

Character Descriptions for the Musical Mame

Mame is a 1966 Broadway musical by Jerry Herman, based on the novel *Auntie Mame* by Patrick Dennis. It follows the flamboyant life of Mame Dennis and her unconventional relationship with her nephew, Patrick.

(What's most important to the director is that none of these characters must have marvelous voices or be able to dance up a storm. What they need is heart. Heart to sell the emotions that run the gamut in this enduring musical.)

Mame Dennis – The eccentric, glamorous, and optimistic socialite whose motto is “*Life is a banquet and most poor sons of bitches are starving to death.*” She lives a bohemian lifestyle in New York, reinvents herself through various careers, and becomes a beloved guardian to Patrick. Someone with gravitas.

Young Patrick Dennis – Mame’s nephew, initially a 10-year-old boy from Iowa. He grows from a pampered child into a young man shaped by Mame’s influence, learning her philosophy and embracing life’s adventures. Can pull at one’s heartstrings very easily.

Older Patrick Dennis – Appears in Act II as a college student caught up in the snobbery of the Upson family. Ages through young adulthood, married, and with a son. Ages 19-29.

Agnes Gooch – Patrick’s nanny and Mame’s personal secretary. She is anxious, traditional, and often contrasts with Mame’s wild lifestyle. Emerges from homely to a knockout.

Vera Charles – Mame’s best friend and confidante, known for her unique baritone voice. She is loyal, witty, and a constant companion through Mame’s ups and downs.

Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside – A wealthy, aristocratic suitor from GA, who marries Mame, leading to a series of extravagant but ultimately impractical adventures. He sweeps Mame right off her feet and has the Midas touch. Oozes charm.

M. Lindsay Woolsey – A close friend of Mame’s who helps her reestablish herself after Beau dies.

Mother Burnside – Beauregard’s mother, part of the Old South high-society circle Mame marries into. Grough.

Mrs. Upson / Mr. Upson – The Upson family, representing the conservative, WASP world Patrick eventually enters. Flittery and snobbish all at the same time.

Dwight Babcock – In charge of Patrick’s schooling and finances until he comes of age. A foil for Mame. Friend of the Upsons. Brutish.

Gloria Upson – Patrick’s debutante fiancée, embodying the snobbishness Mame struggles against.

Ito – Mame’s employee. Comical, loyal, and endearing.

Ralph Devine – Excentric headmaster at a new-age school. Friend of Mame’s. Striking looking.

Gregor – An employee at the salon where Mame briefly works. Flitty.

Madame Branislowski – Owner of the salon where Mame briefly works. A bulldog personality.

Uncle Jeff – Beau’s uncle, part of his extended Southern family.

Cousin Fan – A relative of Beau’s.

Sally Cato – An old girlfriend of Beau’s. Rival of Mame’s.

Junior Babcock – Patrick’s college roommate.

Pegreen Ryan – A decorator. Marries Patrick. Mother of Peter.

Peter Dennis – Mame’s grandnephew, appearing in the show’s later scenes

Ensemble

The ensemble includes a variety of characters from different social strata, reflecting Mame’s diverse circle of friends and acquaintances

These characters form the colorful backdrop of *Mame*, a celebration of life, love, and the unconventional path of one of Broadway’s most beloved heroines.