

| <u>Character Breakdown</u> | |
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| Cast size: | 20+ |
| Cast Type: | Ensemble Cast - Many featured roles, Older Role(s), Showcases trained singers, Star Vehicle - Female, Star Vehicle - Male |
| Dance requirement: | None/minimal |
| Casting notes: | Children in cast (see <i>Roles for Younger Actors</i> below) |
| Principal Roles | |
| Jane Eyre | Jane is a strong-willed and passionate young woman but outwardly quiet, watchful and shy. In many ways the character is a self-portrait of Charlotte Bronte herself, thus she has all the complexities and contradictions inherent in the possessor of a profound spiritual inner life. The actress who plays her should not be physically attractive in an obvious way, but instead should have a beauty born of calmness, humor and strength. Age: 18-20 (actress may be older). Alto/Mezzo - F sharp below middle C to E a 10th above |
| Edward Fairfax Rochester | Rochester is intelligent, sophisticated and a powerful male presence. He has been greatly damaged by life and is therefore quite prickly and demanding, but he has a keen sense of humor and a graceful and engaging personality. Like Jane, he need not be particularly handsome - he should rather be strong and dark and just a little frightening to all but Jane. Age: About 35, but could be a bit older if the right actor comes along or if the actress playing Jane is older. Vocal Range: High Baritone - B an octave below middle C to a big G above. |
| Ensemble Roles | |
| The Ensemble | All the actors in the play are also members of the Ensemble with the exception of those playing Jane and Rochester. Age: All ages |
| Mrs. Fairfax | Rochester's elderly relation and the house-keeper of Thornfield Hall. This is essentially a comic role, though the comedy should never be over-done. The character is fussy, garrulous, kind-hearted and deaf. She has two major songs which are comedic in style, but the actress must also be able to touch the audience's heart-strings at certain moments in the show. A gifted comic actress is required. Age: 55-75 Vocal Range: Alto - F below middle C to C an octave above. |
| Mrs. Reed | Jane's aunt. She is a middle-aged woman of a cold and over-bearing nature. A difficult role, the actress playing her must be able to convey a brittle strength which turns to madness and vulnerability on her death-bed in the second act Age: 50-60 Vocal Range: Mezzo - Eb above middle C to F an octave above |
| Blanche Ingram | The clever, sophisticated and stunningly beautiful lady who Jane, and the audience, must believe is to be married to Rochester. The actress playing the part must have wit and grace and charm, but her chief attraction must be a fabulous soprano voice with which she can dominate Jane and Rochester and the audience. Age: 20-30 Vocal Range: Coloratura soprano. |
| Bertha Mason | Rochester's mad wife, kept in the attic of Thornfield Hall. Another part for a gifted actress. Bertha can be played in different ways - as a strangely |

