

Big Fish Character Descriptions

Edward: older man (father and beyond, actor ages 35-60). Edward is a charming, charismatic storyteller. A devoted yet absent father nearing the end of his life and wanting to reconnect with his son. He is comfortable in his own skin, but hopes to gain Will's approval. He absolutely loves his wife, his son, and telling stories. *Needs a big voice and serious character acting. Plays ages ranging from young father to older sick man. Able to move but little real dancing.*

Songs:

- Be the Hero
- Fight the Dragons
- Showdown
- Start Over
- How it Ends

Young Edward: young man (before fatherhood, actor age 18-30) Young Edward is an enthusiastic, optimistic, energetic romantic. He needs to steal our hearts and make us buy into the fabulous myths that he enters. He is the quintessential hometown boy hero. *Needs a big voice. Plays ages ranging from high school to late 20s/early 30s. Very good mover.*

Songs:

- Out There on the Road
- Time Stops
- Closer to Her
- Daffodils
- Red White and True

Sandra: older woman (married and beyond, actor ages 25-55) Sandra is patient, calm—the perfect balance to Edward's enthusiasm. She adores and appreciates Edward and tries to bring reconciliation to her husband and son, both of whom she loves. *Needs a mellow ballad voice. Very little movement.*

Songs:

- Two Men in My Life
- I Don't Need a Roof

Young Sandra: young woman (before marriage, actor ages 15-30). Young Sandra is a lovely, sweet, fresh-faced, innocent young girl excited by the possibilities of life. She appreciates Edward's romantic viewpoint. *Needs a big voice, expressive acting ability, and a good bit of dance ability.*

Songs:

- Alabama Lambs
- Time Stops
- Daffodils
- Red White and True

Young Will: young boy (age 8-12). Edward's son, precocious and intelligent. Is told all of Edward's fantastic tales, isn't quite sure if they're real.

Will: adult (all but little boy, actor ages 20-30) Will is a critical part of the story. He is an earnest, serious, thoughtful young man wanting to reconnect with his storytelling father, but unable to appreciate Edward's romantic view of life. He is a successful professional and new husband. He has to be able to take us on the journey of understanding and make us believe the complex relationship and final heartfelt embrace of his father's legacy. ***Needs a strong tenor voice. Basic dance. Serious character acting.***

Songs:

Strangers
Strangers (Reprise)
Showdown
What's Next
Be the Hero (Reprise)

Josephine: (actor ages 18-30) Will's wife. Successful adult, sweet, intelligent, and organically compatible with Will. Josephine acts as the bridge between Edward and Will, by encouraging Will to see the deeper meaning of the stories his father tells. Often on stage. ***No singing. Basic Dance. Serious character acting.***

Karl: the giant (actor ages 18-40) Edward's best friend. Karl is shy, exceptionally intelligent, hermit-like, and has a quiet charisma. He needs a booming voice and large personality. Needs to be decently tall, but not a "giant." ***Bass voice. Ability to walk on stilts.***

Songs:

On the Road
Start Over

Amos: adult male, circus owner (actor ages 30-50) Amos is the rather eccentric, quirky owner of the circus that employs young Edward. He also happens to be a werewolf (in Edward's tales). Needs an actor able to portray strong, outgoing personality and humor. ***Sings, but not necessarily great voice. Doesn't need to move, but good stage presence essential. Character voice.***

Songs:

Closer to Her
Start Over

Witch: adult female (actor age 20-40) Commanding performer with great confidence and storytelling ability. She convinces Edward to pursue a "big life" without fear. ***Needs belt voice, mezzo soprano. Some dance, could be extensive.***

Songs:

I Know What You Want

Jenny Hill: young cheerleader and adult woman (actor age 15-30) Edward's devoted, high school girlfriend. She beautiful, a dreamer, maybe a little blonde. Later Jenny is more tired and disillusioned than the younger Jenny. She is dignified and honest, and is crucial in helping Will understand Edward's motivations. ***Needs loud belt. Some movement. Serious acting needed. Also included in the ensemble. May be cast as two separate actors.***

Songs:

Ashton's Favorite Son
Out There on the Road

Don Price: high school, college student, and mayor (actor ages 20-45) Older snarky bully. Sandra's first fiancé. *Needs a bigger than life acting style. Possible movement but not crucial.*

Songs:

Out There on the Road
Start Over

Zacky Price: high school, college, and later (actor ages 20-45) Nerdy brother living in the shadow of Don Price.

Doctor Bennett: considerably older man (actor ages 45-75) warm, kind, frank, soft-spoken friend and physician of Edward. *Needs a realistic actor. No singing or dancing necessary*

Red Fang: male, assassin. World War II villain. *Needs fight scene movement abilities*

Ashton Mayor: adult male (actor ages 30-60) Typical small town good-guy mayor personality

Alabama Lambs: four of Sandra's friends (actors ages 15-25) Perform with Sandra at the circus. Need strong singing and dancing skills.

Fisherman: adult male, hometown redneck. Needs strong singing and dancing skills

Ensemble: assorted ages, age 14 and older. All sing and move. Some individual singing and speaking parts. Some individuals will do extensive dance, but not all.

Songs:

Be The Hero
I Know What You Want
Wedding Scene
Ashton's Favorite Son
Out There on the Road
Closer to Her
Auburn
Red White and True
Showdown
Start Over
What's Next
Procession