



Photo of the cast by André Chung.

# The Characters of *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*

## Sensory-Friendly Performance

# Character Descriptions



Photo of Carrie Compere by André Chung.

## SISTER ROSETTA THARPE

A Black female musician who becomes famous for singing and playing the guitar. She performs gospel, jazz and blues. She inspired so many other musicians that today she is considered the “Godmother of Rock-and-Roll.” The show begins when she is about 50 years old and follows her musical career and personal life from when she was 18 through 58. She loves fiercely and wants to be loved in return.



Photo of Joe Mallon by André Chung.

## RICHIE

Rosetta’s longtime manager. They meet shortly after her debut at the Cotton Club. He believes in her music and supports her. He works with her throughout her career. Her wedding at Griffith Stadium is his idea.



Photo of Carol Dennis by André Chung.

## KATIE BELL

Rosetta’s mother. She is a devout Christian who makes a living singing gospel and preaching Christianity to all who will listen. She disagrees with Rosetta over the direction of Rosetta’s career, but they still love each other.



# Character Descriptions



Photo of Felicia Boswell by André Chung.

## MARIE KNIGHT

A Black female musician who sings and plays the piano. She is the love of Rosetta's life. She performs and tours with Mahalia Jackson and later Rosetta.



Photo of Sinclair Mitchell by André Chung.

## REVEREND THARPE

Rosetta's first husband, who was jealous of her popularity and believed her music outside the church was a sin.



Photo of David Rowen by André Chung.

## NECKBONE

A street musician who sings and plays guitar. Rosetta meets him on her birthday.

# Character Descriptions



Photo of Joseph Anthony Byrd by André Chung.

## CAB CALLOWAY

Cab Calloway is a famous musician and bandleader at the Cotton Club. He is famous for performing jazz and swing music.



Photo of Jamal Antony Shuriah and Jarran Muse by Taryn Friend.

## THE NICHOLAS BROTHERS

The Nicholas Brothers, Fayard and Harold, are dancers known for being energetic and acrobatic. They are considered to be some of the best tap dancers of all time.



Photo of Nia Savoy-Dock, Jalisa Williams and Raquel Jennings by André Chung.

## SHOWGIRLS

Three women who meet and encourage Sister Rosetta at the Cotton Club.

# Character Descriptions



Photo of Keenan McCarter by André Chung.

## DIZZY GILLESPIE

A jazz trumpet player, bandleader and composer. He meets Sister Rosetta at the Cotton Club, and they become lifelong friends.



Photo of David Rowen by Sara Gehl.

## LUCKY MILLINDER

A jazz bandleader who worked with Sister Rosetta and wanted her to sing more secular music.



Photo of Raquel Jennings by André Chung.

## USHER NURSE

A fan of Rosetta's, who she meets in a church while on tour.

# Character Descriptions



Photo of Kelli Blackwell by André Chung.

## **MAHALIA JACKSON**

A Black female gospel singer who doesn't believe Sister Rosetta should sing secular music. She was a rival of Sister Rosetta's and ultimately becomes more popular on the gospel circuit during Sister Rosetta's lifetime.



Photo of Jarran Muse by André Chung.

## **RUSSELL MORRISON**

Rosetta's third husband, who also works as her manager. They get married at Griffith Stadium.



## ***SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* CHARACTERS – CREDITS**

All stage photos are from the Ford's Theatre production of *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*

The pre-visit materials were developed by:

Ford's Theatre Access Committee

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