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| | <p>beautiful but criminally deranged bride, stuck, like Miss Havisham, at the moment of her last happiness, or as a coarsened and violent heavy-weight almost de-humanized by her years of madness. Either way will work - or a mixture of both. Room for great invention here.</p> <p>Age: 35-50 Vocal Range: Mezzo - middle C sharp to C sharp an octave higher.</p> |
| Robert | <p>The Butler at Thornfield. Robert is dry and intelligent and kind, a martyr to Mrs. Fairfax's whims, deafness and dottiness. An understanding and reliable servant to Rochester. Not a big part but a very present one.</p> <p>Age: 30-50 Vocal Range: High Baritone - Bb an octave below middle C to middle Bb.</p> |
| Richard Mason | <p>Bertha Mason's brother and therefore Rochester's brother-in-law. He is a gentleman, well-off and well educated but a weak man, haunted by the wrong he has done to Rochester and the need to care for his deranged, unhappy sister.</p> <p>Age: 45-60 Vocal Range: Tenor - C below middle C to G above.</p> |
| Mr. Brocklehurst | <p>The owner of Lowood School. He must be an imposing and frightening figure to Young Jane - cold-eyed, zealous and pontifical.</p> <p>Age: 40-60 Vocal Range: High Baritone - D below middle C to G above.</p> |
| Miss Scatcherd | <p>A teacher at Lowood. A hard-faced and embittered middle-aged woman whose nature has been warped by dogged obedience to Mr. Brocklehurst and a natural distrust of anything unusual or imaginative.</p> <p>Age: 35-60 Vocal Range: Mezzo - D above middle C to D an octave higher.</p> |
| Helen Burns | <p>This part could be played by an adult actress playing down in age, or a child actress of the right age. Whoever plays it must be of a strong, calm and spiritual demeanor. Helen teaches the young Jane her most important lesson in life, so the audience must be engaged by her intellectually and emotionally. Her song 'Forgiveness' is very hard to sing, so if a child plays the part she must be a truly accomplished singer.</p> <p>Age: 14-16 Vocal Range: Mezzo - A below middle C to C sharp an octave above.</p> |
| St. John Rivers | <p>The curate of the parish of Gateshead, caring for Mrs Reed at her death. St. John (pronounced Sinjun) is a complex and interesting young man, passionately devoted to his Christian faith and duty. He falls in love with Jane because he recognizes a fellow spiritual intelligence. He should be appealing and handsome - a dramatic contrast to Rochester and a man the audience could seriously think that Jane might marry.</p> <p>Age: 25-35 Vocal Range: Tenor/High baritone - C below middle C to G above middle C.</p> |
| Grace Poole | <p>Bertha Mason's minder and nurse. This is a difficult role for a good actress, who must suggest to the audience that there is a danger and mystery about Grace that may even include the possibility that she is the mad arsonist of Jane's worst fears. She is actually a capable and caring woman with an occasional fondness for the liquor pot.</p> <p>Age: 30-60, her actual years not very important. Vocal Range: Mezzo.</p> |
| Lady Ingram | <p>Blanche Ingram's mother. An amply proportioned woman who wears an expression of almost insupportable haughtiness, her eyes fierce and hard and her voice deep, pompous and dogmatical. The part needs an actress with comic skill and a strong stage presence.</p> <p>Age: 50-70 Vocal Range: Soprano or Alto.</p> |
| Lord Ingram | <p>Also called 'Tedo,' Blanche Ingram's brother. He is languid and self-</p> |

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| | important and in a state of almost constant boredom. Age: 20-30, but could be younger. Vocal Range: Tenor. |
| Louisa Eshton | Mr. Eshton's elder daughter - she is not unattractive but very myopic and a little slow on the uptake. Age: 20-30 Vocal Range: Soprano or Alto. |
| Amy Eshton | Mr. Eshton's younger daughter - pretty, child-like and naïve. Age: 20-25 Vocal Range: Soprano or Alto. |
| Mr. Eshton | The local magistrate and a neighbor of Rochester's - a charming but ineffectual middle-aged widower. Age: 50-60 Vocal Range: Baritone or Tenor. |
| Colonel Dent | A neighbor of Rochester's - a choleric old campaigner with an eye for the young women. Age: 55-70 Vocal Range: Baritone or Tenor. |
| Mrs. Dent | The wife of Colonel Dent - a pale, fair-haired, sweet-natured middle-aged woman, utterly under the mighty thumb of Lady Ingram. Age: 40-60 Vocal Range: Soprano or Alto. |
| Marigold | A servant at Lowood School. An ex-schoolgirl herself, she has been kept on to do the dirty kitchen work and cleaning. She is semi-moronic and entirely without humor. Age: 30-50 Vocal Range: As for Lowood Schoolgirls (below). |
| Servants | Thornfield Hall is full of servants - a variety of Chambermaids and Parlourmaids and Bootboys and Stable Hands and Kitchen Skivvies - whenever a scene requires them and actors are available. Age: Any ages. Vocal Range: Spoken roles. |
| The Vicar | His function in the play is to preside over the abortive wedding between Jane and Rochester and then witness Rochester's subsequent confession. Age: 50 - 70 Vocal Range: High Baritone. |
| ROLES FOR YOUNGER ACTORS: | |
| Young Jane Eyre | This is a good part for a gifted child actress. Young Jane is strong and willful and full of soul. Age: 10 Vocal Range: Mezzo - D above middle C to D an octave higher. |
| Adele | Rochester's ward. This part needs a clever, funny and sweet-natured child actress, capable of playing a pretty, self-dramatizing and vain little French coquette. <i>Speaks with French accent.</i> Age: 8-10 Vocal Range: Mezzo - B below middle C to E above. |
| John Reed | Mrs. Reed's horrible little son, cruel, manipulative and violent. Age: 12-15 Vocal Range: Spoken role. |
| Lowood Schoolgirls | Lowood is a school for girls of all ages from 8 to 18. Though not amongst the poorest of society, they are certainly down-trodden, hungry and cold, though not dirty and debased. Age: 8-18 Vocal Range: Mezzo - D above middle C to E an octave higher. |