ruthless and power-hungry, his superstitions still keep him from killing the self-proclaimed prophet Iokanaan, who has spent a lot of energy denouncing him and especially his wife, Herodias.

But what really threatens to bring him down are his delusions of grandeur, paired with his obsessive desire for his niece and step-daughter Salome.

### Herodias (f); major part

“The Madam”

(Scenes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Herodias is a queen – and she has no qualms about letting people hear and feel that they are, by and large, beneath her.

Marrying her brother-in-law after he killed her first husband has secured her status, but it also trapped her with a man who despises her and would love to replace her with her own daughter sooner rather than later.

lokanaan (m); major part

“The Missionary”

(Scenes: 2, 3, 4)

lokanaan is a deeply religious man, and there is no one more righteous than him – in his own eyes, at least.

He has come to warn everyone affiliated with Herod and Herodias that this family is no good, and that working with or for them will result in harm. Unfortunately, he failed to consider that most people who are subjected to Herod’s rule fear his very tangible revenge a lot more than vague premonitions or the wrath of a god they cannot see, and so he gets himself caught and imprisoned.

The only person interested in listening to him is Salome, and her interest has been piqued for all the wrong reasons. Disgusted, he rebuffs her, and seals his own fate in the process.

The Young Syrian (Narraboth) (m/f); medium part

“The Biker/ The Odd One Out”

(Scenes: 1, 3, 4)

Narraboth has been made captain of Herod’s guard very recently. He is far too young, and inexperienced, but he does his best nevertheless. Not as if he had much choice.

He hopes to impress Salome, who he has been pining after for a while – even though the Page of Herodias, his best friend, has warned him repeatedly not to get too attached to the temperamental princess.

Hurt beyond belief by Salome’s blatant desire for lokanaan, Narraboth kills himself in a moment of desperation.

The Page of Herodias (m/f); medium part

“The Dancer”

(Scenes: 1, 3, 5, 8)

The Page of Herodias is only a servant, but when Herodias is not busy bossing him around, he spends his time with Narraboth.

He is closer than a brother to the young captain, which might explain his constant worry for Narraboth’s well-being; especially in the light of his desperate infatuation with Salome.

[Even though this is a medium part with respect to the amount of lines, this character will be on stage for the entirety of the play!]

First Soldier / Second Soldier (m/f); medium part

“The Gang Members”

(Scenes: 1, 2, 3, 5)

The two soldiers have been doing their job for quite a while – they know the ropes, and there is not much that would surprise them. They watch the events of this fateful evening unfold, commenting idly here and there.

They have been tasked by Herod with guarding Iokanaan and letting no one see him, and they are as dispassionate about this task as they are about most anything else.

But even though they are nothing if not imperturbable, even they are taken aback by the violence of Salome’s eventual meltdown.

[Even though this is a medium part with respect to the amount of lines, these characters will be on stage for the entirety of the play!]

A Nubian / A Cappadocian (m/f); small part

“The Party People”

(Scenes: 2)

The Nubian and the Cappadocian are guests of Herod, invited for a glittering feast. They have arrived a little early, giving them time to converse with two soldiers to get up-to-date on the latest gossip.

### Tigellinus (m/f); small part

“The Courier”

(Scenes: 5)

Tigellinus is a very important person – he is a personal acquaintance of the great Ceasar, and as such has been invited by Herod to join him in some festivities (and maybe to secure some future business in the process).

Nothing could have prepared him for the abyss of family drama he is about to witness instead.

### Three Jews (m/f), A Nazarene (m/f); small part

“The Guests With An Agenda”

(Scenes: 7, 8)

The three Jews and the Nazarene are guests of Herod – but they have not only come to party. They all are here primarily to convince Herod that they know best how to deal with Iokanaan (or whether he needs “dealing with” at all), and they get into a heated discussion to plead their cases.

None of them could have seen the outcome of the evening coming, much less prevented it.

### Extras (m/f)

Since this production has the play take place in a nightclub, a lot of extras will be needed to fill the stage with life. A barkeeper, dancers, guests, etc ... Everyone who is looking to take part in this way is very welcome!