

Beatrice (F) 30yrs +— The Sharp-Tongued Headliner

Beatrice is Club Messina's brightest flame and In-House MC: with razor-sharp wit she can silence a room with a single raised brow. Fiercely independent and allergic to sentimentality. But beneath the bravado, she carries a quiet, elegant vulnerability—the kind that only slips out when Benedick catches her off guard.

Benedick (M) 30yrs +— The Charming Crooner

Benedick is a smooth-talking musician. He thrives on applause, gossip, and the utter thrill of verbal sparring — especially with Beatrice. He insists he's immune to romance and has a talent for deflecting emotion but his bravado cracks when he is nudged toward sincerity.

Leonato (M or F) 50+ — The Affable Club Proprietor

The well-loved owner of Club Messina, Leonato has old-school charm and a talent for keeping the peace in a venue full of big personalities. They move through the space like a benevolent monarch — greeting patrons, smoothing over disputes, and ensuring the music never stops.

Don Pedro (M or F) 40yrs +— The Maestro of Messina

Don Pedro is the club's charismatic bandleader. A true romantic and full of charm, loves harmony — musically and socially — and meddles with good intentions, even when their plans create more chaos than calm.

Claudio (M) 20yrs +— The Rising Star

Fresh-faced Claudio newly welcomed into the Messina Band. Earnest, and eager to impress, he's swept up by the glamour of the club and the allure of Hero. Quick to fall in love, quick to believe the worst, and quick to regret it. A golden boy who must learn to trust his own instincts.

Hero (F) 20Yrs +— The Quiet Heart of the Club

Hero is the club owner's daughter and cousin of Beatrice – she is the gentle and elegant sweetheart of the club. Hero is the calm centre in a world of clashing egos and late-night drama. However, her innocence makes her an easy target for manipulation.

Don John (M or F) 30yrs + — The Brooding Outsider

In the club's shadows lurks Don John — a disgraced former partner: Quietly dangerous, whispering destructive sabotage wherever they go. In a world of music and laughter, they are the discordant note, determined to spoil the harmony.

Margaret (F) 20yrs + — The Glamorous Chorus Girl

Margaret is a vivacious performer- fun, flirty and loves a good backstage scandal. A friend to Hero her good humour makes her beloved, even when she is swept into mischief and her actions unintentionally fuel Don John's schemes.

Ursula (F) 18yrs +— Hero's Steady, Stylish Confidante

Ursula, a quiet chorus girl and Hero's closet friend. She has a gentle elegance and is warm, loyal and perceptive, making her perfect partner for helping Hero stage a "gossip trap".

Antonio (M or F) 40 yrs +—Club Co-Owner and Leonato's Brother

Antonio is Leonato's brother — a co-owner of *Club Messina*. An old-world businessman who still believes in reputation, and the sanctity of the club's name. Adding gravitas and a touch of vintage charm everywhere he goes.

Borachio (M) 20yrs +— The Smooth-Talking Schemer

Don John's right-hand man: charming enough to blend in with the performers and cunning enough to manipulate them. His confession becomes the key that restores order — proof that even the coolest criminals crack under pressure.

Conrad (M) 20yrs + — Don John's Cool, Dangerous Wingman

Conrad is a slick, silent operator. A disgruntled ex-musician. He rarely speaks, but when he does, it's with dry, cutting precision. Conrad adds menace to Don John's schemes, grounding the villainy in the gritty underbelly of the jazz scene.

Dogberry (M) 40yrs + — Club Security Chief

Dogberry has a spectacular misunderstanding of his own authority. Bumbling, and hilariously confident, turning minor incidents into full-scale investigations. Only accidental competence is what ultimately saves the day.

Ensemble**Balthasar (M or F) 20yrs +— The Smooth Lounge Singer**

Balthasar's velvet-voice drifts between scenes. With performances between acts and occasionally getting pulled into Don Pedro's schemes. Their presence reinforces the jazz-club aesthetic with live musical transitions.

The Sexton (M or F) 30 yrs +— The Level-Headed Bookkeeper

A calm counterpoint to Dogberry's chaotic security team. When the truth comes out, the Sexton is the one who actually understands what's going on. Their presence grounds the comedy in real-world logic.

The Watchmen (M or F) 20yrs + — Dogberry's Hapless Security Crew

The club's overzealous security guards. They patrol the club with flashlights, clipboards, and a complete misunderstanding of their own authority.

Friar Francis (M or F) 30 yrs +— The Club's Resident Chaplain / Moral Compass

Friar Francis, a visiting chaplain and sees through the chaos to Hero's innocence. In a jazz-club setting, they bring a gentle, grounding presence amid the glamour and noise.

Chorus / Dancers (M and F) any age

They embody the glitz of the jazz age: Fedoras and feathers, adding effortless charm. Their presence adds rhythm to the world — punctuating scenes with movement and knowing looks.